

District Plan in relation to cellphone towers

I would like to know whether Council has the power to make cellphone towers a restricted activity under the DP and require a notified consent.

The information you have requested is supplied below:

- Amending the rules relating to telecommunication towers requires a change to the District Plan.
- Council can instigate such a change for towers in the urban area and outside of road reserve only, because rural areas and road reserve are managed by national regulations (NESTF 2016).
- An evidence-based Plan Change proposing a default restricted discretionary activity status would be contracted out to planning consultants with supporting technical telecommunication specialists; the cost estimate starts at around \$80k.
- We have reviewed other metropolitan District Plan rules relating to towers in urban areas, all were found to be permitted activities subject to compliance with height thresholds (if these are exceeded then resource consent is required and notification considerations engage), consistent with the current District Plan approach.