

Review of the Coastal plan for Taranaki



The 'what, why and how' of the Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki

INTRODUCTION

Taranaki's coastline is a physically rugged and special environment, rich in cultural history. It is prized for the recreational opportunities it offers, with surf breaks second to none. The coast is also the home to many unique and special species and the scene of important economic activity. It is valued by everyone.

The Taranaki Regional Council is reviewing its Coastal Plan, which is the 'rule book' governing the use, development and protection of what's known as the coastal marine area. This brochure summarises the review process and outlines what's proposed in a revised Coastal Plan.

The review is an opportunity to make a great place even better.

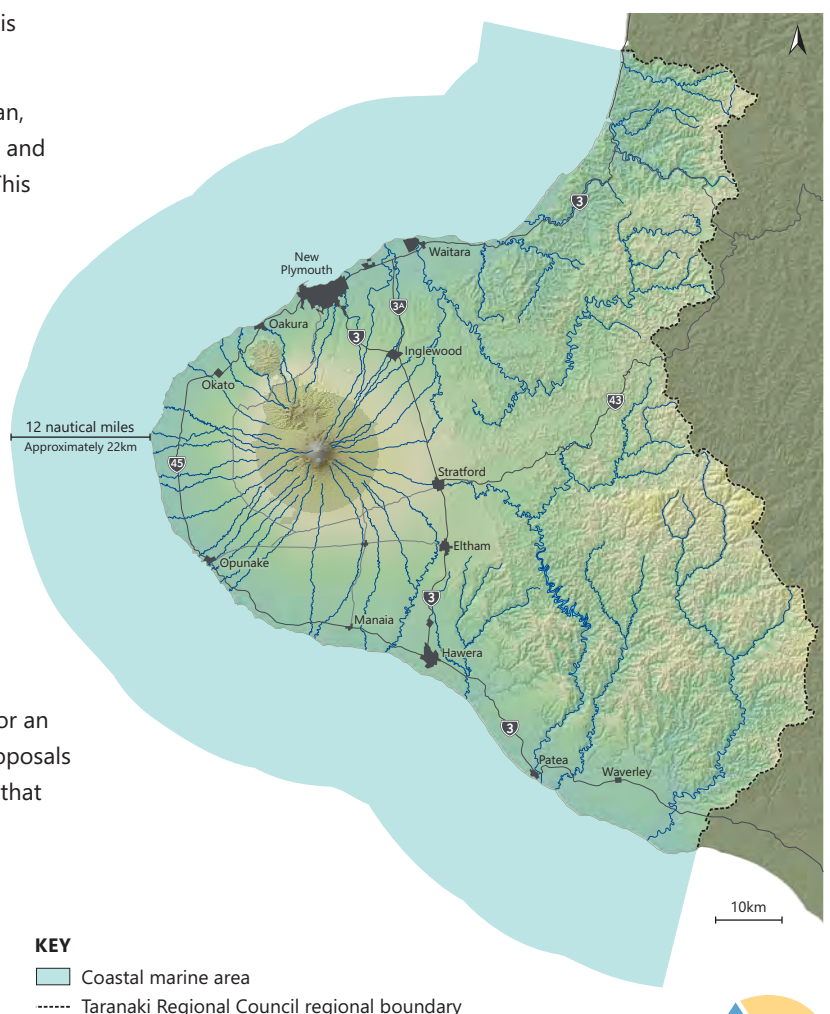
After many years of detailed research and analysis, and engagement with iwi, coastal users, industry and others, the Council drafted a new Coastal Plan.

The Proposed Plan largely continues the existing coastal management regime, but with a number of important changes which include bringing it in line with the Government's revised *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*.

Previous targeted consultation on a draft plan allowed for an early and wider conversation to test whether Council proposals stacked up. Public feedback helped shape final changes that have been incorporated into the Proposed Plan.

WHERE DOES THE COASTAL PLAN APPLY?

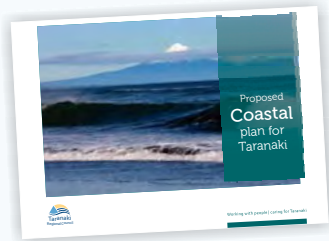
The Coastal Plan covers the coastal environment. However, its rules and many of its policies apply only to the coastal marine area, located from the mean high water mark extending seaward to 22 kilometres.



WHAT IS THE COASTAL PLAN?

The Plan is a 'statutory document', which means it is enforceable in the courts. It sets out policies and rules for

- discharges to water and air in the coastal marine area,
- the taking of coastal water,
- disturbance and deposition of the foreshore and seabed,
- the occupation of the common marine and coastal area, and
- the placement, alteration and removal of structures.



It defines what can be done without a resource consent, what will require a consent, and what is completely prohibited. This regime will apply until the next Plan review, which is likely to be in a decade.

