

Let's talk water: From the Mountains to the Sea

Share your vision and values
for Tasman's freshwater and
coastal environments



HAVE YOUR SAY

Help shape the way we use
and look after our district's
most precious resources
for future generations



Te Kaunihera o
te tai o Aorere

Water is precious. We're reviewing how we look after water, from the mountains to the sea

Tasman District Council has an important management role for freshwater and our coastal environment on behalf of our community. Our work is guided by national direction¹ and new policy from central government means that it's time for us to review how we manage Tasman's water, from the mountains to the sea – and we want your input.

There are challenges in maintaining and protecting our freshwater and coastal environments in Tasman, including the effects of our changing climate. There are many different views about what activities and water, land and coastal uses and practices are acceptable. We need to have strong community visions and values to help guide the way we look after, restore, and enhance our freshwater and coastal spaces.



1. Central government direction includes the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS).

We want to hear your visions and values for the freshwater bodies and coastal areas that matter to you.

What we learn from you will help make a difference. For example the Tasman Environment Plan will need to include rules that direct water allocation, manage contaminant discharges, control coastal development, manage activities along waterbody margins and the coastal marine area, and ensure we adapt to climate change. As well as rules, the Plan will have policies to promote restoration projects and support community resilience through water storage solutions and hydroelectricity. Our approach needs to be based on what our communities value in each part of the Tasman region.

Read on and have your say at the back of this booklet.

Find out more about the Tasman Environment Plan on our website:
shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmentplan



Please share your feedback before
12 December 2022

How does this relate to three waters?

The Three Waters Reform is a separate workstream changing the way our drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services are delivered. This document is about Council's responsibilities for managing our freshwater and coastal environments so they are healthy and safe for our desired values and uses. Find out more about three waters on our website.

Tasman's freshwater and coastal environments

Tasman District has more than 14,300 kilometres of rivers and streams, 81 lakes, tarns, wetlands, aquifers and springs, including Te Waikoropupū Springs with some of the clearest water ever measured. Our coastline stretches for well over 700 kilometres and we have many iconic beaches, spectacular coastlines, and unique coastal places, including estuaries where our freshwater meets the sea. These include Waimea Inlet, Motueka sand spit, Abel Tasman, Whanganui Inlet and Onetahua / Farewell Spit.

These freshwater bodies and coastal areas are valued as places where people live, play, earn livelihoods, relax, gather food, and practice cultural activities. Our freshwater and marine environments are always changing and feature a diverse range of ecosystems and habitats which are home to some amazing plant and animal species, often found nowhere else on earth.

Some of our freshwater bodies and coastal environments have changed dramatically since European settlement. They may have been dammed, had water drained or diverted, lost their margin vegetation, had waste and sediment discharged into them, or invasive plants and animals introduced.

The land draining into these waterbodies has been cleared for agriculture, forestry, and urban development, altering surface water run off and generating contaminants. Our activities in and around these waterbodies can also affect natural processes and impact on the habitat of our native plants and animals. Use and occupation of coastal spaces can lead to conflicts between users and can impact on natural processes and biodiversity values.



Tasman District Council monitors over 50 freshwater quality sites, covering groundwater and surface water, 13 bathing water quality sites and six estuary sites. This monitoring, as well as targeted investigations, reveals that while the overall state of freshwater quality in the Tasman District is good, many smaller, low-land streams in urban, pastoral, horticultural or forestry dominated catchments are under pressure and have degrading water quality and biodiversity values. There are also areas where there is groundwater contamination and a risk of this increasing with land use changes.

Some of our estuaries have issues with excessive fine sediment, nutrient enrichment and loss of estuarine habitats.

In many waterbodies, natural character and natural processes have been degraded from factors such as vegetation loss, channel modification and structures. This may be made worse by the effects of climate change and we do not yet understand how our freshwater bodies and coastal areas will adapt. Recent hot, dry summers have shown there is pressure on water availability, and loss of shading affects freshwater habitat resilience. Flood events highlight the need for room for rivers to respond and healthy biodiversity so that species are resilient and able to recolonise disturbed habitats. The scientific data we have combined with local knowledge demonstrates the need for improved protection and restoration of our freshwater and coastal ecosystems.



Sea level rise, more droughts and floods will change how we need to manage our freshwater and coastal environments.

Healthy water, healthy communities

Te Mana o Te Wai

Communities and the environment need clean, healthy water to thrive.

A key concept from national direction on freshwater management is Te Mana o te Wai. This refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and wellbeing of the wider environment. This same thinking can be applied to the health of our coastal environments.

Te Mana o te Wai is about putting the health of water first and thinking about it in a holistic way.



