# Environmental Policy Newsletter

## Plan Changes, Motueka Ward Engagement and Regional Spatial Plan Update

Kia ora <<First Name>>

In this issue read the updates on Plan Changes 81 and Change 1 to the TRMP, Plan Changes 84 and 87, the Motueka Ward Shared Past Community Engagement Programme and the Tasman Nelson Regional Spatial Plan.



Changes to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP)

**Public notice is given of Plan Change 87 – Waimea and Deep Moutere Fresh Water Protections, along with the call for submissions**

*see Clauses 5, 16A and 21 of the Schedule 1 process of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

Council resolved to notify TRMP Plan Change 87 on 7 August 2025.

Ministerial approval to notify this change was received on 9 September 2026. Tasman District Council proposes to change the TRMP through Plan Change 87 – Waimea and Deep Moutere Fresh Water Protections. The Changes include the following aspects:

• Streamline of the Waimea freshwater policy and rules to reflect the operational status of the Waimea Community Dam, clarify the requirements for affiliated, unaffiliated and other water management zones, avoid over-allocation and improve protections for the Waimea aquifers;

• Provide comprehensive management of the Deep Moutere aquifers, avoid over-allocation and improve protections for groundwater levels;

• Clarify the recontouring rule and provide for minor recontouring as permitted activities.

Public participation is invited into the first stage of the formal consultation process, and all documentation can now be viewed online at www.tasman.govt.nz (search 'Plan Change 87).

The changes can also be viewed online in the Tasman Resource Management Plan (go to www.tasman.govt.nz and search 'Tasman Resource Management Plan'). The submission period is open for 30 working days commencing on Monday 2nd November, and concluding on Friday 18th December 2026.

Any person can make a submission and information on how to do so can be found online at www.tasman.govt.nz (search 'Plan Change 87). Further information can be obtained by emailing tasmanrmp@tasman.govt.nz.

### Video links to explain the Plan Change in more detail

Deep Moutere Freshwater Changes

Recontouring

Waimea



## Plan Change 84: Te Waikoropupū Springs work on hold

**Plan Change 84 (PC84)** was proposed by Tasman District Council to help implement the Water Conservation Order for Te Puna Waiora o Te Waikoropupū Springs and the Wharepapa Arthur Marble Aquifer.

The Water Conservation Order (WCO), made in 2023, recognises the outstanding values of the springs and aquifer, and required the Council to notify a supporting plan change to help achieve the purpose of the WCO.

PC84 proposed changes to the Tasman Resource Management Plan to support its implementation, including a framework to reduce nitrogen losses from land and water use in the springs' recharge area to help meet the WCO nitrate limit, and provisions relating to water takes from the Wharepapa Arthur Marble Aquifer.

In August 2025, Council approved PC84 for public notification. However, later that month the Government introduced a "plan stop" process under the Resource Management Act, requiring Ministerial approval before many new plan changes could be notified.

On **9 September 2026**, the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform declined approval for the Te Waikoropupū Springs part of PC84. The Minister considered that, because of its significance and the high level of community interest, it should instead be dealt with through the new national resource-management planning system.

This means the PC84 plan-change process is **on hold**. The remaining freshwater work originally developed through PC84—covering the Deep Moutere aquifers, Waimea water management, and recontouring—is now proceeding separately as **Plan Change 87**.

The Water Conservation Order for Te Waikoropupū Springs and the aquifer

**remain fully in force**. This includes the monitoring regime specified for the springs and the minimum flow (cease take) at the main spring which would affect consented water takes in the recharge area.

However, the Council's plan change to help implement it has been delayed. The remaining work is expected to be progressed through the new planning system from around 2028, with a replacement Natural Environment Plan unlikely to be in place until 2030 or later.

Council will continue to provide updates as the new planning system develops.

**Te Waikoropupū Springs WCO** information and data.

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## Plan Change 81 – Urban Development to the TRMP and Change 1 to the TRPS, move to next stage following public submissions.

