

Notice is given that Information Forum will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 28 April 2026
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Tasman Council Chamber
Venue: 189 Queen Street, Richmond

YouTube: This forum will be livestreamed on [Tasman District Council - YouTube](#)

Information Forum

PROGRAMME

Information Forums are not meetings and **cannot be used to either make decisions or come to agreements**. Information Forums are to provide information for discussion and an opportunity for questions.

ATTENDEES

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

No quorum for Information Forum briefings

Contact Telephone: 03 543 8400

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PROGRAMME

1 WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 INFORMATION FORUM REPORTS

4.1	Nelson Regional Development Agency Update	4
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4.3	2025 Triennial Election Report	45
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4.7	Harbourmaster's Report	83
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4.10	Plan Change 81 - Urban Growth and TRPS C1 Update	123
4.11	Three Waters and Waste Management Operations Upate	137

4 INFORMATION FORUM REPORTS

4.1 NELSON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY UPDATE

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Pip Jamieson, Principal Planner - Strategic Policy
Report Authorisers:	John Ridd, Group Manager - Customer & Community
Report Number:	RIF26-04-1

1. Presentation / Whakatakotoranga

Fiona Wilson, Chief Executive of Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA), will make a presentation to the Information Forum on the NRDA's half yearly report and statement of intent.

2. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1. [!\[\]\(ec9132f1d27c8919987d92907322654d_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(9db1a20e6fdae9c15975d240125424df_img.jpg\)](#) NRDA presentation

5



Presenting to Tasman District Councillors, 28 April, 2026
Six Month Report & Statement of Intent 2026 update

Sarah Jane Weir (Chair) | Fiona Wilson (CE)
Contact: Fiona.Wilson@nelsontasman.nz / 022 327 9344

**Nelson
Tasman**

NELSON
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



Attracting Resources & Activity • Capability Building • Collaborating to Compete

Severe weather event response support

- CDEM Economic Pou. Sector research. Flood impact report. >\$260M impact GDP. Open for Business campaign. \$50k MBIE tourism flood recovery marketing secured supporting boosted late Spring campaign delivered

Regional investment support

- Briefing for Ministers 2026 now published. Major project tracking. Marina Redevelopment announcement (e.g.long-term collective advocacy)

Blue Economy

- Moananui cluster – NRDA hosted programme
- MoU signed Oceans Impact Organisation
- Blue House opened March 2026



Funding boost for Nelson Marina project

HON SHANE JONES

Nelson's planned marina expansion has been provided a \$12.89 million loan, which will help deliver infrastructure upgrades to drive economic growth and generate local jobs, Regional Development Minister Shane Jones says.

"The Regional Infrastructure Fund loan will help make [Nelson Marina](#) a world-class marine services facility and a major contributor to the region's economy," Mr Jones says.

The upgrade will provide the ability to lift out heavier boats for servicing by installing a 110-tonne vessel hoist. It will also expand the marina's hardstand capacity for marine maintenance from 14 to 54 bays. A purpose-

Innovation hub launched

New hub for Moananui, an alliance committed to growing sustainable ocean related business

BUSINESS

Katie Teasdale

Blue for water used for nature, it's beyond a new conversation, both in Nelson and Tairāwhiti. The water at the heart of the region's economy.

The new Blue House in Tairāwhiti is now officially opened by Governor-General Dame Cressida Dick at a ceremony yesterday afternoon.

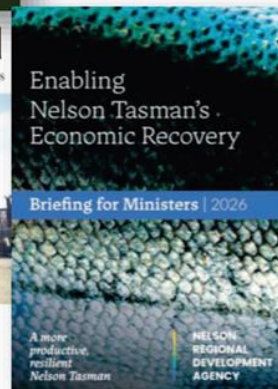
The Blue House is a three-year partnership between Waipara, New Zealand, the Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA) and Kaitiaki Engineering, creating a dedicated workspace for blue economy start-ups in Tairāwhiti with a focus on sustainable practices.

The hub will be a focus for education, an alliance of New Zealand organisations here committed to growing sustainable ocean-related business opportunities across industries including aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, marine, ocean energy, research, engineering and infrastructure.

It provides space for blue startups, with two of the offices already in use. NRDA chief executive Peter Brown said it was an honor to host the hub and would be able



moananui



Capability Building and Skills

Direct Business Support (RBPP)

- 97 businesses supported 1:1 to date and further 35 lighter touch
- \$205k co-funding facilitated
- Connections to 53 referral agencies (funding options, Private equity)
- New AI Advisory Fund Pilot delivery

Skills & Workforce

- Development Forums September & March (partnership)
- Education to Industry events

Innovation Ecosystem

- Mahitahi Colab partnership NMIT and Chamber
- Mahitahi Tasman (Mapua) opened February 2026

Economic Monitoring & Reporting

e.g Quarterly Economic Monitoring, Regional Briefings

Sector Focus: Visitor. Food & Beverage. Blue (Moananui).
New opportunities e.g. Aerospace event

Nelson Tasman | NELSON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



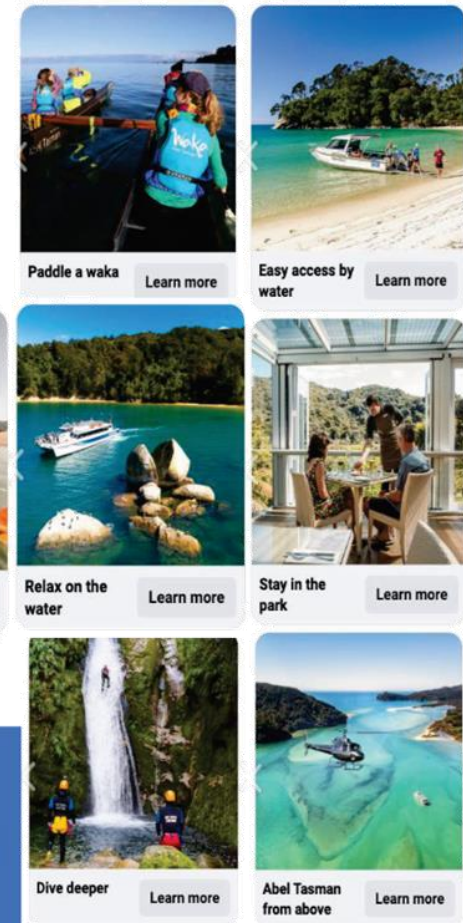
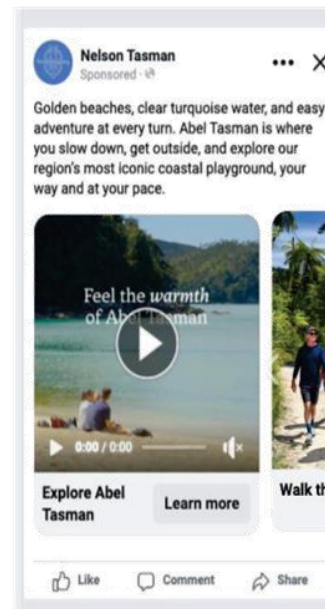
Visitor Economy (RTO)

- **Industry partnership:** 58 businesses/\$152k
- **Domestic Spring Campaign & Flood Response:** 4,550 direct referrals to local businesses. MBIE \$50k secured supported enhanced campaigns (effective). New collateral e.g tourism video
- **International:** > 145 face2face ytd Travel Trade presentations. TNZ & AirNZ key partners. Upcoming: international journalists, TRENDZ, Trade-day
- **Official Visitor Guide** 80,000 copies. Self-funded
- **Business support:** AI, Marketing, Cultural
- **Events:** Funding & highlights!
- **Business Events** stream: 12–18-month pitching. New conference toolkit and promotion video
- **Media** pitches & partnerships >\$3M EAV; 20 articles; e.g Seven Sharp
- **International Education:** Value, website, schools



Autumn visitor campaign - results so far:

- 613,000 people reached digital channels
- >17,000 clicks
- 994 direct referrals to partner businesses



nelsontasman.nz: Website/digital continual expansion

- Unique views + 3.7%, referrals inc 53%
- 58,000 social media followers. 16,500 consumer email database/152 trade contacts
- Events pages #1 – over 60,000 sessions since 1 July

Statement of Intent 2024/27 *2026 update*

- Maintaining currency: Economic environment.
Technical
- Maintaining delivery focus:
Attracting Resources/Activity - Capability Building –
Collaborating to Compete
- Resource:
 - Government funding end June 2026 - Skills and workforce programme. Team capacity reduction
 - Business Events. Business climate support
 - Regional Business Partner Programme assumption
- Focus:
 - Partnering to leverage capacity
 - Industry partnerships
 - Momentum, resilience, pivoting in workstreams
 - Responsive to challenges & events the new norm

Credit to Council for maintaining support for economic development at a regional level







Thank you
Ngā mihi nui

Sarah Jane Weir (Chair) | Fiona Wilson (CE)
Contact: Fiona.Wilson@nelsontasman.nz / 022 327 9344

*Image source: Nelson Tasman Regional Toolkit holding 1154
images available free to use for businesses*

**NELSON
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

4.2 WAIMEA INLET ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Cat Budai, Community Policy Advisor; Anna Gerraty, Senior Community Policy Advisor
Report Authorisers:	Alan Bywater, Team Leader - Community Policy; Sue McLean, Kaiwhakahaere ā Rōpū – Te Pae Rautaki Ahumoni Group Manager - Strategy & Finance
Report Number:	RIF26-04-2

You can free type your information report below, or just complete Subject Heading One and delete the others and attach your material to .

1. Purpose of the Report / Te Take mō te Pūrongo

- 1.1 This report informs the Council of progress towards implementing the Waimea Inlet Action Plan during the 2025 calendar year.

2. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpoto

- 2.1 In August 2023 (RSPC23-08-2), the Committee agreed that the Council would lead or assist with specific actions/targets listed in the updated 'Waimea Inlet Action Plan 2023-2026' (Action Plan). The Action Plan is designed to implement the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (Strategy), to which the Council is a signatory. The Strategy and Action Plan is a non-statutory document aimed at maintaining and improving the health of the Waimea Inlet.
- 2.2 The Council is a member of the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group (the Group) that coordinates the review, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2.3 Each year, the Group produces an annual report, summarising progress made in implementing the Action Plan. The progress report for the 2025 calendar year is appended as **Attachment 1**.
- 2.4 A progress summary of work undertaken between 2023 – 2025 is also appended as **Attachment 2**.

3. Background / Horopaki

- 3.1 The Waimea Inlet is the largest semi-enclosed inlet in the South Island and has international and national importance as a site for migratory birds. The Inlet lies within both Tasman and Nelson regions.
- 3.2 The initial Strategy was developed in 2010 to coordinate a cross-regional approach to the care of the Inlet. The Council is a signatory to the Strategy, along with Nelson City Council (NCC), the Department of Conservation (DOC), Fish & Game, and Te Taihu iwi. The Action Plan is designed to implement the Strategy.

- 3.3 The Group was formed in 2017 to “identify, prioritise, and coordinate the actions needed to achieve implementation of the Strategy and collate these into a proposed Action Plan.” Cr Kininmonth is appointed as the Council’s elected member representative on the Group, with Cr Neubauer as an alternate. Staff across different departments of the Council actively participate in the work of the Group.
- 3.4 Current members of the Group also include representatives from Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Kōata, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Apa and Rangitāne, NCC, DOC, Waimea Inlet Forum (WIF), Tasman Environmental Trust (TET), Tasman Bay Guardians and Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game.
- 3.5 Members of the Group commit to specific actions for their organisation. All targets and actions have a lead organisation responsible for progressing the actions.
- 3.6 The Group meets quarterly, with administrative support provided by Tasman District Council staff. The Council works collaboratively with the Group to implement the Action Plan and give effect to the Strategy.
- 3.7 In August 2023, the Council’s then Strategy and Policy Committee adopted the second iteration of the ‘Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2050 and Action Plan 2023 to 2026’. The Group is currently working to revise the Strategy and Action Plan and will present an updated version to the Strategy, Finance and Performance Committee later this year for consideration and adoption.
- 3.8 The intention is that all Group members work together to achieve the Action Plan’s targets. When unbudgeted funding is required, external funding will be sought. The Strategy and Action Plan is an ‘investment ready’ document that external (i.e. non-Council) funders can refer to when considering funding applications.
- 3.9 Collectively, the Group has secured over \$3 million of government funding to assist with implementation of the Action Plan to date. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) funding of \$1.6 million secured in 2020, for projects that Tasman District Council delivered, ended midway through 2025. No additional external funding sources have been identified, meaning that the rate of progress implementing the Action Plan is anticipated to slow down in future.

4. Key highlights

- 4.1 Waimea Inlet Enhancement and One Billion Trees delivery (completed June 2025): The MfE-funded Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project concluded on 30 June 2025, delivering:
- significant gains in Inlet-wide pest plant control (no Class 1 species detected; extensive control of Class 2 and targeted Class 3 species);
 - wetland works including the Waimea River Delta;
 - more than 2 km of combined stock-exclusion fencing when delivered alongside the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Project; and
 - a total of 110,000 native plants were planted around the Inlet, increasing the vegetation margin by over 6km since 2021.
- 4.2 While no new funding is available beyond Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) listed species, reserve funding is supporting ongoing weed control, additional planting was completed in Autumn 2025, and further wetland enhancement is planned for the true right bank of the Waimea River.

- 4.3 Several landowners have been engaged to explore saltmarsh restoration opportunities recommended by the Salt Ecology report (2024), including a possible chenier ridge installation off Hoddy Road and several smaller scale planting initiatives.
- 4.4 Two new Council policies have been adopted addressing Coastal Protection Structures (CPS) on Reserve lands and Road Reserves. These outline the process that would need to be followed for any new CPS.
- 4.5 As part of the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Projects, 50,000 native species were planted in the dune lands and Inlet margins of Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands. Revegetated duneland areas at the western end of Moturoa have increased by 19,492 square meters since 2021. Additionally, volunteer groups planted 300 native species on Bullivant Island and 500 native species at Hunter Brown (western end of Rough Island) during 2025.
- 4.6 DOC continues surveys and control of the highly-invasive pest plant *Spartina*.
- 4.7 Staff from both councils are collaborating to commission a study to assess the full range of effects from climate change and land subsidence on the inlet. This has utilised information from the Nelson-Tasman Resilience Explorer and ecological information held by both councils. Tasman District Council has used the recent DOC trait-based climate vulnerability assessments to identify key species in the Waimea that are likely to be affected. Further work is needed on habitats and ecosystems.
- 4.8 Monitoring at Rough Island indicates that saltmarsh restoration is delivering positive early results. Increased tidal flows from culvert upgrades have improved site conditions, with concerns about anoxic soils alleviated. Planted restoration plots have performed well through winter with minimal losses, and additional planting has been undertaken to infill areas of tall fescue die-back associated with increased tidal inundation. Overall, the findings to date support the effectiveness of these restoration techniques and will inform future saltmarsh restoration across the Inlet.
- 4.9 Work through the freshwater 'Te Puna Kōrero' forum has drafted a Vision, Values & Environmental Outcomes for the [Waimea/Waimeha Freshwater Management Unit](#) (FMU), which encompasses all catchments and water courses that flow into the Waimea/Waimeha Inlet. Community and iwi-identified issues and challenges for the FMU have also been collated. Key pressures identified for the Waimea Inlet include disturbance to birdlife from recreational and aviation activities, increased fine sediment from land use and earthworks in the catchment, and potential effects from discharges associated with the Bell Island wastewater treatment plant.

Delays and challenges





- 4.10 Progress across multiple actions has been delayed by central government resource management system reform, including the TRMP review, nitrate management, managed retreat policy development, and compliance frameworks, with several tasks paused pending new legislation expected in mid-2026.
- 4.11 A lack of Long-Term Plan and external funding has stalled several initiatives, including causeway modification options at Moturoa/Rabbit Island, bridge feasibility assessments, and large-scale seagrass restoration.
- 4.12 Active seagrass restoration has also been constrained by scientific readiness, with Tasman District Council stepping back from implementation until restoration methods are proven to be effective at scale.

- 4.13 Reductions in sediment, *E. coli* and nitrate inputs have progressed more slowly than anticipated due to flood events, regulatory uncertainty, and reliance on Freshwater Farm Plan regulations that are currently paused.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Attachment 1 will be published online at [Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan | Tasman District Council](#) alongside progress reports from previous years.

6. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

- | | | |
|--|--|----|
| 1.   | 2025 Annual report on progress implementing Waimea Inlet Action Plan | 19 |
| 2.   | Summary of progress 2023-2025 Waimea Inlet Action Plan | 37 |

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025				Progress update status:		DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Key: Iwi = Te Taihū iwi, TDC = Tasman District Council, NCC = Nelson City Council, DOC = Department of Conservation, NMFG = Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game, WIF = Waimea Inlet Forum, TET = Tasman Environmental Trust, TBG = Tasman Bay Guardians, NMIT = Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, Birds NZ = Nelson branch of Birds New Zealand, WICG = Waimea Inlet Coordination Group

Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
Ongoing actions	1 Rangatira-tanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.1 Kaitiaki share in decisions about use and protection.	2. Ongoing support for Project Moturoa.	NMIT	All	IN PROGRESS Project Moturoa has been superseded and NMIT have woven the Te Ao Māori strands into their Kaitiaki Whenua Trainee Ranger programme.	IN PROGRESS Nelson City Council supported the Enviroschools Moturoa Mission Sustainability Race in 2025.	
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	5. Continue monitoring as part of State of the Environment reporting to determine the effectiveness of management actions in upstream catchments and within the estuary and compliance.	TDC and NCC		ONGOING 'State of the Environment' monitoring in the Waimea Inlet happens every 5-10 years. Report completed in Oct 2023 following an investigation into the likely cause of local anoxia and macroalgae proliferation north of Nelson Pine Industries. Report completed in April 2024 saltmarsh restoration options for the Waimea Inlet. View both reports at: https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/key-documents/more/environment-reserves-and-open-space/environmental-monitoring-reports/?path=Other/Environment/Environmental%20Monitoring%20Reports/Coastal/Estuaries/Waimea .	ONGOING Indigenous species and their habitats have <i>not</i> been protected from harm and disturbance. Freshwater ecology annual report published in 2025 for macroinvertebrate community index (MCI) https://envdata.nelson.govt.nz/freshwater-ecology-2024/macroinvertebrates.html shows that the Stoke coastal streams have degraded MCI communities, NPSFM Band D. TDC/NCC/Cawthron have developed a regional model to estimate reference and contemporary state for all stream types. This tool will be important for reporting progress on MCI grades and prioritizing restoration and mitigations at a catchment and the Nelson-Tasman region. NCC is collaborating with TDC and DOC to plan threatened fish monitoring and integrate national guidance https://www.envirolink.govt.nz/assets/Envirolink/2506-NLCC131-National-guidance-for-Threatened-freshwater-species-in-regional-planning-under-the-NPS-FM-v3.pdf where applicable. The guidance highlights the importance of protecting and maintaining critical habitat for larval, juvenile (estuaries), adult and spawning for persistence of threatened migratory fish. Habitat for threatened shortjaw and regionally rare giant kokopu, inanga, lamprey and longfin eel are limited across the region.	ONGOING TBG has undertaken 3 years of inanga spawning surveys (Wai Connection project). Annual monitoring: Waimea River, Pearl Creek, Borck Creek. Highest productivity: Waimea River & Borck Creek. Eggs recorded at Iwa Street Drain, Dominion Stream, Reservoir Creek, Stringer Creek, Maisey Creek, Poormans Creek, Jenkins Creek. No eggs recorded at Seaton Valley Stream, Neimann Creek, Nile Creek. Saltwater wedge surveys completed pre- and post-installation of fish-friendly tidal gate at Pearl Creek. Flood impacts recorded 2025. Working with TDC on district-wide spawning restoration plan (Pearl Creek prioritised). Joined National Inanga Spawning Restoration Hub and contributing data. Roding Catchment Group: Monthly monitoring (2 sites); eDNA active testing below Heslop Road; 7,000 native trees planted (2025 season);

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025	Progress update status:	DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
								predator trapping initiated (5 properties); eco-sourced plant propagation; regular working bees; collaboration with Tasman Pine (riparian restoration below Toi Creek); partnership with Hope School nursery. Wai-iti Community Group: Monthly monitoring (2 sites); passive eDNA near Trass Valley.
2024	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	1. By 1 January 2024, complete a comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements.	Birds NZ	-	COMPLETE A comprehensive list has been prepared and mapped for the Coastal Environment as part of the Marine Indigenous Biodiversity Project. Further information is added as it is received.	IN PROGRESS NCC & TDC are seeking to undertake assessments of regionally threatened species for lizards, birds and fish. Due to be completed 2026/27. NCC is collaborating with TDC and DOC to compile a regional threat classification list for freshwater fish.	
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	2. By 1 January 2024, prepare a unified plan for current or proposed bird surveys, including counts of occupied nests of threatened species conducted by different groups.	Birds NZ	-	IN PROGRESS TDC and NCC staff are liaising on when a follow-up survey will be done. Nikki McArthur will be contracted to lead the work with support from Birds NZ, TDC, NCC staff, DOC(?). This survey is essential to monitor the effectiveness of the TDC Dog Control Bylaw 2025.	IN PROGRESS Birds NZ – Fernbird: The baseline survey of the Waimea did not include all fernbird habitat so reported increases in fernbirds cannot be quantified with any confidence. Bird banding fernbirds is ongoing to map habitat use, survival and dispersal across the Waimea.	
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	1. By 1 January 2024, investigate potential for seagrass restoration.	NCC	TDC	DELAYED After failing to achieve this over a decade ago, this is not on TDC's radar. We would like to see the methods proven first (Cawthron work).	IN PROGRESS A grant was provided to Cawthron for PhD student Eleanor Brettle's seagrass seedling emergence study. This provided valuable information for the development of seagrass growth trials at scale. We will continue to support the 'Restore the Meadows' program, but active restoration of seagrass at scale is not a feasible solution yet. The herbicide control of celery in Stoke waterways includes a trial to plant <i>Carex</i> to shade and compete with	

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025			Progress update status:	DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
							colonising celery. Establishing <i>Carex</i> will also provide more riparian habitat along waterways.	
2024	1 Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.1 Kaitiaki share in decisions about use and protection.	1. By 30 June 2024, review plans and actions to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupūna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	IN PROGRESS Iwi actively participated in the recent review of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy & Action Plan, which was finalised mid-2023. Some of these barriers are identified in the Moturoa/Rabbit Island reserve management plan (2016), Moutere-Waimea Ward reserve management plan (2022) and Richmond Ward reserve management plan (2025). TDC Environmental Policy staff continued working with Te Taihū iwi on the development of a freshwater planning framework that gives effect to Te Mana O Te Wai (see next action for further details).	IN PROGRESS NCC continue to support Battle for Banded Rail trapping efforts along the edge of the Waimea Inlet Esplanade Reserves with technical support from contracted predator control specialists.	
	1 Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.2 The mauri and wairua of Waimea are actively nurtured and perpetuated.	1. By 30 June 2024, identify what is negatively impacting the wairua and mauri of the Inlet.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	PARTIALLY COMPLETE Work through the freshwater 'Te Puna Korero' forum has drafted a Vision, Values & Environmental Outcomes for the Waimea Freshwater Management Unit, which encompasses all catchments and water courses that flow into the Waimeha/Waimea Inlet (see https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-region/environmental-management/water/water-management/freshwater-management-units-2/waimea-fmu) This work has also collated a draft a list of community and iwi identified issues and challenges for the Waimea/Waimeha FMU. Specific to the Waimea Inlet are: Jet skis, power boats, float planes, drones, helicopters all cause massive disturbance to birdlife on and around the Waimea Inlet; Waimea Inlet suffering from fine sediments due to clear felling, land development, earthworks, clearing and creating drains; Bell Island wastewater treatment plant liquid and solid waste to land that can run off the land into the Waimea Inlet and into groundwater. See here for full list: https://tasmandc.sharepoint.com/sites/TasRMP/Tasman Environment Plan/Land and Freshwater/Website content/DRAFT Waimea Issues and Challenges set - Oct 2025.pdf . For this task to be complete it would need to be checked with iwi to see if there are any other issues to add because the TPK work wasn't specific to the Waimea Inlet.	IN PROGRESS Commencement of discussion with iwi on development of Ecological Restoration Plans for Oyster Island and integration of iwi environmental management priorities.	
	1 Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.2 The mauri and wairua of Waimea are actively nurtured and perpetuated.	2. By 30 June 2024, identify barriers to capacity to exercise customary practices, tikanga, and mātauranga processes including association with wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	IN PROGRESS See Action 1.2.1 above.	IN PROGRESS Links with action to develop an Ecological Restoration Plan of Oyster Island and climate vulnerability assessment work.	
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	1. Continue with Waimea Inlet trapping programmes for mustelids, rats, feral cats and hedgehogs and review plan to	TET	-	N/A	N/A	ON TRACK (TET) Battle for the Banded Rail (B4BR) has 1266 traps around the Waimea Inlet that are regularly monitored by

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025	Progress update status:	DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
	from harm and disturbance.		identify gaps by 30 June 2024.					volunteers. The project has progressively filled gaps, looking to create a continuous and effective trapping network for the protection of key indicator species. The latest Banded Rail survey showed positive results, with banded rail footprints identified in new areas.
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	3. By 30 June 2024, explore options for protecting key areas where shore birds roost, nest and feed (e.g. potential to ban dog walking, motorboats and jet skis from these areas).	TDC and NCC	-	ONGOING The Dog Control Bylaw was made at the end of 2024 and came into effect on 31 March 2025. The updated Bylaw prohibited dogs from most reserve locations along the Waimea Inlet for the purpose of protecting wildlife. Legislation around the Navigation Safety Bylaw does not allow rules to be made for the purposes of protecting wildlife, and as such, is not the appropriate mechanism for addressing this issue. Legislative review and uncertainty have caused a pause in developing any new plan provisions to protect indigenous biodiversity. TDC is currently awaiting the new legislation framework, national policy direction and national standards before proceeding.	ONGOING Signage reviewed and improved by Parks and Facilities staff for Oyster Island. Ongoing discussions occurring about further improvements to signage and awareness on ecological values of the Island.	
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	1. By 30 June 2024, complete a unified strategic animal pest control plan to 'control' pigs, predators and herbivores, where these negatively impact threatened species and habitats.	TDC and NCC	-	DELAYED The focus is on community predator trapping and education around building trapping regimes that reflect the ecosystem needs through the Tasman Biodiversity Strategy. No plans to control pigs or herbivores unless evidence is provided for their need.	DELAYED No further significant progress on this in 2025.	

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025			Progress update status:		DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	2. By 30 June 2024, methods of restoring salt marsh vegetation communities will be tested in at least four sites to develop effective restoration techniques.	TDC, NCC and TET	-	ON TRACK Rough Island saltmarsh monitoring is showing promising results from the increased tidal flow provided by culvert upgrades. Concerns of anoxic soils have been put at ease. Planting plots have held up to the winter with minimal loss. Additional planting has been added to the extensive areas of tall fescue die-back caused by increased tidal flows. (HM)	ON TRACK NCC are continuing 6-monthly photo point monitoring of the chenier ridge planting plots, and planting new plots of <i>Juncus kraussii</i> and additional <i>Apodasmia similis</i> intermittently as budget permits.	
	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.1 The health, mauri and wairua of the Inlet's water, substrate, flora, and fauna is improved by reducing inputs of contaminants.	1. By 30 June 2024, develop a long-term plan for the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit, which considers its operations with regards to sustainability, environmental and cultural impacts.	TDC and NCC	-	IN PROGRESS The RWWP will now become part of the Tasman Wastewater Solutions Programme, which is upholding the principles of the Together Te Taihū Partnership Agreement. At this stage, the document remains in draft form, but it plays an important role in supporting the direction set out in the NRSBU Masterplan (independent of Council) while contributing to the broader Tasman WW programme of work which will include NRSBU. The draft outcomes and objectives will help guide the Council's ongoing partnership with iwi on wastewater management and help frame the wider community consultation. The first focus will be the Motueka Wastewater Project, where this work will help shape a shared vision and set out key actions. Through this process, the draft philosophy – outcomes and objectives will become embedded in the programme's approach and inform how future decisions and projects are developed.	IN PROGRESS	
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	1. By 30 June 2024, commission a study to assess the full range of effects from climate change and land subsidence on the Inlet.	TDC and NCC	-	IN PROGRESS TDC and NCC staff are collaborating together to progress this action, utilising information from the Nelson-Tasman Resilience Explorer and ecological information held by both councils. TDC has used the recent DOC trait-based climate vulnerability assessments to identify key species in the Waimea that are likely to be affected. Further work is needed on habitats and ecosystems.		
	6 The natural ambience of the Inlet is improved by controlling human activities which have potential to disturb its peaceful character.		1. By 30 June 2024, map areas where hunting occurs and identify those areas where parties are agreed it is appropriate to restrict this activity.	DOC and NMF&G	-	No further progress to report. TDC continues to liaise with Fish & Game.	N/A	

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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
	7 Understanding and appreciation of the natural attributes and functions of the Inlet and their intrinsic characteristics and spiritual significance is increased.	7.1 People value and understand the Waimea Inlet at every level.	1. By 30 June 2024, create and keep current applicable mātauranga Māori information, along with evidence-based information and research strategy, that identifies the information required to improve the overall understanding of the Inlet, how that can best be organised and maintained, and gaps that need to be filled by further kōrero with tangata whenua and research.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	IN PROGRESS The Science and Information Strategy (SIS) was endorsed by ELT in 2024. As part of the work to prepare LTP budget bids for SIS, staff are in active conversations with iwi to seek direction on how to best progress the development of a mātauranga Māori framework that interfaces with the SIS. If LTP bid is successful we envisage a working group with iwi will be established to develop a framework and design a work programme that aligns science and mātauranga Māori priorities and activities.	DELAYED No further progress on this specific action in 2025, although there are links with development of the Oyster Island Ecological Restoration Plan and Climate Vulnerability Assessment work.	
2025	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	2. By 1 January 2025, establish or continue control of pest plants for <i>Wilsonia</i> and <i>Spartina</i> at all relevant sites.	DOC	TDC	ONGOING Surveys and control of <i>Spartina</i> continue to be undertaken by both DOC and Project De-Vine (through the Protecting Flora Jobs for Nature project, overseen by TDC).	NA	ONGOING (DOC) Surveillance and control of <i>Spartina</i> and <i>Wilsonia</i> are undertaken on a consistent annual cycle, with effort focused on high-value habitat sites and areas where these species have previously occurred or may continue to persist. The use of a <i>Spartina</i> detection dog further enhances search effectiveness. Surveys for <i>Spartina</i> were completed from January to April, followed by <i>Wilsonia</i> surveys in May. No <i>Spartina</i> plants were detected, and

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								<i>Wilsonia</i> remains present only in low numbers on Saxton Island.
2025	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	1. By 1 January 2025, repeat broad scale habitat monitoring (at least for opportunistic macroalgae and substrate) to monitor the ecological health of the Inlet, and periodically re-assess Inlet vulnerability to ensure management targets key stressors.	TDC and NCC		<p>DELAYED</p> <p>The 2020 broad-scale mapping report provided robust information about the health of the estuary. A StoryMap was published so people can more easily assimilate this information.</p> <p>The frequency of this mapping has been pushed out to free up resources to achieve several of the recommendations from this report. The next report will be in 2026/2027.</p> <p>One of the recommendations in the 2020 report is impact monitoring, such as looking more closely at the causes of the issues raised in the broad-scale mapping report.</p>	<p>DELAYED</p> <p>Nelson City Council’s broad scale habitat mapping of Waimea Inlet has been delayed to 2026/2027, to align with TDC monitoring timeline.</p>	IN PROGRESS (TBG) Community-led spawning surveys and eDNA sampling are increasing resolution of fish habitat data across the Waimea Inlet and contributing to regional and national datasets.
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	2. By 1 January 2025, complete a scoping study into the opportunities for restoring salt marsh around the Inlet margin in the areas not already completed.	TDC, NCC and TET		<p>ON TRACK/COMPLETE</p> <p>Scope study completed in 2024: Salt Ecology report commissioned by TDC assessed salt marsh opportunities for the whole Inlet.</p> <p>Several landowners have been engaged to explore saltmarsh restoration opportunities recommended by the Salt Ecology report (2024), including a possible chenier ridge installation off Hoddy Road and several smaller scale planting initiatives.</p>	<p>ON TRACK/COMPLETE</p> <p>This action links with action 5.1.4 and results of that desktop research and subsequent community consultation will inform this action.</p>	
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	3. By 1 January 2025, assess feasibility, and if appropriate seek funding, to alter the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island to achieve flushing and therefore reduce sea-lettuce proliferation in the non-flushed pockets of the Inlet.	TDC		<p>DELAYED</p> <p>No progress made during 2025. Funding for this action was not included in LTP and is unlikely to be secured from TDC or other sources.</p>	N/A	

