

OIR: 2526/94

15 September 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **1 September 2025** requesting the following information:

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

Yes, I can confirm that:

- The Kāpiti Coast District Council formally recognises Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASMs).
- This recognition is implemented through the Kāpiti Coast District Plan 2021, in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the National Planning Standards.
- SASMs are specifically provided for in a dedicated chapter within the "Historical and Cultural Values" section.
- Schedule 9 of the District Plan contains the official list of recognised and protected SASMs. Currently, this list recognises 43 SASMs.

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

Please refer to the Response to Question 1.

Further to this, I can confirm that an additional two sites are in the process of being formally included in Schedule 9 through Plan Change 3 – Karewarewa Urupa.

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.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

I can confirm that the Council does not maintain a closed register for SASMs; all recognised sites are publicly listed in Schedule 9. Of note:

- The geographic locations of SASMs are publicly available via the Kapiti Coast District Plan online mapping system – [E-Plan](#).
- Regarding information on SASMs, please find attached:
 - ✓ The section 32 evaluation report (attached) that underpinned the notification of the Proposed District Plan 2012 (PDP) sets out the legislative requirements and the options considered when including SASMs in the PDP.
 - ✓ The RMA section 42A report to the Hearings Panel on waahi tapu matters and submissions, and Appendices A and B to the section 42A report.
 - ✓ The September 2017 Hearings Panel recommendation report on waahi tapu matters (including SASMs).
- Please also see the Proposed Plan Change 3 – Karewarewa Urupa webpage, which contains all relevant information underpinning the proposed inclusion of this SASM within the District Plan:
<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/PC3/>

I understand that Council holds wider records related to SASMs, which includes but is not limited to:

- Letters to landowners from Council and resulting correspondence regarding proposed SASM listings in the 2012 PDP.
- Forty-two submissions and twenty-four further submissions relevant to SASMs (waahi tapu) listings in the PDP.
- Historical and resource consenting information relevant to SASMs, including but not limited to Karewarewa Urupa (Tamiti Place).
- Information provided to Council by other parties relevant to SASM's, such as Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

Some of this information is held in physical archive files which would take additional time to locate and package to be included in a response. Therefore, if you require additional information can you please be more specific on the information requested to enable this information to be identified and collated.

4. What types of SASMs are currently recognised by your council? E.g. wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna, statutory acknowledgement areas, urupā, pā, cultural resources, cultural landscapes, natural features etc.

Council has five categories of SASMs in Schedule 9 of District Plan:

- Wāhanga Tahi: Urupā (Māori burial grounds) and parekura (battlefield).
- Wāhanga Rua: urupā (Māori burial grounds), pā (village), papakāinga (place of settlement).
- Wāhanga Toru: Urupā (Māori burial grounds), pā (village), taipā (sandhill), aituā (site of disaster/death), kāinga (village/settlement), niu/pou (pole, statute, monument), taumata (site of death of a rangitira), tauranga waka/ika (canoe), mahinga kai (traditional food gathering place), awa (river), papakāinga (place of settlement).

- Wāhanga Wha: Marae (traditional meeting place)
- Wāhanga Rima: Waahi Tapu Area

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

Please see the geographic locations of all listed SASMs within the Kapiti Coast District via the Kapiti Coast District Plan online mapping system – [E-Plan](#)

6. *What are the potential implications associated with the recognition of SASMs in your district/region? E.g. are there any tikanga requirements, additional controls on development, special requirements for earthworks, water-takes, building etc.*

Please see the publicly accessible SASM – Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori chapter of the District Plan for specific provisions apply to subdivision, use and development of land containing a SASM:

<https://eplan.kapiticoast.govt.nz/eplan/rules/0/188/0/0/0/245>

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

Although information on SASMs contained within Schedule 9 of the District Plan is available to inform various Council processes, the primary application is the resource consent process. Information on SASMs may also used to provide information to the public and for strategic planning purposes.

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

The rationale and evidence for the inclusion of SASMs in the District Plan can be found within the attachments listed for Council's response to Question 3 above.

Please see the relevant section 32 evaluation report and appendices that supported the Proposed District Plan, and the section 32 evaluation report and appendices that supported the notification of Proposed Plan Change 3 – Kārewarewa Urupā.

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

The Council considers new formal recognition of a SASM through a statutory plan change process as prescribed by Schedule 1 of the RMA. This ensures a robust, evidence-based approach that includes research, engagement with mana whenua, affected landowners, and public consultation.

Please see the section 32 evaluation reports referred to in Council's response to Question 3 for more information on rationale and evidence.

Please also see the following provisions of the Kapiti Coast District Plan :
(<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/council/forms-documents/district-plan/operative-district-plan-2021/>):

- Objective DO-O1 – Tangata Whenua
- Objective DO-O7 – Historic Heritage
- Policy SASM-P1 – Waahi Tapu
- Policy HH-P1 – Identify Historic Heritage
- Policy HH-P2 – Criteria for Identifying Historic Heritage
- Policy HH-P3 – Additional Listings for the Schedule of Historic Heritage, Schedule of Notable Trees, or Schedule of Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori
- Policy HH-P4 – Protection of Historic Heritage

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?

As an overarching comment that may assist you, Council notes that the recognition and protection via the district plan of SASMs including waahi tapu sites and areas is a requirement of the RMA, as referred to in Council's response to Question 8 above.

Ngā mihi,



Kris Pervan

Group Manager Strategy and Growth
Te Kaihautū Rautaki me te Tupu