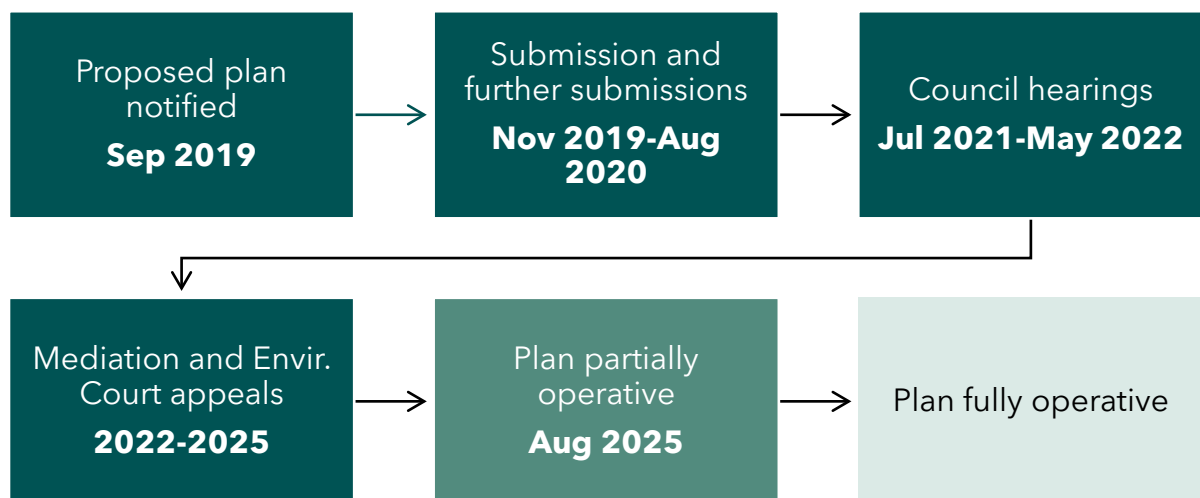


New Plymouth District Plan

Taranaki region | August 2025

What is the New Plymouth District Plan?

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) every local authority in New Zealand must have a District Plan, which creates policies and rules for how land and natural resources can be used. The New Plymouth District Plan became partially operative on 29 August 2025.



Key successes from HortNZ's involvement

- Definition of highly productive land included in line with the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL).
- Protection for highly productive land in subdivision policies, recognition in objectives for Rural Production Zone (RPROZ).
- Requirement for subdivision design to manage the potential reverse sensitivity effects at the urban/rural interface.
- Definition for cultivation, artificial crop protection structures, crop support structures included. Cultivation is excluded from generic earthworks rules.
- Smaller setback requirement for artificial crop protection structures (5 meters instead of originally proposed 20 meters).

Summary of provisions relevant to growers

Read the operative provisions in their entirety in the [digital e-Plan](#).

Operative provisions	Summary of provision
WB-R4: Permitted Activities	<p>Earthworks must be set back at least 10 m from natural waterbodies.</p> <p>This rule does not apply to (amongst other things):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural hazard mitigation activities; • pump houses not associated with pumping wastewater; • network utilities poles and masts for the purposes of supporting lines across a waterbody or thrusting lines underneath the bed of a waterbody; • post and wire fences; • existing tracks; • and restoration planting.
SUB-O2, RPROZ-O3, RPROZ-O4, RPROZ-O5: Objectives; SUB-P1, SUB-P8, SUB-P10, SUB-P12, SUB-P14: Policies	Protects highly productive land in the Rural Production Zone from inappropriate use and development and manages potential reverse sensitivity effects at the urban/rural interface.
EW-R13: Permitted Activities	<p>This applies to earthworks to manage biosecurity incursions:</p> <p>Earthworks are permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in any 12 month period, the total volume of earthworks does not exceed 250m³ per site; and • all Earthworks Effects Standards are complied with.
NOISE-S1	This noise effects standard applies to audible bird scaring devices. Refer to the rule in its entirety for greater detail.
RPROZ-R1 and RPROZ-R2	Horticultural activities, including shelter belts, are permitted activities within the Rural Production Zone so long as all standards are complied with.
RPROZ-S1	Structures have a maximum height of 12m above ground level. Residential units have a maximum height of 8m.
RPROZ-S2	Artificial crop protection structures and crop support structures must have a 5m setback from any road boundary or boundary of a site zoned as Future Urban or 3m from a side boundary.
RPROZ-S3	This effects standard designates maximum shelter belt heights close to the south-facing edge of properties. Refer to the rule in its entirety for greater detail.

Operative provisions	Summary of provision
RPROZ-S6	<p>This rule sets out maximum gross floor areas for rural buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For rural produce retail activities: 40m² and no more than one per site. • For intensive indoor primary production: 6,000m² per site. • All other buildings: on sites smaller than 4ha: 400m² per site (total maximum for all other buildings per site). <p>This standard does not apply to residential units, greenhouses and tunnel houses.</p>

What next?

Some provisions not included in the table above are still under appeal with the Environment Court. When those appeals are resolved, the entire plan will become operative. HortNZ is not involved in any appeals.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [New Plymouth District Council website](#)
- Information about the plan process on the [HortNZ's website](#)
- HortNZ staff: Emily Levenson, emily.levenson@hortnz.co.nz