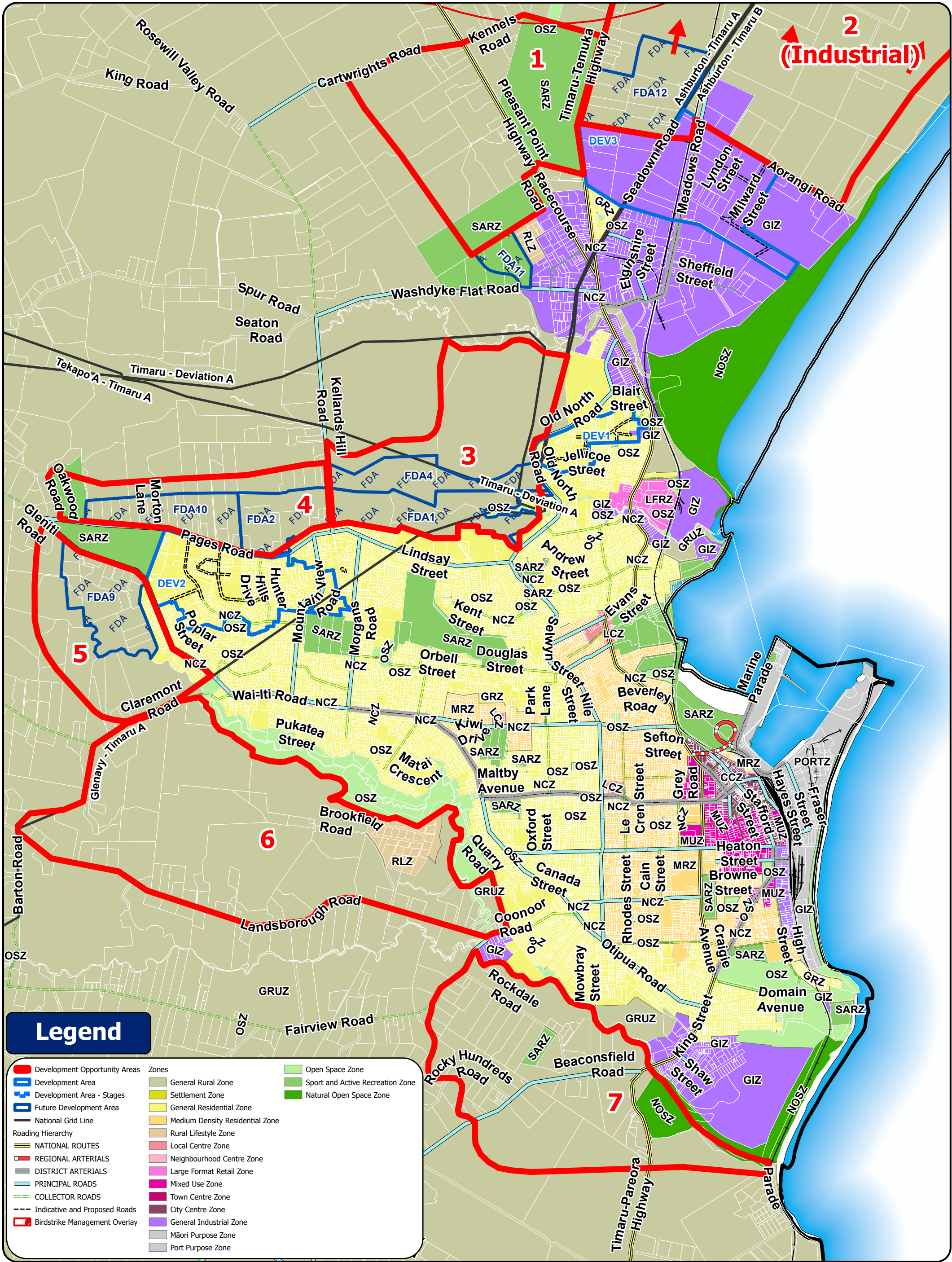
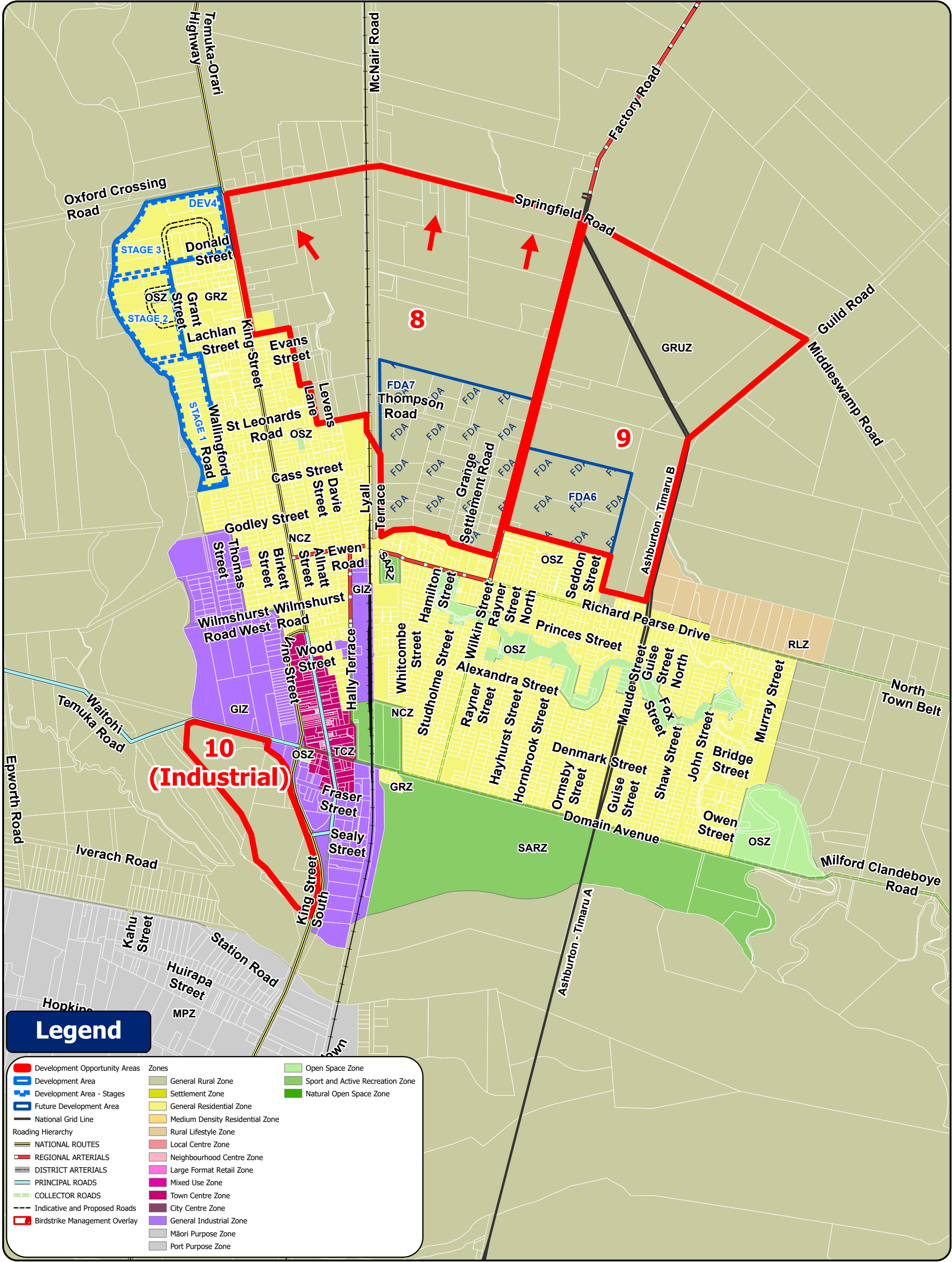
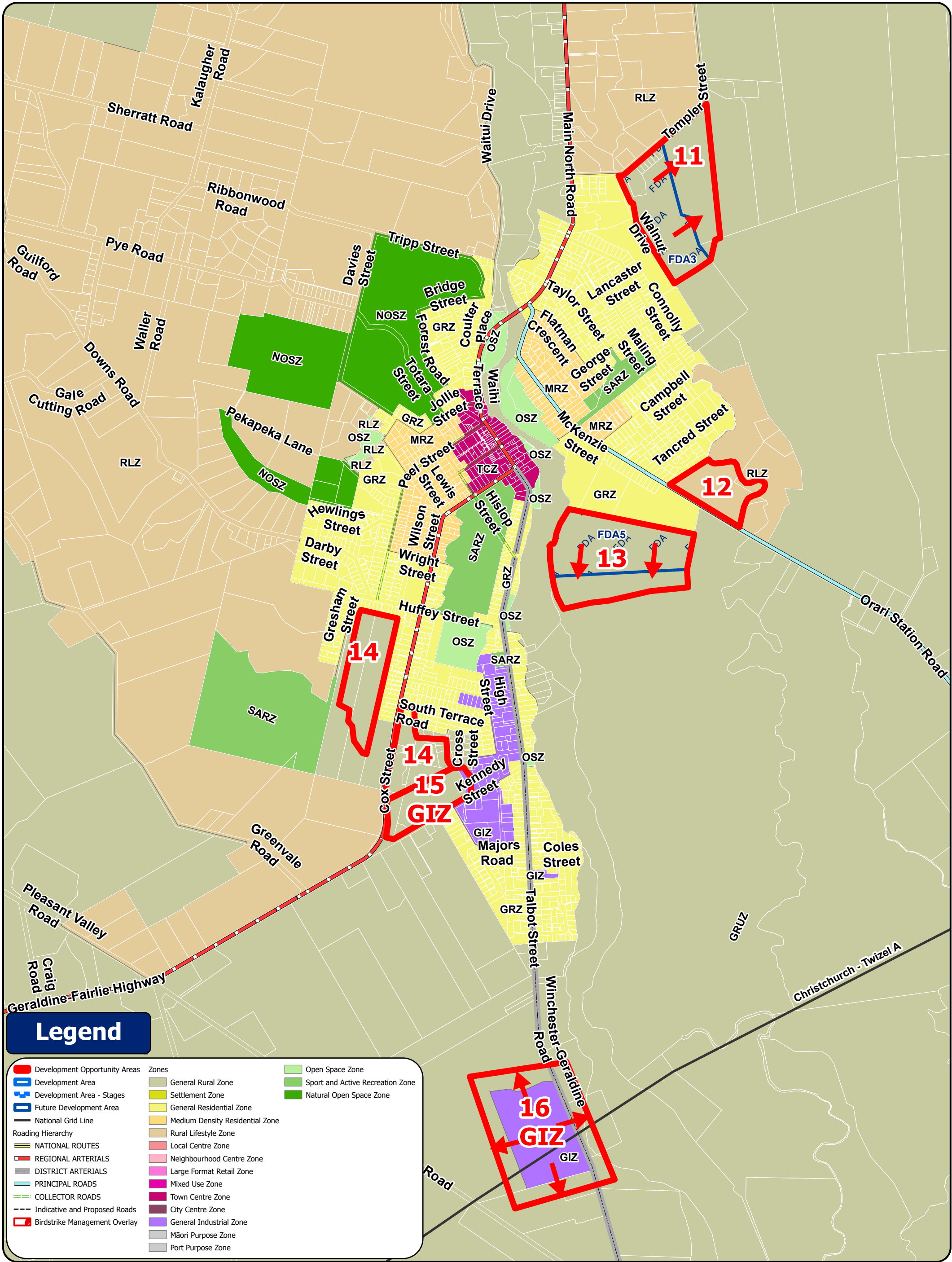


