



# Te Tai o Poutini PLAN

*A combined district plan for the West Coast*

## Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Information Sheet

Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP) is the new combined District Plan for the Westland, Grey, and Buller District Councils. Te Tai o Poutini is the Māori name for the West Coast. This Plan replaces the current individual district plans and provides the Objectives, Policies, Rules and Maps for how activities and resources are managed across the three districts.

Following the notification of the Proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan, this information sheet is designed to assist you in understanding more about Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori and how it may relate to your property.

### **What are Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori?**

Sites and areas of significance to Māori (SASM) are important places that provide significant associations to cultural traditions, history or identity for Poutini Ngāi Tahu. Poutini Ngāi Tahu are the two West Coast Ngāi Tahu rūnanga, which are Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio. SASM include sacred sites and areas, such as burial caves, urupā/cemeteries, battle sites, former kāinga/villages and pā sites, māori reserves, significant maunga/mountains, pounamu/greenstone trails, nohoanga campsites and important mahinga kai food gathering areas, including waterways.

### **Why are Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori included in the proposed Plan?**

Recognising and providing for protection of these sites and areas is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act (RMA). The RMA, the National Planning Standards (NPS) and the West Coast Regional Policy Statement (RPS) all require the identification and protection of sites and areas that are culturally important to rūnanga to be included in the TTPP. The Environment Court has confirmed that Rules are required in order for protection to be achieved. As part of the work to develop Te Tai o Poutini Plan, a robust process was undertaken to identify these important sites and areas.

### **How were Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori identified?**

The sites and areas were identified based on knowledge and records held by Poutini Ngāi Tahu representatives. The records include manuscripts, published books, maps, evidence prepared for the Ngāi Tahu Treaty Claim and newspaper articles. An extensive amount of work has been undertaken to identify and recognise these important sites and areas. While some sites were already listed in the existing West Coast district plans, they were mainly based on known archaeological sites sourced from information provided by Heritage New Zealand – Pouhere Taonga and the New Zealand Archaeological Association, or were well known urupā/cemeteries. Other existing sites such as sacred maunga/mountains), wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and other important areas of Poutini Ngāi Tahu occupation or activities have also been included so they are able to be more widely acknowledged.

### **Where are Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Located?**

Poutini Ngāi Tahu lived, settled and travelled extensively across the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini, and have historical and ongoing cultural connections with land and waterways throughout the region. Consequently there are sites and areas of significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu identified throughout the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini region.

Some West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini towns, such as Greymouth and Westport were built on, or near to locations of former Poutini Ngāi Tahu pā and kāinga settlements/villages, so there are a number of sites and areas of significance identified in these urban areas on privately owned land. There are also sites and areas identified on public conservation land, and there are some sites and areas (particularly in coastal locations and in the rural area) on both privately owned and Māori owned land.

While some sites were identified and listed in the existing West Coast district plans, they were not mapped, and many landowners may not have been aware of their locations or existence. All of the sites and areas of significance identified by Poutini Ngāi Tahu have now been mapped in Te Tai o Poutini Plan. Following the notification of the proposed TTPP, letters were sent by the TTPP Committee Chair to all landowners who were identified (using the e-Plan TTPP) as having a site or area of significance on their property.

The TTPP contains a table known as Schedule 3, which lists all of the sites and areas of significance (SASM). This schedule includes the name of the site or area and identifies the values associated with each SASM.

### **Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori with SASM Planning Rules**

There are sites and areas of significance to Māori which have TTPP rules that apply to them. It is important to note that not all the same planning rules apply to each site or area. Different rules, or no rules apply because some types of activities may impact the cultural values associated with a particular site or area, whereas other activities may not.

Depending on the nature of the SASM site, consideration is required before undertaking activities such as earthworks or the installation, alteration or removal of buildings, services and structures, any indigenous vegetation clearance or the installation of a network utility structure. For the relevant sites, there may be rules around these activities and they direct you to either consult with the relevant Poutini Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga or to apply for a resource consent for your activity.

Consultation with the relevant Poutini Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga is encouraged because on viewing the specific details of your proposal, the Rūnanga may be able to confirm in writing that your proposed activity won't impact on the cultural values associated with the site. This may avoid the need to obtain a resource consent. You are not required to consult and should you decide not to, and apply for a resource consent, the Council will then contact the relevant Rūnanga during the processing of your resource consent application to find out if your proposal will impact on the cultural values for that site.

For land zoned rural, open space, recreation, special or industrial with a SASM site or area located on it, a resource consent is required to develop the site for any of the following activities: landfills, waste disposal and hazardous facilities, intensive indoor primary production (this excludes herd homes), community sized wastewater treatment plants and disposal facilities, crematorium, mining, plantation forestry and the planting of shelterbelts or woodlots.

In addition, on a small number of very sensitive SASM sites, a resource consent will be required for grazing on the land and for undertaking certain earthworks.

### **Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori with no SASM Planning Rules**

There are some sites and areas of significance to Māori that have no SASM TTPP rules applying on them. These sites are identified just to inform the landowner and the general public of their cultural significance. Most of these sites and areas are located on residential and commercial zoned land in Greymouth and Westport.

In addition to land of significance to Māori, waterways of significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu have also been identified such as Sawyers Creek in Greymouth, the Paroa Lagoon, the Taramakau River, and Lake Māhinapua. Most of these waterways have no rules associated with them and the waterways that do have rules that apply such as the Arnold River, the rules relate to the use of the waterway for a temporary event or are associated with watercraft use. There are no SASM rule restrictions that apply to the land that is adjacent to these identified waterways.

Please note that some sites may also trigger rules under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, making it unlawful for any person to modify or destroy, or cause to be modified or destroyed, the whole or any part of an archaeological site without the prior authority of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. If you wish to do any work that may affect a SASM, check with the Rūnanga also.

### **Rules Having Legal Effect**

Because SASMs are a type of historic heritage, the RMA states that the rules associated with them have legal effect (i.e. need to be considered) from the time the proposed TTPP was notified. This does not effect existing activities and buildings which have existing use rights under the RMA.

Existing use rights mean that the building can continue to be maintained and occupied or the activity can continue to be undertaken without the need to get a resource consent under TTPP. It is possible to apply for an Existing Use Certificate from your district council to confirm the legality of your existing activity.

You are still able to submit and request changes to rules that have legal effect when the TTPP was notified.

### **Submissions on the Proposed TTPP**

Submissions on the Proposed TTPP are now being sought. Submissions must be made by:

- **5.00pm on Friday 11th November 2022**

Submissions can be made online via the online submission form or in writing. You can make an online submission or download a submission form at [www.ttpp.nz](http://www.ttpp.nz).

Submissions can be made about Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, or any other aspects of the proposed TTPP.

This is a formal legal process and there will be hearings of submissions following the submission period. At the moment we are expecting to hold hearings in mid-2023.