

From: BDC Looima
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Official Information Request for Ministry for Environment - Research on SASMs Ref: OIA 091/25
Date: Monday, 29 September 2025 11:11:00 am

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request dated 1 September for information relating to Research on SASMs.

Please see our responses below in red:

We are undertaking research on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment on Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASMs). The key objective of our analysis is to identify the scale and spread across the country of the use of SASMs and the types of sites/areas for which this mechanism is currently in use.

Requested Information

We are requesting the following information held by Buller District Council:

1. Does your Council recognise SASMs (or an equivalent mechanism) in your planning instruments and/or in a non-regulatory way?

Recognised in the operative Buller District Plan (please see information links below):

<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/nqgbvp23/part-14-schedule-of-historic-buildings-and-sites.pdf>

<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/dxqj0oijt/part-16-statutory-acknowledgments-and-nohoanga-entitlements.pdf>

Recognised in the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP)

<https://tppp.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SASM-APPENDIX-TWO-FINAL-SASM-Schedule-Three-2025-09-08.pdf>

We discuss the importance of accidental discovery when applicable with public

2. How many SASMs are currently recognised in your district/region?

211 are listed in the TTPP (West Coast Region) panel recommendations.
Decision expected to be publicly notified on 10 October as accepted by the TTPP joint committee on 23 September 2025.

3. Please share with us any information you can on where they are located (including any maps you have) and information on whether (and if possible, how many) you have any SASMs on a closed register. Please provide any information you can on the SASMs you hold information on.

TTPP maps can be viewed on eplan: <https://westcoast.isoplan.co.nz/eplan/>
<https://tppp.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SASM-APPENDIX-TWO-FINAL-SASM-Schedule-Three-2025-09-08.pdf> (note: decision is intended to be notified on 10 October 2025)

Operative Buller District Plan **Maps C series** are linked below (please scroll down on the webpage). <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/buller-district-plan/>

Silent file noted for the West Coast region in the TTPP as SASMs 26, 38, 41, 42, 49, 53, 64, 71, 80, 122, 127, 130, 135, 155, 162, 165, 168, 175, 199 and 207.

<https://tppp.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SASM-APPENDIX-TWO-FINAL-SASM-Schedule-Three-2025-09-08.pdf>

4. What types of SASMs are currently recognised by your council?

0. E.g. wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna, statutory acknowledgement areas, urupā, pā, cultural resources, cultural landscapes, natural features etc.

Wahi tohu, Māori Reserves, Kainga site, Pa site, Mahinga Kai, Tauranga waka, Wahi Tapu, Traditional nohoanga, Cultivations, Statutory Acknowledgement area (waterbody), Urupa, Ara tawhito, Cave, Wahi taonga, Ara tawhito, Kainga sites, Tohu whenua, Ancestors embedded in the landscape, Burial cave, Marae, Pounamu legends, Battle site, Maunga

5. How many SASMs are land-based, water-based, or are across both land and water?

211 in the TTPP (West Coast region)

23 listed as having a waterbody value as schedule for TTPP (West Coast region)

6. What are the potential implications associated with the recognition of SASMs

in your district/region?

0. E.g. are there any tikanga requirements, additional controls on development, special requirements for earthworks, water-takes, building etc.

Recognition of SASMs results in controls and considerations when development is proposed to occur.

Consultation with relevant Iwi authority is encouraged and, in many cases is required when a rule is triggered requiring resource consent. Advice sought from Iwi could result in consent conditions.

7. What processes and areas of your council use SASMs?

Council wide projects (i.e. infrastructure projects). It is important to check the area of development for SASM sites and undertake any pre-consultation with Ngāi Tahu.

When a resource consent requirement is triggered, the site is checked if a SASM is nearby or on the site of the project.

8. What is the rationale and evidence used to support the use of SASMs in these processes?

Consultation and active participation with Ngāi Tahu. Identification of SAMS using the best knowledge and records held by Ngāi Tahu.

The proposed TTPP has meant that recent in-depth attention has been given to SASMs within Buller and the whole of the West Coast.

The TTPP has just been through a very large and thorough public process. On 24 September the TTPP Committee accepted recommendations of the hearings panel.

9. What rationale and evidence base does your council use when considering whether a SASM should be recognised in your council processes?

SASM sites for the Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP) were identified through a collaborative process with Poutini Ngāi Tahu. Sites identified in the operative District Plan were also considered.

The TTPP process is administered by the West Coast Regional Council who hold details on participation undertaken.

Ngāi Tahu have been involved in the identification and mapping of the SASMs. A Ngāi Tahu representative was on the technical advisory team alongside

technical staff from the Buller, Grey and Westland Districts when drafting the TTPP rules.

10. Are there any other relevant statistics or other information relating to SASMs that you can provide that would help us understand how and why SASMs are recognised by your council in your district/region?

N/A

The documentation attached represents our best efforts to locate material relevant to your request. However, the search process is by no means an exact science. It is possible that there may be other items of relevance that have been unintentionally missed in the search.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to lgoima@bdc.govt.nz.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Regards,

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DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunhere O Kawatiri

VOTE
2025
LOCAL ELECTIONS

Be counted in Buller.

Simply complete your voting paper, seal it in the envelope provided, and drop it into a vote bin near you right up until noon on Saturday 11 October.



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