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	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.1 The health, mauri and wairua of the Inlet’s water, substrate, flora, and fauna is improved by reducing inputs of contaminants.	2. By 1 January 2025, work with landowners to ensure contaminant loads do not exceed the assimilative capacity of the Inlet and are below levels that cause significant adverse effects, particularly due to excess fine sediment, in the eight monitored waterways discharging to the Inlet.	TDC and NCC for respective waterways		<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Partly reliant on Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations. Central government Resource Management Reform and pause on Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations while they review the regulations. Natural Environment Bill now open for submissions. Anticipate seeing results of FWFP Regulation review in early to mid-2026. Unclear when regulations will apply in this district.</p> <p>NZ Landcare Trust (NZLT) promoting Waimea Sub- Catchment Groups within the greater Waimea FMU. June/July flood has interrupted this, and changed some focus for engagement. NZLT planning some relevant workshops in the Wai-iti including planting for riverbank stability and a focussed Wai-iti push for a sub-catchment group. TDC providing support.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>This action is not achievable within the short term for council subject to natural hazard events. Catchment teams are developing action plans for reducing E coli and sediment, with approval sought at council meeting Feb 2026 to engage the public on new additional actions.</p>	
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	2. By 1 January 2025, acknowledge that changes to the morphology of the Inlet and to its interface with Tasman Bay <i>Te Tai o Aorere</i> will result from the increase in the tidal compartment due to sea level rise, and use adaptive pathways to accommodate these natural processes, rather than seeking to prevent, control or restrict them.	TDC and NCC		<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>While no funding has been allocated to complete this specific action, the effects of climate change on Tasman District’s coastlines are considered in the 'Tasman Climate Response Strategy and Plan' and resource management decision making processes. Adaptive pathways are also being considered as part of TDC’s adaptation planning and Council documents and processes, where relevant. Through the resource management system reform further guidance on adaptation planning and adaptive pathways is due later in 2026.</p>	<p>DELAYED</p> <p>In 2025 work had commenced on 5.1.4 which will have future overlap and relevance with this action in 2026.</p>	

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	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	3. By 1 January 2025, work with tangata whenua, key landowners, and stakeholders to establish, in a non-confrontational way, a methodology using the adaptive planning approach to enable the future migration of salt marsh and marginal vegetation onto publicly and privately owned low-lying rural land, incrementally over time, without unduly burdening individual parties.	TDC, NCC and TET		<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>In 2024, TDC commissioned an integrated Salt Ecology report for the Inlet, identifying areas with the highest potential for saltmarsh restoration. The report has informed engagement with landowners and exploration of restoration opportunities.</p> <p>In 2025 Landowners at key sites were engaged to consider options for enabling upland adaptation to saltmarsh, including the installation of two chenier ridges to reduce wave energy and expand saltmarsh, and a fish-friendly tidal gate to enhance upstream estuarine values. One landowner is still considering a chenier installation and will be followed up by June, along with the upstream landowner associated with the proposed tidal gate.</p> <p>Two of the three landowners received saltmarsh plants to infill existing marsh areas, and additional planting was undertaken at the Rough Island site using the same plant order.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Action on 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 will provide information to inform future engagement</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>(TET) B4BR planted 640 rushes in the estuary, mostly at Cardno Way, Bell Island, Hoddy Estuary Park and some at Research Orchard Road.</p>
2025	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	3. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, undertake effective control of Class 1, 2 and 3 species as determined in the Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Strategy.	TDC and NCC		<p>COMPLETED - but still work to do</p> <p>The Waimea Inlet Enhancement project ended on June 30 2025 - making great gains in the pest plant control across the estuary. No class 1 species were found. Class 2 species were extensively controlled along with some areas of class 3 species. No further funding available other than for Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) listed species.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Environmental Grant Funding Provided to support additional targeted weed control on Saxton Island. This work will be ongoing for a number of years.</p>	

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	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	4. By 30 June 2025, reduce disturbance from human activities, plant and animal pests, and domestic animals (cats, dogs, and browsers) through legal, physical, educational and compliance programmes.	TDC and NCC		<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>TDC's new Cat Management Bylaw was completed in January 2025, with compulsory microchipping, desexing and registration on the companion animal register for cats over the age of 6 months from June 2026.</p> <p>TDC's reviewed Dog Control Policy Bylaw, which includes a number of changes reflecting threats to coastal birds, took effect from 31 March 2025.</p> <p>A partial review of TDC's Regional Pest Management Plan, which included an extension of the feral cat control area into Bell Island, was also completed in 2025. Further extension is possible in the next review, but requires landowner agreement.</p>	<p>DELAYED</p> <p>Discussions on this plan have occurred but no further progress in 2025.</p>	
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	2. 30 June 2025, 3ha of marsh bird habitat will be enhanced by wetland creation and ecological restoration activities in the Waimea River Delta as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project.	TDC		<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The MfE-funded Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project was completed in June 2025 (including works at the Waimea Delta). Reserve funding is being utilised for weed control in this area. Further planting was undertaken in Autumn 2025.</p> <p>Further wetland enhancement is planned for the True Right of the Waimea River.</p>	N/A	
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	3. By 30 June 2025, identify terrestrial Inlet margin areas subject to tidal influence and secure resources to work with landowners to exclude stock and prevent infilling, channelisation and new barriers to tidal connection (e.g., bunds, flap gates).	TDC and NCC		<p>ONGOING</p> <p>No progress made in 2025.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Catchment Management Plans will address some of these issues but have yet to be developed.</p>	
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and	4. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, fence watercourses to exclude stock and	TDC		<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The MfE-funded Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project and Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees Project both ended on 30 June 2025. The combined fencing as part of these projects was over 2km.</p>		

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		along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	vehicles around the Waimea Inlet – target of 2km of fencing.					
	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.2 Human uses are managed to sustain natural attributes.	1. Support major infrastructure owners and operators to review the impacts of their activities on the Inlet and develop plans to remediate past damage and avoid or mitigate future impacts by 30 June 2025.	TDC and NCC		IN PROGRESS Refer to update under Action 4.1.1 above.	IN PROGRESS Discussions are ongoing and advocacy for more environmentally sustainable options has been provided in 2025 when infrastructure developments are proposed. This action has clear links with 3.2.4.	
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	4. By 30 June 2025, identify areas of the Inlet in which managed retreat can be achieved 'at scale' while protecting and restoring biodiversity and support landowners to implement managed retreat opportunities.	TDC, NCC and TET		ON TRACK TDC and Salt Ecology have developed a list of priority sites for restoration around the Waimea Inlet. Restoration of priority sites is progressing, particularly on public land.	ON TRACK In 2025 TDC and NCC have been progressing gradually with desktop research to establish the knowledge base on which a climate risk and vulnerability assessment can be carried out.	
	6 The natural ambience of the Inlet is improved by controlling human activities which have potential to disturb its peaceful character.		2. By 30 June 2025, identify options for controlling disruptive human activities (e.g. use of vessels, jet skis, hovercraft, drones, float planes and shooting) in order to protect natural quiet and calm.	TDC and NCC		DELAYED The Navigation Safety Bylaw 2024 will be reviewed in 2027. Careful consideration is needed to determine which method is best to control the nuisance effects from vessels on wildlife: the N&S Bylaw, TRMP or other legislation. Reconsideration in 2027 will give time for the TRMP to identify which areas have significant indigenous biodiversity values and what activities impact those values.	DELAYED No specific actions were pursued in relation to this in 2025	

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	7 Understanding and appreciation of the natural attributes and functions of the Inlet and their intrinsic characteristics and spiritual significance is increased.	7.1 People value and understand the Waimea Inlet at every level.	2. By 30 June 2025, measurably increase community involvement by informing and supporting people to manage threats and restoring natural ecosystems.	TET	-		N/A	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>(TET) Increasing numbers of volunteers are involved in planting every year, with a record-breaking planting day in winter 2025. The Battle for the Banded Rail newsletter is produced quarterly, including information about ecological values of the inlet. Social media posts highlight stories of interest, and TET has encouraged news articles where possible. An initial working group with communications staff from partner organisations identified ways to amplify messages about the importance of the inlet – this is a work in progress.</p> <p>(TBG) Community participation in restoration, monitoring, trapping and propagation programmes has increased significantly across the Waimea catchment. Brightwater School: bi-termly Wai-iti River monitoring (1 year). Hope School & Wakefield School: Whitebait Connection delivery (Term 1 2026). TBG/Roding Catchment Group/Enviroschools collaboration: ~1,000</p>

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								seedlings pricked out (3 schools). Hope School community nursery partnership. Love Rimu Rehia iwi-led project at Victory School (Ngā Mana Kākano o Te Wairepo class, 1 year programme).
2026	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	4. By 1 January 2026, no increase in the net extent of shoreline armouring, and replace with “soft engineering” techniques wherever possible. All new shoreline protection uses soft engineering techniques, unless it is not feasible.	TDC and NCC		<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>Two new policies have been adopted addressing Coastal Protection Structures (CPS) on Reserve lands and Road Reserves. These outline the process that would need to be followed for any new CPS.</p> <p>No new rock armouring around the Waimea Inlet was installed during 2025.</p> <p>Due to legislative reform and Plan Stop TDC were not able to progress any plan provision development regarding shoreline protection.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing and advocacy for soft engineering is provided when infrastructure developments are proposed. This action has clear links with 4.2.1.</p>	
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	5. Survey the quality of the marine habitat, shellfish beds and fish numbers with a view to restoration by 1 January 2026.	TDC and NCC		<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Some work was undertaken in Golden Bay but not Waimea Inlet.</p> <p>Restructuring has led to the (potential) creation of a Marine Scientist position which could potentially pick up this Action Point.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>The 2024 update is still relevant. Additionally, NCC has received EU BioProtect funding and support, establishing Nelson’s Coastal Marine Area as a partner region. The first phase of this project is an eDNA study in summer 2025 and winter 2026, with sites in the Waimea Inlet, which will help us better understand presence/absence of marine taxa, including threatened and inconspicuous species.</p>	

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Key: Iwi = Te Taihū iwi, TDC = Tasman District Council, NCC = Nelson City Council, DOC = Department of Conservation, NMFG = Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game, WIF = Waimea Inlet Forum, TET = Tasman Environmental Trust, TBG = Tasman Bay Guardians, NMIT = Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, Birds NZ = Nelson branch of Birds New Zealand, WICG = Waimea Inlet Coordination Group

Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	5. By 1 January 2026, through involvement in resource management planning and policy processes, ensure that priority provision is made for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify, preventing new infrastructure on sites required for future biodiversity.	TDC and NCC		<p>DELAYED</p> <p>Due to resource management system reform, TDC put on hold our whole of TRMP review. The new resource management legislation is expected to be enacted mid-2026, and subsequently Council will consider this action within our legal requirements as the new plan is developed.</p>	<p>DELAYED</p> <p>Looming Resource Management reforms and other policy changes driven by central government meant work on this action was delayed. It is likely that future spatial planning as part of RM reforms will be required to include consideration of climate change influences on future development proposals around Waimea Inlet.</p>	
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	6. By 1 January 2026, support processes that allow the carbon sequestration of estuarine ecosystems (including areas historically drained or cut-off from tidal connections), and areas potentially inundated by future sea level rise, to be properly valued for their ecosystems services, and identify potential economic incentives to be achieved through financial incentives such as environmental compensation and Blue Carbon credits and how	TET			N/A	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>National Community of Practice for Coastal Habitat Protection & Restoration developing policy and best practice for coring, wetland protection & restoration (TET participating).</p> <p>Other progress stalled due to lack of resourcing.</p> <p>Potential to partner with The Nature Conservancy to deliver this action.</p>

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025	Progress update status:	DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
			these can be used to benefit future initiatives for Waimea Inlet.					
2026	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	4. By 30 June 2026, update the DOC Ecological Management Unit assessment.	DOC	-		N/A	IN PROGRESS DOC's Biodiversity Investment Approach is still in preparation, but its emerging ecosystem-focused programmes provide a useful basis for guiding restoration of Waimea Inlet and for prioritising actions that enhance ecological condition, resilience, and long-term environmental health.
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	3. By 30 June 2026, <i>Gambusia</i> eradication programme reviewed in context of national programmes.	DOC	-		N/A	ON HOLD/DELAYED DOC's Freshwater Technical Advisory Group has determined that <i>Gambusia</i> eradication is not feasible. DOC is currently assessing options for containment, supported by ongoing control at select priority sites.
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	4. Continue programmes to restore freshwater fish habitat, including inanga spawning sites, and identify and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways by 30 June 2026.	TDC and NCC	-	IN PROGRESS Following compliance issues of fill added to the stream bank, material was removed and inanga spawning habitat created in Neimann Creek, visible from Lansdowne Road. This included creating a spawning bench with appropriate native plant species. Spawning was monitored at this site adjacent to earthworks.	ON TRACK In 2025 continued fish passage assessments and remediation program and work, with utilities and consultants to integrate nature-based design in river works.	IN PROGRESS (TBG) Habitat assessments completed at: Pearl Creek, Waimea River, Dominion Creek, Stringer Creek, Neimann Creek, Borck Creek, Reservoir Creek, Poormans Creek, Jenkins Creek. Restoration planning underway with TDC. Pearl Creek Community Group eDNA confirmed presence of Giant

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025	Progress update status:	DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
								Kōkōpu. Continued spawning monitoring.
3	The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	5. By 30 June 2026, increase the area of naturally vegetated inlet margin by a further 10km (to an average width of 10m) and complete the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Phase 2 Project to plant and maintain 70,000 indigenous plants around the Waimea Inlet.	TET and TDC		COMPLETE The MfE-funded Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees project ended on June 30 2025. A total of 110,000 native plants were planted around the Inlet, increasing the margin of native vegetation by over 6km since 2021. When combined with other projects around the Waimea inlet this target would have been reached (WI 1BT Phase 1, TDC Reserves plantings, B4BR plantings plus others).	COMPLETE Limited space remains for planting on the edge of Waimea Inlet within NCC parks, so no substantive planting took place in 2025. The main remaining opportunity is on Airport Peninsula, where work is currently on hold.	COMPLETE (TET) B4BR all together planted 8,800 plants around the inlet in 2025, and approximately 8,000 planned for 2026.
3	The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	6. By 30 June 2026, increase the area of naturally vegetated dune land on Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands by 750 square metres, and on airport peninsula by 900 square metres.	TDC, NCC and TET		ON TRACK As part of the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Projects, 50,000 native species were planted in the dune lands and Inlet margins of Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands. Revegetated duneland areas at the western end of Moturoa have increased by 19,492 square metres since 2021. Additionally, volunteer groups planted 300 native species on Bullivant Island and 500 native species at Hunter Brown (western end of Rough Island) during 2025.	DELAYED Plan Change 30 has seen ecological restoration work on Airport Peninsula put on hold. Maintenance of existing plantings is continuing.	
3	The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	6. By 30 June 2026, reduce the level of nitrates reaching the Inlet to ensure that there is no further increase in nuisance macroalgae.	TDC		DELAYED in part As a result of central government's resource management system reform, this action has been delayed. Bills have been released on the new planning legislation with the intention they will come into force by mid-2026. This action will need to be incorporated into Council's new combined plan, which will be developed over the next few years. A shift noted in some commercial growers landuse practices that contribute to reducing the loss of nitrates. For example, previously bare fallow ground (no crops) through winter now seeded with grass through this period.	N/A	

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025	Progress update status:	DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	7. By 30 June 2026, if external funding can be obtained, assess feasibility of turning causeways blocking tidal flows into bridges to allow for the free flow of water (e.g., at the Traverse linking Moturoa/ Rabbit and Rough Islands).	TDC		<p>DELAYED</p> <p>No progress made during 2025. Funding for this action was not included in LTP and is unlikely to be secured from TDC or other sources.</p>	N/A	
	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.2 Human uses are managed to sustain natural attributes.	2. By 30 June 2026, improve discharge and land disturbance monitoring and enforcement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. plan effectiveness monitoring (are the current regulations achieving what is intended or do they need to be strengthened?); ii. reviewing effectiveness of granted resource consents (are they achieving what they are supposed to achieve?); iii. targeted compliance monitoring and enforcement; and iv. compiling and making available to the public the forthcoming expiry dates of existing consents. 	TDC and NCC for respective areas		<p>DELAYED</p> <p>Regarding (i) plan effectiveness monitoring, RMA Section 35 efficiency and effectiveness assessments of the existing TRMP provisions were undertaken in 2019-20 as part of the whole-of-plan review. The Section 35 review for freshwater identified aspects to retain in the new framework, but identified overall review was needed to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai and implement the NPS-FM and some rule frameworks required greater clarity and stringency to give effect to the objectives and policies. However, the Environmental Policy team has largely paused developing a new plan as a result of central government's resource management system reform. Bills have been released on the new planning legislation with the intention they will come into force by mid 2026. Section 35 changes will be addressed through the new combined plan, which will be developed over the next few years.</p>	<p>DELAYED</p> <p>In 2025 no further action occurred after initial discussions in 2024 with NCC consents staff. This action to be followed up in 2026.</p>	

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2025	Progress update status:	DELAYED/ ON HOLD	IN PROGRESS	ONGOING	ON TRACK/COMPLETE
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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2025	NCC Progress Update 2025	Iwi/DOC/TET/WIF/NMFG/TBG Progress Update 2025
2050	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.1 The health, mauri and wairua of the Inlet’s water, substrate, flora, and fauna is improved by reducing inputs of contaminants.	3. Ten percent of urban and industrial storm water and effluent discharges to streams in the catchment meet ANZECC (2000) ISQG low sediment toxicity criteria within 50m of the discharge outfall by 2050.	TDC and NCC for respective waterways		IN PROGRESS Sampling at all major stormwater outlets and urban streams from the Richmond Urban Development Area has been conducted and results have been compared to past studies and ANZG guidelines. The draft report will be available in 2026.	IN PROGRESS Nelson sediment quality survey commissioned for April 2026 to compare with the 2022 survey to track progress.	

Objective 1: Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for**1.1 Kaitiaki share in decisions about use and protection**

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
1.1.1	Review plans and actions to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupuna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho	30 Jun 2024	Iwi	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iwi involved in Waimea Inlet Strategy & Action Plan (WIS&AP) 2023. High-level initial discussions re. Te Taihū Cultural Heritage Strategy. Iwi engagement in Oyster Island Ecological Restoration Plan Revision. Three TDC Reserve Management Plans mention barriers to achieving this action. Iwi engagement in TDC freshwater planning framework (giving effect to Te Mana o Te Wai).
1.1.2	Ongoing support for Project Moturoa	Ongoing	NMIT	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMIT discontinued Project Moturoa due to lack of numbers. Have woven Te Ao Maori strands into Kaitiaki Whenua Trainee Ranger programme. Two planting days on Moturoa with trainee ranger students (Aug, Sept 2024). NCC supported Enviroschools Moturoa Mission Sustainability Race (2025).

1.2 The mauri and wairua of Waimea are actively nurtured and perpetuated

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
1.2.1	Identify what is negatively impacting the wairua and mauri of the Inlet	30 Jun 2024	Iwi	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) and Cultural Health Index (CHI) undertaken by iwi. Both councils said they would support iwi as required. Te Puna Korero (TPK) Freshwater Forum produced the following key outputs related to improving freshwater values in the Waimea FMU. Iwi input needed to identify any issues specific to the Inlet (as this was not in scope): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision, Values & Environmental Outcomes for Waimea FMU Draft list of community and iwi issues and challenges for the Waimea FMU. Activities & discharges impacting the Wairua and mauri have been identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorised activities: Jet skis, power boats, float planes, drones, helicopters. Fine sediment discharge from clear felling, land development, earthworks, clearing and creating drains. Wastewater discharge from Bell Island treatment plant: liquid & solid waste to land can run off into Inlet & groundwater.
1.2.2	Identify barriers to capacity to exercise customary practices, tikanga, and matauranga processes	30 Jun 2024	Iwi	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both councils said they would support iwi as required. Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) funding for iwi to undertake Mātauranga research. MKM and Ngāti Kuia used to produce and release a video on World Wetland Day. NCC promoting environmental awareness to infrastructure & consents teams (so consent teams more aware of potential impacts on Inlet).

Objective 2: Indigenous species and habitats protected, enhanced, increased and safeguarded**2.1 Indigenous species and habitats protected from harm and disturbance**

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
2.1.1	Continue with Waimea Inlet trapping programmes for mustelids, rats, feral cats and hedgehogs and review plan to identify gaps	30 Jun 2024	TET	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community leading small animal trapping. TET constantly reviewing gaps and plan and looking for ways to intensify & extend (2024). Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,259 traps out in 2024 8,600 trap catches (2019-2024) Cat trapping at Pearl Creek (2024)
2.1.2	Establish or continue control of pest plants for <i>Wilsonia</i> and <i>Spartina</i> at all relevant sites	1 Jan 2025	DOC	ON GOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Spartina</i> survey and control work: DOC and Project Devine continuing (through TDC Protecting Flora project) (2025). <i>Wilsonia</i> and <i>Spartina</i> eradication: DOC aiming to eradicate both species. Ongoing surveillance & control established at all relevant sites through the Inlet (2024). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Spartina</i> detection dog deployed. <i>Spartina</i> controlled at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotterell Rd Manuka Island Rabbit Island Motorway (west of Abbattoir) Stringer Creek Mouth. <i>Wilsonia</i> controlled at Saxton Island sites.

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
2.1.3	Undertake effective control of Class 1, 2 and 3 species as determined in the Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Strategy	30 Jun 2025	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Strategy implementation by TDC and NCC (2023). TDC Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project (Jobs For Nature project, ended June 2025) made great gains in pest plant control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Class 1 species found Class 2 & 3 species extensively controlled. TDC can now only fund control of Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) listed species. NCC provided grant funding for targeted ongoing weed control on Saxton Island.
2.1.4	Reduce disturbance from human activities, plant and animal pests, and domestic animals through legal, physical, educational and compliance programmes	30 Jun 2025	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC Cat Management Bylaw completed (2025): Compulsory microchipping, desexing and registration for companion cats over 6 months of age. TDC Dog Control Policy Bylaw reviewed (2025): Changes reflect threats to coastal birds. RPMP Partial Review (2025): Included extension of feral cat control area into Bell Island. Further extension may be possible with landowner agreement.
2.1.5	Continue monitoring as part of State of the Environment reporting to determine the effectiveness of management actions	Ongoing	TDC and NCC	ON GOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of the Environment (SOE) monitoring and reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC every 5-10 years. NCC SOE Report published 2024. Reports completed & available online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of Potential Nutrient Sources Affecting Macroalgal Blooms in Eastern Waimea Inlet (TDC, 2023) Saltmarsh restoration options for the Waimea Inlet (TDC, 2024) Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) Annual Report for four Stoke Streams (NCC, 2024) Freshwater ecology annual report (NCC, 2025) Regional model developed to estimate reference and contemporary state for all stream types. (TDC/NCC/Cawthron, 2025). Threatened fish monitoring collaboration underway (NCC/TDC/DOC). Inanga spawning surveys carried out at Waimea River, Pearl Creek and Borck Creek for three years as part of WaiConnection Project by Tasman Bay Guardians (TBG).

2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species under informed active management

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
2.2.1	Complete a comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements	1 Jan 2024	Birds NZ	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC Coastal Environment List from Marine Indigenous Biodiversity Project All taxa list completed by Rogers, Parks, Melville Appended to WIAP). Regional Threatened Species assessment planned for lizards, birds and fish (NCC/TDC, 2026/2027) Regional threat classification collaboration underway for freshwater fish (NCC/TDC/DOC) Ngāti Apa and potentially other iwi working with Kārearea data gathering and indigenous data protection. Ngāti Rārua developing dedicated research centre - Tokomaru Te Mana Raraunga – data sovereignty network advocates for the protection of data.
2.2.2	Prepare a unified plan for current or proposed bird surveys, including counts of occupied nests of threatened species	1 Jan 2024	Birds NZ	IN PROGRESS	<p>Fern bird & banded rail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battle for the Banded Rail: Fernbird and banded rail surveys show increases in population for both species. Birds NZ: Fernbird baseline survey of Waimea Inlet didn't include all fernbird habitat, so increases can't be quantified with confidence. NCC BirdsNZ bird banding: fernbirds (ongoing – end of five year study in 2026). Used to map habitat use, survival & dispersal. <p>Shorebirds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC & NCC: Liaising on timing for next Nikki McArthur et al breeding shorebird survey. Essential for monitoring TDC Dog Control Bylaw effectiveness. BirdNZ annual shorebird census for Top of the South Island BirdsNZ status and Trends report for assessing the shorebird status with RAMSAR criteria is in prep. and yet to be shared with councils. The last report with international significance assessment was 2013
2.2.3	Explore options for protecting key areas where shore birds roost, nest and feed from disturbance by activities such as dog walking, motorboats and jet skis	30 Jun 2024	TDC and NCC	ON GOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management options for specific sites included in 2020 Nikki McArthur report. Te Ātiawa informed Council regarding nesting areas in Motueka being <p>Options implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Control Bylaw (March 2025) prohibits dogs from most reserves along the Inlet. Cat Bylaw (see above); Compulsory microchipping, desexing and registration for companion cats over 6 months of age. Improved signage at Oyster Island (NCC). TDC awaiting regulatory changes before proceeding with any new plan provisions to protect indigenous biodiversity.
2.2.4	Update the DOC Ecological Management Unit assessment	30 Jun 2026	DOC	IN PROGRESS	<p>DOC has introduced a new system called BioInvest and will now use that system for prioritising work on ecosystems and species at a national level.</p>

2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
2.3.1	Complete a unified strategic animal pest control plan to control pigs, predators and herbivores	30 Jun 2024	TDC and NCC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	
2.3.2	Enhance 3ha of marsh bird habitat by wetland creation and ecological restoration activities in the Waimea River Delta	30 Jun 2025	TDC	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 ha marsh bird habitat enhanced through the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project over 3 years from 2022-2025 (TDC, with MfE funding); Earthworks carried out in two phases to create greater open water areas and ‘re-wet’ portions of the site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 10,000 native plants planted Targeted weed control undertaken. Marshbird monitoring commenced Sept 2024. Further planting autumn 2025. This project is now finished. Ongoing work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed control (with reserve funding) Further wetland enhancement planned for the True Right of the Waimea River.
2.3.3	Gambusia eradication programme reviewed in context of national programmes	30 Jun 2026	DOC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gambusia eradication deemed unfeasible by DOC. DOC exploring feasibility of containment with ongoing control at selected sites (2024).
2.3.4	Continue programmes to restore freshwater fish habitat, including īnanga spawning sites, and identify and remove targeted fish passage barriers	30 Jun 2026	TDC and NCC	ON GOING	<p>TDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pearl Creek Tide Gate: installed 2023 to improve fish passage and inanga spawning. Īnanga spawning increased in 2024. Neimann Creek fish habitat restoration (2023). Non-compliant fill removed from stream bank and inanga spawning habitat created (TDC, 2025). Waimea Catchment Fish passage work planned (2024-2025) Dominion Valley Stream (Mapua Drive) monitoring and remediation (2024) <p>NCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing programmes to survey īnanga habitat, remediate fish passage barriers and enhance habitat. Maitai South Branch & Roding improvements (2024) Nature-based design: worked with utilities and consultants to integrate nature-based design in river works (2025) <p>TBG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat assessments: Pearl Creek, Waimea River, Dominion Creek, Stringer Creek, Neimann Creek, Borck Creek, Reservoir Creek, Poormans Creek, Jenkins Creek. Restoration planning with TDC. Giant Kokopu: Pearl Creek Community Group eDNA confirmed presence of Giant Kōkopu. Īnanga spawning: Continued monitoring.

Objective 3: The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained

3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats protected, restored, and cared for

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
3.1.1	Investigate potential for seagrass restoration	1 Jan 2024	NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCC Broad Scale habitat mapping (2025-26) will show seagrass coverage. Seagrass restoration not feasible at scale yet. TDC wants to see restoration methods proven before doing any work on seagrass. Watching others with interest. NCC providing funding and information to support “Restore the Meadows” seagrass growth trials (Cawthron project) (2024-2025). Ngāti Tama have partnered with Cawthron to undertake seagrass restoration research and other work in the Inlet.
3.1.2	Test methods of restoring salt marsh vegetation communities at four or more sites to develop effective restoration techniques	30 Jun 2024	TDC, NCC and TET	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saltmarsh restoration and monitoring ongoing at several sites. TDC, NCC and TET are all active in this space and iwi have expressed interest in Te Aka Pūkenga iwi cadets supporting monitoring. Rough Island Embayment: culvert upgrades to increase water volume and salt marsh vegetation (TDC, 2024). Monitoring showing promising results from increased tidal flow, and minimal winter loss of planting plots (2025). Chenier Restoration Project (NCC/TDC): Monitoring report delivered (2023); further planting (2024). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-monthly photopoint monitoring of chenier ridge plots Planting new plots as budget permits. TDC trialled salt marsh species in 2 locations (2023). Battle for the Banded Rail saltmarsh planting with good survival rates: BBR assesses all planting sites for salt marsh opportunities, and are planting saltmarsh vegetation at 4 main sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Orchard Road: Cardno Way: Manuka Island: Bell Island

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
3.1.3	Identify terrestrial Inlet margin areas subject to tidal influence and work with landowners to exclude stock and prevent infilling	30 Jun 2025	TDC and NCC	ON GOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 805 linear metres of fencing established on private land that was previously being grazed (2023, Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project with TDC & MfE funding).
3.1.4	Fence watercourses to exclude stock and vehicles around the Waimea Inlet – target of 2km of fencing	30 Jun 2025	TDC	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2km of fencing delivered through MfE-funded Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project and Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees Projects (both ended June 2025).
3.1.5	Increase the area of naturally vegetated inlet margin by a further 10km and complete the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Phase 2 Project	30 Jun 2026	TET and TDC	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal achieved through a number of projects (One Billion Trees Phase 1, TDC Reserves Plantings, B4BR plants, plus others); e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Project (ended 2025) delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 110,000 native plants planted around Inlet; and an increase in the margin of native vegetation by over 6km since 2021. Battle for the Banded Rail planted 13,700 plants in 2024. 2018: 4.7 km of estuary margin planted. 2024: 18 km of estuary margin planted. 2025: 8800 plants in; 2026, 8000 planned. Limited space for additional planting within NCC parks. Main opportunity for NCC is on Airport Peninsula (work currently on hold).
3.1.6	Increase the area of naturally vegetated dune land on Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands by 750 square metres, and on airport peninsula by 900 square metres	30 Jun 2026	TDC, NCC and TET	IN PROGRESS	<p>Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50,000 native species were planted (1 Billion Trees Project). These were back dune plantings along the Inlet margins. Duneland areas at the western end of Moturoa have been increased by 19,492 square metres since 2021. 1,200 sand binding native plants were established as part of TDC Coast Care project (winter 2023). <p>Airport peninsula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCC planted 300m² of coastal dune vegetation (2023) / 2340 plants. 2024 plantings put on hold while Private Plan Change 30 progressed. Planted the 1000 plants intended for Airport Peninsula on Oyster Island. Remaining plants provided to TDC. Restoration work now on hold (due to Plan Change 30). Maintenance of existing plantings continuing.

