



Coast and Marine Environment

Tasman is home to iconic beaches and unique coastal places

It's likely you have fond memories from time spent along the Tasman District coast and within its waters.

Our coastline stretches for well over 700 kilometres and it's valued as a place where people live, recreate, earn livelihoods, relax, gather food, and practice cultural activities.

Our coastal marine environment is always changing. It features a diverse range of environments and habitats including deep waters, shallow coastal seas, sheltered estuarine systems, spits, sand dunes, salt marshes, sea cliffs, some high energy beaches, and coastal wetlands.

The district is also home to several internationally and nationally significant estuaries and sand flats. The coast is bordered by a range of land types including national parks, a wide range of rural land uses, the majority of our towns and shops, and industrial development.



Health check: Tasman's Coastal Places and Marine Environment

All environments are connected, and many of the pressures on our coastal marine environment are caused by activity on land. The sea is the receiving environment for run-off from land, which often reaches the coast via rivers or streams, and estuaries. This run-off can deposit sediments and other contaminants including nutrients (e.g. fertilisers and effluent), chemicals (e.g. pesticides and herbicides), and bacteria.

Overall, contamination appears to be low in Tasman's coastal waters, but occasional peaks do occur.

Changes in land use, such as conversion of native forest to other purposes, often lead to increases in sediment loading to rivers and the marine environment. In Tasman, too much fine-grained sediment entering our estuaries is an issue and marine life has suffered. Disturbance by fishing activity has substantially modified soft-sediment habitats on the seafloor.

Other changes in land use, such as poorly designed development can detract from the natural character of the coast or impact people's ability to access and use the coast. Our coastal places are popular and we must carefully manage the effects of growth and coastal activities.

Towards protection and restoration

The intrinsic values of the marine environment provide a sense of belonging for many New Zealanders.

Tasman's marine areas and their bordering catchments have complex interrelationships that need to be understood and managed, to ensure that their values are protected, restored, or enhanced over time.

Our coastal marine environment is also home to a wide range of wildlife. We need to better understand opportunities and priorities for restoring its health where this has been degraded and will work with knowledge holders to do this.

The Aorere ki uta, Aorere ki tai - Tasman Environment Plan is our collective opportunity to define what is important in our coastal environment to ensure we have the right protections in the right places, and better integrate the management of our land, rivers, and coast.

The new plan will also seek to ensure that anything that is built (homes, businesses, infrastructure, etc.) along the coast is sympathetic and appropriate for the coastal environment. To help with this, we want to hear about the aspirations and values of our coastal communities and stakeholders.



Get involved

In Tasman, passionate groups organise many project-based initiatives such as beach and dive clean-ups, tree plantings, reef projects, and marine gardening. They welcome volunteers and many groups are active online.

You can also make a difference by letting us know what you value about, and the activities you want to do in the coastal and marine environment, so we can provide for them in a sustainable way. Visit us online (www.environmentplan.tasman.govt.nz) to have your say.

We will keep you informed as we progress the Aorere ki uta, Aorere ki tai - Tasman Environment Plan and provide regular opportunities for your input and feedback on the matters that are important to you.

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