


 WAITAKI
DISTRICT
PLAN
REVIEW

Hazardous Substances (HAZS)

What are the key issues we need to think about?

Hazardous substances include a variety of toxic substances, such as chemicals, medical wastes, petroleum products and gases. Hazardous substances are used throughout the district for many purposes, including for commercial, industrial, rural and domestic activities. However, if not appropriately managed, their storage and use are potential threats to people and the environment.

Hazardous substance use and storage is controlled by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO). Whilst this legislation aims to protect the health and safety of people from the adverse effects of hazardous substances, it does not take into account the sensitivity of the environment in which hazardous substances are located.

What are we suggesting in the Draft District Plan?

We are proposing to include provisions that are not addressed under HSNO to protect sensitive environments from the use and storage of hazardous substances. Sensitive environments include the Coastal Environment, Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, Significant Natural Areas, Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, Heritage Items, and areas above 900m in altitude.

Whilst there are currently no identified 'major hazard facilities' located in the district, any new major hazard facilities would need to go through a resource consent process.



What does it mean for me?

Any lawfully established existing businesses or activities would have what is referred to as 'existing use rights' and could continue to operate unchanged.

The rules in the chapter would affect where hazardous substances were used and stored, and a resource consent would be required if this was within a sensitive environment. Any new major hazard facilities would need a resource consent

The key objective of the chapter is to recognise those benefits often associated with activities involving hazardous substances but ensuring that the risks to the environment and human health are minimised.

The Draft District Plan also contains policies to manage the location of sensitive activities such as houses, health, education or community facilities from locating within close proximity to any major hazard facilities.

Key changes from the current rules

- The current provisions are outdated and do not implement national direction or give effect to Regional Policy Statement direction.
- The new chapter ensures that there is no overlap with other regulations already controlling the use, storage and transportation of hazardous substances.

Summary of the new rules being considered

Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:

- The use and/or storage of hazardous substances outside sensitive environments.

Activities that would require a resource consent:

- The use and/or storage of hazardous substances where these are located within sensitive environments.
- Any new major hazard facilities.

Find out more

You can view the full draft chapter on our website

visit www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review



More questions?

If you have any further questions that aren't covered in this document, or on our website, you can email the Planning Team at planreview@waitaki.govt.nz or call the District Plan Review hotline on 03 433 1661 and leave a message.