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The plan for future housing and business growth across Tasman is moving into the formal hearing stage, following the close of public submissions on Plan Change 81 – Urban Development.

Change 1 to Tasman Regional Policy Statement and Change 81 (PC81) a proposed change to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP), sets the rules for how land and natural resources can be used and developed across the district.

We are responding to a shortfall in development capacity, particularly over the short and medium term. It aims to provide more opportunities for housing and business development, while helping ensure growth is supported by appropriate infrastructure, transport, and services.

The proposals include rezoning land for residential and business development, introducing a Medium Density Residential Zone in selected locations, enabling a wider range of housing options and providing for the expansion of commercial centres. They also include provisions relating to workers' accommodation and papakāinga.

The proposed changes cover several locations across the district, including Richmond, Māpua, Motueka, Tākaka, Wakefield and Brightwater.

Two connected planning changes

PC81 was developed alongside Change 1 to the Tasman Regional Policy Statement (TRPS). Although they are separate planning changes, they are connected and are intended to work together.

Change 1 establishes the broader regional policy direction for managing growth. It identifies where and how growth should be accommodated and provides the strategic framework for future planning decisions.

PC81 puts that direction into practice through specific changes to district planning rules, policies, and zoning.

Together, the two changes aim to provide greater capacity for housing and business, support thriving town centres, offer more housing choices and better align development with infrastructure and transport planning.

Submissions have closed

PC81 was publicly notified on 19 June 2026, with submissions closing on 3 August.

Council subsequently published a summary of submissions and invited further submissions, giving eligible people and organisations an opportunity to support or oppose matters raised by other submitters.

The further submission period closed on 7 September. Following corrections to a small number of submission summaries, an additional opportunity to make further submissions on the affected matters closed on 29 September.

Council has now completed this stage of public participation and is preparing for the formal hearing process.

Independent hearings ahead

An independent Streamlined Planning Process (SPP) hearing panel will consider the submissions, further submissions and supporting technical evidence before making recommendations.

The hearings are being organised in stages, covering preliminary matters, Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement and the different components of PC81.

The first hearing stage, covering preliminary and procedural matters, was held on 3 November 2026. It included consideration of the scope of submissions and the implications of new legislation and changes to national direction.

The hearing for Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement follows from 10–12 November 2026.

PC81 hearings are scheduled to take place in three further stages:

- 17–19 February 2027: The urban growth framework, including objectives, policies, the Medium Density Residential Zone, infrastructure, and transport provisions.

- 8–11 March 2027: Residential growth areas and proposed rezoning in Richmond, Māpua, Motueka, Wakefield, Brightwater and Tākaka.
- 5–7 April 2027: Commercial and industrial growth, town centre provisions, workers' accommodation, papakāinga and other outstanding matters.

People who indicated in their submissions that they wished to be heard will have an opportunity to present their views to the panel.

What happens after the hearings?

Following consideration of the evidence and submissions, the independent panel will prepare its reports and recommendations for Council.

Council will then consider the panel's recommendations and notify its decisions in accordance with the Streamlined Planning Process.

The hearing timetable has been revised, and the Minister has granted an extension to the overall process. The focus now is on working through the hearing stages and ensuring the panel has the evidence it needs to consider the proposed changes.

Further information, including hearing schedules, reports and supporting documents, is available on Council's website.

**Find out more:**

- Plan Change 81 – Urban Development
- Hearings information for Change 1 and Plan Change 81



Our Shared Past phase finishes on Motueka Ward Community Engagement programme

After eight weeks of gathering information and hearing what past experiences, stories and events have been important in shaping the Motueka Ward, the first phase of our Motueka Ward Community Engagement programme is complete.

Through online opportunities via our Shape Tasman webpage and in-person events – including a very positive visit to the Motueka Sunday Market – there has been a great response from the community during the Our Shared Past phase.

The written contributions were in the hundreds – with some clear themes and local knowledge put forward across the community.

We are now reviewing all the information people shared with us to understand the main ideas, concerns and hopes coming through. We'll be feeding back what we've heard so far over November and December.





