

19 September 2025

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Local Government Official Information Request

Thank you for your request for information from Council. All requests to the Council for information are required to be considered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). More information about how the Council handles LGOIMA requests can be found in the Council's LGOIMA Request Policy which is available on the Council's website [LGOIMA Request Policy: Rangitikei District Council](#).

Your request for information was received on 1 September 2025 and requested information about Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASMs). Your questions and our response can be found below:

Question 1:

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

Response:

Yes, Rangitikei District Council recognises Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASMs) within its planning documents. The SASMs are identified in Schedule 1 of the Rangitikei District Plan lists Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori. The Rangitikei District Plan also identifies Statutory Acknowledgements and Areas of Interest which are described further in our answer to question 3 below.

Question 2:

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

Response:

There are 22 SASMs listed in the Rangitikei District Plan, including sixteen (16) Marae and six (6) wāhi tūpuna.

Question 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.

Response:

Please find below, links to information (including maps) on where SASM's are located within the Rangitikei District. Rangitikei District Council does not have a closed register.

1. Link 1: Schedule 1 of the Rangitikei District Plan (ePlan) identifies the SASM's within the Rangitikei District. The information can be accessed through this link [District Plan - Rangitikei District Plan](#)
2. Link 2: The following link to the Rangitikei District Plan (ePlan) provides a map showing the location of the listed SASMs: [Map - Rangitikei District Plan](#)

Making this place home.

3. Link 3: The following link provides information on the Statutory Acknowledgements and Areas of Interest identified in the Rangitikei District Plan (ePlan): [District Plan - Rangitikei District Plan](#). This link also includes maps showing the locations of the Statutory Acknowledgements and Areas.

Question 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.

Response:

The type of SASM's currently recognised by Rangitikei District Council are Marae (16) and wāhi tūpuna (6) together with the Statutory Acknowledgements and Areas of Interest for the iwi/hapū that have settled who have rohe that is within the Rangitikei District.

Question 5:

How many SASMs are land-based, water-based, or are across both land and water?

Response:

The SASM's within the Rangitikei District cover land, water, and land and water. However, Rangitikei District Council does not categorise SASMs as land-based, water-based, or across both land and water, which means we are unable to answer how many fit into each category. Please refer to the maps provided in our response to your question 3 (links 2 and 3) for information on the location of SASM's.

Question 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.

Response:

There are no rules or standards in the Rangitikei District Plan that specifically relate to SASMs. If an activity is proposed to occur within or adjacent to a SASM and consent is required, then Council will assess potential adverse effects on the SASM and notify the relevant iwi/hapū if they are assessed as being affected.

The relevant iwi/hapū will also be informed of activities proposed to occur within Statutory Acknowledgements and Areas of Interest.

Question 7:

What processes and areas of your council use SASMs?

Response:

Various departments refer to SASMs as part of the processes and/or projects what they are responsible for including:

- The Regulatory Group (department) of Council recognise SASMs and assess applications for consent to understand whether there will be any potential effects on a SASM. Officers follow legislated process to notified iwi/hapū if they are assessed as being adversely affected by a proposal.
- The Assets and Infrastructure Group (department) of Council assess whether there are any SASMs or Statutory Acknowledgements and Areas of Interest when they are planning projects (e.g. establishing new infrastructure and upgrade or altering existing infrastructure). Officers work with iwi/hapū where they may have an interest in, or be affected by, a project.

- The Strategy, Community and Democracy Group (department) work with iwi/hapū to build and maintain relationships. This Group includes our Strategic Advisor Mana Whenua and our Strategy Team (which is responsible for the administration of the District Plan). Officers from this Group will work with iwi/hapū to update the SASMs identified in the District Plan in the future.

Question 8:

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

Response:

The SASMs were identified as part of the development and review of the Rangitikei District Plan. Officers from all three areas outlined above assess applications for consent (or any Council projects) for any potential effects on SASMs in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. Council relies on advice from interested/affected iwi/hapū to determine appropriate use of SASMs.

Question 9:

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

Response:

Officers follow legislative requirements as well as being guided by the Strategic Advisor Mana Whenua and by the established relationships with iwi/hapū representatives when considering whether a SASM should be recognised as part of a process.

Question 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?

Response:

Council's search has not identified any other relevant statistics or other information related to SASMs that would be additional to the information provided above.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/about/contact-us/official-information> with your personal information removed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] 06 327 0099.

Yours sincerely,



Leanne Macdonald
Group Manager Corporate Services