



**TE AO
MĀRAMA INC.**

22 October 2025

Department of Conservation
Private Bag 3072
Hamilton 3240

Attention: Jesse Gooding, RSP Resource Management Team

Kia ora Jesse,

RE: Submission on proposed plan change to the Regional Coastal Plan Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands

Please find attached a submission lodged, on behalf of Te Runanga o Hokonui, Te Runanga o Oraka Aparima, Te Rūnanga o Awarua and Te Runanga o Waihopai (Ngā Rūnanga) on the proposed plan change to the Regional Coastal Plan Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands.

We trust the information contained within the submission is sufficient; however, should you wish to discuss any aspect further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nāhaku Noa nā,



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Introduction

1. This submission is made on behalf of Te Runanga o Hokonui, Te Runanga o Oraka Aparima, Te Rūnanga o Awarua and Te Runanga o Waihopai (known as Ngā Runanga).
2. This is a submission on the proposed plan change to the Regional Coastal Plan Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands.
3. Ngā Rūnanga submission relates to the plan change in its entirety.
4. Ngā Rūnanga does not wish to be heard in support of its submission.
5. Ngā Runanga are not a trade competitor for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Papatipu Rūnaka

6. The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 (the TRoNT Act) and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (the Settlement Act) give recognition to the status of Papatipu Rūnanga as kaitiaki and mana whenua of the natural resources within their takiwā boundaries.
7. A significant component of the Ngāi Tahu Settlement is the cultural redress elements, which seek to restore the ability of Ngāi Tahu to give practical effect to its kaitiaki responsibilities. Off shore Islands are of specific relevance and are particularly highlighted as important in many of the Acts provisions. Relevant “cultural redress” elements of the Ngāi Tahu Settlement include ownership and control.¹

¹ Te Tangi a Taurira – The Cry of the People, Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Natural Resource and Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2008 – pg 211



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8. For resource management purposes in Murihiku, certain rūnanga take the lead for applications for specific areas. In respect of the Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands all four papatipu runanga share interest in this area and therefore all four are represented in this instance equally.

General Position and Reasons for the Submission –

9. Te Tangi a Tauira, 2008, states that:

Off shore Islands which form part of the Murihiku natural environment represent resources of significant natural and cultural values for Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku. Values associated with Off shore Islands include landscape features, indigenous vegetation, habitats of fauna and cultural and spiritual values. Retention of such values including the protection of customary rights is a key focus for Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku².

10. Off shore Islands include the lands of islands located off the Murihiku coast (including Rakiura, the Subantarctic Islands and Fiordland), and islands found in rivers and in lakes³.
11. The rohe (area) that the proposed plan change applies to is within a significant cultural landscape to Ngāi Tahu because of historical and contemporary associations. These associations include (but are not limited to) the formation of landscape, wāhi ingoa (place names), mahinga kai, kaimoana, wāhi tapū, Māori land and archaeological sites.
12. This cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association with the subantarctic islands is recognised by the crown under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, 1997.

² Te Tangi a Tauira – The Cry of the People, Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Natural Resource and Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2008 – pg 205

³ Ibid – pg 203



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13. Ngā Rūnanga, as kaitiaki, are responsible for protecting the mana and mauri of the environment that the proposed plan change applies to.
14. This submission progresses the aspirations of ngā Runanga as kaitiaki and rangatira of the Subantartics. Continued connection and access to place is essential to Ngai Tahu cultural identity.
15. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku provided detailed comments on proposed provisions of the proposed Regional Coastal Plan as per Clause 4A of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991. We note the Department's response to this feedback which is outlined on pages 84 – 87 of the Section 32 Report.
16. We support a full review of the Regional Coastal Plan to fully enable mana whenua aspirations for the takiwā to be incorporated in the Regional Coastal Plan.
17. Ngāi tahu seeks the same access and opportunities to the Subantartic Islands, as afforded by the Crown. This is considered appropriate to reflect an authentic partnership relationship between iwi and the Crown.
18. The following amendments are sought to the performance standards 5 and 6 to reflect the request outlined in paragraph 17 above making it clear that research and management work should specifically include Ngāi Tahu exercising their rights and interests to tino rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga through the implementation of Mātauranga Māori.



