

Notice is given that Council Workshop will be held on:

Date: Thursday 30 April 2026
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Tasman Council Chamber
Venue: 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Environmental Scan 2026 & Gambling Venue Policy Review Workshop

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The public is welcome to attend and observe open workshops

Workshops are not meetings and **cannot be used to either make decisions or come to agreements** that are then confirmed without the opportunity for meaningful debate at a formal meeting. An outcome of a workshop is likely to be a report to Council or a committee.

ATTENDEES

Chairperson	Mayor T King	
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor B Maru	
Members	Cr C Butler	Cr D McNamara
	Cr J Ellis	Cr P Morgan
	Cr K Ferneyhough	Cr K Maling
	Cr M Greening	Cr T Neubauer
	Cr J Gully	Cr T Walker
	Cr M Hume	Cr D Woods
	Cr M Kininmonth	

No quorum for workshops

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Website: www.tasman.govt.nz

PROGRAMME

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3 WORKSHOP MATERIAL

3.1 PRESENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2026

Report To:	Workshop
Meeting Date:	30 April 2026
Report Author:	Emily Garland, Graduate Community Policy Advisor
Report Authorisers:	Barry Johnson, Environmental Policy Manager
Report Number:	RCW26-04-9

1. Workshop

Workshop Organiser:	Emily Garland
Workshop Topic:	Environmental Scan 2026
Workshop Objective:	Present the Environmental Scan 2026 to elected members, supporting material for the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037 development.

2. Workshop Material

To present the Draft Environmental Scan 2026 (the Scan) to Elected Members before it is finalised.





We will go through;

- What an Environmental Scan is
- How the Council can use the Scan
- What sections are in the Scan

This is an opportunity for Elected Members to review the Draft Environmental Scan, discuss it with one another and provide feedback before the Scan is finalised.

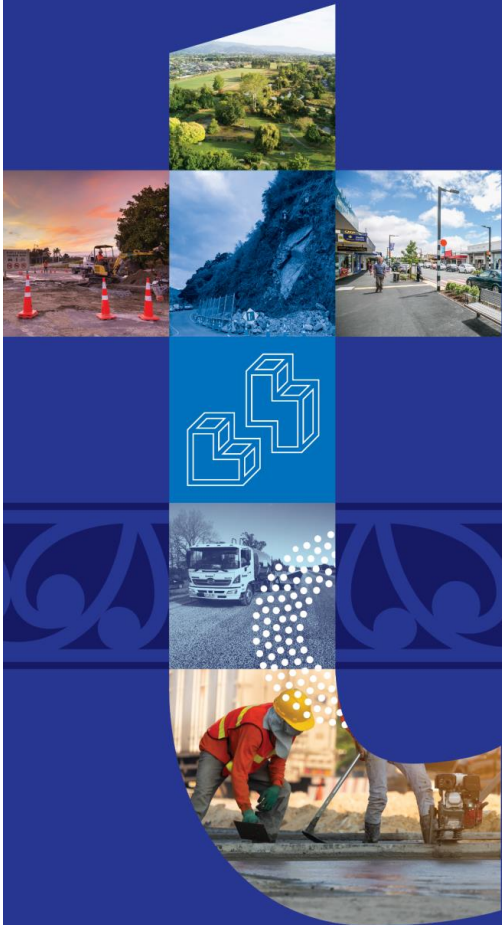
The Draft Environmental Scan 2026 is attached.

3. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

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Environmental Scan 2026

30 April 2026



Purpose of today

[infopack]

You will have pre-read the supporting information – The Draft Environmental Scan 2026

ACTIVITY

To present the Draft Environmental Scan 2026 (the Scan) to Elected Members before it is finalised.

We will go through;

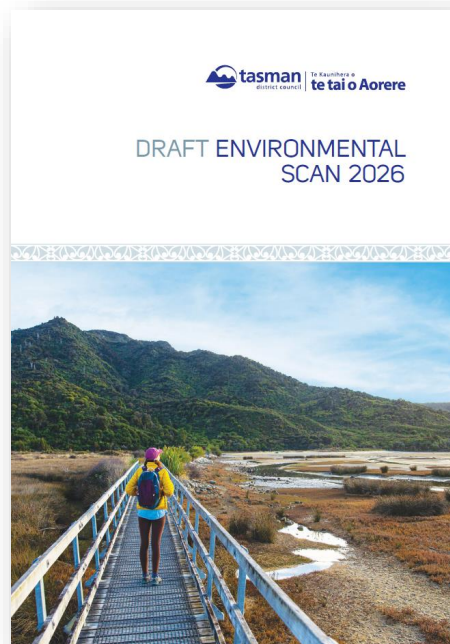
- What an Environmental Scan is
- How the Council can use the Scan
- What sections are in the Scan

This is an opportunity for Elected Members to review the Draft Environmental Scan and discuss it with one another.

OUTCOMES

- By the end of today Elected members will know what the Scan is and the purpose of staff preparing this information.
- You will have a general picture of the district to add to your existing knowledge.
- You will discuss what all this means in the context of the LTP.
- **Note:** there is some capacity to make changes or include further information to improve the Scan.

What is an Environmental Scan?



WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN?

- An overview of the key characteristics of the Tasman District Council operates.
- It brings together information that may influence the Council's priorities and decision-making over the medium to long term.

HOW DOES THE COUNCIL USE AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN?

The scan is intended to set the scene for strategic planning rather than prescribe specific actions or outcomes.

It provides a snapshot in time to inform discussion and support decisions as part of the Council's long-term planning processes.

- Informs Long-Term planning.
- Supports evidence-based decision-making.
- Creates a shared understanding of the District.

OUTCOMES

- **Understand what an Environmental Scan is and how it is used in Long-Term Plan development.**

What content is in the Environmental Scan?

SECTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

The Tasman District (overview)

Our General Wards (demographic snapshot)

Tasman's People (incl; growth, projections, identity, and other people statistics)

Tasman's Economy (incl; GDP, Industries, Employment)

Ngā Iwi and Council Partnership (overview, Nelson Tenth case, Māori economy)

Tasman's Place (incl; Rivers and streams, biodiversity, climate change)

OUTCOMES

- Understand what is covered in the Scan.

Discussion

A TIME FOR ELECTED MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE SCAN WITH ONE ANOTHER

- What stood out or surprised you the most in the scan?
- Is there additional information that would help complete the picture for you?
- Is there benefit in having a one-page version of the Scan for you to have during LTP workshops?

Next Steps



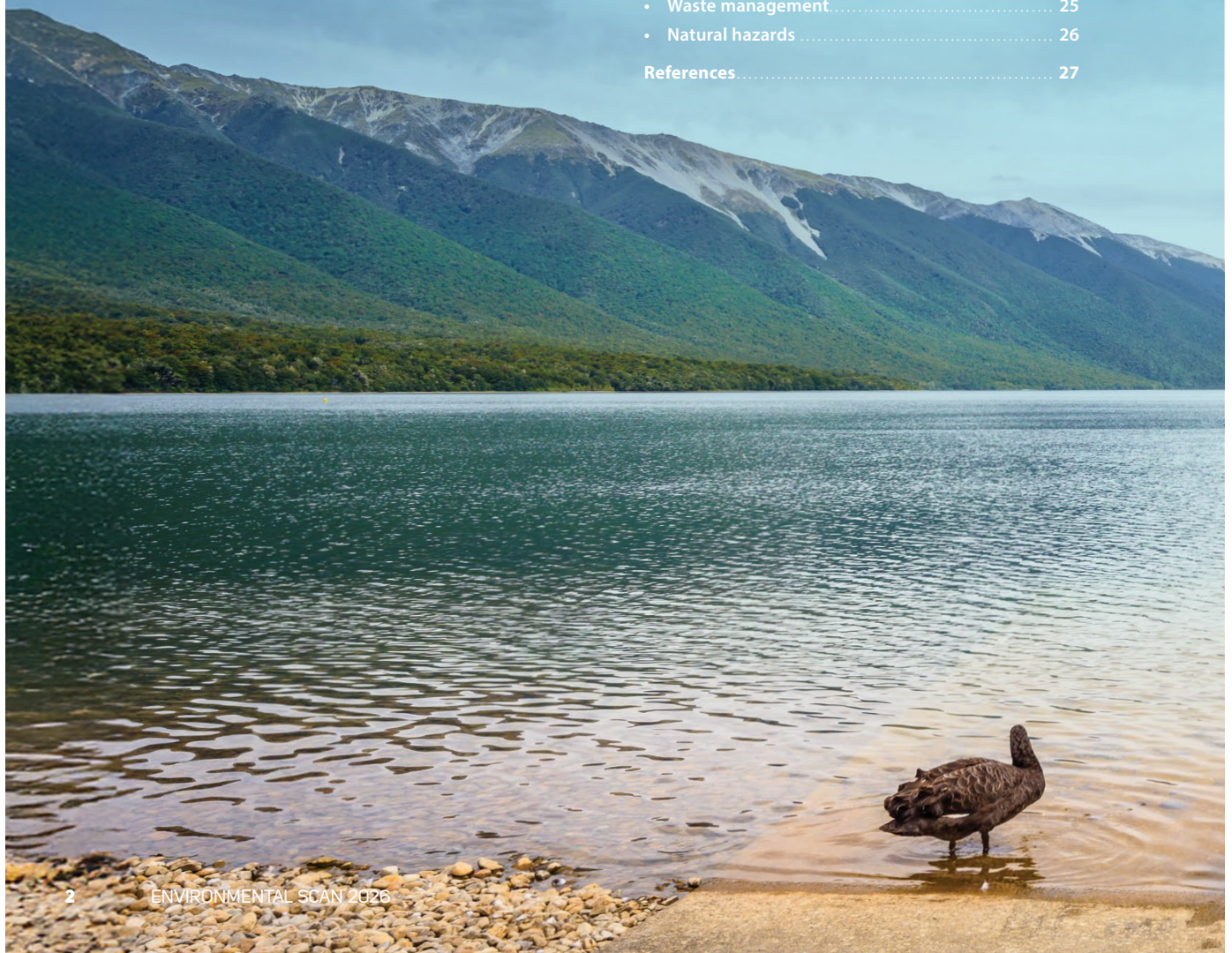
Thriving resilient 

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2026



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KIA ORA!

This environmental scan provides an overview of the key factors shaping the context in which Tasman District Council operates. It brings together information on current and emerging trends that may influence the Council's role, priorities, and decision-making over the medium to long term.

Local government in New Zealand operates in an increasingly complex and uncertain environment. Demographic change, climate change and natural hazard risk, economic conditions, technological advancement, and evolving legislative and policy settings all affect how councils plan for, fund, and deliver services. An environmental scan supports forward-looking and informed decision-making by identifying these trends, highlighting pressures and opportunities, and developing a shared understanding of the environment the Council operates within. This document draws together information on population and demographic change, environmental and natural hazard risk, and economic conditions relevant to Tasman District.

This scan is intended to set the scene for strategic planning rather than prescribe specific actions or outcomes. It provides a snapshot in time to inform discussion and support decisions as part of the Council's long-term and annual planning processes.

This document includes figures that are current as of March 2026.





THE TASMAN DISTRICT

The Tasman District covers approximately 9,600 square kilometres of the northern South Island, stretching from the sandy beaches of Golden Bay in the northwest, to the Southern Alps in the south, and Richmond in the east. Tasman is positioned south of Nelson City, west of Marlborough, and northeast of the West Coast region. Tasman is made up of dispersed settlements and large rural and coastal communities.

The Tasman District is one of six unitary councils in New Zealand. A unitary council is a local authority that combines the responsibilities of both a regional council and a territorial authority within a single organisation. Most local governments in New Zealand are made up of a separate regional council with several territorial authorities (city or district councils) within its borders. The Greater Wellington Regional Council, for example, has nine local councils in its region. Being a unitary authority means that, here in Tasman, one council is responsible for region-wide functions such as environmental management, natural resource planning, and flood protection, as well as district or city functions including land use planning, local roads, building control, and community services.



REGIONAL FUNCTIONS

- River and coastal management
- Biosecurity (plant and animal pest control)
- Civil defence and emergency management
- Regional land transport
- Resource management and environmental information

TERRITORIAL FUNCTIONS

- Community wellbeing and development
- Public health and safety
- Reserves, recreation, libraries and culture
- Resource management
- Infrastructure (water supply, stormwater, wastewater, solid waste, roads)





A SNAPSHOT OF OUR GENERAL WARDS

Tasman District is made up of five general wards and Te Tai o Aorere Māori Ward. Each of the five general wards have their own distinct communities and service needs. Understanding ward level differences provides important context for planning, helping to recognise how demographic change, growth pressures, and access to infrastructure and services can vary across the District.

Between 2018 and 2023, Tasman’s population increased by 5,420 people, exceeding the combined population of Brightwater and Wakefield. Population growth has not been evenly distributed, with almost half of this growth occurring in the Richmond Ward (15%), while the Motueka Ward experienced the slowest growth over the same period (5%).

Age profiles vary by ward, with the Golden Bay Ward having the highest median age at 50.2 years, and the Lakes-Murchison Ward experiencing relatively high growth between the 2018 and 2023 Censuses in both the under-15 (13%) and over-65 age groups (31%).

Ethnic diversity also differs across the District. While Tasman as a whole remains less diverse than many urban areas, the Motueka Ward has the highest proportional ethnic diversity, with a higher share of residents identifying as Māori, Pacific Peoples, and Asian compared with other wards.

These ward-level variations highlight the importance of place-based planning and provide context for understanding how growth, ageing, and community needs may influence future demand for infrastructure, services, and engagement across the District.

All information in this section has been sourced from Stats NZ.²

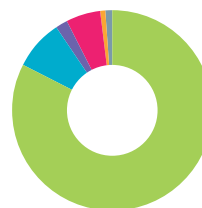
RICHMOND WARD

2025 estimated population: 20,700

Median age: 45

Ethnicity

- European 90%
- Māori 9%
- Pacific Peoples 2%
- Asian 6%
- MELAA* 1%
- Other 1%



Life cycle groups

- Under 15 years 17%
- 15–29 years 17%
- 30–64 years 43%
- 65+ years 24%



*Middle Eastern/Latin American/African
See page 27 for references



MOTUEKA WARD

2025 estimated population: 13,550
Median age: 47

Ethnicity

- European 84%
- Māori 14%
- Pacific Peoples 6%
- Asian 5%
- MELAA* 1%
- Other 2%

Life cycle groups

- Under 15 years 15%
- 15–29 years 15%
- 30–64 years 44%
- 65+ years 26%

MOUTERE-WAIMEA WARD

2025 estimated population: 16,000
Median age: 47.4

Ethnicity

- European 95%
- Māori 8%
- Pacific Peoples 1%
- Asian 2%
- MELAA* 1%
- Other 1%

Life cycle groups

- Under 15 years 18%
- 15–29 years 13%
- 30–64 years 48%
- 65+ years 21%

LAKES-MURCHISON WARD

2025 estimated population: 3,820
Median age: 46.3

Ethnicity

- European 94%
- Māori 12%
- Pacific Peoples 1%
- Asian 2%
- MELAA* 1%
- Other 2%

Life cycle groups

- Under 15 years 18%
- 15–29 years 14%
- 30–64 years 49%
- 65+ years 20%

GOLDEN BAY WARD

2025 estimated population: 5,820
Median age: 50.2

Ethnicity

- European 94%
- Māori 9%
- Pacific Peoples 1%
- Asian 3%
- MELAA* 1%
- Other 2%

Life cycle groups

- Under 15 years 15%
- 15–29 years 12%
- 30–64 years 47%
- 65+ years 26%



*Middle Eastern/Latin American/African

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2026



TASMAN'S PEOPLE

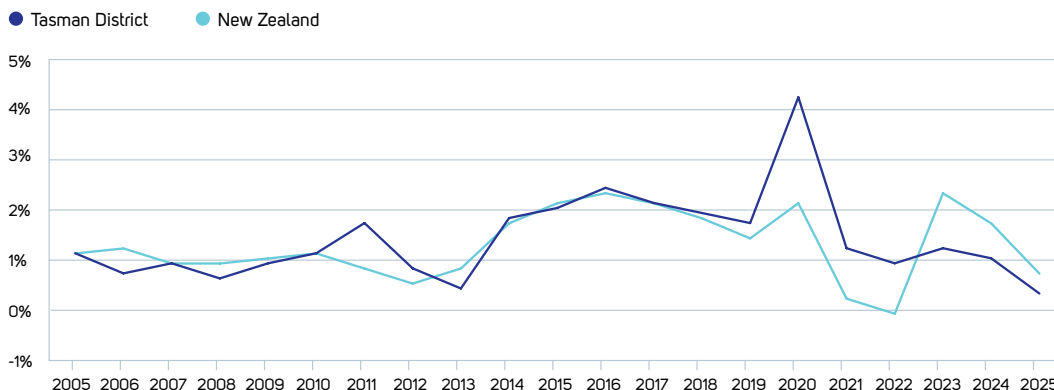
By 2034, the population of Tasman is estimated to grow from the current 59,900 to reach over 65,200, based on medium growth projections. Tasman's annual growth peaked at 4.4% in 2020 but growth has slowed since.



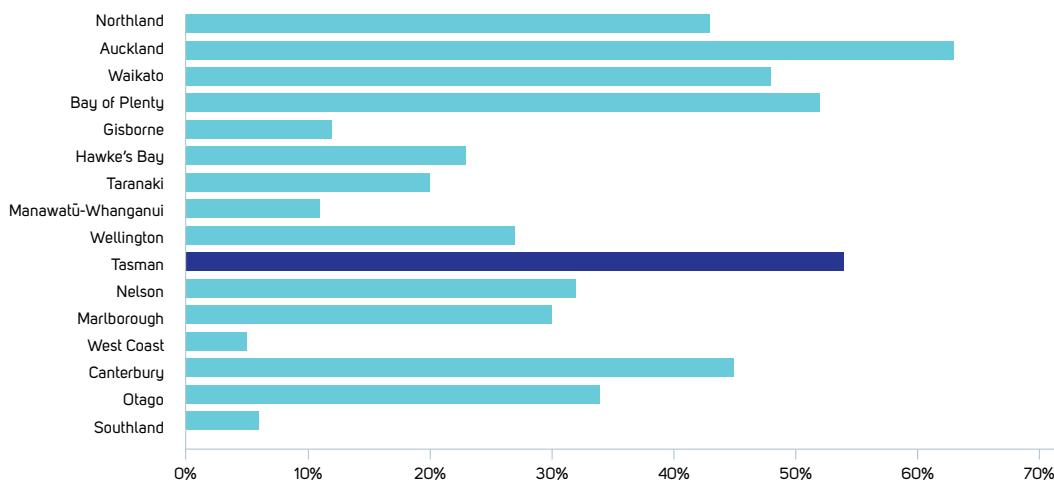
POPULATION GROWTH

Over the last 20 years, Tasman has seen a high level of growth compared to the New Zealand and other regions. Between the 2018 and 2023 Census, Tasman was the fastest growing region at 10.3% – an extra 5,400 people. In the same period, all other regions grew by less than 9%.

Population growth³



New Zealand regional growth 1996 – 2025⁴



See page 27 for references





POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The Council commissioned Infometrics to produce population projections to support long-term planning as a part of Tasman’s 10-Year Plan 2027 – 2037. Infometrics have based their projections on Stats NZ projections, which incorporated data from the 2023 Census.

Population change in Tasman is shaped by both natural increase (the balance between births and deaths) and net migration (people moving into the District). In recent years, population growth has been increasingly influenced by migration as natural growth has slowed. Tasman saw its highest number of international migrants in 2020, with 1,800 people moving here. Over the last 10 years, net internal migration has averaged 620, while net international migration has averaged 250.

Tasman’s population is projected to continue growing under all but the low scenario, but growth is expected to slow over time and remain below the national average. Under the medium scenario, population growth averages 0.8% per year between 2027 and 2037, slowing to 0.4% per year between 2037 and 2057. By 2057, Tasman’s population is projected to reach 72,600 under the medium scenario, compared with a range of 63,100 (low) to 96,400 (very high). In the low scenario, population decline begins from 2048.

Average household size has fallen from 2.49 in 2018 to 2.43 in 2024 and is projected to decline further across all scenarios. Under the medium scenario, average household size falls to 2.31 by 2057. Household growth is expected to moderate, averaging 1.1% per year between 2027 and 2037 and slowing to 0.5% per year between 2037 and 2057 under the medium scenario.

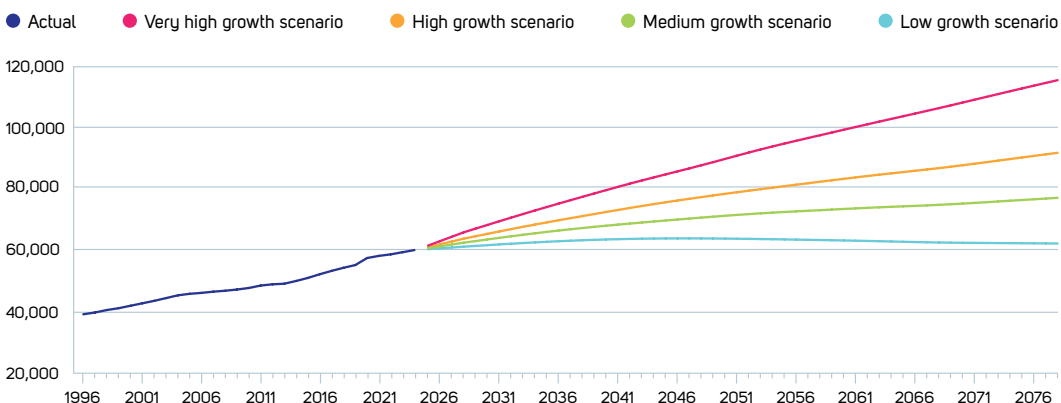
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TASMAN?

Population growth is likely to support vibrant town centres and sustain local businesses, but it will also place pressure on infrastructure, particularly where growth occurs rapidly or in unplanned locations. Rural areas are expected to experience slower population growth or decline, making it more challenging to maintain amenities and services for smaller and remote communities.

Population growth will increase pressures on transport networks, contributing to longer and less reliable travel times, however it will also improving the viability of public transport where population densities increase. Tasman will face strong competition for central government investment, and as a smaller district away from major population centres, may have limited access to population based funding. Over time, slowing population growth may also make it harder to recruit workers and support business expansion, with implications for service delivery and economic growth.



Population projections



TASMAN'S IDENTITY

OUR AGEING POPULATION

Our 65 and over population grew by 22.7% between the 2018 and 2023 Censuses. The under 15 years age group decreased by 0.4% over the same period. Like most of New Zealand, Tasman's population is expected to get older. The 65 years and over age group is projected to increase from 23% in 2023 to 33% in 2043. Under medium growth projection, the growth of the 65 and over age group is predicted to peak at 21.2% increase between 2023 – 2028 but this growth is expected to slow, increasing by 3.5% between 2048 – 2053.⁵



In the 2023 Census the median age in Tasman was 46.8, NZ's was 38.1.⁶

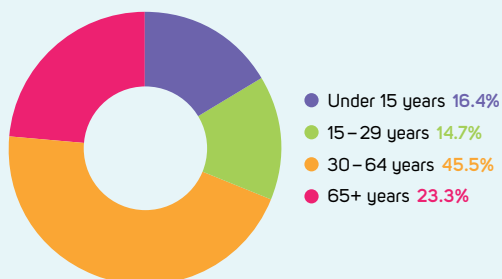


Tasman residents live longer than the national average. Life expectancy was 83.0 years for males and 85.7 years for females, compared with 80.1 years for males and 83.5 years for females across New Zealand.⁷

An ageing population will change future housing needs, with greater demand for smaller, more accessible homes, assisted living options, and housing that supports multigenerational living. Older residents are also expected to remain in the workforce for longer, while labour shortages in some sectors may increase reliance on migration.

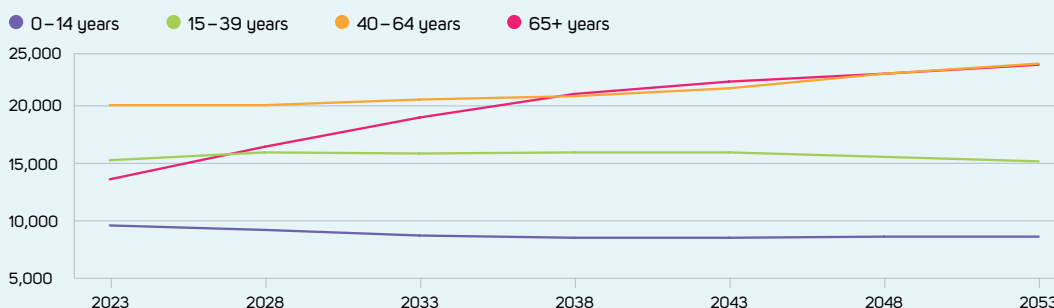
Demand for health, recreation, and community services is likely to grow, alongside a higher proportion of residents living on fixed incomes. These trends present both challenges and opportunities, including new services for older people and increased volunteering. At the same time, increasing ethnic diversity will require services, facilities, and engagement approaches that are inclusive and responsive to a wider range of needs.

