

# Review of the Coastal plan for Taranaki



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

### INTRODUCTION

Taranaki may be synonymous with its mountain but the coast is equally treasured by all of us who live here. That's what makes the *Draft Coastal Plan for Taranaki* so important.

Our coastline is a physically rugged and special environment that is rich in cultural history, 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 the draft plan

The review is an opportunity to make a great place even better. While the region's coast is largely unmodified with good coastal water quality, the Council is keen for improvements to keep Taranaki ahead of the field. We are confident the community shares this ambition.

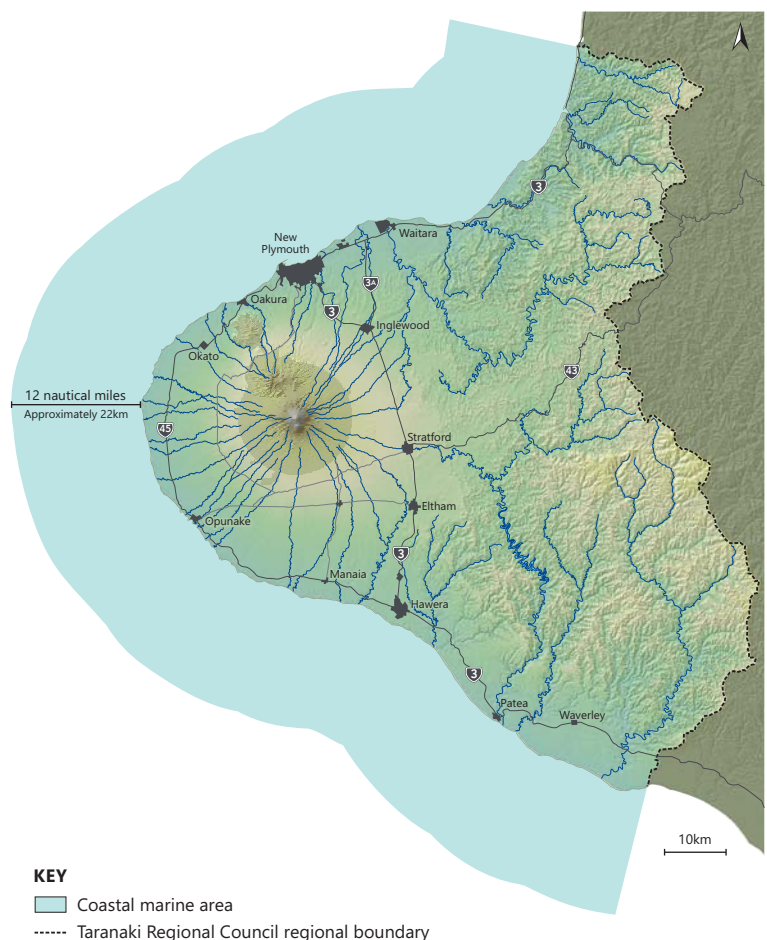
A major aim of the review is to find the most practical and cost-effective ways for the region to make progress. After many years of detailed research and analysis, and engagement with iwi, coastal users, industry and others, the Council has drafted a new Coastal Plan that it's seeking your feedback on before formally notifying and consulting on a Proposed Coastal Plan.

The Draft Plan largely continues the existing coastal management regime but with a number of important changes, particularly to bring it in line with the *Government's revised New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*.

Now it's time for a wider conversation to test whether our proposals stack up and to see what might need changing before we advance to a more formal public consultation process in 2017.

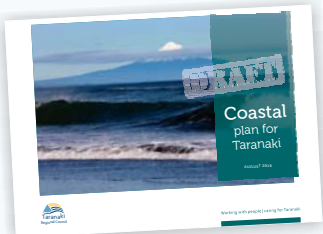
### WHERE DOES THE COASTAL PLAN APPLY?

The Coastal Plan covers the coastal environment. However, its rules and many of its policies apply only to the Coastal Marine Area, whose landward boundary is the mean high water mark and extends seaward to 12 nautical miles (or 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 Coastal Marine Area, 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, it 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 has proved to be an effective management tool, for which the entire regional community can share the credit. However, 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 while 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.

## CHANGES SUGGESTED IN THE DRAFT PLAN

- Giving greater recognition to cross-boundary effects when activities are undertaken either on the landward side of the Coastal Marine Area, or further inland but still close to the Coastal Marine Area.
- Giving the highest level of protection to more coastal areas of outstanding value.
- Increased recognition of Māori values, including the identification of known sites with high cultural, spiritual and historical associations.
- Increased protection for 80 named nationally and regionally significant surf breaks, including a 'Nationally Significant Surfing Area' that includes all the surf breaks between Kaihihi Road and Cape Road.
- Increased protection for indigenous biodiversity.
- Prohibiting discharges of untreated human sewage and new discharges of wastewater containing untreated 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, 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.



## HOW THE DRAFT PLAN IS STRUCTURED

The Draft 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 issues the Draft Plan has objectives, strategic and operational 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 Draft Plan contains two forms of policies:

- General (overarching) policies – these apply to all activities and provide overall direction.
- Specific policies – these apply to activities, 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).





# More information


Go to [www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review/) to find:


- The Draft Coastal Plan in full.
- This summary and background document.
- Other information sheets and background papers.
- An online form for sending feedback to the Council.

## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

 [www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review/)

 [coastal@trc.govt.nz](mailto:coastal@trc.govt.nz)

 Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352

 0800 736 222 - we can give you more information, take your feedback or arrange a meeting.

**Our deadline for feedback is Friday 18 November 2016.**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

This is the timeline for the Coastal Plan.

- 2 September-18 November 2016: Sector meetings/stakeholder/iwi consultation on the Draft Plan.
- 18 November: Comments close on the Draft Plan.
- Late November 2016 – early 2017: Consider comments, redraft plan.
- Mid 2017: Proposed Coastal Plan publicly notified.
- Late 2017: Submissions close on publicly notified plan.
- Late 2017: Public hearings
- Late 2017: Decisions.