Timaru District Council
Spatial Planning Workshop Supplementary Handout



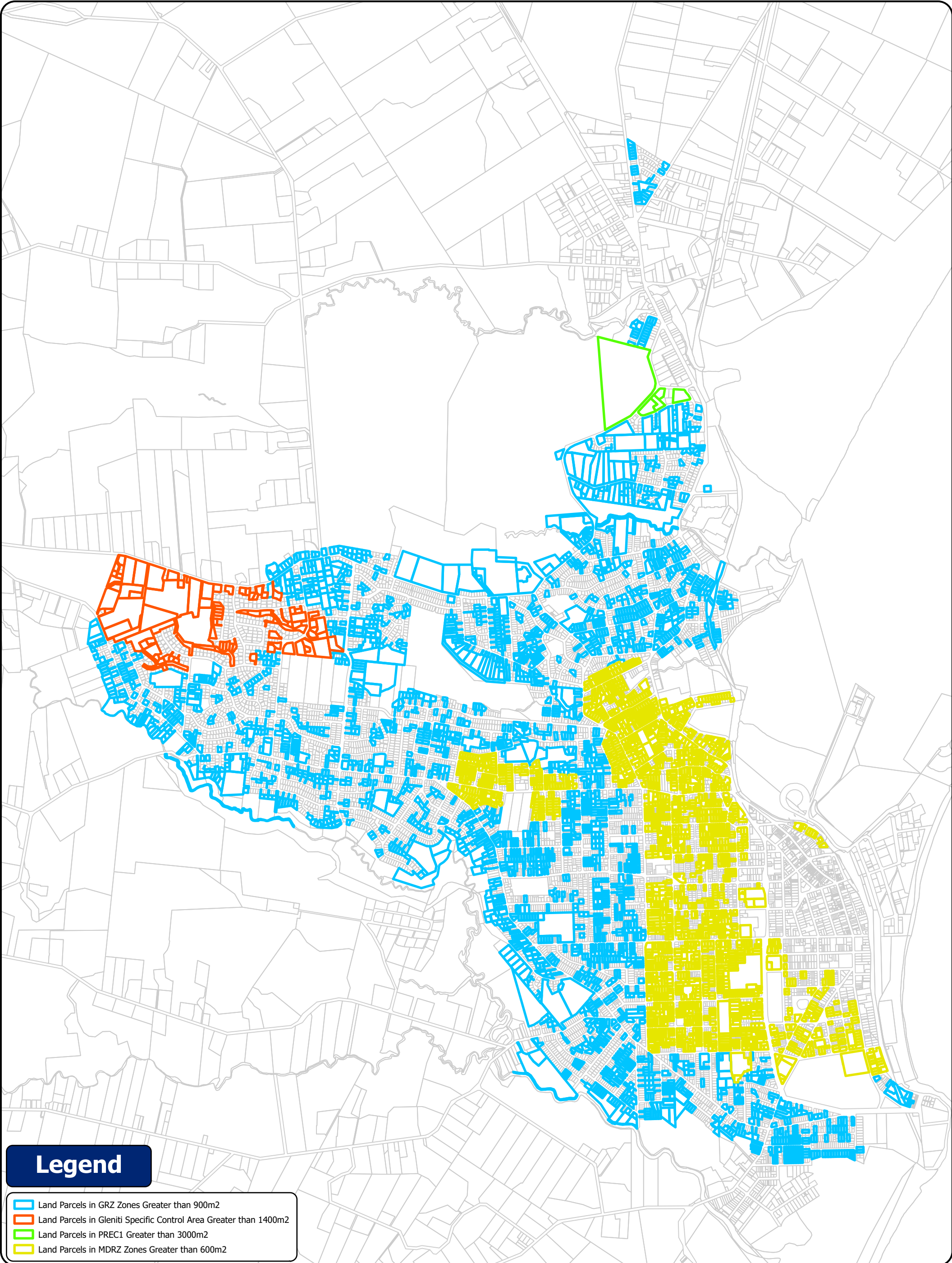




Legend

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Development Opportunity Areas | General Rural Zone | Open Space Zone |
| Development Area | Settlement Zone | Sport and Active Recreation Zone |
| Development Area - Stages | General Residential Zone | Natural Open Space Zone |
| Future Development Area | Medium Density Residential Zone | |
| National Grid Line | Rural Lifestyle Zone | |
| NATIONAL ROUTES | Local Centre Zone | |
| REGIONAL ARTERIALS | Neighbourhood Centre Zone | |
| DISTRICT ARTERIALS | Large Format Retail Zone | |
| PRINCIPAL ROADS | Mixed Use Zone | |
| COLLECTOR ROADS | Town Centre Zone | |
| Indicative and Proposed Roads | City Centre Zone | |
| Birdstrike Management Overlay | Māori Purpose Zone | |
| | Port Purpose Zone | |

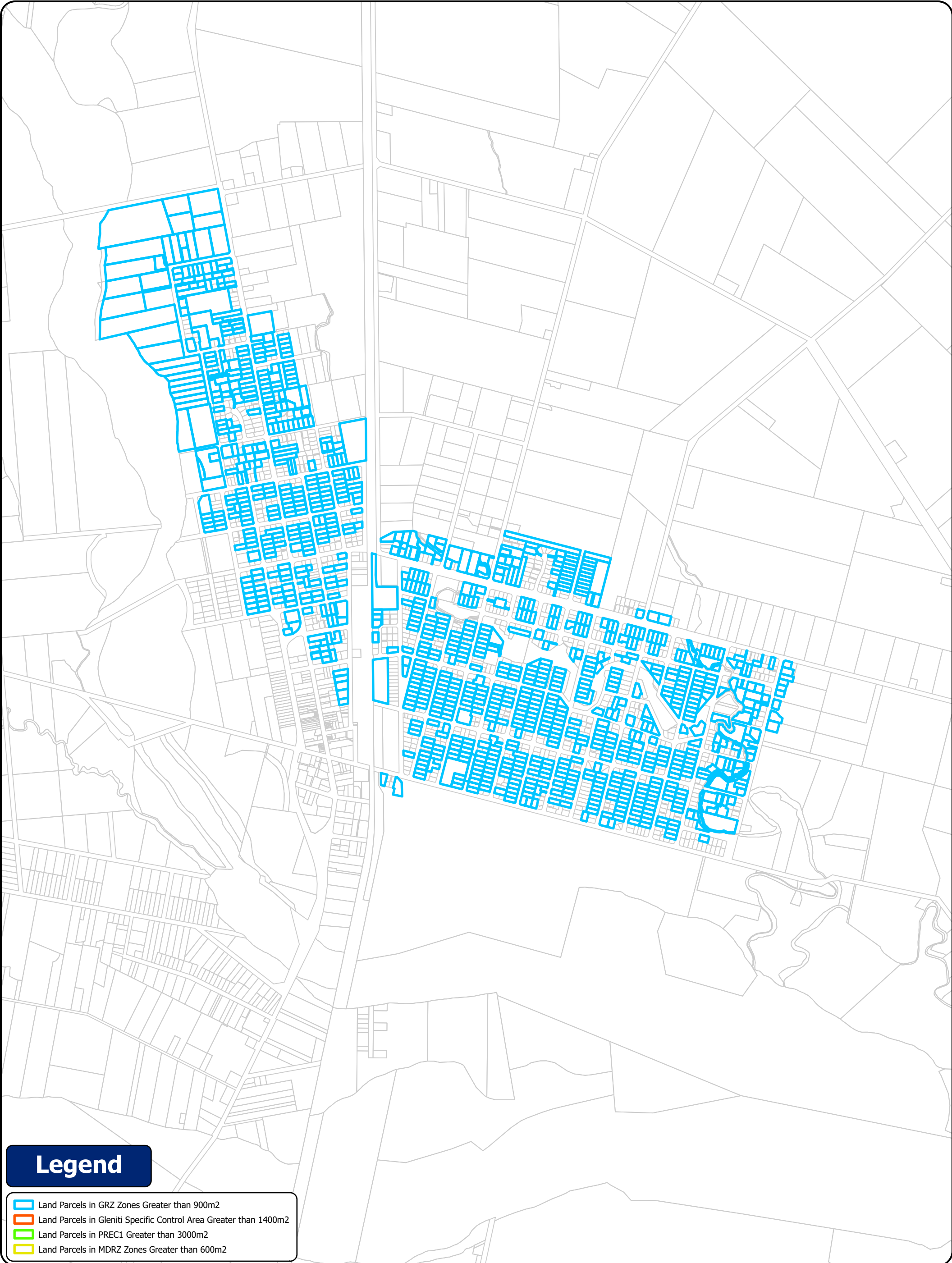


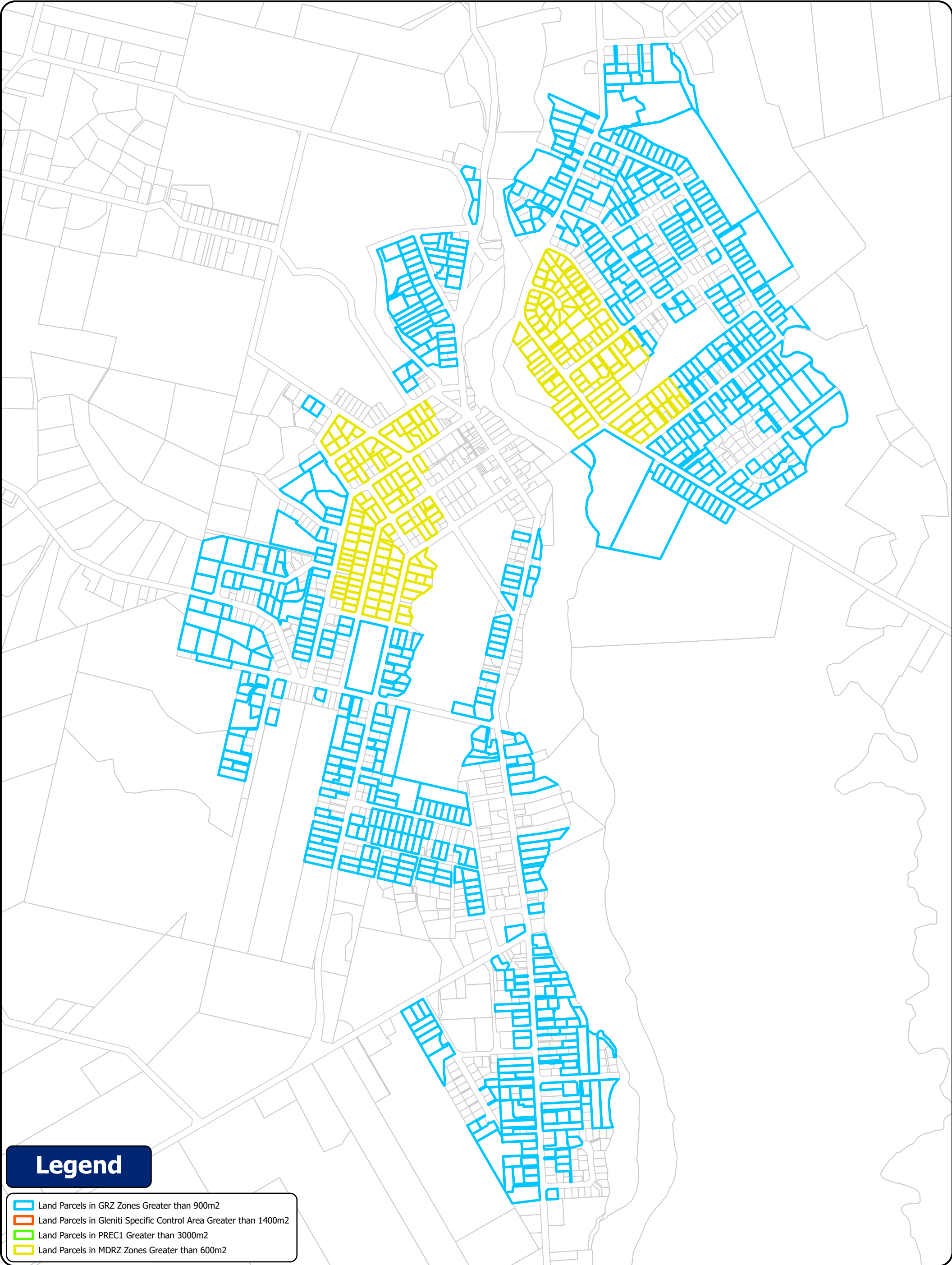


Legend

- Land Parcels in GRZ Zones Greater than 900m2
- Land Parcels in Gleniti Specific Control Area Greater than 1400m2
- Land Parcels in PREC1 Greater than 3000m2
- Land Parcels in MDRZ Zones Greater than 600m2







Legend

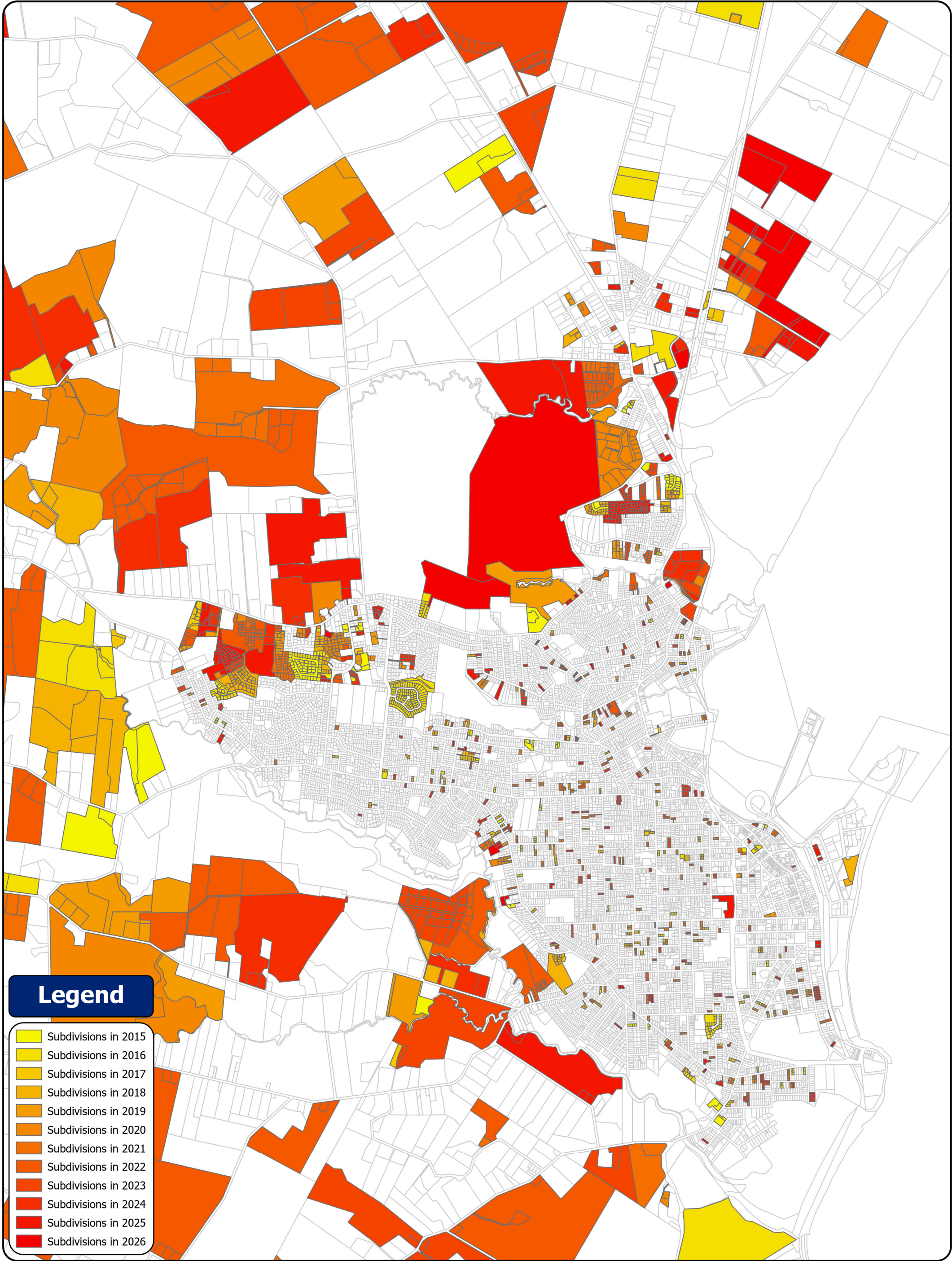
-  Land Parcels in GRZ Zones Greater than 900m2
-  Land Parcels in Gleniti Specific Control Area Greater than 1400m2
-  Land Parcels in PREC1 Greater than 3000m2
-  Land Parcels in MDRZ Zones Greater than 600m2

