

MINIMUM CAR PARKING REMOVAL - FACT SHEET

National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD)

Car parking and 'urban environments'

The NPS-UD sets the national direction under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), to achieve 'well functioning urban environments'. This direction includes establishing minimum housing and business development capacity (supply) for the short, medium and long term.

Urban Environments are defined in the NPS-UD as:

urban environment means any area of land (regardless of size, and irrespective of local authority or statistical boundaries) that:

- (a) is, or is intended to be, predominantly urban in character; and
- (b) is, or is intended to be, part of a housing and labour market of at least 10,000 people

On the 18th of June 2025, Council adopted Te Pātukurea, the Kerikeri-Waipapa Spatial Plan. The plan sets out the direction for growth (housing and business capacity). In the long term, Te Pātukurea identifies sufficient housing and business capacity and population which exceeds 25,000 persons by 2054. This meets both (a) and (b) in the definition. The Far North District Council is now an urban authority.

The NPS-UD through Policy 11 and cl 3.38 requires Councils that have 'urban environments' to remove all Objectives, Policies, Rules or Assessment Criteria that have the effect of requiring a minimum amount of car parking spaces required for development/s from their District Plans.

The removal must occur without following the public notification, submissions or hearing process. A notice is required under section 55 of the RMA simply advising for the change. This notice will be put on Council's website and in local papers on 23/12/2025. This has the effect of advising that minimum parking requirements have been removed from the Operative and Proposed District Plans.

The provisions in the Operative District Plan are still visible, but attached to the Council's website is a list of provisions which no longer apply. All relevant provisions have been removed from the Proposed District Plan.

While the NPS-UD removes the requirement to provide a minimum number of carparks, it does not prevent car parks being voluntarily provided.

Where parking is provided, any rules or requirements for size (dimensions) and on-site manoeuvring still apply.

Minimum requirements for accessible car parking requirements still apply.

What is changing

1. All Objectives, Policies, Rules and assessment Criteria with the effect of requiring minimum parking requirements within the ODP and the PDP have been removed except those spaces required for mobility.
2. All chapters including zone chapters referencing 'parking' have been amended to ensure they do not have the effect of requiring a minimum number of car parks.
3. Council is providing a 'tracked change' version of the ODP to make it clear which provisions no longer apply. The PDP will be automatically updated.

What is staying the same

1. Requirements for traffic safety, manoeuvring, parking dimensions.

Mobility car parking (accessible car parking)

The NPS-UD separates mobility parking (also known as accessible parking) from traditional parking. It does not require councils to remove their minimum mobility parking rules. These are still required in the Operative District Plan and in the PDP.