

Mountains to the Sea

Freshwater and Coastal - Stage 1 Engagement Analysis - Short Summary

Consultation on Aorere ki uta, Aorere ki tai – Tasman Environment Plan ran from the 1st of November to the end of December 2022. It included the first high-level engagement on freshwater and the coastal marine area. The purpose of the engagement was to gain feedback from the community on freshwater and coastal visions, values, and pressures and to confirm whether the proposed Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) boundaries made sense.

The 'Mountains to Sea' discussion document was distributed throughout the region at engagement events, council service centres, libraries and online at Shape Tasman. Webinars were held online and included presentations to community groups.

Around 230 pieces of feedback relating to freshwater and coastal areas was received from over 75 individuals, organisations or companies. The feedback received varied widely in terms of topics covered. However, feedback on the core vision and values was limited.

FMUs

Only ten pieces of feedback were received on the FMU areas proposed for the Tasman region. Some suggestions were made about minor boundary adjustments between the FMUs, as well as creating a further FMU. Sub-FMU catchment areas were suggested for more detailed management. More detail is provided in the full report which is also available on-line. Updated maps will be created showing the changes and draft sub-FMU management areas in each FMU for further discussion. These will be available on the Shape Tasman website from April 20th, 2023, until the end of June 2023.

Visions

A limited number of responses were received to the questions we asked about 10-, 30- and 100-year visions. Much of the general feedback on freshwater were outcomes that the community wanted to see. For example, *"Natural, unpolluted by chemicals, clean and vibrantly alive."* Seven key themes, included: improved water clarity and quality; change in management processes; healthy ecology; biodiversity; water allocation and management; and public access. In some cases, there were opposing views on these themes.

The coastal vision feedback related to managed retreat and recognition of climate change and adaption, active restoration of biodiversity and marine habitats, restriction of some activities, and provision for public access.

From this initial and past feedback, we will develop draft visions for each FMU and for the coastal environment.

Values

People provided feedback on values via written responses or by identifying a specific location on a map and providing a value for it.

Four compulsory national values, nine optional national values and a range of suggested additional values where options that people could tick. There was also a question asking for extra values that people held around freshwater in the region.

Many of the compulsory and optional values were agreed upon by respondents for each FMU. Two extra values were identified beyond the list suggested in the discussion document; these were respect for water and gravel aggregate resource.

In the coastal environment, the most common values expressed related to benefits of the estuaries, wetlands and inlets as bird and fish habitats, the value of marine habitats and reserves, and the importance of publicly accessible areas.

Pressures

The main pressures identified for freshwater were poor water quality, degraded streams and their surrounding habitats, discharges (stormwater, wastewater, sediment), land use (agriculture and forestry) and water allocation.

For the coastal environment, key pressures related to land-based activities (sedimentation, nutrient discharges) human disturbance (noise, vehicles and dogs on beaches, hunting), water-based activities (fishing, dredging, trawling, aquaculture), and coastal edge development.

Next steps

As a result of the relatively low level of participation, we are planning to re-open feedback on vision and values on our Shape Tasman website from April 20th, 2023, until the end of June 2023. Feedback will be focussed around the eight individual Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) pages i.e., Aorere-West Coast, Tākaka, Abel Tasman-Kaiteriteri, Motueka-Riuwaka, Moutere, Waimea, Deep Moutere Groundwater and Buller/Kawatiri.

Each FMU will have a draft vision and values set based on what we have heard from current and past freshwater workstreams. These drafts are to prompt further feedback and ideas from the public and may change over time as this is received.

Council staff are having ongoing discussions with Tasman iwi on their visions and values for water. This is through the Te Puna Korero ki Te Taihū (TPK) forum. The first report from this work (Te Mana o te Wai Te Taihū case study report Volume One July 2021) is available at <https://ngatitama.nz/temanaotewai/>. The outputs from this parallel process will inform development of the draft plan in conjunction with the community visions and values.

Please visit our [Shape Tasman](#) website between the 20th April and 30th June 2023 where you will find new individual FMU pages. Here you can continue to contribute further feedback to see how visions and values sets are evolving.

Once we have a draft freshwater plan developed, this will be released for community feedback in 2024 for your further input.

Within Shape Tasman, there will also be a separate page for providing further input on a draft coastal vision and refinement of coastal value statements. This input will contribute to the development of a Coastal Strategic Plan for Tasman.