

He whakamārama: Panonitanga Mahere Wai Ariki me te Mahere Whakahaere Ratonga o Ngā Wai Ariki o Tauranga Moana

Explainer: Geothermal Plan Change and Tauranga Geothermal SMP

Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council manages geothermal under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Key documents developed and used by Regional Council to manage this resource are the Regional Policy Statement, regional plans and system management plans.

What is a regional plan?

Regional plans manage the natural and physical resources in the Bay of Plenty. They include the policies and rules under which resource consents are granted. The purpose of a regional plan is to promote the sustainable and integrated management of resources and set out how these should be managed.

What is a plan change?

A plan change is the formal, legislative process of reviewing an existing operative regional plan and updating or replacing it to ensure the effectiveness of the plan. This process ensures the policies and rules, under which resource consents are granted, are fit for purpose and enable Regional Council to address current management challenges.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (s79), this review is required every 10 years.

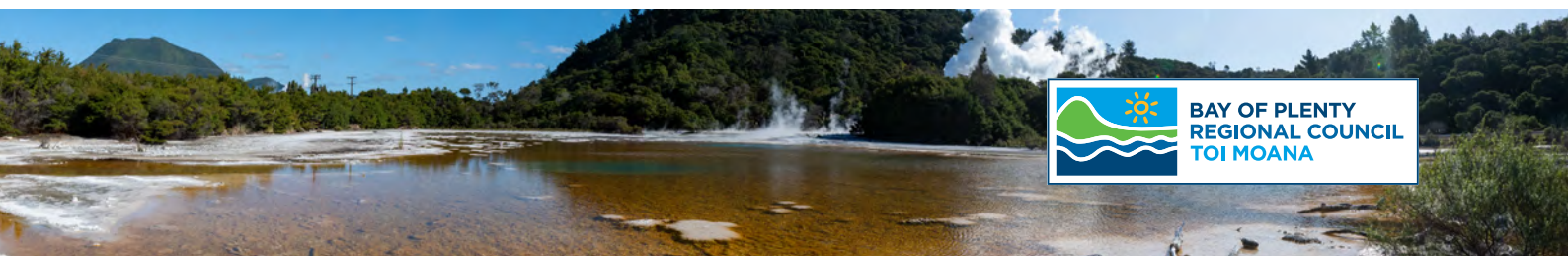
What is a system management plan (SMP)?

A system management plan (SMP) is an operational document that lays out how we intend to manage an individual geothermal system in an integrated way. It identifies specific actions and includes operational guidelines.

System management plans are required under the Regional Policy Statement for Development Systems or systems of high use. In the Bay of Plenty, this currently includes:

- Ngā Wai Ariki o Rotorua, Rotorua Geothermal System (SMP approved by Council April 2024)
- Kawerau Geothermal System (SMP currently under review)
- Tauranga Geothermal System (SMP currently in development)

The requirements of a system management plan are set out in the Regional Policy Statement, but the final content is specific to the system being managed.



**BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TOI MOANA**

What is the difference between a regional plan and a system management plan?

Regional plans contain the regulatory tools used by council for management of a system, including use of resources.

A system management plan sets out how we work operationally, through specific actions and guidance documents. A system management plan does not override regional plans or lawful resource consents but should be considered when implementing the Regional Natural Resources Plan.

For Rotorua and Tauranga, the content included in the system management plans will help inform changes to the geothermal provisions in the Regional Natural Resources Plan. For other systems (e.g. Conditional Development Systems), system management plans might form a part of information submitted in support of resource consent applications.

Plan Change 11 – Geothermal

Plan Change 11 will see a review of the geothermal objectives, policies and rules in both the Regional Natural Resources Plan and the Rotorua Geothermal Regional Plan, and will combine these into a single geothermal chapter in the Regional Natural Resources Plan.