In conjunction with this, the Coastal Plan also sets out a framework for the Council's continuing work to educate, advise and assist the community to maintain and enhance coastal values.

WHY ARE CHANGES NEEDED?

The current Coastal Plan dates from 1997. It was an effective management tool, for which the entire regional community can share the credit, but much has changed since 1997. Marine parks and reserves have been established, large domestic and industrial wastewater treatment systems have been upgraded, and almost all direct waste discharges to the coast have now been eliminated.

Through a new Coastal Plan, the Council aims to build on the successes of the past taking into account changes in community aspirations and national policy directions. Protecting and further enhancing the coastal environment will effectively 'future-proof' the region. It will ensure that Taranaki can continue to offer economic opportunities and desirable lifestyles to the children and grandchildren of today's citizens. It will also give effect to national requirements set out in the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*.

In reviewing the way it manages the coast, the Council has taken an evidence-based approach to ensure an efficient and effective approach based on tried and true methods.

Technical reports can be viewed at www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review/

KEY CHANGES SUGGESTED IN THE PROPOSED PLAN

- Giving greater recognition to cross-boundary effects, where activities in the coastal marine area may impact on land in the coastal environment and vice versa.
- Giving the highest level of protection to more coastal areas of outstanding value.
- Increased recognition and protection of Māori values, including the identification of known sites with high cultural, spiritual and historical associations.
- Increased recognition and protection for 140 nationally, regionally and locally significant surf breaks, including a 'Significant Surfing Area' that includes all the surf breaks between Kaihihi Road and Cape Road.
- Increased recognition and protection for indigenous biodiversity.
- Prohibiting discharges of untreated human sewage and new discharges of wastewater containing treated human sewage into estuaries.
- Requiring improvements to the quality of existing coastal wastewater discharges, and a reduction in their quantity over time.
- Recognising and providing for regionally significant infrastructure and activities such as Port Taranaki, subject to appropriate management of their adverse effects.
- Bundling of activities within rules to streamline regulatory requirements and ensuring the fuller consideration of effects.
- Ensuring rules align with the national regulations and international industry best practice, and efficient regulation of new technologies and techniques.
- Tighter controls on hard protection structures to manage coastal natural hazards.
- More explicit recognition of sites of significance through schedules in the Plan that identify and map values.



NEW MAP PORTAL

The Council's new map portal provides fast access to mapped information for sites contained in the Proposed Coastal Plan schedules. The map portal can be viewed on smartphones or tablets as well as laptops. www.bit.ly/CoastalPlanTRC

HOW THE PROPOSED PLAN IS STRUCTURED

The Proposed Plan addresses coastal management matters grouped under these broad themes:

- Integrated management.
- Coastal water quality.
- Appropriate use and development.
- Natural and cultural heritage.
- Tangata whenua values and relationships.
- Public amenity and enjoyment.
- Coastal hazards.

To address these matters the Proposed Plan has objectives, general and activity-specific policies, and methods (including rules). The objectives are the resource management outcomes or goals. Under these objectives, coastal resources are managed to:

- Provide for integrated management of the coastal environment.
- Provide for appropriate use and development.
- Protect regionally significant infrastructure and other lawfully established activities from the effects of reverse sensitivity (e.g. Port Taranaki).
- Safeguard the life-supporting capacity and mauri of coastal water, land and air.
- Maintain and enhance coastal water quality.
- Ensure coastal natural character, indigenous biodiversity and historic heritage values are protected.
- Recognise and provide for tangata whenua as kaitiaki of our coastal environment.
- Ensure people's use and enjoyment of the coastal environment is maintained.
- Ensure coastal use and development does not increase the risk of coastal natural hazards.

The policies are the how. They are the courses of action to achieve the objectives. The Proposed Plan contains two forms of policies:

- General (overarching) policies – these apply to all activities and provide overall direction on use, development and protection of natural and physical resources across the coastal environment.
- Specific policies – these apply to activities within the coastal marine area only, such as coastal discharges, takes, and structures.

The rules implement the policies and determine whether a person needs to apply for a resource consent or whether the proposed activity can be undertaken without a resource consent (known as permitted activities). The rules apply to the coastal marine area only.





More information


Go to www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review/ to find:


- The Proposed Coastal Plan in full (including a link to the online mapping portal).
- The Section 32 Evaluation Report.
- Other technical and background papers.
- Other information sheets.
- An online form for making a submission to the Council.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

 www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review/

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 Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352

 0800 736 222 - we can give you more information or arrange a meeting.

WHAT'S NEXT?

This is the timeline for the Proposed Coastal Plan.

- 24 February - 27 April 2018 consultation on the Proposed Plan.
- 27 April 2018: Submissions close on the Proposed Plan.
- Late April – late 2018: Consider submission, discussions with submitters, revise Plan as needed.
- Late 2018: Public hearings.
- Late 2018: Decisions.

Our deadline for making a submission is 4pm Friday 27 April 2018.