

Proposed District Plan Guidance

Solar Panels

Solar panels are an increasingly popular way to generate renewable onsite electricity. If you're thinking of installing solar, this factsheet will help you understand the rules in the District Plan.

What does the District Plan say about solar panels?

The rules for solar panels can be found here: [Chapter 30 of the Proposed District Plan – Energy & Utilities](#).

Solar panels are defined as 'Small and Community Scale Distributed Electricity Generation'.¹

Small and community scale distributed electricity generation

Renewable electricity generation for the purpose of using electricity on a particular site, or supplying an immediate community, or connecting into the distribution network.

District Plan rules relating to solar panels generally focus on making sure that the solar project is not visually obtrusive.

Are there locations where solar panels automatically require resource consent?

The short answer is yes². The following areas have been identified as visually sensitive in the District Plan, and a Discretionary Activity resource consent will be needed for any solar project:

- i. Arrowtown Residential Historic Management Zone
- ii. Town Centre Special Character Areas
- iii. Significant Natural Areas
- iv. Outstanding Natural Landscapes
- v. Outstanding Natural Features
- vi. Heritage Features and Heritage Overlay Areas

To check whether your property is in one of these locations go to the [District Plan Maps](#), enter the property address and check which zone applies.



¹ Chapter 2 of the Proposed District Plan
² Proposed District Plan Rule 30.4.1.4

What about other locations in the district?

In all other locations in the district, solar projects are permitted by the Proposed District Plan if the following rules are followed. Solar panels, any associated plant equipment and fixtures must:³

① If located in the Rural, Gibbston Character or Rural Lifestyle Zone, be within the building platform

② If located in a wāhi tūpuna (shown on planning maps) and outside of the urban environment, be attached to an existing building or structure

③ Be set back in accordance with the internal and road boundary setbacks for buildings for the zone

④ Not intrude through zone recession planes

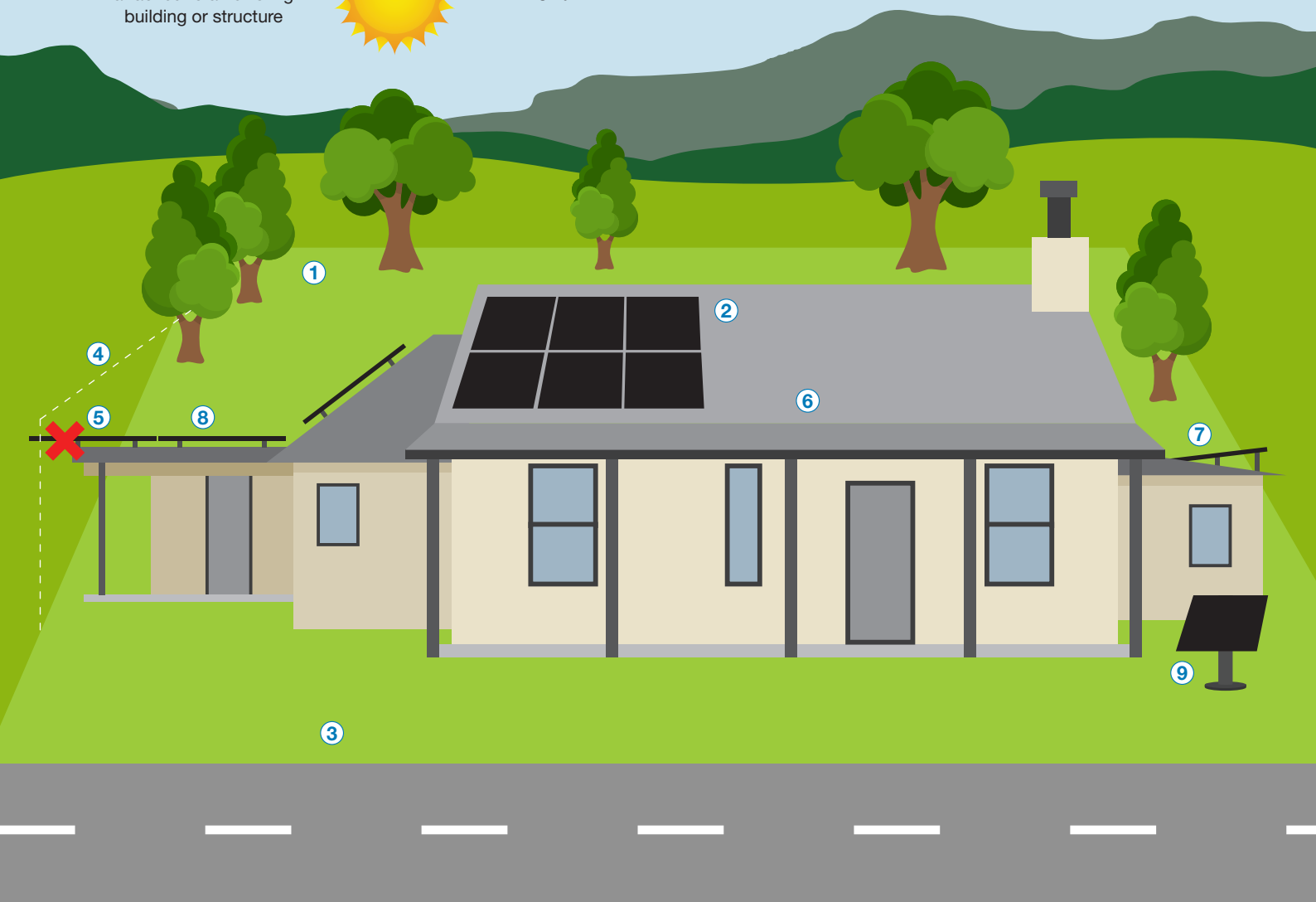
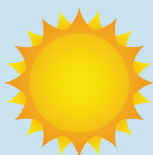
⑤ Not overhang the edge of any building

⑥ Be finished in recessive colours: black, dark blue, grey or brown

⑦ Not protrude more than a maximum of 0.5m above the maximum height limit for the zone if solar panels on a sloping roof

⑨ Not exceed 150m² in area and 2m in height if free standing Solar Electricity Generation and Solar Water Heating

⑧ Not protrude a maximum of 1.0 m above the maximum height limit for the zone, for a maximum area of 5m² if solar panels on a flat roof



If your solar project does not follow these rules, resource consent will be required.

If you're unsure if your solar project follows these rules, or have any further questions about the District Plan rules for your property, please contact our Duty Planner. Details on how to get in touch can be found at www.qldc.govt.nz/duty-planner

Specific zone provisions do not apply to solar projects, unless stated.⁴

³ Proposed District Plan Rule 30.4.2.1

⁴ Proposed District Plan Rule 30.3.3.3