

## 5.6 ~~Country Living Zone~~

### 5.6 Rural Lifestyle Zone<sup>1</sup>

#### 5.6.1 Objective – ~~Country Living Rural Lifestyle~~<sup>2</sup> Zone

- (a) Subdivision, use and development in the Country Living Zone maintains or enhances the character and amenity values of the zone

#### 5.6.2 Policy – ~~Country Living Rural Lifestyle~~ character

- (a) Any building and activity within the ~~Country Living Rural Lifestyle~~ Zone are designed, located, scaled and serviced in a manner that does not detract from the character of the area by:
- (i) Maintaining the open space character;
  - (ii) Maintaining low density residential development;
  - (iii) Recognising the absence of Council wastewater services and lower levels of other infrastructure.
- (b) Maintain views and vistas of the rural hinterland beyond, including, where applicable, Waikato River, wetlands, lakes, and the coast.
- (c) Maintain a road pattern that follows the natural contour of the landform.
- (d) Ensures that the scale and design of any non-residential activities maintains the open rural character and addresses site specific issues such as on-site servicing, and transport related effects.
- (e) Requires activities within the ~~Country Living Rural Lifestyle~~ Zone to be self-sufficient in the provision of water supply, wastewater and stormwater disposal, unless a reticulated supply is available.

#### 5.6.3 Policy – Subdivision within the ~~Country Living Rural Lifestyle~~ Zone

- (a) Subdivision, ~~building and development~~<sup>3</sup> within the ~~Country Living Rural Lifestyle~~ Zone ensures that:
- (i) The creation of undersized lots is avoided ~~where character and amenity are compromised~~;<sup>4</sup>
  - (ii) new lots are of a size and shape to enable sufficient building setbacks from any boundary;
  - (iii) building platforms are sited to maintain the character of the ~~Country Living Rural Lifestyle~~ Zone and are appropriately-positioned to enable future development;
  - (iv) existing infrastructure ~~and planned~~ is not compromised;<sup>5</sup>
  - (v) ~~existing lawfully established activities are protected from reverse sensitivity effects.~~
  - (v) ~~character and amenity are not compromised~~<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Anton Marais (249.1)

<sup>2</sup> Horticulture New Zealand (419.66)

<sup>3</sup> Waikato District Council (697.560)

<sup>4</sup> Waikato District Council (697.560)

<sup>5</sup> NZTA (742.41)

#### **5.6.4 Policy – Building setbacks**

- (a) Maintain the existing spaciousness between buildings with adjoining sites.

#### **5.6.5 Policy – Scale and intensity of development**

- (a) Minimise the adverse effects of development created by excessive building scale, overshadowing, building bulk, excessive site coverage or loss of privacy.

#### **5.6.6 Policy – Height of buildings**

- (a) Ensure building height does not result in loss of privacy or cause overshadowing on adjoining sites or detract from the amenity of the area.

#### **5.6.7 Policies - Earthworks**

- (a) Manage the effects of earthworks to ensure that:
  - (i) Erosion and sediment loss is avoided or mitigated;
  - (ii) The ground is geotechnically sound and remains safe and stable for the duration of the intended land use;
  - (iii) Changes to natural water flows and established drainage paths is avoided or mitigated.
- (b) Manage the importation of fill material to a site.
- (c) Appropriately manage the importation of cleanfill to a site.
- (d) Manage the amount of land being disturbed at any one time to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse construction noise, vibration, odour, dust, lighting and traffic effects.
- (e) Subdivision and development occurs in a manner that maintains shape, contour and landscape characteristics.

#### **5.6.8 Policy – Non-residential activities**

- (a) Limit the establishment of commercial or industrial activities within the **Country-Living Rural Lifestyle Zone** unless they:
  - (i) Have a functional need to locate within the **Country-Living Rural Lifestyle Zone**; and
  - (ii) Provide for the health and well-being of the community.

##### **5.6.8A Policy – Emergency services**

- (a) **Enable the operation, use and development of emergency service activities and facilities**<sup>7</sup>.

#### **5.6.9 Policy – Existing non-residential activities**

- (a) Enable existing non-residential activities to continue and support their redevelopment and expansion, provided they do not have a significant adverse effect on the character and amenity of the **Country-Living Rural Lifestyle Zone**.

#### **5.6.10 Policy – Home occupations**

- (a) Provide for home occupations to allow flexibility for people to work from their homes.
- (b) Manage the adverse effects on residential amenity through limiting home occupations to a scale that is compatible with the level of amenity anticipated in the **Country-Living Rural Lifestyle Zone**.

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<sup>6</sup> Waikato District Council (697.560)

<sup>7</sup> Fire and Emergency New Zealand (378.63)

### **5.6.11 Policy - Temporary events**

- (a) Enable temporary events and associated temporary structures, provided any adverse effects on the residential environment are managed by:
  - (i) Limits on the timing, number and duration of events;
  - (ii) Meeting the permitted noise limits for the zone.

### **5.6.12 Policy - Signs**

- (a) Signage contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of communities by:
  - (i) Supporting infrastructure and commercial and community activities;
  - (ii) Providing information, including for public safety;
  - (iii) Identifying places.

### **5.6.13 Policy – Enabling signage**

- (a) Provide for the establishment of signs where they are directly associated with the activity carried out on the site on which they are located;
- (b) Recognise that public information signs provide a benefit to community well-being;
- (c) Provide for temporary signage subject to meeting limits on duration.

### **5.6.14 Policy – Managing the adverse effects of signs**

- (a) The location, colour, content, and appearance of signs directed at or visible to road users ~~traffic~~<sup>8</sup> is controlled to ensure signs do not distract, confuse or obstruct motorists, pedestrians and other road users.
- (b) Maintain the visual amenity and character of the Country-Living Rural Lifestyle Zone through controls on the size, location, appearance and number of signs.
- (c) Avoid signs that generate adverse effects from illumination, light spill, flashing or reflection.

### **5.6.15 Policy – Artificial outdoor lighting**

- (a) Provide for artificial outdoor lighting to enable night time work, farming activities, recreation activities, outdoor living, transport and security.
- (b) Control the intensity and direction of artificial lighting to avoid significant glare and light spill to adjacent sites.
- (c) Ensure artificial outdoor lighting is installed and operated so that light spill does not compromise the safe operation of the transport network.

### **5.6.16 Policy – Noise**

- (a) The adverse effects of noise on the character and amenity of the Country-Living Rural Lifestyle Zone are minimised by:
  - (i) Ensuring that the maximum sound levels are compatible with the surrounding land uses;
  - (ii) Limiting the timing and duration of noise-generating activities, including construction and demolition activities;
  - (iii) Maintaining appropriate setback distances between high noise environments and noise-sensitive activities land-uses;

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<sup>8</sup> NZTA (742.42)

- (iv) Managing the location of noise-sensitive activities land-uses, particularly in relation to lawfully-established high noise-generating activities;
- (v) Requiring acoustic insulation where noise-sensitive activities are located within high noise environments.<sup>9</sup>

**5.6.17 Policy – Outdoor storage**

- (a) The adverse visual effects of outdoor storage are managed through screening or landscaping.

**5.6.18 Policy – Objectionable odour**

- (a) Ensure that the effects of objectionable odour do not detract from the amenity on other sites.
- (b) Maintain appropriate setback distances between new sensitive land uses and existing lawfully-established activities that generate objectionable odour.

**5.6.19 Policy- Reverse Sensitivity**

- (a) Mitigate the adverse effects of reverse sensitivity through the use of setbacks, the design of subdivisions and development<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> KiwiRail [986.29]

<sup>10</sup> Horticulture New Zealand (419.66)