

Policy Planning Services

Protecting and advancing your interests

New Zealand's planning system is being reshaped. The Planning Act and Natural Environment Act introduce National Direction, Regional Spatial Plans, Land Use Plans and Natural Environment Plans that will influence where and how land, infrastructure and natural resources can be used for decades.

For organisations with interests in land, infrastructure, industry, development or resource use, the stakes are significant. Decisions made through the new planning framework will affect asset values, operational flexibility, investment pathways and future growth. Understanding what is changing is only the starting point - the real value lies in knowing how to secure your interests through the planning process.

Making the most of opportunity

And managing risk

The reform brings both risk and opportunity. New plans will establish zoning, resource-use rules, development pathways and environmental limits across every region. By the time a plan is notified, important assumptions and policy directions will already be well advanced.

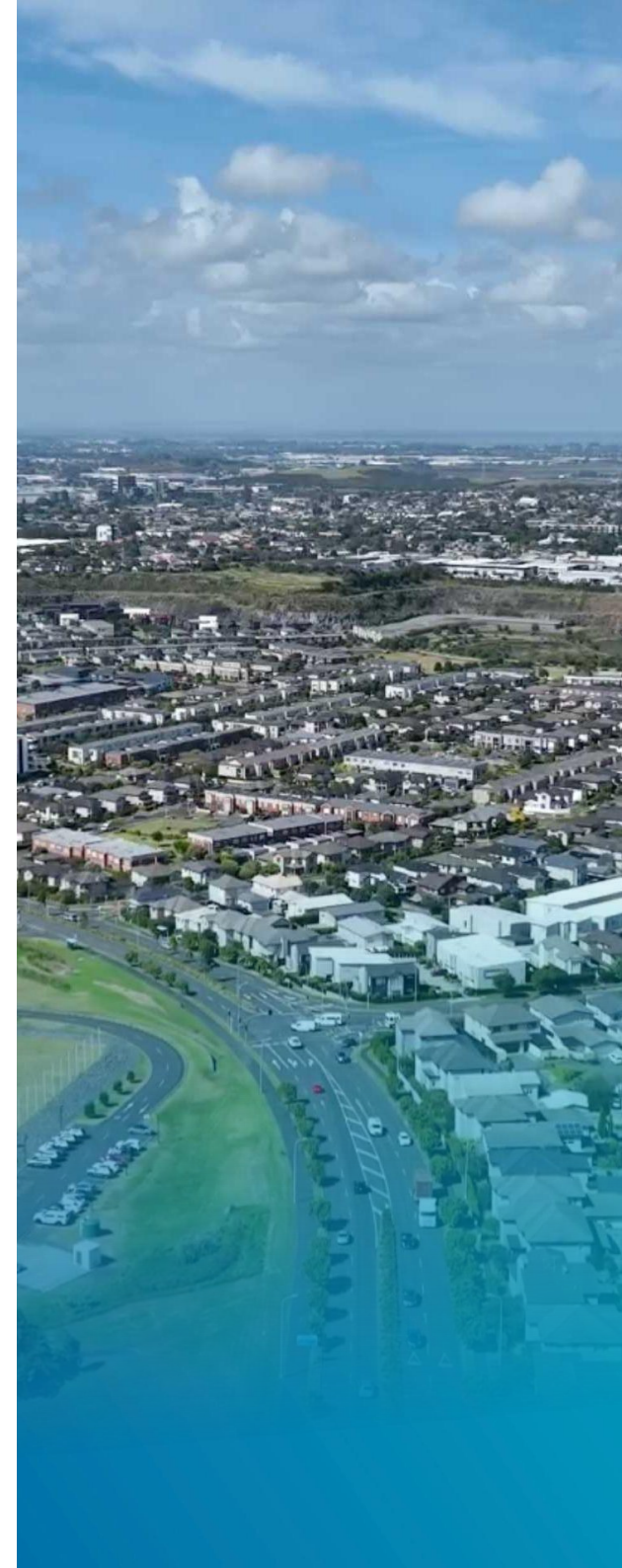
Early engagement in this process presents opportunity to secure long lasting outcomes - protecting your interests, removing avoidable constraints and positioning for the futures. But the transition timeframes are tight and the window for participation is limited. Preparation matters.

How we can help

Tonkin + Taylor is helping clients navigate the planning reform, translating uncertainty into opportunity and outcome. We identify what matters most to your organisation, test the implications for your assets and activities, and build a focused pathway for engaging with the planning process.

