

District Plan Noise Provisions (PC4)

WHY CHANGES ARE NEEDED:

- The Lumbercube Sawmill operation highlighted unforeseen deficiencies & enforcement issues with the District Plan
- A review of current District Plan noise provisions was undertaken by Malcolm Hunt Associates
- As a result changes to the District Plan have been proposed by staff to address the issues

The Main Issues

- Where noise is measured within a site
- Enforceability of noise provisions
- Inadequate reference to NZ Standards
- Noise from industrial zones impacting on adjoining residential areas
- Industrial noise levels continuing into the evening/night-time period

The process

- Recommended changes out to public consultation
- 19 submissions & 8 further submissions, all of a high professional standard
- Key themes:
 - Ensuring adequate protection for communities from noisy activities
 - Appropriate protection for existing noise generating businesses from new noise sensitive activities

The process (cont'd)

- Based on submissions received the Hearing was adjourned & re-opened to hear expert evidence on evening noise levels from Malcolm Hunt Associates
- Submitters, as well as the RMA Committee, were given the opportunity to question Mr Hunt at length
- The recommendations of Mr Hunt, and the input from the submitters has resulted in the changes now proposed

Nature of Changes

- New reduced Evening Noise Level of 45dB $L_{Aeq(15 \text{ min})}$ (Residential Zone only) from 7pm to 10pm
- Improved reference to NZ Standards, and new definition of where noise is measured - noise standards now enforceable
- Dedicated Noise chapter recognising importance of the issue & removing previous noise provisions repeated in each chapter
- Other new definitions & minor changes