

Regional Interests and Shared Services with Nelson City Council

Council delivers a range of joint projects and programmes with other councils across the top of the south (Te Tau Ihu o te Waka a Maui). These include the Top of the South Maps, which is a recent joint project between Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council to provide one source of geographic and map information to the public.

Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council already collaborate closely together and with other councils on a wide range of projects, programmes and shared services. Many residents might not realise the extent to which the Nelson and Tasman Councils already work together to the benefit of the wider Nelson Tasman region. This collaboration can provide better services to ratepayers and efficiency gains. At the same time collaboration preserves the separate identities and accountability arrangements of the two Councils, enabling each Council to respond to the specific needs and preferences of its local residents.

Both Councils have stated that they wish to work closer together on strategic issues which affect the two communities.

While the specific needs of Tasman's 17 settlements are best met locally, both Councils recognise that the interests of the region as a whole are often best served through a joint approach. There are a range of advantages from working together, including economies of scale through combining services to reduce overall costs for ratepayers or users of a service, or delivering a better service or facility to ratepayers. For example, the joint Saxton Field development and reciprocal library borrowing. Other programmes are led by one Council because it has particular expertise in that field, so that specialist skills don't have to be duplicated. Regional pest management is a good example of such a programme, which is led by the Tasman District Council.

Examples of the joint Nelson Tasman projects, programmes and services are grouped under broad operational headings. This is an indicative list and does not include every area of shared work or services. Staff and elected representatives from both Councils are in regular contact so new initiatives are likely to be developed or extended throughout the period of this Long Term Plan.

Engineering/Infrastructure

- Interconnected water supply services provide enhanced security of supply for both Councils, especially during an emergency. Nelson City Council also provides some of Tasman's water supply needs from the Roding Dam. Tasman District Council supplies water and wastewater services to some Nelson residents living in Stoke.
- Both Councils have worked collaboratively with the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee (including land owners, iwi, and the Department of Conservation) on the Lee Valley Dam proposal.
- Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit (NRSBU), 50/50 ownership by both Councils, which includes the facilities at Bells Island. Management is overseen by a board of directors, including Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council appointed representatives, and the facility is located in Waimea Inlet, which is bounded by both Councils.
- Port Nelson Limited (50/50 ownership) is managed to ensure the company benefits the wider region. The majority of the cargo exiting through the Port is sourced from Tasman District, so both Councils have a strong interest in its successful operation.
- Nelson Airport Limited (50/50 ownership) also serves the wider region, bringing economic benefit to both areas. As with the Port Company, both Councils oversee its performance and jointly appoint directors.
- Road safety and cycle promotion programmes run every year to prevent accidents and increase the already growing numbers of Nelson and Tasman residents who choose to use active transport.

Regional Interests and Shared Services with Nelson City Council (cont.)

- Cycleways developed between Richmond and Stoke involved the two Councils working together at the design stage.
 - Working towards consistent engineering standards across both Councils makes it easier for developers and contractors to follow one set of rules wherever the project is located.
 - Both Councils coordinate bylaws where the issues span Council boundaries, including the Tradewaste Bylaw.
 - Total Mobility is funded and is supported by both Councils so there is a coordinated approach to the provision of support to enhance access for all residents.
 - Regional transport planning continues to involve both Councils, although they have separate Regional Transport Committees. This allows each Council to make decisions on matters that lie solely within their individual boundaries. Cross boundary issues are dealt with by joint Council working parties. Regional advocacy to central government is handled through the Top of the South Land Transport Liaison Forum, involving Tasman, Marlborough and Nelson Councils.
 - A joint Nelson Tasman working party was established to look at coordinating recycling and solid waste management issues. A joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan has recently been prepared and approved by the two Councils.
- It also benefits the wider region by attracting national level sporting events. Tasman District Council proposes to commit about \$5.0 million to Saxton Field developments over the next 10 years. Nelson City Council is also proposing to contribute funding to Saxton Field developments.
- The joint Council Regional Facilities Plan and Regional Funding Forum set funding levels for major regional recreational and community facilities like the Theatre Royal, which is funded by both Councils.
 - The Settlement Support Service for refugees and migrants, funded by the Department of Labour, is based at Nelson City Council but covers the wider Nelson Tasman region and includes the recent development of a website.
 - Nelson Tasman Tourism trading as Tourism Nelson Tasman Ltd is co-owned by the two Councils and provides tourism services to promote the wider region, which enhances the economic well-being of all Nelson Tasman communities.
 - The Provincial Museum in Nelson is co-funded by the two Councils.
 - Community policy development involves the input of both Councils, including positive ageing, the alcohol strategy and accord, the regional physical activity plan and regional arts strategy.
 - Both Councils work collaboratively on the Way2Go programme and It's On website.
 - As an International Safe Community, Tasman District Council recognises that safety is "a universal concern and a responsibility for all". Through continuing to work collaboratively with a range of communities, businesses, organisations and agencies as part of Safe at the Top, community safety can be improved by providing commitment, support and leadership. Tasman District Council will continue to support Safe at the Top until reaccreditation in 2015 and beyond.

