

## Māpua and Districts Community Association meeting update – October 2024

1. **Two Tasman projects on fast track approval list**
2. **Tasman is poised for significant growth and development**
3. **New regulations to protect natural landscapes and coastal environment**
4. **Fish Passage work at Dominion Valley Stream soon to commence**
5. **Don't miss out, Step Out!**
6. **You could qualify for a rates discount**
7. **Grants encourage young leaders**

### Two Tasman projects on fast track approval list

Two Tasman projects have been included among the 149 projects released this week for inclusion in the Government's Fast Track Approvals Bill.

The projects selected have been identified as having significant regional national benefits.

Consideration has been given to the construction of the Hope Bypass - a new highway to bypass Richmond and Hope to reduce congestion.

Also included in the list is The Māpua Development project - a mixed-density residential and community development. This will comprise approximately 300 residential lots, a recreation reserve (including sports fields and courts), community amenities building and parking, an extensive wetland and restoration of the Seaton Valley stream.

The land associated with the Mapua Development Project was identified for residential development during early engagement on options for the Mapua Masterplan. It was also identified for residential development in the Nelson Tasman Future Development Strategy 2022-2052

The Council was aware of the landowner's intention to apply through the fast track legislation - however it did not write in support of the application as it did not want to prejudice or predetermine the outcome of the Māpua Master Plan process.

However, the plans have presented no surprises and were largely consistent with the early engagement with the community on the masterplan.

***The Māpua Masterplan draft document is being considered for approval by Council on October 24, after which it is expected to go out for public consultation from November 1.***

***More information and ways to offer submissions will be posted on Shape Tasman in the coming days.***

The Māpua Masterplan process will be concluded by mid-2025 which means it can be used to guide The Council's input into the process, managed by the Environmental Protection Agency and undertaken by an external expert consenting panel.

The Fast-track Approvals Bill is currently before the Environment Select Committee which will report back to Parliament by 18 October.

The Bill is expected to go before Parliament for its second reading in November. The Bill is expected to be passed into law before the end of the year.

The 149 projects that the Government has indicated will be included in the fast track legislation will have to apply to the EPA once the legislation is passed.

## **Tasman is poised for significant growth and development**

A landowner and homeowners' information campaign has been launched in Richmond, Wakefield, Brightwater, Motueka, Moutere, Tapawera, St Arnaud, Tophouse, Murchison, Tākaka and Golden Bay.

Before formal engagement in February 2025, we are working to ensure our landowners and residents in these areas, have both the time and information to think about the options proposed by Plan Change 81 to the Tasman Resource Management Plan and the accompanying Regional Policy Statement Change.

Informed by the Future Development Strategy 2022 – 2052, the changes aim to provide for residential and business growth, while creating high-quality living environments, and offering a diverse range of housing options.

Information booklets are being delivered to landowners and households in the Plan Change areas. We cannot underestimate the importance of urban growth and development to meet the needs of a growing population. This requires the careful consideration of land use and rezoning to balance development with environmental protection, the necessity of infrastructure improvements to support growth, and the commitment to sustainable resource management.

The changes focus on rezoning land to provide for housing intensification, papakāinga, greenfield housing, mixed business, commercial and light industrial uses, and providing for infrastructure development and sustainability.

Keeping our community informed is a principal part of the planning process that supports a resilient and thriving future for all. What to find out more? Visit [shape.tasman.govt.nz/urban-growth-PC81](https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/urban-growth-PC81).

## New regulations to protect natural landscapes and coastal environment

Plans are being developed to identify and conserve outstanding natural areas while allowing landowners to continue their activities.

### **Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features**

We are currently developing a plan change which identifies and protects outstanding natural landscapes and features within the Tasman District.

This continues an extensive programme of work which we discussed with landowners in 2021 and 2022 and aims to introduce new provisions that safeguard these areas while allowing landowners to continue using their land.