3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems halted and reversed

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
3.2.1	Repeat broad scale habitat monitoring (at least for opportunistic macroalgae and substrate) to monitor the ecological health of the Inlet	1 Jan 2025	TDC and NCC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC Broadscale Mapping last done in 2020, and next due in 2026/2027. 2020 report provided robust picture of health of estuary. A StoryMap was published to make it easy to understand. Resourcing focused on achieving recommendations of 2020 report, including look more closely at causes of the issues. NCC Broadscale Mapping delayed until 2026/2027 to align with TDC. TBG Community-led spawning surveys and eDNZ sampling increasing resolution of fish habitat dataset.
3.2.2	Complete a scoping study into the opportunities for restoring salt marsh around the Inlet margin	1 Jan 2025	TDC, NCC and TET	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope study complete: Salt Ecology report commissioned by TDC assessed salt marsh opportunities for the whole Inlet (2024). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was presented to the WICG and iwi at an iwi engagement hui. Landowner engagement underway to explore opportunities including possible chenier ridge at TET working with TDC to engage volunteers for planting (2024)
3.2.3	Assess feasibility of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island to achieve flushing and reduce sea-lettuce proliferation	1 Jan 2025	TDC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	
3.2.4	No increase in the net extent of shoreline armoured, and replace with soft engineering techniques wherever possible	1 Jan 2026	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new rock armoured installed on TDC coastline (2023, 2024, 2025). NCC capital projects and infrastructure teams being encouraged to use soft engineering. Saltmarsh trials underway may be effective to help protect sections of Great Taste Trail TDC adopted two new Policies for Coastal Protection Structures (CPS) on Reserve lands and Road Reserves (they set out process for any new CPS). TDC not able to progress plan provisions development regarding shoreline protection due to legislative reform and Plan Stop.
3.2.5	Survey the quality of the marine habitat, shellfish beds and fish numbers with a view to restoration	1 Jan 2026	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC
3.2.6	Reduce the level of nitrates reaching the Inlet to ensure that there is no further increase in nuisance macroalgae	30 Jun 2026	TDC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	
3.2.7	Assess feasibility of turning causeways blocking tidal flows into bridges to allow free flow of water	30 Jun 2026	TDC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	

Objective 4: Human activities make a positive contribution to Inlet health

4.1 Health improved by reducing inputs of contaminants

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
4.1.1	Develop a long-term plan for the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit considering sustainability, environmental and cultural impacts	30 Jun 2024	NRSBU	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRSBU Masterplan (independent of council) but informed by the RWWP (as per below). TDC's Regional Wastewater Plan (RWWP) (currently in draft form) will now become of the Tasman Water Solutions Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was co-designed by Te Taihū iwi, TDC and NRSBU Iwi working group on wastewater involved in co-design. RWWP will support the direction set out in the NRSBU Masterplan; and Contribute to Tasman wastewater work programme, which will include NRSBU. The draft outcomes & objectives will help guide Councils' ongoing partnership with iwi on WW management. Initial focus: Motueka Wastewater Project (shaping shared vision and key actions).
4.1.2	Work with landowners to ensure contaminant loads do not exceed the assimilative capacity of the Inlet in the eight monitored waterways	1 Jan 2025	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental monitoring programme for urban waterways in Richmond since 2021-2022 (TDC/Cawthron/MfE) (2023). NCC supporting actions to reduce impacts on waterways (2023). Freshwater Farm Plans: main tool for TDC to work with landowners outside urban catchments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations under review. Results due early-mid 2026. MfE had provision for iwi catchment officer oversight, but this is on hold. Te Puna Kōrero Forum for the Waimea Freshwater Management Unit enabled community discussion on issues & aspirations for freshwater (including the Inlet). Waimea Catchment Group formation (2024): Landcare Trust promoting Waimea Sub-Catchment Groups (landowner group). NCC catchment teams developing action plans for reducing E coli & sediment (council approval sought Feb 2026).
4.1.3	Ten percent of urban and industrial storm water and effluent discharges meet ANZECC sediment toxicity criteria by 2050	2050	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<p>TDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban stormwater sampling vs. ANZG guidelines: All major stormwater outlets and urban streams from the Richmond Urban Development Area have been sampled. Results compared to past studies and ANZG guidelines. Draft report due 2026. (TDC) Draft Stormwater Plans (CMPs) near completion (2024) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brightwater/Wakefield Mapua. Estuary impact study at stormwater outfalls in Motueka, Mapua: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapua results within guidelines (2024) Richmond CBD litter traps & filter installed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 litter traps 1 x Jellyfish filter to treat runoff from Poutama industrial area (2024) Environmental monitoring of urban waterways commenced 2021/22 is ongoing & includes dry weather, wet weather and industrial outfall monitoring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started with Jimmy Lee Creed/Beach Rd Drain. Found elevated turbidity & sediment (2023). <p>NCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nelson Sediment Quality Survey Commissioned for April 2026 to compare results & progress with 2022 survey (NCC). Point source sediment contaminant survey at 11 urban discharge points in the Waimea Inlet (2023) to establish baseline for environmental monitoring. Found: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated mud content at 9 sites Heavy metal concentrations low at almost all sites (excl. Nickel); elevated due to natural sources at multiple sites.

4.2 Human uses managed to sustain natural attributes

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
4.2.1	Support major infrastructure owners and operators to review impacts and develop plans to remediate past damage and avoid future impacts	30 Jun 2025	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRSBU Master Plan informed by Tasman Regional Wastewater Plan, which was co-designed by Te Taihū iwi, TDC and NRSBU. NCC staff proactively building awareness of this action with NCC Infrastructure team. Advocating for more sustainable options when infrastructure developments proposed.
4.2.2	Improve discharge and land disturbance monitoring and enforcement by: (i) plan effectiveness monitoring; (ii) reviewing effectiveness of granted resource consents; (iii) targeted compliance monitoring and enforcement; and (iv) compiling and making available to the public the forthcoming expiry dates of existing consents	30 Jun 2026	TDC and NCC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	<p>TDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMA s35 efficiency and effectiveness assessments of existing TRMP regulations undertaken 2019-2021 as part of plan review. Parts of the review on hold (due to RM reform) Policy team have largely paused developing a new plan (due to RM reform). Section 35 changes will be addressed through the new combined plan, which will be developed over the next few years (once new legislation introduced mid-2026). <p>NCC consents team engaged on how this objective can be addressed, but no further discussion / action (2024, 2025).</p>

Objective 5: Natural ecosystems can evolve in response to climate change

5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to future shore-line change

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
5.1.1	Commission a study to assess the full range of effects from climate change and land subsidence on the Inlet	30 Jun 2024	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change impacts on the Inlet: TDC & NCC Collaboration underway using Nelson-Tasman Resilience Explorer & council information. Species vulnerability to climate change: TDC used DOC trait-based climate vulnerability assessments to identify key species likely to be affected. Iwi climate risk assessment work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngāti Tama actively engaged in consultation with iwi on risk assessment tool Ngāti Rārua undertaking climate change risk assessment for their land. Ngāti Toa is developing a Climate Strategy Priority area for Ngāti Kuia/Apa and other iwi.
5.1.2	Acknowledge that changes to the morphology of the Inlet will result from sea level rise, and use adaptive pathways to accommodate natural processes	1 Jan 2025	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC is considering effects of climate change on coastlines in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tasman Climate Response Strategy & Action Plan; and Resource management decision making processes. TDC is considering adaptive pathways through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation planning Council documents & processes, where relevant. Further guidance on adaptation planning & pathways due later in 2026. NCC has work underway on managed retreat (2025).
5.1.3	Work with tangata whenua, key landowners, and stakeholders to establish a methodology using the adaptive planning approach to enable the future migration of salt marsh and marginal vegetation onto publicly and privately owned low-lying rural land, incrementally over time	1 Jan 2025	TDC, NCC and TET	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngāti Apa/MKM/TET 'Core and Restore Blue Carbon' project provides insights that can contribute to the development of multi-stakeholder adaptive planning methodology. TDC Areas with highest potential for saltmarsh restoration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified in Salt Ecology Report (2024, TDC) informed engagement with landowners to explore Fish friendly tidal gate to enhance upstream estuarine values. Action underway (TDC, 2025): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 landowners received saltmarsh plants for infilling existing areas Additional planting on Rough Island.
5.1.4	Identify areas where managed retreat can be achieved at scale while protecting and restoring biodiversity	30 Jun 2025	TDC, NCC and TET	ON TRACK/ COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop research underway to understanding knowledge base for carrying out a climate risk & vulnerability assessment (NCC/TDC, 2025). Future managed retreat options (for coastal ecosystems) will be informed by the information from 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 (NCC & TDC, 2024). GNS Science workshops on protecting coastal wetlands for biodiversity, carbon (and resilience?) – final report Sept 2024 (TET participated). Priority restoration sites around the Inlet identified (TDC & Salt Ecology, 2024) Restoration progressing on priority sites on public land (2025, TDC).
5.1.5	Through resource management planning and policy, ensure priority provision for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises	1 Jan 2026	TDC and NCC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	<p>TDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC engaged community on high level coastal management options in 2021 (summary report April 2022). TDC Coastal Management Project (CMP) was developing long-term adaptive plan for SLR and coastal hazards (2023), which would inform the TRMP and wider council work programmes. TRMP review now on hold due to RM reforms. In the short term TDC will progress natural hazards and climate change policy because they are important, but this will be on a longer timeframe than this action. TDC will need to re-look at this action within legal requirements as new plan is developed. <p>NCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RM reforms delayed action on this. Future spatial planning will likely require consideration of climate change influences on development proposals for Waimea Inlet (NCC, 2025). Regional Climate Change Assessment and Regional Resilience Explorer intended to inform planning for NCC & TDC (2023): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLR and coastal flooding impacts. vulnerability of certain ecosystems.
5.1.6	Support processes that allow carbon sequestration of estuarine ecosystems to be properly valued, and identify potential economic incentives including Blue Carbon credits	1 Jan 2026	TET	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core & Restore Project provided blue carbon storage data for Waimea Inlet that can be used to help properly value blue carbon ecosystems (LW, TET, Cawthron, Beca, Ngāti Apa, MKM, NCC, TDC etc). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of local data, expertise and reporting. Protocol for community-led core sampling. This data is now part of national blue carbon inventory – Cawthron involved in compiling. National Community of Practice for Coastal Habitat Protection & Restoration developing policy and best practice for coring, wetland protection & restoration (TET participating). GNS Science Workshop Report (2024) may be useful (TET). TET considering developments in systems for valuing blue carbon & biodiversity credits and how they'll apply to coastal wetlands (2024).

Objective 6: Natural ambience improved by controlling disruptive human activities

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
6.1	Map areas where hunting occurs and identify those areas where parties are agreed it is appropriate to restrict this activity	30 Jun 2024	TDC and F&G	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC maintains public access for gamebird hunting in Waimea Inlet. • Fish and Game agreed to send shape files to TDC showing areas game bird hunting is not undertaken / restricted in the Inlet. TDC will map (2024). • TDC informing F&G of areas where people are doing restoration so they can inform hunters.
6.2	Identify options for controlling disruptive human activities (e.g. use of vessels, jet skis, hovercraft, drones, float planes and shooting) in order to protect natural quiet and calm	30 Jun 2025	TDC and NCC	DELAYED/ON HOLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDC needs to carefully consider which methods are best for controlling nuisance effects of vessels and other activities (on wildlife and natural quiet & calm). Options to be considered in 2027: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · N&S Bylaw · TRMP · Other legislation. • NCC Environmental Planning team lodged this action in 2023 (to pursue in due course).

Objective 7: Understanding and appreciation of Inlet's natural attributes increased

7.1 People value and understand the Waimea Inlet

#	Action	Due	Lead	2025 Progress Status	2023–2025 Progress
7.1.1	Create and keep current applicable mātauranga Māori information, along with evidence-based information and research strategy, that identifies the information required to improve overall understanding of the Inlet, how it can best be organised and maintained, and gaps that need to be filled by further kōrero with tangata whenua and research	30 Jun 2024	Iwi	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngāti Kuia developed cultural mapping content related to Waimea Inlet (2023) • Ngāti Kuia developed cultural narrative for Waimeha and held a field trip to get whānau out on site (2024). • Rangitāne and Ngāti Apa developing mapping tool (2024) • TDC Science & Information Strategy endorsed by ELT in 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Staff preparing LTP budget bids for SIS actively engaging with iwi to seek direction on how best to progress the MM framework that interfaces with the SIS. · If LTP bid successful, a working group with iwi may be
7.1.2	Measurably increase community involvement by informing and supporting people to manage threats and restore natural ecosystems	30 Jun 2025	TET	IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battle for the Banded Rail (TET): trapping, planting and maintenance around the Inlet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 3,500 volunteer hours per year (25% increase from 2018) · Volunteer numbers stable/increasing (TET, 2024) • Record breaking winter planting 2025 • B4BR quarterly newsletter with ecological update • Social media and news stories • Additional projects led by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mapua Districts Community Association · Forest and Bird · Fish and Game · Keep Richmond Beautiful • 20 Active landowners around the Inlet: planting to support restoration of natural ecosystems (TET, 2024) • TBG community participation across Waimea Catchment has increased significantly (restoration, monitoring, trapping and propagation programmes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Brightwater School Wai-iti River Monitoring · Hope School: Whitebait Connection · Hope School community nursery partnership. · Wakefield School: Whitebait Connection · TBG/Roding Catchment Group/Enviroschool collaboration: 1000 seedlings pricked out · Victory School – Love Rimu Rehia: iwi-led project (Ngā Mana Kākano o Te Wairepo class) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WICG collaborative group formed to progress this objective (late 2025).

4.3 2025 TRIENNIAL ELECTION REPORT

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Elaine Stephenson, Governance Specialist
Report Authorisers:	Robyn Byrne, Governance Manager; Leith Townshend, General Counsel
Report Number:	RIF26-04-3

1. 2025 Triennial Election Report

- 1.1 Information has been provided by Council's electoral service provider, Election Services (**Attachment 1**), on the conduct and outcomes of the 2025 local authority elections, along with related electoral matters.
- 1.2 The 2025 local authority elections were successfully conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001. These laws set the rules for how local elections must be carried out, including candidate nominations, how voting papers are prepared and delivered, special voting, vote counting, and the declaration of results. All legal timeframes and public notices were completed as required.
- 1.3 The Council's electoral officer, Dale Ofoske, Election Services, managed the election on behalf of the Council. Support from Council was provided by the Deputy Electoral Officer and the Governance Team, with assistance from outlying Customer Service Staff. This included receiving nominations, producing and distributing voting packs, running voting services during the voting period, and confirming the final results. Communications and voter information activities were also delivered to support the election process.
- 1.4 After each election, the electoral officer reviews how the election went. This includes information on voter turnout, candidate numbers, how voting services operated, and any issues or improvements identified. These insights help inform planning for future elections.
- 1.5 The attached report provides an overview of the election processes and outcomes, including voter participation, candidate statistics, operational delivery, and key observations from electoral officials. The report also outlines several electoral matters for the Council's information following the completion of the election cycle.

2. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1. [!\[\]\(3f41268aaa93dab4a01c59fb2f124f87_img.jpg\) 2025 Triennial Elections Report and other Electoral Matters](#)

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TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



FINAL REPORT

2025 Triennial Elections and Other Electoral Matters

24 March 2026 | 24 Māehe 2026



Independent Election Services Ltd.
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Outline

The 2025 local government triennial elections occurred on Saturday 11 October 2025. The elections, together with a Māori ward poll, for Tasman District Council were conducted satisfactorily and on time and met all legislative and practical requirements.

This report summaries the electoral process.

Background

Local government elections are required every three years, with the 2025 election occurring on Saturday 11 October 2025. The conduct of these elections is prescribed by legislation and regulation to ensure public confidence and electoral integrity are maintained.

The following preliminary actions/decisions were made:

- (i) in 2023, Council resolved to retain the FPP (first past the post) electoral system to be used for the 2025 triennial election;
- (ii) in 2023, Council resolved to establish one or more Māori wards for the 2025 and 2028 triennial elections;
- (iii) due to a legislative change in 2024, where Māori wards or constituencies had been established on/after 2020 without holding a poll, a poll was required to be held with the 2025 triennial election on whether to keep or remove Māori wards or constituencies;
- (iv) during 2024, Council undertook a representation arrangements review (a review of wards, community boards, boundaries, number of elected members etc) to reflect the inclusion of the Māori ward. The final arrangements comprised the mayor, 14 councillors from six wards and eight community board members from two community boards;
- (v) postal voting to be used;
- (vi) the pseudo-random order of candidate names to be used.

The electoral officer appointed for the Tasman District Council is Dale Ofoske of Election Services, with Elaine Stephenson the appointed deputy electoral officer.

With the 2025 elections now complete, this report details the various electoral processes undertaken, together with election statistics for the information of Council.

Narrative

Elections Required

Elections were undertaken for:

Tasman District Council

- mayor (elected at large)
- 14 councillors
 - Golden Bay General Ward (2)
 - Lakes-Murchison General Ward (1)
 - Moutere-Waimea General Ward (3)

- Motueka General Ward (3)
- Richmond General Ward (4)
- Te Tai o Aorere Māori Ward (1)
- 8 community board members
 - Golden Bay Community Board (4)
 - Motueka Community Board (4)
- Māori ward poll

Election Timetable

Key election functions and dates were:

Nomination period

4 July – 1 August 2025

Inspection of Preliminary Electoral Roll

4 July – 1 August 2025

Delivery of voting mailers

9-22 September 2025

Special voting/early processing

9 September – 11 October 2025

Election day

11 October 2025

Preliminary count

11 October 2025

Official count

12-17 October 2025

Return of Electoral Donations & Expenses Form

by 11 December 2025

Due to a legislation change in 2024, a longer postal delivery period was permitted with the voting period extended from three-weeks to four-and-a-half weeks.

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll comprises two parts, the Residential Electoral Roll and the non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

The Residential Electoral Roll contains parliamentary electors, whose details are supplied by the Electoral Commission.

Each territorial authority is responsible for compiling its own non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll (non-resident ratepayer electors).

To compile the non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll, two actions are required:

- (i) a nationwide advertising campaign on the criteria of ratepayer elector qualifications and enrolment procedures; and
- (ii) the issuing of Ratepayer Confirmation Forms to all eligible 2022 non-resident ratepayer electors, and if returned, these along with any new enrolments, form the basis of the 2025 non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

A national advertising campaign was undertaken by Taituarā during May 2025 advising readers in all major daily newspapers of the criteria and qualifications required to be eligible for the non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

In April 2025, 214 Ratepayer Roll Confirmation Forms were issued to eligible 2022 non-resident ratepayer electors. A total of 187 non-resident ratepayer electors appeared on the 2025 Final non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls

The Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls contained elector details in alphabetical order with a flag denoting voting ward and community board entitlements.

The Preliminary Electoral Roll was available for public inspection during normal office hours between 4 July 2025 and 1 August 2025 from:

- Tasman District Council offices, 189 Queen Street, Richmond;
- Golden Bay Service Centre, 78 Commercial Street, Tākaka;
- Motueka Service Centre, 7 Hickmott Place, Motueka;
- Murchison Service Centre, 92 Fairfax Street, Murchison.

Statistics relating to the Final Electoral Roll are:

Ward	Final Roll		
	No. resident electors	No. non-resident ratepayer electors	Total
Golden Bay General	4,105	75	4,180
Lakes-Murchison General	2,479	37	2,516
Moutere-Waimea General	11,508	17	11,525
Motueka General	8,863	36	8,899
Richmond General	13,788	21	13,809
Te Tai o Aorere Māori	1,341	1	1,342
TOTAL	42,084	187	42,271

The total number of electors of 42,271 is an increase of 735 (+1.77%) when compared to the 2022 Final Electoral Roll of 41,536.

Nominations

The nomination period was 4 July to noon 1 August 2025.

For the first time, candidates were available to access, complete and submit nominations 24/7 by going online to: esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/TZ

Nomination material was available during this time from:

- Tasman District Council offices, 189 Queen Street, Richmond;
- Golden Bay Service Centre, 78 Commercial Street, Tākaka;
- Motueka Service Centre, 7 Hickmott Place, Motueka;
- Murchison Service Centre, 92 Fairfax Street, Murchison;
- downloading the material from the Council's website;
- contacting the electoral office to have the material emailed or posted out.

A detailed '2025 Candidate Information Handbook' was prepared and made available to all candidates, any interested party (e.g. media) and available online. The handbook contained relevant information about the Council and its electoral process for potential candidates.

A total of 40 nominations were received for the 23 vacancies, these being:

Issue	No. Nominations	No. Vacancies
Mayor	5	1
Councillors	23	14
Community Board Members	12	8
Total	40	23

For the Te Tai o Aorere Māori Ward, the number of nominations received equaled the number of vacancies, and that candidate was duly declared elected following the close of nominations.

The 40 nominations received for mayor, council and community board vacancies compares with 54 nominations received at the 2022 election (-26%).

For candidate names, refer Notice of Day of Election - **Appendix 2**.

Voting Mailers

Voting mailers consisting of an outward envelope, return prepaid envelope, voting document and candidate profile booklet (which included instructions in English and Māori) were posted to electors from Tuesday 9 September 2025.

The voting mailers were produced by the NZ Post Group and were consistent in design layout to all other local authorities in the country.

Return of Voting Documents

Voting documents were able to be posted back to the electoral officer or delivered to a ballot box at the following locations:

- Tasman District Council offices, 189 Queen Street Richmond;

- Golden Bay Service Centre, 78 Commercial Street Tākaka;
- Motueka Service Centre, 7 Hickmott Place, Motueka;
- Murchison Service Centre, 92 Fairfax Street, Murchison;
- the electoral office.

Special Voting

Special votes were available from 9 September 2025 to noon 11 October 2025 from the above locations.

A total of 490 special votes were returned prior to the close of voting. This compares to 419 special votes cast at the 2022 election (+16.9%). The increase in the number of special votes received may be due to the Māori ward poll being undertaken and higher community engagement.

Elector Turnout

Of the 42,271 electors on the Final Electoral Roll, 20,186 electors returned their voting document. This represents a 47.8% return and compares to a 48.9% return in 2022.

A schedule of the number of daily returned voting documents over the voting period is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Of note, the 2025 average nationwide voter turnout is 48% (compared to 45.6% for the 2022 election).

Results

With the undertaking of the early processing of returned voting documents during the voting period, progress results were able to be released on election day at around 1pm. Progress results reflected about 83% of votes cast and did not include votes received at Council offices on election day morning or special votes received.

The preliminary results were released about 1pm on Sunday morning following the receipt and processing of a significant number of votes received at the Council offices on election day morning. The preliminary result reflected about 98% of votes cast. These statistics show about 15% of all votes cast were received on election day morning.

Both the progress and preliminary results were released to candidates and placed on Council's website.

The final results (Declaration of Results of Election – see **Appendix 3**) were made on Friday 17 October 2025 and were also released to candidates and placed on Council’s website.

Māori Ward Poll

For the Māori Ward Poll, 8,216 electors voted to keep Māori wards (43.8%) and 10,529 electors voted to remove Māori wards (56.2%). The outcome of the poll is binding for two triennial elections (2028 and 2031) so this issue cannot be revisited until 2032 (for the 2034 triennial election).

Election Cost

The 2025 estimated election and poll cost advised in September 2024 was \$330,848 + GST (or for 43,500 electors, \$7.60 + GST per elector), subject to final statistics and actual third-party costs.

The 2025 final election and poll cost has now been determined at \$345,005 + GST (or for 42,271 electors, \$8.16 + GST per elector). This cost reflects significant price increases in postage, voting mailers and insurance from the 2022 election.

Other Electoral Matters

Inquiry into the 2025 elections

Parliament’s Justice Committee is undertaking its standard inquiry into the conduct of the 2025 local government elections. Submissions have been called for and closed on Friday 27 February 2026.

The inquiry will focus on:

- Voting processes, including:
 - Reports of people being removed from rolls or switched between them
 - Number of disallowed special votes
 - Outcomes of recent changes to the delivery of voting papers and returns, such as increased use of DX mail and orange bins in supermarkets
 - Use of telephone dictation for voters who are blind, visually impaired or physically unable to mark their voting paper

- The appropriateness of the use of mobile voting booths
- Electoral integrity, including disinformation and misinformation
- Consideration of the role of councils and their staff when determining voting arrangements, and their relationships with the electoral agencies responsible for conducting the voting.

Electoral System Review Under section 27 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA), a local authority may resolve, before 12 September 2026, to change the electoral system used at the last election. Should Council wish to consider changing its electoral system, it can do so by resolution no later than 12 September 2026.

However, public notice must be given by 19 September 2026 providing the right of electors to demand a poll on the matter.

Representation Arrangements Review

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires every local authority to undertake a representation arrangements review at least once in every six-year period. Council last undertook a review in 2024 (to include the Māori ward) but is now required to undertake a further review in 2027 (to exclude the Māori ward).

Key dates for the review are:

- Now – 19 December 2026: informal public consultation on review scenarios
- 20 December 2026 – by 31 July 2027: formal public consultation/resolution of initial proposal
- By 8 August 2027: public notice of initial proposal. Submission period starts
- By 8 September 2027: submission period closes
- By 3 November 2027: submissions heard, resolution of final proposal, public notice of final proposal. Objection/appeal period starts
- By 3 December 2027: Objection/appeal period closes
- By 20 December 2027: if required, forward all material to the Local Government Commission
- By 11 April 2028: if required, Local Government Commission determination.

Conclusion

The Tasman District Council's 2025 triennial election and Māori ward poll were conducted successfully and met all legislative and practical requirements. No issues or concerns of significance arose from these elections and all tasks were completed satisfactorily and on time.

Recommendation

That the report titled '2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters' be received.

Yours sincerely,



Dale Ofoske
Electoral Officer // Tasman District Council
Election Services
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VOTING DOCUMENT RETURNS - 2025 ELECTIONS

Revised
14 April 2025

WV DISTRICTS	8-Mar	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar	13-Mar	14-Mar	15-Mar	16-Mar	17-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	30-Mar	31-Mar
BLDEN BM GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIK-MARCHION GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOUTERS-WAU DIG GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
112B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOTUBAG GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
88B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROHANG GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
118B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TE SA O ACRIBE MB B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 2025 ELECTION
Daily Voting Document Returns



APPENDIX 2



NOTICE OF DAY OF ELECTION AND POLL FOR THE TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Nominations received

Notice is given under section 65 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that the following persons have been duly nominated as candidates for:

Mayor (*one vacancy*)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
CLARK, Maxwell	
JOHNS, Richard Sherwood	
KING, Tim	
NEUBAUER, Timo	Independent
OSMASTON, Richard Francis	

COUNCIL**Golden Bay General Ward** (*two vacancies*)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
BARKER, Rodney Taylor	
BUTLER, Celia Jean	
DOWNARD-WILKE, Axel	Independent
HALL, Julian	
HUME, Mark	

Lakes-Murchison General Ward (*one vacancy*)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
ALLAN, Nicola Shirley	
GULLY, John	
OSMASTON, Richard Francis	

Motueka General Ward *(three vacancies)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
FERNEYHOUGH, Kerryn Jennifer	
MARU, Brent Tahī	
ROSS, Dave	ACT Local
WALKER, Trindi	

Moutere-Waimea General Ward *(three vacancies)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
EGGERS, Julian Alexander	Independent
KININMONTH, Mike	
MCNAMARA, Dean	Sensible, Affordable and Ethical
WOODS, Dave	

Richmond General Ward *(four vacancies)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
DAIKEE, Glen	
ELLIS, Jo	
GREENING, Mark	Sensible, Affordable and Ethical
MALING, Kit	Independent
NEUBAUER, Timo	Independent
SHIRLEY, Daniel	ACT Local

COMMUNITY BOARDS**Golden Bay Community Board** *(four vacancies)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
APPLEBY, Sunshine	Independent
BRUNING, Clarissa	
DIXON, Henry David John	Independent
DOWNARD-WILKE, Axel	
KNOWLES, Grant Victor	
RAFFILLS, Mark	
WARD, Rodney	Independent

Motueka Community Board *(four vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation
HELLYER, Ray	
HUTT, Claire	
KATENE, John	
LUSK, Laura	
OGILVIE, David John	

As there are (for each office) more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, an election will be held between the listed candidates on Saturday, 11 October 2025, under the First Past the Post electoral system by postal vote.

Elected unopposed

Te Tai o Aorere Māori Ward *(one vacancy)*

Name	Affiliation
MORGAN, Paul Te Poa Karoro	

As the number of candidates does not exceed the number of vacancies, Paul Te Poa Karoro MORGAN is duly declared an elected member of the Tasman District Council.

Order of candidate names

The Tasman District council resolved under regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 to adopt the pseudo-random order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents.

Candidate names are to be randomly drawn by a Justice of the Peace at the Electoral Office (Ground Floor, 167 Victoria Street, Auckland – entrance off Dock Street, phone 0800 922 822) at 9.00am on 7 August 2025. Any person may attend the draw.

Māori Ward Poll

Notice is also given under section 65 of the Local Electoral Act 2001, that the Tasman District Council is required to hold a poll on its Māori ward in conjunction with its 2025 elections. The poll will be held on Saturday, 11 October 2025 under the First Past the Post electoral system by postal vote.

The outcome of the poll will be binding and apply for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

The poll is a vote to KEEP or REMOVE the Tasman District Council's Māori ward.

Issuing of voting documents

Voting documents will be posted to electors from Tuesday, 9 September 2025.

Return of voting documents

Voting documents must be returned not later than noon, Saturday, 11 October 2025 to the electoral officer.

Voting documents can be returned by post or hand delivered at the following council offices between Tuesday, 9 September 2025 and Friday, 10 October 2025 during normal business hours:

- Tasman District Council offices, 189 Queen Street, Richmond (Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri between 8.00am – 4.30pm and Wed between 9.00am – 4.30pm)
- Golden Bay Service Centre, 78 Commercial Street, Tākaka (Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri between 8.00am – 4.30pm and Wed between 9.00am – 4.30pm)
- Motueka Service Centre, 7 Hickmott Place, Motueka (Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri between 8.00am – 4.30pm and Wed between 9.00am – 4.30pm)
- Murchison Service Centre, 92 Fairfax Street, Murchison (Tues – Fri between 10.30am – 4.00pm).

In addition, voting documents can be hand delivered on Saturday 11 October 2025 between 9.00am – noon at Tasman District Council offices, 189 Queen Street, Richmond and any of the above service centres.

For up-to-date information on other voting locations and opening hours, check:

<https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/about-us/your-mayor-and-councillors/local-elections>

Special voting

Special voting in terms of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 may be exercised:

- at the above council offices and times during weekdays in the voting period
- at Tasman District Council offices, 189 Queen Street, Richmond on Saturday 11 October 2025 between 9.00am – noon
- by phoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

A person can apply to enrol as either a residential or ratepayer elector right up to and including Friday, 10 October 2025 – the day before the close of voting.


Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

Tasman District Council

189 Queen Street, Richmond

6 August 2025

APPENDIX 3


tasman | Te Kaunihera o
district council | **te tai o Aorere**

DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTION AND POLL

Pursuant to section 86 of the Local Electoral Act 2001, I declare the results of the election and Māori wards poll held on 11 October 2025 to be as follows:

MAYOR *(one vacancy)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
KINC, Tim		13209
OSMASTON, Richard Francis		357
CLARK, Maxwell		1220
NEUBAUER, Timo	Independent	4127
JOHNS, Richard Sherwood		3901
Informal		32
Blank		337

*I therefore declare **Tim KING** to be elected.*

COUNCIL
Golden Bay General Ward *(two vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
DOWNARD-WILKE, Axel	Independent	898
HALL, Julian		857
HUME, Mark		1110
BUTLER, Celia Jean		1041
BARKER, Rodney Taylor		588
Informal		1
Blank		16

*I therefore declare **Celia Jean BUTLER** and **Mark HUME** to be elected.*

Lakes-Murchison General Ward *(one vacancy)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
ALLAN, Nicola Shirley		489
OSMASTON, Richard Francis		111
GULLY, John		632
Informal		11
Blank		30

*I therefore declare **John GULLY** to be elected.*

Motueka General Ward *(three vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
MARU, Brent Tahī		3011
FERNEYHOUGH, Kerryn Jennifer		2271
ROSS, Dave	ACT Local	1714
WALKER, Trindi		2592
Informal		0
Blank		45

*I therefore declare **Kerryn Jennifer FERNEYHOUGH, Brent Tahī MARU and Trindi WALKER** to be elected.*

Moutere-Waimea General Ward *(three vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
WOODS, Dave		3177
EGGERS, Julian Alexander	Independent	2708
MCNAMARA, Dean	Sensible, Affordable and Ethical	2771
KININMONTH, Mike		2719
Informal		7
Blank		218

*I therefore declare **Mike KININMONTH, Dean MCNAMARA and Dave WOODS** to be elected.*

Richmond General Ward *(four vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
GREENING, Mark	Sensible, Affordable and Ethical	3054
MALING, Kit	Independent	3452
DAIKEE, Glen		2991
ELLIS, Jo		3604
NEUBAUER, Timo	Independent	3413
SHIRLEY, Daniel	ACT Local	3057
Informal		6
Blank		107

I therefore declare Jo ELLIS, Mark GREENING, Kit MALING and Timo NEUBAUER to be elected.

COMMUNITY BOARDS

Golden Bay Community Board *(four vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
WARD, Rodney	Independent	928
DOWNARD-WILKE, Axel		1108
KNOWLES, Grant Victor		1313
BRUNING, Clarissa		1597
APPLEBY, Sunshine	Independent	319
RAFFILLS, Mark		855
DIXON, Henry David John	Independent	1096
Informal		1
Blank		39

I therefore declare Clarissa BRUNING, Henry David John DIXON, Axel DOWNARD WILKE and Grant Victor KNOWLES to be elected.

Motueka Community Board *(four vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
HUTT, Claire		2853
KATENE, John		2224
LUSK, Laura		2023
OGILVIE, David John		2650
HELLYER, Ray		1307
Informal		4
Blank		234

I therefore declare Claire HUTT, John KATENE, Laura LUSK and David John OLGIVIE to be elected.

MĀORI WARDS POLL

Option	Affiliation	Votes Received
I vote to KEEP Māori wards		8216
I vote to REMOVE Māori wards		13529
Informal		4
Blank		1434

I therefore declare the option to REMOVE Māori wards for Tasman District Council, effective for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections, is passed.