Our policy planners work alongside scientists, engineers and engagement specialists to connect strategy with the technical evidence and workable provisions needed to establish durable planning outcomes.

Whether you need targeted specialist advice or an integrated team to carry an issue from early strategy through to hearings and resolution, we help you invest effort where it will have the greatest impact.



Our services

Securing your interests

Strategy leading to action

Helping clients understand the impact of the reform process and chart a path to certainty and future opportunity:

- Strategic assessments of National Direction, Regional Spatial Plans, Land Use Plans and Natural Environment Plans to test implication and opportunity for your assets, operations, investment programmes and future development plans.
- Clear engagement roadmaps: what to influence, when to engage and what evidence will be needed.

Shaping planning outcomes

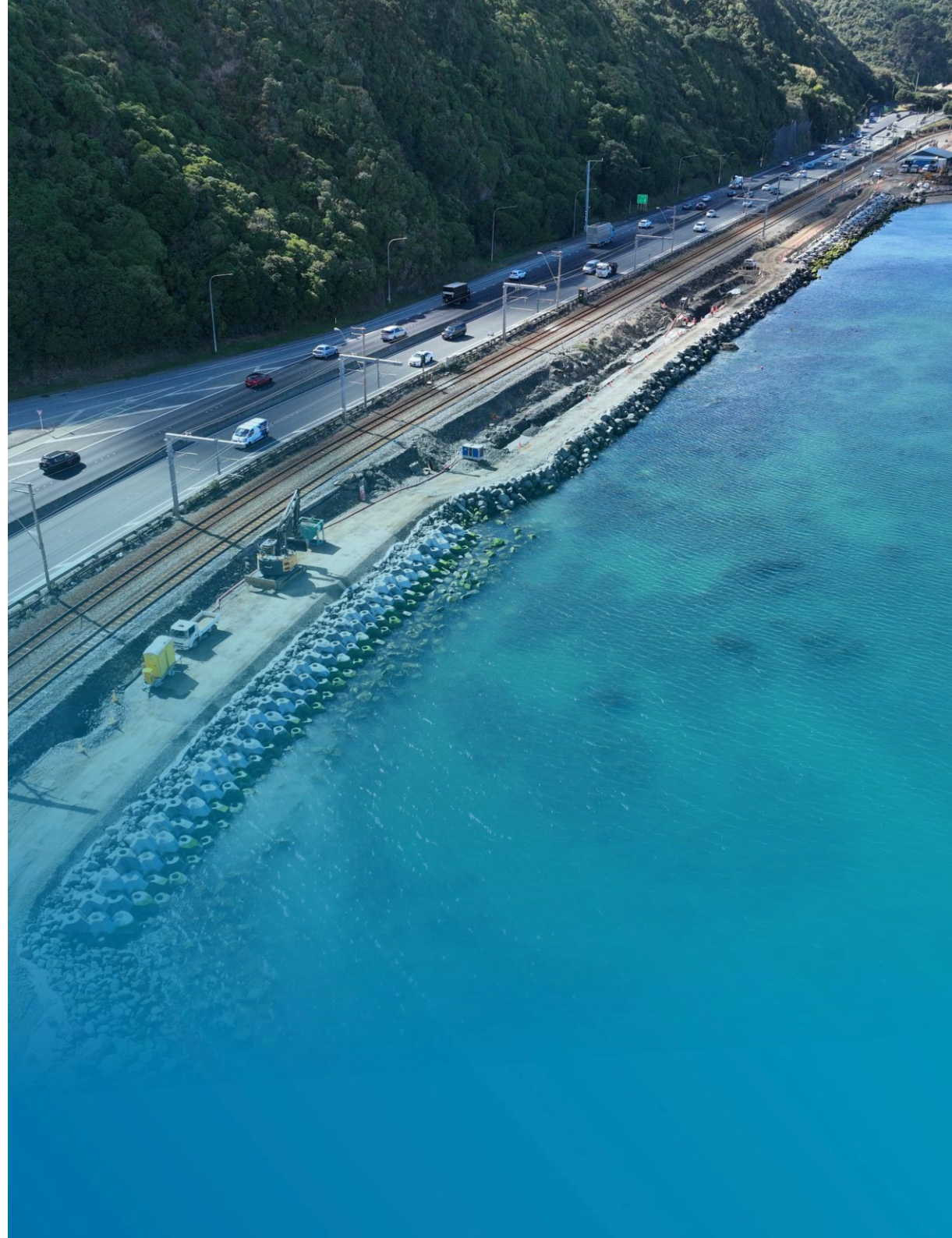
Combining the right planning, environmental and engineering expertise to stake a solid foundation for your objectives:

- Preparation of persuasive, well-evidenced submissions that secure your interests and shape the outcomes of the new planning documents for years to come.

