

**From:** [Simone Anthony](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA request - Ministry for the Environment research on Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori  
**Date:** Monday, 1 September 2025 4:15:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [Operative District Plan Appendix 2.4.pdf](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
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[image015.png](#)  
[image016.png](#)

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Kia ora [REDACTED]

I refer to your official information request dated 1 September 2025 for Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori in the Tararua District.

Our response to your request for information is outlined below, also, please see attached document as referred to in the responses:

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

Yes, Māori Sites and Areas that are registered with NZ Heritage have been incorporated into Appendix 2.4 of the Operative District Plan (see attached) and they are protected by a planning rule framework under Section 5.5.3 of the Plan. We also have developed an informal memorandum of understanding with both of our Iwi for processing resource consents where we acknowledge that we have not identified all of the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori in our District Plan and therefore, we pre-circulate all of our resource consents to Iwi so that they can feed into this process. If there is a site of cultural significance then either Iwi can let us know and then we can request a cultural impact assessment from the applicant and use the notification provisions of the RMA. We also actively encourage our customers to pre-engage with Iwi prior to lodging a resource consent

<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/property/planning-and-resource-consents/iwi-consultation-for-consents>. We also acknowledge the statutory acknowledgements for both Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua. Our Council is also working with both Iwi on a larger project to map as a mapping layer on Local Maps. and provide an informal register for the culturally significant Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori. This could be an internal tool that is used by Council and Iwi to ensure that these sites are protected in the future.

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

28 sites in our Operative District Plan and Statutory Acknowledgement 'Rohe areas' for both Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua.

**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.***

Refer to appendix 2.4 of ODP and Statutory Acknowledgement 'Rohe areas' for both Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua <https://www.tararua.govt.nz/property/planning-and-resource-consents/iwi-consultation-for-consents>

## [consents/iwi-consultation-for-consents](#)

### 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.*

Our Council acknowledges all SASMs but we rely on our Iwi to be the gatekeepers of this information currently.

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

Difficult to answer – spread across our District and tied to whenua and water.

### 6. *What are the potential implications associated with the recognition of SASMs in your district/region?*

We utilise the provisions of RMA notification to manage this and where necessary will require cultural impact assessments, as discussed, all consents are circulated to both of our Iwi to ensure no SASMs are missed.

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

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

Planning, Projects, 3Ws.

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

Planning facilitates this process with the support of our Iwi.

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

This is being developed but it is predominantly Iwi led.

### 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?*

Unsure.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,



**Simone Anthony | Democracy Support Officer**

**Democracy Services | Tararua District Council**

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, 1 September 2025 10:01 am

**To:** Info - Tararua District Council <[Info-Tararua.DistrictCouncil@Tararua.govt.nz](mailto:Info-Tararua.DistrictCouncil@Tararua.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** LGOIMA request - MfE research on SASMs

**EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT:** Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

Tēnā koe,

I am writing to request information under the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

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 Tararua District Council:

1. Does your Council recognise SASMs (or an equivalent mechanism) in your planning instruments and/or in a non-regulatory way?
2. How many SASMs are currently recognised in your district/region?
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.
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.
5. How many SASMs are land-based, water-based, or are across both land and water?
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.
7. What processes and areas of your council use SASMs?
8. What is the rationale and evidence used to support the use of SASMs in these processes?
9. What rationale and evidence base does your council use when considering whether a SASM should be recognised in your council processes?
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?

**Additional Notes**

- The request for information relates to SASMs but the information could relate to an equivalent mechanism.
- If the requested information is already publicly available, please advise where it may be accessed.
- Please provide an estimated timeframe if work is likely to extend beyond the statutory timeframe for a LGOIMA response.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request. I look forward to your response.

Ngā mihi,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

☐ [Redacted]  
☐ [Redacted]  
☐ [Redacted]

[Redacted]  


## 2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND WAAHI TAPU

SCHEDULE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES							
Map ID Number	DP Map Number	Description	Location			Identification Requested By	District Plan Classification (for the purpose of activity status determination see 5.5.2)
			Map Sheet	Metric Easting	Metric Northing		
201	16	Ovens	T25	2742400	6066700	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
202	16	Pa	T25	2741900	6068100	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
203	20	Midden Midden	U24 U24	2809700 2809900	6071900 6071900	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
204	20	Midden Midden	U24 U24	2807700 2807700	6070500 6070500	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
205	20	Shell Midden Ovens/Midden	U24 U24	2809300 2809000	6071700 6071700	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
206	20	Shell Midden	U24	2808000	6070600	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
207	20	Midden	U24	2807600	6070500	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
208	20	Midden	U24	2807800	6070500	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
209	20	Midden	U24	2809000	6071500	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
210	25	Cooking Area	U25	2792700	6052900	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
211	25	Pa	U25	2792400	605200	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
212	26	Midden Ovens	U25	2799000	6060900	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
213	26	Terrace/Midden	U25	279900	6060800	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
214	20	Midden	V24	2813600	6073100	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
215	20	Midden	V24	2813100	6073000	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
216	20	Midden	V24	2810000	6072000	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
217	20	Midden	V24	2810400	6072200	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
218	20	Shell Midden	V24	2817000	6073800	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
219	20	Shell Midden	V24	2813400	6073200	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
220	20	Pa	V24	2811200	6073800	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
221	20	Occupation	V24	2813700	6073400	NZ Historic Places Trust	B

SCHEDULE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES							
Map ID Number	DP Map Number	Description	Location			Identification Requested By	District Plan Classification (for the purpose of activity status determination see 5.5.2)
			Map Sheet	Metric Easting	Metric Northing		
222	20	Midden/Occupation	V24	2813400	6073300	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
223	20	Midden/Occupation	V24	2813400	6073300	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
224	20	Occupation	V24	2813400	6073300	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
225	20	Occupation	V24	2813700	6073300	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
225	20	Occupation	V24	2813300	6073600	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
225	20	Midden	V24	2813100	6073200	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
226	6	Copper Mine	T23	2754600	61036000	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
227	20	Pa	U24	2807300	6070500	NZ Historic Places Trust	B
228	30	Karaka Grove	U25	2784500	6047700	NZ Historic Places Trust	B