Our population by age group⁸



The proportion of people 65 years and older in New Zealand in 2025 was estimated to be 16.9%. In Tasman it's estimated to be 24.5%.⁹

Age group population projections (medium projection)¹⁰



See page 27 for references



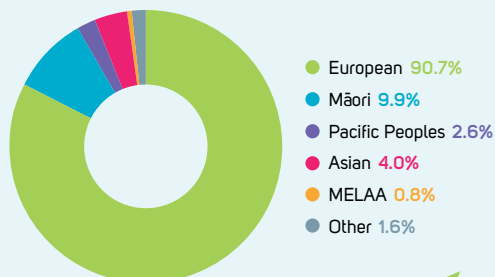
DIVERSITY

Tasman District has a population that is predominantly European, but ethnic diversity has been gradually increasing over time. According to the 2023 Census, around 90.7% of residents identified as European, while 9.9% identified as Māori, 4.0% as Asian, and 2.6% as Pacific peoples. Smaller proportions identified with Middle Eastern, Latin American or African (MELAA) (0.8%) ethnicities and other ethnic groups (1.6%). As ethnicity is self-identified, people may identify with more than one group.¹¹

While Tasman remains less ethnically diverse than many urban centres in New Zealand, diversity has increased over the last 10 years, particularly among Māori, Asian, and Pacific populations. This reflects both migration patterns and natural population change and contributes to a slowly changing demographic profile across the District.

Ethnic diversity varies across the District, with higher concentrations of Māori and other ethnic groups in some towns and rural communities. These patterns have implications for how councils engage with communities, recognise cultural values, partner with iwi and Māori organisations, and ensure services and facilities are accessible and responsive to the needs of a changing population.

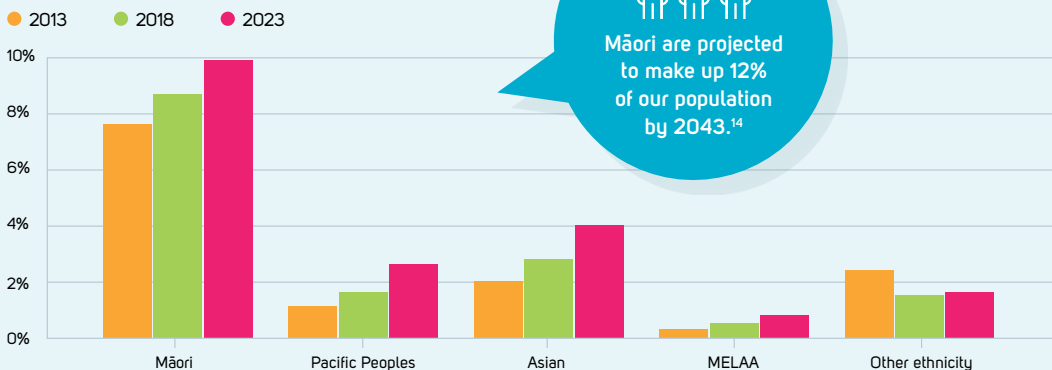
Ethnic diversity across the District



Just over 20% of Tasman was born overseas.¹²

The most common overseas birthplace is the United Kingdom and Ireland with 4,600 people born there.¹³

Changes in Tasman's ethnic diversity



Māori are projected to make up 12% of our population by 2043.¹⁴



See page 27 for references

OTHER FIGURES FROM THE 2023 CENSUS

The 2023 Census includes a range of interesting data points that help illustrate what life looks like in Tasman District. This section highlights some informative statistics.¹⁵

31% of Tasman identified themselves as religious, down from 45% in 2013.



The average number of children born was 1.7, slightly above the New Zealand average of 1.6.

64% of Tasman aged 15 years and over had never smoked cigarettes regularly.



In 2023, 38% of Tasman households had access to a landline. In 2018 that number was 72%.

Almost half of Tasman residents aged 15 and over were reported to be married or in a civil union in the 2023 Census.



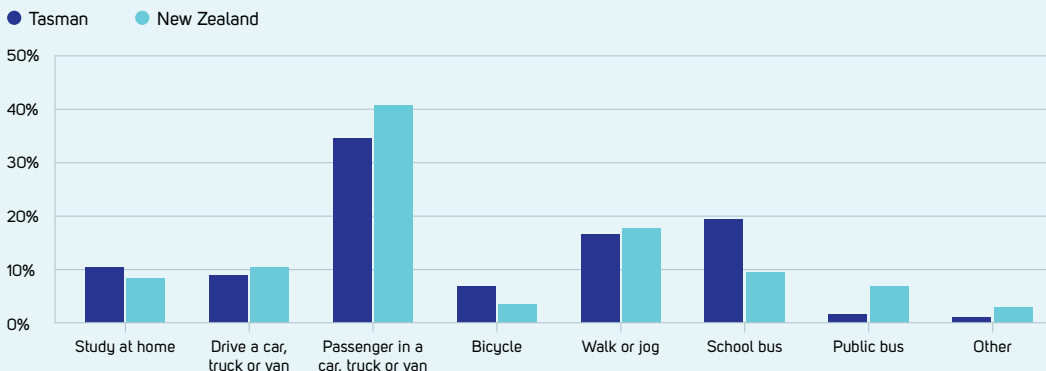
53.7% of adults have a post-school qualification, similar to the average of 54% nationally.

Tasman has a higher rate of couples without children than the New Zealand average (50.9% vs 41.5%).

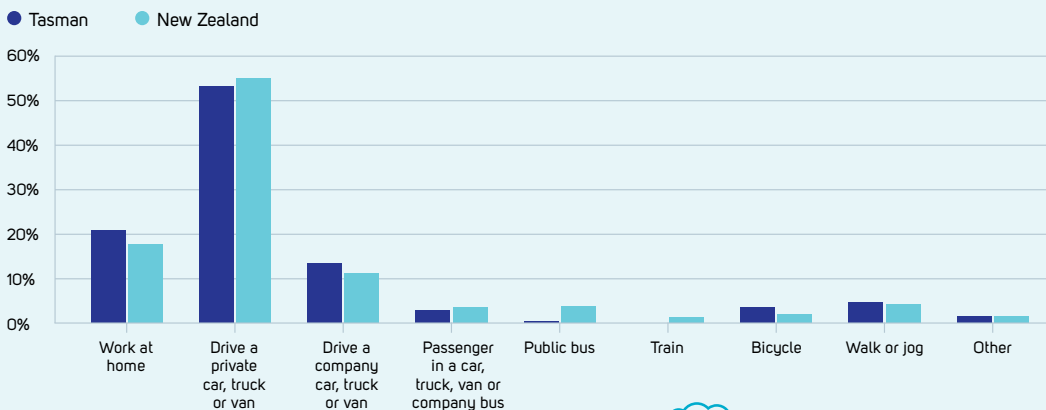


HOW PEOPLE IN TASMAN GET TO WORK AND SCHOOL

Main means of travel to education (proportion of population who are studying)



Main means of travel to work (proportion of population who are employed and 15 years and over)



See page 27 for references





WELLBEING IN NEW ZEALAND

Wellbeing statistics give a picture of social wellbeing in the New Zealand population. They're based on people's assessments of their own lives, such as how satisfied they are, and objective information, such as their labour force status. This data is sourced from the 2023 General Social Survey.¹⁶

In the survey, Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough, and West Coast regions have been combined. These results give insight into the wellbeing of Tasman.

- Residents aged 15 years and over reported an average overall life satisfaction score of 7.2 out of 10 (where 0 is low and 10 is high), which is a little below the national average of 7.6 out of 10.
- 71.3% respondents were satisfied with their jobs.
- 67.9% were satisfied with their work-life balance.
- 55.9% were satisfied that they had the right amount of free time, while 34.9% felt they didn't get enough free time.
- Just over a third found it hard to meet everyday costs, compared to two fifths of New Zealanders.
- 76.4% of people rated their health as good, very good, or excellent, compared to 80.8% of total New Zealand.
- The proportion of people who experienced poor mental wellbeing (based on the WHO-5 mental wellbeing index) was 31 percent in 2023.
- 34% of people stated that their house or flat was damp sometimes or always, on par with the New Zealand average.

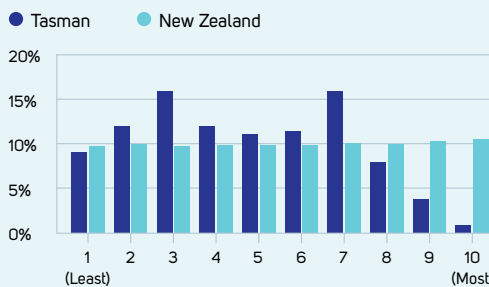
SOCIOECONOMIC DEPRIVATION

The New Zealand Index of Socioeconomic Deprivation is an area-based measure developed by the University of Otago to assess relative socioeconomic deprivation across geographic areas. It uses Census data across eight dimensions: communication, income, employment, qualifications, home ownership, support, living space, and dwelling condition. Areas are ranked into deciles from 1 (least deprived) to 10 (most deprived), providing a snapshot of relative deprivation at a neighbourhood level rather than for individuals or households.

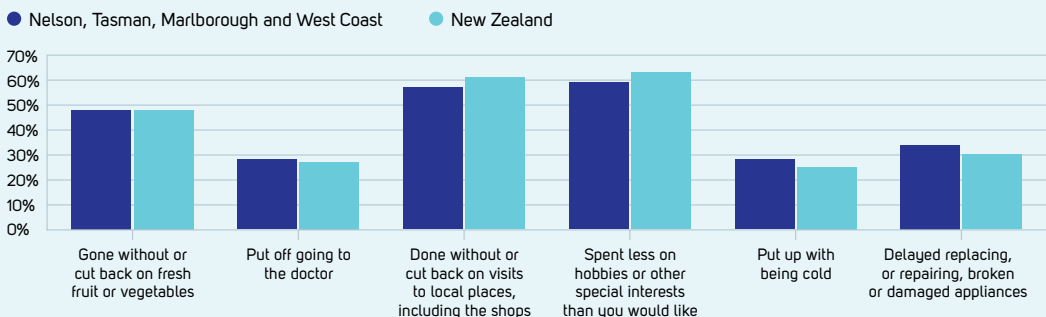
Tasman District has a different deprivation profile compared with New Zealand overall. A higher proportion of Tasman's population sits within the mid-range deprivation deciles, while comparatively fewer residents live in the most deprived areas. The most deprived decile accounts for 0.8% of Tasman residents, compared with 10.5% nationally, and Tasman also has slightly fewer residents in the least deprived decile. Overall, deprivation in Tasman appears more evenly distributed, with lower concentrations of extreme deprivation than seen nationally.¹⁷

Areas with an average score of 7 or higher are Richmond Central, Motueka West, Motueka North, Golden Bay/Mohua, Tākaka, and Pōhara-Abel Tasman.

Percentage of population by New Zealand index of socioeconomic deprivation (2023 Census)



Percentage of people cutting costs, by measure taken



See page 27 for references

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Housing affordability remains an important issue for community wellbeing in Tasman District. As at March 2025, the average house value was \$775,473, which was lower than the New Zealand median of \$872,606. House values in Tasman declined by 2.8% over the year to March 2025, a larger decrease than the national average decline of 1.6%. House value growth has fluctuated over time, ranging from a peak increase of 19.5% in 2021 to a decline of 10.6% in 2023.¹⁸

While average house values are lower than the national median, affordability pressures remain comparatively high. In 2025, the average house value in Tasman was 7.4 times the average household income, compared to 6.5 times nationally. This ratio has varied over time, reaching a high of 9.2 in 2022 and a low of 5.7 in 2015. Based on average two-year fixed mortgage interest rates in 2025, around 44.5% of the average household income in Tasman would be required to service a 20-year mortgage on the average house value with a 20% deposit, higher than the New Zealand average of 38.9%.¹⁹

Rental affordability also presents challenges. Average weekly rent in Tasman was \$533 in 2025, lower than the national average of \$577, with annual rent growth of 2.3%, compared with 2.7% across New Zealand.²⁰ Despite lower rents, the average weekly rent accounted for 26.4% of average household income in Tasman, higher than the national figure of 22.2%, indicating continued pressure on lower-income households.²¹

Tasman has a higher proportion of households who own their home or hold it in a family trust than the national average (77.4% vs 66%).

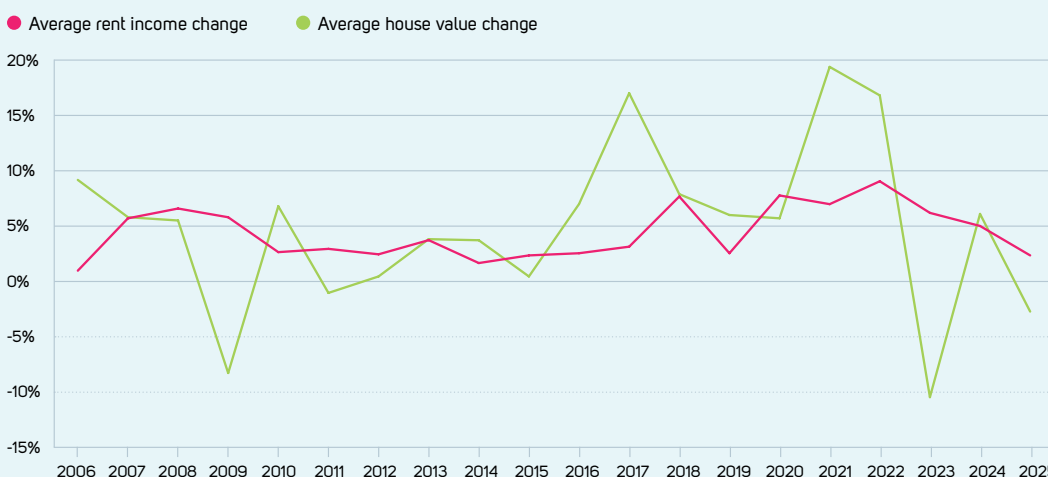


9.3% of Tasman's working age population received a government benefit in 2025, an increase of 11.4% from the previous year.²³



High housing costs relative to income can have broader wellbeing impacts, particularly for lower-income households, a larger share of income spent on housing may reduce the ability to meet other essential needs such as food, transport, healthcare, and education. These housing trends provide important context for understanding current and future demand for housing, infrastructure, and community support services across the District.

Annual change in average rent and house values²²



See page 27 for references



TASMAN'S ECONOMY

Over recent years Tasman's economy remained relatively resilient in the face of ongoing national and global pressures. Our productive primary industries, vibrant artisan sector, and strong community networks continue to drive regional strength. However, like the rest of New Zealand, escalating costs, severe weather events, global and trade uncertainty are all creating challenges across our sectors.



TASMAN'S GDP

Economic growth in Tasman District averaged 3.7%pa over the 10 years to 2025 compared with an average of 2.5%pa in New Zealand.

Tasman's GDP in the year to March 2025 measured \$3.6 billion, up 0.8% from the previous year. Tasman's growth was greater than what was seen in New Zealand for the same period (-0.9%). The Tasman District accounted for 0.8% of national GDP in 2025, Tasman makes up 1.1% of the New Zealand population.

GDP per capita in Tasman was \$59,876 for the year to March 2025 while New Zealand's was \$81,071.

Tasman and Nelson contributed \$7.6 billion to the economy in 2025.²⁴

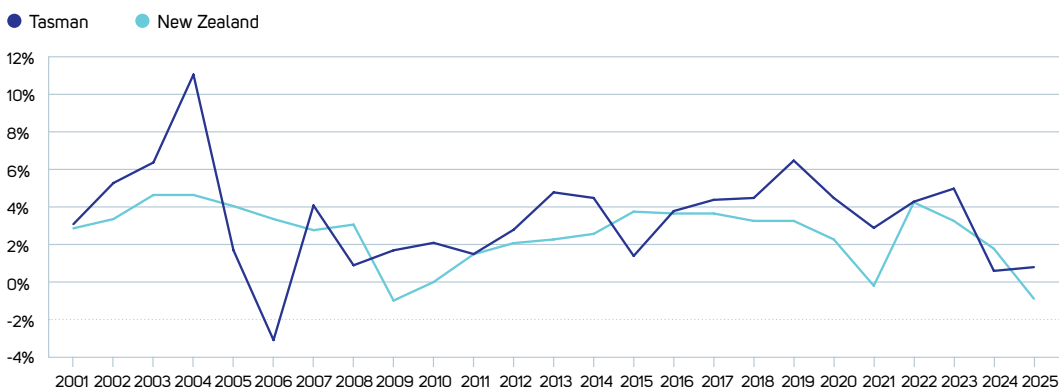
PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity is how efficiently an economy converts inputs such as labour, capital, technology, and land into economic output.

In the year to March 2025, labour productivity in Tasman District was \$128,806 per filled job, lower than the New Zealand average of \$155,707. However, Tasman recorded stronger recent growth, with productivity increasing by 2.6% over the year, compared with 0.3% nationally. Over the decade to 2025, productivity growth in Tasman averaged 1.2% per annum, double the national average of 0.6% per annum. Productivity levels vary widely across industries, with electricity, gas, water and waste services recording the highest output per filled job (\$630,144), followed by rental, hiring and real estate services (\$497,904) and financial and insurance services (\$233,180). In contrast, accommodation and food services recorded the lowest labour productivity (\$48,521), reflecting the labour-intensive composition of parts of the local economy.

There were 7,899 business in Tasman in 2025, up 1.2% on the previous year.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth annual % change²⁵



See page 27 for references. All figures have been sourced from Infometrics.



TASMAN'S INDUSTRIES

Tasman District's economy is characterised by a diverse mix of industries. Tasman's economy is more diverse than the territorial authority average in New Zealand. Other services accounted for the largest share of GDP at 30.3%, slightly lower than the national proportion (31.0%), while goods-producing industries represented the second-largest share at 22.2%, notably higher than the New Zealand average (16.9%). Primary industries made up 13.0% of GDP, compared with 5.8% nationally. Between 2024 and 2025, agriculture, forestry and fishing was the largest contributor to growth, increasing by 9.2% and adding \$39 million to the District's economy, followed by rental, hiring and real estate services (\$15.4 million) and manufacturing (\$6.8 million). In contrast, construction declined by \$27.5 million, with wholesale trade also declining (\$6.3 million).

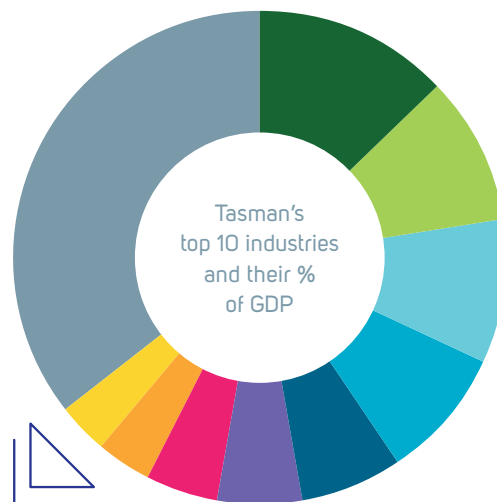
The greatest strengths and opportunities for Tasman are diverse. Te Taihuhu, the Top of the South, accounts for a third of New Zealand's employment in fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing, and per capita Nelson and Tasman have the highest number of scientists in New Zealand. This concentration of jobs in this sector has increased 16% in the last five years. Tasman has approximately 5% of New Zealand's plantation forests and is the most specialised forestry processing region in New Zealand.

A higher reliance on primary and goods-producing industries reflects Tasman's strong resource-based economy and provides a foundation for export-oriented activity and regional employment, but it also increases exposure to commodity price movements, climate and environmental conditions, and cyclical investment patterns. This industry mix can contribute to variability in growth, employment, and incomes, with flow-on implications for infrastructure demand, transport networks, workforce availability, and the timing and scale of development-related activity across the Long-Term Plan period.

Apple and pear growing accounts for 3.6% of Tasman's GDP (\$130.2m).



In 2025, agriculture, forestry and fishing contributed \$631.1m (45%) of Tasman's exports and 10.1% of New Zealand's total exports.



- Agriculture, forestry and fishing 12.92%
- Manufacturing 9.76%
- Rental, hiring and real estate services 9.27%
- Construction 8.8%
- Professional, scientific and technical services 6.5%
- Retail trade 5.75%
- Health care and social assistance 4.56%
- Electricity, gas, water and waste services 3.67%
- Wholesale trade 3.47%
- Other 35.3%



INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

SUB-INDUSTRIES	LEVEL 2024	LEVEL 2025	% OF TOTAL ECONOMY	ANNUAL GROWTH 2024-2025
Horticulture and fruit growing	\$248.2m	\$283.8m	7.91%	14.3%
Forestry and logging	\$52.8m	\$51.7m	1.44%	-2.1%
Dairy cattle farming	\$43.1m	\$47.2m	1.32%	9.5%
Sheep, beef cattle and grain farming	\$35.3m	\$38.6m	1.08%	9.3%
Support services and hunting	\$27m	\$25.1m	0.7%	-7%
Poultry, deer and other livestock farming	\$10.9m	\$10.3m	0.29%	-5.5%
Fishing and aquaculture	\$7.3m	\$6.7m	0.19%	-8.2%



Nelson Tasman hosts 48% more visitors per resident than the national average.



OUR SHARED ECONOMY WITH NELSON

Tasman District forms part of a closely connected regional economy with Nelson City, sharing similar economic strengths and development opportunities. Key contributors include the blue economy, food and beverage production, tourism, forestry and wood processing, and health and social services, supported by strong lifestyle appeal. There are over 1,700 arts, cultural and sporting events per year that all contribute to the lifestyle.

At a foundational level, future economic development will depend on lifting productivity and ensuring enabling infrastructure and services keep pace with change. Productivity in Nelson-Tasman remains around 18% below the national average, despite recent improvement, indicating the need for continued business innovation and long-term investment. High-quality, resilient transport, digital, health, and education infrastructure will be critical to support growth, particularly as population expansion extends into smaller towns and rural areas.²⁶

EMPLOYMENT

Employment patterns in Tasman District reflect the District's diverse economic base and strong links to primary industries, goods production, tourism, and services. In the year to March 2025, employment totalled 27,845 jobs, representing a 1.7% decline from a year earlier. This decrease was larger than the national decline of 1.1%, indicating some short term softening in local labour market conditions. Despite this, employment growth in Tasman has been relatively strong over the longer term, averaging 2.5% per annum over the ten years to 2025, compared with 1.9% per annum nationally.

The horticulture and food and beverage sectors represent more than 15% of Nelson Tasman's employment, and 7% of jobs are supported by tourism.



A significant share of employment is concentrated in sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fishing, manufacturing, construction, retail, and health care and social assistance. This industry mix supports the local economy but also results in a higher proportion of seasonal and cyclical employment, making the District more exposed to external factors such as commodity prices, visitor demand, weather conditions, and broader economic trends. Seasonal employment peaks can also create flow on pressure on housing, transport, and community services.

Over the past 20 years, Tasman has had lower unemployment than the national average and currently sits at 3.6% unemployment, below the national average of 5.0%. Tasman also has a lower rate of youth not employed in education or training, at 8.3% compared to 12.9% nationwide. While this reflects strong labour demand and supports household incomes, it also indicates tight labour market conditions, which can make it more difficult for employers to recruit and retain staff and place pressure on business growth and service delivery.

Tasman's unemployment rate was 3.6% in 2025, lower than the New Zealand average of 5.0%.²⁷



Horticulture and fruit growing accounted for 10.5% of filled jobs in 2025.²⁸

In the 2023 Census, Tasman's median personal income was \$35,900, lower than the national median of \$41,500. The median household income in Tasman was \$80,400, while New Zealand's was \$97,000.²⁹



See page 27 for references. All figures have been sourced from Infometrics.



NGĀ IWI AND COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

Māori partnership is a fundamental component of effective and future focused local governance in the Tasman District. In addition to meeting its statutory obligations, the Council aspires to be a trusted partner, working in collaboration with iwi and Māori across Te Taihū o Te Waka a Māui (the top of the South Island) to support well informed, inclusive decision making. This section provides an overview of the Māori partnership context within the Tasman District, including tangata whenua relationships, governance arrangements, and key frameworks guiding engagement and decision making.

Eight iwi are tangata whenua in Te Taihū. Tasman District also covers the northern-western part of the Ngāi Tahu takiwā (tribal area / territory) where Ngāti Waewae are tangata whenua. There are two marae located within our rohe: Te Āwhina in Motueka and Onetahua in Tākaka.

In addition to the iwi authorities, our rohe is home to several other Māori entities; Wakatū Incorporation, Whakarewa (Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust) and Manawhenua Ki Mohua. These entities represent the customary Māori landowners of many areas across our rohe and beyond.

Māori partnership influences how the Council plans and makes decisions, particularly in areas such as environmental management, land and water use, and cultural heritage. Strong iwi and Māori relationships support more informed, inclusive outcome with mutual benefit and progress.

9.9% of Tasman identify as Māori.³⁰

The median age for Māori in Tasman is 29 years, much lower than the District's median age of 46.8 years.³⁰



TOGETHER TE TAIHU AGREEMENT

The Together Te Taihu agreement was signed in Whakatū Nelson in December 2023 by the chairs of the eight tangata whenua iwi of Te Taihū o te Waka-a-Māui and the mayors of Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough. The signing came following overwhelming support from the three councils. This agreement provides a platform for a stronger Te Taihu, by affirming a strong partnership between Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū and Ngā Kaunihera o Te Taihū (the councils) to enhance the wellbeing of Te Taihū now and into the future.

