



Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee

MEDIA RELEASE – 3 August 2020

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee Discuss Historic Heritage and Seek Community Input into Zoning

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee met in Greymouth on 30 July. This was their first in person meeting since the COVID-19 lockdown.

Papers were presented to the Committee on Transport, Rural Zoning, Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) and the decision making protocol for changes to the current district plans.

The Committee had a robust discussion about SNAs. The newly operative Regional Policy Statement (RPS) has left room for use and development of SNAs to occur, as long as bottom lines are met. It also requires that SNAs are identified and mapped in Te Tai o Poutini Plan. While Committee members expressed some anguish over the inclusion of SNAs, they agreed that a desktop identification of SNAs on private land will need to be undertaken. “This will ensure decisions for the West Coast are made on the West Coast” said Chairman, Rex Williams.

The Committee decided not to include SNAs on Maori owned land at this time. They will however, ask the Department of Conservation to fund SNA identification on Stewardship land. Their hope is that if sufficient representative ecosystems and biodiversity is identified on Stewardship land, that less private land will be impacted. The Committee will not make decisions about on-the-ground surveys until they have had an opportunity to study the desktop results.

Project Manager, Jo Armstrong, presented a paper on the community consultation over the next 12 months. This will include the continuation of the TTPP Roadshow which was postponed due to COVID-19. Drop-in sessions will be held from Runanga north to Karamea in late September. “Our aim is to hear from as many people as possible, so the Plan supports things the community are interested in” said Mrs Armstrong. “We are getting a lot of response to questionnaires on topics like Natural Hazards, which help us understand the community’s perspectives” she added. Information Sheets and Questionnaires can be found on the Te Tai o Poutini Plan website at tppp.westcoast.govt.nz

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