Community services

- Reciprocal library borrowing occurs across Nelson and Tasman, and other shared library services are being investigated where they can reduce overall costs or provide a better service for the region's ratepayers and residents. Both Councils have recently implemented the same library management software service.
- Both Councils are involved in funding the further development of recreation facilities at Saxton Field, which is a jointly-owned and funded regional facility benefiting the residents of Tasman and Nelson.

Environment/Planning/Regulation

- The two Councils have adopted a joint Regional Pest Management Strategy under the Biosecurity Act. This is funded by both Councils, and Tasman District Council is contracted to undertake Nelson's pest management work, as it has more expertise in this area, and a much larger land area.
- The two Councils work together on aligning monitoring programmes, including industrial land needs, air quality management and where required work on joint planning studies e.g. Nelson South/Richmond East residential intensification options.
- Tasman District Council manages key Nelson City Council water level and rainfall measurement sites and provides flood warnings to the City Council via a Hydrological Shared Services contract.
- Along with Marlborough District Council and Nelson City Council, Tasman is partnered with Ministry for Primary Industries in the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. The main aim of which is to build systems and processes for the early detection and prevention of marine invasive species.
- The Councils have a joint urban design panel.
- Coastal oil spill contingency planning and management is coordinated across the two Council areas.
- Staff and Councillors from both Councils take part in best practice and specialist guest speaker workshops e.g. on changes to legislation.
- Ecofest and environmental education involves staff of both Councils working together on campaigns and the development and management of environmental education initiatives.
- The Councils run joint Environment Awards to recognise the efforts of people within the wider region to achieve good environmental outcomes.
- Civil Defence and Emergency Management services and training (50/50 ownership) currently managed out of Nelson covers the whole Nelson Tasman region.

Democracy and administration

Growing regional economic well-being

- The Regional Economic Development Agency (EDA) is jointly funded by both Councils. The Regional Economic Development Strategy, which is due for review in the 2012/2013 year, will include strategy liaison group members from both Councils. There are a wide range of economic development issues which involve both Councils, and Councils jointly utilise the EDA as a neutral advisory body and facilitator of economic development projects.
- Both Mayors have committed to the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs programme. The workforce strategy advisory group also involves representatives from both Councils, as workforce issues span the wider region.
- Council staff have shared information for the preparation of the Long Term Plans.
- Top of the South Maps is a recent joint initiative between both Councils to provide common geographic and map information to the public.
- The Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman Councils have undertaken joint procurement of insurance for our building assets, professional indemnity insurance and some other insurances.
- Tasman District Council is part of the Local Authority Protection Programme, which is a local government scheme insuring water supply, wastewater, stormwater and flood protection assets.
- Tasman District Council is part of the Local Government Funding Agency, which is a local government scheme which enables Council to borrow funding for projects at a lower interest rate than is available from other sources.

We are continually looking at ways to work together to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.