Dated at Richmond, 17 October 2025

Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

Tasman District Council

189 Queen Street, Richmond

6 August 2025

4.4 RECOVERY UPDATE FOR THE JUNE/JULY 2025 FLOODS

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Rylee Pettersson, Recovery Operations Manager
Report Authorisers:	Leith Townshend, General Counsel
Report Number:	RIF26-04-4

1. Purpose of the Report / Te Take mō te Pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update you on the progress of the recovery programme following the June/July 2025 floods.

2. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpototo

- 2.1 In June and July 2025, the Tasman District experienced two significant rainfall events, two weeks apart, resulting in extensive flooding and landslide activity. The district has not experienced flooding of this *magnitude* since 1877, or experienced flooding this *widespread* since 1983.
- 2.2 Significant damage was experienced in the rivers and roading network. Large amounts of silt and other waste was deposited both on land and in the marine environment. People's lives, properties and businesses were affected, predominantly in rural areas.
- 2.3 Funding was received from several government agencies for waste management, the roading and cycle network, the rivers network, community facing activities, and contributions to the Mayoral Relief Fund.
- 2.4 Funding has significantly reduced the cost to Tasman District Council, however there is still a considerable cost to Council, currently estimated at \$14.6 million.
- 2.5 Following the two declared states of emergency, a formal transition into recovery occurred on 17 July 2025. Tasman District Council remains in a Local Transition Period to allow recovery works to continue outside of regular consenting frameworks – which is extended every 28 days. It is likely that these extensions will continue until at least June 2026.
- 2.6 Given the increasing number of natural hazard events and changes signalled in legislation reforms including the Emergency Management Bill, an 18-month fixed-term role has been funded to progress business continuity and recovery planning.
- 2.7 The emerging risks of fuel affordability and supply may become an issue to continue to deliver recovery activities as originally planned.

3. Social recovery update

- 3.1 During the short to medium recovery, three Navigators supported 145 families and individuals to access the services and provide help that they needed to progress their recovery. We received positive feedback from several people that the Navigators supported,

and we are confident that this service made a difference to those affected in our communities.

- 3.1.1 We are working on setting up a ‘Navigator Taskforce’ that will include approximately six staff within Council that will be trained to undertake these roles in the future. This will ensure that we have a small, trained team on hand to begin supporting those affected, rather than searching for contractors during an event with the right skill set and experience.
- 3.1.2 To support this, job descriptions have been completed and a ‘Navigator Handbook’ is being finalised.
- 3.2 In collaboration with Nelson Marlborough Public Health (who have provided \$13,000 funding) a ‘Flood Stories’ publication is being collated.
 - 3.2.1 This small publication will provide a record of the events including photos, reflections from affected community members who wanted to share their experiences, those who worked during the event, and specialist accounts from Council staff.
 - 3.2.2 We are hoping that this publication will be completed by June 2026.
- 3.3 We received \$150,000 via the Lottery Minister’s Discretionary Fund, administered by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). This provided funding for several community-facing roles including three Navigators, a Community Funding Coordinator, and the Recovery Support Manager. This funding was fully utilised by early 2026.

4. Rooding network update

- 4.1 Work is beginning on the larger rooding recovery projects that require a considerable investment and often involve Geotech assessment. The current key focus is the Riwaka-Sandy Bay Road (specifically, the hill section to Mārahau), Kaiteriteri-Sandy Bay Road, and the Motueka River Westbank Road.
- 4.2 Work is also continuing on minor repair sites, with over 700 jobs completed during October-December 2025 and another 400 jobs completed during January-March 2026.
- 4.3 We are supporting the Department of Conservation and their contractor to progress the repair of Graham Valley Road, with work expected to begin in early May 2026.
- 4.4 There are several issues and risks that the team are managing, including the weather impacting the timeframe of larger repairs, the affordability and potential disruption to fuel supply, availability of subcontract resources, working with adjacent landowners on cross-boundary issues (e.g. earthworks, drainages and trees) and working with local businesses to try and minimise the impact of the works and necessary road closures.
- 4.5 The New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) Emergency Works Fund has provided an increased Financial Assistance Rate of 81% for the recovery phase of reinstatement works. To date, we have received \$5,109,434 of the recovery phase funding and are currently waiting on the balance of \$18,950,000 to be paid by NZTA, which is a current risk.
- 4.6 NZTA have recently moved our funding through the quality assurance process (which means we have met their information requirements) and into the approval phase. We should know the approval outcome soon.

- 4.7 We have been working carefully to keep to the scope of the reinstatement works within the NZTA funding rules as they do not allow for improvement (except for where assets are replaced with modern equivalents).

5. Tasman's Great Taste Trail update

- 5.1 The damage to the Tasman Great Taste Trail is being managed in two funding tranches via the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).
- 5.1.1 Funding has been approved for \$1.6m. To date we have received \$1m and spent \$775,252. The remainder of the funding will be received in June 2026.
- 5.2 Two major projects remain to complete the tranche one works, the Pokororo swing bridge repairs, and the Spooners Tunnel southern stream resilience works.
- 5.2.1 A design of the Pokororo swing bridge repair has been completed and will alter the wind support stays to a new layout that will be above flood flow levels. Previously, the wind support cables were at risk of being snagged by debris in flood flows, which in turn pulled the bridge at awkward angles. A contractor started on-site in March with work expected to take around two months.
- 5.2.2 Spooners Tunnel southern stream resilience works is under final design and procurement is being explored. The physical works will require the tunnel to be closed, so undertaking this work during the winter off-peak cycling season is planned.
- 5.3 For tranche two funding we expect to take an options report to the Environment Regulatory and Operations Committee (ERO) on 12 May to present the various route options. We will await the outcome of the ERO before communicating with MBIE regarding a tranche two funding decision.

6. Rivers network update

- 6.1 The rivers recovery programme has moved from short-term response activities to a long-term planned, methodical recovery approach. We have developed a detailed programme of work that will indicate which rivers we'll be working on and when, and we communicated this programme to the public in March. We expect to have crews operating full-time on this programme for the next 18-24 months.
- 6.2 Due to the magnitude and extent of significant river alignment work required, we are prioritising areas that require Emergency Works provisions to complete, so that we have a clear plan for exiting the Local Transition Period by the end of the financial year.
- 6.3 We're preparing for considerable willow planting this winter to stabilise newly repaired areas in the river network, and to progress our long-term strategy of restoring robust vegetative riparian corridors to mitigate flood risk.
- 6.4 We continue to engage regularly with our insurer (Aon) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) around reinstatement claims for the rivers recovery work.
- 6.4.1 The damage from the storm to our river assets was extensive, fundamentally impacting on every asset, and the process for settlement will be long and convoluted to determine eligible and ineligible costs for both Aon and NEMA. The preparation of information for the insurers involved an assessment and analysis of sample sites across Tasman to enable a cross section of all damage. Considering the damage was district-wide it was a sizeable undertaking.

- 6.4.2 Earlier in the year, we hosted both Aon and NEMA representatives to discuss these matters and we are hopeful that these site visits and associated face-to-face negotiations will help to expedite our claims.
- 6.5 While we have concentrated on the rivers claim, we are waiting on a claim for Three Waters for a much smaller amount.
- 6.5.1 The Three Waters claim is approximately \$400k of which we may receive 40% (approximately \$160k) which includes reinstatement/replacement of assets damaged during the weather event.
- 6.5.2 The high NEMA threshold of \$2.2 M excludes the claim for 60% of the damage which is usually available.
- 6.5.3 We need the rivers claim agreement in principle and an initial payment processed to absorb the deductible before any claim can be submitted for Three Waters.
- 6.6 Additionally, we have executed a new funding package with Kānoa (administered by MBIE) under Tranche Two of the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF), which we anticipate will help support flood resilience improvements along with enhancing our ongoing stop bank refurbishment programme.
- 6.7 Key risks include the potential for further severe weather events prior to the recovery programme being completed; the availability willow and rock material to support the identified recovery needs in the next three to five years; and the uncertainty of cost recovery from our insurer and NEMA.

7. Waste management update

- 7.1 Work on future stockpile sites has shifted from the waste project to business-as-usual.
- 7.2 Woody waste from the event is currently stockpiled and is currently being programmed for burning now that conditions have become more favourable.
- 7.3 A further marine clean-up is being planned for end April-early May after we received reports of netting on the Motueka Sandbar, posts washing up in the Abel Tasman and apple bins on Farewell Spit. The Harbourmaster plans to undertake a survey from Pūponga to Māpua, and rubbish collection from Onetahua to Farewell Spit is also planned.
- 7.4 Surveillance for Asiatic Knotweed is continuing with a control crew underway to manage summer growth. Surveillance and control work is also underway on the Wai-iti River at Pigeon Valley and the Mārahau Valley following a Himalayan Balsam outbreak. It is anticipated this work will be captured within the original budget allocation for the Motueka River work.
- 7.5 The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Emergency Waste Fund has made available funding of up to \$2m. This fund provides a 75% subsidy, and the remaining 25% contribution from Council is being funded via existing activity and capital budgets, including waste levy funds and will likely require unbudgeted expenditure.
- 7.5.1 To date, we have received an up-front payment of \$1m from MfE. Assumptions relating to the Tasman District Council portion of the Emergency Waste Fund spend have not yet been fully confirmed, but any changes will be immaterial to the total \$14.6m cost to the Council.

- 7.6 Staff will also be preparing an application to the Nelson Tasman Landfill Business Unit (NTRLBU) contingency fund established at the meeting of 9 September 2022, post the Nelson floods.
- 7.7 A new project has been initiated to develop a regional emergency waste management plan, in partnership with Nelson City Council.

8. Finance update

- 8.1 On 18 February at a publicly notified workshop, staff outlined the process of establishing a new targeted recovery rate to collect the \$14.6m shortfall over the next five years with Council.
- 8.1.1 A flat targeted rate across the district was indicated as a preferred option. This was endorsed by Council via a formal report on 2 April. This is currently out for consultation with the community as part of the 2026/2027 Annual Plan process. Depending on feedback, the new rates will be adopted on 25 June 2026 when the 2026/2027 Annual Plan is adopted.
- 8.2 Key risks include certainty of funding and insurance payments. Despite budgeting for this, the recovery of costs may vary from budgeted recoveries.
- 8.3 Table 1 below shows the recognised expenditure to the end of February 2026, along with the latest reforecast of projected total costs, expected external funding and the funding required by Tasman District Council. Table 2 shows staff time spent on both response and recovery.
- 8.3.1 As noted throughout this update, projected total costs and projected external funding are currently not fully confirmed and therefore the projected funding requirement for Tasman District Council may alter as more information is received.
- 8.3.2 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) costs, at the time of writing this report, continue to await final apportionment between joint operations (shared between councils) and Council responsibilities. We continue to include \$160,000 in the projected cost until finalisation of the split is received.
- 8.3.3 'Other & Interest' costs include costs of recovery incurred by Finance (projected rates decrease and revaluation costs for affected properties), executive (supplementary costs for event management), and interest projected for the outstanding debt until full repayment (in five years).

Activity	Expenditure to 31Feb2026 (\$000)	Projected total cost (\$000)	Projected external funding (\$000)	Tasman District Council funding (\$000)
Roading	19,572	24,950	(20,720)	4,231
Stormwater	70	246	0	246
Waste Management	1,332	2,826	(2,250)	576
Water Supply	351	346	0	346
Wastewater	268	465	0	465
Park & Reserves	408	460	0	460
Rivers	7,238	16,290	(10,020)	6,270
EOC		160	0	160
Other & Interest	152	1,893	0	1,893
	29,391	47,636	(32,990)	14,646

Table 1: Response and recovery expenditure to end February 2026

8.4 Table 2 below outlines time for Tasman District Council staff supporting the response within council activities, supporting EOC and the work of the Recovery Support Manager and Navigators. This equates to 8.8 FTE (full time equivalents), for one year.

Area	Hours
Internal council response activities	9,807
EOC	4,401
Navigators and Recovery Support Manager	1,225
	15,441

Table 2: Staff time for response and recovery

9. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

Nil

4.5 QUARTERLY CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Barbara Lewando, Senior Climate Change Policy Advisor
Report Authorisers:	Dwayne Fletcher, Strategic Planning & Enterprise Manager; Sue McLean, Kaiwhakahaere ā Rōpū – Te Pae Rautaki Ahumoni Group Manager - Strategy & Finance
Report Number:	RIF26-04-5

1. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpoto

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress implementing the Tasman Response and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2035, along with climate developments at the regional, national, and international levels.

2. Tasman Climate Response and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan – progress update

- 2.1 An internal working group Council staff meets bi-monthly to coordinate implementation of the [Tasman Climate Response and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2035](#). This section highlights key progress from October 2025 – April 2026.

Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- 2.2 Council is monitoring its corporate greenhouse gas emissions and has collected most data needed for the 2024-2025 inventory. Staff will use the latest MfE template to calculate emissions and prepare the report once all data is received. As no funding was allocated for independent verification this year, an internal peer review will be undertaken by a staff member with relevant expertise to review the calculations and report. The final report will be presented to Council following peer review.

Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- 2.3 Data for the 2023/2024 reporting period has been verified and is being refined to improve accuracy and correctness. Staff training is underway on the regional emissions and tool functionality, with pathways features currently being tested by the consultant prior to wider use.

Jobs for Nature

- 2.4 All Job for Nature projects have now been completed. Future management of Teapot Valley will be undertaken by Tasman Pine. The Waimea site continues to be actively managed through a partnership between Council and local volunteers, supporting ongoing restoration efforts and long-term environmental stewardship.

Transport

Encouraging Active Transport Networks

- 2.5 A Road Safety Coordinator has been appointed and is working with Waimea Intermediate School to deliver a cycle skills programme, supporting safer travel and encouraging greater uptake of active transport among students.

Implementation of the Nelson-Tasman Speed Management Plan

- 2.6 Phase 2 of the Speed Management Plan was approved on 14 August 2025 and is currently with the Director of Transport awaiting certification.

Plan Change 81 and Urban Growth

- 2.7 Plan Change 81 and TRPS Change 1 have clear climate change relevance through their focus on urban growth, and alignment with national policy on natural hazards and climate adaptation. The plan explicitly requires updated natural hazards risk assessments aligned with the National Policy Statement on Natural Hazards 2025, ensuring that new development considers risks such as flooding, coastal hazards, and climate-related impacts.
- 2.8 There is a strong link to climate change mitigation and adaptation through urban form, with the Statement Planning Process requiring expertise in emissions and climate adaptation. Decisions around housing density, location growth, and urban design will influence long-term emission (e.g. transport patterns) and resilience. This signals a more integrated approach to managing growth in a way that responds to both climate risks and low-emissions development pathways.

Air Quality Improvements (Emissions & Health)

- 2.9 Council's air quality programme focuses on reducing emissions from domestic heating, the main source of winter pollution. Key initiatives include education on efficient wood burning. Promotion of dry firewood, and support for improved home heating and insulation. Early results are positive, with no PM10 exceedances recorded since winter 2023, indicating improving air quality, though sustained effort is still required.
- 2.10 Continuing this the Warmer Healthier Homes Programme supported by Te Tau Ihu Charitable Trust continues to retrofit insulation in eligible homes, with 54 insulation upgrades completed between 1 July 2025 and 31 January 2026. This contributes to reduced emissions while delivering co-benefits through warmer, healthier, and more energy-efficient homes.

Waste & Emissions Reduction

- 2.11 The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 sets key climate-relevant targets: reducing waste generation (10%), landfill disposal (30%), and methane emissions (85%) by 2035. Education and community initiatives, such as composting programmes, recycling engagement, and waste minimisation grants, support behaviour change to achieve these outcomes. These efforts contribute directly to emissions reduction, particularly through diverting organic waste from landfill and supporting low-waste community practices.
- 2.12 Waste minimisation initiatives continue to progress across several areas. Construction and demolition waste diversion activities at the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre have now been integrated into the resource recovery loop and are transitioning into business-as-usual operations, alongside ongoing engagement with the building sector.
- 2.13 Organic waste reduction initiatives, including composting workshops and the Golden Bay/Mohua food waste trial, remain underway. Community waste reduction programmes

also continue through project grants, rolling grants, targeted subsidies, and initiatives such as Second-hand Sunday.

- 2.14 Emergency response and recovery activities have supported waste diversion and recycling during flood clean-up operations. All programmes are progressing and contributing to reduced waste to landfill.
- 2.15 The business case has been finalised to assess options for introducing a new service to collect and process organic waste. Its findings will inform Long Term Plan discussions and future funding decisions. No substantial progress has been made this quarter.
- 2.16 Although no significant progress has occurred since the annual report, the Regional Landfill Business Unit continues to investigate potential uses for excess gas at York Valley that is currently flared. At Eves Valley, gas that is currently flared will soon be used for electricity generation.

Climate and resilience integration across Council Policy and Planning

- 2.17 Council continues to embed climate change and resilience considerations across activity strategies, policies and plan-making processes. Integration is also underway through the Long-Term Plan (LTP) planning cycle to ensure consistent consideration of climate risk, resilience, and long-term investment decisions, aligned with LTP planning timelines and strategic direction.

Corporate Risk Register

- 2.18 The Corporate Risk Register has been updated to integrate climate and resilience considerations within the Council's enterprise risk management framework, with climate-related risks reviewed in line with Council's risk rating methodology and governance oversight requirements.

Tasman Biodiversity Strategy

- 2.19 Climate resilience considerations have also been incorporated into the Tasman Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan (2025-2028), including a triennial update to guide delivery of the strategy and inform its next iteration. Actions focus on reducing climate and natural hazards risks, strengthening ecosystems and primary sector resilience, increasing carbon sequestration, and enabling revenue streams to support future nature restoration.

Integration with the Tasman Science and Information Strategy

- 2.20 Work also continues to integrate climate and resilience considerations in support of the Tasman Science and Information Strategy.

Inundation Practice Note and adoption process

- 2.21 Staff completed a technical review of the Inundation Practice Note (IPN). Council undertook community engagement on the draft Tasman IPN. Staff presented a report to the Strategy, Finance and Performance Committee on 19 March, seeking adoption of the IPN, including minor amendments that responded to the community feedback. Work continues to support implementation of the IPN.

Motueka Master Plan and regional spatial planning alignment

- 2.22 A report on the Motueka Masterplan was presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in September 2025. The Committee agreed to the staff recommendation to incorporate the background work for the masterplan into the Regional Spatial Planning process. Staff have since been collating information and identifying key gaps to inform any future planning work.

An update was provided to the Information Forum in mid-April 2026 through the Environmental Policy Manager's report.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment Waimea Inlet

- 2.23 The Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Waimea Inlet is currently underway. The assessment examines how climate change may affect the inlet's ecosystems, habitats and associated values. Phase one focuses on a desktop ecological review.
- 2.24 Council staff are also contributing climate change technical input into the Waimea Inlet Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2029). The work draws on the Tasman Climate Change Response and Resilience Strategy, the Nelson-Tasman Regional Climate Change Assessment, and other relevant documents. A key component is the joint assessment of climate change and land subsidence impacts, using GIS mapping layers and species vulnerability assessment to better understand the risks to ecosystems and support long-term planning.
- 2.25 The initiative also prioritises nature-based adaptation, including wetland restoration, saltmarsh regeneration, dune planting, and native revegetation to strengthen coastal defences and improve resilience to sea level rise, flooding, and erosion. While these initiatives are delivering positive outcomes, progress is constrained by funding limitations and delays in national policy, particularly around managed retreat, which continues to challenge the pace of climate response efforts.

Climate Change Learning Programme

- 2.26 Council continues to deliver an 8-week Climate Change Learning Programme across primary and intermediate schools, reaching ~300 students to date. The programme builds foundational understanding of climate causes and impacts, while improving confidence and optimism, students rating high understanding increased from 14% to 47% and hopefulness rose from 60% to 80%.
- 2.27 The initiative is also strengthening youth engagement in climate policy, with students contributing to Natural Hazards planning and the incoming input into the Climate Response and Resilience Strategy review. This demonstrates clear value in building informed, future focused community participation on climate issues.
- 2.28 A youth workshop on 5 May 2026 will gather input to help shape the Climate Response and Resilience Strategy, focusing on priorities, gaps, and ideas from young people, while also building their understanding of how to influence Council decision-making.

Flood Recovery – Climate Resilience and Adaptation

- 2.29 The June/July 2025 flood recovery highlights increasing exposure to severe weather and natural hazards, reinforcing the need for stronger climate resilience. The scale and frequency of events are noted as growing risks, prompting investment in recovering capabilities, business continuity planning, and long-term preparedness.
- 2.30 Recovery efforts are also incorporating adaptation and resilience measures, including river system realignment, stop bank upgrades, and large-scale riparian planting to stabilise riverbanks and reduce future flood risk. Additional funding streams are being used to support flood resilience improvements and more robust infrastructure design (e.g. raising bridge components above flood levels). These actions signal a shift from reactive recovery toward building longer-term resilience to climate driven hazards.

Community Climate Resilience and Community Preparedness

- 2.31 Work is underway to strengthen community resilience through events like the Mohua Golden Bay Resilience Expo and ongoing support for Community Emergency Preparedness Plans. These initiatives focus on equipping communities with knowledge, tools, and plans to respond to climate-related hazards and emergencies.
- 2.32 This reflects a growing emphasis on adaptation and preparedness alongside mitigation, particularly in remote and vulnerable communities.

NRDA Climate Change Capability (New Resource)

- 2.33 Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA) is progressing the hiring of a dedicated part-time climate change resource. This signal increased regional capability and more coordinated approach to climate action, particularly in supporting economic transition, resilience, and alignment across agencies.
- 2.34 This role is expected to strengthen collaboration opportunities and provide a clearer interface between local government, business, and regional climate initiatives.

LGNZ AGM Remit – Climate Resilience Opportunity

- 2.35 A remit for the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting is currently being drafted, presenting a strategic opportunity to influence central government on the need of a more integrated, system-wide approach to climate resilience. This includes aligning planning, infrastructure, funding, and hazards management frameworks to better support local government delivery,
- 2.36 The remit will also advocate for increased and more accessible funding to enable councils to scale adaptation and resilience initiatives. The remit will be brought back to Council for consideration and decision, providing an opportunity to align on priorities before submission and maximise impact at a national level.

Climate Resilient Tasman intranet

- 2.37 The Climate Resilient Tasman intranet page continues to grow as a central hub for staff to access climate-related information, including national policy updates and industry developments. Phase 2 will commence shortly, bringing together guidance and tools to support integration of climate considerations across Council activities such as planning, infrastructure, risk management, and community initiatives. The page will also link to key reports, data, and internal contacts to support day-to-day decision-making.

3. Regional Update

Nelson Tasman Climate Change Advisory Group

- 3.1 In December 2025, Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council agreed to establish a Joint Climate Change Advisory Group. Three councillor representatives have been appointed and implementation is underway. The Group provides coordinated regional oversight and strategic advice to support alignment to climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience across both councils.

Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment

- 3.2 Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council staff have completed their review of the regional climate change risk assessment. Council has decided not to proceed with the Resilience Explorer geospatial tool at this stage due to cost and limited readiness for

community use. Required analysis can be generated through existing internal systems, with the option to revisit the tool in the future.

- 3.3 The project remains within budget. A technical summary and joint implementation and communication plan are being developed with Nelson City Council. The full report will undergo legal peer review in mid-March 2026, after which it will be publicly released and shared with Long Term Plan (LTP) and Asset Management Plan (AMP) authors to support planning and decision-making.

Nelson Council City Council (NCC)

- 3.4 Climate action initiatives across Nelson continue to progress. Implementation of the Nelson Climate Change Strategy (adopted July 2025) is underway, guiding mitigation and adaptation priorities across the community,
- 3.5 NCC is advancing adaptation planning cycle and identifying priority areas for climate risk planning, beginning with the Wood. Progress has been moderated to ensure approach is carefully aligned with current government reforms.
- 3.6 Work also continues reducing operational emissions, expanding EV charging infrastructure, supporting the Warmer Healthier Homes programme, and delivering community climate initiatives through grants, education programmes, and climate actions activities in collaboration with the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum and Tasman District Council. Nelson City Council is also working closely with Tasman District Council staff to test and improve the community emissions platform.

Nelson Tasman Climate Forum update

- 3.7 The Climate Action Festival (16-25 October 2025) delivered 41 events across the Nelson-Tasman region, including Tasman, Golden Bay and Takaka Hill. Supported by 36 community partners, the programme engaged more than 1,100 participants and demonstrated strong community collaboration on a modest budget.
- 3.8 The 2025 Kai Resilience Hui, held during the Climate Action Festival, brought together community organisations and practitioners to strengthen food resilience across Te Taihū. The hui shared insights on local food systems, gardening in Aotearoa, food mapping initiatives, and approaches to reducing food waste, helping build regional collaboration.
- 3.9 Forum members have decided to transition from the Tasman Environment Trust to an independent incorporated structure to strengthen governance and improve access to funding. Community-led initiatives continue to progress across the region, including Swap One, Take the Jump, the Nature and Climate programme, and repair cafes in Motueka and Mohua, with a third being explored in Wakefield. These initiatives demonstrate growing community engagement in climate action and resilience across Te Taihū.
- 3.10 The Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust continues to support active and low-carbon travel through weekend community transport services between Motueka and Richmond. The service allows passengers to take bicycles on board, enabling one-way trips along the Great Taste Trail and promoting sustainable transport and recreation.

Collaboration with Ngāti Rarua

- 3.11 Tasman District Council staff, alongside Nelson City Council and the Cawthron Institute, have been invited to provide technical guidance on a climate adaptation initiative led by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua. The project includes a literature review examining climate hazards

and risks in Te Taihū and their impacts on Ngāti Rāua, including economic, cultural, and community wellbeing dimensions.

- 3.12 This work will strengthen understanding of climate risks, inform the development of an action plan aligned with Ngāti Rāua's Climate Change Strategy, and further strengthen collaboration and partnership between iwi, local government, and research institutions to support the protection of taonga tuku iho and the wellbeing of whānau and marae.

Te Uru Kahiaka

- 3.13 Work is underway to develop a briefing note outlining opportunities across regional councils, with the aim of enhancing coordination and cost savings in areas such as climate risk, adaptation planning, preparedness, policy, and technical analysis.

4. National Update

- 4.1 Government policy settings continue to evolve in response to climate change, natural hazards, and resilience challenges. The Government is progressing a national adaptation framework, strengthening natural hazards risk management through planning reform and national direction, and reforming emergency management legislation to improve preparedness for major hazards events. In parallel, it is implementing legislated emissions budgets and the Emissions Reduction Plan, which have implications for how mitigation is considered in planning and infrastructure decisions. These changes have significant implications for Councils' planning roles, infrastructure investment, and long-term risk management.
- 4.2 Central and local government, insurers, and other stakeholders are also examining insurance affordability and financial resilience to natural hazards. This work focuses on how climate risk and disaster-related costs are shared between central government, insurers, and property owners. The outcome will influence Council decision-making and affect communities exposed to flooding and coastal hazards.

Government reforms and implications for Council work programmes

- 4.3 Recent Government resource management reforms, including the enactment of "plan stop" legislation, are affecting the Environmental Policy work programme, although an exemption pathway is available. Council remains engaged with central government and continues to provide feedback on the reform process. Climate change adaptation and natural hazards resilience remain priorities across Council's work programmes.

Mitigation

- 4.4 In December 2025, the Government confirmed a [decision](#) to lower the 2050 biogenetic methane target range, following statutory review processes under the Climate Change Response Act. The target was reduced to a 14-24% reduction below 2017 levels, compared with the previous range of 24-47%. The net-zero target for long-lived greenhouse gases by 2050 remains unchanged.
- 4.5 These changes primarily affect national emissions policy settings, particularly in relation to agricultural emissions policy and emissions budgets under the Climate Change Response Act. For Council, the main implications relate to ensuring alignment of local climate strategies, community emissions reduction initiatives, emissions inventories, and long-term planning assumptions with national emissions budgets and the updated Emissions Reduction Plan framework.

Adaptation and resilience

- 4.6 In October 2025, the Government released New Zealand's [National Adaptation Framework](#), which sets out the Government's long-term approach to strengthening New Zealand's climate adaptation system and managing climate risks. The framework is structured around four pillars: risk and response information sharing; roles and responsibilities; investment in risk reduction; and cost-sharing before and after hazard events. The framework also draws on recommendations from the Adaptation Independent Reference Group.
- 4.7 The Framework does not fully resolve roles and responsibilities at this stage. Rather, it sets out the Government's direction and signals further policy and legislative work. [Cabinet's proactive release](#) states that the next steps include commissioning a national flood map and legislating to clarify requirements for local authorities to prepare adaptation plans for priority locations, including what the risks are, how they will be managed, and who is expected to pay.
- 4.8 Work toward the [2026 National Climate Change Risk Assessment \(NCCRA\)](#) also continued during this period. The Climate Change Commission states that the 2026 NCCRA will identify the most significant risks to New Zealand's economy, society, environment, and ecology, and will help inform the next national adaptation plan. The assessment is due no later than 3 August 2026.
- 4.9 In December 2025, the Government also progressed adaptation and resilience relevant planning reform through the introduction of the [Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill](#). Ministry for the Environment material states that these Bills are intended to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 and create a new planning and environmental management system. The Planning Bill is described as including new spatial planning requirements and a more streamlined planning framework, while the Natural Environment Bill is intended to establish a framework for use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

National direction updates under the RMA

- 4.10 On 18 December 2025, the Government notified a package of new and amended RMA national direction, most of which came into force on 15 January 2026. For climate change and resilience, the most relevant instruments are the National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025, the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025, the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 as amended, and the National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025.
- 4.11 The [National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025](#) provides national direction on managing natural hazard risk through planning, using a risk-based approach to subdivision, use and development, and covers hazards including flooding, landslips, coastal erosion, coastal inundation, active faults, liquefaction and tsunamis. This is directly relevant to councils' land-use planning, consenting and hazard management functions.
- 4.12 The amended [National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation](#) gives clearer national direction to support planning for renewable generation and states that it works alongside wider government action on climate change. The amended [National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks](#) and the new [National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025](#) are also relevant because they support electricity and infrastructure planning needed for electrification, energy security and system resilience.
- 4.13 For Council, these changes reinforce the need to actively align local climate planning, emissions assumptions, infrastructure planning, district planning, and natural hazard

management with evolving national policy settings. The National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025 and the wider December 2025 national direction package have the most immediate implications for planning. The Emissions Reduction Plan 2 (ERP2) amendment and the change to the biogenic methane target are primarily relevant to broader policy alignment, emissions reporting assumptions, and long-term strategic planning.

Emergency management reforms

- 4.14 The Government consulted on reforms to emergency management legislation and has since progressed the [Emergency Management Bill \(No. 2\)](#) through Parliament. The Bill is currently under consideration by a Select Committee. It proposes to replace the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, strengthen New Zealand’s national emergency management framework, and implement recommendations from the Government Inquiry into the 2023 North Island Severe Weather Events.
- 4.15 The reforms are relevant to climate resilience, as climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of some natural hazards, particularly storms and flooding. Strengthening the emergency management system is intended to improve national and local capability for preparedness, response, and recovery from major hazard events.
- 4.16 For councils, the Bill signals potential changes to governance arrangements, regional emergency management planning, and the roles and responsibilities of local authorities within the national emergency management system.

5. International Update

- 5.1 International policy discussions increasingly focus on [climate risk disclosure, insurance affordability, and financial resilience](#), with governments and insurers exploring mechanisms such as parametric insurance and public–private risk-sharing approaches for extreme weather events.
- 5.2 Countries and international organisations are expanding the use of [climate risk assessments and scenario analysis](#) to inform infrastructure planning, land-use decisions, and public investment. These approaches align with the regional climate risk assessment work underway in Nelson–Tasman.
- 5.3 Global practice increasingly emphasises [nature-based solutions and catchment-scale resilience](#) to reduce flood, coastal, and ecosystem risks while supporting [biodiversity and water quality](#) outcomes.

6. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

Nil

4.6 COUNCIL OPERATIONS SIX-MONTHLY REPORT

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Leith Townshend, General Counsel; Steve Manners, Chief Operating Officer
Report Authorisers:	Leonie Rae, Chief Executive Officer
Report Number:	RIF26-04-6

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this update to Information Forum is to provide an overview of the work program of the Council Operations Group.
- 1.2 The Council Operations Group was established in 2021 to provide a dedicated focus on the key functions that support Elected Members and our Council. Council Operations administers the operational budgets for the Golden Bay and Motueka Community Boards, Tasman District Council and the office of the mayor.
- 1.3 The Group is organised into seven operating sections and acts as a 'centre of excellence' for cross-council functions and priorities. The Chief Operating Officer is also the Deputy Chief Executive and supports the CEO's priorities and obligations to ensure the timely implementation of Council plans and that they reflect Council's policies; providing efficient and effective strategic support and leadership to Council's business operations, business opportunities register, and to fulfil the CEO's due diligence responsibilities as an 'officer'.
- 1.4 The Council Operations Group consists of:
 - 1.4.1 Legal Services
 - 1.4.2 Governance Team
 - 1.4.3 People & Wellbeing Team
 - 1.4.4 Assurance & Improvement Team
 - 1.4.5 Information Services
 - 1.4.6 Communications & Change Team
 - 1.4.7 Recovery

2. Key updates

- 2.1 The report from each area will be presented to Information Forum via a Power Point presentation. However, the following contains a brief summary by function.