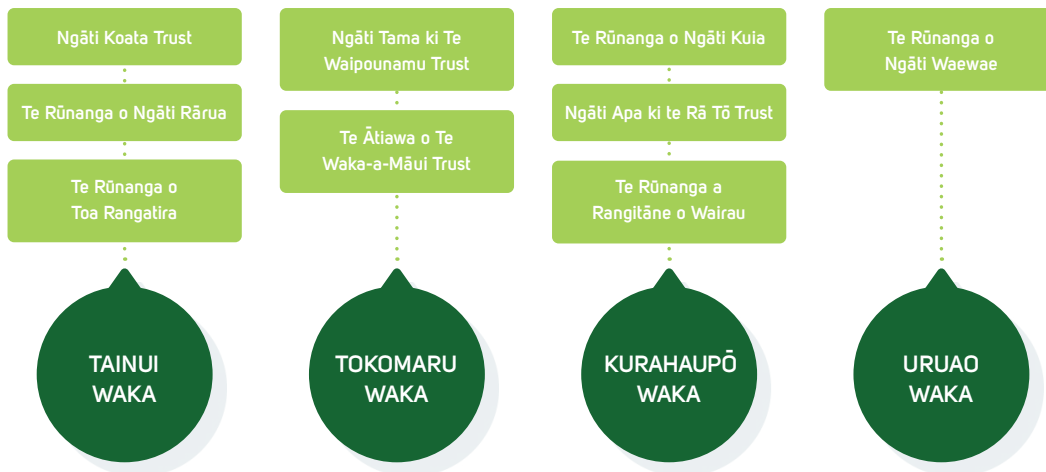


See page 27 for references





NINE IWI AUTHORITIES REPRESENT TANGATA WHENUA IN THE TASMAN DISTRICT:



THE NELSON TENTHS CASE

The Nelson Tenths case is a longstanding legal matter that will continue to shape the historical, legal and governance context of the Nelson Tasman regions. It relates to land promised to Māori during the establishment of Nelson and Tasman in the 1840s but not fully reserved by the Crown.

In 2017, the Supreme Court confirmed that the Crown owed fiduciary duties to Māori landowners to protect their property rights, returning the case to the High Court to determine breaches, losses and remedies. Following further proceedings, the Crown and representatives of the original owners reached an agreement in December 2025 to resolve the outstanding litigation.

The redress includes the transfer of around 7,583 acres of land to Te Here-ā-Nuku Trust, which was set up to hold and protect the land and compensation on behalf of the descendants of the original owners. A compensation of \$420 million was given to the trust to address the shortfall in land that could not be returned. Uncertainty remains for Tasman District and Nelson City Councils regarding the potential impacts of a final settlement, while Te Here-ā-Nuku Trust and the Crown continue negotiations toward a full and final resolution.

Māori employment reached 6,308 in 2025 at an average annual growth rate of 3.1% per annum since 2015, compared to 1.2% for the general population.³¹

THE MĀORI ECONOMY

Māori entrepreneurship is a key component of Nelson Tasman’s business landscape. In 2023 there were 570 Māori-owned businesses in Nelson Tasman, up from 480 in Nelson Tasman in 2021. In addition, there were 612 self-employed Māori in Te Taihū. The eight iwi of Te Taihū are key investors in the region, and have grown their post-settlement net asset bases to over \$1 billion. Much of this capital is invested locally into projects which enhance the region’s economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing. Iwi also have a demonstrated track record of collaboration, which is exemplified by their creation of the Te Kotahi o Te Taihū Charitable Trust in 2021.



See page 27 for references

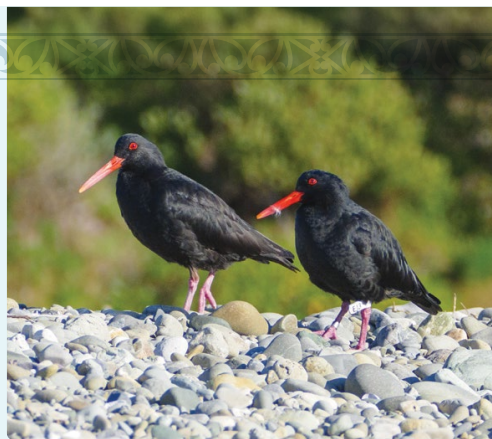
TASMAN'S PLACE

Our natural environment is central to life in Tasman District, shaping how people live, work, and connect with their communities. This section summarises the District's environmental setting and key trends, including climate change, biodiversity, and natural hazards, to provide context for future decision-making and service planning.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Tasman region has more than 9,000km of rivers and streams, the Tasman District Council monitors 26 river sites across the District as part of its responsibilities under the Resource Management Act.³² In 2011, the Onekaka River at Shambala Road recorded some of the highest densities and diversities of native fish in New Zealand, with 12 species found within a 300-metre section of the river.³³

While the condition of many rivers and streams in the District has improved over recent decades, they continue to be affected by contaminants from a range of sources, including agricultural runoff and leaching, stormwater, industrial discharges and, to a lesser extent, ongoing residential development.



Monitoring indicates issues are localised, particularly in small streams draining intensively used land which typically have higher levels of disease-causing organisms, greater fine sediment deposition, and reduced water clarity compared with streams in forested catchments.³⁴ Nitrogen concentrations remain low in most waterways, although spring-fed streams on the Waimea, and Tākaka Plains show elevated nitrate levels.³⁵ Managing nitrogen, fine sediments, and other agricultural contaminants is expected to remain a significant focus over the next decade.

Freshwater fish are an important part of the District's natural heritage. Tasman supports 20 indigenous freshwater fish species, and more than half (11) are currently classified as 'in decline'. Surveys consistently show that sensitive species are far more abundant in undisturbed streams, and many of these species rely on wetland fed lowland habitats, although approximately 90% of lowland wetlands in the District have been drained. Of the indigenous species, 15 migrate between freshwater and the sea, but structures such as overhanging culverts, tidal flap gates and dams can impede fish passage.³⁶

The Council's statutory functions include monitoring and managing the life-supporting capacity and natural character of waterways, processing consents, and undertaking rehabilitation initiatives such as riparian planting and removing fish barriers. While these actions are contributing to improvements in some areas, further work is required to address ongoing pressures and support long-term recovery.

Tasman has more rivers and streams than roads. With more than 9,000km of waterways, if you tried to walk a different Tasman stream every day, you'd be busy for decades.



The District is home to an ancient aquatic vampire species. Lamprey have no jaws, so they attach to other fish and drink their blood.³⁷

See page 27 for references



Up to 10,000 shorebirds feed or roost on the Motueka sandspit in summer.³⁸



Coastal birds travel a long way to get here. Tasman’s estuaries support internationally significant numbers of migratory shorebirds.

ESTUARIES AND COASTS

The Tasman region is home to the second and third largest tidal lagoon estuaries in the South Island (Waimea and Whanganui Inlets). They are valued for recreation, including kayaking, water-skiing, swimming, walking, horse-riding, birdwatching, as well as harvesting of cockles and fish. Several estuaries in Tasman are considered nationally important for coastal birds; particularly Farewell Spit, Motueka River Delta and Sandspit and Waimea estuary.³⁹

A 2021 coastal bird survey recorded:



The coastline supports up to 27% of the global breeding population of variable oystercatchers, alongside several regionally declining species such as spotted shags, reef herons, banded dotterels and white fronted terns. Numerous sites, including shellbanks at Ruataniwha Inlet, Rototai and Bell Island, as well as Motueka Sandspit, were identified as supporting internationally, nationally or regionally significant concentrations of coastal birds.⁴⁰



Tasman’s estuaries and coastlines contain a diverse range of habitats with high biological, ecological, and economic value, and its extensive estuarine systems are central to the region’s environmental health and local industries. A State of the Environment Report vulnerability assessment identifies several key pressures on these environments, including excessive muddiness, vehicles damaging habitats, and, to a lesser extent, nutrient enrichment in estuaries and embayments; elevated disease risk following heavy rainfall; and habitat loss associated with sea level rise and climate driven changes in sea temperature and acidity. Coastal areas are also affected by duneland loss from overstabilisation, historical saltmarsh reclamation, loss of natural vegetated margins, and habitat decline linked to shoreline armouring.

Coastal sand dunes in Tasman are generally assessed to be in good functional condition, providing natural protection to coastal margins and supporting specialised habitats. However, monitoring shows that by 2012 approximately 30% of active duneland in Tasman and Golden Bay has been lost to overstabilisation since 1940. This loss is linked to exotic forestry, the introduction of exotic sand binding species, pastoral and residential development, roading, and seawall construction, with notable impacts at Rabbit Island, Motueka, Jackett Island, and several Golden Bay spit and beach margins.

Coastal modification is substantial, with hard armouring along 28% of Tasman Bay and 12% of Golden Bay, including major concentrations at Ruby Bay (55%) and Moutere Inlet (43%).

Estuaries in Tasman and Golden Bay are broad, shallow systems with extensive intertidal flats. Fine grained sediment deposition is a significant issue, reducing habitat quality and affecting eelgrass and shellfish beds. Saltmarsh loss has been substantial, with about 30% lost in the Tasman and Golden Bay estuaries since 1900, and several estuaries have experienced major declines in seagrass cover.

Tasman is home to two of the largest tidal lagoon estuaries in the South Island. The Waimea and Motueka estuaries are among the biggest of their kind, changing dramatically with each tide.



Mud matters in estuaries. Even small increases in fine sediment can affect habitats like seagrass and shellfish beds, showing how land and sea are closely connected.



See page 27 for references

BIODIVERSITY

Tasman supports a wide range of indigenous flora and fauna across marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments, including species found nowhere else in New Zealand. Council's Tasman Biodiversity Strategy (2022) recognises that indigenous biodiversity is in crisis, with accelerating loss without coordinated action and partnership.⁴¹ The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity provides national direction to councils to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity requiring at least no further reduction nationally.⁴²

The District contains New Zealand's most extensive and diverse limestone and marble (karst) landscapes, supporting highly localised species and cave fauna and underpinning high regional ecological diversity.⁴³

While much of the uplands remain relatively intact, reflecting extensive indigenous forest and alpine environments within the public conservation estate, many lowland ecosystems are not. It is estimated that 95% of wetlands on private land have been lost.⁴⁴ Indigenous lowland forest persists but in much reduced area and much impoverished condition.

Native biodiversity remains vulnerable to a suite of predators and browsers that have been introduced to New Zealand.⁴⁵

Several taonga species are nationally threatened, including long-tailed bats (Threatened – Nationally Critical), reef heron (Nationally Endangered), and multiple coastal bird species classified as Vulnerable or At Risk.

The rock wren is New Zealand's only true alpine bird and occurs in areas such as Kahurangi National Park. It is adapted to harsh alpine conditions, including entering periods of winter torpor (semi hibernation). Monitoring shows rock wren numbers are generally increasing where predators are controlled, with more than twice as many birds recorded in managed areas compared with unmanaged sites.⁴⁶

Whio are a threatened native duck found in fast flowing rivers in Kahurangi National Park. DOC has identified that funding constraints have required prioritisation of predator control, with reduced effort in some areas. In the Wangapeka catchment, where predator control was scaled back, whio counts declined by around 38%, highlighting the species' dependence on sustained predator management.⁴⁷

Several taonga species in Tasman are nationally threatened, including long tailed bats (nationally critical), reef heron (nationally endangered), and multiple coastal bird species.

The stronghold for Powelliphanta giant land snails is in northwest Nelson and north Westland, where cool, wet montane beech forests and sub alpine environments support a greater diversity of species and subspecies than anywhere else in New Zealand.⁴⁸ They are unfortunately one of New Zealand's most threatened invertebrates and are in danger of extinction. Despite this the threat status of two types of Powelliphanta in western Golden Bay has improved from Nationally Endangered to Nationally Vulnerable, their numbers are higher following the initiation of possum and rat control programmes.⁴⁹

Overall, Tasman's biodiversity values remain high, but habitat loss pressures persist in lowland and coastal areas, there are improvements for indigenous biodiversity where pest control operations have been carried out, but areas with reduced pest control operations are seeing some indigenous biodiversity in decline.



An estimated 95% of wetlands on private land in Tasman have been lost, and remaining lowland forests are now highly fragmented and degraded.



See page 27 for references



CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change poses a range of physical risks to the District, driven by local exposure to changing weather patterns, sea-level rise, and associated environmental impacts.

The industry in Tasman with the highest greenhouse gas emissions in 2024 was agriculture, forestry, and fishing. This industry also recorded the greatest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2019 and 2024. Electricity, gas, water, and wastewater services experienced the greatest increase in greenhouse gas emissions over the same period.⁵⁰

Climate projections for the Tasman District describe how climate conditions may change over time under different scenarios. Scenarios used in the projections range from a 'Sustainability' scenario, in which global warming remains below 2°C and net zero carbon dioxide emissions are reached by 2050, to a 'Regional rivalry' scenario, where there is no additional climate policy and global carbon dioxide emissions approximately double from current levels by 2100, resulting in warming of around 3.6°C. Higher emission scenarios exist but have been projected.⁵¹

For the Tasman District all scenarios show average daily air temperature increasing over time, an increase in the number of hot days exceeding 25°C, and a reduction in the number of frost days below 0°C across future projections.

Total rainfall varies by season, the greatest seasonal change projected is spring. Total annual rainfall has a high variability, however, the total mean projected rainfall in projected scenarios generally show lower total rainfall.

The number of very rainy days (greater than 25 mm) and the number of dry days (less than 1 mm) both change over time, however, the change is not consistent between different scenarios and timeframes. The number of windy days, with wind speeds exceeding 10 metres per second, also changes across future periods.

Climate change is affecting the Tasman District fires, floods, and storm surges have resulted in evacuations of residents in recent years, and key transport networks have been disrupted by weather events. Periods of water scarcity have also been experienced, including during the 2019 drought.

Sea level is rising around the District and is affecting the present coastline and coastal communities. Measured sea levels at Port Nelson have risen by approximately 150 millimetres since the early 1940s. Recent studies show that large parts of the District's coast are subsiding due to vertical land movement, contributing to higher relative sea level rise at locations such as Port Nelson, Little Kaiteriteri, and Tarakohe.⁵²

Primary industries, including agriculture and horticulture, may need to adapt to changing climate conditions to remain productive. Collectively, these changes have environmental, social, economic, and cultural implications for the Tasman District.

In 2019/2020, Tasman emitted 763,389 gross tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e)⁵³, which is 1% of New Zealand's total emitted.



TEMPERATURE

- By 2031–2035, District-wide average daily temperature increase of 0.5–0.7°C (averaged for 2021–2040)
- By 2050, an average of 13.2–19.2 more hot days (over 25°C) per year (An increase of 6.2–12.3 days per year (averaged for 2041–2060))
- By 2090–2100, District-wide average daily temperature increase of 0.8–3.8°C
- Decrease in the number of days frosts occur where temperatures drop below 0°C

RAINFALL

- Rainfall will vary locally across the District
- Average annual rainfall projected to decrease by 0.7 to 3.4 per cent by 2031–2035 (averaged for 2021–2040)
- By 2050 a decrease in average annual rainfall across the District of 0.4 to 2.4 per cent (averaged for 2041–2060)
- Less rainfall in spring and autumn, more in winter
- By 2090–2100, more dry days (<1mm of rainfall) across the District, and more dry days in winter and spring (an average of -0.1 days to +6.3 days per year)

PLANNING FOR SEA LEVEL RISE

Scenario SSP5-8.5 'H+' (p83)

- Increased coastal erosion and flooding
- Subsidence (vertical land movement) adds to amounts of sea-level rise
- Up to 0.97m sea-level rise by 2090–2100
- Up to 0.32m sea-level rise by 2050
- Up to 0.19m sea-level rise by 2031–2035
- Sea-level rise of 1.67m must be planned for by 2130 for subdivision and intensification

All climate change projections specified in this graphic are with respect to the baseline period 1995–2014. Ranges represent outputs from several future climate scenarios that consider different future levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

See page 27 for references



AIR QUALITY

The most significant air pollutant in New Zealand are small airborne particles (known as particulate matter). Exposure to high levels of airborne particle pollutants has the potential to cause respiratory and cardiovascular issues.

Air quality in Tasman is generally good and there is an improving 10 year trend. However, during still, cold winter days smoke pollution from solid fuel burning can cause particle concentrations to exceed the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES AQ). Calm, clear winter conditions can limit atmospheric dispersion, causing smoke to accumulate close to the ground and increase exposure for residents. Richmond is particularly prone to reduced air quality during winter due to local weather characteristics, including low wind speeds and frequent calm conditions.⁵⁴

Other sources of particulates include industrial processes such as boilers, motor vehicles, rural burnoffs and from natural sources such as airborne sea salt and dust particles. The particulates from this smoke (and from sea salt, dust and cars) include tiny particles that can get deep into our lungs and cause health issues for some people.

In winter, Tasman's air doesn't move much, and neither does the smoke. Cold, calm winter days can trap smoke close to the ground, turning still evenings into less than fresh ones.

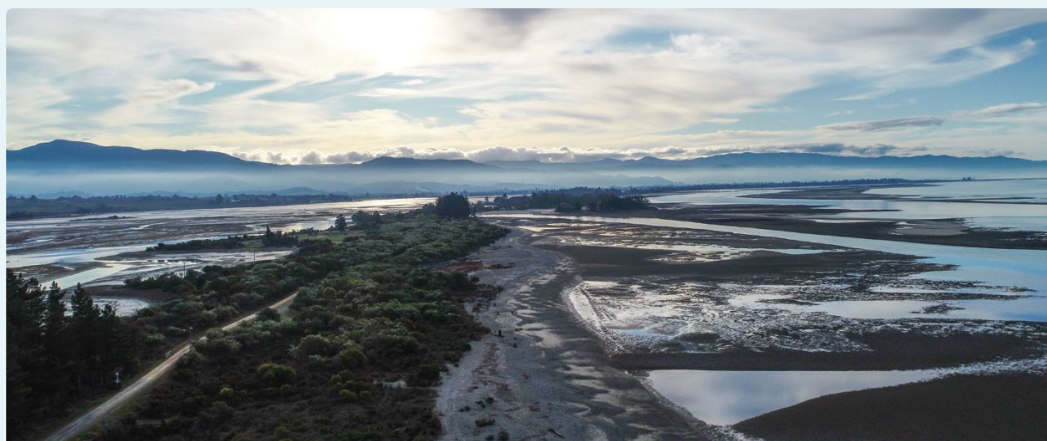


Most winter smoke isn't coming from far away. Domestic wood burners used for home heating are the main source of winter air quality issues.



Tasman District Council undertakes continuous monitoring of particulate matter in the Richmond Airshed. Since 2019, targeted winter monitoring has also been undertaken in Motueka, Riwaka and Brooklyn to better understand localised air quality issues. A 2022 report found that air quality in Riwaka and Brooklyn was good or excellent between 89% and 99% of the time. Monitoring indicates that PM₁₀ concentrations in Motueka are unlikely to exceed the current Air Quality NES, and the area does not warrant designation as an airshed under the existing standards.⁵⁵

Discharges to air are currently managed through the Council's resource management planning framework, including specific provisions for the Richmond Airshed. As the national resource management system transitions to new legislation, the Council will be required to implement any new air quality standards through the replacement planning framework.



See page 27 for references



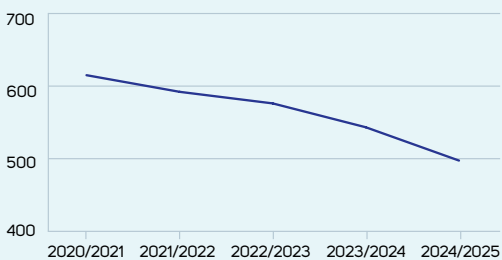
WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste disposal facilities in New Zealand are classified by site class, which reflects the type of waste they are permitted to accept. Class 1 facilities are municipal disposal sites that accept household waste as well as commercial, industrial, institutional, and green waste. Class 2 facilities accept waste associated with construction and demolition activities, while Class 3 and 4 managed or controlled fill sites are limited to inert materials from earthworks, construction, or remediation. Class 5 clean fills accept only virgin excavated natural material such as clean soil, clay, or rock. In addition, industrial monofills receive waste from a single industrial process, and transfer stations act as collection points where waste is consolidated before being transported to final disposal or processing facilities, rather than providing long term disposal.⁵⁶

The Tasman District has 22 registered waste facilities, comprising 17 operational sites and 5 that are closed. These facilities include five transfer stations, eight Class 5 clean fills, and five Class 3 and 4 managed or controlled fill sites. The District has no Class 1 (municipal) or Class 2 (construction and demolition) landfills, and no industrial monofills.

Since 2017, an average of around 77,000 tonnes of mixed waste has been disposed of each year at the region's York Valley Landfill in Whakatū Nelson, which serves both Tasman District and Nelson City. In 2024/2025, 497 kg of municipal waste per person was sent to landfill in Tasman. In addition to municipal waste, similar volumes of soil and other inert materials are disposed of annually at other facilities throughout the region.⁵⁷

Municipal waste to landfill (kg per person)



In 2024/2025, illegal dumping in our parks, rivers, and road reserves increased by 58% on the previous year.⁵⁸



At the same time, Nelson and Tasman councils estimate that tens of thousands of tonnes of material are recovered each year for composting or recycling, with further unquantified volumes of products and materials being shared, reused, or repaired within the community. The 2024 Nelson Tasman Waste Assessment provides a comprehensive overview of the region's waste minimisation and management infrastructure and evaluates options to address current issues, opportunities, and future demand pressures.⁵⁹

To reduce and safely manage waste, Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council jointly adopted a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in 2025.

The plan sets three targets to achieve by 2035:

Reduce waste disposal to landfill by **30% per person**



Reduce waste generation by **10% per person**

Reduce biogenic methane emissions from landfill by **more than 85%**



The municipal waste disposal rate (measured in kilograms per person) has already reduced by approximately 10 per cent since 2017/18, although disposal volumes fluctuate from year to year. Overall, current trends indicate that the councils are well positioned to meet the target of a 10 per cent reduction in municipal waste to landfill per person by 2030, as set out in the 2019 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

Waste trends don't move in a straight line. Disposal volumes fluctuate year to year, influenced by population growth, construction activity, and consumer habits.



75,162 tonnes of material from Nelson Tasman was sent to landfill in 2024/2025.⁶⁰



See page 27 for references

NATURAL HAZARDS

The Tasman District is exposed to a range of coastal and land-based natural hazards, including flooding, coastal erosion and inundation, earthquakes, liquefaction, landslides, drought, and wildfire. These hazards can affect the natural environment, the built environment, and community wellbeing. While natural hazards cannot be avoided, their impacts can be managed through informed planning, risk reduction, and preparedness measures that support the District's ability to withstand and recover from events.⁶¹

Tasman District Council responds to natural hazards through a range of regulatory, monitoring, and operational activities. These include managing land and resource use through planning controls such as zoning and land use rules. Council also undertakes hazard prevention and harm reduction activities, including flood monitoring and warning systems, flood protection schemes, and requirements for raised ground or floor levels in flood prone areas, and avoids new development in locations subject to known hazards where practicable. Council also plays a role in emergency response and recovery, working alongside partner agencies during hazard events.

Council seeks to ensure that residents, landowners, and communities are aware of the natural hazards that may affect them. Ongoing work focuses on improving the understanding of local hazard risks and making this information accessible to support informed decision-making. This approach enables communities and stakeholders to better understand the extent of natural hazard exposure across the District and to prepare for potential impacts.



Not all natural hazards occur suddenly. Processes such as coastal erosion and land subsidence develop gradually over time, but can still result in significant impacts if unmanaged.



As part of this work, Council initiated Plan Change 85 in 2024, which sought to improve transparency, consistency, and certainty in how natural hazards are addressed. As a result of resource management reform, this plan change has been stopped, with the work completed to date intended to inform a future plan prepared under new legislation.

