

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

Issues

The Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ) covers identified [rural areas](#) within the District that are mostly characterised by smaller [site](#) sizes, rural living activities and small scale [farming](#).

The Rural Lifestyle Zones are generally characterised by:

- Existing low density and clustered rural living development including dwellings, [landscaping](#)/gardens and small scale [rural production activities](#).
- Presence of some [rural production activities](#) and associated [effects](#) (such as odour, noise from machinery and livestock and such as barns, green houses and silos).
- Generally low levels of traffic, other than that associated with seasonal activities.
- A range of landscapes and a sense of spaciousness, with visual connections to the wider [environment](#).
- Informal arrangement and design of roadways and [structures](#), subservient to natural landform patterns.
- Presence of natural features including landforms, watercourses and [indigenous vegetation](#).

The locations of Rural Lifestyle Zones are generally limited so as to contain potential adverse [effects](#) on rural amenity and productivity, particularly as they may adversely affect activities in the Rural Production Zone and key [infrastructure](#) corridors. Impacts on the local roading network have been considered in the selection of suitable areas for the Rural Lifestyle Zone and unsealed through [roads](#) have been avoided due to dust nuisance and the impacts on future [road](#) maintenance and seal extensions.

The Rural Lifestyle Zone aims to support rural communities and their identification has specifically considered distance to social [infrastructure](#) such as schools and Rural Villages. Due to the locations of Rural Lifestyle Zones and the potential sizes of [allotments](#) it is uneconomic, unnecessary and unsustainable to provide [reticulated](#) services within the Rural Lifestyle Zone. Onsite servicing is common throughout the [Rural Area](#).

It is expected that the rural character of the Rural Lifestyle Zone will be retained through careful siting of [buildings](#) and the provision of [landscaping](#) to maintain a sense of spaciousness, as well as enabling the continuation of some smaller scale rural [land](#) use activities. The [effects](#) from [rural production activities](#) will generally be limited in scale because of smaller [site](#) sizes and the requirement to comply with the environmental standards set out in the District-Wide provisions. The ability to undertake non rural [land](#) use activities will be determined by the scale, nature and location of the activity.

[Subdivision](#) is limited to that which, in general is in keeping with the average [allotment](#) size of the existing [environment](#) of the Rural Lifestyle Zone.

Objectives

RLZ-O1 – Appropriate Locations	Consolidate rural living development in appropriate locations where existing subdivision pattern reflects a rural living environment and adverse effects (including reverse sensitivity effects) can be avoided.
RLZ-O2 – Living Opportunities	Provide for rural living opportunities while maintaining rural character and amenity.
RLZ-O3 – Site Sizes	That a variety of site sizes are provided to enable rural living, commercial activities that are ancillary activities to residential activities on the same site and some rural land use activities to occur.

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

RLZ-O4 – Non-Rural Activities	Enable the establishment of non-rural activities that are of an appropriate and compatible nature, scale and character to the Rural Lifestyle Zones.
RLZ-O5 – Viability of Rural Settlements	New or extensions to Rural Lifestyle Zones are managed to protect the viability of Rural Settlements.

Policies	
RLZ-P1 – Rural Lifestyle Zone Character and Amenity	<p>To enable rural living in the Rural Lifestyle Zone while maintaining rural living character and amenity including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low levels of noise and lighting, particularly at night. 2. A high degree of privacy. 3. Ample access to daylight and sunlight. 4. Generally low levels of traffic, other than that associated with seasonal activities. 5. Presence of rural production activities and associated activities.
RLZ-P2 – Earthworks	To ensure buildings and major structures are designed, constructed and located to minimise the need for significant earthworks , the loss of native vegetation and/or natural habitats.
RLZ-P3 – Compatible Uses	To protect the rural living character and amenity by limiting commercial activities and industrial activities to those that are appropriate and compatible in nature, scale and character to the Rural Lifestyle Zone and meet the stated Issues for the Rural Lifestyle Zone.
RLZ-P4 – Traffic Movements	To maintain and enhance rural living character and amenity by limiting the establishment of activities that generate high levels of traffic movements or that are of a nature and scale that is incompatible with the character of the Rural Lifestyle Zone.
RLZ-P5 – Reverse Sensitivity	To manage reverse sensitivity effects by avoiding the establishment of sensitive activities within close proximity to Mineral Extraction Activities and the Rural Production Zone, Business Zones and Strategic Rural Industries Zones.
RLZ-P6 – Privacy	<p>To maintain rural amenity, privacy, open space and rural character by ensuring that all new buildings and major structures and rural land uses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are of a scale and character appropriate to the Rural Lifestyle Zone; and 2. Are sited in a location sufficiently setback from site boundaries to enable privacy, the retention of open space and access to sunlight; and 3. Avoid adverse effects on ecological values, water quality, versatile soils, open space character, historic heritage values or landform.

