



## Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASM)

### What are the key issues we need to think about?

Kāi Tahu whānui have travelled, lived and used resources in the Waitaki District for many generations and have historical and cultural connections with land, waterbodies and resources across the District. Their whakapapa and traditions are embedded in the landscape. It is a matter of national importance, under the RMA, to recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taoka. Sites and areas of significance to Māori require protection from adverse effects of subdivision, land use and development.

The Operative District Plan has no objectives, policies, rules or mapping identifying significant area and relies solely on ensuring rūnanga are consulted by applicants when mana whenua values may be affected. There are no triggers to alert plan users as to when these circumstances might arise. In effect there are no mechanisms that directly protect sites and areas of significance from adverse effects of subdivision, land use and development. Activities that can adversely affect wāhi tūpuna values include disturbance of sites, landscape modification, effects of vegetation clearance, earthworks and runoff on the health of waterbodies and inappropriate activities establishing nearby (i.e. a wastewater treatment plant).



### What does it mean for me?

*Any lawfully established existing businesses or activities have what is referred to as 'existing use rights' and could continue to operate unchanged.*

Many activities can continue in identified Wāhi Tūpuna areas without the need for a resource consent. If your property has an identified Wāhi Tūpuna (Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori) this would generally not affect you unless you were proposing to undertake activities that could adversely affect the values of the site. This could include large new buildings (outside of urban areas), indigenous vegetation clearance, earthworks, plantation forestry, agricultural intensification, commercial outdoor recreation activities, mining or quarrying, and planting wilding conifer species.

### What are we suggesting in the Draft District Plan?

Mana whenua regard the whole of the Waitaki District as ancestral landscape, but they have identified a number of areas as having particular significance due to the concentration of wāhi tapu or taoka values, or the importance of the area to cultural traditions, history or identity. These sites and areas of significance are referred to as wāhi tūpuna. The chapter introduces suggested objectives, policies and rules designed to provide for recognition and protection of these wāhi

tūpuna/sites and areas of significance to Māori from inappropriate subdivision, land use and development.

Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori are mapped and you can view them on our website.

Scheduled sites and areas of significance to Māori will be protected from activities that are culturally inappropriate, while mahika kai and other cultural activities will be permitted.

## Key changes from the current rules

- Sites and areas of significance to Māori (Wāhi Tūpuna) have been mapped.
- New objectives, policies and rules support the protection of sites and areas of significance.
- Provision for customary harvest and urupā.
- There are specific provisions for the recognition and protection of tuhituhi nehera (rock art sites) with setbacks from limestone escarpments required.
- Views of mauka, tuhituhi nehera and wai Māori are protected from obstruction by structures.
- Inclusion of tangata whenua to be involved in resource management processes and to exercise their kaitiakitaka over Wāhi Tūpuna.
- The rules for buildings, structures and earthworks within a wāhi tūpuna are split into two groups and are more relaxed for wāhi tūpuna in urban locations.

*The chapter, schedule and mapping use either the term 'sites and areas of significance to Māori' or 'wāhi tūpuna'.*

## Find out more

You can view the full draft chapter on our website

visit [www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review)

or scan for more info



## More questions?

If you have any further questions that aren't covered in this document, or on our website, you can email the Planning Team at [planreview@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:planreview@waitaki.govt.nz) or call the District Plan Review hotline on 03 433 1661 and leave a message.

## Summary of suggested rules

### **Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:**

- Mahika kai activities within wāhi tūpuna, including removal of vegetation, earthworks and erection of temporary structures.
- Buildings and structures within wāhi tūpuna subject to conditions around building footprint, height, proximity to waterbodies, limestone escarpments and ridgelines and height above sea level.
- Buildings and structures within wāhi tūpuna Residential and Settlement zones subject to conditions around compliance with the zone rules and standards.
- Indigenous vegetation clearance within wāhi tūpuna where it is for the repair and maintenance of tracks and other specified structures.
- Earthworks within wāhi tūpuna where it is for the repair and maintenance of tracks, yards, fences etc and not within 100m of a limestone escarpment.
- Urupā within a wāhi tūpuna.

### **Activities that would require a resource consent:**

- Plantation forestry.
- Agricultural intensification.
- Any of the permitted activities that do not meet the required conditions.
- Natural hazard mitigation structures within wāhi tūpuna.
- Commercial outdoor recreation. Other land use activities that are not specifically permitted.
- Cemeteries or crematoria, other than Urupā.
- Landfills.
- Wastewater treatment plants.
- Mining or quarrying activities.

### **Prohibited Activities:**

- Planting wilding conifer species within a wāhi tūpuna.