



Environmental Policy newsletter 2025 midwinter update

What's in this edition: Response to RMA national directions, Māpua green light, Urban Growth and Natural Hazards initial feedback and shaping a resilient-ready Tasman.



Lake Rotoiti morning in June 2025. *"Beneath the vast and silent sky, the lake reflects the soul's deep sigh, each ripple tells a story old, of time and truth in waters cold. In stillness here, the heart can see the endless dance of mystery."*

Tasman priorities



The Government is moving ahead with a sweeping overhaul of the Resource Management system, replacing the Resource Management Act (RMA) with a new framework based on two Acts: the Natural Environment Act and the Planning Act.

This new architecture aims to simplify regulations, reduce the scope and volume of consents, and streamline planning processes. National direction is being restructured to include fewer, clearer instruments with national standards, environmental limits, and standardised zoning.

Councils like Tasman will be expected to begin developing integrated regional plans that combine spatial, natural environment, and land use chapters. Ahead of the legislation changes, the Government has launched statutory and non-statutory consultations on four regulatory packages—Infrastructure & Development, Primary Sector, Freshwater, and Housing—each with sector-specific implications.

These changes are designed to quickly unlock economic development while maintaining core environmental protections.

Immediate future:

For us, the immediate focus will be on engaging with the Government's consultation process in mid-2025, preparing for the introduction of the Planning and Natural Environment Bills later this year, and beginning alignment of local planning with upcoming national direction.

The new national policy direction and standards are being developed throughout 2026, with legislation expected to pass mid-2026 and full implementation beginning in 2027. We will be involved in testing and shaping implementation tools and processes, with LG practitioners helping ensure that new systems are practical and fit-for-purpose.

Tasman must also prepare for liberalised freshwater and land-use rules, including relaxed wetland protections and new flexibility in applying environmental bottom lines—changes that will have significant operational, environmental, and community engagement implications.

Immediate priorities include engaging in Government consultations, preparing for legislative changes, and adapting to more flexible environmental and land-use standards. Full implementation is expected from 2027.

Refocused PC 84

Land & Freshwater Plan Change



Draft PC 84: making a difference for freshwater

Ongoing delays and uncertainty with national freshwater regulation have been challenging for us and a decision was made on 9 May 2025 to pause the Land and Freshwater Plan Change (PC84) until clear Government direction and new legislation is received. However, we have obligations under the Water Conservation Order (WCO) for Te Waikoropupū Springs and aquifer, as well as other priority issues to address that cannot wait.

Land and Freshwater Plan Change refocused

As a result, PC84 will be refocused on freshwater protections to support the WCO. This change will put in place policy and rules to manage water and land use activities, and their associated discharges, in the recharge area for the Wharepapa Arthur Marble Aquifer to help protect the flows and water quality at the Springs. It will also create a nutrient management framework for farming and forestry in the recharge area to help achieve nitrate reduction at the Springs.

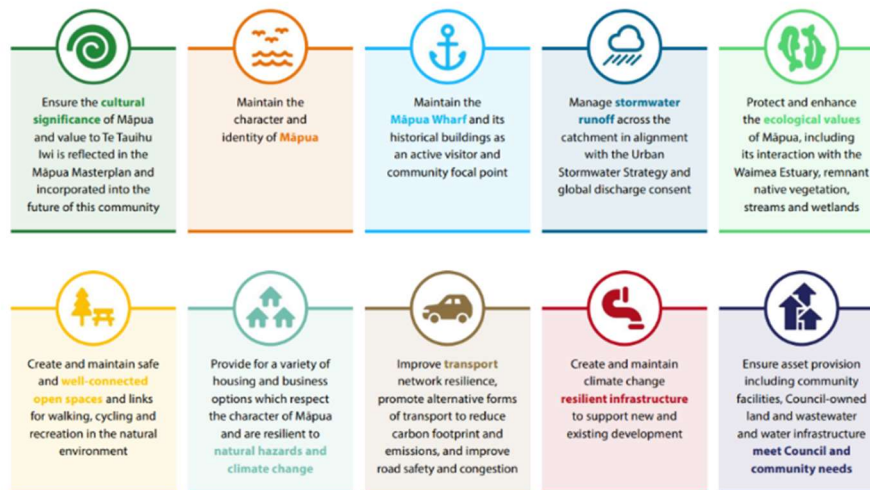
Work is now underway to get PC84 notified this year with final decisions before the Local Government elections to avoid further delay.

