



Our rural areas

Tasman's rural areas are landscapes people work, live, and recreate in.

Much of Tasman District land is rural, and the productive use of the rural land underpins the social, economic and cultural well-being of the people of the District. We know from previous conversations with our communities that it is important that we keep productive land available for food production in the future. It's also important to keep our rural areas looking and feeling rural as they grow.

Many of our rural communities are growing. We must plan carefully to allow for rural lifestyles, while not building on land that's good for food production. One way to do this is through building second dwellings on current lots, something Tasman District Council's recent Plan Change 60 (the rural review) has made possible without needing to further subdivide the land.



Plan Change 60 (the rural review)

We know from surveys and previous community engagements that many people would like to live in our rural areas.

A recent plan change focused on protecting our most productive land from fragmentation and encouraging rural lifestyle living in areas specifically zoned for rural residential living.

Plan Change 60 achieved this with greater protection for our best productive land, recognition of the importance of rural character, and better controls on businesses and associated noise and traffic in rural areas.

Landowners also wanted more flexible housing choices. Some asked for recognition of co-operative living, and others to be able to cater for larger family groups living on the same block of land. Plan change 60 incorporated this feedback.

Initial responses and outcomes from the rural review are mostly positive. The new framework is balancing competing interests in our rural areas. Looking ahead, we want to learn more about the things that give our rural areas their unique character and hear from people about what is working well and what could be improved.

Planning for sustainable development

Creating the new Tasman Environment Plan provides an opportunity to look at our current rural policies in the context of a changing climate and natural hazards and to build greater resilience. While prioritising productive land for plant and animal production activities, we also have an opportunity to turn around biodiversity loss, further protect and restore waterways, and plan for sustainable development. This includes careful management of all earthworks.

We have many different rural landscapes and activities, so what's appropriate to do or build in one area may not be appropriate in another. We want to hear what our communities like about their rural area and what makes it special.

We're having conversations with our rural communities at this early stage in the plan creation process because it's vital the new plan reflects their aspirations and works in practice.

There's been a lot of strategic direction and regulation coming from central government. Council will be working with our communities, iwi, and business sector to give effect to this in the new plan, while providing for the future needs of our district.



Get involved

If you're interested in helping shape the future of Tasman, visit us online (www.environmentplan@tasman.govt.nz) to have your say.

Online, you can share what makes our rural areas special, and some of the issues and opportunities in our rural places, so we can design rules and policies that help look after our district for generations to come.

We will keep you informed as we progress the Aorere ki uta, Aoere 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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