What we do on the land affects freshwater quality, quantity, and habitats. As water moves over the land and through the ground, it transports pollutants like metals, bacteria, viruses, sediment, nutrients and more. All our water is connected, so nutrients and contaminants in surface water can enter our groundwater and vice versa. Eventually, they can flow to estuaries and the wider marine environment.

When we take more from a waterbody than it can naturally support, we compromise that ecosystem. Development can further degrade freshwater and coastal habitats and our changing climate puts further pressure on our natural systems.

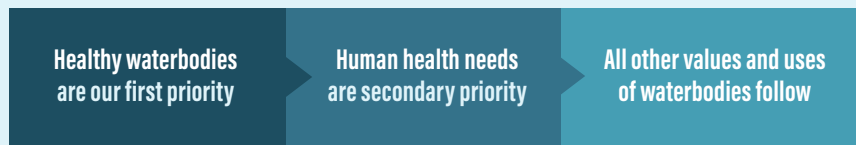
We must implement Te Mana o te Wai by putting the health of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems first in our decision-making. Many decisions on freshwater management are directed by central government. This booklet focuses on the things we can influence through the Tasman Environment Plan to best suit local situations and the needs of our communities.

Te Mana o Te Wai

Healthy water, healthy communities

Putting the health and wellbeing of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems first is facilitated through the hierarchy of obligations:

Councils and iwi across Te Taihū are working together on how Te Mana o te Wai applies in our region.



More information on Te Mana O Te Wai is available at shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmentplan

Long-term visions

These visions are future goals that are ambitious and possible.

Together, the below will help us to realise our long-term visions

FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT UNITS	VALUES	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES	ATTRIBUTES AND FLOWS	LIMITS, RULES AND ACTION PLANS
<p>Areas of freshwater within Tasman: with special sites and features identified</p>	<p>What's important about freshwater: what do waterbodies need to be healthy and how we use water for our daily lives, livelihoods, recreation and cultural practices</p>	<p>Desired results for freshwater: the goals we will set in line with what we value about freshwater</p>	<p>Clear/measurable states: to track progress towards outcomes</p>	<p>Methods to meet the targets: plan rules and actions, including support for existing landowner and community efforts to improve water health</p>

Freshwater and coastal vision

To apply national policy on freshwater and coastal management and set our local environmental objectives, we will be partnering with tangata whenua and engaging industry, landowners, and communities to create visions and values for our freshwater and coastal environments.

For freshwater we need to define visions and values at a catchment (or groups of catchments) scale called Freshwater Management Units (FMU).

For the coastal environment we need to look strategically at where, how and when to provide for change and growth. We need to determine what activities in the coastal space are appropriate or not. This work ties in with the Council's Coastal Management Project, which aims to enable our coastal communities to work towards long term adaptation planning for sea level rise and coastal hazards (see our website for more information).

Defining our long-term visions

Long-term visions ensure our freshwater and coastal management is heading in the right direction. Achieving these aspirations will take time and commitment from us all.

With locally based visions, we can recognise the uniqueness of each catchment and coastal area in Tasman. We need your input to define these visions to help us protect or improve those things that make each catchment and coastal environment special.

The Coastal Environment includes all of the coastal marine area out to 12 nautical miles and the foreshore and land area along the full 700 km+ coastline where coastal processes and patterns dominate the land.



What is a vision?

What is a vision? How do we decide what ours is?

Visions are statements about how we want the future to be – in this case how do we want Tasman's freshwater and coastal environments to be for our future and for future generations?

Have a think about how you, your family, and your friends feel about freshwater (our rivers, lakes, springs, wetlands and groundwater) and the coastal environments in Tasman.

How do you use water in your everyday life – for your work or livelihood, for recreation and enjoyment? Are we using water and our coastal environments in the right way? Are you happy about the state they are in and the access you have to them? What would you change if you could? Imagine visiting your favourite fresh or salty water places in Tasman in 10 years, in 30 years, in 100 years – what would you like to see, feel, or do? How is it different from now?

We then need to ask ourselves, what will it take to get to our vision and how long will it take us to get there?

The feedback we receive will be used by Council to develop visions that reflect what we have learned from tangata whenua and our communities.



If we all think so differently, can we achieve a shared vision?

Our previous engagement has shown that while we often have different values and uses of water and the coastal environment, our aspirations for the future of these places are often very similar.

Please see the feedback form at the back of this document or go online and let us know what your visions are for the future of freshwater and the coastal environment in Tasman.

Freshwater and coastal values

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management identifies four compulsory and nine optional values of water we must consider in Tasman, however communities can also identify other values they want to provide for.

Values can include things that are important to water and waterbody health, as well as how we feel about, connect with, and use freshwater and coastal environments. Some examples are shown on page 11.

