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**Subject:** Environmental Policy Update - August 2024  
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## Environmental Policy Newsletter.

Kia ora Paul

In this early spring update, we reflect on work to implement the Nelson Tasman Future Development Strategy, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, and changes to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

While we are not progressing a whole of plan review updates to the TRMP include progress on Deferred Zoning, Outstanding Natural Landscapes & Features, urban growth plus existing plan changes for Motueka and Wakefield and, Richmond & Mapua spatial plans, Port Motueka and Tarakohe Structure Plans and the TRMP moves online.

Changes to the RMA signaled by the current government mean the review of the TRMP is currently paused while we progress the work outlined above. We are keeping a watching brief so that we can restart the Tasman Environment Plan (TEP) at an appropriate time.

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## Workshop series supports drafting for Land Freshwater Plan Change.



The Environmental Policy and Environmental Information teams are currently carrying out a series of workshops with Councilors to test the direction for recommended land and freshwater policy changes.

Workshops are topic based and iwi representatives are invited to share their work from the Te Puna Korero forum. The material presented and subsequent discussion has proved invaluable.

The bulk of our engagement with stakeholders and the public will be carried out once the draft plan change is released where the detailed changes will be available to inform feedback. Until then we are looking to defer most stakeholder meetings.

However Environmental Policy and Catchment Facilitation staff are undertaking some targeted discussions with key stakeholders previously committed to both the process and underlying methodologies. Staff are also undertaking informal testing on recommended policy changes with key individuals to ensure they are practically implementable.

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## Your opinion is not lost on the future.



If you live and work in Tasman you have a voice in its environmental management and sustainability for freshwater, urban development, management of land and coastal features and natural hazards.

Starting in November engagement and consultation opens on a wide range of environmental policy matters that have significant importance to our district.

[Read more here](#)

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## Landscapes and Coastal Plan Changes.



**Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features** – this plan change identifies the outstanding natural landscape and features in Tasman District and will introduce new provisions to protect those areas depending on their special values, whilst still allowing landowners to continue using the land. The plan change is in the process of being drafted and is expected to be released for consultation in late 2025 before being formally notified in the first half of 2025.

**Coastal Natural Character and Coastal Environment** - this plan change will replace the existing Coastal Environment Area with a better definition of the coastal environment. It will also identify areas with high, very high and outstanding natural character within coastal Tasman, and will include new provisions to protect those special values. It will also improve the provisions for activities like building new houses, within the coastal fringe. The plan change is in the process of being drafted and the draft plan change is expected to be released for consultation in late 2025 before being formally notified in the first half of 2025.

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## Ports Tarakohe and Motueka Structure Plans.



**Port Tarakohe**



**Port Motueka**



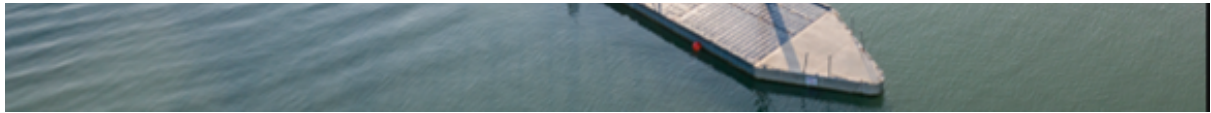
[Port Tarakohe Structure Plan](#) – Port Tarakohe Structure Plan – Port Tarakohe is a commercial port, recreation hub, provides for community resilience and is also home to a number of rare and endangered species. To ensure all important uses are balanced and provided for into the future a structure plan is in the process of being developed. In the next few weeks, we will be releasing the draft structure plan and calling for the community to provide feedback to ensure the proposed actions are the right ones. [This link will take you to](#) the issues and options paper consulted on earlier in the year.

[Port Motueka Structure Plan](#) –Previous feedback from the community has identified that the port is not working as well as it should, and some essential activities /facilities are missing. The purpose of the structure plan is to ensure that the best use of the limited space occurs and to provide direction for future development. The first round of consultation has occurred, and the next step is to produce an issue and options paper for the community's consideration. We will be consulting on the issues and options paper before the end of the year.

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## Māpua Masterplan.





The aim of the Masterplan is to set out the strategic direction and vision for the Māpua area for the next 30 years. The Masterplan will provide strategic direction on growth and development providing a comprehensive plan for the future of Māpua which will be implemented through Council processes and documentation such as plan changes, the Long-Term Plan and Catchment and Asset Management Plans.

The Māpua Masterplan team are currently working on developing the final draft of the Masterplan following iwi and community feedback over two consultation phases, one in late 2023 and the second in early 2024.