The introduction of a new National Policy Statement on Natural Hazards (NPS-NH) in early 2026 requires local authorities and decision makers to assess and manage natural hazard risk in a consistent, risk based, and proportionate manner. Decision makers must have regard to the NPS NH, which requires natural hazard risk for new development to be assessed using a standardised method.⁶²

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

According to Wellbeing statistics from the 2023 General Social Survey for the Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough, and West Coast regions:⁶³



52% of households reported they had enough water for three days (New Zealand average was 47%)



94% of households had enough food for three days (New Zealand average was 83%)



47% of households had an emergency plan (New Zealand average was 35%)

See page 27 for references



REFERENCES

1. Population estimates sourced from Stats NZ Subnational population estimates (TALB, SA3, SA2), by age and sex, at 30 June 1996-2025 (2025 boundaries).
2. Totals by topic for individuals, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023 Censuses
3. Stats NZ Subnational population estimates (TALB, SA3, SA2), by age and sex, at 30 June 1996-2025 (2025 boundaries)
4. Subnational population estimates (RC, SA2), by age and sex, at 30 June 1996-2025 (2025 boundaries)
5. Subnational population projections, by age and sex, 2023(base)-2053
6. Stats NZ 2023 Census
7. Infoshare – Statistics New Zealand
8. Totals by topic for individuals, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023 Censuses
9. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Age composition
10. Subnational population projections, by age and sex, 2023(base)-2053
11. Totals by topic for individuals, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023 Censuses
12. Totals by topic for individuals, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023 Censuses
13. Totals by topic for individuals, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023 Censuses
14. Subnational ethnic population projections, by age and sex, 2018(base)-2043 update
15. Totals by topic for individuals, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023
16. Wellbeing statistics: 2023 (updated) | Stats NZ
17. Tasman Region, Place and ethnic group summaries | Stats
18. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | House values
19. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Housing Affordability
20. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Average rents
21. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Rent Affordability
22. Infometrics
23. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Housing Affordability
24. Nelson Tasman Regional Economic Briefing March 2026
25. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Economic growth
26. NRDA – Economic insights & reports
27. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Unemployment
28. Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Industry focus for employment
29. Tasman Region, Place and ethnic group summaries | Stats NZ
30. Stats NZ 2023 Census
31. Nelson Tasman 2026 Briefing for Ministers – Nelson Regional Development Agency
32. Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) – River Quality
33. Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) – Onekaka at Shambala Br
34. Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) – River Quality
35. Waimea nitrate overview | Tasman District Council
36. Freshwater fish | Tasman District Council
37. NIWA Client report – Lamprey pheromones in the Tasman Region, 2019-2020
38. Motueka Sandspit: Motueka area, Nelson/Tasman region
39. Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) – Estuaries
40. A baseline survey of the indigenous bird values of the Tasman District coastline: Coastal / marine biodiversity | Tasman District Council
41. Tasman Biodiversity Strategy | Tasman District Council
42. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity | Ministry for the Environment
43. Tasman Biodiversity Strategy | Tasman District Council
44. Wetlands | Tasman District Council
45. About New Zealand’s biodiversity strategy – DOC
46. National Predator Control Programme Annual Report 2024 – DOC
47. National Predator Control Programme Annual Report 2024 – DOC
48. Recovery plans for Powelliphanta land snails, 2003-2013
49. National Predator Control Programme Annual Report 2024 – DOC
50. Regional Economic Profile | Nelson-Tasman | Greenhouse gas emissions – industry emissions
51. Understanding climate variables and scenarios used in the projections | Ministry for the Environment
52. How is climate change affecting Tasman District? | Tasman District Council
53. Greenhouse gas emissions | Tasman District Council – Tasman region’s community GHG emissions 2019/2020
54. Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) – Air Quality
55. Motueka, Riwaka and Brooklyn air quality study | Tasman District Council
56. Waste facilities and disposal | Ministry for the Environment
57. Nelson-Tasman Waste Management and Minimisation Plan | Tasman District Council
58. Annual reports | Tasman District Council
59. Nelson-Tasman Waste Management and Minimisation Plan | Tasman District Council
60. Annual reports | Tasman District Council
61. What are our natural hazards | Tasman District Council
62. Updating National Direction: New National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards | Ministry for the Environment
63. Wellbeing statistics: 2023 (updated) | Stats NZ

3.2 GAMBLING VENUES POLICY REVIEW 2026

Report To:	Workshop
Meeting Date:	30 April 2026
Report Author:	Emily Garland, Graduate Community Policy Advisor
Report Authorisers:	Sue McLean, Kaiwhakahaere ā Rōpū – Te Pae Rautaki Ahumoni Group Manager - Strategy & Finance
Report Number:	RCW26-04-10

1. Workshop

Workshop Organiser: Emily Garland

Workshop Topic: Gambling Venues Policy Review 2026














Workshop Objective:

- Discuss scope of Gambling Venues Policy review
- Share research and early engagement
- Discuss policy options and requirements
- Receive direction on the Draft Gambling Venues Policy

2. Workshop Material

Workshop material is attached.

3. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1.  	Gambling Venues Policy Review - Pre-Workshop Material	40
2.  	Gambling Venue Policy 2019 - Current Policy	60
3.  	NZCT - Early Feedback	67
4.  	NZCT - Grants to Tasman District - Additional Information	74
5.  	Hospitality NZ - Early Feedback	80
6.  	Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand - Early Feedback	82
7.  	PGF Services - Early Feedback	90
8.  	Asian Family Services - Early Feedback	95

Gambling Venues Policy Review

Supporting Information

What is a Gambling Venues Policy?

- Local councils are required to adopt a Class 4 and TAB venues policy under the Gambling Act 2003 and Racing Industry Act 2020. We call this a ‘Gambling Venues Policy’.
- This regulates the establishment, location, and number of gambling venues in the district. It covers Class 4 gaming machine venues (pokies in pubs and clubs) and TAB venues.
- The policy helps manage the social and community impacts of gambling, including harm to individuals, families, and communities, while allowing those who wish to gamble to do so.

What must a Gambling Venues Policy include?

Class 4 venue policy	TAB venue policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether or not class 4 venues may be established in the territorial authority district and, if so, where. • may specify any restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at a class 4 venue. • may have regard to any relevant matters (characteristics of the district and the location of education centres, places of worship, and other venues in the district) • may include a relocation policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have regard to the social impact of gambling within the district; • specify whether or not new TAB venues may be established, and if so, where. • may have regard to any relevant matters (characteristics of the district and the location of education centres, places of worship, and other venues in the district).

The policy cannot:

- a) control opening hours of TAB or pokie venues
- b) close down an existing gambling venue
- c) be involved in decisions about what happens to the money pokie venues make from gambling, such as who receives grants from gaming machine societies

d) regulate casinos, internet gambling or Lotto outlets.

Online and offshore gambling

- Online and offshore gambling is a developing situation.
- Under the Gambling Act (2003) the only operators permitted to offer online gambling within New Zealand are the TAB and Lotto NZ.
- It is legal for New Zealanders to gamble on offshore websites, but the sites may not be regulated and may have no harm minimisation mechanisms.
- Unlike domestic gambling, there is little to no return to New Zealand communities.
- Central government is introducing new legislation to regulate online casino gambling and create a safe, fair, and well-controlled environment.

Local councils currently have no regulatory role or decision-making powers over online gambling platforms or offshore operators.

Why are we reviewing this policy now?

- We are required to review this policy every three years. Though we are reviewing the policy outside of the 3-year window, the policy is enduring, meaning that it stays effective while in review or in need of review.
- The policy was adopted under the Racing Act 2003, which has since been replaced by the Racing Industry Act 2020. The new Act requires the policy to prescribe where new TAB venues could be located in the district.
- The review also enables us to reconsider the social impacts of gambling, including harm in our communities, as required by the *Gambling Act 2003* and *Racing Industry Act 2020*.
- Under the two Acts, to amend or replace the policy we must consult on these changes with a **special consultative procedure**.

Setting the Scene

Tasman's Class 4 venues and machines

As of December 2025, Tasman had nine Class 4 gaming venues and 129 electronic gaming machines (EGMs, “pokies”).¹

¹ [Gaming Machine Profits \(GMP\) Dashboard - Dataset - data.govt.nz - discover and use data](#)

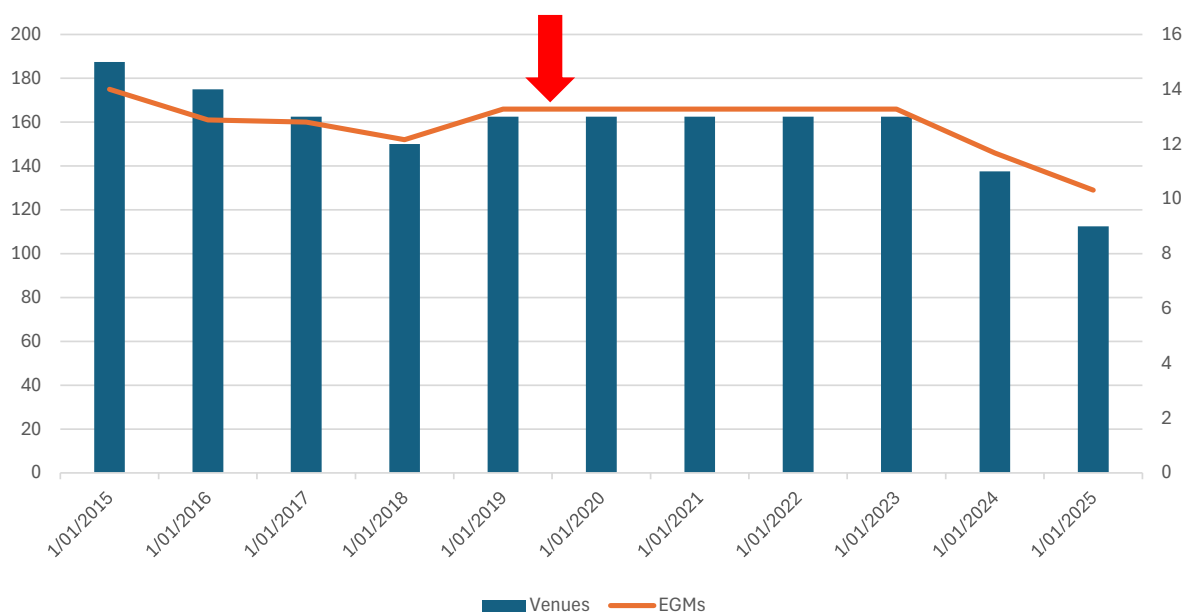
Under the Gambling Act 2003, venues licensed as at 17 October 2001 may operate up to 18 EGMs, while venues licensed after that date are limited to a maximum of nine machines. Venues operating below these statutory limits may apply for council consent to increase the number of machines. However, under a sinking-lid policy, the Council will not grant consent for any additional machines.

The venues do not own the machines; they are owned by the corporate societies or pokie trusts. The societies operate their EGMs out of venues and must distribute their net proceeds to authorised purposes (a charitable or non-commercial purpose).

Tasman District's Venues and Machines (December 2025)			
Venue	Location	Corporate Society	Number of Machines
Armadillos Bar Restaurant & Functions Centre	Richmond	Pub Charity Limited	18
Club Waimea	Richmond	Club Waimea Incorporated	18
Collingwood Tavern	Collingwood	Pub Charity Limited	4
Hotel Motueka	Motueka	New Zealand Community Trust	18
Post Office Hotel Motueka	Motueka	Pub Charity Limited	18
Star and Garter Tavern	Richmond	Pub Charity Limited	18
Telegraph Hotel	Tākaka	The Lion Foundation 2008	10
The Stables	Richmond	The Lion Foundation 2008	17
Wakefield Hotel	Wakefield	Pub Charity Limited	8

Tasman does not currently have any stand-alone TAB venues but there are several pubs and clubs that offer self-service TAB betting. This type of TAB betting is not covered under the policy.

Change in Venue and Machine Numbers 2015-2025



***Introduction of sinking-lid policy**

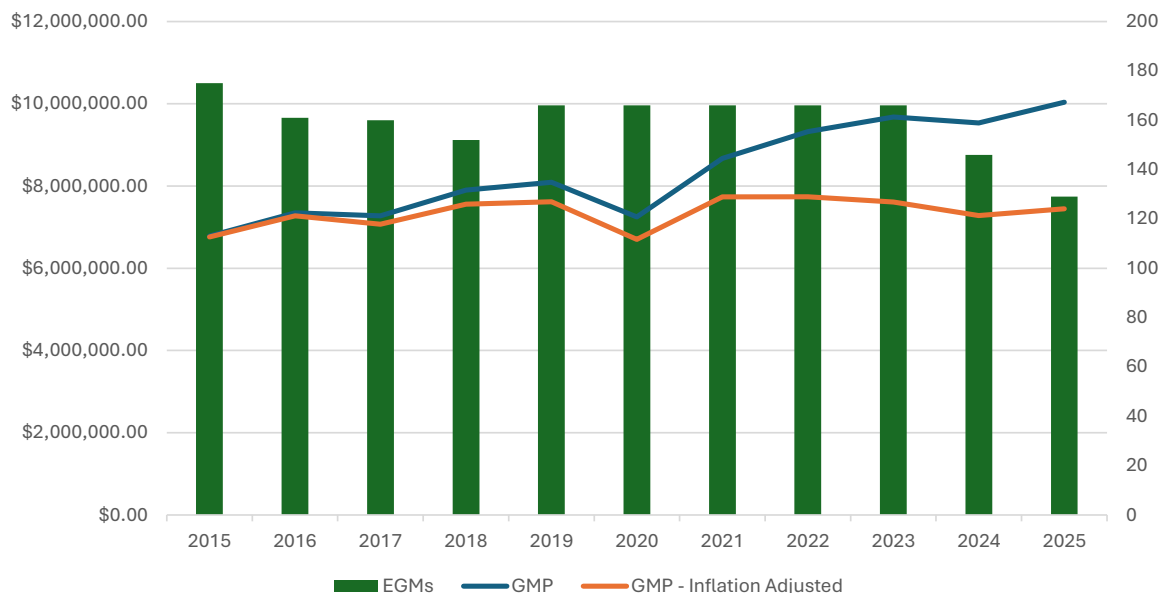
Gaming Machine Profits (GMP)²

- The money spent on EGMs is called gaming machine profit (GMP). It’s the amount wagered, less the amount paid back as prizes.
- GMP is the gross profit from pokies and does not include the returns to players in winnings, which is required by The New Zealand Gaming Machine National Standard to be between 78% and 92%.³

² [gambling statistics gmp dashboard - dia.govt.nz](http://gambling-statistics-gmp-dashboard-dia.govt.nz)

³ [How pokies work | safergambling.org.nz](http://How-pokies-work-safergambling.org.nz)

Gaming Machine Profits by Electronic Gaming Machine 2015-2025



- Venues collect GMP on behalf of corporate societies.
- GMP for 2025 was \$10.04 million. This is an increase of 24% on GMP for 2019. When adjusted for inflation, it is a decrease of 2%.
- While Tasman's machine and venue numbers have decreased, GMP has remained stable.

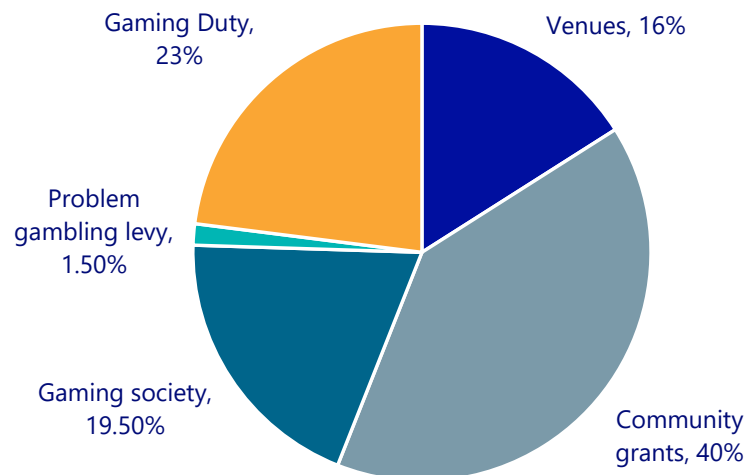
Comparisons with other Councils

- Tasman has relatively low gambling machines per capita compared to other Councils.
- Per machine – of the 65 TAs that have Class 4 machines, Tasman has the 14th highest GMP per machine.
- Per capita – Tasman has the 44th highest GMP per capita.
- Tasman's machines are used comparatively highly, while fewer people in the district likely gamble.

How are gambling profits distributed?

- The Gambling Act 2003 sets out how GMP is distributed. The proportions are illustrated below.

Distribution of Gambling Profits

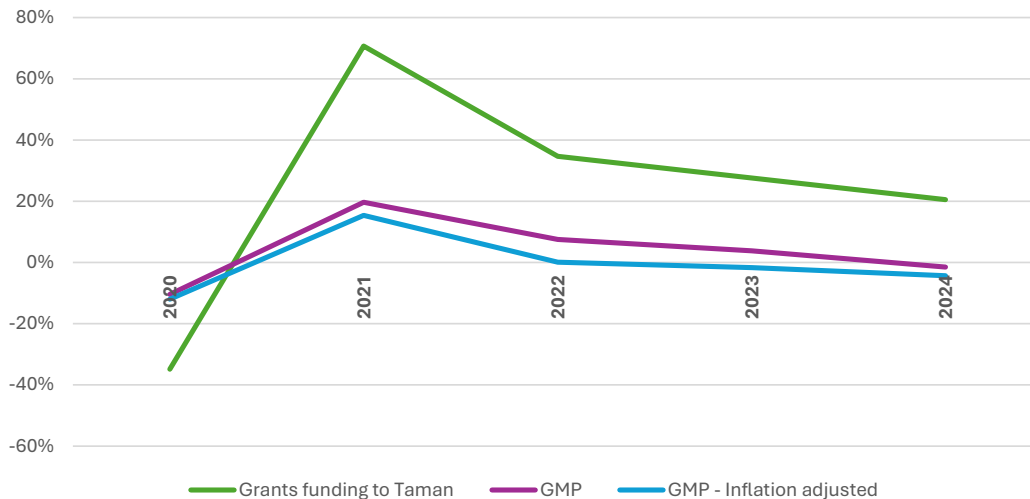


Community grants⁴

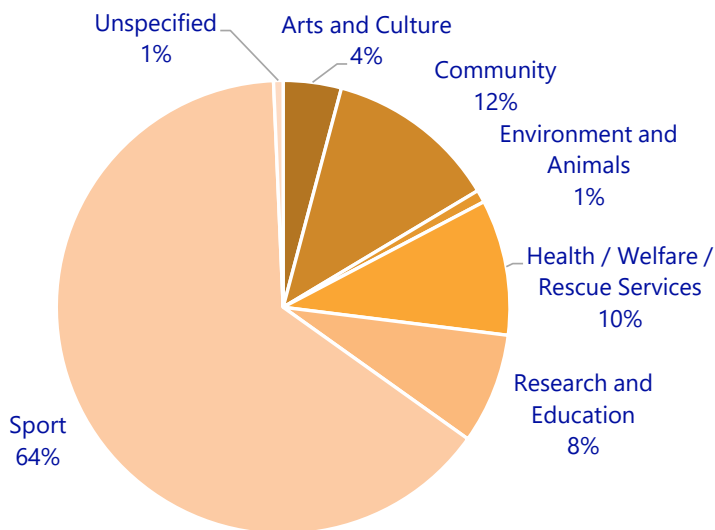
- At least 40% of net proceeds from gambling (GMP) must go back to the community.
- Grants are not legally required to stay local, but many societies aim to return funding to the communities where it is generated.
- In 2024, \$2.2 million was granted to Tasman organisations.
- Grants to Tasman more than doubled between 2019 and 2024 (\$959K in 2019 and \$2.2M in 2024).
- The graph below shows that while GMP has grown marginally over the last five years, grants funding from class 4 gambling has increased annually by double figures. Please note that growth in 2020 was negative due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

⁴ [Grants from Gaming Machine Profits - Dataset - data.govt.nz - discover and use data](#)

Annual Growth Comparisons: GMP vs. Grants Funding to Tasman



Tasman's 2024 Grants by Category

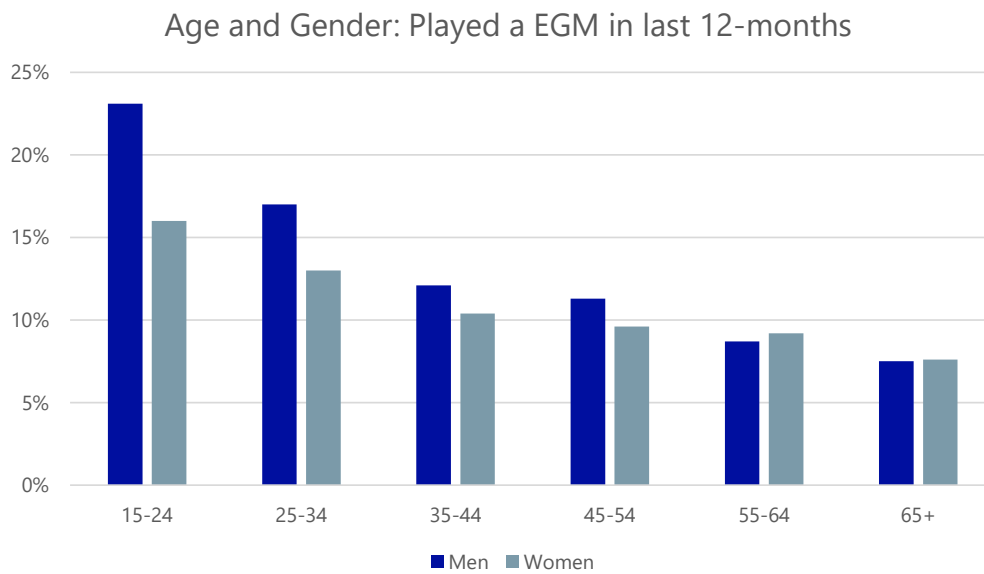


Rugby union received the highest amount of grants in Tasman, \$473K, followed by Golf with \$215K.

Harm Statistics

All information was sourced from the New Zealand Gambling Survey 2023/2024 – run by the Ministry of Health and Te Whatu Ora.⁵

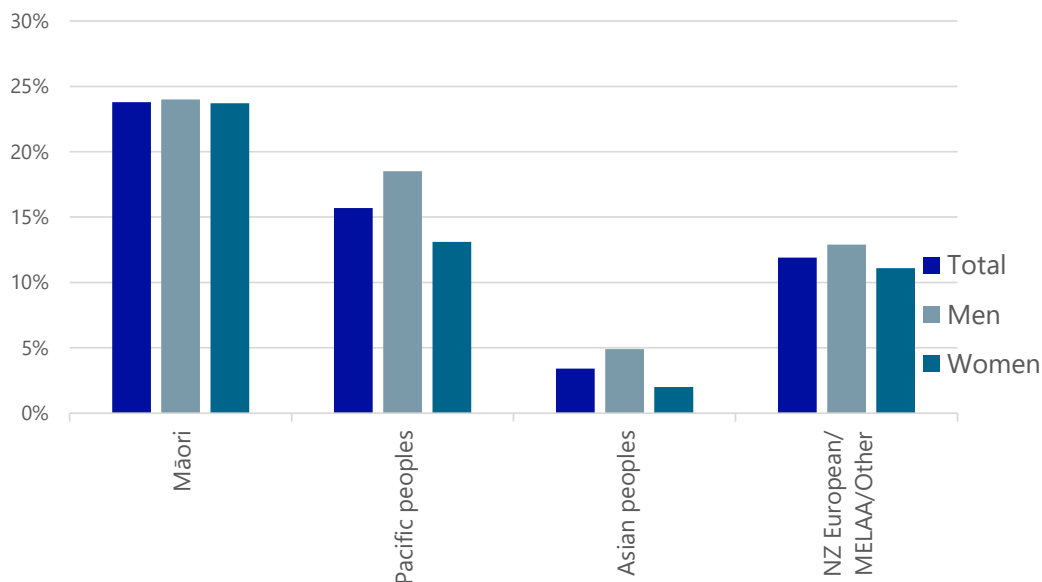
- 11.9% of New Zealand adults had played Electronic Gaming Machines in a pub or club (Class 4 venue) in the last 12 months.
- 12.1% of New Zealand adults had placed a TAB bet in the last 12 months.



There are significant impacts of gambling harm in New Zealand, particularly affecting populations such as Māori, Pacific, and Asian communities, as well as youth and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds whom all have higher rates of gambling prevalence.

⁵ [New Zealand Gambling Survey | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

Ethnicity and Gender: Played an EGM in last 12-months



- 55.4% of New Zealanders were concerned about the level of gambling in the community.
- 8.9% of New Zealanders experienced household-level harm.
- Females aged 15–24 experience the highest rate of household-level harm.
- Māori and Pacific peoples experience higher rates of household harm than the New Zealand average, 19.9% and 18.8% respectively.

Problem Gambling

- 3.6% bet more than they could really afford to lose.
- 2.4% were a moderate-risk or problem gambler.

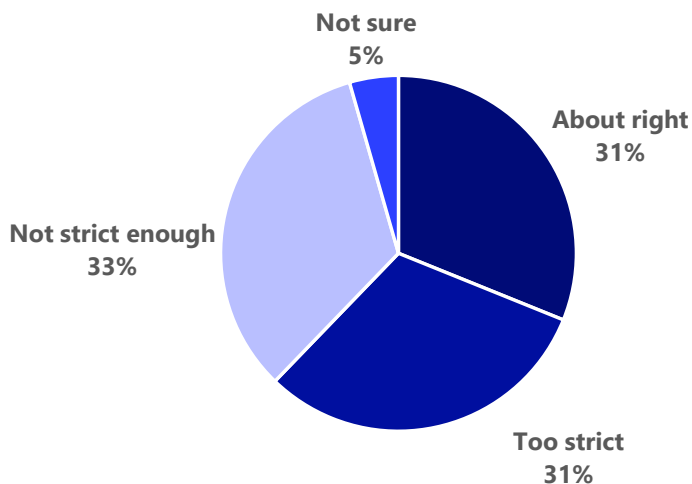
Wider New Zealand perceptions from the survey:

- 46.2% of survey respondents believed that raising money through gambling does more harm than good.
- 28.9% believed it does equal good and harm.
- 8.3% believed it does more good than harm.

