DESIGNATIONS

Overview

A designation is a planning technique used by Ministers of the Crown, local authorities and *network utility operators* approved as requiring authorities under s167 of the RMA. Only requiring authorities can seek designations for land.

Historically, designations enabled central and local government to get planning authorisation for public works and protected land for future public works. Requiring authorities can only make a designation where they are financially responsible for the project, work, or operation on the designated land.

A designation is a form of 'spot zoning' over a site, area or route in a district plan. The designation authorises the requiring authority's work and activity on the site, area or route without the need to comply with the land use rules of the district plan. A designation has a similar effect to a plan change establishing a permitted activity as it:

- Identifies the land affected in the District Plan,
- Enables a requiring authority to undertake works in accordance with the purpose of the designation within the designated area without the need for a land use consent, and
- Sets the parameters under which the activity can occur.

A designation restricts anyone other than the requiring authority from carrying out work on the designated land that will prevent or hinder the project or work to which the designation relates, without first obtaining the permission of the requiring authority.

The 'underlying zone' of the District Plan remains over the site and applies to any other activities that are for a purpose different to the designation purpose (or activities undertaken by a party other than the requiring authority). Therefore, any activity or works outside the scope of a designation will require resource consent unless the activity or works are a permitted activity within the underlying zone.

The District Plan includes designations from these requiring authorities:

CNZ Chorus NZ Ltd
GDC Gore District Council
KRH KiwiRail Holdings Ltd

MSNZ Meteorological Service of New Zealand
MCOR Minister of Corrections
MCOU Minister for Courts
MEDU Minister of Education
MPOL Minister of Police / NZ Police
NZTA New Zealand Transport Agency
PWN PowerNet (The Power Company Limited)
TPR Transpower New Zealand Ltd

The designations for each requiring authority are set out in their respective chapter.