



Guidance for permit holders and applicants in Pounamu Management Areas

Pounamu taonga

Renowned for its beauty and strength, the rare pounamu stone is highly valued by both Māori and greater New Zealand. While generically known as greenstone, pounamu refers to the particular types of hard nephrite, semi-nephrite, jade, bowenite or serpentine found in southern New Zealand. No two pieces are the same and every piece is treated with respect during the carving process.

Pounamu is regarded as a taonga by Māori, many of whom have a strong spiritual connection to the stone. Pounamu is worn with a sense of pride and believed to bestow strength upon the wearer. For hundreds of years, it has been imbued with legend and stories; and in many families, treasured pieces have been passed down through several generations.

Ngāi Tahu are tangata whenua of Te Waipounamu, the indigenous people of the South Island. Pounamu is a taonga of the utmost importance to Ngāi Tahu culture and tradition.

Just as precious stones have meaning in other cultures, for Ngāi Tahu pounamu encapsulates tribal identity and culture, central to whakapapa (origins) and tribal history.

Pounamu is found within the West Coast region, and some areas of Otago and Southland. These areas have been designated pounamu management areas by Ngāi Tahu and are recognised by New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals (NZP&M) as areas where mining activity has the potential to unearth pounamu as a by-product of operations.



What should you do?

Because of the importance of pounamu, all permit holders and applicants are encouraged to work with Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga as early as possible to ensure plans are put in place around the unearthing of pounamu.

Early engagement is important as it ensures appropriate consultation on all areas is undertaken, including land access arrangements.

Pounamu management areas are governed by different Papatipu Rūnanga. The following map shows the rūnanga governed areas and provides contacts for each Rūnanga.

Within the takiwā of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, a finder's fee agreement has been developed. This agreement forms the basis of any pounamu management arrangement. Other Rūnanga may wish to make different arrangements on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions before contacting the Papatipu Rūnanga, NZP&M can help.

Why do you need to do this?

All pounamu occurring in its natural condition in the takiwā (area/region) of Ngāi Tahu and the adjacent ocean that previously belonged to the Crown now belongs to Ngāi Tahu (refer section 3 of the Ngāi Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997).

This means that a permit granted under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 in relation to these areas does not provide the right to extract pounamu and removing pounamu without agreement from Ngāi Tahu is unlawful. The only exception to this is certain existing privileges (refer section 4 of the Ngāi Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997).

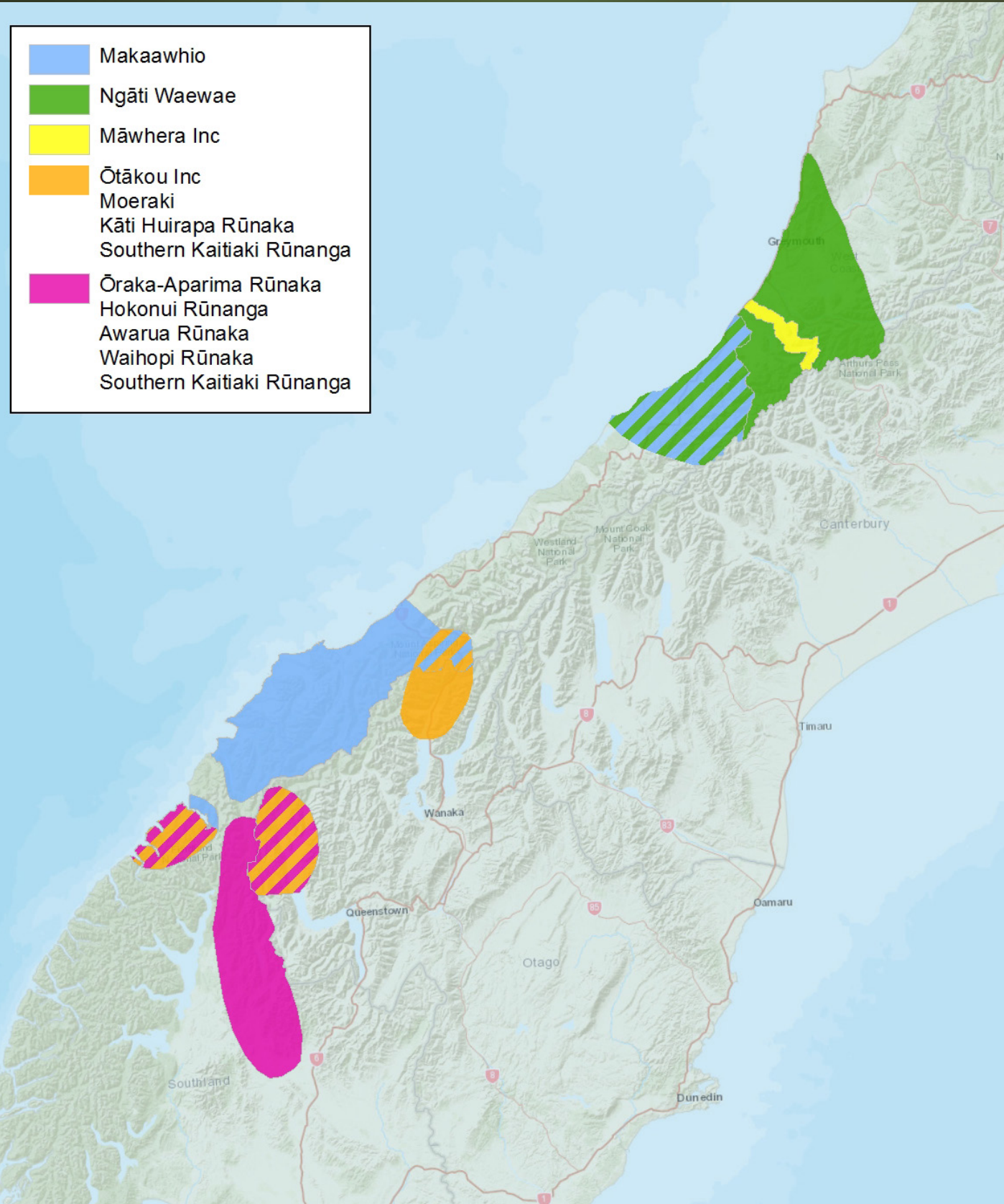
If you have a permit or permit application that relates to a pounamu management area, NZP&M encourages you to engage with Ngāi Tahu, including to agree with Ngāi Tahu how incidental discoveries of pounamu will be dealt with (refer clause 2.10(3) of the Minerals Programme (Excluding Petroleum) 2013).

You will also need to negotiate land access with the land owner. As the manager of conservation land, the Department of Conservation is one of the largest land managers of land in pounamu management areas. The Department works with Ngāi Tahu on all pounamu-related matters.

Your proposed activities may also require resource consents and/or other legal approvals. These matters are beyond the scope of this guidance.



Pounamu Management Areas



Papatipu Rūnanga contacts

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae
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