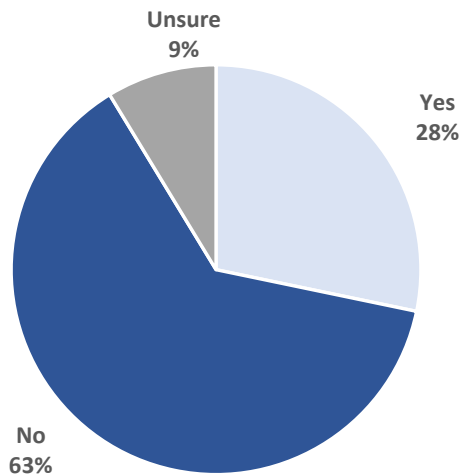
Early Engagement

There were 46 contributors to the survey. Of those respondents, 61% identified as being somewhat or very familiar with gambling venues and TAB venues in Tasman.

Do you think the current sinking-lid approach for gaming machines is...



Should the Council consider allowing additional TAB venues in Tasman?



Other themes from Shape Tasman

Gambling causes significant harm to individuals and communities.	Council should adopt a cap on machine numbers, rather than a sinking-lid approach.
Access to gambling should be minimised.	Council should allow relocation of venues under certain conditions.
TAB venues should not be located near sensitive sites	Reducing machine numbers would result in less funding for community groups.
Reducing venues may shift gambling to online platforms.	Reducing venues is anti-competitive and a barrier to economic growth.
The focus should be on venue-based harm minimisation, rather than council regulation.	TAB venues should not be subject to location restrictions.

What is most important when considering where TAB venues could be located? Ranked from most to least;

1. Socioeconomic level of the location
2. Proximity to kindergartens, early childhood centres, and schools
3. Closeness to residential zones
4. Proximity to places of worship, marae, and community facilities
5. Closeness to other gambling establishments in the district

Key Stakeholders Summaries

Full feedback can be found in Appendix 1 or attached to the Workshop Report.

Gambling venue (Stables Richmond and Hotel Motueka) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views the sinking-lid policy as a “strong and effective” tool for ensuring our community is not flooded with Class 4 gaming. • Losing machines results in less community funding and overloaded venues (queues or not taking breaks). • Suggests a minimum number of machines to stop the issues caused 	NZCT – Gaming Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinking-lid policies have not reduced gambling harm, despite significant reductions in machine numbers. • New Zealand’s problem gambling rate is low by international standards. • Prohibition is seen as an ineffective harm-minimisation approach with unintended consequences. • The Class 4 sector provides a major share of funding for problem
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<p>by not having enough machines and keeps community funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like the Council to "adopt an industry-supported solution that keeps both harm-minimisation and community funding at the forefront." <p>Full feedback can be found in Appendix 1.</p>	<p>gambling services and community grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pokie venues operate under strict harm-minimisation requirements. • A cap and relocation policy is a balanced approach that supports harm minimisation, venue viability, and community funding.
<p>Hospitality NZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers the current policy framework effective and does not believe further restrictions would meaningfully reduce gambling harm. • Notes tighter class 4 venue rules took effect on 1 December 2023 and argues regulated venues are staffed, monitored environments where responsible gambling and early intervention can occur. • Emphasises gaming machines in regulated venues generate significant community funding through Gaming Trust distributions, and reductions would directly reduce this support. • Warns restrictions can shift gambling to offshore/online platforms with fewer protections and no NZ community or levy contribution and instead recommends a relocation pathway for existing licence holders in limited circumstances (e.g., unfit premises or moving to lower deprivation areas). 	<p>Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is asked to make an evidence-based Gambling Venue Policy decision. • A relocation provision is supported as a harm-minimisation tool, enabling venues to move away from high-deprivation or residential areas. • The sinking-lid is opposed, with a cap of 129 machines preferred, noting machine numbers have already declined from 180 (2015) to 129 (June 2025). • Community funding benefits are highlighted, including \$1.07 million in grants to Tasman organisations in 2024, plus additional support from club venues. • Further machine reductions are considered unlikely to reduce harm and may shift gambling to offshore online platforms, which are less regulated and generate little or no community funding.
<p>Problem Gambling Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 4 gambling as the most harmful form of gambling in New Zealand as they are highly addictive and designed to encourage continuous gambling. 	<p>Asian Family Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian people gamble less frequently overall than the general population, but when they do, they experience disproportionately higher levels of gambling harm.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in five people in New Zealand will experience harm in their lifetime due to their own or someone else’s gambling, impacting multiple domains of health and wellbeing, including physical, social, emotional, and mental health. • Only 16% of those with moderate to high gambling harm indicators seek help. • Gambling harm disproportionately impacts Māori and Pacific peoples. • Sinking lid policies are one of the most effective policies at reducing pokie spending, helping reduce problem gambling expenditure by 13%. • Acknowledges and supports Tasman’s sinking-lid policy as a clear commitment to reducing pokie-related harm over time. • Wants decision makers to consider where the money for community grants is coming from, rather than where its going. • Does not want venue relocations as they undermine the intent of the policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm is often driven by social isolation and settlement stress, language barriers and low awareness of support services, cultural stigma around seeking help. • AFS strongly supports maintaining all sinking-lid provisions. • States gaps in the current policy are that new TAB venues are allowed to be established and there is no location criteria for TAB venues, which is now required under the Racing Industry Act 2020. • Policy needs clear TAB location rules (including minimum distance from schools and places of worship and prohibition from residential areas). • Include requirements for TAB venues to have multilingual signage and materials.
<p>Te Whatu Ora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gambling is considered a significant public health issue, with impacts extending beyond individuals to whānau and communities. • Gambling harm often co-occurs with alcohol use, other drug use, and mental health challenges. • Harm is seen to disproportionately affect Māori, Pacific peoples, Asians, disabled people, and young people. • While EGM grants benefit communities, it is argued that the 	<p>Te Piki Oranga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Piki Oranga supports individuals experiencing gambling-related harm. • Individuals can self-exclude from venues; individuals who believe they may be experiencing gambling-related difficulties can formally exclude themselves from gambling venues. Many people seeking exclusion had been excluded previously. Exclusion orders can be issued for up to two years. • Pokies were introduced to New Zealand in 1987.

<p>social harms of gambling outweigh these benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the current sinking-lid policy and the prohibition of venue mergers and relocations. • Opposes stand-alone TAB venues given existing online betting access to TAB. • The policy should include clear host responsibility requirements, including staff training in responding to problem gambling. <p>Full feedback can be found in Appendix 1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue from online gambling does not return to local communities and harm-prevention tools are limited (for example, individuals cannot self-exclude, and online blocking tools are not consistently effective). • Increasing access to pokies is likely to result in increased harm. <p>Full feedback can be found in Appendix 1.</p>
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Policy options

Class 4 Venues Policy

	Option	Pros	Cons
1.	Status Quo: Sinking lid policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new venues - No new machines - No club mergers - No relocations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gradually reduces number of machines and/or venues over time. - Clear and simple to understand and administer. - Consistent policy position - Aligns with public health and harm-minimisation objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No flexibility for venue relocation. - May reduce the amount of funding to community grants.
2.	Sinking lid with relocation allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gradually reduces number of machines and/or venues over time. - Clear and simple to understand and administer. - Somewhat aligns with public health and harm-minimisation objectives. - Allows venues to move away from sensitive locations or for building improvement or lease conditions changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relocation may shift harm rather than reduce it. - Requires clear criteria and careful assessment. - Can be seen as weakening a sinking-lid approach. - May reduce the amount of funding available for community grants. - May lead to venues moving closer to sensitive locations (if no policy provisions restricting proximity to sensitive locations)

3.	Cap on venues and machine numbers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - based on current machine and venue numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevents future growth while allowing stability - Easier to monitor than case-by-case approaches. - Allows for relocation of venues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not align with public health and harm-minimisation objectives. - Can be seen as weakening a sinking-lid approach. - May be harder to administer.
4.	Allow new venues on a case-by-case basis. Considering; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location of venue (proximity to other venues, population size, deprivation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum flexibility for Council decision-making, - Allows consideration of local circumstances and impacts. - Can support economic or community use outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not align with public health and harm-minimisation objectives. - Higher administrative and decision-making burden. - Greater risk of inconsistency or challenge. - Potential for increased gambling harm if not tightly controlled

TAB Venues Policy

	Option	Pros	Cons
1.	Status Quo: case by case approach Allow new TAB venues and update the policy to determine where new venues can be located.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enables council control over where TABs can locate - Enables the Council to consider exposure near sensitive sites (e.g. schools, residential areas) - Balances access with harm-reduction objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not align with public health and harm-minimisation objectives. - Additional policy complexity and monitoring. - May increase overall access to gambling. - Could lead to inconsistent decision making
2.	Not allow any standalone venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limits access and potential gambling harm - Provides policy certainty and is easy to administer - Reflects Tasman's current situation (no stand-alone TAB venues) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limits commercial choice and competition - May push people online and or to overseas sites.
3.	Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides a controlled level of access - Limits growth while allowing some market flexibility - Easier to manage than case-by-case basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not align with public health and harm-minimisation objectives.

Appendix 1

Key stakeholders early feedback

Vincent Sibbald, Hotel Motueka (sent from The Stables Richmond email)

My comments and opinions are based around our region’s sinking-lid policy, which I believe is a strong and effective tool for ensuring our community is not flooded with Class 4 gaming (pokies). However, I feel we now need to draw a line in the sand regarding how low the number of machines should be allowed to fall.

I have over 30 years hospitality experience, this encompasses both the responsible supply of alcohol and also the class 4 gaming sector, as a hands on operator.

Hospitality venues are struggling nationwide, with our sector currently sitting in the highest bracket for liquidations across New Zealand. In our region we have already seen several venues either remove their machines or close their doors entirely. This has a two-fold downside:

1. Fewer venues means fewer access points for community funding, as Class 4 gaming generates vital support for local groups.
2. Remaining venues become overloaded, creating unintended harm-minimisation issues.

As the Council will be aware, the maximum number of machines per venue is 18. When a region loses machines, players migrate to the venues that still have them. This leads to situations where people queue or hesitate to take breaks, fearing they won’t get a machine again—behaviours that can increase gambling harm.

A clear example is when the RSA Motueka and Tapawera Hotel removed their gaming machines. Hotel Motueka experienced a significant spike in demand. Customers were reluctant to step away for a break, which created pressure for both staff and patrons. We introduced time limits during peak periods, which helped but created frustration among customers who felt they were being told how long they could play.

A more recent example is the Post Office Hotel’s 10-day closure, which again caused the same issues. While some argue that fewer machines equal less harm, I can confirm the opposite occurs: people simply sit longer, play longer, and increase their risk of harmful behaviour.

My proposed solution is that Council maintains the existing sinking-lid framework but introduces a minimum regional machine number that we do not drop below. Under this system, if a venue closes its gaming operation, its machines would return to a central pool and could be allocated to another suitable venue without machines. This would stabilise the number of machines in the region and prevent shortages that lead to unintended harm.

This small adjustment would also ensure the sustainability of community funding—funding that grows more essential each year as more organisations seek support. Let’s act before a shortfall emerges. Let’s be proactive and adopt an industry-supported solution that keeps both harm-minimisation and community funding at the forefront.

Cale McIvor-Seddon, Te Whatu Ora

Overview of gambling harm

Gambling is a significant public health issue in New Zealand, with impacts that extend beyond individual gamblers to whānau and communities.^[1] These harms include financial harm, relationship conflict, criminal activity, damage to health, reduced involvement in work or study, psychological distress, and cultural harm to individuals and whānau/families.^{[2], [3]} Each year, around 11 percent of New Zealanders are affected by gambling harm^[4], and evidence suggests one person's gambling can negatively impact at least five to ten others.^{[5], [6]} In 2023/24, 381,000 adults reported experiencing second-hand gambling harm.^[7] Gambling harm often co-occurs with higher rates of alcohol consumption and smoking, other drug use, and depression and anxiety, which can both result from and contribute to harmful gambling.^{[8], [9]}

Harmful gambling disproportionately affects Māori, Pacific peoples, Asians, disabled people, and youth.^[10] Higher rates of harm experienced by Māori are attributable to the ongoing impacts of colonisation and the resulting entrenchment of systemic socioeconomic disadvantages, including poverty and reduced access to education and employment.^[11] These factors and the high concentration of electronic gaming machines (EGMs) in deprived areas have normalised gambling as a response to inequities, thereby increasing the disproportionate gambling harms experienced by Māori.^[12]

EGMs are the most harmful form of gambling due to their design, which encourages continuous play.^[13] This harm is reflected in EGMs' large share of treatment need and gambling expenditure (37% totalling over \$1 billion in 2023), with over half of regular EGM users either experiencing or at risk of problem gambling.^{[14], [15], [16]} While some argue that EGM revenues benefit communities through grants, research argues that the harms caused by gambling outweigh these perceived benefits and that, by perpetuating a social problem, this process does not contribute meaningfully to society or its progress.^[17]

Response to opportunity to provide stakeholder feedback

We support Tasman District Council's current Gambling Venue Policy as a strong foundation for preventing and reducing gambling harm, particularly through section 3 measures like the sinking lid and prohibition of club mergers and relocations. Nonetheless, this policy could be further strengthened by adopting the following recommendations.

1) We recommend that Council remove clause 2.7 and prohibit the establishment of stand-alone TAB venues, thereby preserving the status quo, in which the Tasman district currently has none.

- The legislation requires Council to have a policy regarding stand-alone TAB venues. However, it does not require Council to permit or make provision for such

venues. Implementing this prohibition would demonstrate strong policy alignment with the sinking lid approach.

- Prohibiting stand-alone TAB venues would help further prevent the growth of gambling in the district. This is especially important given the increased additional risks posed by existing access to online gambling platforms. Allowing stand-alone TABs could further normalise gambling and intensify its visibility and harm in the community.
- The Racing Industry Amendment Act 2025 granted TAB NZ exclusive rights to operate online racing and sports betting. Through a 25-year strategic partnership with *Entain plc* and a \$1 billion investment over the first five years, TAB NZ has significantly enhanced its marketing reach and the visibility of gambling advertising. With this strengthened online presence, there is no justification for establishing stand-alone TAB venues and these could provide an additional point of access and exacerbate gambling-related harm.

2) If Council does not prohibit stand-alone TAB venues, we recommend restricting their location, prohibiting them in residential zones and requiring at least 100m separation from sensitive sites, such as educational and cultural facilities (including marae), places of worship, and community and health service centres.

- Prohibiting stand-alone TAB venues in residential zones is critical when considering that people who live closer to gambling venues are not only more likely to gamble but also more likely to experience problem gambling.^{[18], [19]}
- Research shows that proximity to TAB venues is more strongly associated with gambling frequency than proximity to EGM venues, reinforcing the need for strict location controls.^[20]

3) We recommend that the policy outlines host responsibility requirements. For example, that staff must undertake and complete training on dealing with problem gambling.

- While these requirements are mandated by the Department of Internal Affairs, including them in the policy strengthens its intent to minimise gambling harm and clearly demonstrates the Council's commitment to harm reduction and community wellbeing.
- 1. We also recommend that the policy states that the primary activity of any Class 4 venue must not be gambling. This ensures consistency with the Gambling Act 2003, and again, demonstrates Council's commitment to harm minimisation.**

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Brenda McQuillan, Te Piki Oranga

An hour-long meeting was held with Brenda McQuillan from Te Piki Oranga. Feedback was provided verbally rather than in writing. Key themes and discussion points included:

The role of Te Piki Oranga in supporting individuals experiencing gambling-related harm. The self-exclusion process under the Gambling Act 2003, where individuals who believe they may be experiencing gambling-related difficulties can formally exclude themselves from gambling venues. Brenda noted that, in her experience, many people seeking exclusion had been excluded previously. Exclusion orders can be issued for up to two years.

The history of gaming machines (“pokies”) in New Zealand, including that they were introduced in 1987.

Online gambling and its impacts in New Zealand, including concerns that revenue from online gambling does not return to local communities and that harm-prevention tools are limited (for example, individuals cannot self-exclude, and online blocking tools are not consistently effective).

Brenda’s position is that increasing access to pokies is likely to result in increased harm.



Tasman District
Council

Gambling Venues Policy

28 November 2019

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Council is required by the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Act 2003 to produce a policy that has regard to the social impact of gambling within the District. Since 2004 when Council produced its first policy on gambling, Tasman District Council has had a combined policy that covers both Class 4 venues (pursuant to section 101 of the Gambling Act 2003) and New Zealand Racing Board premises (pursuant to section 65D of the Racing Act 2003).

In establishing this policy, the Special Consultative Procedure under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and requirements of section 102 of the Gambling Act 2003 and section 65E of the Racing Act 2003 have been followed, with submissions being heard by the Environment and Planning Committee of Council on 6 November 2019.

At the meeting of 28 November 2019 the following motion was passed:

Moved Deputy Mayor Bryant/Cr Wensley

That the Strategy and Policy Committee

- 1) receives the Recommendation from Hearing Committee for acceptance of Draft Gambling Venues Policy 2019 Report RSAPCC19-11-2; and
- 2) notes the formal consultation process was concluded at a hearing on 6 November 2019; and
- 3) adopts the Gambling Venues Policy 2019 contained as “Attachment 3” of this report RSAPCC19-11-2; and
- 4) agrees that the Gambling Venues Policy 2019 adopted in (3) above, shall come into effect immediately, and at that same time, the Tasman District Council Gambling Venues Policy September 2010 as reviewed in 2013 and 2016 shall be revoked; and
- 5) instructs staff to provide the necessary notification of this outcome to all submitters, the New Zealand Racing Board, and all gaming societies operating class 4 venues in the district parties, the public, and to the Secretary for Internal Affairs; and
- 6) instructs staff to make editorial changes to Section 1.1 of the Policy to accurately reflect resolution 3 and 4 above.

CARRIED

2. OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY

- 2.1 To minimise the harm to the community caused by gambling.
- 2.2 To allow those who wish to participate in gambling through class 4 gaming machines (pokies) or New Zealand Racing Board racing or sports betting to do so within existing venues.
- 2.3 To ensure that Council and the community have control over the provision of new gambling in Tasman District.
- 2.4 To control the number of class 4 gaming machines permitted in Tasman District.

- 2.5** Achieving the objective in 2.4 by imposing a sinking lid on the number of class 4 gaming machines that are licensed in Tasman District.
- 2.6** To refuse to grant consent to new class 4 venues or additional class 4 gaming machines to operate in existing venues in Tasman District.
- 2.7** To allow new gambling venues associated with New Zealand Racing Board stand-alone operations if such new venues are supported by Council on a case by case assessment.
- 3. RULES FOR “CLASS 4 VENUES” (PURSUANT TO THE GAMBLING ACT 2003)**
- 3.1** Council will not grant consent for the establishment of any additional class 4 venues.
- 3.2** Council will not grant consent for the establishment of any additional class 4 gaming machines in existing class 4 venues.
- 3.3** Council will not grant consent to allow the merger of two or more clubs which hold class 4 venue licences.
- 3.4** Council will not grant consent for the relocation of any class 4 venue licence.
- 4. APPLICATION FOR CONSENT FOR NEW ZEALAND RACING BOARD VENUES (PURSUANT TO THE RACING ACT 2003)**
- 4.1** Territorial authority consent, pursuant to section 65A of the Racing Act 2003, is required by the Racing Board if it wishes to operate a new Racing Board venue on which racing and sports betting operated by the New Zealand Racing Board is to be undertaken.
- 4.2** The territorial authority consent required by 4.1 of this policy shall be subject to the following criteria:
- (a) meeting application and fee requirements;
 - (b) the proposed Racing Board venue shall have relevant staff training programme and gambling harm minimisation policy;
 - (c) applications for territorial authority consent for a Racing Board venue for racing and sports betting operated by the New Zealand Racing Board shall be advertised, with public submissions being accepted for a period of 10 working days from the date of publication, after which Council shall approve or decline the venue consent application, with reasons for that decision being made available to all parties that expressed a view;
 - (d) the primary activity of the Racing Board venue shall be for racing and sports betting operated by the New Zealand Racing Board, and be owned or leased

by the New Zealand Racing Board and used primarily for racing or sports betting; or be a racecourse;

- (e) operators of the proposed Racing Board venue must show that people under the age of 18 years have minimal access to the facility.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR NEW ZEALAND RACING BOARD VENUES

5.1 Must be made on the form defined in Appendix 3 of this policy and must provide:

- (a) evidence of a police clearance for owners and managers of the venue;
- (b) a copy of the proposed gambling harm minimisation policy and staff training programme;
- (c) a site plan covering both gambling and other activities proposed for the venue, including details of each floor of the venue;
- (d) name and contact details for the applicant;
- (e) street address of premises proposed;

5.2 Once an application for territorial authority consent for a Racing Board venue for racing and sports betting operated by the New Zealand Racing Board has been lodged, the applicant shall advertise the application in a local paper within 20 days of lodgement, giving a minimum of 10 working days for the acceptance of submissions by Council.

6. APPLICATION FEES

6.1 Any application for a territorial authority consent under Section 65B of the Racing Act 2003 shall be accompanied by the appropriate deposit and all fees due for the processing of the application must be paid before the territorial authority consent will issue.

7. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Class 4 gambling: is the term used to describe non-casino gaming machines (pokies). Under the Gambling Act (2003) Class 4 gambling satisfies the following criteria:

- a. The net proceeds from the gambling are applied to, or distributed for, authorised purposes; and
- b. No commission is paid to, or received by, a person for conducting the gambling; and

- c. The gambling, and the conduct of gambling, satisfies relevant game rules; and
- d. Either –
 - i. The secretary has categorised the gambling as Class 4 gambling and not as another class of gambling; or
 - ii. The gambling utilises or involves a gaming machine.

Class 4 venue: means a place used to operate Class 4 gambling as defined by the Gambling Act 2003.

Club: means a voluntary association of persons combined for a purpose other than personal gain.

Council: means the Tasman District Council.

Gaming societies: are the organisations that own and operate gaming machines and make grants to non-profit community organisations. They are not the venue operators.

Racing Board venue: means premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board (TAB) and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services under the Racing Act 2003.

Sinking Lid: refers to the term used in Council's gambling venues policy that indicates a restriction on the establishment of new Class 4 venues, prohibiting as far as possible, gaming societies from increasing the number of machines in Tasman District and preventing venue operators from relocating (unless they wish to surrender their gaming machine licence).

Territorial Authority: is the term used in the Local Government Act 2002 to describe city and district councils.

APPENDIX 1:**Application for Territorial Authority Consent for a Board Venue**

FORM NUMBER: RG4 24 June 2019

*[Pursuant to section 65B of the Racing Act 2003: Applies to new racing and sports betting venues.]***Section 1: Details of Applicant**

Full Name of applicant:

Postal Address:

Post Code:

Contact Person:

Phone:

E-mail:

Section 2: Details of Venue

Name of Venue:

Street Address:

Section 3: Information to be Provided with Application *(Please tick box)*

- Site plan covering activities proposed for the venue
- Evidence of a police clearance for the owners and managers of the venue
- A copy of the proposed gambling harm minimisation policy and staff training programme
- Evidence that the venue is leased or owned by the New Zealand Racing Board or a racecourse.

New Board Venues

Once an application for territorial authority consent for a new venue has been lodged, the applicant shall advertise the application in a local paper within 20 days of lodgement, giving a minimum of 10 working days for the acceptance of submissions by Council. If submissions are received, the Tasman District Council shall consider these and either approve or decline the venue consent application, with reasons for that decision being made available to all parties that expressed a view.

Application Fees

An application fee deposit of \$500.00 shall accompany any application. At the conclusion of the process when the application has been granted or declined, the applicant shall pay to Council such further fees necessary to cover the costs and disbursements of Council in processing the application. No such consent shall be issued by Council until all such fees have been paid.

The information that has been given is hereby certified to be true and correct.

