

9.6 Coastal Environment

9.6.0 Introduction

This introduction is to assist the lay reader to understand how this chapter works and what it applies to. It is not an aid to interpretation in a legal sense

The coastal environment is a continuous, uninterrupted area that adjoins the coastal marine area boundary and covers urban and natural environments. The landward extent of the coastal environment along the district's coastline is identified on the planning maps.

The coastal environment has been identified through multi-criteria analysis assessing the following:

- a. natural coastal character;
- b. coastal landscape and ecology;
- c. coastal natural hazards;
- d. interaction with Coastal Marine Area;
- e. public access and recreation;
- f. [Historic heritage](#) values; and
- g. practical and reasonable approach.

The Coastal Marine Area around the [Christchurch District](#) is acknowledged in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act as a Statutory Acknowledgement Area 'Te Tai o Mahaanui'. The coastal environment is highly valued by Ngāi Tahu mana whenua and has traditionally, and continues to, provide for settlement and mahinga kai. Landuse activities can impact the quality of the coastal environment, which is expressed in the whakataukī 'ki uta ki tai', 'from mountains to the sea' — all things are connected.

Access to mahinga kai and other areas of significance to Ngāi Tahu mana whenua is of fundamental importance to exercising kaitiakitanga. Due to historical occupation and the abundance of resources along the coastline, there is a depth of connection for Māori with the coastal environment.

The purpose of this section is to provide the overarching direction and balance between enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety while maintaining and protecting the values of the coastal environment. It includes objectives, policies and matters of discretion but no activity status rules. The matters of discretion are referenced by rules in other chapters.

Activities located within, or affecting, the coastal environment and requiring discretionary or non-complying resource consent approval under zone or district-wide rules applying across the [Christchurch District](#), will be assessed against the coastal environment objectives and policies. Restricted discretionary resource consents, where appropriate, cross-reference to the matters of discretion for the coastal environment.

The Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan inserted the Specific Purpose (Lyttelton Port) Zone into the [District Plan](#), and was developed to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010. The coastal environment objectives, policies or matters of discretion do not apply to the Specific Purpose (Lyttelton Port) Zone.

The provisions in this chapter give effect to the Chapter 3 Strategic Directions Objectives.

9.6.1 Objectives

9.6.1.1 Objective – The coastal environment

- a. People and communities are able to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, while maintaining and protecting the values of the coastal environment, including:
 - i. [indigenous biodiversity](#) and the maintenance of the ecological function and habitats;
 - ii. natural features and landscapes;
 - iii. natural character;
 - iv. [historic heritage](#);
 - v. Ngāi Tahu cultural values;
 - vi. visual quality and amenity; and
 - vii. recreation values.

9.6.1.2 Objective – Access to and along the coast

- a. Public access to and along the Coastal Marine Area is maintained or enhanced by providing access in places and in forms which are compatible with public health and safety, sensitivity of the receiving environment and protecting the natural, historic and Ngāi Tahu cultural values of the coastal environment.

9.6.2 Policies

9.6.2.1 Policy - Effects of activities on the coastal environment

- a. Ensure that [subdivision](#), use and development is of a scale, and located, to maintain and protect the values of the coastal environment, including:
 - i. [indigenous biodiversity](#) and the dynamic, complex and interdependent processes of ecosystems;
 - ii. natural features and landscapes;
 - iii. natural character, including the natural integrity and functioning of contributing and associated coastal processes;

- iv. [historic heritage](#), recognising that [historic heritage](#) may span the line of mean high water springs;
 - v. Ngāi Tahu cultural values;
 - vi. visual quality and [amenity values](#); and
 - vii. recreation values.
- b. Recognise and provide for the operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of [strategic infrastructure](#) and [utilities](#) that have a technical, locational or functional need to be located in the coastal environment.

9.6.2.2 Policy - Access to and along the coast

- a. Maintain existing public access to the Coastal Marine Area and provide additional public access where:
- i. there is demand for public access;
 - ii. there is an acceptably low risk of danger to public health or safety;
 - iii. public access does not compromise the safe and efficient operation of jetty facilities at Lyttelton, Akaroa and Diamond Harbour; and
 - iv. public access is in a form and at a level compatible with the sensitivity of the receiving environment, including farming operations and any sites of particular ecological or cultural sensitivity.
- b. Facilitate access by Ngāi Tahu mana whenua to and along the Coastal Marine area for mahinga kai and other customary uses.

9.6.2.3 Policy - Extent of the coastal environment

- a. Recognise that the landward extent of the coastal environment varies according to the dynamic nature of the values, processes and qualities present.

9.6.3 Rules - Matters of discretion

9.6.3.1 Effects of activities on the coastal environment

- a. The location, scale and intensity of the activity and/or [buildings](#) and the extent to which the proposal will adversely affect the values of the coastal environment, including:
- i. [indigenous biodiversity](#) and ecosystems;
 - ii. natural character, natural landscapes and features, visual qualities and [amenity values](#);
 - iii. [historic heritage](#); and

- iv. Ngāi Tahu – mana whenua cultural and traditional associations, ‘Te Tai o Mahaanui’ statutory acknowledgement area and [Sites of Ngāi Tahu Cultural Significance](#) identified in Appendix 9.5.6.
- b. Whether the proposal will maintain or enhance public access to and along the coast, including:
 - i. the potential for use and development to adversely affect existing customary access or public access to and along the coast; and
 - ii. whether the location of public access has the potential to adversely affect public health and safety, Ngāi Tahu mana whenua, cultural values, including effects on [Sites of Ngāi Tahu Cultural Significance](#) identified in Appendix 9.5.6, mahinga kai, riparian vegetation, water quality and connections between fresh water resources, [amenity values](#) associated with freshwater, the coastal environment and their margins.
- c. Whether any mitigation measures are proposed, including planting and restoration of natural character.
- d. Extent to which the proposed [subdivision](#), use or development is likely to result in adverse cumulative effects on the values of the coastal environment.
- e. Whether the proposal is susceptible to the effects of coastal hazards.
- f. Whether the proposal supports [coastal recreation activities](#) and/or facilities.
- g. The contribution the proposed [subdivision](#), use or development activity makes to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of people and communities.
- h. Within a [Site of Ngāi Tahu Cultural Significance](#) identified in Appendix 9.5.6, the matters set out in Rule 9.5.5 as relevant to the site classification:
 - i. 9.5.5.1 – Wāhi Tapu/Wāhi Taonga, Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan Silent Files and Kaitorete Spit;
 - ii. 9.5.5.2 – Ngā Tūranga Tūpuna; and
 - iii. 9.5.5.3 – Ngā Wai.

Advice Note:

1. With respect to Ngā Wai Te Tai o Mahaanui reference should be made to Objectives 9.5.2.1 – 9.5.2.3 in Sub-chapter 9.5 Ngāi Tahu values and the natural environment, and Policy 9.5.2.6 Ngā Wai.