

Taiapure would thwart Akaroa marine reserve

Three Ngai Tahu runanga have applied for a taiapure covering all of Akaroa Harbour and two bays outside the Harbour entrance. The taiapure would not allow the proposed 530 ha Dan Rogers Marine Reserve on the Harbour's

outer eastern coast or any other reserves elsewhere in the Harbour.

Taiapure are established under the Fisheries Act to provide for local management of areas important to iwi or hapu. As a taiapure there is no guarantee that any of Akaroa Harbour would be permanently protected as "no take" areas.

If the Minister of Fisheries approves the taiapure application, the marine reserve proposal would be extinguished. Forest and Bird supports a taiapure over part of Akaroa Harbour but not the whole

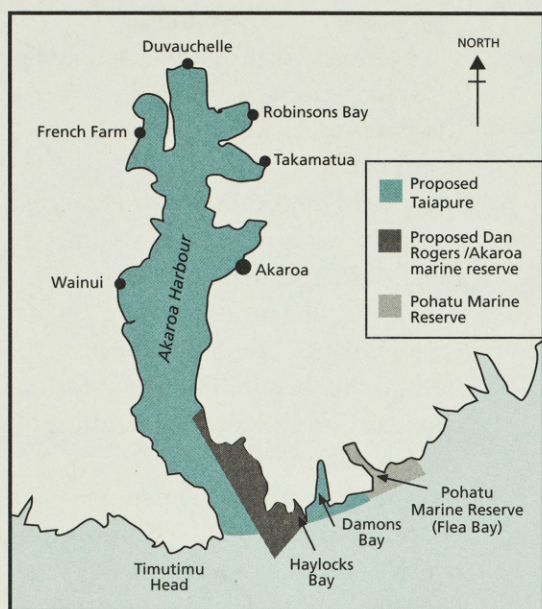
Harbour and beyond.

The proposed Dan Rogers Marine Reserve site would cover less than 10% of Akaroa Harbour and would be complementary to the taiapure. It would provide a scientific baseline to help assess the effects of management regimes in the taiapure.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to the Minister of Fisheries asking that:

- the boundaries of the proposed Akaroa taiapure be amended to exclude the proposed Dan Rogers Marine Reserve, and adjoining bays Haylocks Bay and Damons Bay.
- the proposed Dan Rogers Marine Reserve in Akaroa Harbour be approved with its boundaries extended along the open coast to join the small existing 216 ha Pohatu (Flea Bay) marine reserve.



Protect the environment – protect the RMA

The Resource Management Act (RMA) promotes the sustainable management of the environment and gives the community an opportunity to comment on proposed activities with significant environmental effects. The community can present relevant information to decision-makers, so that decisions are fair, balanced and sustainable.

Pre-election criticisms levelled at the RMA, saw the last Labour Government announcing it intended to reduce public input in an effort to reduce costs to business, despite New Zealand's low environmental compliance costs by international standards. An OECD Report published in 2001 shows New Zealand businesses require fewer permits under the RMA, than required in most of the 11 countries surveyed.

Labour prided itself on taking positive action on environmental issues during its last term in Government. But Labour's weak stance on the RMA suggests that its commitment to public participation in RMA processes is easily swayed. If we are to safeguard our environment and opportunities for public participation, the RMA needs to be strengthened, not weakened.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write to the Environment Minister and the Prime Minister and ask them to protect the RMA and not add Limited Notification to the Resource Management Amendment Bill. For more information see the Dispelling the Myths fact sheet on our website (www.forestandbird.org.nz)

Writing or sending emails to Ministers or MPs

The address is Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

No stamp is required. Email addresses are firstname.lastname@parliament.govt.nz

News in brief

Pests hitchhiking on containers

A review of shipping container inspections – scheduled to be released in September – is expected to show that many pests are slipping into the country on containers. Painted apple moth almost certainly arrived in New Zealand on a shipping container from Australia. When the report is released it is most important that the Government hears, via submissions, that we need much high levels of inspections of containers. Our website will host information about this report when it is released (see www.forestandbird.org.nz).

Greater pest surveillance effort needed

New Zealand does not have an effective biosecurity surveillance regime around high-risk areas such as ports and international airports. The importance of surveillance was highlighted earlier this year when invasive crazy ants were discovered during fire ant surveillance. New Zealand needs to substantially lift its surveillance effort to stop new pests arriving here. This is a critically important issue for the new Government.

Write to the Minister of Biosecurity asking that the government sets up an effective surveillance regime in high risk areas such as ports and airports.

Marine reserves campaign success

The Government introduced the Marine Reserves Bill to Parliament the day before Forest and Bird presented its marine reserves campaign banners to the Prime Minister. The new bill aims to streamline the marine reserves application process and should make it easier to create marine reserves. Well done to all of those who joined in the campaign, took the banners out and those of you who signed the banners. Submissions on the Bill will be called after the election.