Compulsory national values

Ecosystem health – what waterbodies need to be healthy (water quality and quantity, habitat, aquatic life and ecological processes).

Human contact – enabling safe swimming, boating, water sports.

Threatened species – supporting their survival and recovery.

Mahinga kai and kai moana – enabling gathering of food, tools, medicines and other resources.

Visit our website to have your say on which of these values apply where in Tasman, and if there are others that should be included.

Optional national values

Natural form and character – protecting natural processes and biological, physical and visual characteristics of waterbodies.

Drinking water supply – meeting peoples drinking water needs.

Wai tapu – enabling water use for rituals and ceremonies and protecting valued features and unique properties of water.

Transport and tauranga waka – providing for places to launch or land waka and boats.

Fishing – supporting fisheries of species allowed to be caught and eaten.

Hydro-electric power generation – enabling use of water for power generation.

Animal drinking water – meeting the needs of farmed animals.

Irrigation, cultivation, and production of food and beverages – supporting food production and non-food products or services.

Commercial and industrial use – providing economic opportunities for people, businesses, tourism and industries.

Additional values

Kaitiakitanga / stewardship – enabling guardianship of the environment by tangata whenua and communities.

Native fish spawning – protecting habitats and spawning sites of native fish.

Trout habitat and spawning – supporting habitats for trout and trout spawning.

Natural state – protecting waterbodies in a natural or highly unmodified state.

Drinking from nature – an aspiration to be able to drink water directly from its source.

Navigation – enabling use of waterbodies for navigation, wayfaring and traditional or historic river trails.

Aesthetics – waters valued for their sensory aspects e.g. appearance/sight, sound, smell, taste and feel.

Public access – providing and maintaining areas in public ownership or with legal agreements so that they are accessible by the public.

Infrastructure – providing for essential public and private infrastructure e.g. water supplies, pipelines, dams, roads, bridges, etc.

Flooding and erosion management – providing for flood, erosion, drainage controls and river channel management.

Education and research sites – enabling places where schools, or community groups can regularly access the water for educational and community monitoring purposes.

Resilience to climate change – ensuring waterbodies and communities are resilient to the effects of climate change, including droughts, flooding and sea level rise.

Pressures on the coastal environment

The coastal environment is rapidly changing and is an area that faces many pressures from development. To protect the values identified we need to understand the activities that are placing pressure on the coastal environment. These include:

- Residential growth – both permanent and holiday accommodation.
- Development areas for recreation and tourism.
- Commercial development use e.g. port development.
- Public and private structures e.g. coastal defences.
- Growth and protection of infrastructure including roading, pipes and cables.
- Wastewater treatment plant discharges.

Freshwater Management Units (FMU)

To manage Tasman’s water for the future, we need to sort all of our waterbodies into something called a Freshwater Management Unit (FMU). Together with tangata whenua and our communities we must then follow a process, as set out below. This community conversation round focuses on Step 1 and 2. Steps 3–6 will be discussed in future rounds of community consultation in 2023.

Step 1: Identify the catchments in each FMU.

Step 2: Define a long-term vision and identify the values of water that are important in each FMU.

Step 3: Identify the environmental outcomes we want for each value.

Step 4: Identify attributes¹ and their baseline and target states² to help assess each value.

Step 5: Set rules, including limits, on how we use water and land.

Step 6: Take action to achieve the outcomes.

1. Attribute means a measurable characteristic (numeric, narrative or both) that can be used to assess the extent to which a particular value is provided for.

2. Baseline state in relation to an attribute, means the best state out of the following: A – the state on the date it was first identified by the Regional Council; B – the state on which a regional council set a freshwater objective for the attribute under the NPS-FM; C – the state on 7 September 2017.

To identify draft FMUs for discussion, we have built on previous freshwater work by Tasman communities and neighbouring councils that share water catchments with us. We have also used feedback from the 2020 early community engagement on the Tasman Environment Plan.

During the first round of engagement on the Tasman Environment Plan you told us that:

Restoring water quality and biodiversity is important.

Catchment land use and water quality should be managed in a holistic way.

Council should encourage and support local catchment groups to look after freshwater resources and establish resilient communities.

Balancing water efficiency, water use, and water protection is needed.

We need to mitigate and adapt to our changing climate.

There are eight FMU proposed for Tasman. These have been based on:

- Freshwater surface catchments and their associated groundwater connections.
- Grouping of catchments that drain to the same coastal area.
- Grouping of communities with shared interests.
- Specific management needs within catchments.

Each FMU will have its own chapter in the Tasman Environment Plan. The long-term vision and values identified through this discussion will be used to create the objectives, policies and rules in the Tasman Environment Plan and actions across other council functions.

Waimea FMU: Including the Waimea River and its tributaries and the aquifers under the Waimea Plains and areas that drain to the Waimea Inlet.