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Performance Standard 5

Access by vessels to Port Ross in the winter months of 1 April to October 31 under Rules 38 and 39 (research and management work and Ngāi Tahu exercising their rights and interests to tino rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga through Mātauranga Māori) must meet the following requirements at all times:

- a. No transiting at night, after sunset and before sunrise; AND
- b. No transiting in reduced visibility, e.g., fog or heavy rain: AND
- c. A bow watch for whales is kept on vessels entering, transiting and departing; AND
- d. Chain anchor lines are to be used and additional anchoring gear is carried on the vessel; AND
- e. Vessel has prevention and response plans in place, including: an entanglement prevention and release plan; a prevention of damage to manoeuvring equipment and response in the event of damage to manoeuvring equipment plan; AND
- f. Vessels shall not exceed a speed of 4 knots.
- g. Vessels owned and/or operated by Ngāi Tahu must meet the requirements of (b) – (f) only.

Performance Standard 6

Access by all vessels to Auckland Islands and Campbell Island generally, and particularly Northwest Bay at Campbell Island, in the winter months of 1 April to 31 October (when the southern right whales are typically present) must comply with the following requirements at all times:

- a. Avoid as far as practicable transiting at night, after sunset and before sunrise, and in reduced visibility, e.g., fog or heavy rain, within 0.54nm (1000m) of MHWS; AND
- b. Keep a bow watch for whales within 0.54nm (1000m) of MHWS; AND



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- c. Chain anchor lines are to be used and additional anchoring gear is to be carried on the vessel; AND
- d. Vessels owned and/or operated by Ngāi Tahu must meet the requirements of (b) – (c) only.

19. *Changing the word 'Significant' to 'outstanding' throughout plan* - it is not clear what evidence has been used to support the change from significant to outstanding. Whilst it could be considered the intent of the plan is to achieve a high level of protection and as such meets an 'outstanding values' threshold, we consider this assumption would still need to be 'tested' and / or evidential support provided with the plan change to support this change. We also seek to understand what the practical implications are on a plan user for the shift in policy framework?
20. We further note that any contribution to the identified landscape 'value' status of the area would need to include mana whenua values. Given the operative plan is dated 2007 we consider there to be a likely knowledge gap in respect of mana whenua input into the determination of this landscape classification. As noted above, we seek to understand what the evidential basis was for the proposed change and what are the practical implications on a plan user for the shift in policy framework?

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received:

Submitter ID:

Submission Form (Form 5)

Submission on Proposed Plan Change 1: Regional Coastal Plan: Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands

[Form 5](#) Submissions on a Publicly Notified Proposed Regional Coastal Plan under Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Return your signed submission by 5pm 22 October 2025 via:

Email: planchange1@doc.govt.nz with subject line: Proposed Plan Change 1: Regional Coastal Plan: Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands

Post: Department of Conservation, Private Bag 3072, Hamilton 3240
Attention: Jesse Gooding, RSP Resource Management Team

All sections of this form need to be completed for your submission to be accepted. Your submission will be checked for completeness, and you may be contacted to fill in any missing information.

Full name: Margaret Ferguson

Phone: [REDACTED]

Organisation: Te Ao Mārama
(*the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of)

Email: margaret.ferguson@tami.maori.nz

Postal address: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Address for service: name, email and postal address (if different from above):

Trade Competition

Pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission may make a submission only if directly affected by an effect of the proposed policy statement or plan that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Please tick the sentence that applies to you:

- ☒ I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission; or
- ☐ I **could** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- If you have ticked this box please select one of the following:**
- ☐ I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission
- ☐ I **am not** directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission

Hearing Submissions [select appropriate box]:

- ☒ I wish to be heard in support of my submission.
- ☐ I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission.
- ☐ If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.
- ☐ If others make a similar submission, I will not consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

- *In accordance with clause 7 of Schedule 1 of the RMA, the Council will make a summary of your submission publicly available. The contact details you provide will also be made publicly available, because under clause 8A of Schedule 1 of the RMA any further submission supporting or opposing your submission must be forwarded to you by the submitter (as well as being sent to Council).*
- *Section 352 of the RMA allows you to choose your email to be your address for service. If you select this option, you can also request your postal address be withheld from being publicly available. To choose this option please tick the relevant boxes below.*

- ☒ I would like my address for service to be my email.
- ☒ I have selected email as my address for service, and I would also like my postal address withheld from being publicly available.

Signature:



Date:

22.10.25

(Signature of person making submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making the submission – unless you are providing your submission by email).

Please note that your submission (or part of your submission) may be struck out if the authority is satisfied that at least 1 of the following applies to the submission (or part of the submission):

- it is frivolous or vexatious:*
- it discloses no reasonable or relevant case:*
- it would be an abuse of the hearing process to allow the submission (or the part) to be taken further:*
- it contains offensive language:*
- it is supported only by material that purports to be independent expert evidence but has been prepared by a person who is not independent or who does not have sufficient specialised knowledge or skill to give expert advice on the matter.*

Please see attached Submission.