

# Golden Bay's Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Discussion Document  
and Feedback Form





# Golden Bay is a special place within our District.

People are drawn to the area in large part by its natural beauty – whether to live, play or holiday. We want to make sure Golden Bay’s outstanding natural features and landscapes are preserved and protected for future generations. With the community’s help, we have spent several years identifying the Bay’s most precious places and reviewing the rules that govern the way they are managed and protected. We have come up with a draft set of locations in need of particular care, as well as rule changes to ensure their protection. Now we want to know if you think we have got it right.

## BACKGROUND

Both the Resource Management Act and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement require us to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate activities, including some subdivision, land uses and land developments. The process of identifying Golden Bay’s outstanding natural features and landscapes began in 2008, when we carried out several landscape investigations and began engaging with community groups and stakeholders.

### The Large Working Group

A Large Working Group was established in 2010, made up of about 30 key interest groups and stakeholders, including Golden Bay ward councillors, the Golden Bay Community Board, Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay, Friends of Golden Bay, Federated Farmers, the Department of Conservation and representatives from local businesses and industries (including mining, quarrying and marine farming).

### The Small Working Group

The Small Working Group was subsequently established in 2012 from eight members of the original Large Working Group. They were tasked with identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes in Golden Bay. The Small Working Group met more than 20 times between 2012 and 2016 to conduct site visits and discussions. Their draft recommendations were first published and presented to the Council in 2014. These recommendations were updated and republished in 2015, following public consultation. The Small Working Group presented their recommendations in detail to the Council in an April 2016 workshop.

The changes the Council is now considering – which require a change to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) – are referred to as the Draft Plan Change. The Small Working Group provided the Council with advice on the locations of outstanding natural features and landscapes in Golden Bay. The Council have taken on most of this advice, and have produced the draft TRMP area maps and the draft policies and draft rules that make up the Draft Plan Change.

#### List of acronyms used:

- **TRMP** – Tasman Resource Management Plan
- **ONFL** – outstanding natural features and/or landscapes
- **ONF** – outstanding natural feature
- **ONL** – outstanding natural landscape

## THE DRAFT PLAN CHANGE

We have sought to first identify the characteristics that make up outstanding natural features and landscapes, before recommending draft provisions to manage the activities that may damage or degrade those characteristics.

The draft policies do not assume that all activities may be damaging. In fact, the changes seek to both recognise and encourage activities that may protect or enhance landscape characteristics. The changes also recognise existing activities as important parts of working landscapes.

### Outstanding Natural Features

The following have been identified as outstanding natural features in need of special protection:

1. Aorere River, Gorge and Tributaries
2. Big River Estuary
3. Farewell Spit
4. The Grove
5. Hanson Winter
6. Paynes Ford
7. Tarakohe Cliffs
8. Te Waikoropupu Springs
9. Wainui Bay Inlet
10. Whanganui Inlet

### Outstanding Natural Landscapes

The following have been identified as outstanding natural landscapes in need of special protection:

1. Abel Tasman
2. Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges
3. Northern NW Coast
4. Southern NW Coast
5. Golden Bay – Mohua Marine
6. Northwest Coast Marine

### Overarching Policies

The policies within the Draft Plan Change are intended to:

- Enable the maintenance of existing activities within outstanding natural features and landscapes.
- Encourage land use and development activities which enhance or regenerate landscape characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes.
- Discourage subdivision, use and development activities in outstanding natural features and landscapes where the landscape characteristics could be degraded or damaged as a result of those activities.
- Restrict subdivision, use and development activities in outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment where adverse effects on landscape characteristics as a result of those activities cannot be avoided.





## THE DRAFT PLAN CHANGE (continued)

### Rule Changes

The draft rules suggested are split between those affecting activities that take place on land or in the marine environment.

#### The draft rule changes for activities on land:

- Introduce new landscape-related assessment criteria for subdivisions in ONFLs; do not introduce new activity statuses for subdivisions.
- Introduce new information requirements for subdivision, land use and development activities that occur in ONFLs where a resource consent is required.
- Enable the maintenance, repair, removal or replacement of existing buildings, structures and tracks (and associated earthworks and vegetation removal) to occur without a resource consent.
- Enable all temporary activities and most already permitted activities to occur without a resource consent, provided they are not within an ONF.
- Require new earthworks, vegetation removal buildings, structures and tracks associated with an existing activity to have a resource consent as a controlled activity.
- Require new earthworks, vegetation removal buildings, structures and tracks not associated with an existing activity to have a resource consent as a restricted discretionary activity.

