

Summary of Evidence – Open Space and Recreation Zones – proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan

Rachael Elizabeth Pull (planner) on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tahu (Poutini Ngāti Tahu)

3 July 2024

Tēnā koutou, ko Rachael Pull tōku ingoa and I am providing an oral summary of my planning evidence on behalf of Poutini Ngāti Tahu for the Open Space and Recreation Zones hearing for the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan.

Open Space zones are typically in public ownership either through Councils or entities of the Crown. This creates a communal interest and wide range of public expectations of use and development of these areas. Especially when combined with the other legislation requirements on these sites, including for Conservation, Wildlife, Reserves, Crown Minerals, Public Access and Treaty Settlements. I note how the Open Space zones need to balance these requirements and other chapters of the Plan. In particular, the Energy, Infrastructure and Transport chapters will consider the objectives and policies of these zones to provide the understanding of the potential effects on the natural environment, social and cultural values of the area.

On the whole, I support the recommendations of the s42A report and have made only minor changes to improve useability within my evidence.

The s42A report has accepted the Ngāti Tahu submission to provide a policy recognising the Stewardship Land review. In my evidence I have recommended a policy and method as an alternative for better application and consistency with the Historic Heritage chapter.

Appendix Two of my evidence contains a table with a full list of all Poutini Ngāti Tahu settlement sites, the map reference and zoning. I found this very useful in writing my evidence, in particular my comments on Nohoanga Entitlements, re-zoning of waterbodies and assessing Poutini Ngāti Tahu values.

As you will note in my evidence, I have proposed an alternative view to the s42A report recommendation to include Poutini Ngāti Tahu values as a matter of consideration in all controlled or restricted discretionary activities for these zones. I have supported the inclusion in the Natural Open Space zone due to the importance of the values that that zone seeks to protect. These areas are more likely to contain Taonga Species, deed of settlement values and intact Poutini Ngāti Tahu values.

However, I have recommended removal of Poutini Ngāti Tahu values for the Open Space and Sports zones, apart from two specific activities.

This is because my assessment was unable to conclude that a feasible activity creating a rule breach beyond the permitted baseline would have a more than minor effect on Poutini Ngāti Tahu values not already protected by the SASM overlay. However, I do need to note that this was a theoretical exercise as a planner and does not mean there would be no cultural effects to consider for a specific application.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to take any questions.