

APPENDIX 1: NATURAL OPEN SPACE ZONE (NOSZ)

DECISION VERSION 24 July 2025

Natural Open Space Zone (NOSZ)

Introduction

The Natural Open Space Zone applies to Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park (the National Park). The National Park was established in 1953 to preserve its intrinsic values and protect its valued scenery, ecological systems and natural features in perpetuity. Mount Cook Village is located within the National Park and is identified as an amenities area under the National Parks Act 1980. As such, the development and operation of recreational and public amenities is allowed for, to the extent compatible with public use and enjoyment of the National Park.

Kāi Tahu are acknowledged as mana whenua over the lands and waters within the National Park and are deeply invested in the wellbeing and future management of the National Park, and the peaks and other landforms within the National Park. Kāi Tahu whānui have a strong and enduring relationship with Te Manahuna/ Mackenzie Basin, and in particular Aoraki/ Mount Cook, who is seen as an ancestor and the ancestral mountain of the iwi. The full zone is also a Site and Area of Significance to Māori (SASM57), reflecting that it has significance as a wāhi tūpuna, wāhi taoka and wāhi tapu.

The National Park is managed in accordance with the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan (NPMP), (prepared under the National Parks Act 1980) which directs how the Department of Conservation (DOC) undertakes activities, and how other activities within the National Park may be authorised. Under section 4(3) of the RMA, DOC's management activities may be exempt from requirements for resource consents. Other activities are subject to the rules in the District Plan.

The approach taken in this chapter is to avoid duplication with the NPMP, and only regulate activities where necessary to achieve the outcomes sought in the District Plan which may not be achieved through the NPMP alone. As such, there are no rules in this chapter, and the provisions in other chapters of this District Plan do not apply to activities within this zone, except as follows:

Chapter	Provisions
Strategic Directions - ATC, MW, NE and UFD chapters	All provisions
Transport	TRAN-R1
Historic Heritage	All provisions
Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori	All provisions
Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity	All provisions
Natural Character	All provisions
Subdivision	All provisions
Light	All provisions

Because of the high landscape values in this zone, it is also identified as an Outstanding Natural Landscape. However, the provisions in the Natural Features and Landscape Chapter do not apply to it, as landscape matters can be managed under the NPMP.

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Objectives and Policies

Objectives	
NOSZ-O1	Zone Purpose
The landscape, natural, cultural and open space values of the Natural Open Space Zone, including their importance to tourism are maintained.	

Policies	
NOSZ-P1	Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan, National Parks Act 1980 and Conservation Act 1987
Recognise the role of the NPMP, National Parks Act 1980 and Part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987 in achieving the objective for the Natural Open Space Zone, and only manage activities within the zone where additional controls are needed.	