

# RURAL LIFESTYLE ZONE

This colour and outline identifies the Rural Lifestyle Zone on the Planning Maps



The Rural Lifestyle Zone provides residential living opportunities in a semi-rural environment on the periphery of urban areas in specific locations around the district. The zones are focused in and around existing towns and settlements where demand for rural-residential development is existing or anticipated in the future.

Generally, the Rural Lifestyle Zone is un-serviced (i.e. no council reticulated services). The Rural Lifestyle Zone enables a broader range of activities than the Residential Zone, such as agricultural, horticultural and pastoral farming activities.

As the zone is predominantly low density residential in nature, a minimum allotment size of 2500m<sup>2</sup> is necessary to maintain rural character and rural lifestyle opportunities. In some areas, the zone provides a buffer between townships and the surrounding rural landscapes.

While residential development is anticipated in this zone, the risks of natural hazards, particularly land instability and coastal erosion, must be recognised and managed at the time of subdivision or when identifying building platforms. This plan provides provisions to manage natural hazards during these processes.

## Where are the rural lifestyle zones located?

Within our district the light brown areas on the map provide an indication of where the rural lifestyle zones are proposed to be located.

## What is most important in our Rural Lifestyle Zone?

- Ensuring you can continue to undertake agricultural, pastoral and horticultural activities
- Ensuring there is enough land for rural lifestyle living
- Protecting the unique character of our rural environments and improving amenities wherever we can

## How many houses can I have on my property?

If your property is 2500m<sup>2</sup> or greater you can have one residential unit and one minor residential unit per section. Or up to 6 papakāinga units in a papakāinga housing development.



Read more about the Rural Lifestyle Zone on the next page



## How is the Rural Lifestyle Zone different from the current District Plan?

- The current District Plan does not have a Rural Lifestyle Zone. The properties used for rural lifestyle activities (categorised by sections of around 2500m<sup>2</sup>) are located in the Rural Zone. While the Rural Zone in the current plan provides for rural lifestyle sections this is proposed to change. Click [here](#) to read the fact sheet for the General Rural Zone
- If you meet the rules, you can run a home business that employs a maximum of 2 people who do not reside on-site. In the current plan you can employ up to a maximum of 5 people onsite
- You can also provide for residential based visitor accommodation or visitor accommodation, as long as the standards in the plan are met. The standards include building coverage, servicing and screening. Under the current plan there is a limit of 10 guests that can be accommodated. Marae complexes and/or papakāinga housing developments are permitted in this zone if you can meet the rules
- Your site can be grazed by horses and farm animals and you can keep a maximum of 5 poultry on-site. You can also keep beehives provided they are greater than 5m from the site's boundaries and not adjacent to a community or educational facility
- There are rules around the maximum amount of land that can be covered by buildings to ensure the rural character of the site is maintained
- A reduction in the maximum height of buildings from 10m in the current district plan to 8m in the new plan
- New homes near the state highway and railway lines must meet noise insulation standards

## Where can I build on my property?

- Buildings must be setback a minimum of 10m from the road boundary where the property adjoins a district road and 15m where it adjoins a State Highway. These provisions will not apply to stockyards and stock loading ramps

- Buildings must be setback a minimum of 3m from internal site boundaries on sites 1,500m<sup>2</sup> or less, or 5m on sites 1,501m<sup>2</sup> or greater; and 10m where a site boundary adjoins another zone
- The minimum setback from any wool (shearing) shed or milking shed and ancillary yards, feed lot or feed pad, or similar building or enclosure (excluding paddocks) which is 100m<sup>2</sup> in size or larger and used for the confinement or housing of any animal (except domestic pets) is 30m from any internal boundary or 50m from a building housing a residential activity on an adjoining site, whichever is greater
- The minimum setback for a building housing a residential activity from the boundary of a rural production zone must be 200m
- The minimum setback for a building housing a residential activity from a building housing animals on an established site of intensive indoor primary production, must be 500m

## How much of my property can I cover with buildings?

- For sites that are 2500m<sup>2</sup> or less the maximum amount of a site which can be covered by buildings is 25%, and for all other sites the maximum amount of a site which can be covered by buildings is 20%

## Can I run a business from home?

- Yes, but there are limits on things like, the number of people working in it and its operating hours to make sure that the home business is not too big and doesn't affect surrounding properties
- If you are already running a business from a rural residential site that meets the current rules, you can keep doing that, but expansion of commercial activities is not encouraged
- If you want to start a new larger scale commercial or industrial business, you will need a resource consent

**Please note this factsheet is a summary and does not include the full set of rules. You can read the full set of rules [here](#)**