Residential Areas
Infill Subdivision Potential

Scale: 1:10,000
(on an A3 Page)

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 Kilometers



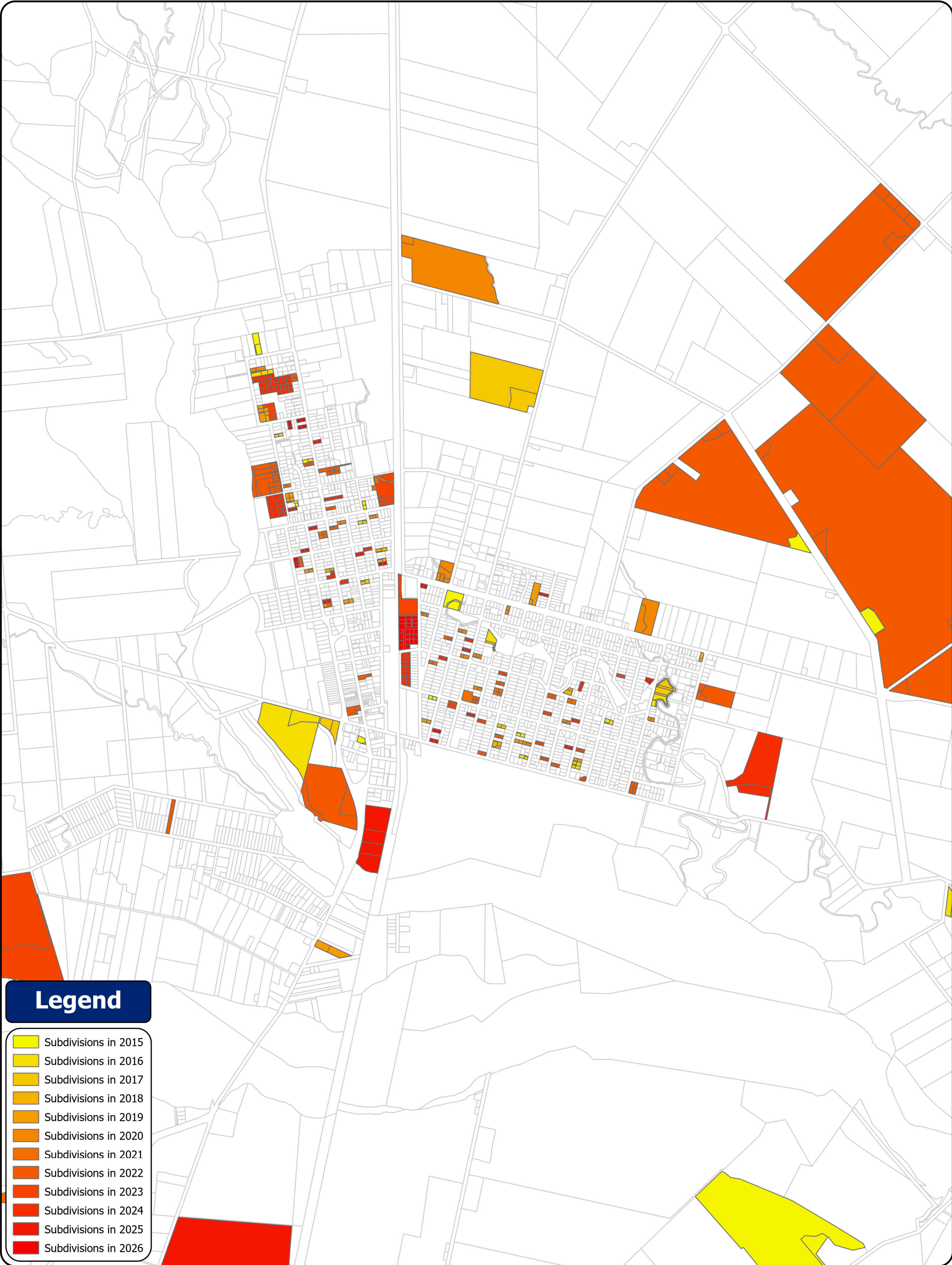


Legend

- Subdivisions in 2015
- Subdivisions in 2016
- Subdivisions in 2017
- Subdivisions in 2018
- Subdivisions in 2019
- Subdivisions in 2020
- Subdivisions in 2021
- Subdivisions in 2022
- Subdivisions in 2023
- Subdivisions in 2024
- Subdivisions in 2025
- Subdivisions in 2026

**Subdivisions by Year
Timaru**

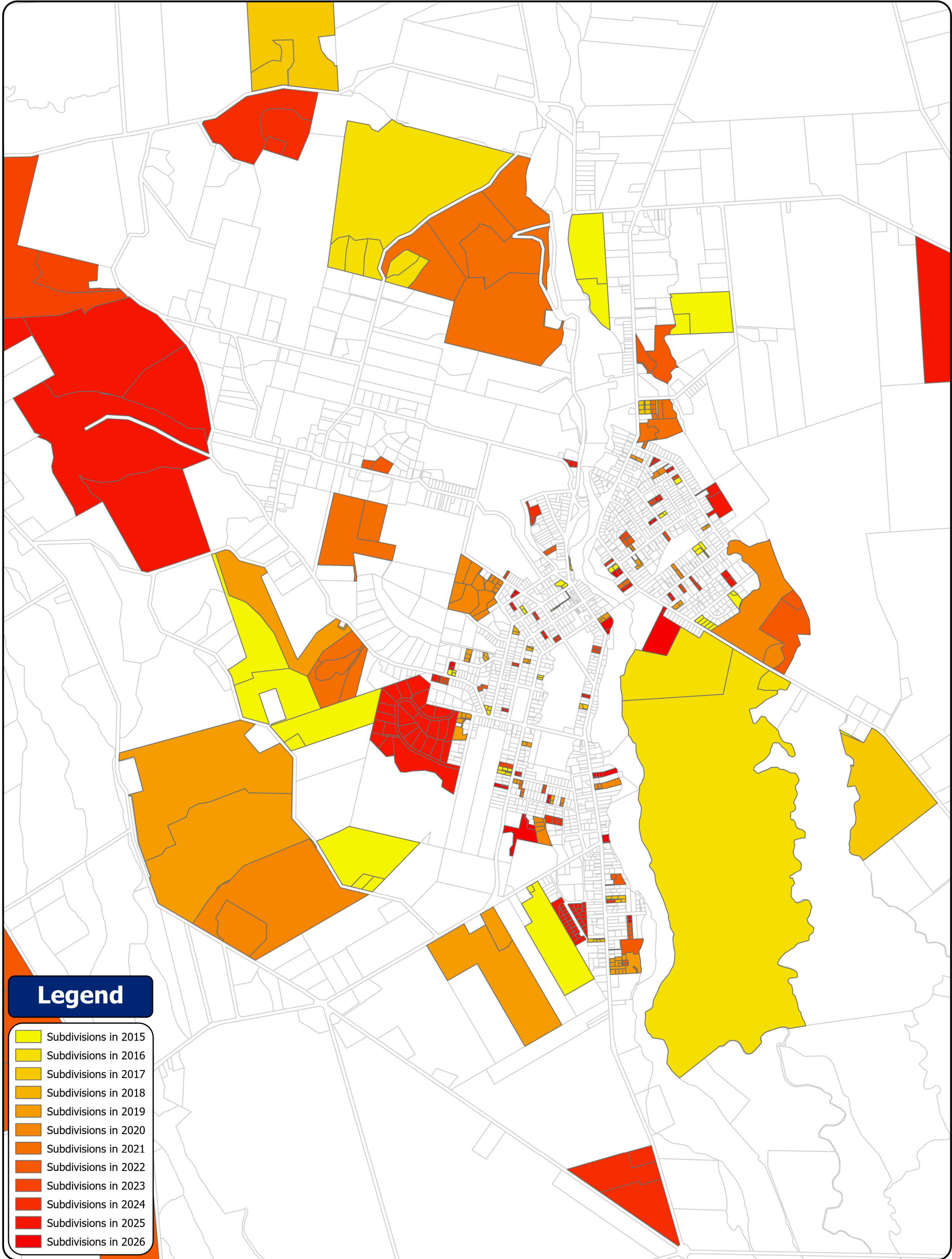




Legend

- Subdivisions in 2015
- Subdivisions in 2016
- Subdivisions in 2017
- Subdivisions in 2018
- Subdivisions in 2019
- Subdivisions in 2020
- Subdivisions in 2021
- Subdivisions in 2022
- Subdivisions in 2023
- Subdivisions in 2024
- Subdivisions in 2025
- Subdivisions in 2026

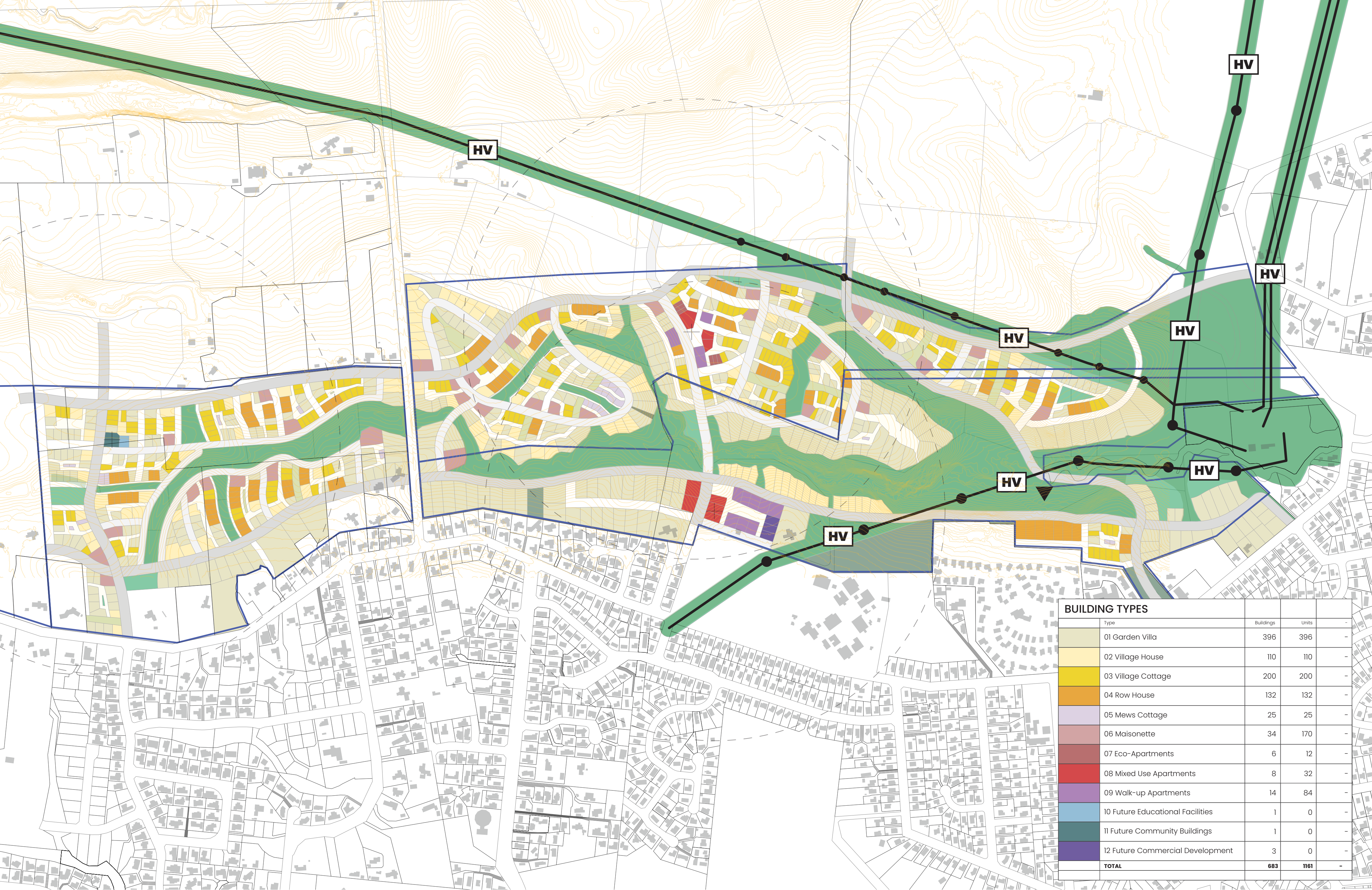




Legend

- Subdivisions in 2015
- Subdivisions in 2016
- Subdivisions in 2017
- Subdivisions in 2018
- Subdivisions in 2019
- Subdivisions in 2020
- Subdivisions in 2021
- Subdivisions in 2022
- Subdivisions in 2023
- Subdivisions in 2024
- Subdivisions in 2025
- Subdivisions in 2026