Assurance & Improvement

- 2.2 Delivered updated policies and frameworks across health and safety, risk and procurement; improved quality and visibility of reporting through registers and templates; strengthened risk controls; expanded training programmes; and achieved a \$1m reduction (25%) in insurance premiums.

Communications & Change

- 2.3 Focused on building understanding and trust with the community and staff. The team translates complex issues, manages a challenging media environment, supports strategic change, and contributes to reputation management and organisational alignment.

Information Services, Data & Architecture

- 2.4 Progressed digital programme delivery, cybersecurity maturity, and service operations to improve staff and customer experience. Advanced trusted data governance, intelligent automation and business-focused architecture, while strengthening GIS capability through the GeoHub platform.

Governance

- 2.5 Successfully project-managed the 2025 local government election, supported induction of elected members, implemented the new committee structure, expanded livestreaming, supported over 35 meetings, drafted 2025-2028 governance policies, and progressed documentation system improvements.

Legal Services

- 2.6 Continued to support lawful decision-making across more than 40 legislative regimes. Increased internal legal capacity reduced reliance on external providers. Delivered key projects including the Council-wide delegations review, strengthened frameworks, privacy leadership and early implementation of matter and contract management tools.
- 2.7 LGOIMA performance remains strong, with very high on-time delivery and successful outcomes in escalated complaints.

People & Wellbeing

- 2.8 Improved onboarding and orientation, advanced development of a People Strategy and Learning & Development Strategy, introduced in-house e-learning capability, and strengthened psychosocial risk reporting to support workforce wellbeing and performance.

Recovery

- 2.9 Established the Recovery function and progressed work on fuel resilience, business continuity and recovery planning.

3. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

Nil

4.7 HARBOURMASTER'S REPORT

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Peter Renshaw, Harbourmaster
Report Authorisers:	Guinevere Coleman, Marine & Terrestrial Biomanager
Report Number:	RIF26-04-7

1. Overview

- 1.1 This report provides Councillors with a high-level understanding of the role of the Harbourmaster and the work of the Harbourmaster's Office, their key responsibilities and how this has been delivered in the Tasman district over the last year.
- 1.2 It is intended to:
 - explain what a Harbourmaster does
 - summarise what matters operationally
 - provide context for the more detailed information contained in Attachment 1
- 1.3 The attached report provides a more detailed overview of these activities for information purposes

2. What does a Harbourmaster do?

- 2.1 The Harbourmaster is a statutory officer appointed under the Maritime Transport Act 1994, with powers and duties relating to navigation safety, maritime risk management, and the safe use of coastal and inland waters.
- 2.2 The role is primarily preventative. The Harbourmaster's Office focuses on:
 - reducing the likelihood of incidents before they occur
 - managing navigation and environmental risk
 - promoting safe recreational and commercial use on the water
 - providing assessment, coordination, and specialist maritime input during incidents
 - compliance and enforcement where education alone is not sufficient.
- 2.3 Much of the value delivered by the Harbourmaster's Office is reflected in risk managed, confidence maintained, and harm avoided, rather than in emergency response activity alone.

3. In Tasman, what does the Harbourmaster's Office do?

- 3.1 The Harbourmaster's Office delivers a public safety function across Tasman's harbours, rivers, estuaries, and coastal waters through a combination of on-water presence, education, oversight, and coordination.

- 3.2 Risk-assessment-driven core areas of work include:
- education and early intervention to correct unsafe behaviour
 - implementation of the Navigation Safety Bylaw
 - maintenance, monitoring, and adjustment of aids to navigation
 - oversight of moorings, marine farms, and maritime events
 - incident assessment and marine pollution response coordination
 - Formal compliance and enforcement action is used selectively and proportionately, with education and early intervention remaining the primary tools for improving safety outcomes.
- 3.3 The work is delivered by a small team and relies heavily on local knowledge, visibility, and proportionate response.
- 3.4 The Harbourmaster's Office is responsible for navigation safety across a large and geographically diverse maritime and inland waterway area, spanning approximately 700 kilometres of coastline and including harbours, estuaries, navigable rivers, lakes, and dynamic tidal environments.
- 3.5 Within this area, while Tasman has only a small number of ports, recreational vessel use is high and increases significantly during peak periods, including substantial numbers of vessels visiting from outside the region. This is combined with an active small-vessel commercial sector and around 60 boat ramps and water access points distributed across the district, resulting in a dispersed and highly variable user base.
- 3.6 In addition, natural changes in rivers, lakes, and channels are driven by processes outside Council control; the Harbourmaster's role is to monitor change and adjust navigation safety controls as required. This scale and variability underpin the strong focus on prevention, education, and proportionate response.

4. Increasing Use and Pressure on the Water

- 4.1 Recreational use of Tasman's waterways continues to grow, particularly during peak summer periods and in near shore, estuarine, and high use areas. Operational observations indicate vessel numbers during peak periods may have increased by approximately 30 percent.
- 4.2 This growth increases:
- navigation safety risk
 - demand for education and oversight
 - public expectations for availability and response.

5. Prevention Through Education and Presence

- 5.1 Most issues encountered during patrols and engagement are addressed through education and immediate on-site correction, rather than formal enforcement. Boat ramp engagement, Safer Boating initiatives, and visible on-water presence continue to be the most effective tools for reducing risk before incidents occur.

5.2 This preventative approach reduces:

- collisions and groundings
- pollution incidents
- demand on emergency services.

6. Further Information

6.1 Attachment 1 provides detailed operational information, examples, and financial context for Councillors who wish to explore specific topics in more depth, including:

- bylaw implementation and compliance
- incident response activity
- vessel capability
- staffing and seasonal pressure
- finance and cost recovery arrangements.

7. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1. [!\[\]\(12e34e9e4252b30a852242f38c907701_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(c8fdb9019f64bd22eb4d15a497bea911_img.jpg\)](#) Harbourmaster's Report

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Harbourmaster Office detailed Report

Reporting period: 1 May 2025 –31 March 2026

Information Only

This attachment provides operational detail and context to support the Harbourmaster's Overview Report. Councillors are not expected to read it in full, but may wish to focus on sections of particular interest.

1. Summary

This report summarises the activities of the Harbourmaster's Office for the period 1 May 2025 to 31 March 2026. Key areas of work during this period included continued education and implementation of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2024, management of Aids to Navigation, oversight of maritime events, compliance monitoring for marine farms and moorings, and response to incidents on the water.

The period experienced increased recreational pressure, a range of regional marine pollution responses, operational limitations linked to vessel capability, and ongoing staffing constraints during peak demand periods. The Harbourmaster successfully completed Regional On Scene- Commander certification, strengthening the region's capability to manage marine environmental incidents.

The value of the Harbourmaster's Office is measured not only in activity delivered, but in risk managed, confidence maintained, and harm avoided across Tasman.

The Harbourmaster's Office provides a preventative public safety function for Tasman's coastal and marine environment. Through sustained on-water presence, early intervention, and proportionate response, the office reduces the likelihood of incidents escalating, supports safe recreational and commercial activity, and protects coastal communities from avoidable harm. Much of this value is realised through incidents that do not occur, or that are resolved at an early stage without wider emergency activation.

This report re-establishes the Harbourmaster's regular six-monthly reporting cycle following the local government transition period.

2. Key Risks and Issues

The Harbourmaster's Office continues to manage several recurring and emerging risks, including:

- Rising public expectations for after-hours and emergency response, despite the Harbourmaster's Office not being a dedicated emergency response agency.

- Staffing capacity pressures during peak summer periods, although the Deputy Harbourmaster role has now been filled following an earlier recruitment delay.
- Operational limitations associated with the primary vessel, including age-related mechanical issues and lifting constraints during navigation aid maintenance.
- High seasonal recreational intensity, particularly in estuaries and beach areas, with an estimated 30 percent increase in vessel numbers based on operational observations.
- Ongoing compliance challenges in mooring areas, including informal or poorly maintained moorings that pose safety and environmental risks.
- Marine farming hazards, particularly sinking backbone structures, which have largely been resolved through coordinated work with industry partners but continue to require oversight.



Figure 1 vessel aground Astrolabe Roadstead

These risks continue to be managed through targeted education, engagement, compliance monitoring, and collaboration with external agencies. A visible and trusted Harbourmaster presence contributes to community confidence on the water, particularly during periods of high use and adverse conditions. Clear guidance, early engagement, and decisive intervention help people make safer decisions, reducing demand on emergency services and supporting a resilient response across the wider maritime system.

3. Community Safety and Engagement

Community education remained a significant focus throughout the reporting period. This included education on Navigation Safety Bylaw requirements, safe boating behaviour, and hazard awareness at high use- locations.

Progress was made on improving safety signage, increasing engagement at boat ramps, and clarifying expectations regarding forms of communication for low risk recreational users such as paddlers and standup paddleboard users.



Figure 2 New Kaiteriteri navigation safety sign

Safer Boating funding was successfully secured, supporting the employment of a part time Maritime Education Officer for three months. This role provided active weekend engagement from late December, delivering safety messaging and conducting safer boating surveys at

locations including Kaiteriteri, Kina, Māpua, and Tata.

Proactive engagement during patrols and events routinely identifies unsafe practices, equipment issues, and navigation risks before they develop into incidents. Early correction and education reduce the likelihood of collision, grounding, pollution, or the need for emergency response.

Safer Boating education campaigns and boat ramp engagement provide direct evidence of the preventative public safety role of the Harbourmaster’s Office.



Figure 3 Kaiteriteri Info Map

Survey data shows high levels of engagement across a wide range of recreational vessel types and skipper experience levels. While most vessels carry required safety equipment, interactions continue to identify gaps in lifejacket use, communication practices, and awareness of local navigation rules, particularly among newer and visiting users.

The majority of issues identified are addressed through education and on-site correction rather than formal enforcement. This approach supports immediate behaviour change, reduces the likelihood of incidents escalating on the water, and lowers demand on emergency and pollution response services.

These engagement activities support safer decision-making at the point of launch, where early intervention is most effective.

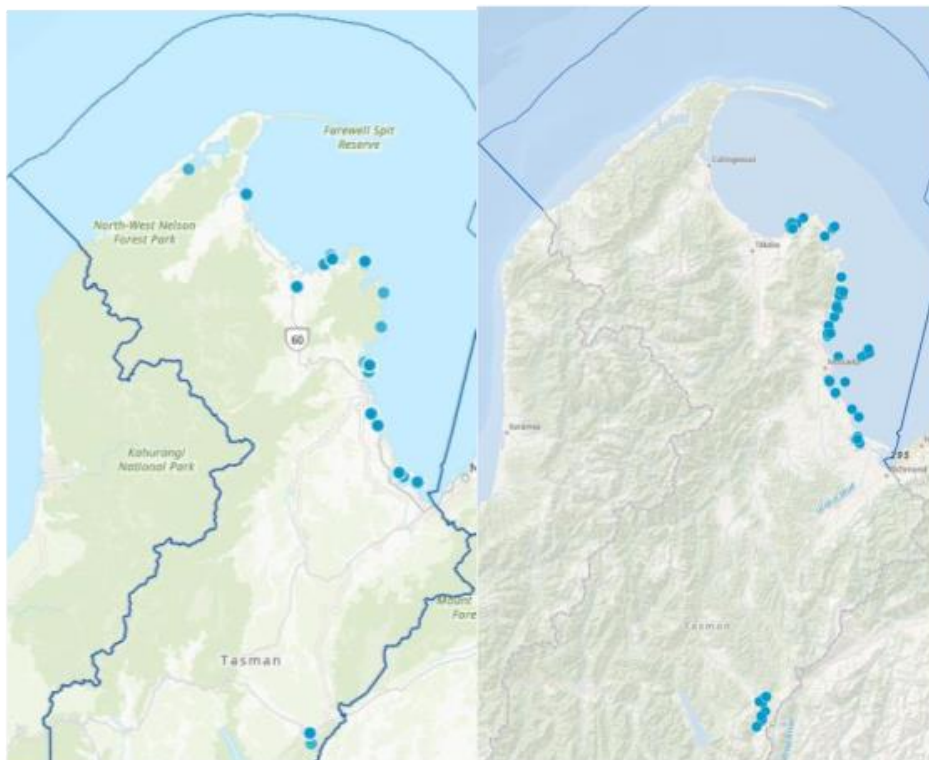


Figure 4 Ramp/beach surveys

Figure 5 On water surveys

Figures 4 and 5 illustrates the geographic spread of Safer Boating interactions and surveys undertaken by the Harbourmaster's Office across the district during the reporting period. Engagement is concentrated at high-use boat ramps, coastal access points, and popular recreation areas. This visible presence supports early intervention, reinforces safe decision-making, and helps prevent incidents before vessels are underway.

National Campaign Participation – Buoy Boy

During the reporting period, the Harbourmaster's Office actively supported the national Buoy Boy safety campaign, hosting Buoy Boy across multiple locations within the Tasman District. Deployments took place at high-use boat ramps, beaches, and community events, including Kaiteriteri, Tata Beach, Port Tarakohe, Nelson Lakes, and the Tākaka A&P Show. Buoy Boy proved to be an effective and highly visible way of engaging water users, particularly families and younger people, helping to reinforce key boating safety messages and supporting wider

Safer Boating education objectives.



Figure 6 deployment 1 Kaiteriteri Buoy Boy with Friends



Figure 7 Buoy Boy at Takaka A&P show

4. Navigation Safety Bylaw Implementation

Implementation of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2024 continued to progress well during the reporting period, with work focused on education, consistency, and embedding new requirements in a way that supports navigation safety and fairness.

Mooring licensing

Mooring licensing processes have been refined over the past year, with a strong emphasis on education, application quality, and an orderly transition into the licensing system.

During the reporting period:

- 54 mooring licence applications were received.
- 23 mooring licences were assessed, completed, and issued.

The remaining applications are at various stages of assessment. In many cases, applications are awaiting supporting documentation, confirmation of a specific mooring location, or further clarification of the applicant's intent. Engagement with applicants is ongoing to ensure applications comply with bylaw requirements before progressing.

Vessel identification

Ongoing education has continued to address confusion around acceptable forms of vessel identification. All trailer vessels operating in Tasman waters are required to display either:

- a current trailer registration number, or
- a valid very high frequency (VHF) radio call sign.

Improved understanding of these requirements is supporting safer identification of vessels and more effective follow-up where issues arise.

Communication requirements

Further clarification has been provided regarding proportionate communication requirements for different activities and risk profiles. This has improved compliance by ensuring expectations are appropriate to vessel type and level of risk, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.

Infringement schedule

Work continues to ensure enforcement provisions under the bylaw are applied consistently and remain legally robust. This supports fair, defensible, and proportionate compliance action where education alone is not sufficient.

The infringement schedule is still progressing though the Ministry of Transport for final statutory approval in accordance with legislative requirements.

Marine farm lighting

Work to improve consistency in marine farm lighting has progressed during the year, including presentations to the Marine Farming Association and engagement with industry representatives. This work has gained national attention and is expected to contribute to improved consistency and navigation safety outcomes across multiple regions.

5. Maritime Events

Maritime events continued to generate operational workload for the Harbourmaster's Office during the reporting period.

A total of 18 maritime event applications were received and processed, with nine events attended by a Harbourmaster's Office vessel to support navigation safety and on-water coordination.

In addition to formally approved maritime events, the Harbourmaster's Office also supported a range of public engagement and community safety events throughout the year. These activities focused on education, visibility, and promoting safe behaviour on the water, rather than operational event management.



Figure 8 Richmond Santa parade, Lifejacket On



Figure 9 Santa parade

Public engagement and community events attended during the period included:

- Marine Safety Expo – November 2025
- Richmond Santa Parade – December 2025
- Motueka Santa Parade – December 2025
- Tākaka Agricultural and Pastoral Show – January 2026

- Moturoa Mission – March 2026
- Tākaka Santa Parade – December 2025

Participation in these events provides opportunities for direct engagement with a broad range of water users, reinforces safety messaging, and supports positive relationships with local communities. Attendance is targeted where there is a clear public safety benefit or effective opportunity for education and awareness.



Figure 10 A&P show stand with Biosecurity



Figure 11 Tākaka Santa parade

6. Compliance and Enforcement

The Harbourmaster's Office continues to work closely with compliance officers and marine farm operators to address navigational hazards, including poorly marked or sinking infrastructure. Most issues were resolved promptly with strong industry cooperation.

Recreational behaviour remains a challenge in high-use areas and estuaries such as Kaiteriteri, Māpua, Tata, and Kina. Speeding and towing behaviour continue to generate public complaints. While resource constraints limit constant on-water presence, vessel identification requirements are improving follow-up capability. Three incidents reported by the public resulted in official warnings issued to registered trailer owners.

Mooring compliance remains a key focus as licensing is rolled out across the region.

Three of the four Tier One fuel transfer sites within the district have approved response plans in place. The Regional on scene commander and Harbourmaster continue to work with the remaining operator to finalise arrangements and ensure appropriate spill preparedness and response readiness.

7. Aids to Navigation (AToNs) and Hydrographic Risk

Routine inspection and maintenance of navigation aids continued throughout the period, including checks following weather and tide events.

Dynamic coastal channels, particularly in Motueka and Māpua, continue to require frequent monitoring and adjustment due to rapidly changing sediment and shoaling conditions.

Replacement channel markers in these areas have been well received. One concern regarding spacing between two outer markers will be reviewed for potential adjustment in the next financial year.

The Tasman Bay wave buoy remains in active use and has provided valuable information to commercial operators and recreational users during variable conditions. Expansion of real-time monitoring remains constrained by funding.



Figure 10 Sentinel on Navigation aid work Motueka Channel

8. Incident Response, Emergency Management, and Training

While the Harbourmaster's Office is not a formal on call service, staff continue to receive after hours requests for assistance. Each request is assessed to ensure appropriate tasking and safe operational boundaries. While the Harbourmaster's Office is not a primary emergency response service, it plays a coordinating and assessment role within the wider emergency management framework. Early assessment, local knowledge, and proportionate action help ensure that emergency resources are activated only when required and in the most effective manner.

A limited duty phone system has been introduced to provide after hours phone availability and monitoring support. This



Figure 13 Phoenix Mist sinking - Tier 2 Response



Figure 14 Torrent Bay yacht arrival at Kaiteriteri

system began operation at the end of February and has improved call handling by allowing incoming calls to be directed appropriately during duty periods. This arrangement does not provide a full twenty four hour vessel response capability but will mean the phone will get answered.

During the reporting period, Oil spill response team, was involved in 14 marine pollution responses, representing a significant increase compared with previous years. This increase likely reflects greater public awareness, improved reporting, and the ageing

condition of vessels operating in the region.

Selected incidents attended during the period included:

- **Torrent Bay:** A vessel sinking resulted in an oil discharge. Containment and monitoring were undertaken, and the vessel was removed on 22 January. The national oil spill duty officer commended the response.
- **Quad bike incident, Motueka Estuary:** A quad bike entered the estuary with a risk of fuel release. The vehicle was removed prior to the incoming tide with support from Police.
- **Oil drum wash up:** Waste oil entered the water from a drum that washed ashore. The oil was decanted and the drum removed.
- **Golden Bay yacht grounding:** An unapproved mooring failed during flooding, resulting in a vessel grounding and oil discharge.



Figure 15 Flood debris, Māpua Beach

9. Harbourmaster Vessels and Operational Capability

During the reporting period, the Harbourmaster's Office undertook 165 on-water deployments across a range of activities including patrol presence, enforcement, navigation aid maintenance, maritime event support, education and engagement, and incident response. Many deployments involved multiple concurrent functions and required extended on-water presence, often with limited vessel propulsion. For this reason, workload is described using deployment frequency and operational commitment rather than vessel running time.

The primary vessel, Sentinel, undertook approximately 65 percent of all deployments and remains under high operational pressure due to navigation aid demands, long-distance transits, and response requirements.

Sentinel's lifting capacity and stability limit the ability to safely undertake heavier navigation aid work.

Mechanical reliability has declined, with intermittent surging and engine cut-outs occurring for the second time this year. As the vessel cannot be legally transported by road, refuelling must be undertaken using approved portable fuel containers, which increases operational risk.

The secondary vessel, Pūkāea, continues to perform well for short-range patrols and education activities but cannot substitute for Sentinel for navigation aid work or pollution response.

10. National and Regional Coordination

The Harbourmaster's Office continues to actively participate in national and regional coordination forums, contributing to initiatives focused on navigation aid suppliers, marine farm lighting consistency, and the consistent application of navigation safety rules across regions.

This includes ongoing involvement in the Navigation Safety Group and South Island Harbourmasters forums, where Tasman provides operational insight and regional experience to national discussions on navigation safety practice, enforcement consistency, and emerging risks. Through this involvement, the Harbourmaster has also contributed to collective submissions and engagement on proposed changes to lifejacket legislation, supporting the development of clearer, nationally consistent safety settings informed by operational experience on the water.



Figure 16 Takaka yacht grounding

At a local level, the Harbourmaster's Office continues to convene six-monthly Abel Tasman commercial vessel users group meetings. These provide a structured forum for engagement with commercial operators, supporting information sharing, early identification of safety issues, and the collaborative management of navigation risks within the Abel Tasman area.

Regional On-Scene Commander capability has further strengthened inter-agency coordination and information sharing, linking incident response activity with preventative safety and education initiatives. Discussions with Marlborough District Council have also identified opportunities for shared digital tools and reciprocal staff support arrangements, aimed at strengthening regional resilience and continuity of response.

Analysis of regional water-related incident and drowning information continues to indicate that risk is most commonly associated with routine recreational activity in near-shore environments. This reinforces the Harbourmaster's focus on visible presence, early engagement, and education-led intervention at high-use access points as the most effective means of reducing harm.

The Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code has recently been revised (2026 edition). Tasman District Council is not currently a Code partner. Given the scope and implications of the revised Code, further work will be undertaken to assess its relevance to Tasman, including consideration of costs, benefits, and resourcing implications, with options to be reported back.

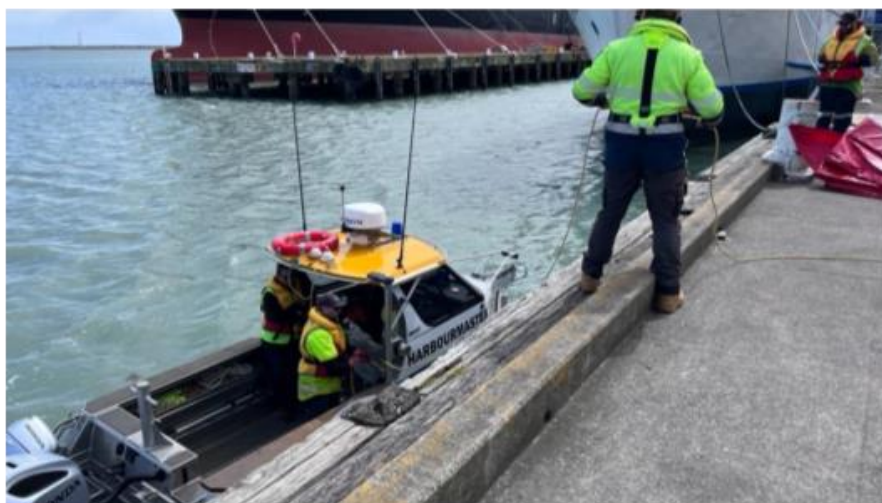


Figure 17 Nelson Oil Spill response exercise

11. Team and Staffing

Staffing capacity remains challenging during peak periods. The team consists of one Harbourmaster, one Deputy Harbourmaster, one full-time Maritime Officer, supported by part-time administrative assistance, limited casual maritime officer/skipper, and an externally funded part time Maritime Education Officer for three months.

From Christmas to mid-January, workload intensity was sustained, contributing to fatigue and supporting the introduction of the duty phone arrangement. Options for internally funded seasonal staff will be explored for future summers.

12. Finances, Cost Recovery, and User-Pays Context

The Harbourmaster's Office has operated in Tasman for many years as a core statutory public safety function, with the majority of its activities traditionally funded through general rates.

This reflects the Harbourmaster's responsibility for navigation safety, environmental protection, and risk reduction on the water for the benefit of the wider community.

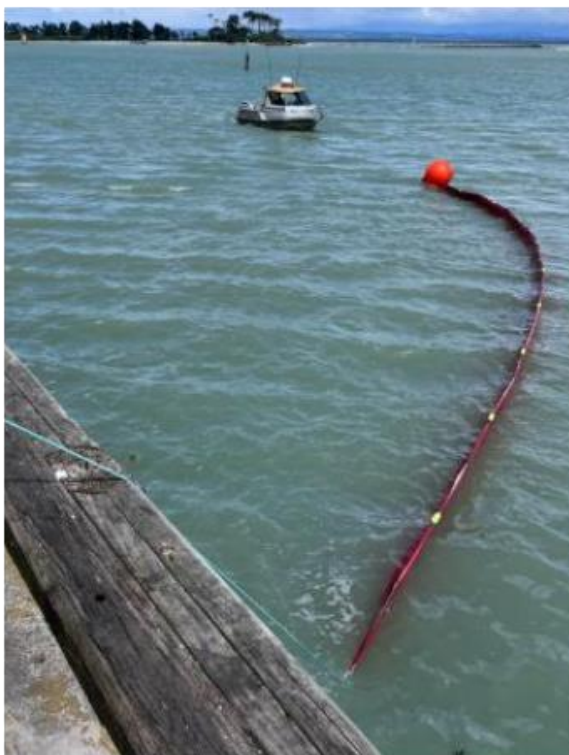


Figure 18 Pūkāea deploying Harbour boom

Over time, the scope and complexity of the Harbourmaster's work has increased. Growth in recreational use, expansion of marine farming activity, increased expectations for service availability, and more complex environmental and compliance requirements have all contributed to higher operational demand. These pressures are not unique to maritime activities and are reflected across Council services more broadly.

Within this context, Council funding frameworks increasingly include mechanisms intended to align certain service costs with identifiable users or activities, while retaining general rates funding for core public safety and regulatory functions.

Operational finances during the reporting period remained tightly managed. Unplanned maintenance and navigation aid expenditure were partially offset by operational efficiencies. Costs associated with vessel removals and disposals remain on account as unrecovered debt. Fuel costs continue to be subject to significant external pressure due to international market volatility and broader geopolitical factors, and expenditure is actively managed by prioritising safety-critical and statutory on-water activity.

Cost recovery and user-pays activities

Consistent with Council's wider funding approach, several elements of the Harbourmaster's Office already operate on a user-pays basis. These include revenue from mooring licence and anchoring administration, aids to navigation levies, and fees associated with certain maritime applications.

Maritime events are a key area where cost recovery has been clarified and progressively applied. A distinction is made between:

- Event notification and low-impact activities, where no regulatory approvals are required and no Harbourmaster resources are requested beyond normal oversight; and
- Formal maritime event applications, where organisers seek regulatory approvals such as temporary speed limit changes, reserved areas, or exclusion zones.

Where formal approvals are required, an application fee applies to cover the cost of assessment and administration. These fees have been included in Council's fees and charges for several years.

Event organisers may also request dedicated on-water support from a Harbourmaster vessel. While this support can provide navigation safety benefit in some circumstances, it is not a core function of the Harbourmaster's role, and responsibility for overall event safety remains with the organiser. Where dedicated Harbourmaster vessel support is requested and provided, cost recovery applies to reflect the direct operational cost and to avoid displacement of core safety functions.

The Harbourmaster's Office continues to attend selected community and public-benefit events at no charge where there is a clear safety education or engagement benefit. However, routine reliance on the Harbourmaster's Office for operational event management is no longer sustainable given increasing demand and resource constraints. The transition to this clarified cost-recovery approach is intended to be completed during the coming season.

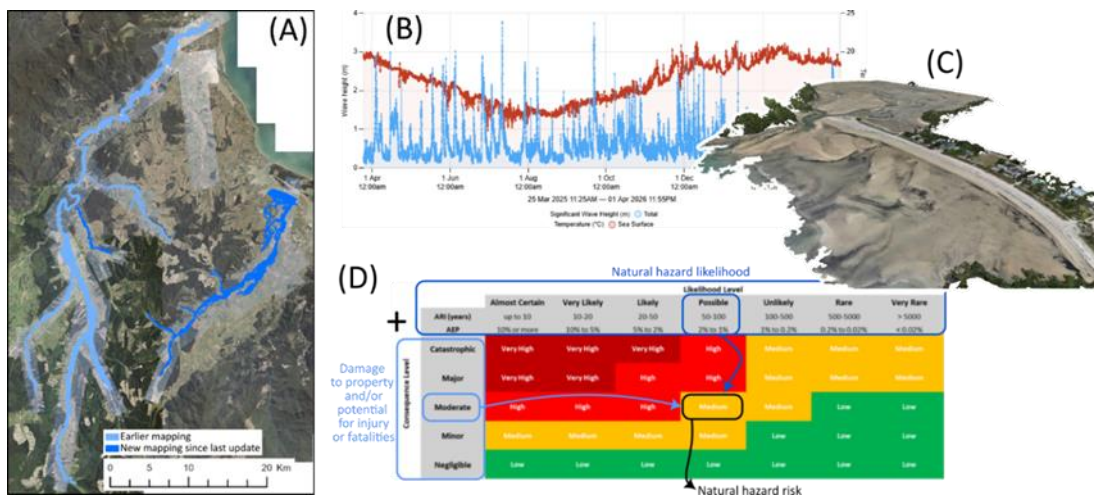
Revenue from anchoring and mooring administration is expected to increase as the Navigation Safety Bylaw becomes more fully embedded and understood. Progress toward a formal agreement with Nelson City Council on shared anchorage management remains unresolved and continues to present challenges in achieving consistent and equitable cost recovery across adjoining waters.

The Harbourmaster's Office operates within Council's established funding framework, delivering its statutory public safety role through a combination of ratepayer funding and targeted cost recovery where identifiable services are provided. Increasing levels of activity, ageing assets, and seasonal peaks require ongoing operational management and continued transparency through regular reporting to Council.

4.8 NATURAL HAZARDS - REPORT #1

Report To: Information Forum
Meeting Date: 28 April 2026
Report Author: Dr. Alastair Clement, Team Leader Natural Hazards & Geomorphology
Report Authorisers: David Arseneau, Rivers & Natural Hazards Manager
Report Number: RIF26-04-8

1. Visual abstract of the attached report



1.1 As shown in the visual abstract above, the attached report covers:

- A. An update on mapping of the extent of the June and July 2025 flood events
- B. Observations from the Tūātea wave buoy following the one-year anniversary of its deployment in March 2025
- C. Recent drone surveys of beaches across the District
- D. The introduction of the National Policy Statement on Natural Hazards.

1.2 In addition, the report also covers:

- 1.2.1 Recent community engagement events the team has contributed to
- 1.2.2 The ongoing support the team provides to Council operations and information provision to the general public.

2. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1. Natural Hazards and Geomorphology report

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Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team report to Information Form, 28 April 2026

1 Update on mapping the extent of the June and July 2025 flood events

Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team members Bryan Scoles and Glenn Stevens have continued their work to map the extent of the June and July 2025 flood events, building on their initial mapping of the flood extent in the Motueka and Dove River valleys. The team have been mapping a 'composite' single flood extent that represents both the June and July 2025 flood events (Figure 1). Since the last update in October 2025 the team have now completed provisional mapping of: the Stanley Brook River; the Wai-iti River and the tributaries of the Pretty Bridge Valley Stream, Trass Valley Stream, Pigeon Valley Stream, and Pitfure Stream; and the Waimea River and its western floodplain including Eves Valley Stream and O'Connor Creek (Figure 1). The team are currently working on mapping the extent of the 2025 flood events in the lower Moutere valley.



Figure 1: Areas of the district where the extent of the June and July 2025 floods have been mapped. Since the last update in October 2025 the team has mapped: the Stanley Brook valley; the Wai-iti River and the tributaries of the Pretty Bridge Valley Stream, Trass Valley Stream, Pigeon Valley Stream, and Pitfure Stream; and the Waimea River and its western floodplain including Eves Valley Stream and O'Connor Creek.

2 One year of wave monitoring with the Tūātea wave buoy

The Tūātea wave buoy deployed off Bark Bay has now been operational for over a year. Deployed in late March 2025 through a partnership with the University of Canterbury, Tūātea provides

valuable real-time data about wave conditions to both Council and the public.¹ Such is the value of the wave buoy that Wilsons have updated their website² to provide a direct link to the wave buoy for visitors to Abel Tasman National Park. In addition to a real-time picture of wave conditions, Tūātea also preserves a record of wave climate that can be used for a range of analyses of the coastal environment. For example, wave climate data is an important input for tools that predict the impacts of coastal storms, with this information being a fundamental input to planning any coastal development.