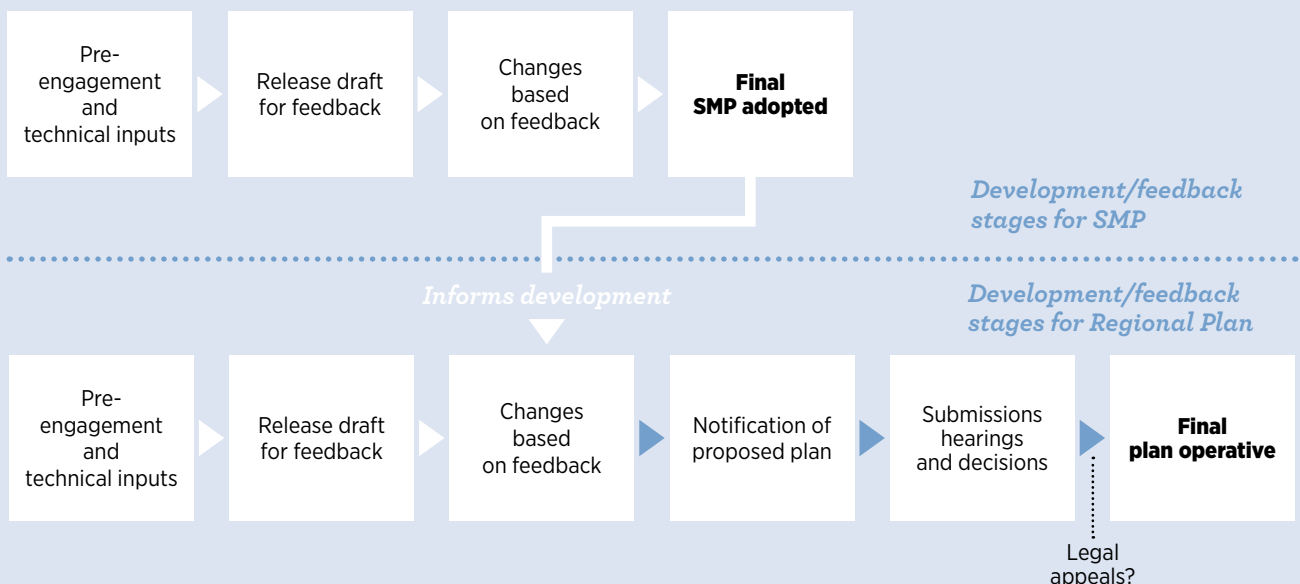
Tauranga Geothermal System Management Plan

The Tauranga System Management Plan seeks to ensure that the Tauranga geothermal system (extending from Waihi Beach to Maketū) is managed in an integrated and sustainable way. It will describe how we intend to manage the system, the values to be protected, and builds knowledge about the system.

What is the process of a plan change and a system management plan?

Community involvement, including pre-engagement and receiving feedback, are important steps in both the Plan Change and System Management Plan process.

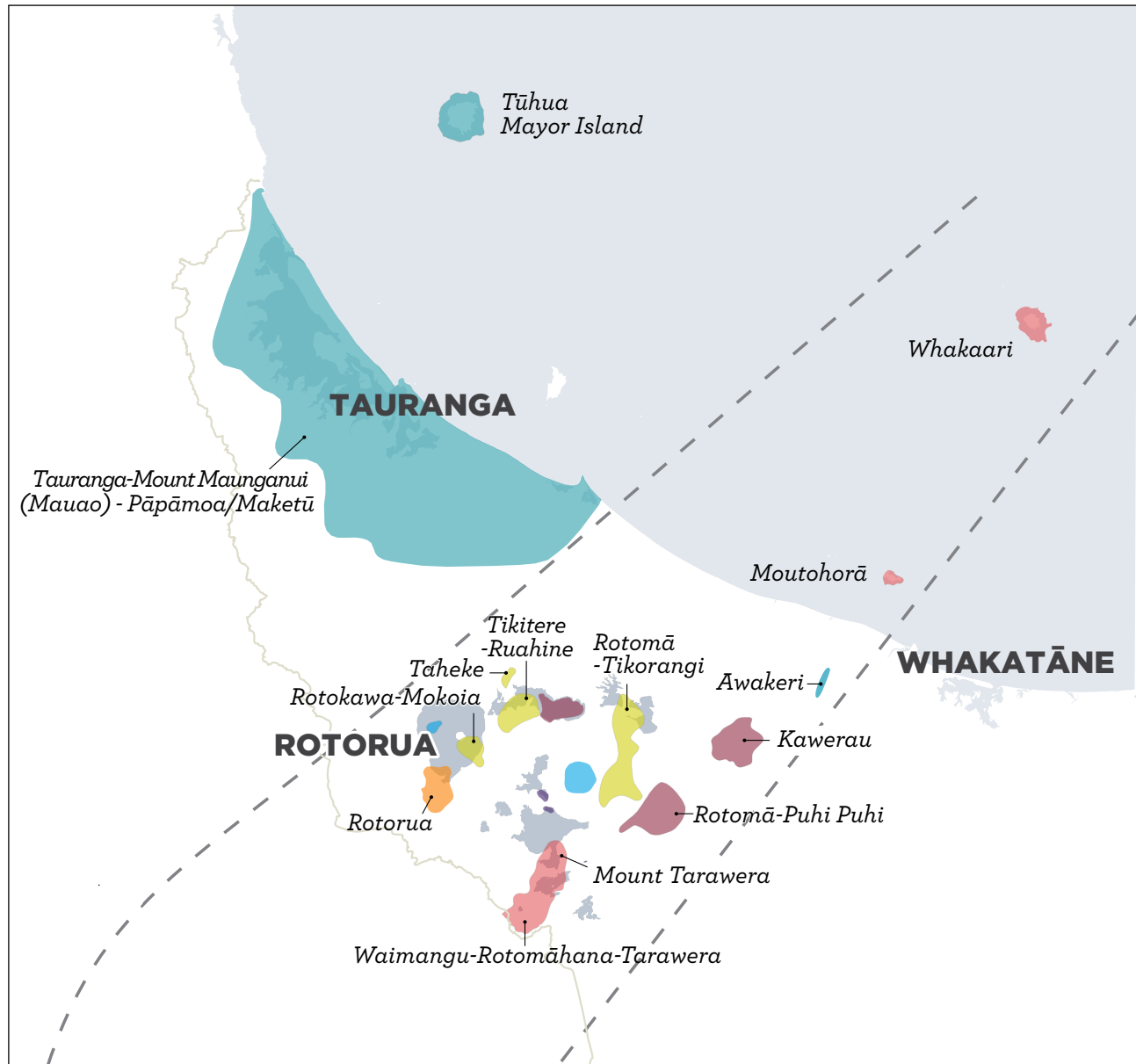
Plan Change 11 follows the process laid out in the Resource Management Act and requires another step, which involves formal notification of a proposed plan. This is not required for a system management plan.