BUILDING TYPES				
Type	Buildings	Units		
01 Garden Villa	396	396	-	-
02 Village House	110	110	-	-
03 Village Cottage	200	200	-	-
04 Row House	132	132	-	-
05 Mews Cottage	25	25	-	-
06 Maisonette	34	170	-	-
07 Eco-Apartments	6	12	-	-
08 Mixed Use Apartments	8	32	-	-
09 Walk-up Apartments	14	84	-	-
10 Future Educational Facilities	1	0	-	-
11 Future Community Buildings	1	0	-	-
12 Future Commercial Development	3	0	-	-
TOTAL	683	1161	-	-



rev	date	details	by

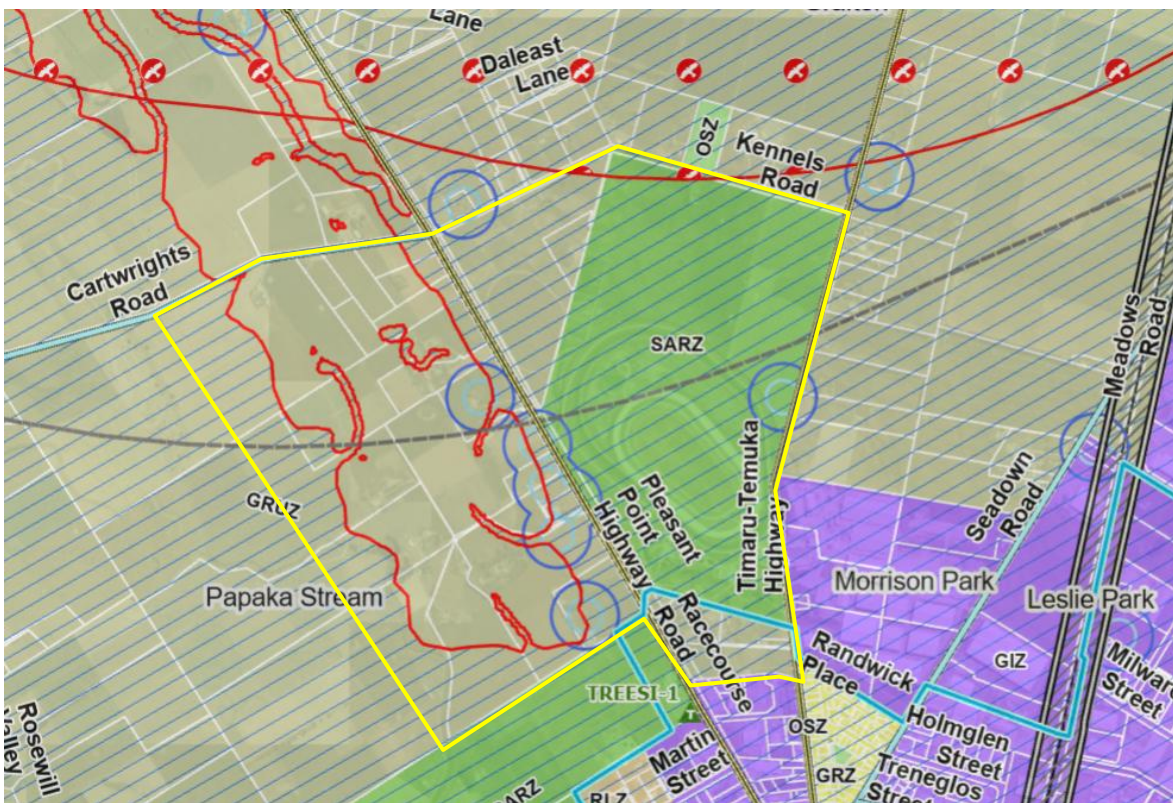
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Do not scale drawings. Verify all dimensions on site	
drawn CC	date 22/04/24

project	FDA 1/2/4	
name		
drawing	project 2323	rev a

Timaru Development Opportunity Areas		Use	Wastewater	Water
1	Kennels Road	Residential	Yes	Yes
2a	FDA12	Industrial	Yes	Yes
2b	Seadown Road (north of Aorangi Road)	Industrial	TBC	TBC
3	FDA1 Elloughton Road South / FDA4 Elloughton Road North & west of Old North Road	Residential	Mixed	Mixed
4	FDA2 Kelland Heights East / FDA10 Kelland Heights West	Residential	No	No
5	FDA9	Residential	No	No
6	Brookfield Road	Residential	No	No
7	Redruth	Residential	No	No
Temuka Development Opportunity Areas		Use	Wastewater	Water
8	FDA7 Thompson Road	Residential	No	Yes
9	FDA6 Factory Road	Residential	No	Yes
10	South Temuka	Industrial	TBC	TBC

Gerladine Development Opportunity Areas		Use	Wastewater	Water
11	FDA3 Scotts Farm	Residential	Upgrades	Upgrades
12	Orari Station Road	Residential	Upgrades	Upgrades
13	FDA5 Young Farm	Residential	Upgrades	Upgrades
14	South Geraldine	Residential	Upgrades	Upgrades
15	Kennedy Street	Industrial	Upgrades	Upgrades
16	Winchester-Geraldine Road	Industrial	TBC	TBC
Pleasant Point Development Opportunity Areas		Use	Wastewater	Water
17	FDA8 Manse Road	Residential	Modelling	Upgrades
18	Burke Street	Residential	Modelling	Upgrades

Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (wastewater)	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (water)	Planning Notations/Constraints
1 – Kennels Road	Residential	Yes	Yes	Zoning: • General Rural • Sport and Active Recreation Natural Hazards: • Flood Assessment Area • Partial Overland Flow Assessment Area (Racecourse Road Only) Historical and Cultural Values: • Nil Natural Environmental Values: • Nil Other: • Aerodrome Flight Path Protection Area • Bound by State Highway 8 and State Highway 1 • Birdstrike Management Overlay (Small area only) • Drinking Water Protection Area – Private Supplies • LUC 2 and LUC 3 Land



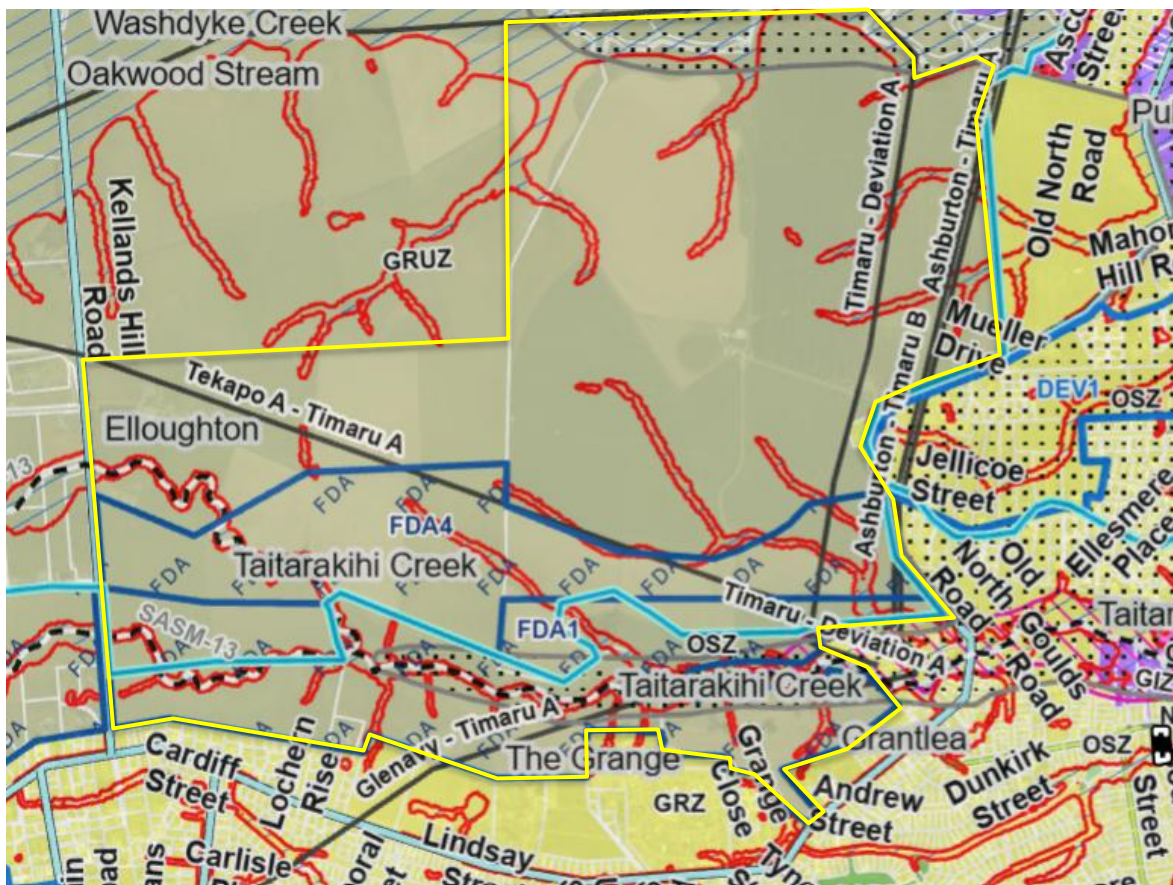
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (wastewater)	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (water)	Planning Notations/Constraints
2a – FDA12	Industrial	Yes – FDA12 Wider area – Capacity generally available subject to upgrades	Yes – FDA12 Wider area – additional modelling required	Existing Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values - Nil Natural Environmental Values - Nil Other - Aerodrome Flight Path Protection Area - State Highway 1 - Rail Vibration Alert Area - National Grid Lines - Birdstrike Management Overlay (Small area only) - Drinking Water Protection Area – Private Supply - LUC 3 Land



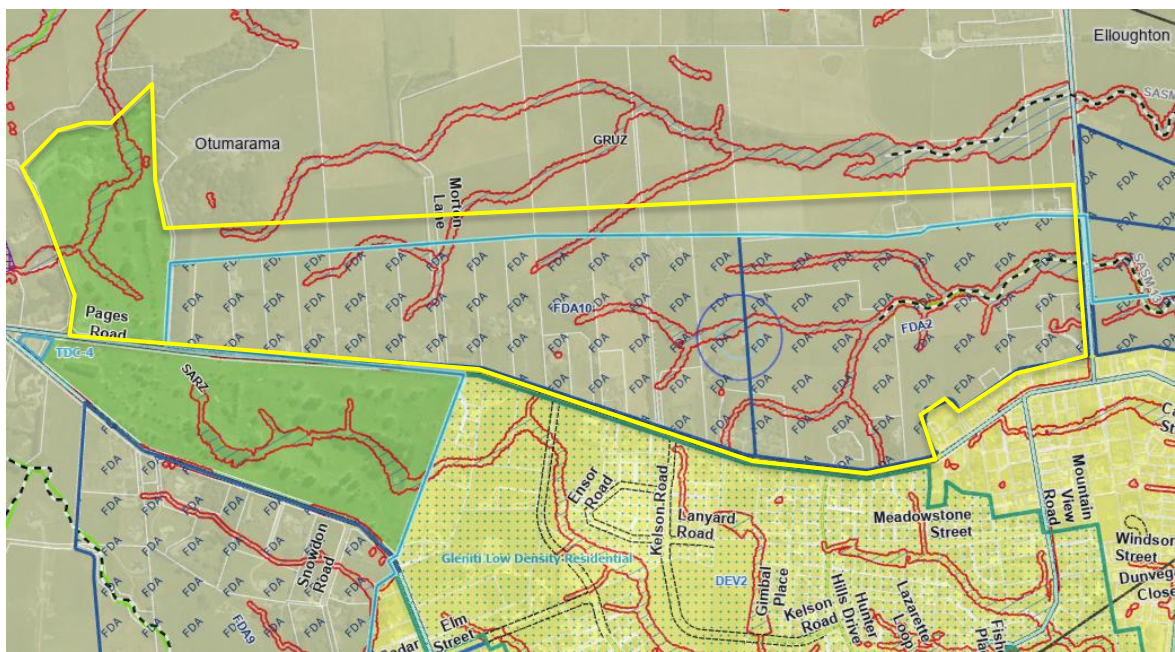
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
2b – Seadown Road (north of Aorangi Road)	Industrial	Area not included in the 2023/24 Growth Capacity Assessment. Additional modelling needed.	Existing Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Coastal Erosion Overlay - Seawater Inundation Overlay - Liquifaction Assessment Area - Regional Council Stopbank Historical and Cultural Values: - SASM-3 – Wahi Tupuna Overlay - SASM-3b – Wai Taoka Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - Coastal High Natural Character Area Other: - Coastal Environmental Area - Aerodrome Flight Path Protection Area - Drinking Water Protection Area – Private Supplies - LUC 2 and LUC 3 Land