Moutere FMU: including the Moutere River and its tributaries and catchments that drain to the Moutere Inlet, plus coastal catchments between Mapua and the Inlet.

Motueka - Riuwaka FMU: including the Motueka and Riuwaka rivers and their tributaries, other coastal catchments that drain to the Motueka and Riuwaka estuaries and shared groundwater which needs integrated management.

Abel Tasman - Kaiteriteri FMU: including the Abel Tasman national park and neighbouring catchments which all have similar geology and development challenges.

Tākaka FMU: including the Tākaka River and its tributaries, Te Waikoropupū Springs and all catchments between Wainui Bay and Tukurua, including their estuaries.

Aorere - West Coast FMU: including all catchments from Parapara to Kahurangi Point on the west coast and including the Whanganui Inlet and Onetahua/Farewell Spit.

Buller/Kawatiri FMU: including the upper parts of the Buller/Kawatiri River and its tributaries and including lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa.

Deep Moutere Groundwater FMU: is focused solely on groundwater from the Deep Moutere Aquifer and the Waimea Deep Moutere Aquifer. Linkages to surface catchments are complex and occur over a very long time presenting unique management challenges.

Give us your feedback on these catchment groupings and boundaries on page 18 of this booklet or online.

Have your say: Freshwater and coastal environment feedback form

Now that you've read about freshwater FMUs, and freshwater and coastal visions and values in this discussion document, we'd appreciate your feedback.

As part of your feedback, you can attach additional pages or documents to this form. Have your say on the questions below through our website, or submit your form to Council before 12 December 2022.

- **In person:** Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street, Richmond
- **Email:** environmentplan@tasman.govt.nz
- **Post:** Environmental Policy Team, 189 Queen Street, Private Bag 4, Richmond, 7050
- **Website:** shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmentplan

ABOUT YOU

Name _____

Company/organisation (if applicable) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Age Under 18 18–24 25–34 35–44 45–54
 55–64 65–74 75+ I'd rather not say

Where do you live? (please choose your nearest centre)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Brightwater | <input type="radio"/> Moutere (Mahana, Upper and Lower Moutere) |
| <input type="radio"/> Richmond | <input type="radio"/> Tasman – Kina |
| <input type="radio"/> Coastal Tasman (Appleby to Mariri) | <input type="radio"/> Murchison |
| <input type="radio"/> Rototai – Milnthorpe | <input type="radio"/> Wakefield |
| <input type="radio"/> Collingwood – Puponga | <input type="radio"/> Nelson District |
| <input type="radio"/> St Arnaud | <input type="radio"/> Waimea Plains |
| <input type="radio"/> Māpua/Ruby Bay | <input type="radio"/> Northwest Coast, Golden Bay |
| <input type="radio"/> Tākaka | <input type="radio"/> Pōhara – Wainui Bay |
| <input type="radio"/> Motueka/Riwaka | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Tapawera – Upper Motueka Valley | |

VISIONS FOR OUR FRESHWATER AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

Looking at page 9 and considering how you live, work and play in the region, please tell us your long-term vision for your local freshwater catchments or coast:

In 10 years?

Freshwater

Coastal environment

In 30 years?

Freshwater

Coastal environment

In 100 years?

Freshwater

Coastal environment

To achieve your visions, please tell us what you think we need to keep doing or what needs to change to get there?

Freshwater

Keep doing

Do differently

Coastal environment

Keep doing

Do differently



FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT UNITS

Do you think the catchment groupings and FMU boundaries make sense?

If not, what changes would you like to see?

What is the name of the FMU you are most interested in? (where you live, work or play)

What makes your FMU special?

Please head over to our online interactive map to show us what areas you value most and why: shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmentplan

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you'd like us to keep in touch, please make sure you've entered your contact details on page 15.

- Yes, I would like to receive updates on creating the Tasman Environment Plan and other Tasman resource management projects.
- Yes, I would like to participate in future in-depth discussions about our District.



VALUES FOR OUR FRESHWATER AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

Looking at the values listed on page 10 and 11, where do you think these apply and what other values do you think need to be recognised?

Freshwater

Where do you think these values apply?

Are there any other values we've missed?

Coastal environment

Where do you think these values apply?

Are there any other values we've missed?

Please head over to our online interactive map to show us what areas you value most and why: shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmentplan

PRESSURES ON OUR FRESHWATER AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

Looking at the activities listed on page 11 as putting pressure on the coastal environment, what other activities and changes should be addressed?

What activities are putting pressure on freshwater bodies that should be addressed?



Contact details

shape.tasman.govt.nz/environmentplan

environmentplan@tasman.govt.nz

189 Queen Street, Private Bag 4, Richmond, 7050