Support to secure your investment

Supporting clients through the formal statutory process with robust advice and persuasive expert evidence:

- Expert planning evidence, hearing representation and coordinated technical evidence
- Mediation, facilitated resolution and support through appeals or other dispute processes



Our track record

Examples of our work on helping clients secure their outcomes through the planning process include:

Planning and Natural Environment Bills + national direction reform submissions, New Zealand Steel

T+T planners provided policy advice to New Zealand Steel on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill, helping identify matters of relevance to its operations and assisting with preparation of a submission to the Select Committee. The work drew on detailed legislative analysis and practical understanding of how proposed reforms may affect major industrial operations and future planning pathways. T+T also advised New Zealand Steel on the 2025 national direction reform package and earlier changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.

Marlborough Environment Plan - policy advice, plan submissions, evidence: NZTA, DoC

T+T planners prepared submissions and presented expert planning evidence across regional plan topics, including coastal environment, indigenous biodiversity and landscape, natural character and water quantity and quality, reflecting the wide range of central government agency interests. The work also included reviewing decisions, assessing scope of appeals, and providing strategic advice through hearings and post-decision processes.

NZDF Bases and facilities - policy advice, plan submissions, evidence: NZDF

T+T planners have provided ongoing policy advice, submissions, further submissions and expert evidence for the NZ Defence Force across district and regional plan reviews and plan changes nationwide.

This work includes extensive involvement in plan-making processes across multiple jurisdictions and addresses reverse sensitivity effects, temporary military training activities, noise, and protection of nationally significant infrastructure.

Otago Regional Plan, Plan Change 7 - policy advice, plan submissions, evidence: MfE

This work involved careful analysis of the NPSFM to provide meaningful assistance to the court and as the plan change progresses, will continue to provide valuable information to the project team. Tim's involvement with this project and specifically interaction with the NPSFM and National Environmental Standard for Freshwater (NES-F) places him at the forefront of discussions about freshwater reform implementation.

Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan - policy advice, plan submissions, evidence: NZDF, Watercare, Stolthaven, Downer, Waste Management, Visy

T+T planners reviewed provisions in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, prepared submissions and further submissions, and provided expert evidence through hearings, mediation and expert conferencing. This work included advice across topics such as earthworks, vegetation, temporary activities, significant infrastructure, coastal structures, water allocation and contaminated land.

Canterbury Regional Plan, Plan Change 7 - policy advice, plan submissions, evidence: Opuha Water Limited

Our work has involved leading multi-disciplinary inputs on the adaptive water management regime for the Opuha catchment. This work involved a multi-stakeholder collaborative decision-making group to guide decisions regarding flow releases and management in order to derive the most environmental, social, cultural and economic benefit from the available water stored in the dam.

Auckland Regional Landfill – private plan change: Waste Management NZ

T+T planners led the preparation of a private plan change and associated resource consent applications for a new regional landfill facility in Auckland. The work included preparation of expert planning evidence and presentation at Council hearings, demonstrating the team's ability to navigate complex plan change processes for nationally significant infrastructure.

Southland Regional Policy Statement - policy advice, plan submissions, evidence: Fulton Hogan and Southern Aggregates

T+T planners prepared a submission for Fulton Hogan and Southern Aggregates on the Proposed Southland Regional Policy Statement. The submission focused on quarrying and gravel extraction, including associated land use, water quality and water quantity issues, and was supported through expert planning evidence at hearings.

Why choose us?

We bring more than process knowledge. We combine policy planning expertise with leading engineering and environmental specialists to understand the real-world consequences of planning decisions - and to develop solutions that are credible, workable and responsive to decision-makers' concerns.

We have helped Crown and local government agencies, infrastructure providers, industry, investors, developers, landowners, iwi and primary producers navigate complex policy and plan-making processes across New Zealand.

We navigate change, focus on the issues that create the greatest value, and stay effective from early policy development through to decisions and implementation. As planning reform accelerates, we help make your engagement count.



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