



**Public Notice of Council initiated Plan Change Request under Clause 5, First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)**

**Proposed Plan Change for The Wairarapa International Dark Sky Reserve - Outdoor Artificial Lighting**

South Wairarapa District Council and Carterton District Council are proposing a Plan Change to the Wairarapa Combined District Plan (the Plan). The Wairarapa Dark Sky Association are applying to the International Dark Sky Association for part of Wairarapa to be certified as an International Dark Sky Reserve. As part of the proposed establishment of the Wairarapa International Dark Sky Reserve changes to existing District Plan provisions controlling outdoor lighting are required in order to minimise outdoor light pollution. The Councils have reviewed the Plan and found that the provisions that control light emissions in the districts do not specifically address light pollution that affects the clarity and brightness of the night sky. The provisions also do not meet the International Dark Sky requirements for dark sky reserve accreditation. Changing and adding to some of those provisions will help the dark sky certification application go more smoothly.

**The purpose of the proposed plan change is therefore to review the Plan's issues, objectives, policies, rules, methods and assessment criteria to:**

1. Manage new lighting within the districts to minimise adverse effects from light pollution to protect the brightness and clarity of the night sky.
2. Manage new lighting to ensure that the requirements for obtaining international dark sky reserve status can be met.
3. Clearly signal to the community that the clarity and brightness of the night sky are important features of the Wairarapa and should be protected.
4. Allow for outdoor artificial lighting when the type and characteristics of lighting used will not have adverse effects on the brightness and clarity of the night sky.
5. Ensure that Plan provisions are sufficiently clear and direct, to assist decision-makers assessing and determining applications for lighting.
6. Ensure provisions clearly articulate Councils' expectations in relation to lighting.

**The proposed changes will:**

1. Provide more specificity in terms of standards for the installation of lighting.
2. Ensure that lighting that meets the prescribed standards is provided for 'as of right'.
3. Ensure that lighting that does not comply with the standards requires an assessment of effects, including effects of lighting on the brightness and clarity of the night sky.
4. Provide clear objectives, policies, methods, rules and assessment criteria when lighting does not meet the permitted activity standards and would require resource consent.

**The proposed Plan Change and the section 32 report that explains the reasoning behind the proposed change are available at:**

- [www.swdc.govt.nz](http://www.swdc.govt.nz)
- South Wairarapa District Council, 19 Kitchener Street, Martinborough
- Carterton District Council and Carterton Public Library, Holloway Street, Carterton
- Featherston Public Library, 70 Fitzherbert Street, Featherston
- Greytown Public Library, 115 Main Street, Greytown
- Martinborough Public Library, Waiinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough

If you have any questions about the Plan Change, please phone the Planning Department at South Wairarapa District Council on 06 306 9611.

Any person may make a submission on the Plan Change by sending a written or electronic submission to South Wairarapa District Council at PO Box 6, Martinborough or [planning@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:planning@swdc.govt.nz) no later than **Friday 30 October 2020**.

The submission must be on Form 5 of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees and Procedure) Regulations 2003 and must state whether or not you wish to be heard on your submission. Copies of this submission form are available on the Council website and from Council offices.

**The process for participating in a plan change (Resource Management Act 1991) is as follows:**

- After submissions close, Council must publicly notify a summary of all the submissions.
- After submissions are summarised and notified, submitters can make a further submission that supports or opposes other submissions.
- If a person who makes a submission asks to be heard in support of their submission, a hearing must be held.
- Council will make a decision on the plan change, including reasons for accepting or rejecting submissions.
- Any person who made a submission has the right to appeal the Council's decision to the Environment Court.

The date of this publication is Wednesday 30 September 2020.

**HARRY WILSON CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

For and on behalf of the  
**SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**JANE DAVIS CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

For and on behalf of the  
**CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**