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

RLZ-P7 – Stormwater	To manage the effects of stormwater runoff by utilising the principles of low impact design and ensuring that additional stormwater flows arising from proposed subdivision and development are managed so that they will not result in any increase in peak discharge rates.
RLZ-P8 – Wastewater	To manage the effects of wastewater discharge by requiring site specific design and any other evidence or mitigation measures necessary to demonstrate that the effects of wastewater disposal can be adequately addressed.
RLZ-P9 – Subdivision Design	To design any subdivision and locate associated development to avoid an urban form and character; to maintain and enhance rural living character and amenity; and protect and enhance environmental features by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designing subdivisions to respond to the topography and characteristics of the land being developed. 2. Requiring subdivisions to meet a minimum and average allotment size so that development does not result in uniform development patterns. 3. Identifying building platforms that respond to site topography and environmental characteristics. 4. Locating access ways, services, utilities and building platforms where these can be provided without the need for significant earthworks, retaining, benching or site contouring.
RLZ-P10 – Allotment Size	To avoid a uniform pattern of development at the minimum allotment size and maintain at least an average allotment size of 2ha across the Rural Lifestyle Zone by providing a single opportunity to subdivide titles created before 12 December 2018.

Rules

RLZ-R1	Any Activity Not Otherwise Listed in This Chapter
	Activity Status: Permitted Where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource consent is not required under any rule of the District Plan. 2. The activity is not prohibited under any rule of the District Plan.
RLZ-R2	Minor Buildings
	Activity Status: Permitted Note: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minor buildings are exempt from rules RLZ-R3 – R6.

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

RLZ-R3	Building and Major Structure Height	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum <u>building height</u> and <u>major structure height</u> is 8m above <u>ground level</u>. <p><i>Compliance Standard:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Crop support structures</u> and <u>artificial crop protection structures</u> are exempt from RLZ-R3 and shall comply with RLZ-R13. 	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>
RLZ-R4	Building and Major Structure Setbacks	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All <u>buildings</u> and <u>major structures</u> are set back at least: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10m from <u>road boundaries</u>. 3m from all other <u>site boundaries</u>. 27m from Mean High Water Springs and the top of the bank of any <u>river</u> that has a width exceeding 3m (excluding bridges, culverts and fences). <p><i>Compliance Standard:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Crop support structures</u> and <u>artificial crop protection structures</u> are exempt from RLZ-R4 and shall comply with RLZ-R13. 	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>
RLZ-R5	Building and Major Structure Height in Relation to Boundary	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All <u>buildings</u> and <u>major structures</u> do not exceed a <u>height</u> equal to 3m above <u>ground level</u> plus the shortest horizontal distance between that part of the <u>building</u> or <u>major structure</u> and the <u>site boundary</u>. 	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

RLZ-R6	Building and Major Structure Coverage	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>1. The coverage does not exceed 500m² of the <u>site</u>.</p>	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>
RLZ-R7	Impervious Areas	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>1. The <u>impervious area</u> within the <u>site</u> does not exceed 15% of the <u>net site area</u>.</p>	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>
RLZ-R8	Indigenous Vegetation Clearance	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>1. The clearance of <u>indigenous vegetation</u>:</p> <p>Either</p> <p>a. Does not exceed 500m² per <u>site</u> within each 10 year period from 12 December 2018; and</p> <p>b. Is not within 20m of a <u>waterbody</u>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>c. Is associated with:</p> <p>i. Routine maintenance within 7.5m of the eaves of existing <u>buildings</u>:</p> <p>a) Including the removal of any tree where any part of the trunk is within the 7.5m distance.</p> <p>b) Excluding damage to the roots or removal of any tree where the trunk is outside the 7.5m distance; or</p> <p>ii. Operation, maintenance and repair of existing tracks, lawns, gardens, fences, drains and other lawfully established activities; or</p> <p>iii. Pest plant removal and biosecurity works; or</p> <p>iv. Vegetation removal for customary rights; or</p> <p>v. Conservation planting, including planting for ecological restoration purposes.</p>	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