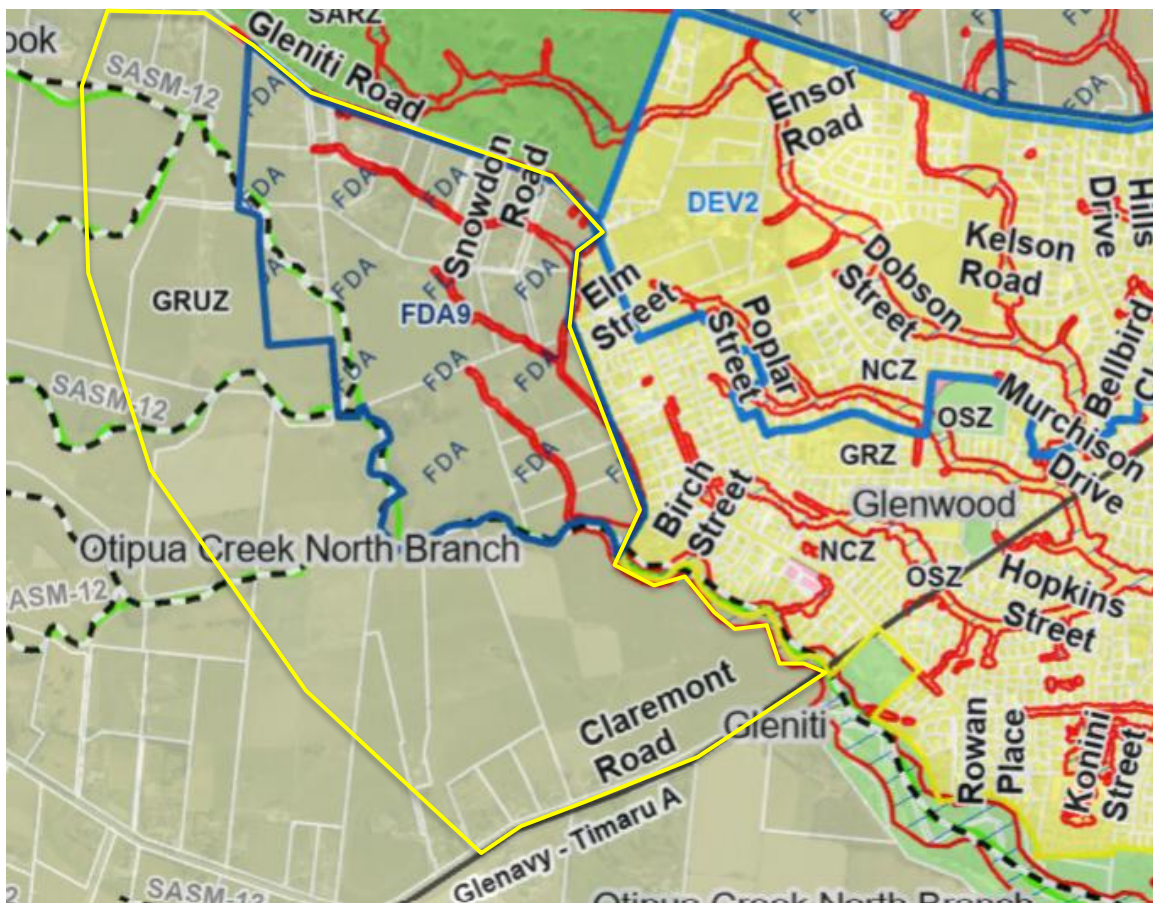
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (wastewater)	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (water)	Planning Notations/Constraints
3 – FDA1 Elloughton Road South, FDA4 Elloughton Road North and west of Old North Road	Residential	FDA1 – No FDA-4 – Yes Wider area requires additional modelling	Yes - A total of 200 lots shared between FDA1 and FDA4 Wider area requires additional modelling.	Existing Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Overland Flow Path Assessment Area - Liquefaction Awareness Area Historical and Cultural Values: - SASM-3 Wahi Tupuna Overlay - SASM-13 Wai Taoka Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - National Grid Lines - LUC 3 Land



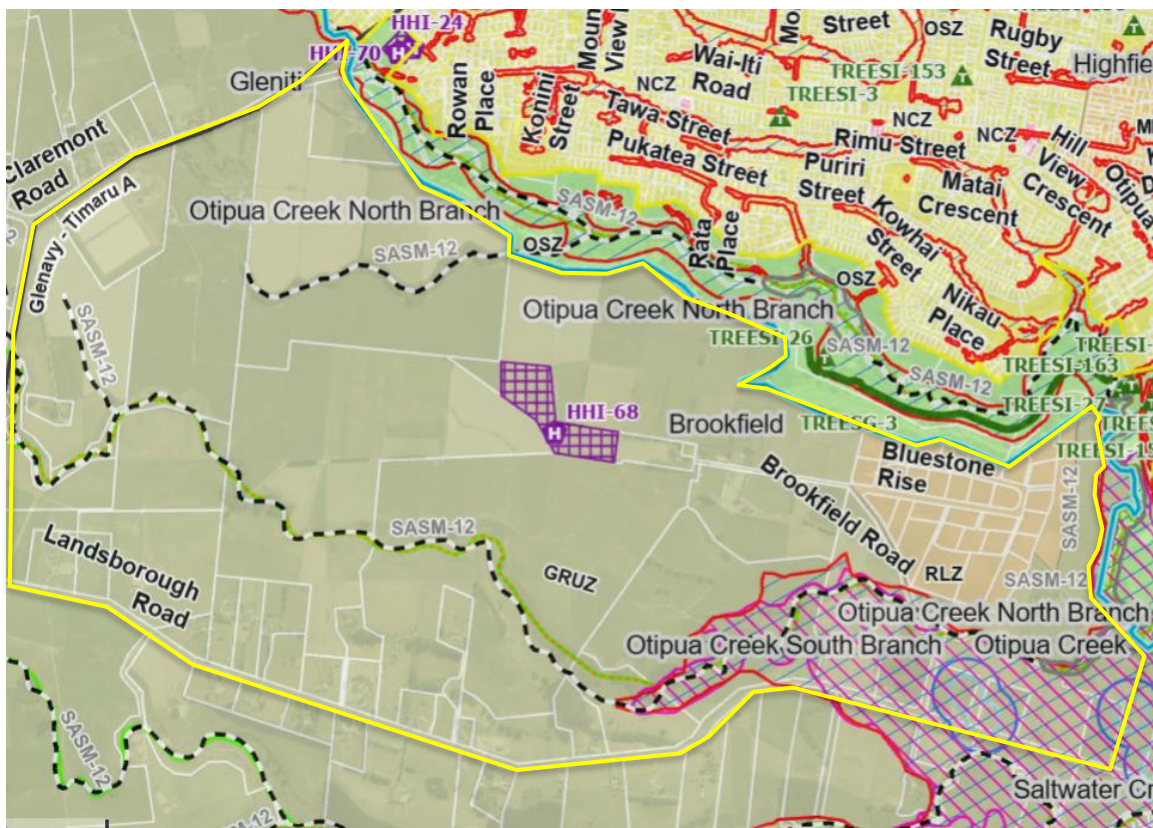
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (wastewater)	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (water)	Planning Notations/Constraints
4 – FDA2 Kellands Height East and FDA10 Kelland Heights West	Residential	No	No – detailed assessment of Gleniti and upgrade to Gleniti PS required	Existing Zoning: - General Rural - Sport and Active Recreation Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Partial Overland Flow Path Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - SASM-13 Wai Taoka Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Drinking Water Protection – Private Supply - LUC 3 land - Future Rural Residential Development Area



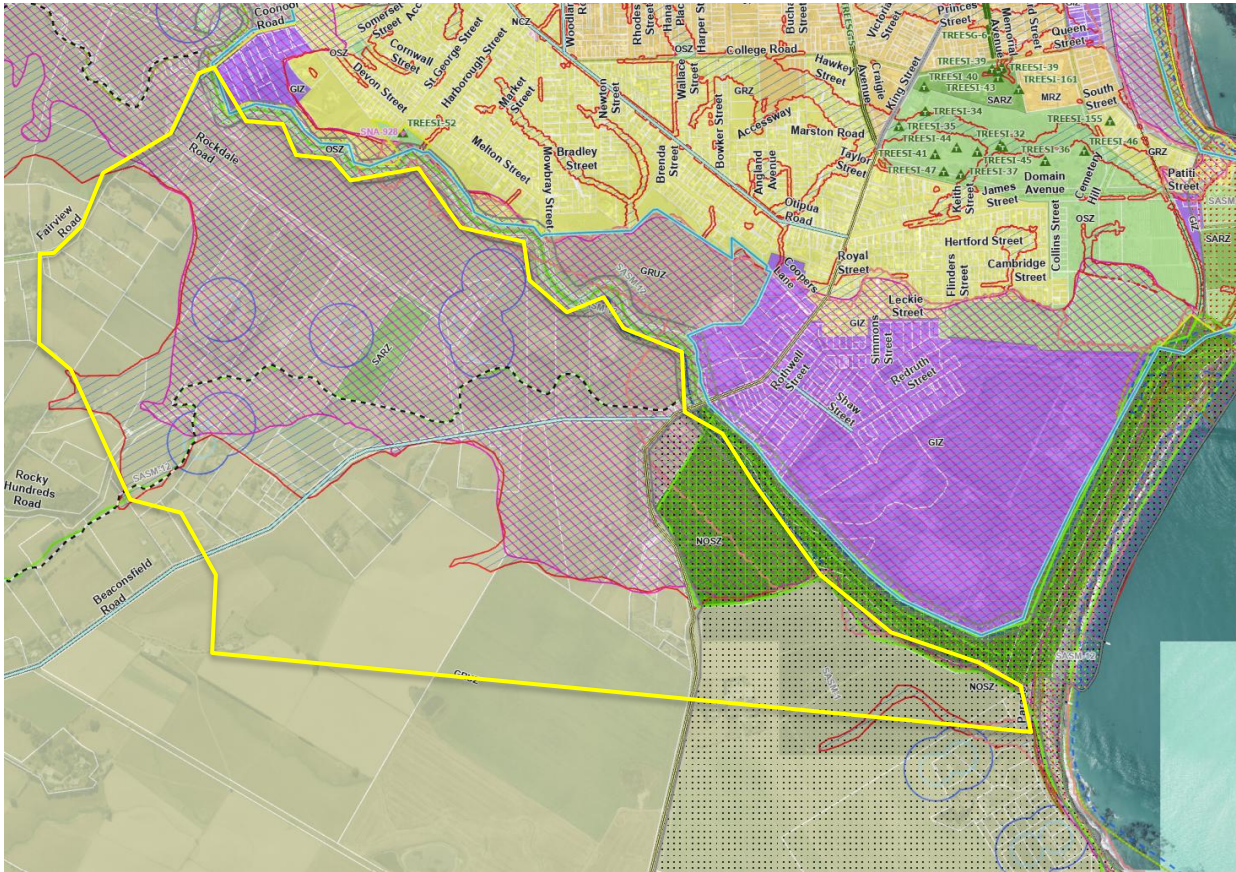
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (wastewater)	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (water)	Planning Notations/Constraints
5 – FDA9	Residential	No	No – detailed assessment and upgrade to Gleniti PS required	Existing Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - SASM-12 Wai Taoka Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Esplanade Provision - National Grid Lines - Future Rural Residential Development Area - LUC 3 Land



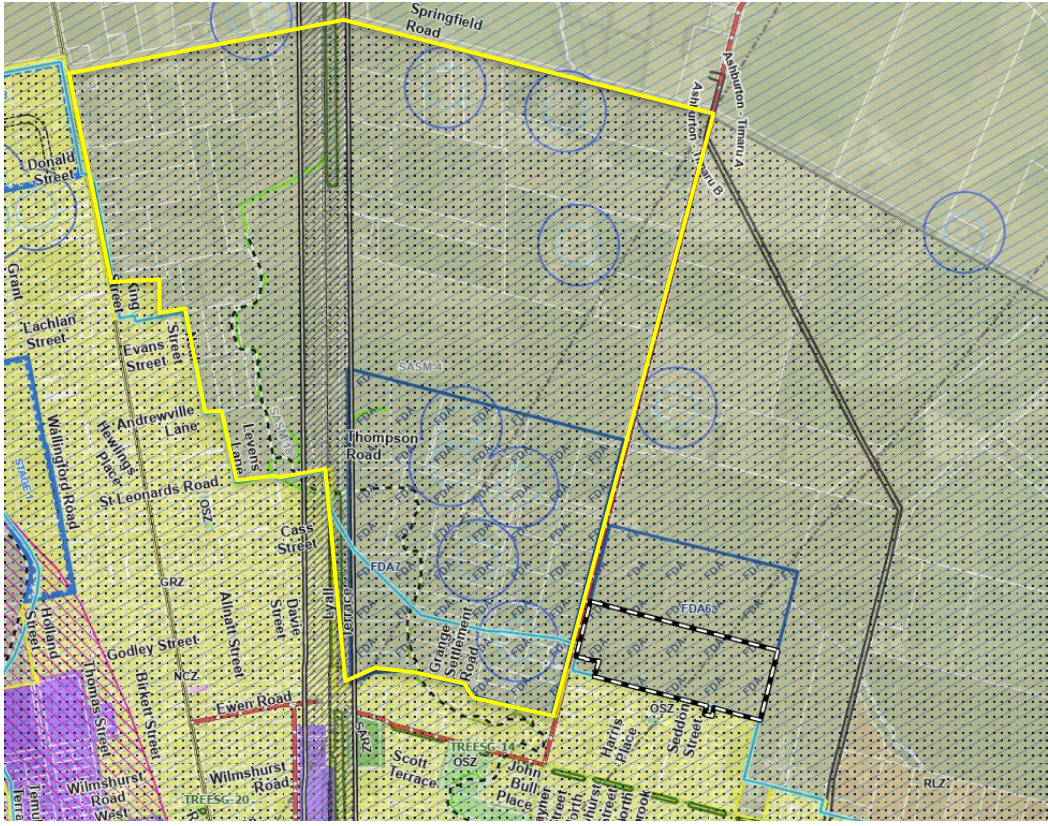
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations and Constraints
6 – Brookfield Road	Residential	Not included in the 2023/24 Growth Capacity Assessment. Servicing of this area could be added to the updated assessment.	Existing Zoning: - General Rural - Bluestone Rise – Rural Lifestyle Natural Hazards: - Partial Flood Assessment Area - Partial Liquifaction Awareness Area Historical and Cultural Values: - HHI-68 Timaru Water Supply Reservoirs - SASM-12 Wai Taoka Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Drinking Water Protection -Private Supply - Esplanade Provision - LUC 3 Land