Signature:

Date:

Tasman Class 4 Gambling Policy

Pre-Consultation

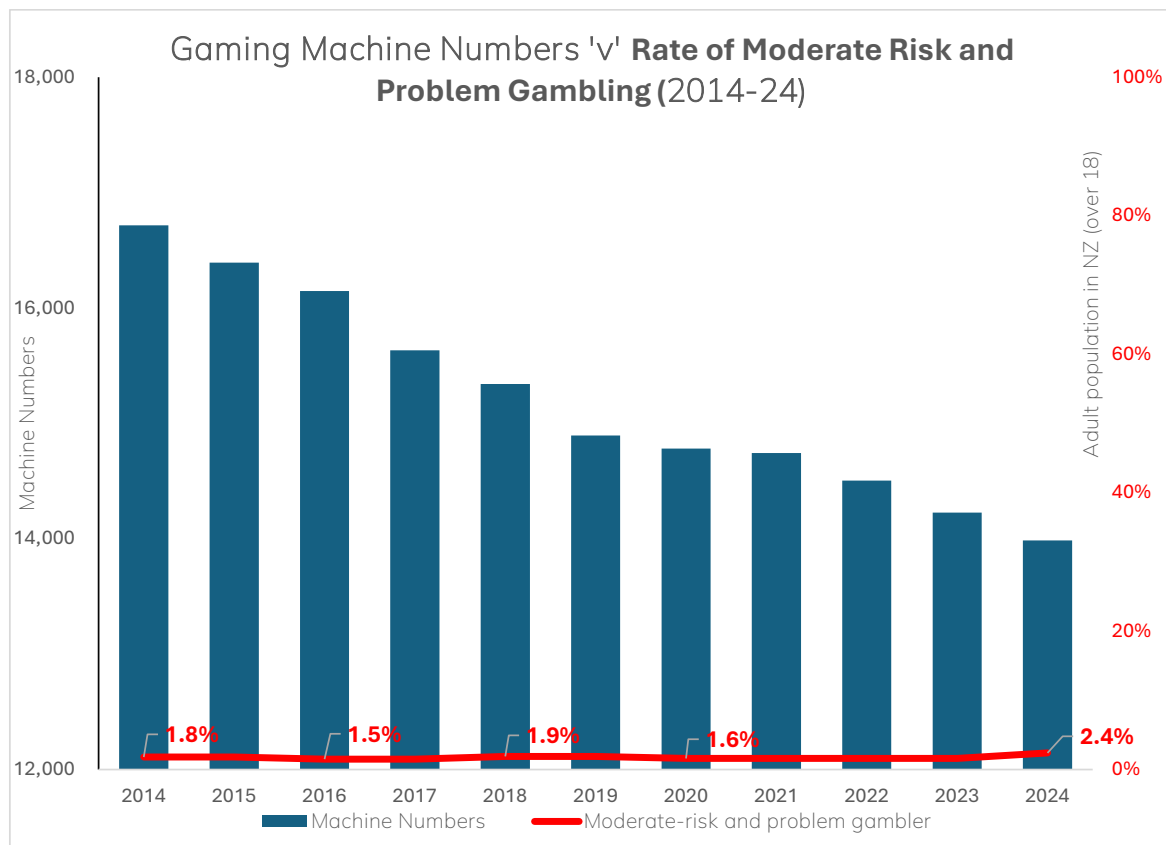


Thank you for giving NZCT the opportunity to be involved in the pre-consultation on your Class 4 gambling policy. Engaging with the community and key stakeholders provides for balanced and effective policy making.

Sinking Lids Don't Reduce Gambling Harm

Data supports the view that sinking lid policies are flawed and ineffective as mechanisms to reduce problem gambling.

Since 2003 when the Gambling Act (2003) was promulgated, many councils have implemented sinking lid policies, leading to a reduction of 11,000 pokie machines nationwide—a 44% decrease. Despite this the rate of problem and moderate risk gambling (all gambling types) among adults has remained relatively stable over the last decade. It was a low 1.8% in 2014 and 2.4% in 2024 (with small fluctuations in between). This Health NZ data shows no correlation between sinking lid policies and a reduction in gambling-related harm.



* Note that the problem gambling rate measures ALL forms of gambling – meaning pokies make up approximately half of the 2.4% of moderate-risk and problem gamblers shown above.¹

NZ Has a Low Problem Gambling Rate

In response to an OIA request, the Ministry of Health explains that the 2024 percentage split for moderate-risk gamblers and high-risk (problem) gamblers is as per the table below.²

¹ [Gambling harm intervention services data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

² *Ministry of Health Response to NZCT OIA request 16th April 2025 (attached as appendix)

	Total
Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI)	% (95CI)
High-risk (problem) gambler	0.5*(0.2-0.8)
Moderate-risk gambler	1.9 (1.5-2.5)

**Health NZ states that the result should be viewed as unreliable, and caution should be used when interpreting the result, as Relative Standard Error is between 0.25 and 0.5.*

It is important to note that moderate-risk gamblers and problem gamblers are by definition distinctly different.

The Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) which the Ministry of Health uses as the template for its Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI), characterises ‘problem gamblers’ as people who experience harm³. ‘Moderate risk’ gamblers are defined as people who ‘*may or may not have experienced adverse consequences from gambling.*’ To be clear, this category does not describe a uniform group of people that experience moderate levels of harm. Some submissions may explain that ‘low risk’ gamblers also experience harm (at low levels). But the PGSI states that “...[t]his group likely will not have experienced any adverse consequences from gambling.”

Problem Gambling in context

New Zealand’s rate of problem gambling (not inclusive of moderate risk) is low by international standards.⁴

Comparing National Problem Gambling Prevalence Rates

Jurisdiction	Year	Problem Gambling Rate
USA	2015	4.60%
South Africa	2013	3.20%
Macau	2005	2.50%
Czech Republic	2014	2.30%
Cyprus	2012	2.20%
Northern Ireland	2010	2.20%
Canada	2005	2.00%
Hong Kong	2012	1.90%
Hungary	2012	1.90%
Germany	2015	1.70%

³ [Canadian Problem Gambling Index: Final Report Feb 19, 2001](#)

⁴ [Calado F, Griffiths MD. Problem gambling worldwide: An update and systematic review of empirical research \(2000-2015\). Journal of Behavioral Addictions 2016; 5\(4\): 592-613. Doi:10.1556/2006.5.2016.073](#)

Brazil	2010	1.30%
Italy	2010	1.27%
Denmark	2012	0.90%
Iceland	2015	0.80%
Great Britain	2012	0.70%
Finland	2014	0.60%
South Korea	2013	0.50%
Singapore	2015	0.50%
France	2015	0.50%
Australia	2016	0.40%
Norway	2009	0.40%
Sweden	2014	0.30%
New Zealand	2015	0.20%

Relatively few New Zealanders are gambling at levels that lead to negative consequences; most people who gamble on gaming machines have fun and experience no harm. Most pokie players know to stop when it stops being fun.

For further context, whilst problem gambling in New Zealand occurs at a rate of 0.5% - noting that the problem gambling rate measures ALL forms of gambling – meaning pokies make up approximately half of the 0.5% of problem gamblers⁵ among the adult population the rate of hazardous drinking (have drunk hazardously in a way that can harm themselves or others⁶) was 16.6%, which is equivalent to about 720,000 adults⁷.

Despite the rate of hazardous alcohol consumption being more than seven times greater than problem Class 4 gambling, few would argue for the closure of pubs to protect those that are susceptible to hazardous alcohol consumption as it would be an unfair and disproportionate response for the 83.4% of adults who can enjoy pub hospitality responsibly. Similarly, a sinking lid Council gaming policy aims to eliminate a legal and popular form of gambling entertainment which 98.8% of adult New Zealanders can engage with responsibly and without harm.

History shows that prohibition of an activity or substance is not an effective tool for minimising harm and invariably results in unintended consequences. Eliminating pokie lounges over time does not address the root causes of problem gambling, especially since individuals can now easily shift to online gambling, which is available 24/7, has fewer controls as physical in venue Class 4 gaming environments, and currently provides no return to the community in the form of grants.

The New Zealand Gambling Study Wave 4 (2015) states that there is no evidence for causative effects between problem gambling in terms of certain other negative experiences a person may be suffering. It states that although problem gambling is *“highly co-morbid with substance use disorders and other behavioural addictions, as well as with mood, anxiety and personality disorders...”*⁸ the *“...relationships between gambling and other mental health disorders are complex, prospective studies have found that*

⁵ [Gambling harm intervention services data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

⁶ [Alcohol Resources — Key facts about drinking in New Zealand](#)

⁷ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/annual-update-of-key-results-202324-new-zealand-health-survey>

⁸ Pg 26 - <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2018-08/national-gambling-study-report-6-aug18.pdf>

substance use, substance use disorders and behavioural addictions are robust predictors of problem gambling onset...”⁹ rather than the reverse.

Class 4 is Heavily Regulated

Despite the number of problem gamblers being very small, Class 4 sector works hard to minimise harmful behaviours. The Class 4 sector contributes over half of the annual \$20 million problem gambling levy that funds a nationwide network of problem gambling services. Additionally, NZCT alone invests \$650,000 annually in harm minimisation initiatives, including staff training, resources, and technology.

Pokie lounges operate within strict harm minimisation regulations, with staff trained to identify and intervene when they observe signs of harm. For example, venue staff must undertake record-keeping sweeps of gaming rooms three times an hour to monitor for, and act on, signs of harm. Furthermore, venue staff must discuss with a customer their gambling activity upon a customer’s second attempt to withdrawal money from an in-venue ATM for the purposes of additional in-venue Class 4 gambling.

Responsible Management and Enhanced Harm Minimisation Regulations

The regulatory framework for Class 4 gambling ensures gaming lounge activities are managed with transparency and accountability. 2023 updates to these regulations have strengthened oversight, further promoting responsible gambling practices and enhancing community trust.

The stringent harm minimisation regulations provide even greater protections for individuals who are susceptible to harm. A cap is a balanced approach that maintains the provision of a legal form of entertainment in your community that enhances your district’s hospitality offerings and generates community funding from discretionary income.

Online Gambling

With the emergence of online gambling, it is unclear what effect sinking lids are having in migrating problem gamblers online where there are fewer protections against problem gambling compared to those provided by physical in person Class 4 venues.

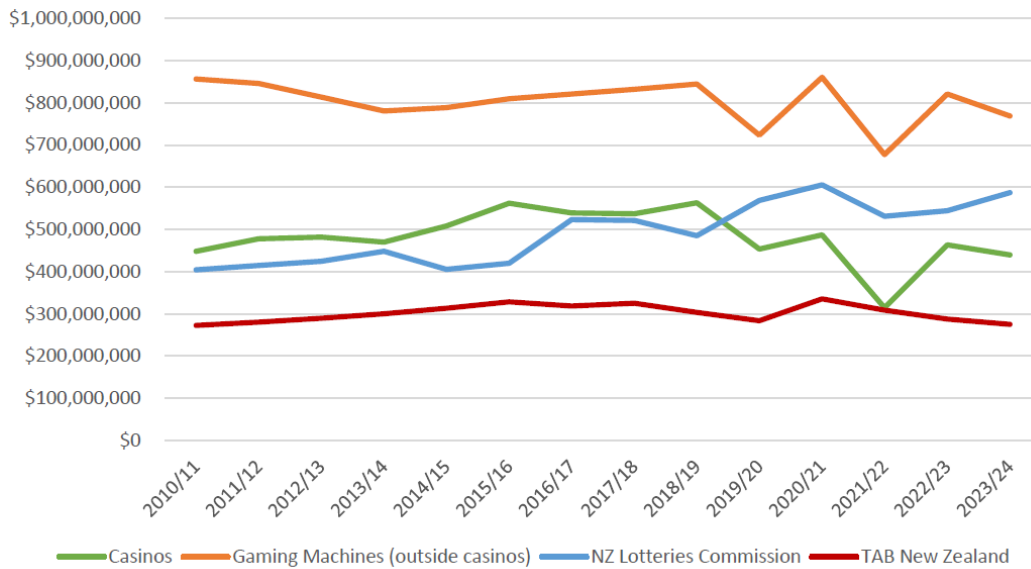
During the COVID lockdown many people started gambling online across all forms of gambling. When the COVID lockdowns ended, Class 4 gambling eventually returned to pre-COVID levels. However, online gambling continues to grow. No research exists to indicate whether people who play Class 4 gaming machines are not also gambling online.

Class 4 Spending is Not Growing

While Class 4 still accounts for the largest share of annual gambling expenditure in New Zealand, spending is trending down on all forms of gambling – except for the NZ Lotteries Commission (NZLC) – as illustrated in the graph below.

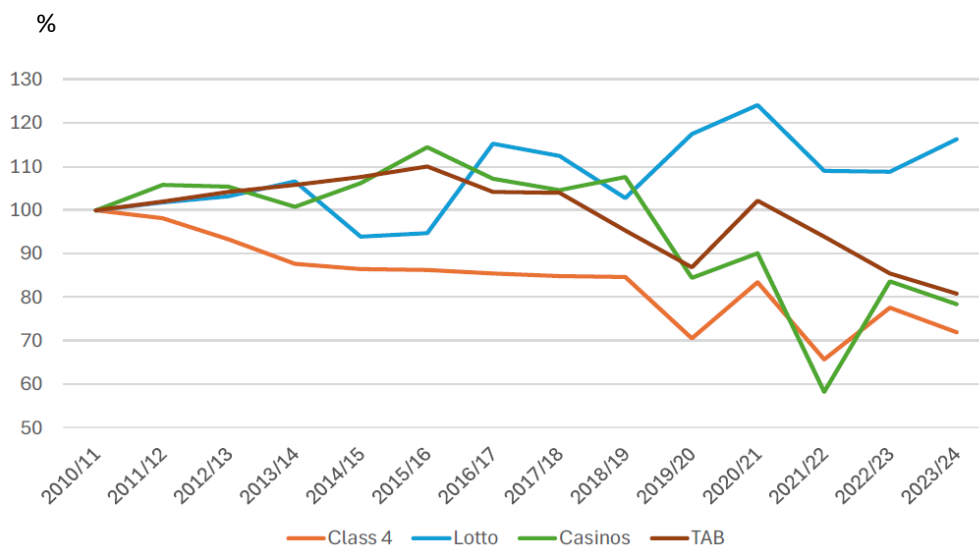
⁹ Pg 26 - <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2018-08/national-gambling-study-report-6-aug18.pdf>

Inflation Adjusted Gambling Expenditure¹⁰



The below graph details expenditure on the four regulated forms of gambling in New Zealand on a per capita basis and as a percentage change from a 2011 base line. This illustrates that by 2024, Class 4 fell to 72% of its 2011 level of per capita spend, Casinos fell to 79%, and TAB to 85%. The outlier being the per capita expenditure on NZLC, which rose to 115% of its 2011 baseline.

Indexed Real Gambling Expenditure Per Capita¹¹



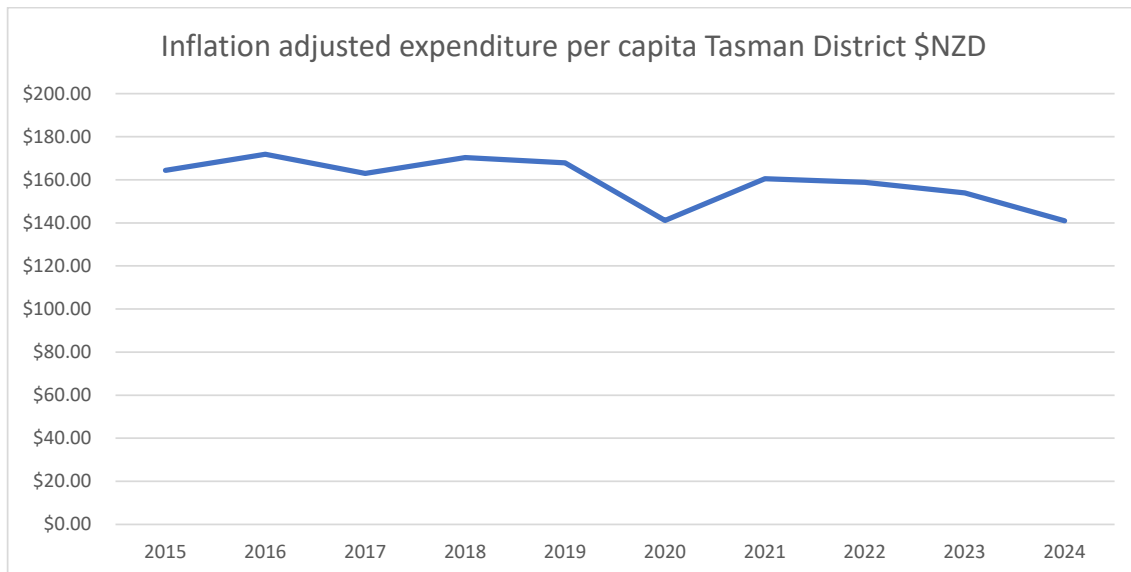
In the Tasman district specifically, pokie expenditure per capita is also down from \$164.39 in 2015 to \$140.96 in 2024 (a 14% per capita drop in inflation-adjusted expenditure over ten years).^{12 13}

¹⁰ DIA Gambling Expenditure Statistics Report

¹¹ DIA Gambling Expenditure Statistics Report

¹² [Regional Economic Profile | Tasman District | Population growth](#)

¹³ www.dia.govt.nz/gambling-statistics-expenditure



Evaluating the Impact of Sinking Lids

Some claim that sinking lid policies have led to a 13% reduction in harm; however, this misinterprets research that indicated sinking lids decreased expenditure (not harm) by 13%. The research also found that per capita caps had the same effect on expenditure¹⁴.

Furthermore, sinking lid policies pose a significant risk to the sustainability of pokie grants. Pokie grants are essential for supporting non-profit organisations to foster happier, healthier, and more connected communities. In 2024, Class-4 societies awarded \$1,073,359 in grants within Tasman. NZCT contributed nearly 20% (\$209,908) of this.

Over the last three years (Oct 2022 to Sept 2025), NZCT awarded 59 grants in Tasman totalling \$814,593. During the same period, NZCT approved millions of dollars more in inter-regional and nationwide grants, \$649,220 of which can be identified as being of direct benefit to the people of Tasman. In total, \$1,463,813 of NZCT grants benefited Tasman in this period. We note that Council itself applied for and was awarded \$60,000 of pokie funding in 2023 from NZCT for the Motueka Skate Park upgrade.

If a sinking lid is maintained, how will the Council compensate for this loss of funding? This could necessitate an increase in rates by 1% on 25/26 rates which have already increased by 8.9% - highlighting the financial implications of endorsing the continuation of the sinking lid policy.

The Need to Introduce a New Class 4 Relocation Policy

Under the current no relocation policy, the detrimental effects of a sinking lid are accelerated, resulting in a loss of the valuable benefits that Class 4 gaming brings to the community.

A new relocation policy is essential as it allows venues to move to more modern premises, thereby enhancing their appeal and helping your district's hospitality sector to be more sustainable. Relocation also protects hospitality operators from opportunistic landlords who may impose excessive rent increases knowing that their tenants cannot relocate with their gaming lounges. Additionally, a relocation policy provides a framework for venues to re-establish in cases of fire, natural disasters, public works acquisitions, or other significant challenges.

¹⁴ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/capping-gambling-in-nz-the-effectiveness-of-local-government-policy-interventions>

Entertainment Value

Class 4 gambling venues offer recreational and social opportunities for residents. These hospitality establishments provide entertainment options and foster social connectivity, all whilst generating vital community funding.

Gambling Has a Net Positive Wellbeing Benefit

In New Zealand, gambling in all its forms contributes net positive well-being benefits of approximately \$2 billion annually¹⁵. This value is the sum of its entertainment value, the resulting government revenue, the problem gambling levy, and the globally unique provision of community grants that inject money into a community's not-for-profit sector and the local retail and service industries that support it.

Sustainable Class 4 Policy

Continuing with current sinking lid and no relocation policy constitutes a decision with eventual financial implications amounting to over \$1,073,359 per annum. It is imperative that the Council revisit their current sinking lid policy to explore a range of options, including sustainable alternatives.

¹⁵ TDB Advisory Report 2021 Page 87

NZCT's grants to Tasman District - October 2022 to September 2025

Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Tasman District	Date of Approval	Purpose
106978	Abbeyfield Motueka Inc	\$7,000	\$7,000	9/10/2024	Ceiling insulation
96784	Bishop Suter Trust	\$9,203	\$9,203	21/12/2022	Implementation of The Suters Tasman ArtWalk
104194	Brooklyn School Motueka	\$8,194	\$8,194	16/04/2024	Travel and accommodation
107206	FOMHT Health Services Limited	\$40,000	\$40,000	19/11/2024	Kitchen upgrade and equipment
101396	Friends of Motueka Hospital Trust	\$30,000	\$30,000	17/10/2023	Chair beds
104462	Garin College	\$2,291	\$2,291	24/04/2024	Travel and accommodation
108836	Huia Rugby Football Club Inc	\$10,577	\$10,577	17/02/2025	Equipment (excluding training uniforms, jackets, dress shirts)
102564	Huia Rugby Football Club Inc	\$16,151	\$16,151	16/01/2024	Playing uniforms and equipment (excluding backpacks and duffle bags)
100522	Motueka and Districts Amateur Swimming Club Inc	\$49,952	\$49,952	19/09/2023	Pool cover and autowinder
98513	Motueka and Districts Amateur Swimming Club Inc	\$4,025	\$4,025	17/05/2023	Pool hire
102766	Motueka Arts Council Inc	\$4,477	\$4,477	1/02/2024	Project management; Printing; Flags
106054	Motueka Association Football Club Inc	\$10,774	\$10,774	17/07/2024	Equipment
107471	Motueka Cricket Club Inc	\$4,104	\$4,104	26/09/2024	Ground and pitch preparation
101288	Motueka Cricket Club Inc	\$4,000	\$4,000	17/10/2023	Equipment
95976	Motueka Cricket Club Inc	\$11,190	\$11,190	15/11/2022	Ground fees; Cricket balls and equipment
105526	Motueka District Brass Inc	\$2,897	\$2,897	19/06/2024	Accommodation
97178	Motueka District Brass Inc	\$8,000	\$8,000	15/02/2023	Uniforms
105867	Motueka Events Charitable Trust	\$20,000	\$20,000	17/09/2024	Flag system and flags
96107	Motueka Events Charitable Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	21/03/2023	Flag system and flags
112285	Motueka Golf Club Inc	\$30,000	\$30,000	19/08/2025	Greens roller
111862	Motueka Group Riding for the Disabled Association Inc	\$11,676	\$11,676	16/07/2025	Salary
105209	Motueka Group Riding for the Disabled Association Inc	\$9,360	\$9,360	16/07/2024	Salary
99957	Motueka Group Riding for the Disabled Association Inc	\$4,381	\$4,381	26/07/2023	Travel and accommodation; registration costs for coaching workshop
94769	Motueka Group Riding for the Disabled Association Inc	\$6,712	\$6,712	17/10/2022	Guttering on horse stalls; Security lighting
110249	Motueka High School	\$25,000	\$25,000	15/04/2025	Equipment
101778	Motueka High School	\$20,000	\$20,000	22/11/2023	Sports uniforms and equipment
108220	Motueka Over Fifties Social Hub Inc	\$5,049	\$5,049	20/11/2024	Underfloor insulation and polythene
108659	Motueka South School	\$27,000	\$27,000	11/07/2025	Court resurfacing
98194	Motueka South School	\$24,874	\$24,874	22/08/2023	IT equipment
108419	Motueka Squash Racquets Club Inc	\$10,373	\$10,373	19/12/2024	Rent
102226	Motueka Squash Racquets Club Inc	\$8,412	\$8,412	1/02/2024	Rent
97465	Motueka Squash Racquets Club Inc	\$6,040	\$6,040	19/04/2023	Rent
107622	Motueka Touch Inc	\$6,086	\$6,086	23/10/2024	Playing uniforms and equipment, ground and facility hire, and ambulance service
99457	Motueka Waka Ama Club Kotahitanga O Nga Maata Waka Inc	\$30,800	\$30,800	22/08/2023	Waka
108008	Motueka Womens Support Link Inc	\$10,000	\$10,000	14/01/2025	Salary
110211	Moutere Hills Community Centre Inc	\$5,222	\$5,222	27/03/2025	Equipment
103686	Moutere Hills Community Centre Inc	\$6,000	\$6,000	28/02/2024	Shade sails

Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Tasman District	Date of Approval	Purpose
99955	Ngatimoti School	\$20,000	\$20,000	19/09/2023	Building of swimming pool changing sheds.
98951	Purpose HQ Fitness Trust	\$18,233	\$18,233	18/07/2023	Gym equipment
100700	Richmond Group Riding for the Disabled Inc	\$4,000	\$4,000	17/10/2023	Salary
95405	Richmond Group Riding for the Disabled Inc	\$15,000	\$15,000	27/10/2022	Salaries of Horse / Farm Manager and Head Coach
107053	Riwaka Rugby Football Club Inc	\$25,460	\$25,460	14/01/2025	JAB playing uniforms and equipment, balls, mouthguards, kit bags, first aid kits and strapping tape; Kahurangi training tees, jackets and mouthguards (excluding sponsor print setup, sponsor logos and Kahurangi dress shirts); Hudl Video Camera 24 month subscription; Power box upgrade
100998	Riwaka Rugby Football Club Inc	\$25,981	\$25,981	22/11/2023	Clubroom upgrade (blinds, carpet, painting); Playing uniforms and equipment (excluding hoodies, warm-up shirts and reserve jackets)
99128	Riwaka Rugby Football Club Inc	\$15,000	\$15,000	18/07/2023	Club Capability Manager; First aid/ambulance services; Power
98902	St Pauls School Richmond	\$10,000	\$10,000	20/06/2023	Playground costs
106384	St Peter Chanel School Motueka	\$9,756	\$9,756	12/08/2024	Playground swing
100682	St Peter Chanel School Motueka	\$15,000	\$15,000	19/09/2023	Costs associated with scooter track
95305	Tasman District Council	\$60,000	\$60,000	16/02/2023	Motueka Skatepark upgrade
108254	Tasman Golf Club Inc	\$20,000	\$20,000	12/12/2024	Robotic mower
111675	Tasman Rugby Union Inc	\$5,000	\$5,000	11/07/2025	Travel and accommodation
110445	Tasman Rugby Union Inc	\$14,214	\$14,214	7/05/2025	Equipment and contract fee for Shark School Coordinator
105017	Tasman Rugby Union Inc	\$10,984	\$10,984	22/05/2024	Salary of Women's Academy Manager and contract fee for Finance Manager
106841	Te Awhina Marae O Motueka Society Inc	\$5,000	\$5,000	15/10/2024	Salary
108217	Te Tai o Awatea	\$7,900	\$7,900	14/01/2025	Contract fees for Kaiwhakahaere and Kaiako Mau Rakau
98114	Te Tai o Awatea	\$10,000	\$10,000	15/05/2023	Contractor
106090	Waimea Toi Toi United Cricket Club Inc	\$3,000	\$3,000	17/07/2024	Cricket balls
99577	Waimea Toi Toi United Cricket Club Inc	\$10,230	\$10,230	12/07/2023	Cricket balls
98328	Wanderers Community Sports Club Inc	\$6,000	\$6,000	19/04/2023	Instructor fees
96315	Wanderers Community Sports Club Inc	\$4,018	\$4,018	15/11/2022	Tutor fees; Rowing machines
		\$814,593	\$814,593		
Regional and multi-regional grants that benefit Tasman District					
109671	Active Little Learners	\$5,000	\$1,600	15/04/2025	Programme Facilitator contract fee and salary of Lead Facilitator
98999	Active Little Learners	\$3,000	\$1,115	18/07/2023	Salary
108901	Ashburton, South Canterbury, North Otago, Area of the NZ Pony Club Association Inc	\$3,844	\$191	19/12/2024	Event costs
104128	Basketball Development Nelson Trust	\$5,000	\$1,700	21/05/2024	Giants in Schools coaching
96895	Basketball Development Nelson Trust	\$10,000	\$4,100	21/03/2023	Giants in Schools coaching
109548	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson Tasman	\$5,000	\$1,600	20/05/2025	Salary
109338	Box On Charitable Trust	\$4,530	\$1,450	20/05/2025	Uniforms and equipment

Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Tasman District	Date of Approval	Purpose
109599	Canterbury Regional Basketball Foundation	\$115,000	\$6,160	18/03/2025	Salaries of General Manager, Women's Head Coach, Development Coach - People Lead, Participation & Coaching Lead and Head Coach
104153	Canterbury Regional Basketball Foundation	\$117,000	\$6,116	16/04/2024	Salaries of General Manager, Development Coach - People Lead, Development Coach - Participation and Head Coach
98105	Canterbury Regional Basketball Foundation	\$100,000	\$7,790	19/04/2023	Salaries of General Manager, Programme Coordinator, Development Coach - People Lead, Development Coach - Participation Lead and Head Coach
109705	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$300,000	\$3,510	18/03/2025	Contractor fees for Programme Administration (Southern, Central, Northern - South, Northern - North) and National Programme Director - Football For All, and Football For All programme costs
103450	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$300,000	\$3,622	19/02/2024	Football For All Programme costs (on behalf of all Federations)
100237	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$125,000	\$984	19/09/2023	Travel and accommodation for 2023 Futsal Youth Championships (on behalf of all Federations)
91832	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$175,000	\$1,481	20/06/2023	Travel and accommodation for 2023 National Youth Development League (on behalf of all Federations)
108848	Central Districts Cricket Association Inc	\$110,000	\$5,261	17/02/2025	Salaries of Manager Community and Capability, Coach Performance and Pathways and Coach Female Performance and Pathways
102672	Central Districts Cricket Association Inc	\$108,000	\$5,711	16/01/2024	Salaries of Coach - Performance and Pathways Hawkes Bay, Coach - Performance and Pathways Central Hub and Coach - Female Performance and Pathways
97045	Central Districts Cricket Association Inc	\$108,000	\$5,586	16/02/2023	Salaries of Coach - Performance and Pathways Central Hub, Coach - Performance and Pathways Hawkes Bay and Coach - Female Performance and Pathways
101653	Dixons Boxing Club Motueka & Nelson Inc	\$32,826	\$11,817	22/11/2023	Equipment
95333	Dixons Boxing Club Motueka & Nelson Inc	\$30,000	\$12,300	27/10/2022	Vehicle
107734	Fight for Rangatahi Trust	\$26,248	\$8,399	12/12/2024	Uniforms and equipment
103770	Inclusive Sport Trust	\$5,200	\$1,664	14/01/2025	Salary
96760	Kartsport Nelson Inc	\$5,485	\$2,257	12/12/2022	Ambulance and First Responder
106264	Lake Rotoiti Outdoor Education Trust	\$10,086	\$3,429	26/09/2024	Water tanks and pumps
109973	Mainland Badminton Inc	\$4,000	\$193	27/03/2025	Travel
104036	Mainland Badminton Inc	\$5,004	\$237	10/04/2024	Van Hire
98690	Mainland Badminton Inc	\$3,000	\$208	17/05/2023	Van hire
106925	Mainland North BMX Association Inc	\$7,600	\$420	11/09/2024	Coaching
100412	Mainland North BMX Association Inc	\$3,723	\$165	10/08/2023	Coaching
104780	Nelson Badminton Association Inc	\$1,367	\$465	22/05/2024	Accommodation
110231	Nelson Basketball Association Inc	\$20,000	\$6,400	15/04/2025	Venue hire
110999	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines International Inc	\$666	\$213	3/06/2025	Contractor
110205	Nelson Cricket Association Inc	\$6,930	\$2,218	15/04/2025	Contractor
106975	Nelson Cricket Association Inc	\$16,300	\$5,542	15/10/2024	Contractor
104913	Nelson Cricket Association Inc	\$22,920	\$7,793	21/05/2024	Contract fee for Community Cricket Coordinator and salary of General Manager
99799	Nelson Cricket Association Inc	\$48,400	\$17,990	22/08/2023	Contract fees Community Cricket Coordinator and salary of General Manager
95879	Nelson Cricket Association Inc	\$28,232	\$11,575	27/10/2022	Contract fees for Representative Team's Coach and Pathway Team Coordinator and Community Cricket Coordinator
108703	Nelson Hockey Association 1993 Inc	\$30,000	\$9,600	17/02/2025	Salaries of Administrator, Regional Development Manager and Operations Manager
103432	Nelson Hockey Association 1993 Inc	\$25,000	\$8,500	19/03/2024	Salaries of Administrator, Regional Development Manager and Operations Manager
96191	Nelson Hockey Association 1993 Inc	\$25,000	\$10,250	13/12/2022	Salaries of Regional Development Manager and Operations Manager

Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Tasman District	Date of Approval	Purpose
106947	Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust Board	\$70,000	\$22,400	19/11/2024	Helicopter operations
101706	Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust Board	\$70,000	\$25,200	22/11/2023	Operating costs for rescue helicopter services
99114	Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust Board	\$14,158	\$5,238	18/07/2023	Uniforms including boots
95304	Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust Board	\$70,000	\$28,700	27/10/2022	Operating costs for rescue helicopter services
95777	Nelson Rhythmic Gymnastics Club Inc	\$7,425	\$3,044	3/11/2022	Hall hire
108163	Nelson Symphony Orchestra Inc	\$3,000	\$1,020	6/11/2024	Contractor
105301	Nelson Tasman Disc Golf Inc	\$12,136	\$4,177	5/06/2024	Teepads
109034	Nelson Tasman Region Hospice Trust	\$50,000	\$16,000	17/02/2025	Salary
102479	Nelson Tasman Region Hospice Trust	\$50,000	\$18,000	16/01/2024	Salary
96540	Nelson Tasman Region Hospice Trust	\$50,000	\$20,500	16/02/2023	Salary
97443	Nelson Tasman Underwater Hockey Club Inc	\$10,000	\$4,100	21/03/2023	Accommodation
112184	No 6 District Federation of NZ Football Inc - Mainland Football	\$180,000	\$9,973	19/08/2025	Salaries of Community Competitions Manager, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager, Adaptive Football Lead, Club Support & Administration, Referee Development Officer, Community Development Officer, Technical Director, Futsal Development Manager and Competitions & Operations Manager
105835	No 6 District Federation of NZ Football Inc - Mainland Football	\$180,000	\$9,712	17/09/2024	Salaries of Club Support & Administration, Referee Development Officer, Adaptive Football Lead, Regional Administration Manager & Technical Support, Community Competitions Manager, Futsal Development Manager, Competitions & Operations Manager, Technical Director and Community Development Manager
99058	No 6 District Federation of NZ Football Inc - Mainland Football	\$180,000	\$7,400	22/08/2023	Salaries of Regional and Technical Support, Club Support and Administration, Referee Development Officer, Football Administration Manager Nelson Bays, Community Development Officer, Coach & Leadership Manager, Player Development Manager, Futsal Development Manager and Competitions Manager
98043	Q Youth Inc	\$5,000	\$2,050	15/05/2023	Salary
105864	Saxton Sports Club Inc	\$5,380	\$1,829	17/07/2024	Venue hire and accommodation
111737	Softball Mainland Inc	\$6,183	\$326	30/07/2025	Xero accounting package and contract fees for Treasurer and Administrator
104403	Softball Mainland Inc	\$6,769	\$328	24/04/2024	Contractor
96142	Softball Mainland Inc	\$7,600	\$539	15/11/2022	Contractor
105755	South Island Masters Games Timaru Inc	\$30,000	\$1,421	16/07/2024	Contractor
98828	South Island Rowing Inc	\$30,000	\$1,748	20/06/2023	Salary
110083	Southern Zone of NZRL Inc	\$120,000	\$5,804	15/04/2025	Contract fees for CRL Director of Football, and salaries of Football Operations & District Capability and General Manager
103765	Southern Zone of NZRL Inc	\$120,000	\$6,120	16/04/2024	Salaries of Football Operations and District Capability and General Manager, and CRL Director of Football contract fee
97694	Southern Zone of NZRL Inc	\$118,269	\$8,194	19/04/2023	Canterbury Rugby League Director of Football, and salaries of Club Capability & Event Manager and Southern Zone General Manager
88646	Special Olympics Nelson Trust	\$13,228	\$5,423	3/11/2022	Airfares
106859	Squash Canterbury Inc	\$35,000	\$1,920	19/11/2024	Salary
109041	Swimming Nelson Marlborough Inc	\$10,000	\$3,200	29/01/2025	Contractor
110459	Tasman Coastal Rowing Club Inc	\$11,863	\$3,796	7/05/2025	Rowing boat
110692	Tasman Golf Inc	\$15,000	\$4,800	11/07/2025	Salary
106748	Tasman Golf Inc	\$15,000	\$5,100	17/09/2024	Contract fees for Participation Coordinator and Regional Support Manager
95812	Tasman Golf Inc	\$15,000	\$6,150	21/11/2022	Salaries of Golf Participation Coordinator and Golf Coordinator
109420	Tasman Regional Sports Trust	\$18,352	\$5,873	17/02/2025	Salary

Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Tasman District	Date of Approval	Purpose
107290	Tasman Regional Sports Trust	\$82,000	\$26,240	19/11/2024	Salaries of Advisor - Facility Operations, Senior Advisor - Community Sport and Facility Manager MRC
103398	Tasman Regional Sports Trust	\$75,000	\$25,500	19/03/2024	Salaries of Senior Advisor Recreation, Senior Advisor Community Sport and Facility Manager
99975	Tasman Regional Sports Trust	\$74,800	\$22,800	19/09/2023	Salaries of Disability Advisor and Regional Active Recreation Lead, basketball backboards and rims, gym equipment and audio system
107641	Te Waipounamu Touch Inc	\$30,000	\$1,118	19/11/2024	Salary
109525	Volleyball Tasman Inc	\$30,000	\$9,600	18/03/2025	Travel costs and contract fee for Development Manager
111627	Whenua Iti Trust	\$23,276	\$7,448	11/07/2025	Uniforms and equipment
98423	Whenua Iti Trust	\$16,261	\$6,017	20/06/2023	Equipment
107664	Wilderness Canoe Trust	\$8,320	\$2,662	19/12/2024	Contractor
101501	Wilderness Canoe Trust	\$4,160	\$1,505	15/11/2023	Contractor
95767	Wilderness Canoe Trust	\$4,160	\$1,706	3/11/2022	Contractor
		\$3,829,703	\$524,292		
Grants to National organisations that benefit Tasman District					
110007	Athletics NZ Inc	\$160,000	\$3,200	15/04/2025	Event Costs; Salaries of Development Officer -Tasman, Nelson, Participation and Membership Administrator, Development Manager - Central and Competitions Manager
111985	Basketball NZ Inc	\$198,000	\$5,013	26/09/2025	Salaries of Disability Inclusion Lead, National Participation Manager, Women & Girls Lead South Island, and People Development Lead South Island
105177	Canteen Aotearoa Inc	\$35,000	\$562	17/09/2024	Salaries of Youth Workers and Programmes & Leadership Manager
108357	Chamber Music NZ Trust Board	\$135,000	\$112	14/01/2025	Contract fees for District Contest Organisers, and salaries of Engagement Artist, Operations Coordinator, Concerts & Communities Administrator and Manager, Community Engagement & Artistic
102433	Chamber Music NZ Trust Board	\$139,300	\$126	16/01/2024	Salaries of Engagement Artist, Concerts & Communities Administrator, Operations Coordinator and Manager of Artistic Delivery & Communities, and contract fees for regional District Contest Organisers
110363	Cystic Fibrosis Association of NZ	\$80,000	\$1,441	20/05/2025	Salaries of Community Support Lead/Registered Social Workers, Team Leader Community Support/Registered Social Worker, Community Engagement Lead and GM Finance and Operations
103248	Cystic Fibrosis Association of NZ	\$80,000	\$954	19/02/2024	Salaries of Community Support Lead Registered Social Worker, Team Leader Community Support Registered Social Worker and GM Finance and Operations
102418	Diabetes NZ	\$5,000	\$1,800	16/01/2024	Camp costs
106251	Golf NZ Korowha Aotearoa Inc	\$150,000	\$2,671	17/09/2024	Salaries of Participation Co-ordinator, Regional Support Manager, Participation Manager South Island, Participation Manager North Island and Participation Programmes Lead Manawatu/Wanganui
100060	Golf NZ Korowha Aotearoa Inc	\$150,000	\$6,783	22/08/2023	Salaries of Mainland Club Capability Manager, Regional Support Manager, Golf Development Officer, Young People Participation Manager- South Island, Young People Participation Manager - North Island and Māori Golf Development Manager - North Island
109544	Gymsports NZ Inc	\$190,000	\$1,910	20/05/2025	Salaries of Central Relationship Manager, South Island Relationship Manager, Relationship Team Manager (Wellington), Midlands Region Relationship Manager and Auckland/North Region Relationship Manager, and lease costs
104597	Gymsports NZ Inc	\$240,000	\$1,287	20/06/2024	Kiwi Gym Fun review and redevelopment, and salaries of South Island Relationship Manager, Auckland Northland Relationship Manager, Central Region Relationship Manager and Midlands Region Relationship Manager
97579	Gymsports NZ Inc	\$190,000	\$7,855	15/05/2023	Vehicle Lease; Salaries of Community Sport Manager, Upper South Relationship Manager, Central Region Relationship Manager, Midlands Region Relationship Manager and Auckland/North Region Relationship Manager
106269	Halberg Foundation	\$170,000	\$1,619	20/08/2024	Salaries of regional Disability Sport Advisors
100002	Halberg Foundation	\$169,150	\$2,520	22/08/2023	Salaries of regional Disability Sport Advisors
100284	Life Flight Trust	\$1,125,000	\$14,850	22/08/2023	Air ambulance aircraft and service operational costs
96935	Louise Perkins Foundation	\$5,000	\$381	31/01/2023	Salary

Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Tasman District	Date of Approval	Purpose
109012	Netball NZ Inc	\$204,400	\$10,543	18/03/2025	Vehicle leases, office rental, contract fee for Mainland Pathways Development Lead, and salaries of Participation Lead, Coach & Umpire Lead and Relationship Manager
103373	Netball NZ Inc	\$203,133	\$10,378	19/03/2024	Office workstation rental, vehicle lease, Pathway Lead contract fee, and salaries of Participation Lead, Community Coach Lead and Netball Relationship Manager
97383	Netball NZ Inc	\$205,000	\$16,025	21/03/2023	Office workstation rental, vehicle leases, and salaries of Development Coach, Participation Lead, Community Coaching Lead and Netball Relationship Manager
100772	NZ Cricket Inc	\$65,868	\$2,944	19/09/2023	Programme costs
105945	NZ Rugby Foundation Inc	\$40,700	\$3,700	20/08/2024	Defibrillators
106833	Scout Association of NZ	\$95,000	\$1,491	15/10/2024	Salaries of South Island Scouts Territory General Manager, Lower North Island Territory General Manager and Upper North Island Territory General Manager
99870	Scout Association of NZ	\$95,000	\$2,039	22/08/2023	Salaries of General Manager South Island, General Manager Lower North Island and General Manager Upper North Island
111391	Special Olympics NZ	\$270,000	\$1,662	19/08/2025	Salaries of Partnership & Sport Manager, Regional Sports Coordinators and Regional Sports Coordinator Lead
105351	Special Olympics NZ	\$270,000	\$1,533	16/07/2024	Salaries of Sports Director and regional Sports Coordinators
98502	Special Olympics NZ	\$270,000	\$3,397	20/06/2023	Salaries of Sports Director and regional Sports Coordinators
107381	Stroke Foundation of NZ Limited	\$6,000	\$498	15/10/2024	Salary
112985	Surf Life Saving NZ Manatapu Inc	\$60,000	\$767	26/09/2025	Salaries of Sport Development Officer, Sport Manager Eastern, Regional Sport Manager Southern and Regional Sport Manager Central
104826	Surf Life Saving NZ Manatapu Inc	\$60,000	\$880	20/06/2024	Salaries of Sport Manager Central, Manager Southern and Manager Eastern Region
97391	Surf Life Saving NZ Manatapu Inc	\$60,000	\$1,390	21/03/2023	Salaries of Sport Manager Central, Sport Manager Southern and Sport Manager Eastern
111327	Talk Link Trust	\$10,000	\$511	11/07/2025	Vehicle
105005	Talk Link Trust	\$10,000	\$474	20/06/2024	Vehicle
98895	Talk Link Trust	\$21,696	\$1,264	20/06/2023	Purchase of a vehicle
102061	Touch NZ Inc	\$120,000	\$1,638	16/01/2024	Salaries of Regional Development Managers
110652	Volleyball NZ Inc	\$99,124	\$1,293	20/05/2025	Travel and accommodation, and contract fees for Coaches for North and Central Zone
103836	Volleyball NZ Inc	\$99,000	\$1,722	21/05/2024	Coach contract fees, and travel and accommodation
98139	Volleyball NZ Inc	\$100,000	\$1,442	15/05/2023	Travel and accommodation
108858	Yachting NZ Inc	\$145,000	\$1,753	17/02/2025	Salaries of Regional Development Managers for Northern, Bay of Plenty, Central and South
102779	Yachting NZ Inc	\$145,000	\$1,989	16/01/2024	Salaries of Regional Development Manager - Southern, Regional Development Manager - Central, Regional Development Manager - Bay of Plenty and Regional Development Manager - Northern
96774	Yachting NZ Inc	\$145,000	\$2,511	17/01/2023	Salaries of Regional Development Manager - Bay of Plenty, Regional Development Manager - Central, Regional Development Manager - Southern and Regional Development Manager - Northern
		\$6,021,370	\$124,928		
	Total	\$10,665,666	\$1,463,813		



19 November 2025
Emily Garland
Via email: emily.garland@tasman.govt.nz

RE: Gambling Venues Policy Review

Tenā koe,

Hospitality New Zealand (Hospitality NZ) is a member-led, not-for-profit organisation representing around 2,500 businesses, ranging across cafés, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, commercial accommodation, country hotels, and off-licences. We have a history of over 120 years of advocating on behalf of the hospitality and tourism sector.

We are writing in response to the review of the Gambling Venues Policy. Having reviewed the current policy, we consider the existing framework to be effective and fit-for-purpose. At this time, we do not believe that further restrictions would make a meaningful contribution towards minimising gambling harm.

On 1 December 2023, the Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Amendment Regulations 2023 came into force, introducing more stringent requirements for class 4 venues, including earlier harm minimisation intervention and proactive oversight. Our venues operate within these updated regulations and already provide the safest environment for those who choose to gamble. They are staffed, monitored spaces where responsible gambling practices are applied and early engagement is encouraged when a person may be at risk of harm.

It is important to note that gaming machines in regulated venues are also a vital contributor to the wider community. Through Gaming Trust distributions, tens of thousands of dollars are provided each year to local sports clubs, community organisations, arts and culture groups, and other not-for-profit initiatives. This essential funding supports activities and services that would otherwise struggle for resources. Any reduction in venue-based gaming has a direct and measurable impact on this community funding stream.

Further policy restrictions may also result in unintended consequences. International experience has shown that when access to gaming machines in safe, regulated venues is reduced, gambling often shifts to offshore and online platforms. These platforms are available 24 hours per day, offer no consumer protection or harm minimisation support, provide incentives to gamble, and do not contribute to the problem gambling levy or to community funding in New Zealand.

While we do not support additional restrictions, we do see an opportunity for improvement that could support both harm minimisation and business sustainability. We recommend that Council consider introducing a relocation policy whereby existing licence holders can apply to relocate gaming machines to another site where:

- a building is no longer fit-for-purpose; or
- relocation to a lower deprivation area may provide a more suitable trading environment.

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A relocation pathway maintains the overall number of gaming machines while ensuring they remain in supervised, compliant venues, and provides operators with the flexibility to reinvest in modern and safe premises.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback at this early stage and would be happy to discuss these points further or provide additional industry context as the review progresses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi nui,

Zinnia Foster
Regional Manager
Hospitality New Zealand

Phone: 027 946 6420
Email: zinnia@hospitality.org.nz

The Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand’s Feedback on Tasman District Council’s Gambling Venue Policy

Introduction

1. The Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand (“the Association”) represents the vast majority of the gaming machine societies that operate in New Zealand. The Association wishes to provide Tasman District Council with pertinent information regarding gaming machine gambling to help council to make a balanced, evidence-based decision.

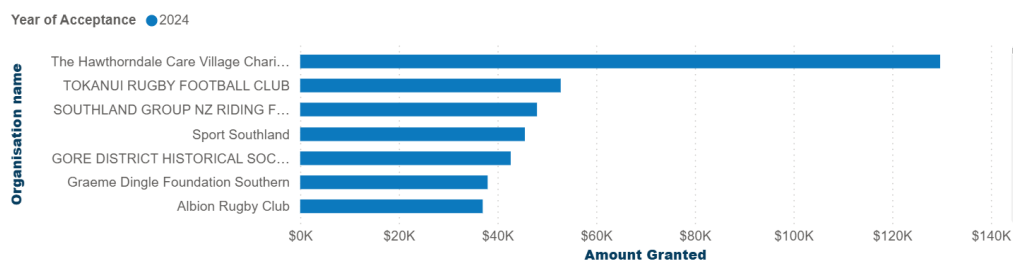
Summary

2. The Association asks that:
 - Council adopts a relocation provision (relocation is a harm minimisation tool); and
 - The sinking lid be replaced with a cap at the current number of 129 gaming machines (machine numbers have already reduced considerably, and the sinking lid is ineffective given the popularity of online gambling).

Local Data and Information

3. The amount of grants made to Tasman District-based organisations is posted on the granted.govt.nz website. In 2024, grants totalling **\$1,073,329.00** were made to the Tasman District:

Amount Granted by Organisation



4. In addition to the external grants, club venues use the proceeds from the machines to support their members and their club facilities. One of the nine venues that operate gaming machines in the Tasman District is a club venue: Club Waimea with 18 gaming machines.
5. Local gaming machines numbers continue to decline. In March 2015, the Tasman District had 180 gaming machines. In June 2025, the District had only 129 gaming machines.

Adopting a Relocation Provision

6. It is suggested that the policy be updated to include a relocation provision. Venue relocation is a harm minimisation tool.
7. In September 2013, Parliament recognised the merit in enabling venues to relocate, and expressly amended the Gambling Act 2003 to enable venues to relocate and retain the same number of machines when a relocation consent was obtained.
8. If a venue wishes to relocate out of a high deprivation area to a lower deprivation area, the policy should permit this. There is no good policy reason for taking steps to restrict this option. Restricting the option to relocate simply entrenches venues in high deprivation locations.
9. If a venue wishes to relocate out of a suburban/residential area to a more suitable area, such as a central business district, the policy should permit this. There is no good policy reason for taking steps to restrict this option. Restricting the option to relocate simply entrenches venues in undesirable residential locations.
10. The relocation policy should also be flexible enough to support businesses that wish to move to new, modern, refurbished premises. Allowing local businesses to upgrade their premises and provide a more modern, attractive offering to the public helps to revitalise business districts, improves the local economy and encourages tourism.
11. The first venue to relocate under the amendments made to the Gambling Act 2003 was the Te Rapa Tavern in Hamilton. The photos below show the old, rundown premises and the new modern premises. The redevelopment cost \$3,000,000.



The old Te Rapa Tavern



The new Te Rapa Tavern

12. The relocation policy should enable venues to move to smaller, more suitable premises. Enabling venues to move away from large premises, with large car parking areas, to newer, smaller premises also has the advantage of freeing up large areas of land, which may be better used for affordable high-density housing.
13. The relocation policy should enable venues to move out of earthquake-prone buildings to stronger, more modern buildings. This is a health and safety issue.

