

Te Tai o Poutini Plan
Introductory Planning Statement
Natural Character of Waterbodies
and
Activities on the Surface of Water



Te Tai o Poutini
PLAN

A combined district plan for the West Coast

Introduction to the Natural Character of Waterbodies Topic

1. Tēnā koutou. My name is Lois Margaret Easton. I have been the principal planner during the period of development of Te Tai o Poutini Plan. I have been the lead planner for all but four of the topics within Te Tai o Poutini Plan. My credentials are outlined in the relevant s42A reports and I will not repeat these here.
2. This topic is one of the topics within Te Tai o Poutini Plan where there is a degree of overlap between Regional Council and District Council Functions.
3. Freshwater has been the subject of a wide range of multiple reforms over the last 12 years, starting with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2011, and its subsequent amendments and updates, the most recent being the 2020 version.
4. There is also a National Environmental Standard for Freshwater and Stock Exclusion Regulations.
5. In the case of the NES Freshwater and Stock Exclusion Regulations these clearly relate to the functions of Regional Councils and are administered by the West Coast Regional Council.
6. While the NPSFM is predominantly administered by the West Coast Regional Council, as a National Policy Statement it must also be given effect to as is appropriate through this Plan. The West Coast Regional Council has not yet notified any plan changes to give effect to the NPSFM (2014, 2017 or 2020 versions), so the 2014 Land and Water Plan remains the current Regional Plan.
7. In terms of the development of TTPP, all three operative plans have existing riparian setbacks and similar provisions for waterbodies. The setback widths in the proposed TTPP are the same as within the operative plans.
8. The development of the proposed Plan provisions were therefore largely an updating of the operative plans. The operative Plan provisions however only applied to Rural Zones, and the riparian setback rules were found in their Rural Zone provisions. As required under the National Planning Standards TTPP has a separate chapter instead.
9. The submissions received on the chapter covered a wide range of matters with a range of submitters, some of whom have opposing views.
10. I have supported a number of amendments to the chapter. The most significant of these are as follows:
 - a. Amendments to the definition of riparian margins to exclude natural inland wetlands as these are regulated under the NES Freshwater provisions and to identify how the riparian margin should be measured.
 - b. Changes to the overview section to explain the linkages between the chapter and the regional council and NES Freshwater as well as linkages to other parts of the Plan.
 - c. Amending Objective NC – O1 to specifically mention the effects management hierarchy
 - d. Providing for operational as well as functional need within Objective NC – O3 and NC – P3
 - e. Moving Policy NC – P5 into the Public Access Chapter
 - f. Splitting out the provisions within the rules that relate to indigenous vegetation clearance and creating a new rule within the Ecosystems and Biodiversity Chapter to address this matter
 - g. Amending the Permitted Activity Rule NC – R1 to provide for earthworks for new network utilities and regionally significant infrastructure in some circumstances
 - h. Amending the Permitted Activity Rule NC – R1 to provide for earthworks associated with weed/pest control and existing lawfully established farming activity
 - i. Amending the Permitted Activity Rule NC – R2 to provide for mai mai, temporary bridges for military training activities and pumpsheds as a Permitted Activity
 - j. Deleting the Permitted Activity Rule NC – R3 that related to some types of New Natural Hazard Mitigation Activities and instead requiring that these are a Restricted Discretionary Activity, consistent with how these are treated in other parts of the Plan.

Introduction to the Activities on the Surface of Water Topic

11. I turn now to Activities on the Surface of Water.

12. This is a matter where the operative Plans do not have very clear or consistent provisions. Westland and Grey District Councils treated the surface of water in the same way as the surrounding zoned land. Buller District Council had separate district wide provisions.
13. The National Planning Standards require that this matter be within a separate chapter in the District Wide Matters section of the Plan.
14. The main issues identified in developing the provisions were the use of waterbodies for commercial activities – particularly where these use motorized vessels, building of structures on the surface of water, and disturbance of particular waterbodies, with high cultural significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu.
15. A key matter identified through further submissions was the unintentional capture of the Ports of Greymouth and Westport in the provisions as relates to commercial activities. This arises because of the coastal boundary set in the Regional Coastal Plan – which is downstream of these ports. A Variation to address this matter is proposed and is due to be notified by 28 March 2024.
16. The submissions on this chapter of the Plan were largely supportive of the resource management approach, and the majority of submissions were focussed on the matters of detail in relation to the wording of the objectives, policies and rules.
17. Based on the submissions received I have recommended a number of changes to the provisions. Key changes that I have recommended include:
 - a. Providing a definition for watercraft and motorised watercraft
 - b. Changes to the overview section to explain the linkages to other parts of the Plan.
 - c. Amendment to Objective ASW – O1 to also refer to landscape and natural feature values
 - d. Providing for additional Permitted Activities in Rule ASW – R1 for access to landlocked properties and for the Lake Mahinapua Aquatic Club activities
 - e. Amending Rule ASW – R3 to make it clear that structures in Artificial Watercourses are also a Permitted Activity
 - f. Amending Rule ASW – R4 to provide for temporary mai mai, temporary marker buoys at Lake Māhinapua and operation, maintenance and repair of existing structures.
 - g. Adding an additional matter of control to ASW -R5 and an additional matter of discretion in ASW – R6 in relation to effects on ecological, biodiversity and conservation values
 - h. Amending the zoning maps so that the currently mapped “waterbodies” are identified as General Rural Zone.

Close

18. This is the key context and matters for the Section 42A report.
19. Thank you