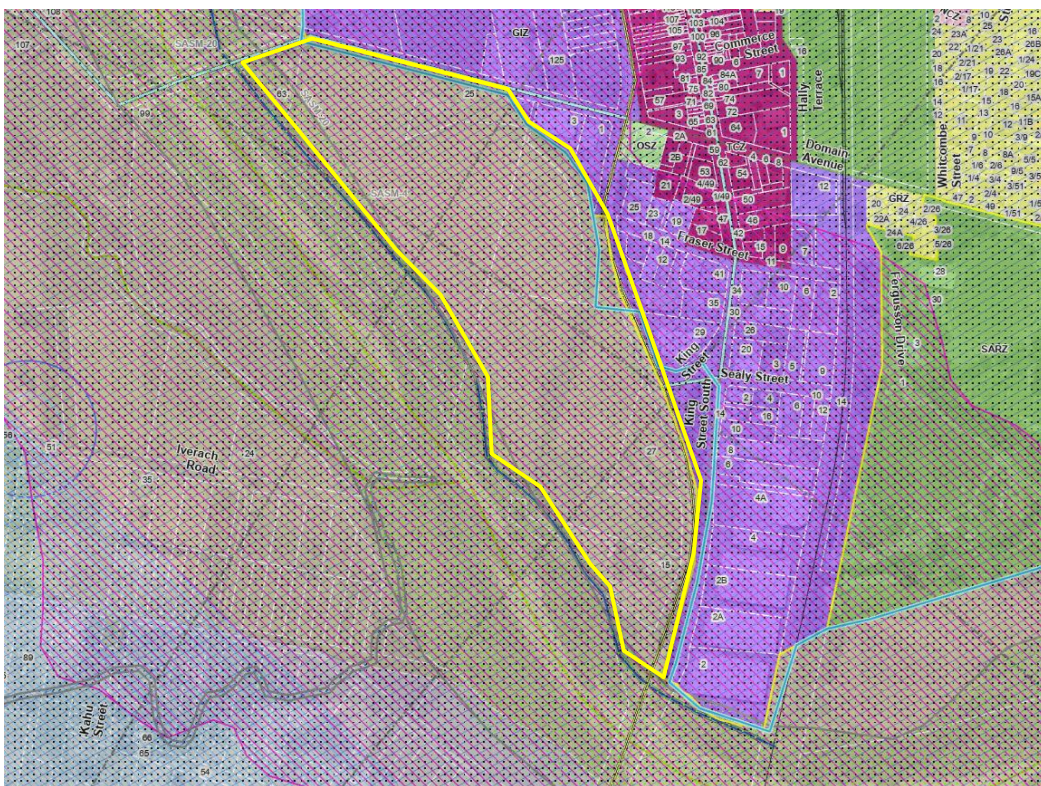
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations and Constraints
7 – Redruth	Residential	With flood and possible liquefaction risk, the Water and Drainage unit recommends not including this area.	Existing Zoning: • General Rural • Natural Open Space • Sport and Active Recreation Natural Hazards: • Flood Assessment Area • Liquefaction Awareness Area Historical and Cultural Values: • SASM-1 • SASM-12 Wai Taoka Overlay Natural Environmental Values: • Nil Other: • Drinking Water Protection – Private Supply • State Highway 1 • Esplanade Provision • Rail Vibration Alert Layer • LUC 3 Land



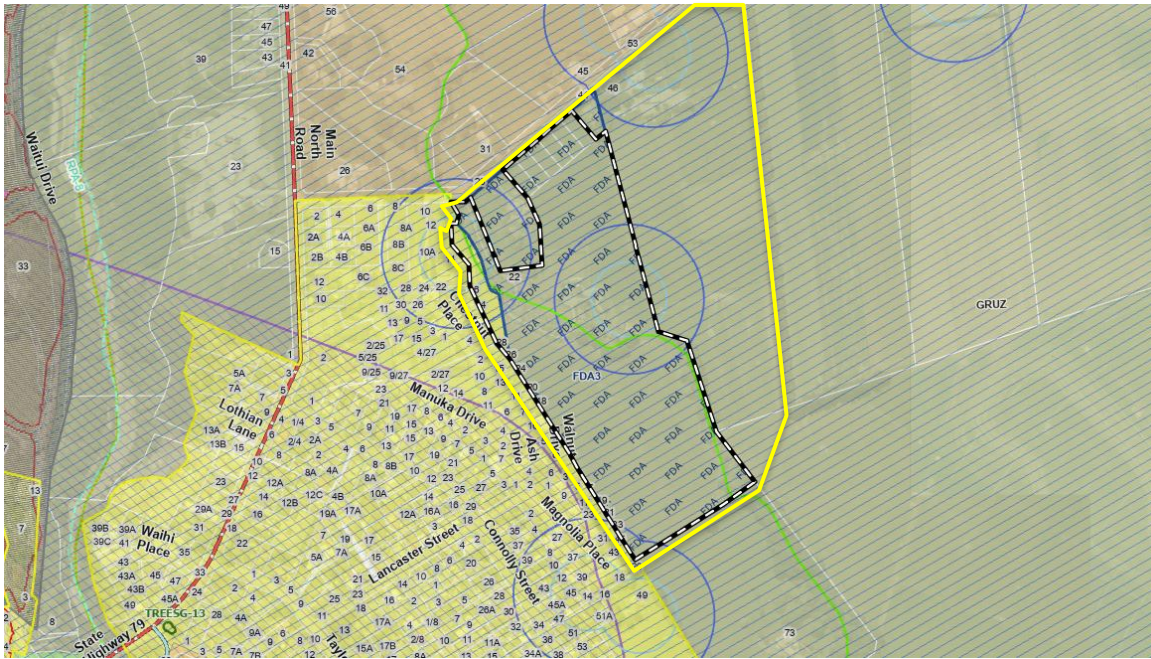
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (wastewater)	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (water)	Planning Notations/Constraints
8 – FDA7 Thompson Road	Residential	FDA-7 No Wider Area - Significant wastewater upgrades required.	FDA-7 Yes Wider Area - can be checked in updated assessment	Zoning: General Rural Natural Hazards:

Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (wastewater)	Growth allowed prior to upgrades (water)	Planning Notations/Constraints
				- Flood Assessment Area - Patrial Overland Flow Path Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - SASM-4 Wahi Tupuna Overlay - SASM-18 Wai Taoka Line Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - TREEG-11 Other: - Aerodrome Flight Path Protection Area - Esplanade Provision - Drinking Water Protection Area – Private Supply - Rail Vibration Alert Layer - Future Rural Residential Development Area - LUC 2 Land

Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
10 – South Temuka	Industrial	The Drainage and Water unit do not recommend identifying this area as industrial, given potential river retreat work and use of the southern part of the land to manage stormwater from Temuka residential and industrial west of SH1.	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Liquefaction Awareness Area - Regional Council Stopbank Historical and Cultural Values: - SASM-4 Wahi Tupuna Overlay - SASM-20 Wai Taoka Overlay/Wai Taoka Line Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Aerodrome Flight Path Protection Area



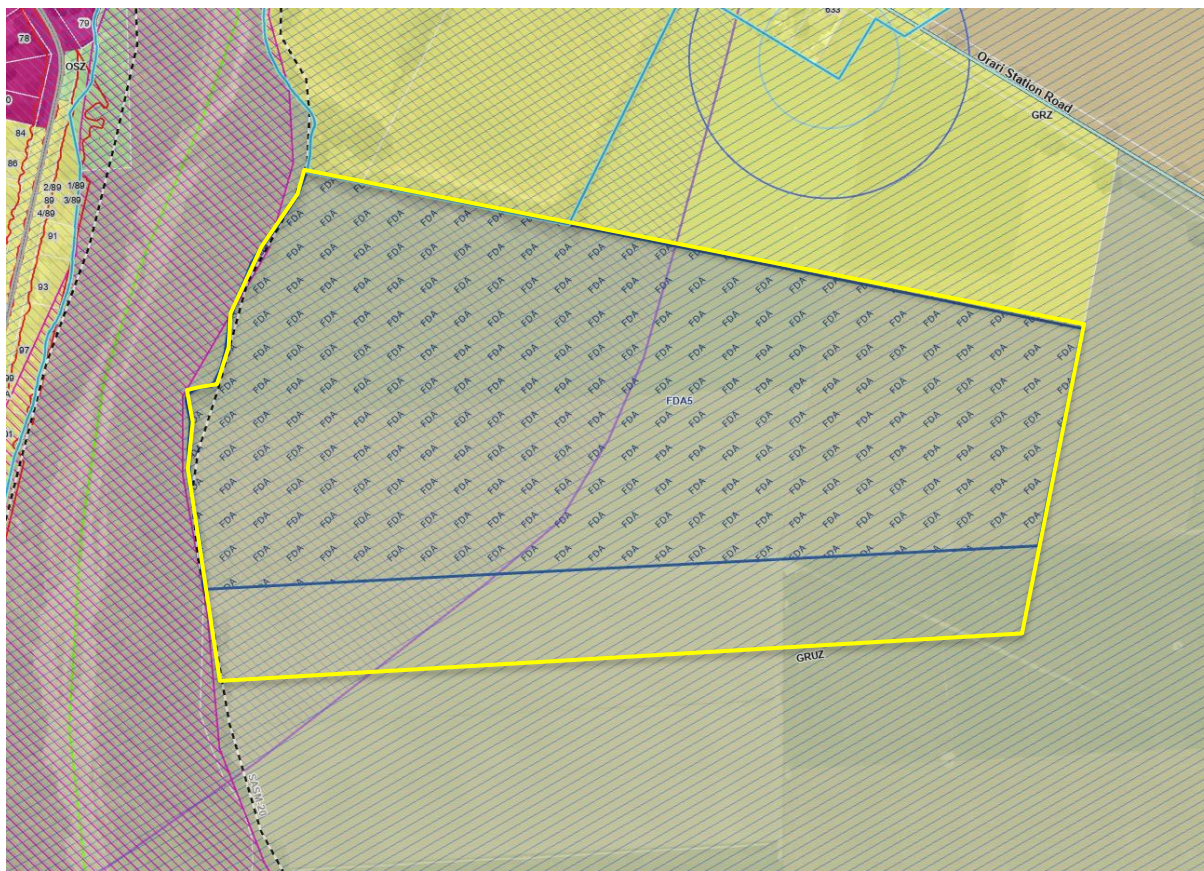
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
11-FDA3 Scotts Farm	Residential	Water – Upgrades to pipes required. Firefighting water supply is not currently available. Sewer – Available subject to upgrades.	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - Nil Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Drinking Water Protection Area – Private Supply - Esplanade Provision - LUC 2 Land