The plan change is in the process of being drafted and is expected to be released for public consultation in early 2025.

Following consultation, the plan change will be formally notified in late 2026.

### **Coastal Natural Character and Coastal Environment**

In addition to the plan change for outstanding natural landscapes, we are also working on a plan change to address coastal natural character and the coastal environment.

This plan change will replace the existing Coastal Environment Area with a more refined definition, enabling better protection of coastal areas.

We have identified areas within coastal Tasman that possess high, very high, or outstanding natural character. New provisions will be introduced to safeguard these special values, while also improving regulations for activities such as building new houses within the coastal fringe.

This plan change is also in the drafting stage and will follow the same timeline as the landscapes and features work.

To see the maps and reports, visit [shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmental-plan-changes](https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmental-plan-changes).

## Fish Passage work at Dominion Valley Stream soon to commence

We are pleased to announce that the fish passage remediation work at the box culvert where Dominion Valley Stream meets the estuary, which was originally scheduled to occur earlier, will now commence this spring.

This change is not due to a delay; rather, it presents a valuable opportunity to gather important data. By collecting information before and after the remediation, we aim to gain insights into the effectiveness of our efforts and bolster similar initiatives across the region.

The rescheduling coincides perfectly with the anticipated fish runs, allowing us to observe and measure the immediate benefits of the remediation on local biodiversity.

Olleycology, a trusted supplier, will be overseeing the execution of this project. Furthermore, this initiative is proudly co-funded by the Jobs for Nature Project and community infrastructure funds, reflecting our collective commitment to environmental stewardship.

The data obtained from this project will contribute to a comprehensive report, which is expected to be published by May 2025. This report will not only document the outcomes of the remediation but also serve as a guide for future conservation projects.

We thank you for your understanding and continuous support in enhancing the natural habitats within our community.

## Don't miss out, Step Out!

Alongside and including our hugely popular Parks Events, there are many other Step Out programme activities throughout October in the Tasman District.

These are put together by groups, clubs and individuals all over the region to promote an active lifestyle and healthy wellbeing.

There's a phenomenal list of events happening over the next few weeks catering for all ages, abilities and interests.

For example, you can welcome the Godwits at Motueka Spit, take in the Dark Sky Reserve with a barbecue and stargazing at Wai-iti.

There's a community Pilates class at Olive Estate, and a guided walk at Hoddy Estuary Park, you can even give disc golf a go at Redstone Golf Park or why not join an ecclesiastical tour of Wakefield?

The full list of what's on and when is on the Step Out Nelson Tasman Facebook page – [facebook.com/StepOutNelsonTasman](https://facebook.com/StepOutNelsonTasman).

## You could qualify for a rates discount

Did you know there's a rebate scheme offered by the Department of Internal Affairs that could give you a discount on your rates?

If you fit the criteria, you could get a credit of up to \$790, depending upon things like your income, number of dependents and rates you pay.

A rates rebate is a partial discount on a rates bill and simply means you pay less for your rates. If you own your home and are on a low income, you may be eligible for the rebate.

People who applied last year within the Tasman District will automatically be sent a letter and form to apply again this financial year.

You can't claim a rebate for the rates payable on a property that's used mostly for business, farming, commercial, or industrial purposes, or a home that isn't your usual place of residence like a holiday home.

Please apply as soon as you can, although you do have until 30 June 2025 to apply for a rebate for the current financial year.

If you're not sure if you're eligible, head to our website for more information – [tasman.govt.nz](https://tasman.govt.nz) and search 'rates rebates', otherwise call us on 03 543 8400 and we can check your eligibility for you.

## Grants encourage young leaders

We are providing opportunities for young people in the Tasman community to develop their leadership skills with help from a Youth Leadership Grant. Every year we provide scholarships of up to \$500 per person to take part in youth leadership opportunities.

You can find out more and apply for our Youth Leadership Grant at [tasman.govt.nz/grants](https://tasman.govt.nz/grants).