A Council workshop to finalise the draft Masterplan is scheduled for mid September following which it is anticipated the draft Masterplan will be adopted by Council for formal consultation under the Local Government Act. This will involve public submissions, and hearings with the final decision being made by the Council's Strategy and Policy Committee.

More on [Shape Tasman](#). Or email us on [freshwater.plan@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:freshwater.plan@tasman.govt.nz)

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## Motueka West Plan Change 80.





***Map 1 – The Plan Change Area within the TRMP Motueka West Development Area (yellow hatched overlay)***

Plan Change 80 proposes the rezoning of land in Motueka West from Rural 1 deferred Residential to Residential – Compact Density. The objective of Plan Change 80 is to address population growth and the associated demand for housing. It is responding to:

- The direction given in the FDS, which has identified the Plan Change 80 land for residential intensification.
- Region-wide issues around the need to provide for population growth.
- The National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) which requires Council's make sufficient land available for housing and business growth in the short, medium and long term.
- Motueka's high demand for housing land, and limitation with regards to land that is suitable for redevelopment, particularly land that is close to public transport and amenities.

The land is located within the Motueka West Development Area and is the subject of an Infrastructure Acceleration Fund Housing Outcome Agreement which has provided some financial support towards infrastructure upgrades to facilitate the future development of the area.

Submissions and further submissions have closed for the Motueka West Plan Change 80. Four submissions were received and no further submissions. A hearing is being scheduled for early November with further details to follow.



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More on [Shape Tasman](#).

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## Strategic Planning foundation for the future.



In May this year we got the first glimpse of the 2023 census results from Statistics NZ.

- Tasman was the fastest growing region in New Zealand at over 10%, growing by an extra 5,418 people.
- The greatest increase has been in the over 65 age group, followed by 25–34-year-olds.
- 44% of the overall population growth since 2018 in Tasman has been in the working age population (25-64 years).
- Since 2018, Tasman's dwelling count has increased by 11% (an extra 2,619 dwellings).

Tasman continues to grow, which underlines the need for long term strategic planning.

Two years ago, Tasman District and Nelson City adopted the Future Development Strategy 2022-2052 (FDS). [Future Development Strategy 2022 - 2052 | Tasman District Council](#). This is a high-level strategy that identifies



suitable locations for future housing and business developments over the next 30 years.

Subsequent Plan Changes to the Resource Management Plans of both authorities propose the sites for rezoning, after further detailed evaluation of those sites.

Tasman District Council is currently preparing [Plan Change 81](#) to the Tasman Resource Management Plan which does just that. While it is still being prepared, it may propose over 30 sites for rezoning for residential and business uses, in nine towns of Tasman. These sites can be serviced within the next ten years, unless they are proposed to be self-serviced. [Read more here.](#)

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## Natural Hazards Programme reducing harm.



Flood resilience projects in Nelson Tasman will benefit from Government co-

funding grants of \$16.5 million, \$6.6million of which will the Lower Motueka River stop bank refurbishment and \$900,00 to the Peach Island stop bank repair, “is not a silver bullet,” said Council team leader rivers and coastal David Arseneau.

“It only goes so far, and there will always be a flood that is bigger than your stop banks.” ([Nelson Mail](#))

It is important that we also implement other risk reduction measures, such as appropriate land use and building choices, to enable climate-resilient development in our communities.

Planning for resilience is a key focus of Council’s current work programme to review the natural hazards policy framework in the Tasman Resource Management Plan.

The review will include looking at how further development or intensification in low-lying coastal and river flood plain areas can be avoided or mitigated to ensure new development is climate resilient.

Current planning zones and natural hazards overlays will also be reviewed to reflect updated natural hazard information. By discouraging further development in vulnerable locations, the Council aims to prevent the situation from worsening and potentially endangering lives and property, as well as minimising the financial costs to communities.

Climate and natural hazard-resilient growth opportunities are being delivered in parallel through the development of the Urban Growth Plan Change (Plan Change 81).

“The Natural Hazards Plan Change work programme work now underway will span several years. An issues and options discussion document to be released March 2025 is the first step in informing a Natural Hazard’s Plan Change,” said team leader natural resources policy Diana Worthy. The community will be invited to provide their comments and feedback on the issues and options.

[Read more here](#)

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## Tell a Friend

If you know someone who would be interested in being kept up-to-date on the work of the Environmental Policy Team, and on future opportunities for providing feedback, please let them know that they can subscribe to these newsletters by using this link: <http://eepurl.com/hk4tOv>

Ngā mihi

The Enviromental Policy team at TDC



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