Over the past ~12 months the Tūātea wave buoy has recorded significant wave heights (the average height of the largest one-third [33 per cent] of waves) of over 3m on four occasions, with the highest recorded significant wave heights being 3.77m on 11 July 2025 and 3.74m on 21 September 2025 (Figure 2). The wave buoy also measures sea-surface temperatures, with the record from the past year showing a clear seasonal signal of changing sea-surface temperatures between summer and winter (Figure 2).

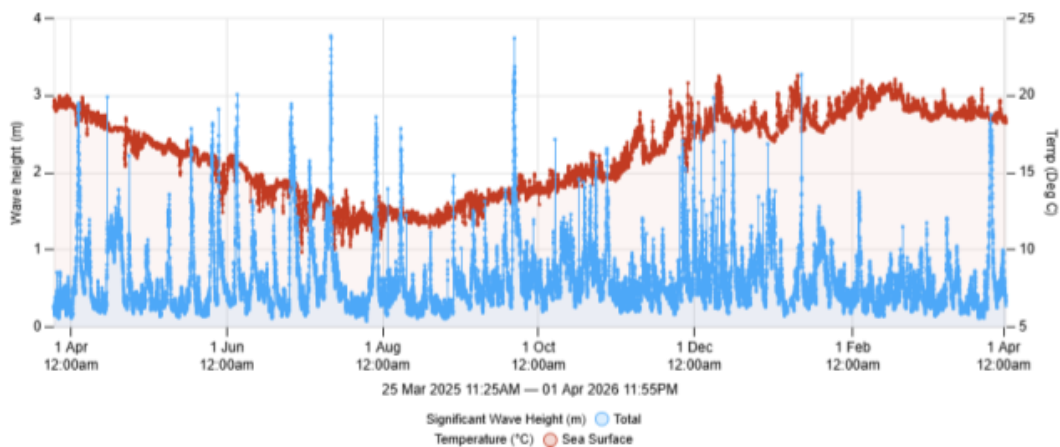


Figure 2: Significant wave height and sea-surface temperature records from the Tūātea wave buoy for the period 25 March 2025 to 1 April 2026. Tūātea also records peak wave period and direction, but this data has been omitted as it would otherwise clutter the graph and obscure the other data.

In early February 2026 Tūātea recorded an event where a short, sharp easterly weather system generated a wave peak that coincided with a spring high tide (Figure 3). Given the modest wave height, we initially didn't consider it an event that might trigger monitoring of east-facing beaches for erosion. However, we subsequently received a number of calls and emails from people along the District's east-facing beaches who were concerned about erosion following the wave event. Going forward we are planning to work with the Environmental Data team to institute automated alerts to inform us when significant combinations of wave height and wave direction occur at the same time as a high tide and/or storm surge measured at the tide gauge at Little Kaiteriteri. This will provide us with an improved awareness of coastal conditions that may trigger beach erosion along the District's coastline, allowing for more responsive monitoring of coastal changes.

¹ <https://southislandwaves.co.nz/>

² <https://www.abeltasman.co.nz/abel-tasman-national-park/information/weather-and-tides/>

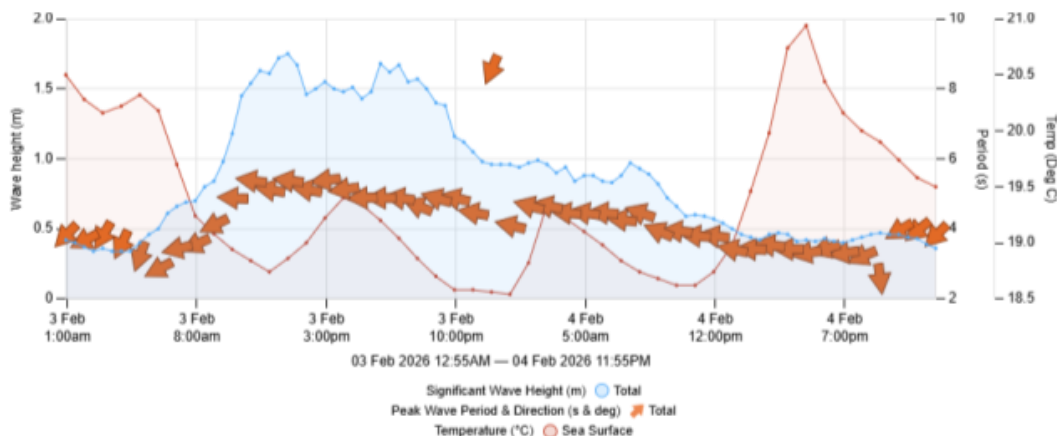


Figure 3: Wave conditions measured by the Tūātea wave buoy on 3 February 2026. While the significant wave height was not itself particularly large, the waves came from an easterly direction and coincided with a spring high tide. Previous wave buoys have not had the same ability to reliably record wave direction, so the current buoy represents a significant step forward in improving our understanding of coastal wave processes in Tasman Bay.

3 Environmental monitoring using drones

Over the past six months the Natural Hazards team has continued to monitor a number of sites across the district using drones. In December 2025 Bryan Scoles undertook a monitoring survey of Tata Beach (Figure 4). Surveys such as this provide a record of changes in the beach at more regular intervals than can be achieved using more expensive and consequently less frequent survey techniques such as airborne laser scanning (LiDAR). In January 2026, Bryan and Alastair Clement carried out a monitoring survey at Awaroa to monitor changes in the estuary and structures around the estuary margin. Most recently, in late April 2026, Bryan and Alastair completed a monitoring survey of the beach at Torrent Bay in order to monitor for change in the beach over time and to provide information to the River and Coastal Structures team who oversee sand relocation and push-up activities on the beach (Figure 5).



Figure 4: Oblique view of the 3D model of Tata Beach produced from the drone survey flown in December 2025. The view is looking roughly to the northeast from the southwestern end of the beach. The Tata Beach boat ramp is visible part-way along the beach.



Figure 5: Oblique view of the 3D model of the Torrent Bay beach and estuary produced from the drone survey flown in April 2026. The view is looking roughly towards the southwest from the northern end of the bay. The flood-tide delta and ebb-tide delta features of the estuary and inlet channel can be clearly seen. Sand is typically relocated from the flood-tide delta onto the beach.

In addition to undertaking their own surveys, the Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team also continues to provide technical support in the areas of drones, ground surveying, and post-processing of drone surveys for other teams across Council such as the River and Coastal Structures team, Project Management Office, Freshwater and Estuarine Ecology team, Catchments and Land Use team, and Compliance section.

4 Ongoing collaboration with the Environmental Policy and Resource Consenting sections

The Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team has continued to work in close collaboration with the Environmental Policy section on a number of Council initiatives. Most recently the team has contributed heavily to the update of the Inundation Practice Note (IPN), working alongside Paula Hammond and Diana Worthy of the Natural Resources Policy team.

Glenn Stevens of the Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team has also been working closely with Paula Hammond on applying the framework from the recently released [National Policy Statement on Natural Hazards \(NPS-NH\)](#) to assess all 94 sites included within Plan Change 81 Urban Growth. This involves reviewing each site in terms of its hazard exposure and potential mitigations to reach conclusions about each site's natural hazard risk under the NPS-NH (Figure 6). As the NPS-NH is still very fresh and has not been used in a plan change context before, this has entailed a significant amount of work for both teams.

The Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team is also working with teams in the Resource Consenting section as council staff, external consultants, and the public alike continue to develop their understanding of the application of the NPS-NH to resource consent decision-making.

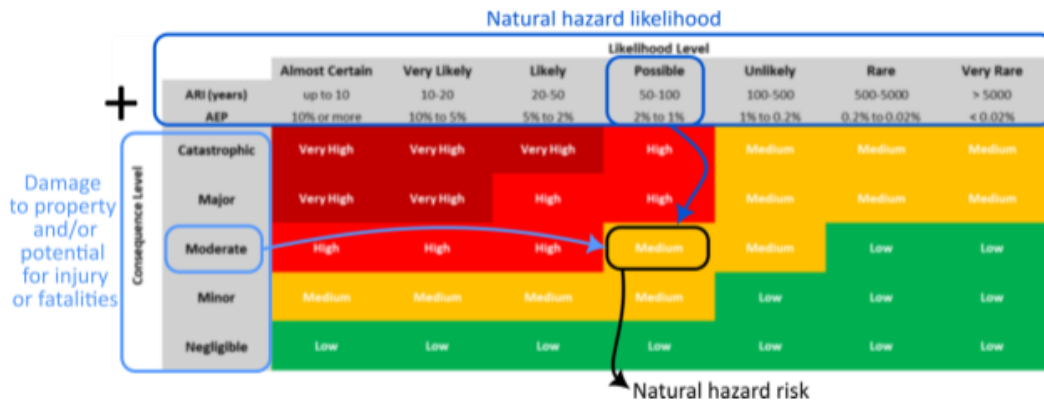


Figure 6: A conceptual diagram showing the framework for how natural hazard risk is assessed under the National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards (NPS-NH). Natural hazard risk is the combination of the likelihood of a natural hazard occurring and the potential for damage to property and/or injuries or fatalities. For example, for a natural hazard with a 'possible' likelihood level and a 'moderate consequence level (taking into account the effects of any mitigation options), the natural hazard risk is medium.

5 Community engagement

Over the past six months the Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team has undertaken or contributed to several community engagement events as part of the team’s remit to provide advice to the community about natural hazards across Tasman District. In early November 2025 Alastair Clement gave a presentation to the Mapua and Districts Community Association. In this talk Alastair provided an overview of the role of the Natural Hazards and Geomorphology team, and highlighted a couple of recent studies completed by the team: one study to understand inundation processes in the Waimea and Moutere Inlets; and another study that investigated rates of shoreline change around the District’s coastline.

Later in November 2025 Alastair Clement and Glenn Stevens attended the Mapua and Districts Community Association’s community emergency preparedness open day at the Mapua Community Centre. Alastair and Glenn talked with community members about natural hazard issues and promoted Council’s Environmental Map Viewer which hosts a range of publicly-available natural hazard map layers.

In late February 2026 Alastair was invited to give a presentation as part of a workshop being run by the local branch of the Institute of Rural Professionals on farm resilience. Alastair’s presentation focused on providing some context around the severe weather events that periodically impact the District, with some practical steps to reduce exposure to natural hazards and increase resilience.

6 Ongoing support of Council operations and information provision to the public

The Natural Hazards team continues to provide ongoing support to a range of Council processes and teams, as well as the general public, including:

- Responding to requests from the public for information about natural hazards and geomorphology;
- Natural hazards summaries for Land Information Memorandums (LIMs);
- Natural hazards information to support building consent processes;

- Natural hazards and geomorphology information to support resource consenting processes; and
- Technical support for the Environmental Policy team to undertake plan changes and planning proposals where these are progressing, and to prepare for future spatial and environmental planning.

4.9 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Yulia Panfylova, Community Partnerships Coordinator
Report Authorisers:	John Ridd, Group Manager - Customer & Community
Report Number:	RIF26-04-9

1. Age-friendly

Nelson Tasman Positive Ageing Expo

- 1.1 The Expo continues to be an anticipated event for both stallholders and visitor. This year due to the earlier date we were competing with other big events happening on the same weekend and the attendance was lower - approximately 400 people – at least 200 less than expected. In addition, the intersection with Headingly Lane was closed which created an additional barrier to attend. The date of the event was dictated by the availability of the venue. Richmond lacks affordable big venues, and the only suitable option remains Headingly Centre.



Figure 1 Stalls at the Positive Ageing Expo 2026

- 1.2 The number of stallholders also was down from 75 to 61 due to the same reason – end of March appears to be a busy period for organisations. To avoid those complications, we have already scheduled the next Expo for 3 April 2027.
- 1.3 This event is led by a working group and facilitated by our team. The working group consists of Nelson City Council, Ministry for Social Development, Health Action Trust, Public Health, ACC, Sport Tasman, Age Concern and Top of the South Community Foundation.

- 1.4 Despite a lower number of visitors, talks and workshops were more popular than in the previous years and were well attended. Especially people enjoyed Craig Potton’s talk about wildlife photography, as well as the talk about investment and healthy diet. Classes were also quite popular.
- 1.5 Overall, the community feedback was positive. The event was a valuable social gathering opportunity for older people, and they valued being able to connect with others in their age group. People also found it very useful to access face-to-face advice (legal, financial and health related) and services.
- 1.6 The stallholders were satisfied with the event with an average rating of 4.38 out of 5. Most stalls had an expected or higher than expected level of engagement and around 19% of the stalls reported lower engagement. Stallholders also noted that a later date for the expo would work better next year.

Better Later Life Action Plan 2025–2028

- 1.7 The Minister for Seniors presented the Better Later Life Action Plan 2025–2028, highlighting opportunities and challenges associated with an ageing population nationally and in our region. It was positive to hear recognition of Tasman District Council’s work, including the Positive Ageing Expo and our Age Friendly Policy.
- 1.8 A key national challenge identified is the fragmentation of services and lack of awareness among older people about what support is available and how to access it. This aligns with local insights and reinforces the value of initiatives such as the Nelson Tasman Positive Ageing Forum, which plays an important role in connecting providers and improving coordination across services.
- 1.9 The Minister emphasised that an ageing population should be viewed as an opportunity rather than a burden, noting the significant contribution older people make, including an estimated \$20 billion in unpaid work across New Zealand.
- 1.10 Discussion from the audience highlighted accessibility challenges, particularly for older adults with disabilities. Concerns were raised about infrastructure of our region not being fit for purpose, including inadequately designed accessible facilities.
- 1.11 The Action Plan focuses on improving access to information and services, supporting ageing in place, enhancing community connection, and creating age-friendly environments. These priorities align well with the Council’s current work and highlight the importance of continued local investment in accessible facilities, community programmes, and initiatives that support social connection and participation for older residents.

2. Youth and Youth Engagement

Waimea Youth Council

- 2.1 Members participated in the Alcohol Bylaw conversation and submitted their views on the Council’s Long Term Plan outcomes. The deputy chair, Madeleine Johnson, said in her feedback: “Tasman Region is a diverse community and this should be strongly valued by our council. I think that by prioritising the strength, resilience and inclusivity of our communities will be culturally enriching for everyone, while fostering communities with other cultures.”
- 2.2 The Waimea Youth Council secretary, Connor Mackay, said in his feedback: “I strongly support the strategic priority of a Healthy Sustainable Natural Environment because I think

that Tasman's environment (beaches, rivers, forests, national parks) is one of our advantages compared to other regions, and brings in tourists to the Tasman region. Even though the Strong, Resilient, Inclusive Communities priority is vague, I agree that inclusive should mean having free/low cost community spaces (like the Youth Hub) and public transport for rural communities.”

- 2.3 Waimea Youth Council developed a partnership with Richmond Aquatic Centre and testing youth drop in café (youth hub). They ran a successful movie night to raise funds and awareness about the hub. Although the movie night was well attended, the youth hub launch didn't work. The youth council is rethinking their advertising strategy and will be relaunching again in Term 2.



Figure 2 Waimea youth council. From left to right - Will, Ruby, Madeleine, Bonnie and Jack.

- 2.4 Murchison Youth Council helped bring together a group of artists from Murchison Area School who created drawings capturing notable moments in Murchison's history for the 150 anniversary. Digital animation artist, Tim Budgen, used them to create an eight minute animated film bringing Murchison's history to life. This animation was projected onto the school mural at night. Feedback about this project has been extremely positive from community members, the families of Council members, the school staff and also from the out of towners who came for the 150th celebration. Here is the link to a video of the show, featuring the students' art [Murchison 150 presentation movie.mp4 - Google Drive](#)
- 2.5 We are working with Marlborough and Nelson councils to bring the youth councils from Top of the South for a get together in Nelson on 17 July and educate members about the role of local government and the ways to raise the voices of young people. To deliver this we will be using practical exercises and real-life examples.

3. Environmental education

Climate education

- 3.1 The climate change learning programme was initiated to upskill young people in understanding climate change and build meaningful connections between Council and our District's young people, so that we have an engaged and educated group of young people we can connect with to gather youth perspective.
- 3.2 The Council has been supporting the facilitation of this programme for year 6, 7 and 8 students in Tasman since 2024. We engage a contractor, Dr Will Stovall, to deliver the programme in intermediate and full-primary schools across Tasman.
- 3.3 So far, Will and one staff member of our team has worked in Upper Moutere School, Lower Moutere School, Wakefield School, Mahana School, Waimea Intermediate, Motueka South School, Tasman School and Ngātimoti School. The programme has been delivered to approximately 300 students.
- 3.4 The programme is eight weeks long and involves visiting the class for one 1.5 hour session each week to deliver a lesson. Classroom teachers then build on the course content with other activities throughout the week.
- 3.5 The objective of the programme is to give students a strong foundational knowledge in the causes and consequences of climate change. It aims to empower them to feel positive about the impact they can have on the future of our District, and the environment more generally.
- 3.6 Before and after the programme students complete a survey on their knowledge of climate change. Last year before the programme 14% of students rated their understanding of climate change 8/10 or above, and after the programme 47% rated themselves 8 or higher.
- 3.7 Students' feelings of hopefulness to reduce our impact on the planet in the future also increased significantly through the programme in 2025, from 60% feeling hopeful before the programme to 80% at the end of the programme.
- 3.8 Students continue to learn and engage with climate education even after they've completed the programme. This is facilitated by Will Stovall's non for profit Trust "Lighthouse Aotearoa". This group meets regularly for a mixture of social and youth advocacy-focused events. The Council has facilitated workshops for these students, to gain youth input on our Natural Hazards Plan Change in 2024 and 2025.
- 3.9 On 5 May 2026 we will be hosting a workshop to gather youth feedback on our Climate Response and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, which is up for review this year.
- 3.10 The high-quality submissions prepared by young people (with support from Will) on the Natural Hazards Plan Change and Nelson City Council's Climate Change Strategy are testament to the value of investing in the climate change learning programme and putting concerted effort into creating opportunities for young people to engage with the Council. Attached is a copy of a student's submission (Attachment 1). This is particularly important in the context of climate change and resilience, as it is our young people who will face the consequences (both positive and negative) of planning decisions that the Council makes

now.



Figure 3 Graduates of the Climate Change Learning programme presenting their submission to the Council.

Waste education

3.11 The Nelson Tasman Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 informs and guides the Council's efforts to engage with the community in behaviour change and awareness of waste issues. The three targets of the Waste Plan are;

- 1) reduce waste generation by 10% per person by 2035;
- 2) reduce waste disposal to landfill by 30% per person by 2035; and
- 3) reduce emissions of methane gas from landfill by 85% in 2035.

3.12 All education programmes are guided by the needs of the Council's waste team. Ways in which we deliver waste education:

Free residential composting workshops and bespoke education

3.13 Twice a year we deliver a series of residential compost workshops in our libraries. Although we receive consistent positive feedback about our workshops, we recognise that most attendees have already been collecting food scraps, so the concept is not new to them. To make sure we are reaching those less engaged we have been delivering bespoke compost education at various events, such as Positive Ageing Expos, community group meetings and school groups upon request.

3.14 A key highlight has been developing a community composting programme at Hope School, engaging parents to drop off their household food scraps at school for composting during their Friday outdoor education day.



Figure 4 Compost workshops in Richmond library delivered by our staff member Prashanti Lovegrove

Waste and recycling education

3.15 We respond to requests for speaking at community groups and offer education at our annual interschool activity day Moturoa Mission (over 200 students attended in 2026). Currently planning a whanau hui event with the Te Awhina Papakainga to offer education and support with increasing recycling participation and setting up new systems for food scraps separation and composting.

Schools waste enquiries

3.16 Waste is one of the five theme areas of Enviroschools and we work closely with Early Childhood Centres and schools to achieve their waste minimisation goals. Engagements include offering waste audits, organising tours of the York Valley Landfill and Materials Recovery Facility and working closely with lead teachers and caretakers to set up new systems in school to minimise waste.

Waste minimisation grants

3.17 Our small waste grants are open year-round to offer financial support up to \$1,000 for waste minimisation actions, funded by waste levies. Staff supports projects development and implementation which strengthen partnerships with the community and support coordination of waste minimisation projects across the district. Initiatives we've supported include development of repair café's, compost systems set up and recycling bin purchases and waste minimisation at events, such as Asian Food Fair and Mapua School Fair.

3.18 We also support schools and community groups to apply for the waste projects grant for larger initiatives such as larger capacity and rodent proof compost bin infrastructure at schools.

Air Quality education

- 3.19 The Council has an air quality education programme with the goal of improving air quality in our District, particularly in the Richmond airshed which is classified as 'polluted'. Monitoring of air quality in Richmond has identified that domestic home heating continues to be the main source of daily winter PM₁₀ emissions¹. For this reason, our education programme is focused on ways residents can create warmer, healthier homes and reduce smoke pollution from wood burners.
- 3.20 In March 2026, the Council's environmental education team had a stall at the Positive Ageing Expo with information about efficient wood burner use, including the 'upside down fire' method. We also shared information about Warmer Kiwi Homes Grants for insulation and home heating.
- 3.21 We will be running a series of community events with Dave Pullen of the Home Heating Association in autumn and winter. We will also be running a communications campaign through Council's channels. This will focus on promoting the Council's Good Wood suppliers of dry firewood; good wood burning advice; best practice outdoor burning; grants and support available to improve home insulation and heating.
- 3.22 This education programme builds on similar events held annually since 2023. Encouragingly, air quality in the Richmond airshed has been improving in recent years, with no exceedances of the PM₁₀ standard since winter 2023 (there must be no exceedances for five continuous years in order for the airshed to stop being classified as a 'polluted' airshed).

4. Rural resilience

- 4.1 To strengthen community preparedness and resilience in remote areas, staff have been supporting the organising of the first Golden Bay Resilience Expo on Sunday 3 May 2026, 10am–4pm, at the Golden Bay Recreation Centre, led by Mohua 2042.
- 4.2 The expo is based on the successes and learnings of the Wakefield Resilience Expo and is supported by many local organisations. The stalls include services such as Fire, NZ Police, St John, Emergency Management and community organisations focused on helping Golden Bay prepare for and respond to emergencies. The suppliers of reliance focussed equipment are also invited. The Expo offers engaging speakers and activities to keep people interested throughout the day.
- 4.3 As a result of the expo, we expect the attendees to understand how to prepare for a disaster, where to get the right equipment and how to plan for it.
- 4.4 Staff continues to support remote communities in developing and maintaining Community Emergency Preparedness Plans (CEPPs).

5. Community programmes in recreation centres

- 5.1 The Council continues to support the delivery of programmes through recreation facilities in Murchison, Motueka, and Moutere to ensure equitable access to activities across the District. These programmes are designed to be free or low-cost, reducing barriers to

¹ PM₁₀ refers to particles that have a diameter of less than 10 microns. There is a substantial body of evidence relating to the adverse health impacts of particulate matter pollution. People with pre-existing respiratory and heart conditions, diabetes, the young and older people particularly vulnerable to air pollution. Health effects from particulate matter pollution include coughing, difficulty breathing, reduced lung function, aggravated asthma, harm to the cardiovascular system and irritation of the airways. Refer to the Annual Air Quality Report, August 2025 in Appendix 1 for more information about Council's monitoring programme.

participation and supporting the wellbeing of local communities, particularly in rural areas. This approach helps ensure that residents have access to social, recreational, and health-promoting opportunities regardless of location or financial constraints.

- 5.2 The team at the Motueka Recreation Centre (MRC) realised that there was a need for gymnastics classes after the company that was running these classes stopped. The previous provider allowed MRC to access their gear and test the classes. Once the classes got off the ground, MRC have purchased the gymnastics gear from them. By bringing in outside gymnastic coaches MRC upskilled their own staff.
- 5.3 The classes target younger age brackets as they do not have the equipment or area for the senior gymnastics classes or equipment/safety gear required.
- 5.4 The goal is to provide a safe, enjoyable space for children to give it a go, gain confidence, be active and gain some amazing skills. Once the participants have reached a level that is beyond their level of equipment or skill, they are encouraged to move to Gymnastics Nelson to further their gymnastics pathway.
- 5.5 The classes are popular and has grown from 10 participants to 24 per class with pre-school around 12. They also started a homeschool class as a response to the need and demand from the community and this is growing each week.
- 5.6 The Murchison Cultural and Recreation Centre runs regular programmes for youth, including a youth club and sports competitions. Karate was introduced this year to fulfill the demands of the community and was very popular with 30 youth attending every class.

Popular events for adults included Xmas Gala (attended by 100 people), Garden Show (attended by 120 people) and car show (200 people).
- 5.7 At the Moutere Recreation Centre the most popular programme for youth has been silks. These classes are attended by 63 young people every week and develop strength, fitness, motor and performance skills. Dance classes are attended by 48 young people every week, other popular activities are Ballroom Dance for homeschool children (22 youth weekly) and tennis group lessons (44 youth weekly).





Figure 5 Children are enjoying the Silks classes at the Moutere Recreation Centre

- 5.8 The centre also runs regular and annual events for the community. The Christmas Market, a fundraiser event that showcases local artisans, attracted 3,500 people. Monthly social get togethers have 40 people attending on average, and the ballroom dance for beginners and advanced remains popular with 50 people attending every session.
- 5.9 Attendance of social sport and classes for older adults remains steady.

6. Arts Councils

- 6.1 Motueka and Golden Bay arts councils receive annual Tasman District Council funding. Both groups apply to other funders and receive grants from Creative NZ, Lotteries, Rata and local sponsors. Council funding provides continuity and helps access other funding.
- 6.2 Motueka Arts Council is leading the scoping for the development of the regional Arts Strategy. They are working together with the Golden Bay Arts Council and involve other stakeholders in the working group. Golden Bay Arts Council has more capacity to deliver the project because they have paid staff. Motueka Arts Council identifies that this is a risk for their delivery, and securing a permanent arts worker will create continuity of the projects. They submitted to the last LTP for the funding increase but were declined. They are committed to pursue and request the increase in the allocated funding.
- 6.3 From July to December 2025, Motueka Arts Council provided 21 workshops, on a range of arts and crafts subjects, with 288 participants. 91% participants were very satisfied, 8% satisfied and only 1% OK or dissatisfied.
- 6.4 Motueka Arts Council delivered other activities to make art more accessible to the communities. They collaborated with writing groups to deliver a writing festival, with Multicultural Nelson Tasman (Motueka Branch) to develop a mural. Three new grass-roots groups have been formed, all in collaboration with the Library: Art Matters, a discussion group on all things arty; Just Write, which came out of the writing festival as a space for people to get on with their writing; and CREATE Makers' Club for artists and craftspeople to come together to create with companionship. The last two activities cater for full-time workers who can attend only evening events.
- 6.5 Golden Bay Arts Council organised a successful annual Bay Art exhibition/competition in October 2025 and a competition for young artists Young@Art. They received 180 entries in total.
- 6.6 They also took over the delivery of the Takaka Santa Parade in 2025 and opened it up to include a more creative element. This attracted more floats and more activities after the event on the Village Green – the feedback from the community was very positive.
- 6.7 There has been a decline in funding received by the arts council this year. This is due to some funders changing their priorities, for example, Rata Foundation does not fund the arts sector anymore. This insufficient funding resulted in some disruptions to the annual programme of the Golden Bay Arts Council, especially the Summer Arts Festival. This year the festival hasn't been as successful as before and it was decided to postpone next year's festival to secure more funding.

7. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1.   Student's submission on the Natural Hazards Plan

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Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit feedback on Tasman District Council's Natural Hazards Plan Change 85 (PC85), in the Issues and Options stage.

We are a group of environmentally conscious intermediate and secondary students aged 11-14, with members currently attending schools throughout the urban and rural Tasman District, as well as all schools of our age group in Nelson. From Term 2, 2024 to Term 1, 2025, we took part in [the Huringa Āhuarangi | Climate Change Learning Programme](#) (CCLP) – a New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAAEE) accredited term-long course developed by Future Curious alongside partner organisations including NIWA and MetService. We would like to thank the TDC for supporting the Programme's delivery within our schools, and for the opportunity to participate in extracurricular civic engagement.

Beginning in April of last year, representatives from the TDC periodically visited our schools during CCLP sessions. They shared the various measures the Council is taking to adapt to climate-related hazards, and we began to share and compile our thoughts on the upcoming PC85. We participated in two focus groups in the Council Chambers – on 14 November 2024 and 31 March 2025 – and we plan to present to councillors in-person at a special session on the 7th of August.

The enclosed submission outlines our general reflections on how the plan can best represent young constituents. Dr. Will Stovall – regional facilitator of the CCLP – has assisted us with compiling our thoughts and with formatting them into this submission. However, the ideas and opinions expressed in this document are our own, and we have provided feedback at each stage of the consultation including upon the final draft of our submission.

We intend to continue our engagement with PC85 throughout the stages to follow, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Ngā mihi nui,

Freya	Maddie	Timothy	Corben
Nate	Louise	Yeshini	Mackenzie
Cadence	T.K.	Liam	Rātā
Macie	Rebecca	Oliver	Zeke
Genevieve	Amy	Molly	Paloma
Annabel	Chanulya	Muse	Isabel
Ariana	Charlie	Amanda	Kash
Eila	Ella	Harvey	Pipi
Sofie	Ignacja	Xyreanna	Lucy
Satoru	Romeo	Holly	Amelia

OUR VALUES AND COMMITMENT TO REPRESENTATION

We have identified empowerment, empathy, and responsibility as the three core values most important in informing our collective approach to the climate crisis. These guiding principles manifest in unique ways for each of us, as we know that reducing humans' impact on our planet will require many types of people – possessing various skills and interests, and of diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

We strongly support the Treaty of Waitangi, the bicultural foundation of Aotearoa as a nation, and the important role of Te Ao and Mātauranga Māori – as well as the worldviews and practices of Indigenous peoples throughout the world – in defining our species' present and future relationship with the rest of Te Taiao.



Drawing by Freya (Year 9)

*We listen to the adults all the time. We don't have as much power as adults do, but we can still be heard – we have the right to say.
– Eila (Year 8)*

Further, we are guided by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, who, in 2023, affirmed under [General Comment 26](#) that all children have the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. We recognise that climate change is a children's justice issue, and a lack of meaningful commitment to combatting the sources of anthropogenic climate change in many countries leads us to conclude that this right is largely being dishonoured.

However, we feel fortunate to live in a region where our priorities and voices are respected by many within local government, and we support the intent and timing of Tasman District Council's Natural Hazards Plan Change. Tasman is presented with the opportunity to become a leading district in its commitment to climate preparedness, and by extension, the right of every child to a hopeful and compassionate future.

This submission outlines our ideas and recommendations on how Plan Change 85 can be strengthened to better reflect the rights and interests of tamariki and rangatahi in our region.

PLAN CHANGE 85 FEEDBACK

We each read Plan Change 85 prior to the 31 March focus group meeting, and its key components were summarised at the start of the engagement by TDC representatives Paula Hammond and Iona Dubieniec. We were then presented with a range of questions and – using the Curipod interactive lesson software – viewed and voted upon each other’s responses. Below is a summary of our consensuses:

Q1: WHAT ARE WAYS IN WHICH PLAN CHANGE 85 CAN REFLECT THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS?

We feel when it comes to climate change decision-making in general, young people should be involved whenever possible, as we will disproportionately bear the impacts of climate change throughout our lives. Plan Change 85 should explicitly advocate for more opportunities for children and youth to share their ideas. Plan Change 85 has been integrated into our school curricula, and we wish for this trend to continue for this plan, as well as expand to encompass other present and future climate-change-related policies at TDC.

Young people deserve the opportunity to make suggestions and to help shape a better future for everyone – Charlie (Year 9)

We need practical actions, such as building fire-safe infrastructure, holding regular youth workshops/votes on climate solutions, and providing engaging activities to raise awareness and encourage action. Empowering young people to shape their own futures will contribute meaningfully to climate resilience.

Q2: IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE MAIN STRENGTHS OF PLAN CHANGE 85?

Our perceived strengths of Plan Change 85 can be summarised in the following themes:

1. Safety – We believe the plan change conveys a genuine intent to ensure our communities are physically safe from hazards.
2. Scope – We feel the plan considers reforms to match the seriousness of the hazards, rather than only small-scale incremental changes.
3. Inclusion – We agree with the plan change being well-advertised and the submission process being open to all community members including children and youth.
4. Altruism – We find the plan conveys genuine concern for the social and cultural risk of hazards, rather than those solely economic in nature.
5. Visual Appeal – We feel the graphics for the hazards are eye-catching and self-explanatory, increasing accessibility and interest in the plan among visual learners.