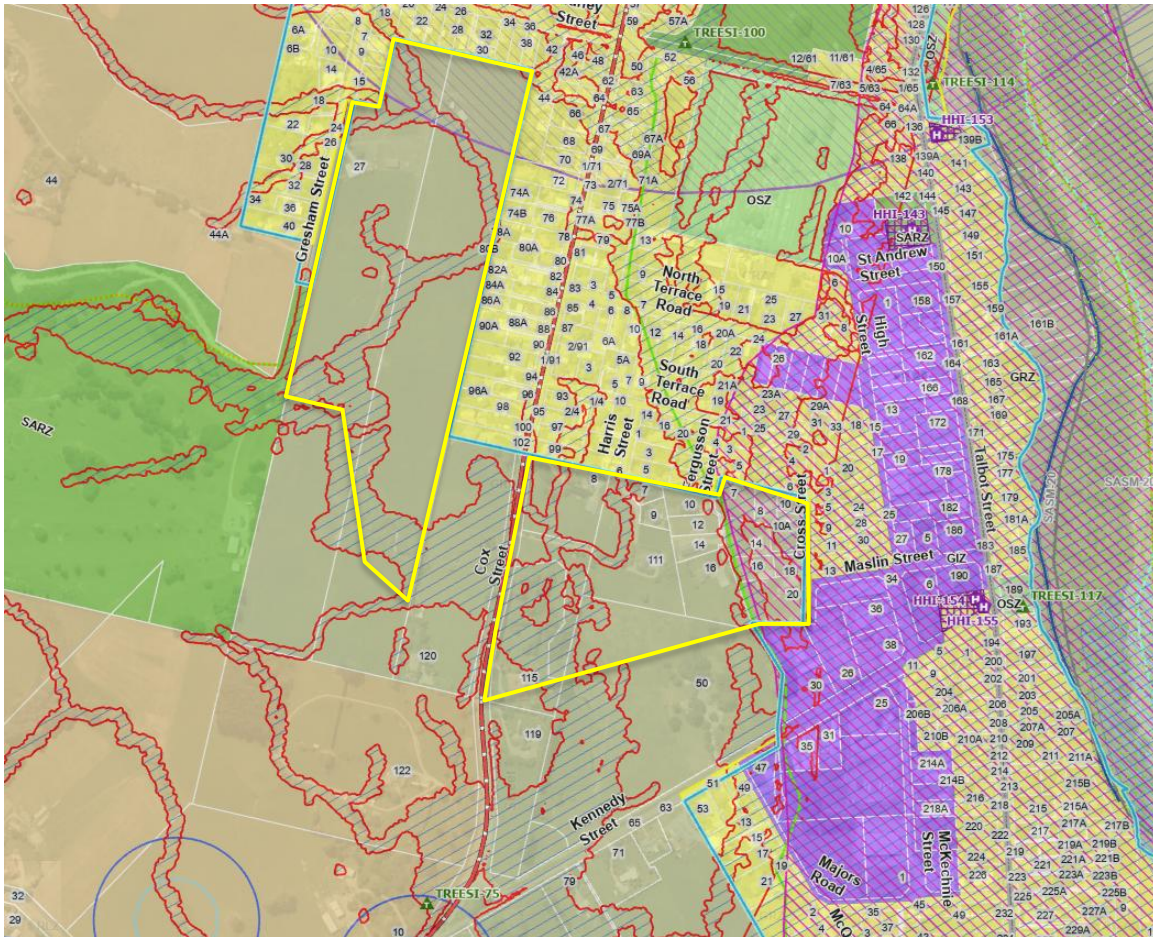
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
12 – Orari Station Road	Residential	Water –Upgrades to pipes required. Firefighting water supply is not currently available. Sewer – Available but upgrades to pipes required.	Zoning: - Rural Lifestyle Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - Nil Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Esplanade Provision - Drinking Water Protection Area – Private Supply



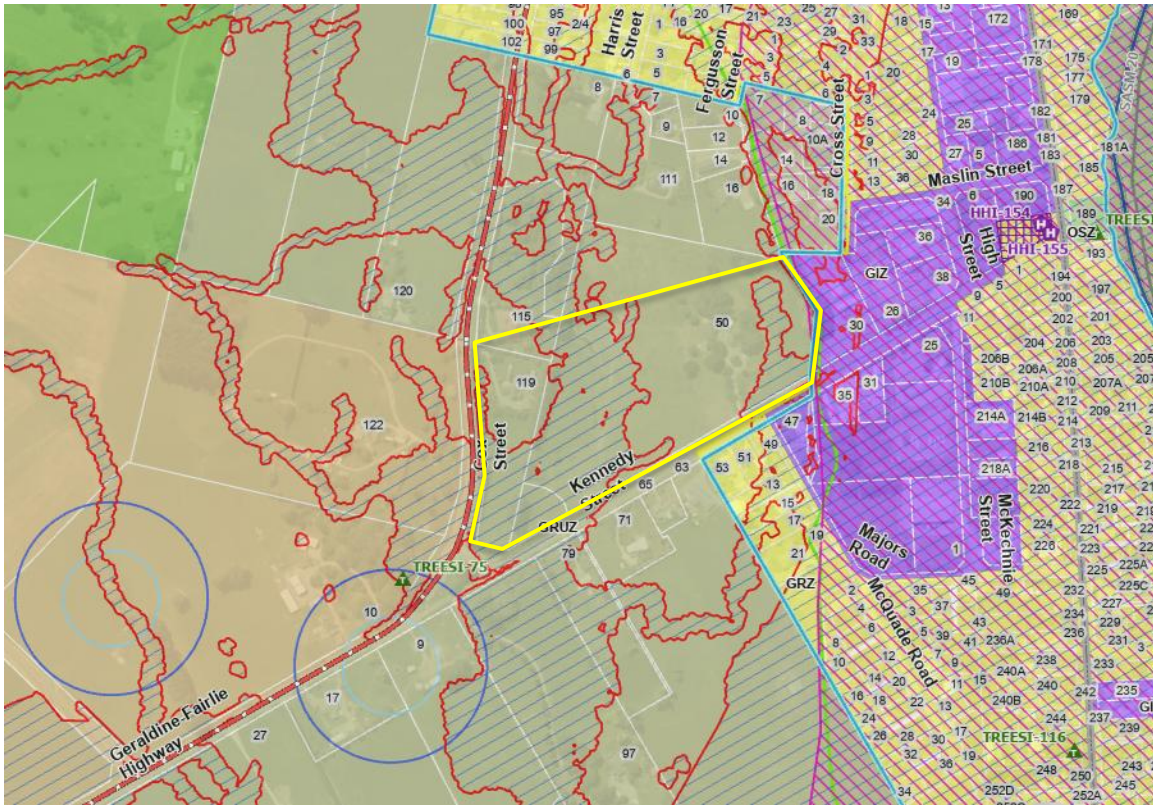
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
13 – FDA5 Young Farm	Residential	Water –Upgrades to pipes required. Firefighting water supply is not currently available. Sewer – Available but upgrades to pipes required.	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - Nil Natural Environmental Values: - Long-Tailed Bat Habitat Protection Area Other: - LUC 2 Land



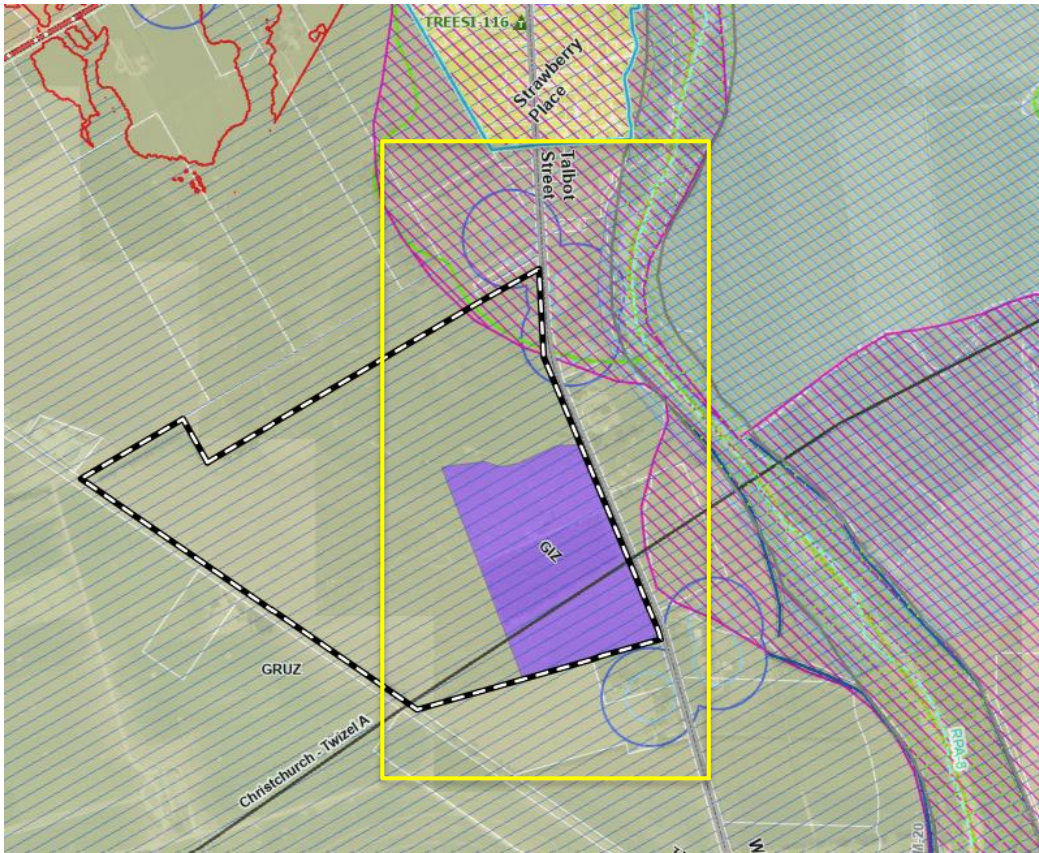
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
14a and 14b – South Geraldine	Residential	Water – Upgrades to pipes required. Firefighting water supply is not currently available. Sewer – Available but upgrades to pipes required.	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Partial Liquifaction Awareness Area (14b only) Historical and Cultural Values: - Nil Natural Environmental Values: - Long-Tailed Bat Habitat Protection Area Other: - Esplanade Provision - State Highway 79 - LUC 2 Land



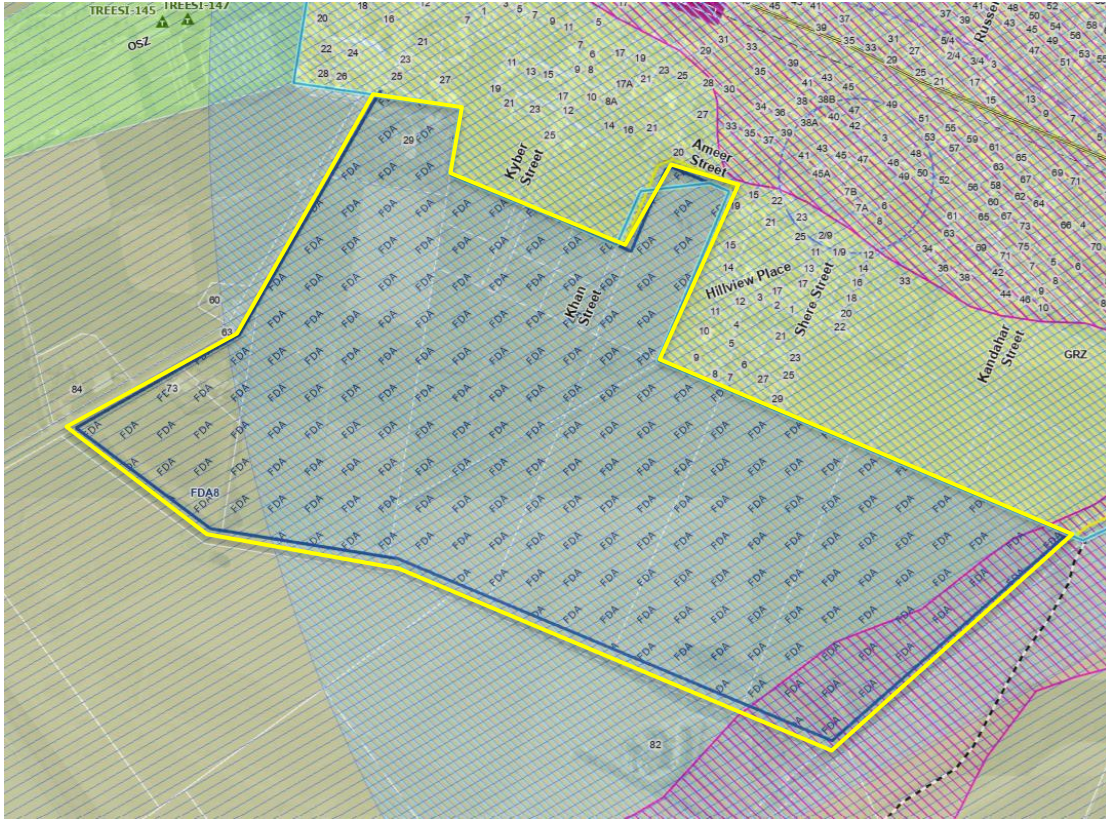
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
15 – Kennedy Street	Industrial	Water –Upgrades to pipes required. Firefighting water supply is not currently available. Sewer – Available but upgrades to pipes required. The West Geraldine sewer upgrades around the Waihi River siphon would be required before any development.	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - Nil Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - LUC 2 Land



