



Te Tai o Poutini PLAN

A combined district plan for the West Coast

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee

MEDIA RELEASE – 31 March 2021

Accelerating Delivery of Te Tai o Poutini Plan

Government's recently announced Resource Management Act Reform will affect the planning framework on the West Coast, including Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP) – the combined District Plan. A meeting of the TTPP Committee yesterday made the bold decision to 'fast track' the delivery of the Plan.

The proposed Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA), which is due to come into effect in December 2022 will be the legislation which will guide regional and district planning. Under the proposed NBA there would be one plan per region which would include all district and regional planning provisions. It is likely that these regional and district combined plans would not be operative until around 2032. Work already completed on the TTPP would need to be incorporated into these, and potentially re-written.

Two options were presented to the TTPP Committee for consideration. The first, Status Quo, is to continue developing TTPP to the current timeline and budget until December 2022 when TTPP becomes part of the new regional Natural and Built Environments Plan, due for delivery by 2032. The second option is to accelerate delivery, so the work undertaken to date would not be lost, and the Plan would be prepared within a framework everyone is familiar with.

"Fast tracking plan development provides the opportunity for us to lock in the work undertaken to date, benefitting our wider community across the West Coast, and providing more certainty for property owners," said Jo Armstrong, TTPP Project Manager. "If we have a Proposed Plan by the middle of 2022, it is likely that we could take advantage of the streamlined appeals process under the Natural and Built Environments Act, saving us additional time and money in the long run."

Reducing costs under the accelerated timeframe received a lot of support from the Committee. By combining the next two years work into one year, over \$500,000 of fixed costs would be saved.

The TTPP Committee strongly endorsed option 2, and plans are underway to accelerate TTPP delivery. This would result in a Draft Plan being available for community feedback from late January 2022, and the Proposed Plan being notified mid-2022 for submissions.

"We will be strongly encouraging groups and individuals to submit on TTPP," said Committee Chair, Rex Williams. "This is your Plan, and we will need to know what you like, or don't like, about it."

The shortened timeframe will see an increase in engagement over the next year. New information sheets and questionnaires will be added to the TTPP website at tpp.westcost.govt.nz under "Have Your Say" throughout the next year.

Mrs Armstrong is encouraging people to check out the new questionnaire on Residential Visitor Accommodation.

“We have heard a lot about how this is impacting towns and settlements, and would value people’s opinion on how it should be managed.”

ENDS -

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