Q3: DO YOU FIND ANY WEAKNESSES IN THE CURRENT PLAN CHANGE, OR IS THERE ANYTHING MISSING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

While we largely agree with the intent and direction of Plan Change 85, there are a few aspects we feel could improve to reflect the interests of environmentally conscious young people:

1. **Climate Change Aversion** – While the plan mentions climate change briefly, there is no distinction between the hazards exacerbated by climate change (Slope instability, coastal hazards, wildfire) and those that are not (liquefaction and fault rupture). This, along with referring to the hazards as “natural”, unintentionally conveys aversion to human culpability.
2. **Anthropocentrism** – While the plan is considerate in its risks to communities and human safety, it does not adequately acknowledge the impact of hazards upon other species and ecosystems. We should care about and respect other living things not only out of compassion, but also for the wellbeing we derive from the rest of Te Taiao.
3. **Reactivity** – While we understand that climate change mitigation is outside of the scope of PC85, we feel this should at least be mentioned as a component of hazard risk reduction. Not acknowledging the role we can play to reduce climate hazards (before we must respond to them) increases human, environmental, and economic cost, and is reactive rather than proactive.
4. **Inefficiency** – Some of us expressed frustration upon learning how long it will be before PC85 is implemented and takes effect. Climate change is here now, and the sooner we put measures in place to reduce it and protect humans and other living things, the better.

CLIMATE HAZARD-SPECIFIC COMMENTS



“The plan change needs to consider our drought prone area and encourage native tree planting. Native trees should be a priority over pines” – Satoru (Yr. 8) and Maddie (Yr. 7)



We don't think councils should waste money on sea walls and barriers; these are a lot to maintain. We also need to consider other species and give them room for they will lose habitat with sea level rise too. We can't just think of humans losing land. – Timothy (Yr 8), Amy (Yr. 9), and Harvey (Yr. 7)



We need to look after our rivers and use nature-based solutions like plating around rivers. We need to allow rivers the ability to weave and flood, and build away from them. – Freya (Yr. 9), Genevieve (Yr. 9), and Chanulya (Yr. 9)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we attended the focus group meetings because we believe young voices matter and should be included in shaping responses to climate change. This is our future, and we care deeply about it. We want to build smarter, not faster. We want to create communities and buildings that can withstand the effects of climate change and natural hazards. We're here to raise awareness, inspire action, and help restore our environment, from native forests to ocean ecosystems. We believe educating people—especially young people is important. Most of all, we want to act now, not later, and be part of something that truly makes a difference.

I'm here today because I think it's important that we don't fall into apathy, and act now instead of acting too late. I want to be a part of the solution and help protect the beautiful planet we call home – Amy (Year 9)

Thank you very much again for the opportunity to submit on Plan Change 85 – we look forward to participating in this and future engagements, including the special session on the 7th of August.



4.10 PLAN CHANGE 81 - URBAN GROWTH AND TRPS C1 UPDATE

Report To:	Information Forum
Meeting Date:	28 April 2026
Report Author:	Anna McKenzie, Principal Planner – Environmental Policy
Report Authorisers:	Barry Johnson, Environmental Policy Manager
Report Number:	RIF26-04-11

1. Briefing Papers

- 1.1 On 9 April 2026, the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Hon Chris Bishop, directed that Change 1 to the Tasman Regional Policy Statement (TRPS) and Proposed Plan Change 81 (PC81) to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) proceed under the Streamlined Planning Process (SPP). This enables Tasman District Council to commence the public notification of the plan changes.
- 1.2 Documentation is currently being finalised with public notification anticipated towards the end of May 2026. Notification initiates the formal submissions, hearings and decision-making process.
- 1.3 TRPS Change 1 and PC81 aim to enable housing intensification in existing urban areas and medium density development on greenfield land. PC81 proposes rezoning to provide capacity for approximately 4,250 new dwellings and 80 hectares of additional business land. It will contribute to implementation of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 and the Nelson Tasman Future Development Strategy 2022.
- 1.4 This is a critical contribution to housing supply and business capacity for our growing population. The plan changes contribute to the housing and business growth requirements of the District for approximately the next 10 years. Even with the plan changes Tasman remains short on providing for its full growth capacity obligations.
- 1.5 The Minister's direction includes additional requirements, which have been incorporated into the plan change documentation, specifically:
 - 1.5.1 alignment of natural hazard risk assessments with the new National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025
 - 1.5.2 an economic impact assessment of proposed urban design provisions
 - 1.5.3 strengthened pre-notification consultation requirements with Rangitane o Wairau, consistent with treaty settlement obligations; and
 - 1.5.4 inclusion on the SPP Hearing Panel of an expert on the impacts of urban design provisions on development cost and uptake.
- 1.6 The SPP must be undertaken in accordance with the Minister's direction.
- 1.7 Public notification is scheduled for late May 2026. This will include updates to the TRMP online and publication of all supporting material on the Tasman District Council website. A communication plan will support notification, including;

- 1.7.1 pre-notification briefings for stakeholders and the community
- 1.7.2 comprehensive website information
- 1.7.3 access to planning staff during the submission period
- 1.8 A presentation outlining the communication approach will be provided at this Information Forum.
- 1.9 The Minister’s direction prescribes submission requirements including a 30 working days submission period and provision for further submissions.
- 1.10 A public hearing will be conducted by the SPP Panel and may include cross-examination. The Panel will prepare a report outlining how submissions and evidence have been considered, and any recommended changes.
- 1.11 Tasman District Council will consider the SPP Panel’s report and recommendations before issuing decisions. The total timeframe for the SPP, from notification to decisions is 240 working days.
- 1.12 The Minister has directed that the SPP Panel include at least five independent commissioners, including an experienced chair. The Panel must collectively have expertise in:
 - 1.12.1 natural hazards
 - 1.12.2 mana whenua values
 - 1.12.3 urban design impacts on development costs and uptake
 - 1.12.4 climate change adaptation and emissions related to urban form
- 1.13 The Minister will appoint two members:
 - 1.13.1 an expert in natural hazard risk and climate change adaptation
 - 1.13.2 an expert in urban design impacts on development cost and uptake
- 1.14 All remaining Panel Members will be appointed by Tasman District Council in line with existing delegations.
- 1.15 The development and communication of these plan changes to date has been extensive, spanning multiple years. A wide range of internal and external technical specialists have contributed to the supporting documentation, and the process to date is considered to have been robust, thorough, and well-communicated.

2. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

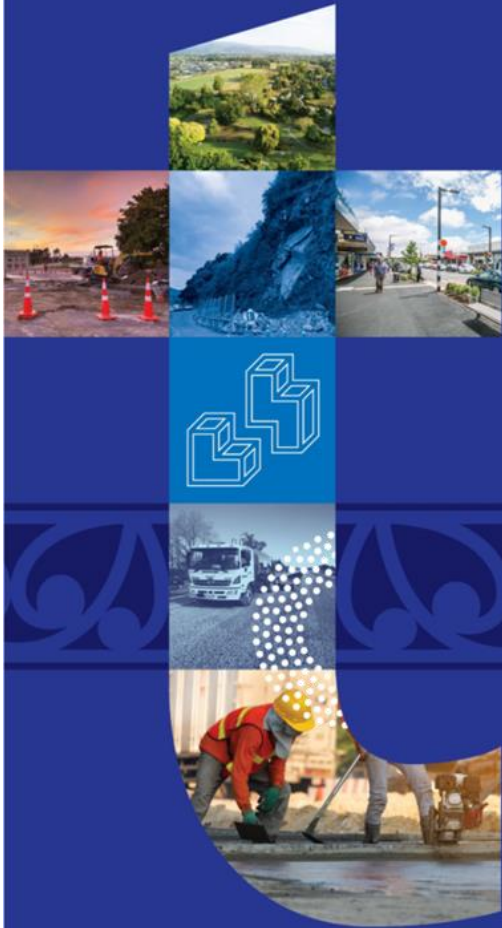
1.   Plan Change 81 Presentation - 28 April 2026

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TRMP Plan Change 81

TRPS Change 1

- Urban Growth



28 April 2026

Workshop objectives:

1. Update Councillors on PC81 and TRPS Change 1 notification timeframes
2. Provide information on the Streamline Planning Process
3. Outline the communication plan for notification

Notification Timeframes

- Notification expected in late May 2026
- Notifying the plan changes starts the formal process for written submissions to be received
- Notification involves sending letters to all effected landowners and adjoining landowners
- Iwi and key stakeholders are advised of notification
- A notice of notification is included in local newspapers

Streamline Planning Process

The Submission Process

- Publicly notify plan changes – late May 2026
- All information, maps and reports available online via the TRMP Online and the website
- Submission period is for 30 working days – submissions can support, oppose or suggest changes
- Submissions received online, mail or email
- When submission period has closed – all submissions will be summarised and made publicly available

Streamline Planning Process

Further submissions

- Providing a further submission stage allows people to comment on other submissions
- This step helps with fairness, especially when proposed changes affect others

Streamline Planning Process

Hearing by independent panel

- Submissions will be heard by an independent Streamlined Planning Process Panel
- Minister will appoint a Panel member expert on natural hazard risk and climate change adaptation, and an expert on assessing the impacts of urban design provisions on development cost and uptake
- Hearings will be held in public
- The Panel will draft a decision report and finalise recommendations
- Council will consider the Panel's recommendations and if in agreement will notify its decisions

Streamline Planning Process

How long does the process take

- The entire process has been prescribed by the Minister to take 240 working days from when the Minister’s Direction takes effect
- *Note – this is significantly shorter than a standard Schedule 1 plan change process.*

Communications Plan

1. *Pre-Notification*

- Iwi consultation
- Commence public and stakeholder notification briefings 1-2 weeks before notification

2. *Post Notification*

- Planner available during work hours to answer questions

The notification briefing will include:

- A presentation of key plan change points – Purpose, streamline and submission process, key changes (ie: MDRZ, Papakainga).
- Key messaging – Urban intensification, Greenfield growth using outline spatial plans etc.
- This is an information session for potential submitters
- Allowance for a Q&A session

Communications Plan

Who

Notification briefing tailored to audience:

- Govt stakeholders – Ministry Health, NZTA, Min of Ed. etc
- Development stakeholders – Planners, surveyors etc
- Public sessions – Richmond, Motueka, Māpua, Golden Bay
- Community Boards
 - Motueka Community Board – 21 April 3pm
 - Golden Bay Community Board 11 May 1pm

Communications Plan

What

- Zoom option for Richmond public session
- Webinars and online videos
- Printed Information:
 - How to make a submission
 - Medium Density Residential Zone
 - Papakāinga
 - Streamline Planning Process

How Councillors Can Help

- Councillors are invited to attend the public briefing sessions
- All information can be found on the website @ [Urban Growth Plan Change 81 | Shape Tasman](#)
- If required a 'key information' sheet can be prepared

THANK YOU!

Thriving and resilient Tasman communities



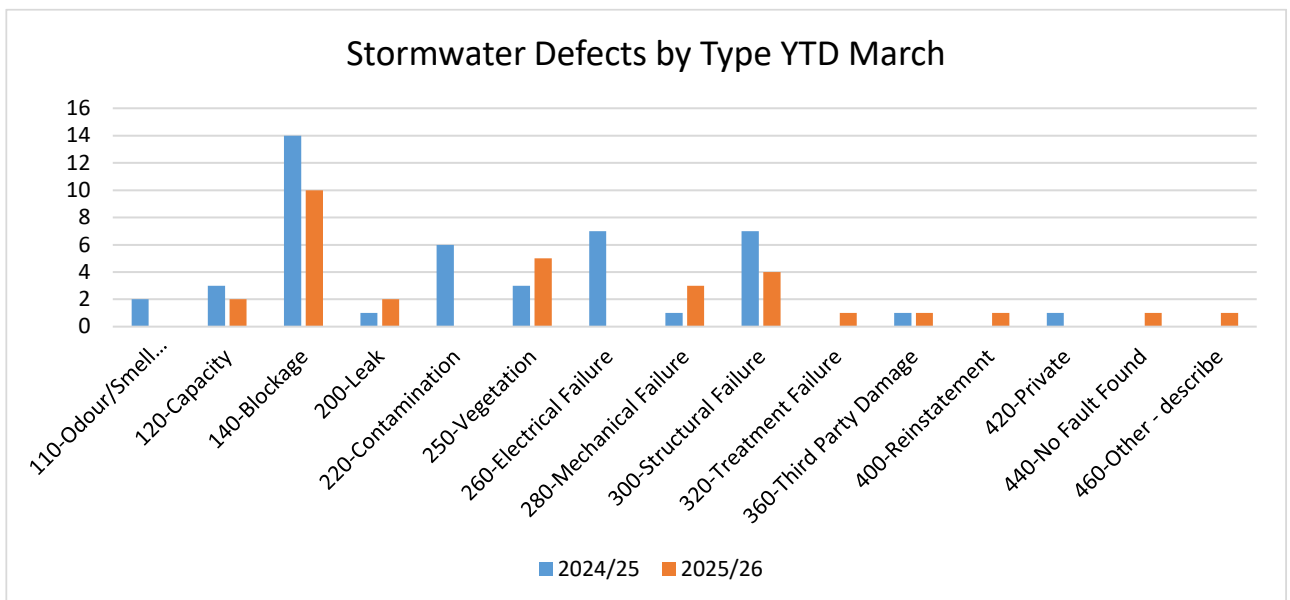
4.11 THREE WATERS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS UPATE

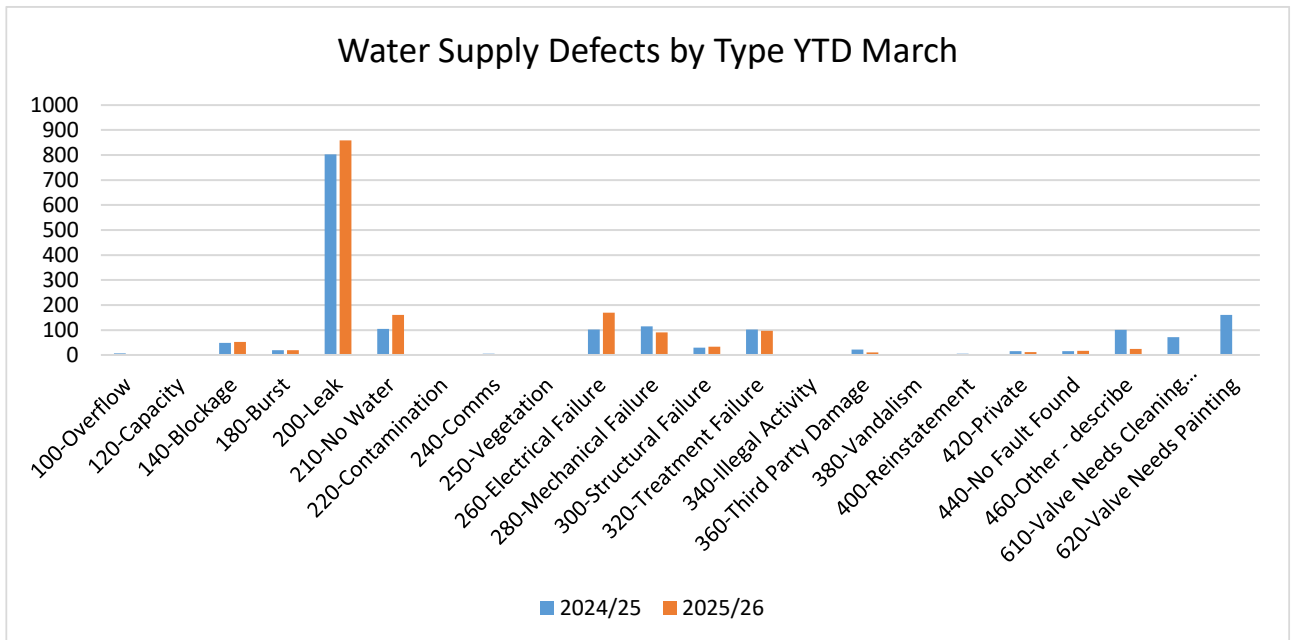
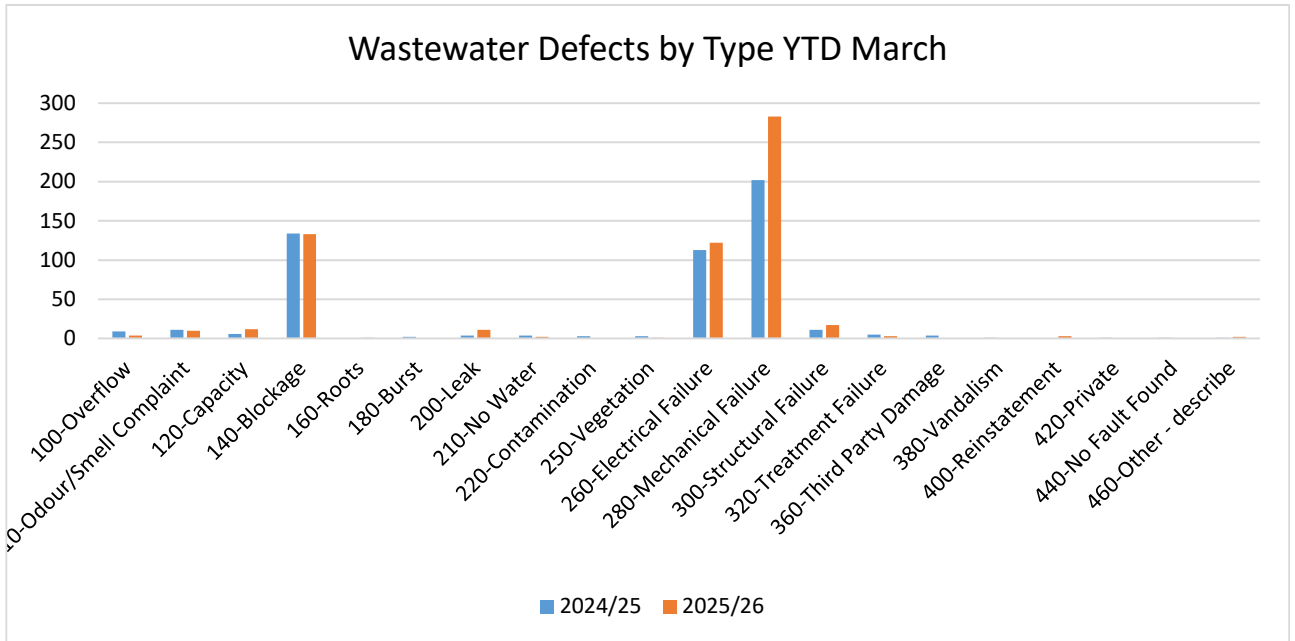
Report To: Information Forum
Meeting Date: 28 April 2026
Report Author: Mike Schruer, Waters and Wastes Manager
Report Authorisers: Richard Kirby, Group Manager - Three Waters
Report Number: RIF26-04-12

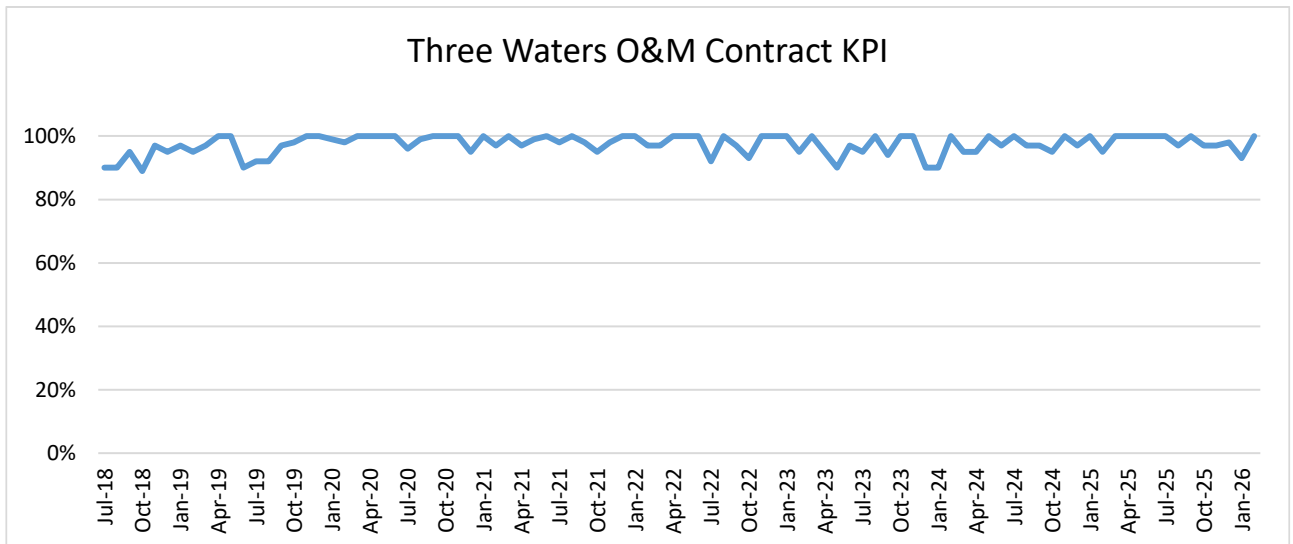
1. Health and Safety Lead Indicators (Audits/site observations) – 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026

Measure	Total
H&S Observations	24
H&S Briefings (also as part of regular meetings)	31
Number of H&S courses attended by staff	13

2. Utilities Trends







- 2.1 We are working with our contractor to develop contingency plans in the event of fuel shortages.

3. Water Supply

Activity Highlights:

- Boil Water Notice removed from the Upper Tākaka water supply.
- Letter of expectations received from the Water Services Authority regarding January failure of UV treatment at Brightwater water treatment plant.
- Chlorine gas incident at Kaiteriteri-Riwaka Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

Compliance:

- 3.1 The boil water notice that had been placed on the Upper Tākaka Water supply in March due to detections of high levels of total coliform bacteria, was lifted. Remediation of the pipework that was suspected to have caused the issue was completed and subsequent testing showed no remaining contamination.
- 3.2 Following the notification of a temporary failure of the UV disinfection process (a barrier to protozoa contamination) at Brightwater treatment plant in January, Taumata Arowai, wrote a letter of expectation to the Council. In this letter the Authority disagreed with the Council staff's assessment that the risk to public health was low and expects a different response in similar future circumstances. In essence, this would mean issuing a boil water notice. In addition, the Authority expects more detailed incident reports to support the conclusions that the Council staff reached about the public health risk.
- 3.3 Council staff will give due consideration to the points raised and may seek further clarification from the Authority. It can be noted that the Public Health Service has received no notifications of protozoal diseases (Giardia and Cryptosporidium) within the Tasman District since the event and no notifications of protozoal disease attributable to Council water supplies have been brought to Council's attention within at least the last 10 years.
- 3.4 The mains pipe burst on Gladstone Road on Wednesday 1 April resulted in a water outage to approximately 30 properties for slightly over eight hours. This necessitated a notification to Taumata Arowai, as required by the Water Services Act when outages go beyond eight hours.

Enforcement

- 3.5 Since the previous Operations Report, there have been no events requiring further investigation or enforcement action.

Operations Update

- 3.6 A major burst occurred outside 5 Fairose Drive, Motueka on 14 April on a 150mm PVCU main. The repair was expected to take six hours to repair but was completed in an hour and a half and affected 13 houses.



Figure 1: Burst outside 5 Fairose Drive

- 3.7 A serious chlorine gas release occurred on 9 April at the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri water treatment plant. An operator was exposed to leaking chlorine gas while working on the gas safety actuators. Emergency services responded and the leak continued for about 45 minutes until Fire and Emergency NZ staff with breathing apparatus could enter site and effect a shutdown of both chlorine cylinders. It is estimated by modelling that less than 2kg of gas leaked from the cylinder, which has a nominal capacity of 70kg when full. Four project contractors were on site at the time installing underground pipework and assisted the operations contractor and raised the alarm.
- 3.8 WorkSafe was notified of the gas leak event, and the incident is under investigation. The network operation was restored shortly after emergency services cleared and handed the site over to the operations contractor. The UV and valve were out of service for approximately five weeks. The actuator controls the opening and closing of the inlet isolation valve on UV reactor #1. It had an electrical fault with the position feedback module that required servicing and parts.
- 3.9 An upgrade was completed on the Collingwood WTP control system on 20 March. Contractors working on the filtration and caustic project installed a replacement remote terminal unit (RTU) that is responsible for automation and telemetry on site. The planned interruption required a shutdown for the week with manual operation to refill the reservoir daily.

- 3.10 On 23 March, a significant burst was identified on a 200mm PVC water main on Fearon Street, Motueka. The pipe, installed in 1988 and known as “Blue Brute,” had become brittle and failed along a 6m section, causing a burst around 9:00am that initially impacted many customers and raised concerns about treatment plant levels. The leak was quickly located and isolated to nine properties, allowing the wider network to remain in service and the treatment plant to recover. Repairs were completed and water was fully restored by 5:00pm, resulting in an outage of approximately eight hours for affected properties.
- 3.11 On 1 April at 7:00pm, there was a major burst on a 100mm Asbestos cement pipe at the intersection of Oxford Street and Gladstone Road, affecting approximately 40 properties for roughly eight hours. Due to the expected length of time to carry out the repairs and no suitable hydrant to supply an upstand for domestic use, a water cart was brought in to provide water for the affected properties.

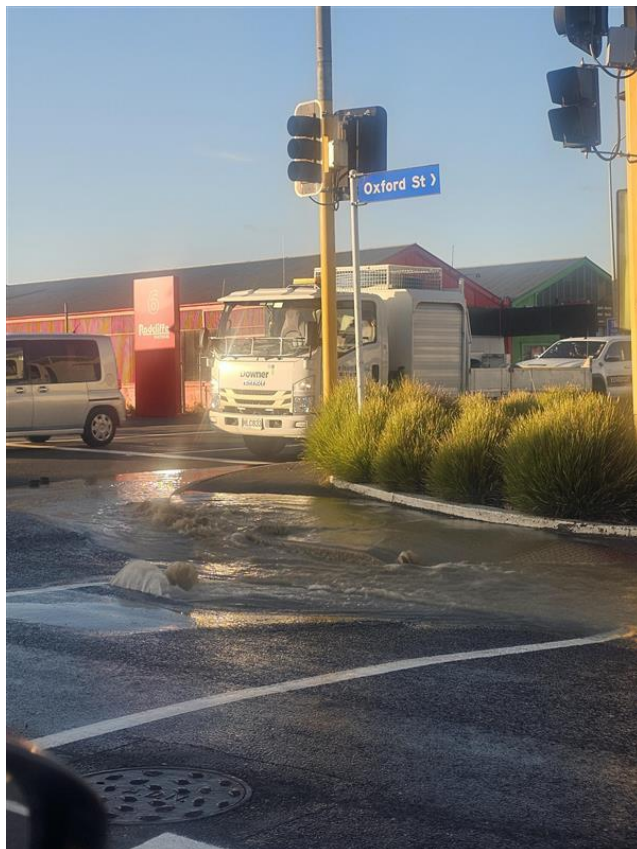


Figure 2: leak at the corner of Gladstone and Oxford Street

4. Wastewater

Activity Highlights

- Replacement of corroded steel pipe at Motueka Bridge on Tuesday 17 March
- Chemical spill due to broken dosing tube at Motueka Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Compliance

- The recent relatively high microbial results from the discharge of the Motueka Membrane Filtration (MF) plant have reduced back to normal levels. It is probable that these higher

numbers were because of microbial growth in the discharge lines, the cooler weather now having slowed that down.

Operations Update

- 4.1 A split chemical dosing line at the Motueka WWTP microfiltration system resulted in approximately 100 litres of concentrated sodium hypochlorite being sprayed around the inside of the treatment plant building. This had potential to be a serious Health and Safety incident, fortunately nobody was inside the building when the split happened. The flexible dosing lines are being replaced and will be sheathed inside larger tubes so that if a split like this happens in the future, the spray will be contained. Increased inspection of the lines should also reduce the likelihood of a recurrence.
- 4.2 Preparation work is underway for the new Ultraviolet (UV) treatment system at Motueka WWTP and the solids filtration system at the Tākaka WWTP. Installation of both these systems started mid to late April. The UV system will disinfect any partially treated wastewater that has to, because of extreme storm conditions, bypass the final membrane filtration treatment stage. The solids filtration system will remove solids from the treated wastewater prior to discharge to the Tākaka WWTP rapid infiltration basin (RIB). This will extend the operational life of the RIB.
- 4.3 Over the past 18 months there have been incidences of excessive formation of foam in the aeration basin at the Murchison WWTP. This indicates a disruption to the microbial balance of the treatment system and is likely due to something unusual being discharged into the wastewater network. Recent investigatory work has identified wastewater with a very high pH (10+) entering the treatment plant. The source has been tracked down to a group of about six residential addresses. Monitoring equipment, with logger functionality, will be installed to build a clearer picture of the discharges.

5. Stormwater

Activity Highlights:

- Fish survey was completed to assess fish passage effectiveness in Reservoir Creek.
- Full service carried out on Poutama stormwater treatment devices.

Operations Update

- 5.1 A fish survey was completed using electric fishing to assess the effectiveness of the fish passages in Reservoir Creek. It was found that there are no Inanga (native whitebait fish species) above Hill Street, Richmond. This indicates some issues with fish passage through the piped sections of Reservoir Creek and at the Easby Park inlet. Work is underway to remediate the Easby Park inlet fish passage, and the piped network will need some inspections. It was very positive to see the abundance of Inanga and Tuna (Eels) below Hill Street and the presence of two other native species even above Easby Park (Redfin Bullies and Banded Kokopu).



Figure 3: Electric fishing in Reservoir Creek



Figure 4: A Banded Kokopu being measured as part of the fish survey

5.2 The stormwater treatment devices that treat runoff from the Poutama Street light industrial area, Richmond, were cleaned and samples were taken to be analysed by the laboratory. This is a summary of findings:

Sediment

- Zinc (Zn) is very high at all sites, peaking at 6,000 mg/kg in the treatment membrane and 2,800 mg/kg downstream. Both exceed the Australian and New Zealand guidelines (ANZG) for fresh and marine water quality (410 mg/kg).
- Downstream sediment also exceeds ANZG default guideline values for chromium, copper, arsenic and lead (Cr/Cu/As/Pb). The contamination in the upstream bed is generally below default guideline values for those metals.

- Sediment Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) (C7–C44) is very high upstream (1,030 mg/kg) and downstream (3,600 mg/kg), both above the ANZG default guideline values (550 mg/kg).

Water

- Metals peaks occurred at the Cascade site (e.g., total Zn 0.27 mg/L), with outlet showing low Pb/Cr but higher As/Zn than the upstream grab.

5.3 The results showed that a lot of Zinc and Hydrocarbons are removed by the treatment devices. However, the receiving environment still shows elevated levels, especially hydrocarbons. The device is designed to treat rain runoff at the rate of 5mm/hr, higher rainfall rates are bypassing treatment and flowing downstream.

5.4 Staff will continue to service these devices on an annual basis and assess their effectiveness in treating stormwater contaminants, while also investigating the upstream sources of contamination.



Figure 5: Contractor’s cleaning out the stormwater treatment devices (Jellyfish and Cascade Separator)



Figures 6 (left): Jellyfish membrane filter. Figure 7 (right) Cascade separator



Figure 8 Taking sediment samples from the jellyfish membrane cartridge

Operations

- 5.5 Our maintenance teams have been continuing to maintain open channels and spray water celery and other pest plants. This season we have been reducing grass cutting on certain sites and are generally happy with the slightly “scruffier” appearance.
- 5.6 Staff have been investigating the state of the stormwater pond adjacent to Templemore Drive, Richmond. The pond has been progressively filling with sediment from the upstream catchment, with some weed growth where the pond is filling, and at the outlet. The pest plant *Egeria densa* (oxygen weed) has also been identified in the pond. We have removed some weed near the outlet, and the biosecurity team will be working with the Department of Conservation in the coming months to remove the oxygen weed.
- 5.7 While there are no concerns about the hydraulic performance of the pond, as flood flows will still pass through it without significant restriction, the accumulation of gravel in the pond is starving the downstream reach of sediment and likely causing additional erosion below the outlet. Over the next year staff will investigate options for this pond – this could include removing the weir and allowing the pond to revert to an open channel. This would also significantly assist in the eradication of the oxygen weed.



Figure 9: Templemore Pond outlet cleared of raupo, debris and willow



Figure 10: Templemore Pond *Egeria densa* infestation

- 5.8 Staff are also working with the reserves and facilities team around the stormwater detention pond in Washbourn Gardens. The pond accumulates sediment and some of these areas have been planted, with a view to restoring a single channel in the pond, and the potential to remove fencing and improve access to the stream over time.
- 5.9 In recent months staff have been conducting some inspections of underground infrastructure. The following photo, in a sump on High Street, Motueka, highlights the typical state of some of the Council's stormwater systems installed pre-1989 in the County/Borough Council era. We are generally finding the infrastructure is of poor construction and poor condition.