14. It would also be reasonable to also allow venues to relocate when the move is due to onerous rental sums or lease terms being imposed. Currently, once a venue has obtained a licence to host gaming machines its value is artificially increased. This often leads to landlords demanding higher than normal rentals. Allowing more flexible relocation prevents landlords demanding unreasonable rentals as it gives the venue operator the ability to relocate to an alternative venue.
15. The following wording is suggested for a relocation provision:

Venue Relocation

A new venue consent will be issued by Council in the following circumstances:

- (a) Where the venue is intended to replace an existing venue within the district;
- (b) Where the existing venue operator consents to the relocation; and
- (c) Where the proposed new location meets all the other requirements in this policy.

In accordance with section 97A of the Gambling Act 2003, when a relocation consent is sought under this relocation provision, the new venue may operate up to the same number of machines that were permitted to operate at the old venue immediately before the old venue licence was cancelled as a result of the relocation.

In accordance with section 97A(c) of the Gambling Act 2003, when the new venue is established following a consent being granted under this relocation provision, the old venue is treated as if no class 4 venue licence was ever held for the venue. The old venue will therefore require a new territorial authority consent from Council before being relicensed to host gaming machines and will be limited to a maximum of 9 machines if such a consent is issued by Council.

16. Previously, venues were able to relocate a short distance without needing to obtain Council consent under what was known as the Waikiwi Tavern precedent. This option was removed by the High Court on 19 February 2024: *Feed Families Not Pokies Aotearoa Inc v Secretary for Internal Affairs* [2024] NZHC 217 [19 February 2024]. The only way now for a venue to relocate, no matter how minor the distance, is to obtain a relocation consent under Council's gambling venue policy. It is therefore more important than ever that Councils cater for venue relocations in their gambling venue policies.

Time to Replace the Sinking Lid with a Cap

17. Given the considerable decrease in gaming machine numbers and the rise of online gambling, the time has come to replace the sinking lid with a cap at current numbers (129 gaming machines).
18. There is no direct correlation between gaming machine numbers and problem gambling rates. Over the last 15 years, the problem gambling rate has remained static, despite

gaming machine numbers declining by over 25%.

19. The 2012 National Gambling Survey¹ concluded that the prevalence of problematic gambling reduced significantly during the 1990s and has since stayed about the same. The report stated on pages 17 and 18:

Problem gambling and related harms probably reduced significantly during the 1990s but have since remained at about the same level despite reductions in non-casino EGM numbers and the expansion of regulatory, public health and treatment measures. Given that gambling availability expanded markedly since 1987 and official expenditure continued to increase until 2004, these findings are consistent with the adaptation hypothesis. This hypothesis proposes that while gambling problems increase when high risk forms of gambling are first introduced and made widely available, over time individual and environmental adaptations occur that lead to problem reduction.

20. The New Zealand National Gambling Study: Wave 3 (2014)² noted that the problem gambling rate had remained the same over the last 10-15 years despite gaming machine numbers decreasing. The report stated on page 19:

In contrast to the 1990s, there is no evidence that problem gambling prevalence decreased with decreasing participation rates during the 2000s. When methodological differences between studies are taken into account, it appears that problem gambling prevalence has remained much the same during the past 10 to 15 years.

...gambling participation has decreased substantially in New Zealand during the past 20 years, and problem gambling and related harm has probably plateaued...

21. Professor Max Abbott is New Zealand's leading expert on problem gambling. In 2006, Professor Abbott published a paper titled *Do EGMs and Problem Gambling Go Together Like a Horse and Carriage?* The paper noted that gaming machine reductions and the introduction of caps generally appear to have little impact on problem gambling rates. Professor Abbott noted:

EGM reductions and the introduction of caps generally appear to have little impact (page 1).

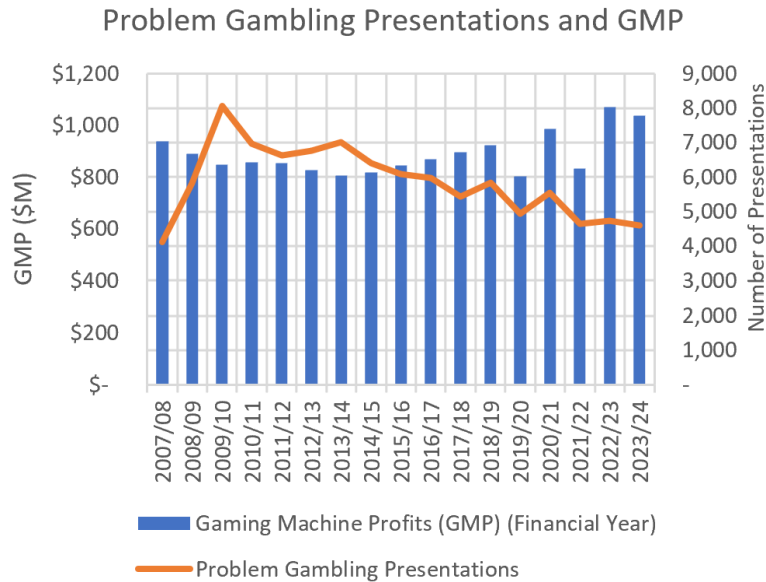
Over time, years rather than decades, adaptation ('host' immunity and protective environmental changes) typically occurs and problem levels reduce, even in the face of increasing exposure (page 6).

Contrary to expectation, as indicated previously, although EGM numbers and expenditure increased substantially in New Zealand from 1991 to 1999, the percentage of adults who gambled weekly dropped from 48% to 40%. This is of particular interest because it suggests that greater availability and expenditure do not necessarily increase high-risk exposure (page 14).

¹ <https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/national-gambling-study-report-2.pdf>

² https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/NZ_National_Gambling_Study_Wave4_2015.pdf

22. There is no direct correlation between gaming machine spend and problem gambling presentations:



Source: DIA website: https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/class-4-gambling-key-performance-indicators/resource/4893f532-b4b8-4966-b33c-de3836817a49?inner_span=True

23. Retaining a more restrictive policy is unlikely to reduce problem gambling, but will, over time, reduce the amount of funding available to community groups based in Tasman District. Reducing gaming machine venues reduces casual and recreational play, and therefore reduces machine turnover and the amount of money generated for grant distribution. However, problem gamblers are people who are addicted to gambling. If a new bar is established and the policy prevents that bar from hosting gaming machines, a person who is addicted to gambling will simply travel the short distance to the next bar that has gaming machines, or worse, may move to another form of gambling such as offshore-based internet and mobile phone gambling.

Unintended Consequences – Increase in Internet and Mobile Phone Gambling

24. Any reduction in the local gaming machine offering may have unintended consequences, as this may simply lead to a migration of the gambling spend to offshore internet- and mobile-based offerings. While it is illegal to advertise overseas gambling in New Zealand, it is not illegal to participate in gambling on an overseas-based website or mobile phone application.



25. It now takes only a simple search and a few minutes to download to your computer, tablet, or mobile phone any type of casino game you desire, including an exact replica of the gaming machine programs currently available in New Zealand venues.
26. The 2020 Health and Lifestyle Survey found that 1 in 4 New Zealand adults participated in some form of online gambling, with 19% participating almost every week.³

In the last 12 months,

1 in 4 (27%) New Zealand adults participated in some form of online gambling.



19% of online gamblers participated in online gambling almost every week.



27. TAB New Zealand estimates that the total online spend with offshore gambling websites by New Zealanders is \$600m-\$700m annually.
28. The migration from physical Lotto stores and SkyCity was apparent during the Covid-19 lockdowns. When the physical venues were closed, the number of online registered players, and the amount of online revenue, skyrocketed:

‘MyLotto’:

- 2018 748,000 registered players.
- 2020 1,230,000 registered players.

³ https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/2020_Health_and_Lifestyles_Survey_report.pdf

- 2018 \$201m spend.
- 2020 \$430m spend.

SkyCity online casino:

- 2018 25,661 registered players.
- 2020 48,958 registered players.

- 2018 \$254m spend.
- 2020 \$793m spend.

29. The Australian National University 2024 study *Gambling Participation in Australia 2024, Trends Over Time, and Profiles Associated with Online Gambling*⁴ confirmed the player migration from physical gambling venues to online. The study found at page 6:

Our data also suggest that these individuals may have ‘switched’ their gambling activity from venue-based gambling (e.g. EGM gambling) to activities that are readily available online in Australia, such as betting on sports and racing. This may reflect [an] increase in overall online gambling participation that has been observed prior to COVID-19.

30. Offshore-based online gambling poses considerable risks because it:

- Is highly accessible, being available 24 hours a day from the comfort and privacy of your home;
- Has no restrictions on bet sizes;
- Has no capacity for venue staff to observe and assist people in trouble;
- Reaches new groups of people who may be vulnerable to the medium;
- Provides no guaranteed return to players;
- Is more easily abused by minors;
- Has reduced protections to prevent fraud, money laundering or unfair gambling practices; and
- Is unregulated, so on-line gamblers are often encouraged to gamble more by being offered inducements or by being offered the opportunity to gamble on credit. For example, many overseas sites offer sizable cash bonuses to a customer’s account for each friend that they induce to also open an account and deposit funds.

31. Offshore-based online gambling currently does not generate any community funding for New Zealanders, and currently does not make any contribution to the New Zealand health and treatment services, as no contribution is made to the problem gambling levy.

⁴ https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/Gambling_in_Australia_2024_002.pdf

32. The Government has confirmed its decision to regulate online casino gambling and begin issuing online gambling licences from July 2026. The introduction of a licensing system will allow offshore-based online providers to market and advertise more freely, which is expected to drive significant growth. However, only 4% of their gross revenue will be allocated to community grants. These providers are likely to be entirely based offshore, resulting in no local employment and all profits being removed from New Zealand.

18 November 2025

Jarrod True

Counsel

Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand

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Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy Review: Pre-engagement Support for Tasman District Council

Introduction to PGF Services

PGF Services delivers gambling harm treatment and public health services nationwide. We provide free counselling, advice and support to gamblers and their families.

We work closely with Asian Family Services and Mapu Maia Pasifika Service, united by a shared purpose to provide public health and clinical services that contribute to the wellbeing of whānau and communities. Our organisation is a charitable trust operating nationally with services delivered under contract to Te Whatu Ora and funded from the gambling levy.

Class 4 Gambling

Class 4 gambling (pokies in pubs, clubs, and TABs) is the most harmful form of gambling in Aotearoa New Zealand.

As a continuous form of gambling, electronic gaming machines (EGMs or 'pokies') enable players to place hundreds of bets in a matter of minutes. You do not have to wait for the horses to finish a race, a roulette wheel to stop spinning, or for the weekly Lotto draw – just press a button and in mere seconds you have a result.

It is important to consider that all gambling is not the same. Although pokies are a legal form of entertainment in New Zealand, they are highly addictive and have been specifically designed to be very absorbing and encourage people to participate in continuous gambling.

Tasman and Class 4 Gambling

As of June 2025, there were 9 Class 4 gambling venues and 129 pokies in the Tasman District.¹ This is a reduction of 2 venues and 17 pokie machines since June 2024. As a result, Tasman has also seen a nominal reduction in GMP from \$9.6 million in June 2024 to \$9.5 million in June 2025. These reductions show that the comprehensive sinking lid policy Tasman has in place is working. Profits are, if slowly, reducing, and this is a key indicator that harm is being mitigated.

¹ Department of Internal Affairs. *Gaming machine profits (GMP Dashboard)*. Wellington: Department of Internal Affairs; 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/gambling-statistics-gmp-dashboard>

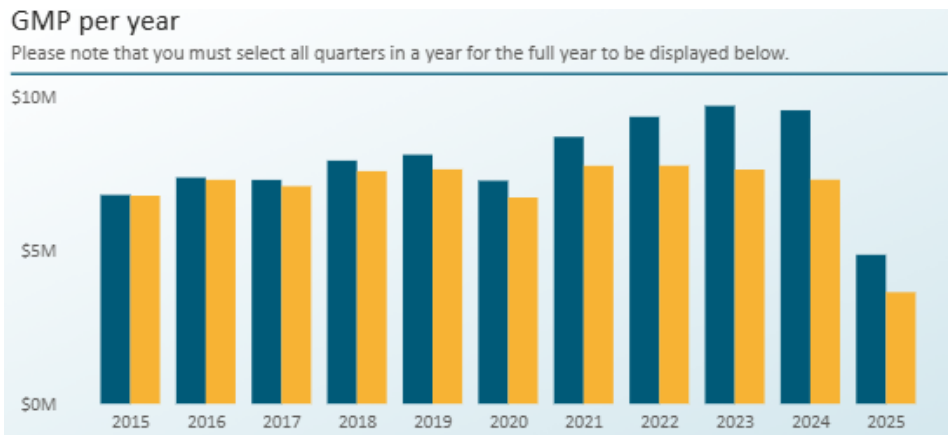


Figure 1: Tasman District GMP from 2015 to 2025 (DIA, 2025)

Between June 2024 and June 2025, people in the Tasman District lost approximately \$9.5 million on pokie machines. This equates to around \$234 per adult, based on the adult population recorded in Statistics New Zealand’s 2018 Census (the most recent available data, as 2023 population figures for this region are yet to be released).

Impact of Gambling Harm on the Community

As the only provider of mainstream services for the prevention and minimisation of gambling harm in Aotearoa New Zealand, we have first-hand experience supporting gamblers and affected others in navigating the impact that harmful gambling has had on their lives.

It is estimated that about one in five people in New Zealand will experience harm in their lifetime due to their own or someone else’s gambling.² The impact of harmful gambling is diverse, affecting multiple domains of health and wellbeing, including physical, social, emotional, and mental health.

The total number of clients assisted in the Tasman District are as follows (data has been retrieved from the Ministry of Health’s [Gambling harm intervention services data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)):

Financial Year	Total clients assisted
July 2022 – June 2023	63
July 2021 – June 2022	56
July 2020 – June 2021	71

It is important to note that the Ministry of Health’s *Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm* states that “needs assessment and outcomes monitoring reports show that **only 16%** of potential clients for gambling support services (that is, people whose reported harm results in a moderate to high PGSI score) actually access or present at these services”, and that this low service use is also evident for other forms of addiction.³

While the Ministry of Health’s client intervention data is not an accurate measure of the prevalence of gambling harm in New Zealand, it can tell us the rate of harm from different classes of gambling

² Ministry of Health, *Strategy to prevent and minimise gambling harm 2022/23 to 2024/25*. Wellington: Ministry of Health; 2022.

³ Ministry of Health. *Strategy to prevent and minimise gambling harm 2019/20 to 2021/22*. Wellington; 2019.



amongst those who have sought help. Data for 2022/23 shows that of the 4,411 individuals who received full intervention support for their own or someone else's gambling, 1,986 (45.0%) were for Class 4 EGMs.⁴

Moreover, gambling harm disproportionately impacts Māori and Pacific peoples, and these populations have been identified in the Ministry of Health's *Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm 2022/23 to 2024/25* as bearing a burden of harm that greatly outweighs that being experienced by other groups.

The 2020 Health and Lifestyles Survey results indicated that Māori were 3.13 times more likely to be moderate-risk or high-risk gamblers than non-Māori and non-Pacific peoples, and Pacific peoples were 2.56 times more likely to be moderate-risk or high-risk gamblers than non-Māori and non-Pacific peoples.⁵ According to the 2023 Census, 9% and 2.6% of Tasman District's population are Māori and Pasifika respectively.⁶ Consideration around how Class 4 gambling inequitably impacts these groups must be deliberated and addressed.

Sinking Lid Policy

Councils play an important role in addressing the harm caused by Class 4 gambling by adopting gambling venue policies which regulate the number and location of Class 4 pokies.

According to research conducted by the Auckland University of Technology's New Zealand Work Research Institute, sinking lid policies are one of the most effective policies at reducing pokie spending, helping reduce problem gambling expenditure by 13%. Moreover, territorial local authorities (TLAs) who adopted restrictions above and beyond those mandated by the Gambling Act 2003 experienced less gambling harm than those TLAs who have not.⁷

Currently, just over half (55%), or 36 councils in Aotearoa New Zealand have adopted a sinking lid policy.

We commend Tasman District Council for undertaking a robust community impact assessment and for engaging with gambling-harm organisations, including PGF Services, to fully understand the breadth and depth of harm caused by pokies. We also acknowledge and support that **Tasman** already operates a comprehensive sinking lid policy, demonstrating a clear commitment to reducing pokie-related harm over time.

As Council reviews its policy, we encourage maintaining this strong position and exploring opportunities to further strengthen the sinking lid framework, ensuring it continues to prevent:

- any increase in pokie machine numbers

⁴ Ministry of Health. *Gambling harm intervention services data*. Wellington: Ministry of Health; 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction/addiction/gambling-harm/service-user-data/gambling-harm-intervention-services-data>

⁵ Te Hīringa Hauora. Results from the Health and Lifestyles Survey 2020. Wellington: Te Hīringa Hauora; 2021.

⁶ Statistics New Zealand. *2023 Census place summaries – Tasman District*. 2025. Retrieved from: [Tasman District, Place and ethnic group summaries | Stats NZ](#)

⁷ Erwin C, Lees, K., Pacheco, G., & Turco, A. *Capping problem gambling in NZ: The effectiveness of local government policy interventions*. Auckland: New Zealand Work Research Institute.; 2020.



- venue relocations that could undermine the intent of the policy
- club mergers that result in higher concentrations of machines

Retaining and reinforcing the sinking lid approach remains the most effective action Council can take to reduce pokie expenditure and minimise gambling harm across the district.

Class 4 Gambling Community Grants

Class 4 Trusts and Societies are required to return 40% of the GMP to the community by the way of grants or applied funding. However, it cannot be guaranteed that money lost to pokies in the district is returned to community groups in the same district. For example, of the \$9.6m lost in Tasman District in 2024, approximately \$1,073,329.00 was returned to organisations based in Tasman District.⁸ This is around 11% of the amount lost in 2024.

While pokie grants may support local community groups, sports, and services, it is important to remember where the money is coming *from* rather than where the money is going. Evidence has repeatedly shown that the distribution of Class 4 gambling funds is inequitable as funds are less likely to return to the communities in which they were raised. Reports from the Ministry of Health reveal that pokies in the most deprived areas provide over half of the total Class 4 gambling expenditure.⁹ The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) have also acknowledged that “this means that there is more exposure and access to pokie gambling, normalising gambling in communities who can least afford it and leading to gambling harm.”¹⁰

As at March 2025, approximately 60% of Class 4 venues in Aotearoa New Zealand are located in medium-high or very-high deprivation areas. In Tasman District, 1 venue in low, 1 venue in medium, 1 venue in medium high and 6 venues in high deprivation areas.¹¹

A report commissioned by the DIA, *Assessment of the effects of Class 4 gambling on wellbeing in New Zealand*, revealed that “one of the most striking features of this report is that [qualitative and quantitative analyses] both indicate that Class 4 gambling tends to magnify community disadvantage. The evidence strongly suggests that it transfers wealth from more deprived communities to less deprived communities”.

⁸ Department of Internal Affairs. *Granted Dashboard - Grants by District*. Wellington: Department of Internal Affairs; 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.granted.govt.nz/dashboard.html>

⁹ Allen & Clarke. *Informing the 2015 gambling harm needs assessment: Final report for the Ministry of Health*. Wellington: Ministry of Health; 2015.

¹⁰ Department of Internal Affairs. *Reducing pokies harm – Public discussion document*. Wellington: Department of Internal Affairs; 2022.

¹¹ Department of Internal Affairs. *Gaming machine profits (GMP Dashboard)*. Wellington: Department of Internal Affairs; 2025. Retrieved from: [Gaming Machine Profits \(GMP\) Dashboard - Dataset - data.govt.nz - discover and use data](https://www.data.govt.nz/discover-and-use-data/gaming-machine-profits-gmp-dashboard-dataset)



Overall, there is a strong redistributive effect where less deprived communities (decile 1-5) provide 26% of the GMP but receive 88% of the grants. Conversely, more deprived communities (decile 6-10) provide 74% of the GMP but receive only 12% of the grants.¹²

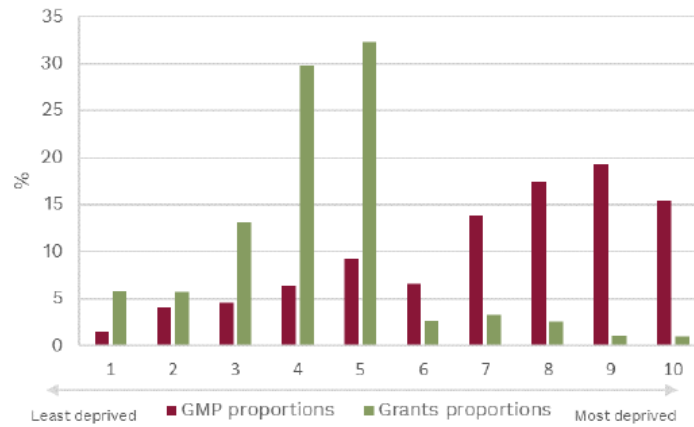


Figure 3: The origin of GMP and the destination of Class 4 grants by socio-economic decile (BERL, 2020)

¹² Cox M, Hurren K, Nana G. Assessment of the effects of Class 4 gambling on Wellbeing in New Zealand: Final Report. Wellington: Business and Economic Research Limited; 2020.



09/12/2025

Tasman District Council

Re: Early Feedback on Tasman District Council Gambling Venues Policy Review Emphasis from Asian Family Services

Asian Family Services (AFS) welcomes the opportunity to provide early input into the review of the Tasman District Council Gambling Venues Policy. Asian Family Services (AFS) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) committed to providing gambling harm minimisation and mental wellbeing support services to individuals of Asian background living in Aotearoa/New Zealand. It has been the sole national provider of gambling harm minimisation services for Asian communities since 1998. Our gambling harm initiatives are funded by Te Whatu Ora. Our services offered are face-to-face by qualified counsellors, psychologists, social workers, and public health practitioners who speak various Asian languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, and English.

1. Key Insights About Gambling Harm in Asian Communities

- Asian people gamble **less frequently overall** than the general population, but when they do, they experience **disproportionately higher levels of gambling harm**.
- **60–70%** of AFS clients experiencing harm identify **pokie machines** (Class 4) as their primary gambling mode, with **sports and racing betting** (TAB) commonly reported as a secondary harm source.
- Harm is often driven by:
 - social isolation and settlement stress,
 - language barriers and low awareness of support services,
 - cultural stigma around seeking help.
- Asian clients typically **present later and with more severe harm**, making prevention and safe venue placement critical.

2. What Works Well in the Current 2019 Policy

- The harm-minimisation objectives are strong.
- Adoption of the sinking lid policy for Class 4 venues.
- Transparent processes for considering TAB venue applications.

AFS strongly supports maintaining all sinking-lid provisions.

Asian Family Helpline 0800 862 342
www.asianfamilyservices.nz

Free, confidential & professional services
PO Box 302130, North Harbour 0751, Auckland, NZ



3. Key Gaps for the 2024–26 Review

- **New TAB venues are allowed to be established**
- **No location criteria for TAB venues**, which is now required under the Racing Industry Act 2020.
- No explicit recognition of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, despite known vulnerability to gambling harm.
- Limited expectations around **cultural and multilingual harm-minimisation** in TAB venues.
- No consideration of cumulative impacts or clustering.

4. Recommendations from AFS

A. Add clear TAB location rules

To protect vulnerable populations, including Asian migrants and international students, AFS recommends the policy specify:

- **100–200 m minimum distance** from schools, youth spaces, cultural centres, places of worship, and migrant community hubs.
- **Prohibition in residential zones**, especially areas with high migrant occupancy.
- **500 m anti-clustering rule** for all gambling venues.
- Placement only in designated commercial zones with lower harm risk.

B. Strengthen harm-minimisation requirements for TAB venues

Include explicit requirements for:

- multilingual signage and materials (Chinese, Korean, Hindi, Thai, Vietnamese, Japanese, etc.),
- staff training in cultural competency and early intervention,
- visible information about self-exclusion and the Asian Helpline,
- collaboration with culturally specific services such as AFS.

C. Acknowledge CALD communities in the policy's objectives

Revise Section 2 to note that some groups—including Māori, Pacific, and Asian communities—experience disproportionate harm. According to the 2023 census, the usually resident population of Tasman district is 57,807. Asian population is currently small (4%) but steadily growing with around 21.3% of the total population being born overseas indicating decent cultural and ethnic diversity.

Asian Family Helpline 0800 862 342
www.asianfamilyservices.nz

Free, confidential & professional services
 PO Box 302130, North Harbour 0751, Auckland, NZ



D. Require demographic and cultural impact assessments for new TAB venue applications

Applicants should assess the characteristics of nearby communities, potential cumulative harm, and language/accessibility issues.

E. Continue the Sinking Lid policy

5. Conclusion

The current policy contains strong foundations, particularly its sinking-lid approach for Class 4 venues. By adding culturally informed TAB location criteria and strengthening harm-minimisation requirements, the revised policy can significantly improve protection for Asian communities and support a healthier, safer gambling environment across Tasman District. However, adopting the sinking lid policy for TAB venues is highly recommended.