- Protect ONFs and coastal ONFLs by requiring a restricted discretionary resource consent with new landscape-related assessment criteria.
- Require new plantation forestry and quarrying activities to be assessed through a restricted discretionary status resource consent.

#### The draft rules for activities in the coastal marine area:

- Introduce new information requirements for all activities that occur in coastal marine ONFLs where a resource consent is required.
- Enable the maintenance, repair, removal or replacement of existing structures and occupations (and associated disturbances and vegetation removal) to occur with a controlled status resource consent.
- Enable all temporary activities to occur with a controlled status resource consent, provided they are not within a coastal marine ONF.
- Require most other activities to be assessed through a restricted discretionary status resource consent with new landscape-related assessment criteria.



## FIND OUT MORE

More information on the draft changes, including maps, is available on our website, [tasman.govt.nz/feedback](http://tasman.govt.nz/feedback).

We are also running three public information sessions in Golden Bay. Our staff will be on hand throughout these drop-in sessions to answer any questions and explain the draft changes.

### Drop-in Sessions:

#### **Takaka Fire Station**

Wednesday 27 July 2016, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

#### **Pakawau Memorial Hall**

Thursday 28 July 2016, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

#### **Kahurangi Function Centre**

Wednesday 3 August 2016, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Staff will be available at the drop-in sessions to answer any questions you may have. There will also be a short presentation and Q&A session at 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm, or on demand if there are enough people present.

## NEXT STEPS

We will consider the public feedback and may make some changes to the draft plan change in response to your comments.

In September or October you will again have an opportunity to have a say, when we release the updated version as a Proposed Plan Change.

At this point the process becomes formal, and follows this format:

- Call for public submissions
- Call for further submissions
- Hearings
- Council Decision

The exact timing of these steps has not been finalised yet.



## HAVE A SAY

Have we identified the right areas for extra protection? Are the rule changes the right way to go about preserving their special characteristics? **We want to know what you think.**

If you have any questions, please contact Policy Planner Tom Chi, Ph. 03 543 7229, email [tom.chi@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:tom.chi@tasman.govt.nz) or Environment Policy Manager Steve Markham, Ph. 03 543 9524, email [steve.markham@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:steve.markham@tasman.govt.nz).

You can submit feedback online, at [tasman.govt.nz/feedback](http://tasman.govt.nz/feedback), or by filling out the feedback form at the back of this discussion document and posting or handing it to any Council service centre. **Consultation closes on 9 August 2016.**



## WHAT DO THE CATEGORIES OF RESOURCE CONSENT MEAN?

**Permitted** – The activity can occur without a resource consent provided that the activity complies with the rules. No notification to the public or affected parties (e.g. neighbours).

**Controlled** – The activity requires a resource consent but consent must be granted and may include conditions. Usually no notification to the public or affected parties.

**Restricted Discretionary** – The activity requires a resource consent and Council has some discretion to grant or decline the application and may include conditions. However, Council's discretion is restricted to certain criteria which are listed in the rules. There may be notification to the public or affected parties.

**Discretionary** – The activity requires a resource consent and Council has some discretion to grant or decline the application and may include conditions. Council's discretion is not restricted and can assess your application on criteria not listed in the rules. There may be notification to the public or affected parties.

**Non-Complying** – The activity requires a resource consent and Council has some discretion to grant or decline the application and may include conditions. However, the application must pass a threshold test to prove that it is not inconsistent with the plan's objectives or policies. There may be notification to the public or affected parties.

**Prohibited** – The activity cannot occur and no resource consent application can be made.

## WHAT IS NOTIFICATION ABOUT?

A consent application may be 'notified' when its effects are considered to be more than minor, or the application is contrary to the Tasman Resource Management Plan.


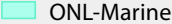




A notified consent application is advertised in the local newspaper, has a notice erected at the site, and neighbours and other potentially affected parties (such as government departments, environment groups, iwi etc) will be informed. If approval is given by all parties, the application is usually decided by Council officers. If not, a hearing is held and a decision is made by a panel of Councillors or independent commissioner/s, or a combination of the two.

Decisions about a non-notified consent are typically made by Council officers without any third parties being involved in the approval process.





# Map of Recommended Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

 ONL	 ONL-Marine
 ONF	 DOC Estate
 NOT ONL	 State Highway

