



Draft Tasman Inundation Practice Note (IPN) 2025 call for feedback

The IPN was first adopted jointly by Tasman District and Nelson City Councils in 2019 to provide a consistent methodology for determining minimum ground and/or building platform levels for subdivision, new buildings, and major alterations in areas at risk of inundation from seawater (coastal) and freshwater flooding.

Since then, there's been updates to both national guidance and local data and so here in Tasman we're progressing with a Tasman-only update of the IPN. There are no changes to the fundamental purpose or approach of the IPN, and these technical updates will ensure that the IPN remains fit for purpose and demonstrates current best practice.

What are we consulting on

The latest draft incorporates recent national guidance, including the Ministry for the Environment's updated Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance (2022, 2024) and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's 2023 Natural Hazards Provisions Guidance on complying with the Building Act.

The latest climate change projections have been incorporated—including updated sea-level rise values as well as the effects if vertical land movement.

It also features the newest NIWA coastal calculator data, revised mean sea-level and high tide assessments, updated extreme sea level values for Waimea and Moutere Inlets, and refreshed flood modelling for local rivers and catchments. Other changes include refined technical definitions and minor amendments to improve accuracy and readability.

Aims and outcomes

The draft IPN sets out a consistent, defensible methodology for determining minimum ground and/or building platform levels for subdivision, new buildings and major alterations in areas exposed to flooding or coastal inundation in Tasman District.

The aim is to support robust, future-focused resource and building consent processes, ensuring safe and resilient development across our District for the next 50–100 years. This document provides guidance to support the implementation of the Building Act 2004, the New Zealand Building Code, and the Tasman Resource Management Plan.

Consultation

We invite stakeholders, practitioners, and the wider community to provide feedback to help ensure the Inundation Practice Note meets local needs and reflects best practice.

Feedback is now open until Wednesday 17 December at [Shape Tasman](#)

Plan change update



Amendments to the Resource Management Act adopted in August 2025 now prohibit councils from notifying plan changes without the prior approval of the Minister for the Environment.

We have requests for ministerial approval to notify two pending changes—[PC81 Urban Growth](#) and [PC84 Freshwater Protections](#). The applications were lodged at the beginning of September.

Earlier this month, the Minister sought further information on both proposals. We now expect responses by late November or early December.

Meanwhile, the public submission period for the Private Plan Change Request (PPCR) closed on Wednesday, 5 November.

We received one submission and a related follow-up submission—both from the same individual, who has requested a hearing. Arrangements to accommodate mediation and a possible hearing are underway.

Complete background on the plan change can be found [here](#).



The Port Tarakohe Spatial Plan sets out a comprehensive blueprint for the future use of Port Tarakohe and its immediate vicinity, providing a framework to guide both current management and long-term vision for the area. Under the plan, specific zones are earmarked for distinct functions: the marine waters within the breakwaters are designated as a Harbour Area, while adjoining lands are classified as Port Area.

We adopted the Plan at the September Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting.

Working port and harbour

Council officials have confirmed that Port Tarakohe will be maintained as a working port and harbour, overseen as a unified entity. The Spatial Plan is intended to shape our resource management strategy, inform future planning documents, and influence funding and operational priorities under our 10-Year Plan.

A proposed plan change—identified as a central action in the associated Action Plan—is expected to formalise these zoning distinctions.

There are also a number of other action points included in the spatial plan which seek to resolve the traffic and servicing issues through further investigations and the development of a Port Tarakohe Management Plan.

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[Read the Spatial Plan](#)

Navigating recovery



Rylee Pettersson is the Tasman Recovery Support Manager. She stepped into the role at the time the June - July floods struck. Hear the interview in full features in our latest [Click to Play podcast](#).

"The Recovery Support Manager is a new role that has developed organically, particularly as extreme weather events have become more frequent."

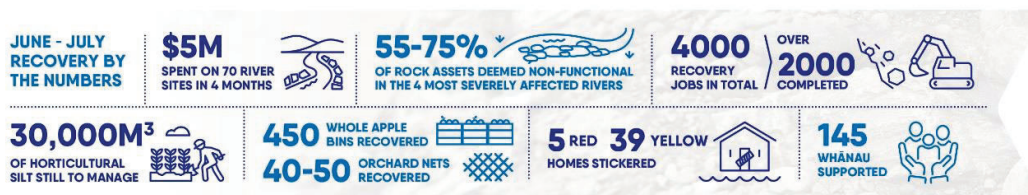
The June – July floods event was uniquely challenging—two severe weather events, only two weeks apart, compounded the impact on our community.

A recovery structure was needed across key work streams: social, iwi, natural, built, and economic. Leads were appointed for each which let us organise efforts efficiently.

The transition from emergency response to recovery can either help or hinder, depending on how well it's managed—we were lucky to have good handover materials from the response, but it was still very hectic at the outset. Having experienced leads, and a clear structure was crucial.

Drawing on previous recovery work, we established a team of Navigators who were recruited from earlier experiences in Nelson's events. Their job was to connect affected residents to services—insurance help, mental health support, funding advocacy, and more. They're problem-solvers and advocates, guiding people through complex, distressing circumstances.

The Navigation model is now recognised as best practice. We were fortunate to have skilled people available right when we needed them. I'm working on developing a panel of on-call navigators to avoid leaving future recoveries to chance.



Recovery is a long process. Four months on, we still have homes red and yellow stickered and major road and river infrastructure to repair. Problems, like the river network damage, are vast and not fully charted—historic assets were wiped out, and much work remains to identify, fund, and repair them.

Locally, this recovery is being used as an opportunity to rethink protection strategies with a more holistic, future-focused approach, balancing the needs of natural systems and the community. Nationally, there are substantial challenges and opportunities such as addressing central government funding arrangements being complex and often slow.

Key to the future is to solidify recovery management as a professional practice in its own right—to foster leaders, better plan for recovery before disaster strikes, and ensure that resilience and community wellbeing remain front and centre.

Environmental Policy media links

Podcasting on PodBean or **Apple Podcasts**, search "Click to Play TDC Environmental Policy".

In our [latest episode](#) our feature stories cover the call for feedback to the draft Tasman Inundation Practice Note 2025 and the long tail for recovery post the June-July Floods.

Tasman Resource Management Plan [online here](#).

Draft Change 1 to the Tasman Regional Policy Statement and Plan Change 81 to the Tasman Resource Management Plan Summary of Public [feedback summary](#).

Natural Hazards [map viewer](#). Access a [YouTube how-to video](#).

Tasman Rural Hub is the place for everything rural. [Check it out here](#)

Te Waikoropupū Springs WCO [information and data](#).

Te Waikoropupū Springs Monitoring Review presentation by Murray Close in Tākaka Tuesday, 15 April 2025. [View here](#).

Avian Bird Flu threat updates [read here](#).