Once the plan changes are notified, community members will have the chance to share their views and participate in the process by making formal submissions.

For any enquires on the plan change please email us at freshwater.plan@tasman.govt.nz

Green light for Māpua

THE MASTERPLAN PRINCIPLES



After nearly two years of extensive community engagement, the Strategy and Policy Committee has approved the Māpua Masterplan and Māpua Catchment Management Plan for formal adoption.

The Mayor and Councillors voted 12–1 in favour at the deliberations hearing held on Thursday, 5 June at the Council Chambers in Richmond. Formal adoption by the full Council is expected on 31 July 2025.

This approval marks a major milestone and reflects the valuable contributions made by the Māpua and Ruby Bay communities throughout the process.

Community feedback played a key role in shaping the final plan — from public meetings and surveys to written submissions, a wide range of ideas and perspectives were considered. While we recognise the plan may not satisfy everyone, we believe it represents a balanced approach that meets future growth needs while honouring community aspirations.

Key outcomes in the Masterplan include:

- Securing Kite Park's future as a recreational area
- Preserving the cultural heritage of Grossi Point
- Supporting diverse housing options to accommodate future residents
- Enhancing recreational linkages while protecting natural habitats

Community support for housing diversity was especially clear in feedback and is reflected in the final plan.

Although the Masterplan is a long-term guide, we are preparing to implement key actions, including initiating a change to the Tasman Resource Management Plan in August 2025. This will involve collaboration with landowners and completing a heritage assessment of Grossi Point.

We will continue to provide regular updates as implementation progresses. Thank you to everyone in the Māpua and Ruby Bay communities for your engagement, patience, and ideas — your input has helped shape a plan that reflects both community values and future needs.

Plan Change 85 Natural Hazards Issues and Options



A flavour of the feedback

Natural hazards like flooding, landslides, and earthquakes don't just threaten our homes and businesses they can reshape entire communities, a fact that makes the feedback received to the Natural Hazards Issues and Options document critical to the review of the natural hazards provisions in the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

Feedback to the [Issues and Options discussion document](#) was received both online at Shape Tasman and in person during the District-wide Meet the Planners drop-in sessions.

Feedback theme

Policies that are adaptive, risk and evidence-based, and considerate of both people and the environment reflect feedback from the March/April Natural Hazards Issues and Options engagement.

Priorities for hazard management

An initial review of the feedback has emphasised the need for hazard management that utilises scientific information and area-specific information across all hazard types and a system that regularly updates hazard maps and policies as new information becomes available.

Although tsunami hazards are not currently addressed in the TRMP, with us currently taking an educational approach to this hazard, feedback raised the need to consider including it in planning provisions.

Overall, participants want an approach that is scientifically robust, practically implementable, and equitably distributed in terms of both risk management and financial burden.

