

9 September 2025

File Ref: IRC-9084

Tēnā koe Elected Members and pou iwi.

This provides updates on:

- appeals received on June 2024 District Plan decisions; and
- the Council's appeal against Greater Wellington Regional Council's Regional Policy Statement Change One (RPS-PC1).

Appeals on June District Plan decisions

Who appealed?

Six appeals were received from:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Wellington International Airport Limited
- Kilmarston Properties Ltd / Kilmarston Developments Ltd
- Transpower New Zealand Limited
- Forest and Bird
- Meridian Energy Limited

Interested parties were able to join appeals in support or opposition. The period to join appeals ended yesterday.

Five additional parties have joined.

What has been appealed?

The appeals relate to the following topics:

Topic	Outcome sought by appellants
Infrastructure	Increased recognition and protection of biodiversity and coastal values when infrastructure is developed. Altered policy direction for regionally significant infrastructure, infrastructure in natural hazard areas and increased protection for regionally significant infrastructure.
Transport	Policy direction to minimise greenhouse gas emissions in freight servicing, requirements for travel choice plans and promote uptake of cycling and micromobility.

Renewable Energy	Simplified pathways for consenting renewable electricity generation activities.
Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity	<p>Add several new Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) that are identified in regional planning documents.</p> <p>Introduce new rule for removing indigenous biodiversity outside of SNAs.</p> <p>Altered policy direction that significant indigenous vegetation outside of SNAs be treated as if it were a SNA.</p>
Zoning	Rezone land in Huntleigh Park Way (Ngaio) as Large Lot Residential Zone instead of Rural Zone or Open space Zone and remove an area of SNA.

No appeals were received on the rule for the development of public walking or cycling tracks, which the Council made more enabling in its June decisions.

Appeals have been uploaded to our website: [Appeals - Plans, policies and bylaws - Wellington City Council](#)

The District Plan [ePlan](#) has been updated. Provisions that are subject to appeal are highlighted in orange boxes.

What happens next?

We are now waiting for further instructions from the Environment Court.

The first step in resolving the appeals is likely to be mediation, starting either late this year or in 2026.

Appeal of Regional Policy Statement Plan Change 1

The Greater Wellington Regional Council served notice of the decisions on 4 October 2024.

WCC appealed some decisions outright and joined proceedings for others. The Council's appeals are available [here](#).

Mediation started in May this year and has been ongoing. The table below provides a summary of progress on our appeals.

Topics	Update
Natural Hazards	Council's appeal points have been resolved.

	<p>The agreed refinements to provide a clearer pathway for continued development of regionally significant infrastructure, and significant industrial and commercial zoned land subject to hazards.</p>
<p>Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity</p>	<p>Some appellants seek to make indigenous biodiversity provisions more restrictive than the decisions version of RPS-PC1.</p> <p>Forest and Bird seek that areas of indigenous vegetation which meet specified criteria in the RPS be treated as an SNA, even if the area is not identified on district plan maps as an SNA.</p> <p>The 2024 District Plan does not identify SNAs on residentially zoned properties. As such the impact of this would be that residentially zoned properties in Wellington City with indigenous biodiversity could be treated as having an SNA in a resource consent process, even though it is not identified as such in the 2024 District Plan.</p> <p>This has the same effect as Forest and Bird’s appeal on June District Plan decisions.</p> <p>These appeal points are not supported by Council and are yet to be resolved.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Council’s appeal points have been resolved.</p> <p>These changes improve clarity, reduce administrative burden for consenting, ensure the policies are achievable for infrastructure providers including council, ensure that the policies are achievable through district plans where relevant, and improve consistency with the WCC District Plan requirements around travel choice assessments.</p>
<p>Urban development</p>	<p>Council’s appeal points have been resolved.</p> <p>The agreed amendments improve clarity, reduce duplication, reduce potential conflict with the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD,) remove unnecessary constraints on urban development, and provide greater flexibility in how councils manage infrastructure.</p>

For more information, please feel free to contact the District Planning team at District.Plan@wcc.govt.nz