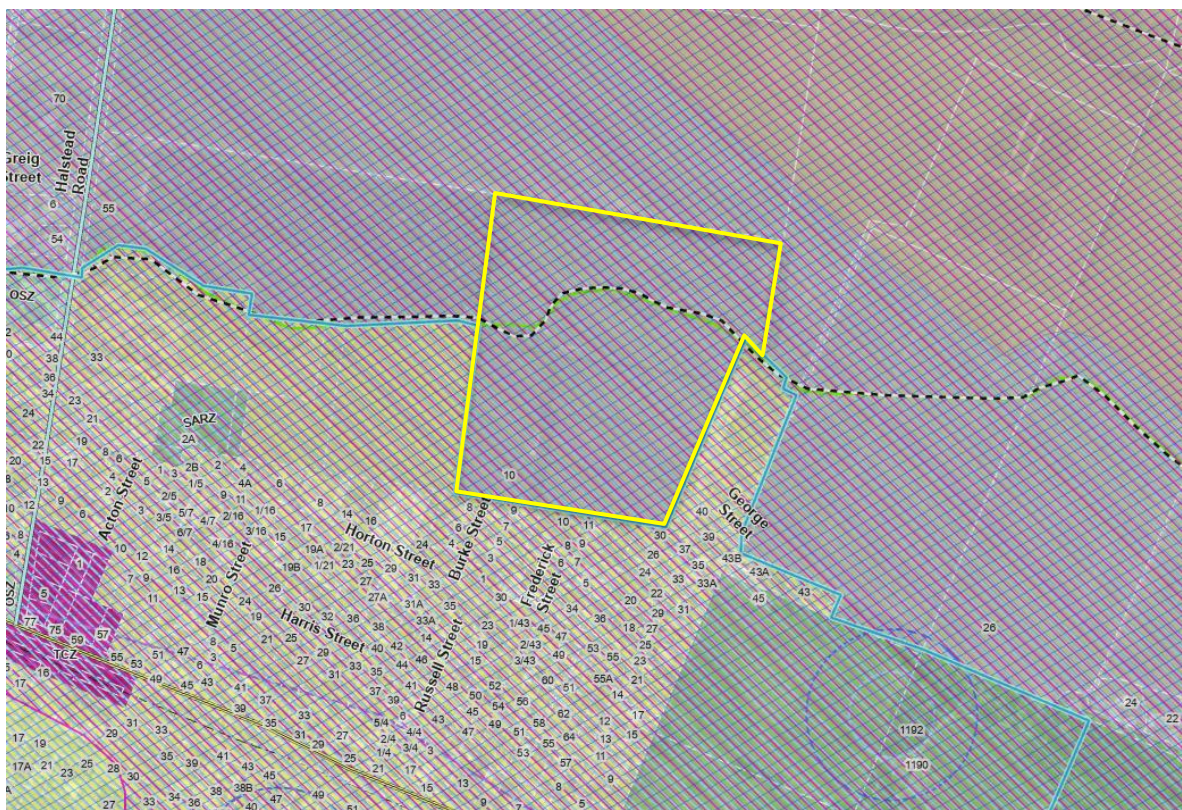
Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
16 – Winchester-Geraldine Road	Industrial	Water – No reticulation present. Sewer – No reticulation present but in close proximity to Councils sewage ponds. Area could be included in updated capacity assessment	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Partial Liquifaction Awareness Area Historical and Cultural Values: - Nil Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Drinking Water Protection Area – Private Supply - Esplanade Provision - National Grid Lines - Part of the site is LUC 2 Land



Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
17 – FDA8 Manse Road	Residential	Water – modelling required. Sewer – capacity generally available subject to upgrades.	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Partial Liquifaction Awareness Area - Partial Overland Flow Path Assessment Area Historical and Cultural Values: - Nil Natural Environmental Values: - Nil Other: - Drinking Water Protection Area – Community Supply - LUC 2 and 3 Land - Future Rural Residential Development Area



Identifier/Name	Intended Use	Infrastructure Capacity	Planning Notations/Constraints
18 – Burke Street, Pleasant Point	Residential	Water – modelling required. Sewer – capacity generally available subject to upgrades	Zoning: - General Rural Natural Hazards: - Flood Assessment Area - Liquifaction Awareness Area Historical and Cultural Values: - SASM-16 Wai Taoka Lines Overlay Natural Environmental Values: - Long-Tailed Bat Habitat Protection Area Other: - Drinking Water Protection Area – Community Supply - Esplanade Provision - LUC 2 and 3 Land



Partially Operative Timaru District Plan 2026 Legend

Zones

	General Rural Zone
	Settlement Zone
	General Residential Zone
	Medium Density Residential Zone
	Rural Lifestyle Zone
	Local Centre Zone
	Neighbourhood Centre Zone
	Large Format Retail Zone
	Mixed Use Zone
	Town Centre Zone
	City Centre Zone
	General Industrial Zone
	Māori Purpose Zone
	Port Purpose Zone
	Open Space Zone
	Sport and Active Recreation Zone
	Natural Open Space Zone

 Aerodrome Flight Path Protection Area

National Grid Line



Flood Assessment Area



Liquefaction Awareness Area



Overland Flowpath Assessment Area



Coastal Erosion Overlay



Sea Water Inundation Overlay



Regional Council Stopbank



Birdstrike Management Overlay



Long-Tailed Bat Habitat Protection Area



Railway Vibration Alert Layer



Coastal Marine Area Boundary



Coastal High Natural Character Areas



Notable Tree - Group



Drinking Water Protection Area

 DWPA - within 50m from a private drinking water supply

 DWPA - within 100m from a private drinking water supply

 DWPA - for Community Drinking Water Supply

Esplanade Provisions



Heritage Item



Heritage Item - Setting



Wahi Taoka



Wahi Tapu



Wai Taoka



Wai Tapu



Wahi Tupuna



Spatial Planning: are we ready to turn ambition into action?

1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Written by **Jaimee Cannon** and **Stephanie Styles**

SHARE



Spatial planning gives us the means to look beyond individual sites, projects and statutory processes, and take a longer-term view of the future of our regions. Doing so will require new ways of working, systems thinking, stronger collaboration, and a broader perspective.



There is broad recognition that spatial planning has an important role to play in shaping the future of our regions.

The idea is compelling: bring people together around a shared understanding of where a region is heading, where growth and change should occur, what infrastructure will be needed, and how environmental, cultural, social and economic priorities can be considered together, and effectively implemented.

But as those of us involved in preparing Regional Spatial Plans – including councils, iwi, planners, infrastructure providers and technical specialists – move from the concept of spatial planning towards delivering Regional Spatial Plans (RSPs), two key fundamental questions are emerging:

Are we ready to do it?

Does the framework provide enough time to do it properly?

These fundamental questions were some of the strongest messages from spatial planning workshops held around Aotearoa. The conversations were not characterised by resistance to spatial planning. Quite the opposite. There was a strong appetite to make it work, but there was also a healthy realism about what will be required.

Many raised concerns that the requirement to prepare and notify spatial plans within 21 months of Royal Assent of the Planning Act, and nine months of receiving national direction, is going to be incredibly tight; and questioned whether this provides enough time to do it properly.

Across the workshops, six recurring themes came through. Together, they suggest that the success of spatial planning will depend on more than getting the legislative framework right. It will depend on whether we create the conditions for regions to work differently; with sufficient clarity, capacity, leadership, evidence and, ultimately, the means to turn strategy into action. This think-piece describes those key themes and implications for turning spatial planning ambition into action.

1. Clarity first

Perhaps the strongest message was simple: regions want to know what is expected of them.

There were repeated calls for early and clear national guidance on Regional Spatial Plan (RSP) content and process, templates, terminology, core obligations, data standards and expectations from the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT).

There is a balance to strike. Too much prescription could undermine the regional responsiveness that spatial planning is intended to enable. Too little direction risks every region reinventing the wheel, and consuming scarce resources on approaches that could be standardised nationally. The challenge may be to provide clear national standards while leaving room for regional ambition and difference.

The earlier that clarity arrives, the more confidently regions can get moving.

2. Capacity is not an implementation detail

Developing an RSP is not simply another piece of planning work that can be added to an already full programme. It requires sustained strategic thinking, technical expertise, engagement, governance support, project management and coordination across multiple organisations, and different stakeholders within organisations too. It is not just councils that need capacity. Iwi and Māori partners, central government agencies, infrastructure providers, development sector representatives, and the wider planning profession will all be critical.

There is a risk that we underestimate this because spatial planning is a long-term exercise, but long-term outcomes require short-term investment.

Regions are expected to develop high-quality, evidence-based plans, within 21 months from September 2026, while continuing business as usual. Therefore, resourcing RSP development needs to be treated as a system investment, not simply a council project cost. There remains significant concern within local government as to how the development and implementation of the RSPs will be funded. It is critical that resourcing and funding to support the RSP process is confirmed as soon as possible. In addition, it is clear that there will need to be a significant mindset shift from the traditional model of governance.

3. The governance challenge may be harder than the planning challenge

Spatial planning requires collaboration across Council boundaries within each Region.

Councils have different priorities, communities have different aspirations, iwi and hapū have different relationships with place, and central government agencies bring national priorities and investment decisions. The Spatial Plan Committee model creates an opportunity to bring these perspectives together. But good governance will not happen automatically because a governance structure already exists and it is clear that a new approach is needed to tackle these new challenges.

There will be a need for capable elected members, clear roles, strong programme management, effective council relationships, and genuine leadership. Many of the issues RSPs are intended to address – housing, transport, infrastructure, economic development and environmental pressures – also cross regional boundaries.

The depth of the relationships may ultimately matter as much as the quality of the plan. It will be important to invest in relationship-building early: getting the foundations in place now to ensure that the plan is robust, *and* that implementation is achievable.

4. A plan is only as good as what it delivers

Perhaps the most important test of RSPs will be what happens after they are adopted. Implementation is everything.

There was repeated concern about whether RSPs will actually influence infrastructure delivery, Long-Term Plans, implementation plans, government agency priorities, regional deals, funding mechanisms and other investment decisions to ensure that promises are kept by both public and private agencies.

If an RSP becomes another strategy sitting on a shelf, it will have failed its fundamental purpose.

A successful RSP should help answer practical questions:

- Where should growth and other changes occur?
- What infrastructure needs to be delivered, by when, and who pays?
- Where should investment be prioritised?
- What environmental constraints or opportunities should shape development? and
- Who is responsible for making it happen?

Implementation cannot be an afterthought. The machinery for delivering the spatial plan needs to be considered from the beginning and woven into the Spatial Plan. The Implementation Plan should clearly identify actions and responsibilities to effectively deliver the plan and enable partnerships and external funding arrangements where this is necessary to ensure success.

An RSP should not simply describe the future a region wants. It needs to help create the machinery for delivering it.



5. Staying strategic is harder than it sounds

There was also a strong message about maintaining a genuine regional perspective.

Regions contain communities with very different experiences, pressures and aspirations. There will inevitably be competing views about where growth should occur, what infrastructure should be prioritised and which environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes matter most. The temptation will be to resolve these issues at a local level or revert to details that are best addressed in statutory land-use plans.

But an RSP cannot – and should not – become a collection of local planning exercises.

Its value lies in identifying the issues that are genuinely regional, understanding how they interact, and making strategic choices about the direction of the region as a whole over the longer term.

That requires a broad lens: growth, change and/or development alongside rural land, freshwater, biodiversity, the coast and marine environment, infrastructure, economic development, social outcomes and cultural values. A RSP should also contemplate other forms of regionally significant change that may not always manifest as growth per se. For example, economic, social and transport resilience, rural-urban shifts, changes in productive industries, declining

populations, birth rates and other social dynamics may be critical considerations not directly associated with "growth" in the traditional sense.

The art will be knowing what belongs at the regional scale – and being disciplined enough to leave the rest to other planning processes.

6. We cannot make strategic decisions without understanding uncertainty

The final recurring theme was data and evidence.

Spatial planning depends on a shared understanding of a region: its population, economy, infrastructure, natural environment, hazards, land use, communities and future pressures. But different organisations often hold different datasets, assumptions and levels of confidence in the evidence available. Questions around data consistency, data sovereignty, evidence standards, assumptions and transparency therefore become particularly important.

There is an opportunity here for RSPs to create a much stronger shared evidence base – one that supports not only the plan itself, but future planning, investment, and decision-making. We should also be comfortable with uncertainty. Strategic planning is about making decisions about a future that cannot be predicted with certainty.

The important thing is to be transparent about what we know, what we do not know, what assumptions we are making, and how uncertainty affects the choices being made.

So, are we ready?

The workshops revealed a more nuanced picture. There is clearly a willingness to embrace spatial planning. There is also considerable expertise, experience and enthusiasm across the motū.

However, the workshops have highlighted real challenges: the need for clearer national direction, greater capacity and resourcing, more time to do it properly, strong governance, better evidence, genuine collaboration and, most critically, a stronger connection between strategy and implementation.

There are undoubtedly challenges ahead, but they should not overshadow the opportunity. We can build a spatial planning system that is practical, collaborative and genuinely capable of shaping better regional outcomes.

That is what makes this such an exciting time for planners and those operating in the wider planning system to influence change and growth. Regional Spatial Plans give us an opportunity to step beyond the traditional boundaries of statutory planning and think much more fundamentally about how our regions function and where they are heading.

We get to ask the big questions:

- Where and how should our communities grow and change?
- What infrastructure will they need?
- How do we protect the things that make our regions special?
- How do we respond to climate change and natural hazards?
- How do we support productive rural land, thriving communities and resilient economies?
- How do we give effect to the aspirations of iwi and Māori?
- How do we make decisions today that will still make sense decades from now?

These are not easy questions. But they are *exactly* the questions that strategic planning should be answering.

Spatial planning gives us the means to look beyond individual sites, projects and statutory processes, and take a longer-term view of the future of our regions. Doing so will require new ways of working, systems thinking, stronger collaboration, and a broader perspective.

The challenge is not simply to prepare for change, but to embrace the opportunity to help shape it.



This analysis has been prepared by Stephanie Styles and Jaimee Cannon, co-presenters of the *NZPI: Foundations for Spatial Planning* workshop series presented across Aotearoa in July and August 2026, with input from Dave Moule and Ken Gimblett.