

Information sheet: Permitted native vegetation clearance

What is Te Tai o Poutini Plan?

Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP) is the new combined district plan for Westland, Grey, and Buller district councils. It replaces the individual district plans and provides the Objectives, Policies, Rules and Maps for how activities and resources are managed across the three districts.

Why is native vegetation clearance managed in TTPP?

Native plants are important for our heritage and the natural environment and are protected on the West Coast. Depending on the nature and location of the vegetation, a resource consent may be required for its clearance. By requiring resource consents native vegetation is protected for future generations to enjoy, while viable economic activities can continue.

What types of native vegetation clearance are regulated in TTPP?

All types of native (indigenous) plants are regulated under TTPP.

Native vegetation clearance includes removal by any means – including felling, smothering, cultivation, drainage, chemical spraying, overplanting or burning.

Different types of locations where the Rules apply

The rules for native vegetation clearance vary by location. There are general rules that apply across the West Coast, and then more restrictive rules that apply in specific locations outlined below.

Coastal environment – This is an overlay shown on the TTPP planning maps. Different rules apply in these areas with lower amounts of Permitted clearance, and a requirement that the habitats of rare and threatened species and threatened environments are not cleared.

Threatened environments - The threatened environments are also shown on the TTPP planning maps. The rules around vegetation clearance in these areas mainly affect Karamea and Little Wanganui in the Buller District.

Riparian margins of waterbodies – These are areas within 10m of a river greater than 3m wide, 3m of a river more than 1m wide, 20m of any lake and 10m of any wetland that is in the coastal marine area.

Significant Natural Areas – These are areas that have been mapped in TTPP and described in Schedule Four as a Significant Natural Area (SNA). These are areas within the Grey District, and the wetlands known as “Schedule One Wetlands” from the West Coast Regional Land and Water Plan. *The rules for SNAs only apply to these mapped areas.*

What native vegetation clearance is permitted?

A range of activities that include native vegetation clearance is permitted, and these are summarised in the table below.

Type of native vegetation clearance	Location	Status under TTPP
Planted gardens	All locations	Permitted
Shelterbelts	All locations	Permitted
Plantation forestry understory	All locations	Permitted
Any purpose	Greymouth, Hokitika, Reefton, Westport residential zones, commercial and mixed use zones, industrial zones, port zone	Permitted
For a range of infrastructure purposes	All locations	Specific Permitted Activity rules for network utilities, renewable electricity generation and the national grid. Refer to TTPP for these.
To establish a dwelling and access on a site with no residential dwelling	Outside of the riparian margins of waterbodies and mapped SNAs	Permitted up to 500m ²

Type of native vegetation clearance	Location	Status under TTPP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For maintenance and repair of lawfully established structures and activities – this includes tracks, fences, drains, shelterbelts and woodlots For the maintenance of existing improved pasture for farming For cultural harvest, Poutini Ngā Tahu Activities or on Specified Māori Land For the construction of new fences and traplines associated with conservation activities or to exclude stock or pest animals from native vegetation or the margins of waterbodies, or the coast For the establishment of a river crossing point up to 3 metres wide Unavoidable when removing pest plants and pest animals in accordance with the West Coast Regional Pest Management Plan or the Biosecurity Act 1993 	Outside mapped SNAs	Permitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 500m² in the mapped coastal environment (where this does not disturb habitats of threatened or at risk species or occur within category 1 or 2 threatened environments) up to 25m² per 200m length of the riparian margin of waterbodies up to 5000m² on properties in the Grey District which have a mapped SNA identified on them up to 2000m² elsewhere
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of windthrow timber 	Outside the mapped coastal environment, the riparian margins of waterbodies and mapped SNAs	Permitted up to 2000m ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other purpose 	Outside the mapped coastal environment, the riparian margins of waterbodies and mapped SNAs	Permitted up to 2000m ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain, operate or repair lawfully established structures and activities within 3m of the structure or activity 	Within mapped SNAs	Permitted up to 50m ²

Where to get more information

You can read the TTPP online and view the maps at <https://tppp.nz/>

Please note that other rules may apply to your proposed clearance. This might include requirements for consent from West Coast Regional Council.

Talk to your local Council about how the native vegetation clearance rules might affect you:

Buller District Council: planning@bdc.govt.nz

Grey District Council: GDC_Planning@greydc.govt.nz

Westland District Council: planning@westlanddc.govt.nz