This feedback gives us a great launch pad as we move into the next phase of engagement that will run through until March 2027. Here we will look to find out what our current strengths, pressures, opportunities and challenges are, to eventually build a clear understanding of how the community sees the future of Motueka Ward.

What we receive in the overall engagement programme will help us identify information relevant to future planning for Motueka Ward, including matters that may inform the Regional Spatial Plan and other areas where Council has a role or influence.

Anyone with an interest in the Motueka Ward is welcome to take part in the engagement, including those who live further afield but have a connection or interest in this area.

Over the last few months, we've also been meeting with our iwi partners, community groups and youth networks to discuss targeted engagement opportunities for next year. There will be various ways to have your say, to participate, and get involved during this engagement period.

Look out for more information on upcoming events and engagement opportunities. You can also go to our Shape Tasman page here: Motueka Ward Community Engagement Programme, or drop us a line to our dedicated email MotuekaEngage@tasman.govt.nz




# Joint Tasman -Nelson Regional Spatial Plan – progress update

- **Foundations established:** Tasman and Nelson have progressed preparatory work and identified areas where alignment is needed on governance, representation, and partnership arrangements.

- **Legislative framework clarified:** The Planning Act 2026 establishes the statutory requirements for joint plan-making, including the roles of the two councils and the Joint Spatial Plan Committee.

- **Next step –** agreeing how we work together: Joint workshops will focus on developing a Joint Process Agreement covering decision-making, representation, community engagement and equitable sharing of costs and resources.

Work on establishing a joint Nelson-Tasman Regional Spatial Plan (RSP) is progressing, with the focus now shifting from initial preparation to agreeing the governance arrangements and processes needed to develop the plan.

The initial phase has focused on establishing a working relationship between Tasman District and Nelson City councils, understanding the requirements for joint plan-making, and identifying the key areas that need to be addressed to support effective joint spatial planning.

Tasman elected members have participated in a series of workshops and working group discussions, identifying priorities and concerns around decision-making and representation, ensuring rural communities have a voice, community engagement, and the fair sharing of costs and resources.

The enactment of the Planning Act 2026 has provided greater clarity about the statutory framework for preparing a joint RSP. This includes the establishment of a Joint Spatial Plan Committee (SPC), its responsibilities in developing the draft plan, and the respective decision-making responsibilities of the two councils.

An important clarification is that the two councils make their decisions separately, with their respective decisions needing to align to achieve consensus. The Joint Spatial Plan Committee is also required to work towards consensus in its decision-making, with statutory provisions for resolving situations where consensus cannot be achieved.

The immediate priority is a series of joint workshops with Nelson City Council to develop the JPA, which will set out how the councils will make decisions, engage with communities and iwi, share information, and allocate costs and resources.

Once developed, the JPA will require approval by both full councils. It will provide the foundation for the next stage of joint regional spatial planning.

The overall objective remains to establish a robust and equitable partnership that recognises the distinct interests of both communities while providing a shared, long-term framework for regional growth, infrastructure, and environmental planning.

Regional Spatial Plan - A new approach to planning.

**Major reform of New Zealand's resource management system in over 30 years**. In this article we explore, the why reform, what's changing, the timing and what this means for Tasman. Click here to read it (pdf, 1.2 MB).

**Understanding the new planning system** - in this article we take a closer look at how the new planning system will work. Click here to read it. (pdf) (pdf, 1.9 MB)

**What it means for Tasman** - this article covers what regional spatial planning means for our District. Click here to read it (pdf) (pdf, 2.1 MB).




If you see three or more sick or dead wild birds in a group, report it immediately to the Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66.



## Environmental Policy media links

**Tasman Resource Management Plan** online here.

**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.

Tasman Report is a podcast about the work of your council. Each episode draws on business from council committees and community boards, plus stories from staff working across parks and reserves, planning, infrastructure, biosecurity, ports and marine, planning, and emergency management, online here at Fresh FM and on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and iHeart Radio.

## 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

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