

LGOIMA Response to [REDACTED]

Thursday 7 November 2024

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, received by the Gore District Council on Wednesday 9 October. You asked for the following:

*As ratepayers and land owners of the Gore District Council we would like clarification on the following points;*

- 1. What alternatives were considered before this resolution was settled on?*
- 2. What are the benefits of this proposal vs other alternative options available ?*
- 3. Who benefits from a plan such as this, in what way?*
- 4. What consultation with local iwi and tangata whenua has been completed regarding this? And what is their perspective on protecting areas of significance?*
- 5. Will this proposal affect our property value?*
- 6. How will GDC afford to audit these areas across the whole district?*
- 7. What will the social and economic implications be to this mapping ?*
- 8. Why is GDC the only council to map a full district in it's plan?*
- 9. Why were rate payers not consulted ?*
- 10. Why is GDC not pausing the plan due to the RMA & Section 6 reforms the new National Govt has committed to ?*

We have compiled the following responses to your questions:

- The first two questions are well covered in our Section 32 reports which analyse how we meet the objectives in the District Plan and are documented so that stakeholders and community can understand the reasoning behind any provisions that are made in the proposed Plan. The section 32 analysis for mana whenua chapters can be found here: <https://goredc.govt.nz/manawhenuas32>  
This will answer your first and second question. It is long, but there is an executive summary which is helpful and then you can drill down on specific concerns using the contents page.
- Please refer to the answer to question 1 above.
- The community (including landowners) will benefit as the proposed approach to SASM means consideration is only needed when consent is already required for other specified matters.

4. The Hokonui Rūnanga's rights and interests have been considered in preparation of the Proposed District Plan through mana whenua mandated representation on our District Plan Review sub-committee. In addition, the Hokonui Rūnanga has co-drafted chapters of particular relevance to mana whenua, such as the Mana Whenua, Sites of Significance to Māori and Māori Purpose Zone chapters. Input from mana whenua has also been sought at a technical level on a matter-by-matter basis throughout the Proposed Plan. This input, alongside guidance from iwi and Rūnanga environmental planning documents, has informed the policy approach for these matters.

The Hokonui Runanga provided a submission to the PDP which can be viewed at <https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/submissions> (Submission number 139). The SASM hearing report was published on Councils website on 4 November 2024 and reflects the most up to date position <https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/hearing-stream-8-historical-heritage-notable-trees-sites-and-areas-of-significance-to-maori>. This proposes replacement of the SASM chapter with a Ngai Tahu Cultural Values Chapter that clarifies that the entire District is not a SASM.

5. No – The proposal has less impact than the Status quo and consideration will only be required if consent is needed for other matters.
6. No Audit is required as information will be gathered when consent is required for other matters.
7. SASM have not been mapped across the district. Input from Hokonui Rūnanga will be required when consent is needed for other reasons such as works close to rivers. Further detail on this can be found in the Hearings report now available on the District Plan Website at <https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/hearing-stream-8-historical-heritage-notable-trees-sites-and-areas-of-significance-to-maori>
8. As noted SASM have not been mapped. The social and economic impacts of the proposal are considered in the s32 Assessment referenced above and in the Hearings report now available on the District Plan Website at <https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/hearing-stream-8-historical-heritage-notable-trees-sites-and-areas-of-significance-to-maori>
9. The public had the opportunity to provide feedback on these matters in mid-2022 when the Draft District Plan was released. The public also had the chance to lodge formal submissions on the Proposed District Plan (PDP) in mid-2023. An Independent Hearing Panel will consider SASM in December this year and other matters next February. It is important to note that the panel has not made any decisions on these matters to date.  
It is anticipated decisions will be released in mid-2025 following the hearings. As you did not lodge a formal submission you do not have automatic speaking rights at the hearing, but you can attend to observe. There may be an opportunity

for you to speak at the hearing in support of other submitters. However, this would be on the proviso you get their agreement and the hearing panel allows this leeway. A copy of all the submissions can be accessed at:

<https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/submissions>

10. The hearings for the PDP are underway and GDC has to operate under the current statutory environment and adapt when new reforms become law. Any national policy changes will be considered through the hearing process as well as submissions on the PDP seeking change to SASM approach and other matters.

If you are unsatisfied with the response, you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen. You can find more information on its website

<http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me on 209-0330.

Kind regards



Lornae Straith  
General Manager Corporate Support