Ngā pūnaha me ngā rōpū wai ariki ki Te Moana a Toi

Geothermal systems and groups in the Bay of Plenty

In the Bay of Plenty, geothermal systems have been classified into management groups which reflect their unique values and current uses.



WHY DO THEY NEED TO BE MANAGED DIFFERENTLY?

There are different management purposes for systems because of their different values and uses. Some systems are managed to protect their fragile geothermal features and cultural values (e.g., Rotorua), while others are managed to enable large-scale use of geothermal (e.g., Kawerau).

The challenge is to protect intrinsic and traditional cultural values while providing for the use of the energy resource. Council does this by taking a region-wide approach, providing for different values at a regional level rather than trying to provide for all values within each system.

KEY:

- Taupō Volcanic Zone
- Bay of Plenty Boundary
- Lake / Ocean
- Group 1: Protected systems
- Group 2: Rotorua
- Group 3: Conditional development systems
- Group 4: Development systems
- Group 5: Low temperature systems
- Group 6: Research systems
- Group 7: Geothermal occurrences

Tukuna mai āu kōrero ki te hukihuki Panoni Mahere 11 me te Mahere Pūnaha Whakahaere o Ngā Wai Ariki o Tauranga Moana

Have your say on the draft Plan Change 11 and the draft Tauranga Geothermal System Management Plan

We are now holding a period of community consultation on both draft Plan Change 11 and the draft Tauranga Geothermal System Management Plan.

We'd like your thoughts on our approach and the content and scope of these draft plans. You can provide feedback online via our Participate web portal: **participate.boprc.govt.nz** until 31 January 2025.

FOR PLAN CHANGE 11	FOR THE TAURANGA GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN
This feedback will be considered by Regional Council staff before formal notification of the Plan Change in late 2025. We're still in the early stages of this process, and there will be several chances for people to tell us what they think before we get to the end.	This feedback will be considered by Councillors before the Tauranga Geothermal System Management Plan is finalised and adopted by Bay of Plenty Regional Council in 2025.

Ngā pātai kia whakaarohia Questions to think about

- What do you think of our suggested approach?
- What do you like about the draft documents?
- What changes would you like to see made to the draft documents?

You can read the full version of the draft Plan Change 11 and draft Tauranga Geothermal System Management Plan on our Participate web portal.

- Plan Change 11: **participate.boprc.govt.nz/draft-pc-11**
- Tauranga Geothermal SMP: **participate.boprc.govt.nz/draft-tauranga-geo-SMP**

For more information visit
boprc.govt.nz/geothermal
or call 0800 884 880