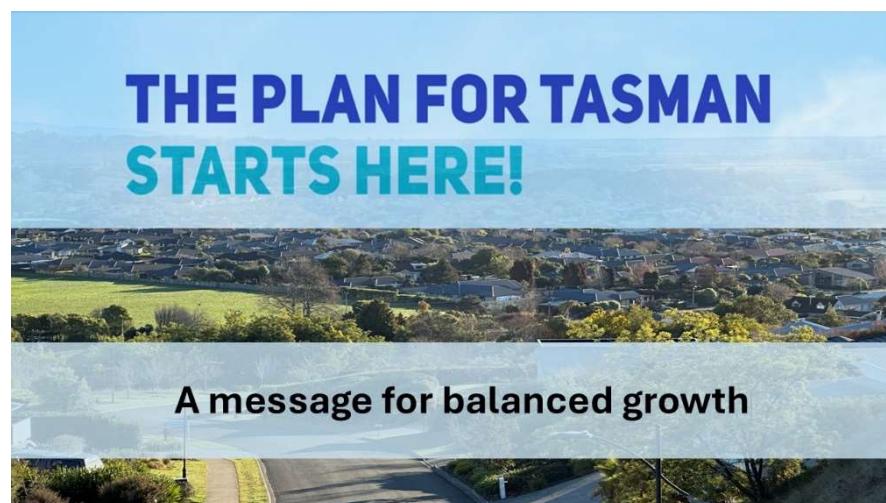
Integration and risk-based approach

Participants also considered PC85 should be complementary to other plan changes including Urban Growth (PC81).

There is support for PC85 to be risk-based, taking account of likelihood and consequence and, focusing on restrictions where consequences are highest.

Expected central government announcements regarding natural hazards national direction and resource management reform will influence PC85 provisions and assist in determining the need for additional technical work on natural hazards and inform drafting of provisions.

Updates about the natural hazards work will be published on [Shape Tasman](#) and in [Newsline](#) .



Community voices for growth plans

Recent feedback on Plan Change 81 and Draft Change 1 to the Tasman Regional Policy Statement reflects a shared call for balanced, sustainable growth across Tasman. Input was gathered from engagement on Shape Tasman, community events, webinars, and site visits.

Urban growth with infrastructure in mind

Residents supported urban development but stressed the need for upgraded infrastructure—especially transport, healthcare, and water systems — to match the pace of change. Calls for modernised town centres and better planning coordination were strong.

Protecting rural character

Rural communities favoured flexible housing options but urged care to maintain rural character. Concerns around flood risks and medium-density zoning compatibility highlighted the need for clear, accessible planning information.

Support for smarter land use

Stakeholders' response included support for the draft policies, especially those promoting efficient land use and stronger integration of commercial and transport planning.

Next steps

With final drafts set for notification in August, we are using this feedback to refine the plans—ensuring growth that is thoughtful, well-supported, and aligned with the region's long-term vision.

Further updates at [Shape Tasman](#).

TASMAN CLIMATE RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2024-2035

**Our strategy for a low-emissions, resilient and
innovative Tasman District *Te Tai o Aorere***

27 June 2024



Shaping a resilient ready Tasman

Tasman has a proactive stance on climate action, having developed a comprehensive *Climate Response and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan for 2024-2035* to guide local efforts to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate impacts.

The strategy focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from key sectors like transport and waste, adapting to climate change by enhancing community and ecosystem resilience, leading by example through council actions, and aligning with national environmental policy and direction.

It is informed by the best available science and community input, aligning with national and international climate goals. We have committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and integrating climate change and natural hazards considerations into our decision-making processes and long-term planning.

For example, Plan Changes 81 and 85 promote development in appropriate locations and are designed to support natural hazards and climate resilience.

We are also implementing a wide range of actions, including:

- Installing solar panels on libraries and water infrastructure
- Supporting tree planting and wetland restoration projects

- Transitioning to electric buses and expanding cycleways
- Embedding climate criteria into procurement and assets plans
- Running climate education programmes in schools, and
- Supporting community-led climate and waste reduction initiatives.

Together, these actions reflect a whole-of-council and whole-of-community commitment to creating a **resilient ready Tasman** prepared for the challenges ahead and focused on long-term resilience and wellbeing.

In future issues of this newsletter, we'll share more of how we are putting this approach into action and how you, your whānau, or your business can help build a more resilient Tasman.

To learn more, you can read the full Climate Response and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan [here](#).

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>