RLZ-R9	Principal Residential Unit	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The maximum density is 1 <u>principal residential unit</u> per <u>site</u>. 	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>
RLZ-R10	Minor Residential Unit	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The maximum density is 1 <u>minor residential unit</u> per <u>site</u>. 2. The minor <u>residential unit</u> does not have a separate <u>access</u>/driveway from the <u>principal residential unit</u>. 3. The nearest distance between the <u>minor residential unit</u> and the <u>principal residential unit</u> does not exceed 15m. 4. The maximum <u>gross floor area</u> of the <u>minor residential unit</u> (including decking and <u>garage</u> areas) is 90m². 	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>
RLZ-R11	Sensitive Activity	
	<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <u>sensitive activity</u> (excluding non-habitable <u>buildings</u>) is set back at least: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 500m from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The <u>Mining Area</u> of all Quarrying <u>Resource Areas</u>. ii. The <u>Strategic Rural Industries</u> Zone. iii. <u>Business Zones</u>. b. 20m from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Rural Production Zone. ii. All unsealed through <u>roads</u>. c. 30m from all existing <u>plantation forestry</u> on a separate <u>site</u>. d. 250m from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Existing <u>intensive livestock farming</u> on a separate <u>site</u>. 	<p>Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary</p>

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

- ii. Existing [activities ancillary to farming or forestry](#) on a separate [site](#).
- iii. The Fonterra Kauri Milk Processing Site [Strategic Rural Industries](#) Zone – Ancillary Irrigation Farms.

RLZ-R12 Commercial Activities

Activity Status: Permitted

Where:

1. The activity generates less than 20 [traffic movements](#) per [site](#), per [day](#).
2. In addition to the principal operator, the activity has no more than two other persons engaged in providing the activity.
3. The activity does not exceed the use of 15% of the total [gross floor area](#) of all [buildings](#) on [site](#).
4. The total area of signage is less than 0.25m², per [site](#).
5. There is no [illuminated signage](#) or moving signage.
6. The activity is an [ancillary activity](#) to the residential use of the [site](#).
7. The principal operator of the activity is a permanent resident on the [site](#).
8. The activity does not include, before 08:00 or after 18:00 on any [day](#), the operation of machinery, receiving customers or the loading or unloading of vehicles.

Activity Status when compliance not achieved with RLZ-R12.1 - 5: Discretionary

Activity Status when compliance not achieved with RLZ-R12.6 – 8: Non-Complying

RLZ-R13 Crop Support Structures or Artificial Crop Protection Structures

Activity Status: Permitted

Where:

1. The maximum [structure height](#) does not exceed 10m above [ground level](#); and
2. The [structure](#) is set back at least:
 - a. 1m from [site boundaries](#).
 - b. 27m from Mean High Water Springs and the top of the bank of any [river](#) that has a width exceeding 2m (excluding bridges, culverts and fences).

Activity Status when compliance not achieved: Discretionary

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

RLZ-R14	Farming
RLZ-R15	Plantation Forestry
<p>Activity Status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The activity is a primary activity or ancillary activity. 	
RLZ-R16	Care Centre
RLZ-R17	Emergency Services
RLZ-R18	Retirement Village
RLZ-R19	Supported Residential Care
RLZ-R20	Farm Quarrying
RLZ-R21	Place of Assembly
RLZ-R22	Educational Facilities
RLZ-R23	Recreational Facilities
RLZ-R24	General Community
<p>Activity Status: Discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The activity is a primary activity or ancillary activity. 	
RLZ-R25	Industrial Activity
RLZ-R26	Hospitals
RLZ-R27	Intensive Livestock Farming
RLZ-R28	Mineral Extraction Activities
<p>Activity Status: Non-Complying</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The activity is a primary activity or ancillary activity. 	

Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ)

Revision and Sign-off Sheet

Editor	Paragraph	Change Reference	Operative Date	Council Decision Date	Approved By
AM	New Chapter	Plan Change 85D	6 March 2019	21 February 2019	MM
EE	RLE.2.3	Clause 20A Minor Amendment DSTPLN-659943184-195	18 June 2019	18 June 2019	MM
AKM	Whole Chapter	National Planning Standards 2019	9 March 2022	17 February 2022	DK

Editor

Allie Miller (AM)
Eden Edwardson (EE)
Ashley Middleton (AKM)

Author Position

Support Assistant – District Plan

Approved By

Melissa McGrath (MM)
Manager -District Plan

Dominic Kula (DK)
General Manager - Planning and Development,
Strategic Leadership Team