

From: [OIA](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 1774 LGOIMA request - MfE research on SASMs
Date: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 9:21:59 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Request — Ministry for the environment on sites and areas of Significance to Maori (SASMs) Ref 1774

Below is our response to your official information request dated 01/09/2025.

Request	Response
1. Does your Council recognise SASMs (or an equivalent mechanism) in your planning instruments and/or in a non-regulatory way?	Yes, SASM are identified and recognised in the Partially Operative Selwyn District Plan (PODP).
2. How many SASMs are currently recognised in your district/region?	62. ASM currently recognised in the PODP.
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.	As set out in the Partially Operative Selwyn District Plan Home - Partially Operative Selwyn District Plan (Appeals Version) Refer to the SASM Schedules 1 to 5 for details of SASM identified in the district plan. There are no SASMs on a closed register or equivalent.
4. What types of SASMs are currently recognised by your council? <ul style="list-style-type: none">E.g. wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna, statutory acknowledgement areas, urupā, pā, cultural resources, cultural landscapes, natural features etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wāhi Taonga and Wāhi Tapu (29)Nga Turanga Tupuna (1)Ngā Wai (27)Statutory Acknowledgement Areas (4)Nohoanga (1)
5. How many SASMs are land-based, water-based, or are across both land and water?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Land based (23)Water based (30)Both land and water (9)
6. What are the potential implications associated with the recognition of SASMs in your district/region? <ul style="list-style-type: none">E.g. are there any tikanga requirements, additional controls on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource consent required for buildings and structures within any maunga SASM.Controls on mineral extraction, intensive primary production, primary industry and

development, special requirements for earthworks, water-takes, building etc.	plantation forestry, with some resource consent requirements where permitted standards are not met.
7. What processes and areas of your council use SASMs?	RMA planning (district plan and resource consents) Strategic planning (spatial planning)
8. What is the rationale and evidence used to support the use of SASMs in these processes?	<p>The identification of these sites and areas of cultural significance is fundamental to the District Council's achievement of sections 6, 7, and 8 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Statutory acknowledgement sites and nohonga are as set out in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. All SASM in the district plan were confirmed by the Sites and Areas of Significance Report, June 2018 by Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd.</p> <p>Baseline reports and s32 analysis are available on Council's website at Selwyn District Council - Proposed Selwyn District Plan Supporting Information</p>
9. What rationale and evidence base does your council use when considering whether a SASM should be recognised in your council processes?	As above regarding inclusion of SASM in the district plan. With regard to resource consent processes, where an activity requires resource consent and interacts with a SASM, a review is requested from the Runanga to provide advice on the effects of the activity and any recommended mitigations or other considerations.
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?	N/A

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision on your request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us at oia@selwyn.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

LGOIMA Team

Selwyn District Council