

Te Tai Poutini Plan Committee

MEDIA RELEASE – 23 December 2019

Inaugural meeting of Te Tai o Poutini Committee discusses important West Coast issues

The Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee met on 19 December for its inaugural meeting post-election.

Prior to the meeting, the Committee were involved in a workshop to discuss the Te Tai o Poutini Plan process, and in particular, the key issues of natural hazards and biodiversity protection.

In relation to biodiversity, Committee Chair Rex Williams said, “it is important that the West Coast community understands that decision making around Significant Natural Areas rests with Te Tai o Poutini Committee, not central government.”

“There is no set percentage of the West Coast that should, or will, be Significant Natural Areas. Past work completed by the three district councils on Significant Natural Areas will form an important basis for Te Tai o Poutini Plan to work from, and no Significant Natural Areas will be identified unless there has been a physical on site assessment.”

In relation to natural hazards, the workshop addressed the wide range of hazards facing the West Coast, and how Te Tai o Poutini Plan will need to include measures to manage the risks to people and property.

“Consultation will be a key part of deciding what provisions are included in Te Tai o Poutini Plan in relation to both biodiversity and natural hazards,” said Mr Williams.

The preparation of Te Tai o Poutini Plan will be a multi-year process.

“The Committee will be seeking community views on the plan content on multiple occasions, so we urge community members and landowners to attend the workshops and drop in sessions to talk about their issues, as well as their and aspirations for the future”.

The drop in sessions will be held region wide during February and March 2020. More information on the dates and locations will be published on Te Tai o Poutini website – www.ttpn.nz

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee is made up of the Mayors and Chair of the four councils, a further representative from each council and the Chairs of the two Poutini Ngai Tahu hapu on the West Coast.

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