

Designations

Designations are a planning tool 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.

A designation operates as a form of 'spot zoning' over a site, area, or route in the District Plan and has a similar effect to a plan change (establishing a permitted activity rule) as it:

- a. identifies the land affected by the District Plan;
- b. enables a requiring authority to undertake the works within the designated area, for the purpose of the designation, without the need for a land use consent (i.e., supersedes the District Plan provisions); and
- c. sets the parameters under which the activity can occur;

The scope of the designation defines the nature of the activity and the works that can be established on the designated site and is generally determined by its purpose. The form and scope of works (in some cases) is also controlled by conditions attached to the designation.¹

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 in the District Plan.²

This section includes designations from ~~for~~ the following requiring authorities:³

CNZ - Chorus New Zealand Limited
ECAN - Canterbury Regional Council
KHL - KiwiRail Holdings Limited
MSNZ - Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited
MEDU - Minister of Education
MPOL - Minister of Police / NZ Police
MJUS - Minister of Justice
NZTA - New Zealand Transport Agency
SPK - Spark New Zealand Trading Limited
TDC - Timaru District Council
TPR - Transpower New Zealand Limited

¹ Panel Decision Report Part 9, Section 1.3

² McAuley Trust [142.1]

³ Clause 16(2) Amendment