Figure 11: Stormwater chamber High Street Motueka

- 5.10 Over the past three months staff have been working with NZTA and their design consultants for the Hope Bypass to assess the impact of proposed works on our stormwater networks. Over the coming months staff will conduct CCTV inspections of the underground drainage networks. The cost of these inspections will be shared with NZTA.
- 5.11 The stormwater team ran a station at the Moturoa Mission, an environmental event for schools. About 20 teams of children went through our activity which highlighted the rubbish and contaminants that can end up in our waterways if they are making their way into the stormwater system. The teams had to categorise the different contaminants that they found in the rubbish that is collected in the litter traps that can be installed in catch pits.

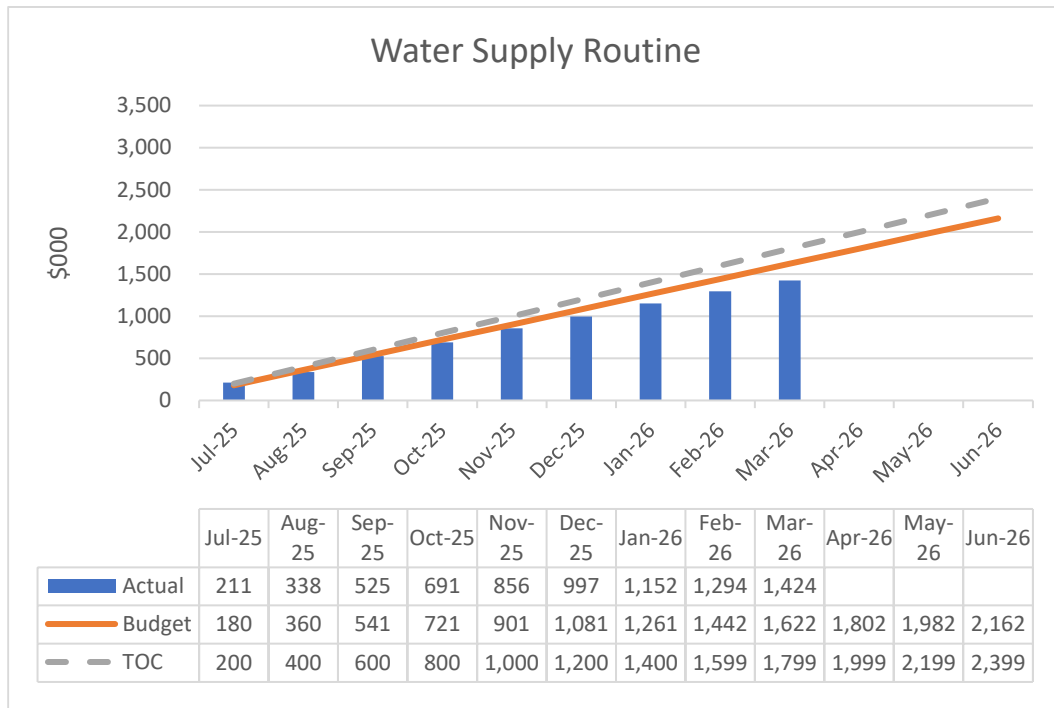


Figure 12: A team of school kids at the Moturoa Mission completing our stormwater waste sorting activity

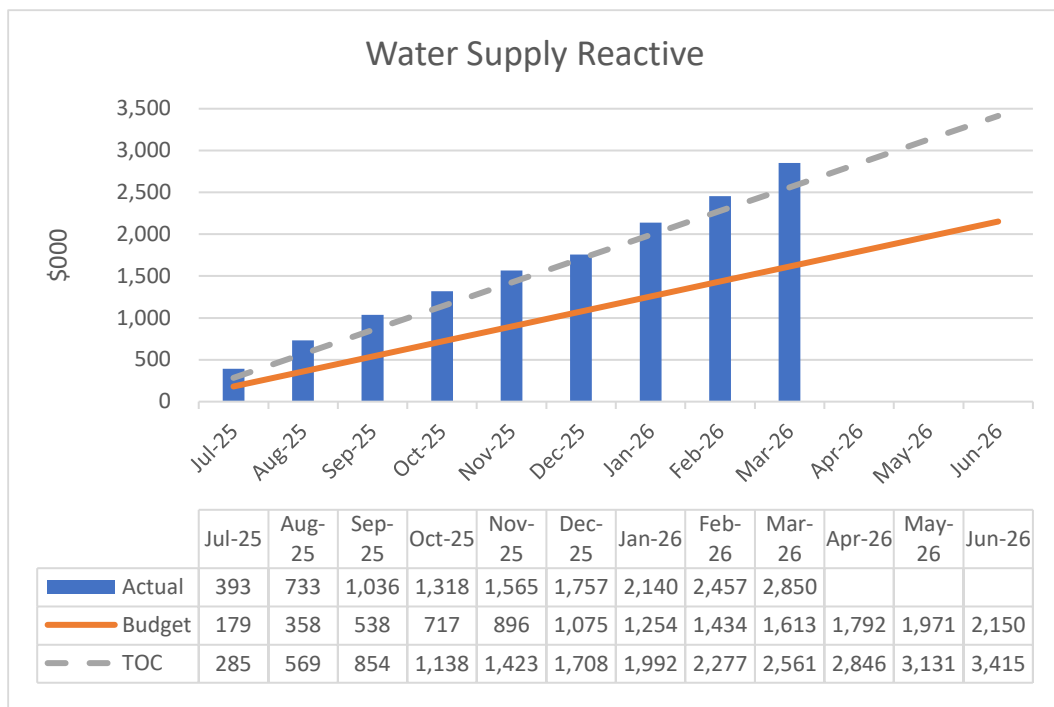


Figure 13:: Moturoa Mission event set up at Rabbit Island

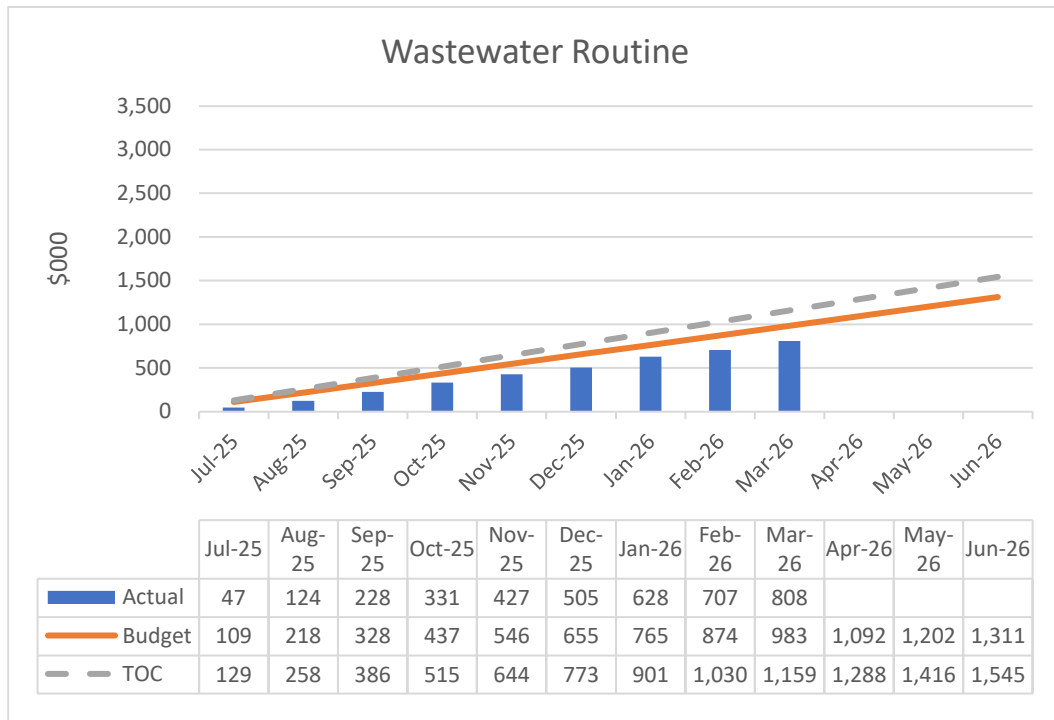
6. Financial Update



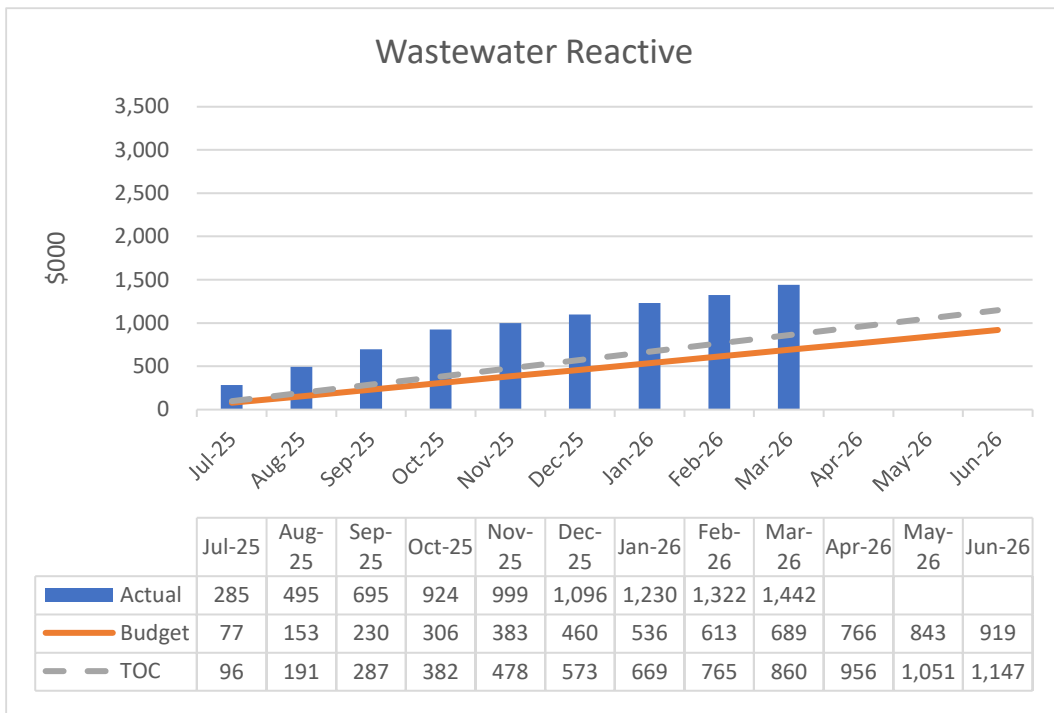
6.1 Water Supply Routine is tracking under budget.



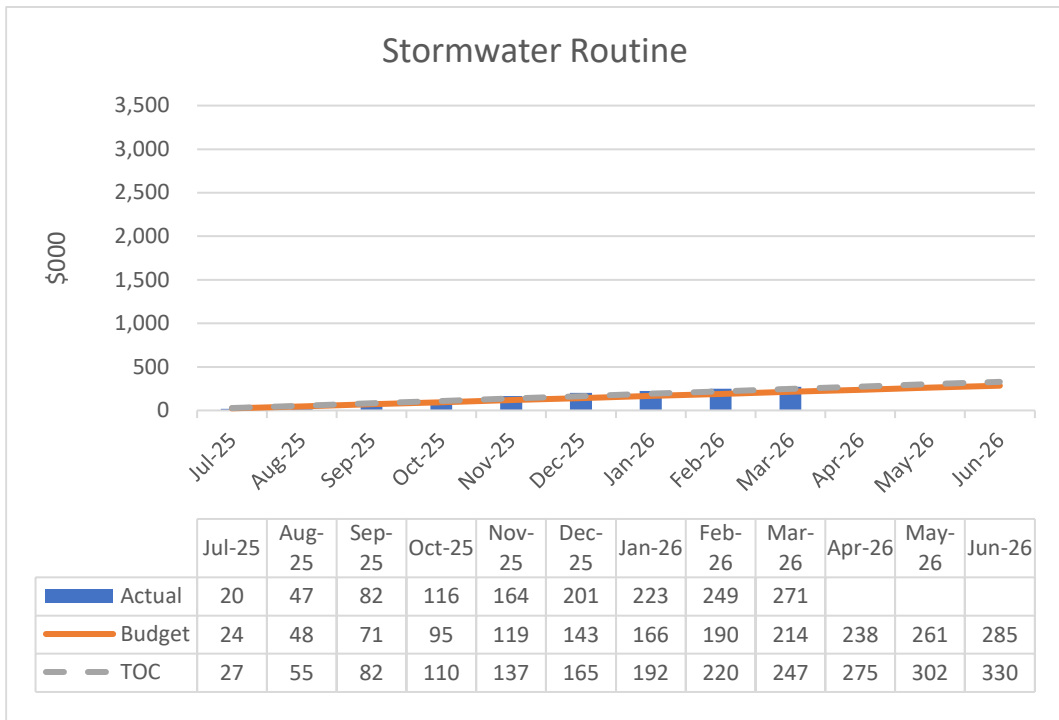
6.2 Water Supply Reactive costs are well above budget but are tracking close to the Total Outturn Cost. This includes \$350,000 of expenditure related to the June weather events.



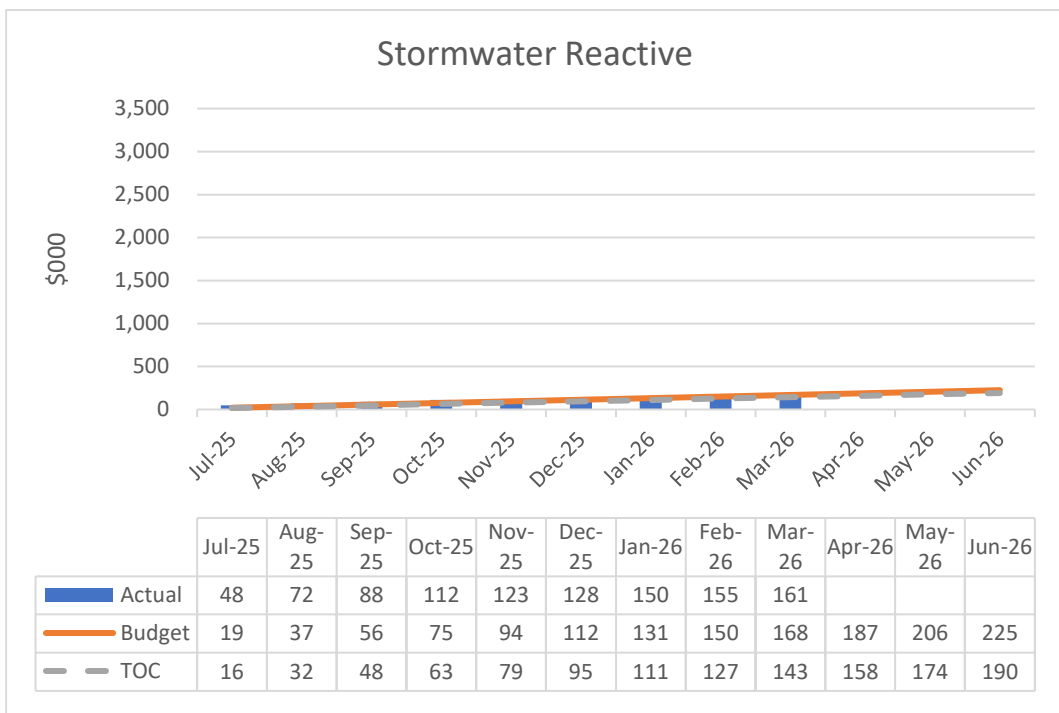
6.3 Wastewater Routine costs are tracking under budget.



6.4 Wastewater Reactive costs are over budget. This includes \$350,000 of expenditure related to the June weather events. Reactive maintenance at Motueka wastewater treatment plant totals \$100,000 including over pumping, generator issues and O-ring replacements on the membranes. Pump station reactive maintenance is high due to power outages or failures and significant faults at Riwaka main pump, Ruby Bay, Alpine Lodge (St Arnaud) pump station, Beechrest Drive (St Arnaud), Brightwater main and Goodman Ledger Avenue, Motueka.



6.5 Stormwater Routine costs are over budget due to additional weed control. We are looking to limit the overspend in the last three months of the year.



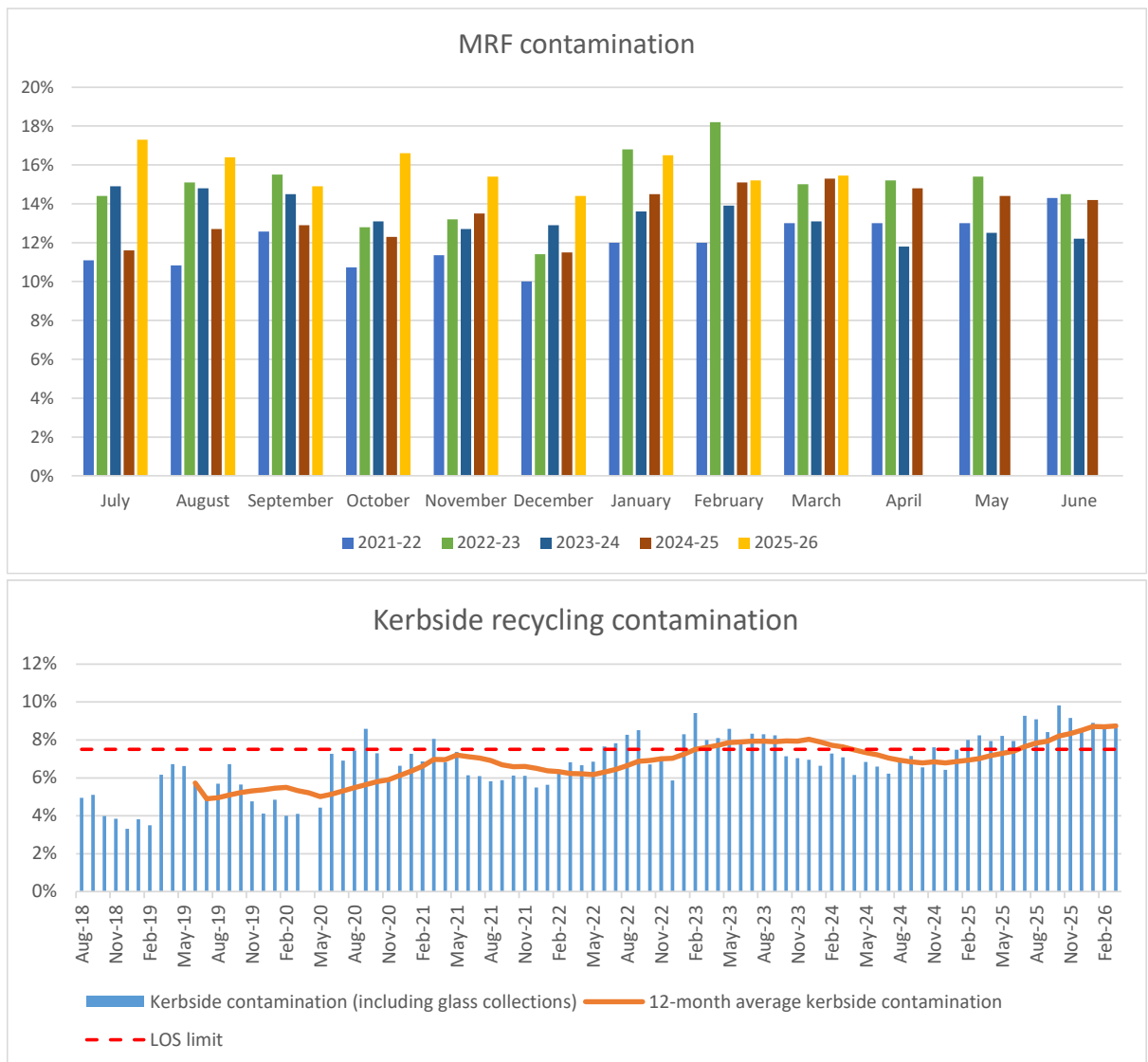
6.6 Stormwater Reactive costs are on budget.

7. Waste Management and Minimisation

Activity Highlights:

- Kerbside collection activity has eased following the busy summer period.
- Waste quantities have dropped significantly in March.
- We are working with our contractor to develop contingency plans in the event of fuel shortages.

- Work on a regional emergency waste management plan has commenced.



Compliance:

- There were no known non-compliance events over the reporting period.

Operations Update

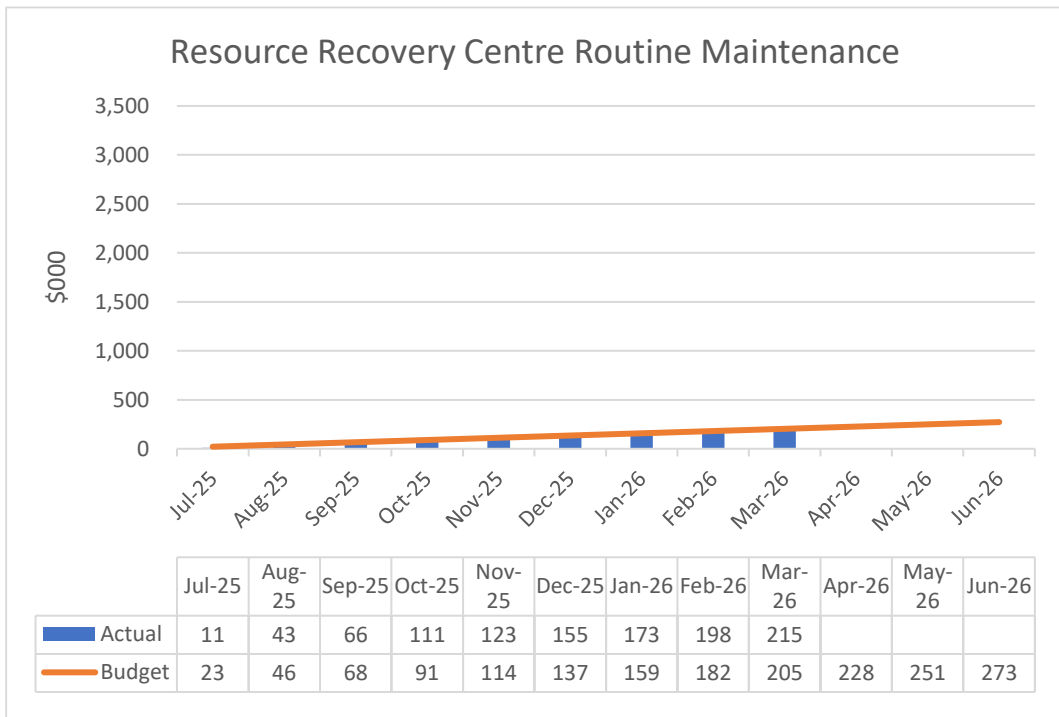
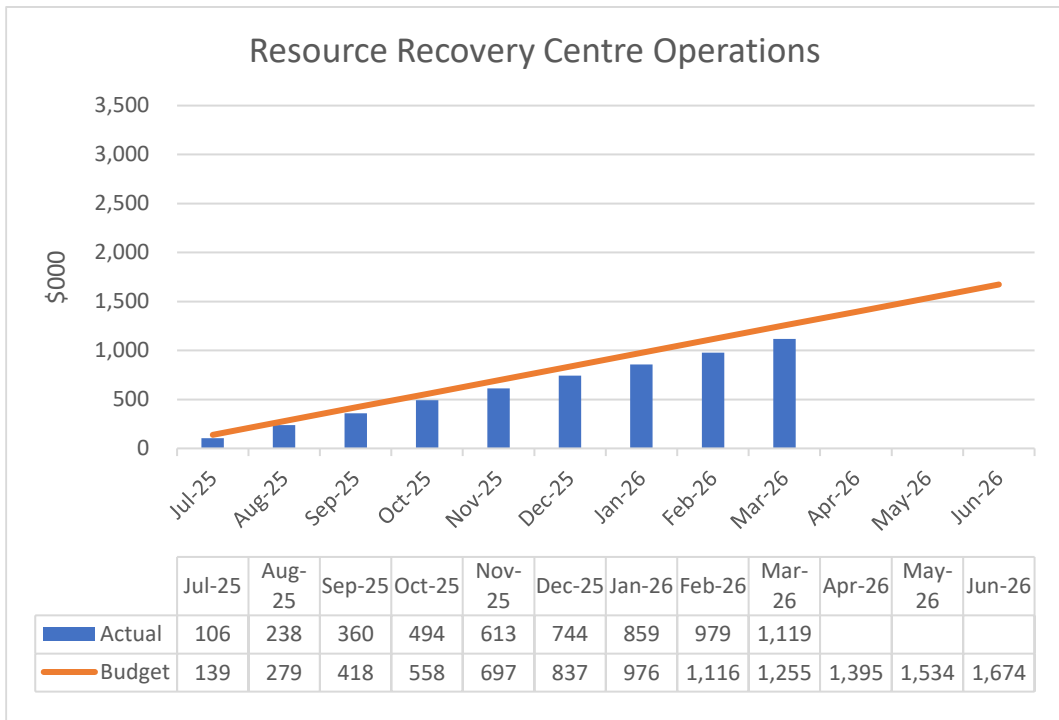
- 7.1 Kerbside and Resource Recovery Centre activity levels have reduced in February and March back from the January peak. Waste tonnages have dropped significantly in March. While staff have not yet analysed data in detail, it is expected that this drop in waste is likely to be related to increased fuel costs across the region.
- 7.2 Kerbside recycling collections have eased back from the summer peak, and kerbside audits show high levels of compliance. Contamination at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) has stabilised at 15%, but the 12-month rolling average remains above the performance target. Over the coming months staff will focus on re-auditing bins where high contamination has been observed.
- 7.3 Staff have commenced receiving small quantities of household hazardous waste at Resource Recovery Centres. Residents may dispose of up to 20 kg of garden sprays, household cleaners, paint, glues, and hobby-related chemicals at no charge. The handling

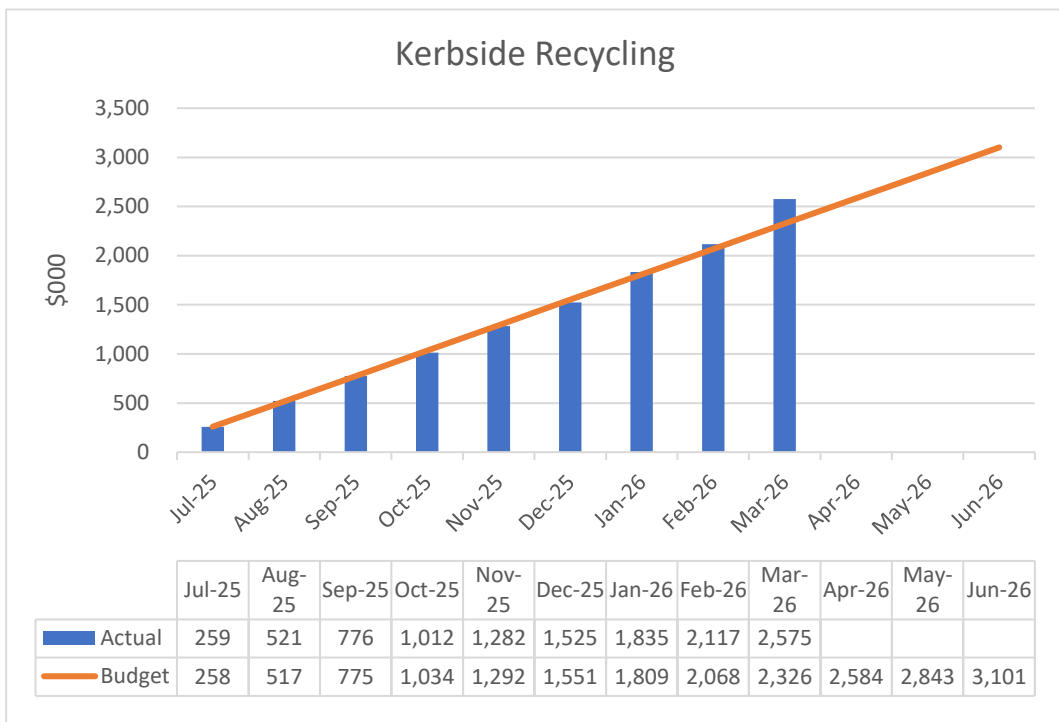
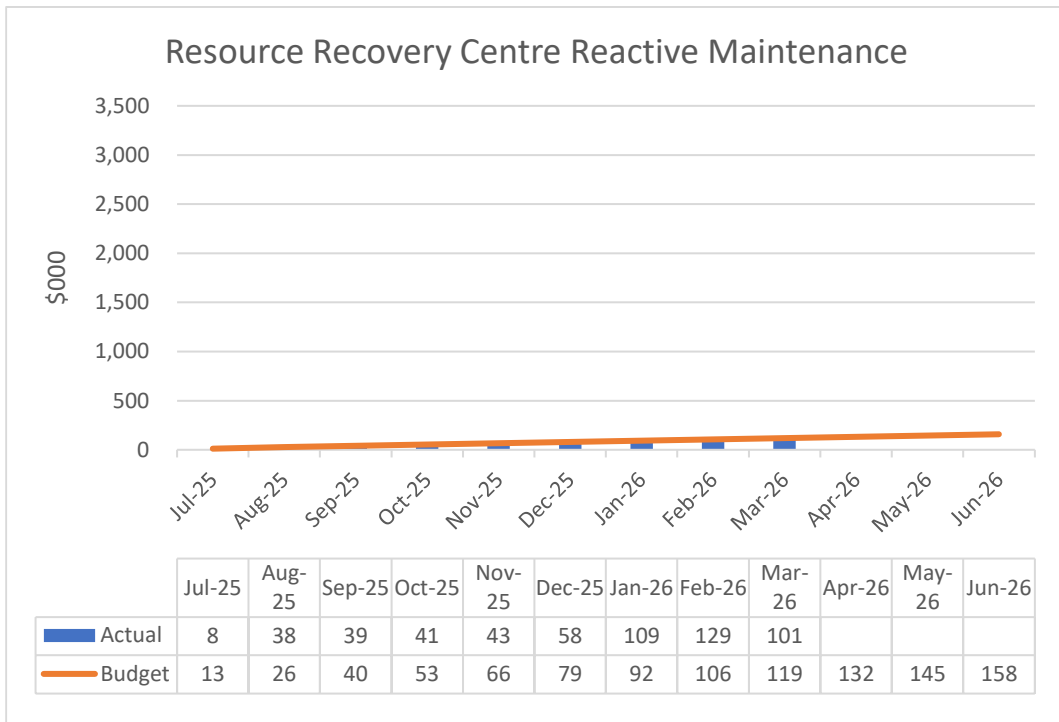
and disposal costs are funded through the Council's share of the New Zealand Waste Disposal Levy.

- 7.4 The new office at the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre is now open and operational. Located near the site entrance, it provides safer and easier public access and a significantly improved working environment for staff. The office is equipped with solar panels and batteries, allowing for continued operation of the office and kiosk during power outages.
- 7.5 Staff are working with our contractor to develop contingency plans in the event of a fuel shortage. Fuel supplies are held at each of the three largest sites, including sufficient fuel at the Richmond site to support kerbside and linehaul operations for up to two weeks. If supplies become limited, the initial response would likely involve reducing the frequency of kerbside recycling and, potentially, rubbish collections. Staff are also closely monitoring the supply of key materials, particularly plastic bags and wheelie bins. Current stock levels provide approximately six months' supply either on site or enroute.
- 7.6 Following the flood events of June and July 2025 staff are working with Nelson City Council to develop a regional emergency waste plan. The work is scheduled for the next nine months, and will include engagement with iwi partners, other agencies and stakeholders.
- 7.7 Staff are also working with the regional landfill business unit in preparation for changes to York Valley operations from July. A new transfer station will open, and the Council's contractor will no longer have direct access to the transfer station or landfill face. To support operations, the business unit will supply additional waste transport bins, allowing full bins to be left on site for the landfill operator to empty while the Council's contractor collects bins emptied earlier in the day.

8. Waste Management Financial Update

- 8.1 Most waste management operational expenditure is running close to budget. Waste income is currently tracking 7% above budget but has dropped in March. While transport and disposal costs are tracking above budget the net result remains positive. This additional income is in part driven by flood response early in the year, but there is a risk that a long period of elevated fuel prices may drop income below budget. Kerbside recycling operating costs increased in March, largely due to a delayed claim by the contractor for additional properties serviced.
- 8.2 For both Resource Recovery Centre and kerbside operations, staff expect costs to increase further in the coming months, due to increased fuel costs. The contract includes specific cost fluctuations for increased fuel costs, applied quarterly, and these will next be applied in May. Staff assess that a \$1.00 increase in the diesel supply cost results in a 4.5% increase in direct operating costs. Staff are seeing increased transport costs for export of recycling materials, but this is offset in part by increased plastic commodity prices.







9. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

Nil