



THE  
**MILFORD  
JOURNEY**  
*reimagined*

THE MILFORD OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT





## *Feeling the power of nature.*

The Milford Opportunities Project



A new re-visioned journey, a celebration of place, a space to stop and feel the essence of your surroundings, to be fully emersed in something much bigger than yourself, to feel the power of nature, the stories of the past – this is what the Milford Opportunities masterplan aims to create.

The Milford Opportunities Project was established to ensure Te Anau, the Milford Corridor and the jewel of the Aotearoa crown - Milford Sound Piopiotahi is both protected and enhanced – the natural wonder is safeguarded and the man-made improved to meld with nature and ensure visitors can find a sense of space. This will also add benefits to the wider region.





‘Piopiotahi – New Zealand as it was, forever’ is the vision of the project’s masterplan.

The foundations of the project are based on manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga, and a true mana whenua partnership.

We want to ensure the journey between Te Anau and Milford Sound Piopiotahi is a place where people want to go for generations to come, to get away from the crush of urban life, to feel the wairua of the place in their hearts.

Mana whenua stories will be woven through the future development of the area, alongside ensuring ongoing protection and enabling restoration of conservation areas.

These pillars, combined with ensuring the visitor experience is world class, is a moving experience, funds conservation and community, is resilient to change and risk and harnesses innovation and technology, are woven throughout the plan and have formed the strong foundation for this masterplan and for the future of the journey.



*Feeling the wairua of the place in their hearts.*

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# MANAGING PIOPIOTAHĪ

MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL #1

*A space to stop  
& feel the essence.*

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A new governance model for the management of Milford Sound Piopiotahi to ensure the masterplan is delivered. Feedback from engagement was strong about the need for change in how the place is managed and by whom.





# MANA WHENUA PARTNERSHIP

MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL #2



## *Continuing the partnership*

built with mana whenua throughout the masterplan work to ensure the cultural identity of the region is told by mana whenua and they are partners in the governance of the area.

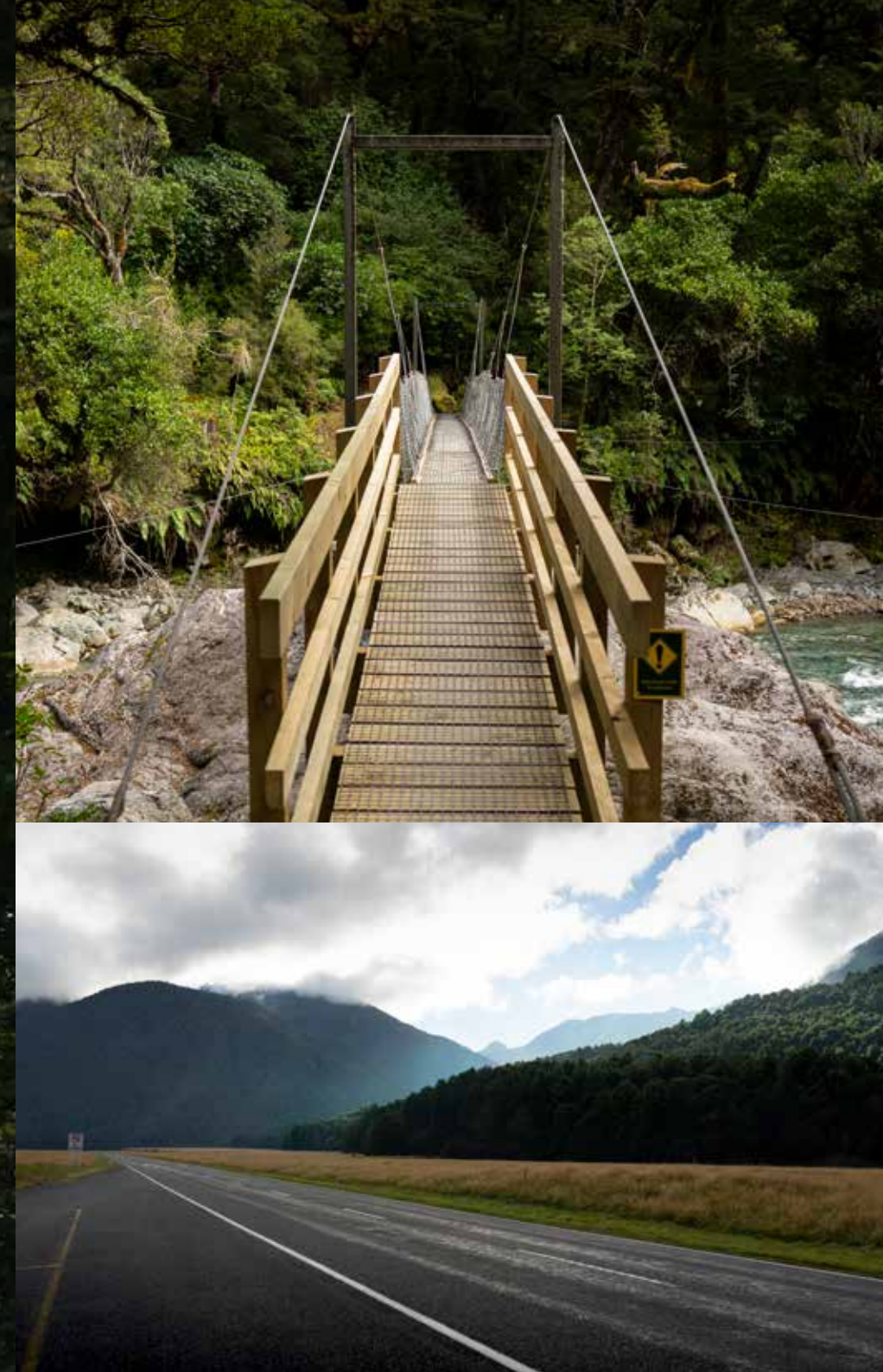






# CONTROLLING ACCESS TO PIOPIOTAHİ

MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL #3



Controls placed on accessing the road  
- this will be done in two ways.

**Access through a permit system – free to New Zealanders and international visitors charged for access through a permit and bus system.** Milford Road is considered dangerous for international and inexperienced domestic drivers and there is often congestion at key times as visitors rush to meet scheduled scenic boat trips times. The journey from Te Anau to Milford Sound Piopiotahi is a world class experience and the core wilderness experience and conservation values are being compromised. The fund set up from the permit fees will enable investment in conservation management, infrastructure and community good to ensure it remains a world class experience. Possible projects to be funded are predator free initiatives, bird recovery to enable predator-free initiatives, bird recovery, integration of culture and history, improving and developing tracks and pathways.

**Zero emission hop-on hop-off buses will be the main transport on the road, with a park and ride system established.** Most international visitors will only get access via the bus system, with those in campervans gaining access only if they have a booking along the road or at Milford Lodge.





# TE ANAU – THE JOURNEY HUB

MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL #4



*Showcase  
the wonders.*

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A new Te Anau visitor centre and bus hub – Te Anau is often missed by visitors to Milford Sound Piopiotahi as many come from Queenstown on an all-day return trip.

This is not the best way of showcasing the wonders of Fiordland and Milford Sound Piopiotahi and enabling visitors to experience the whole story. Te Anau, as the hub for the journey, allows much more time to explore and experience, rather than a 13 hour bus trip.

The masterplan is recommending enhancing activities and services in Te Anau and surrounds, but believes plans for that need to be driven by the local community board and tourism organisation.





# THE MILFORD CORRIDOR EXPERIENCE

MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL #5



## Multiple experiences along the Milford corridor around key places.

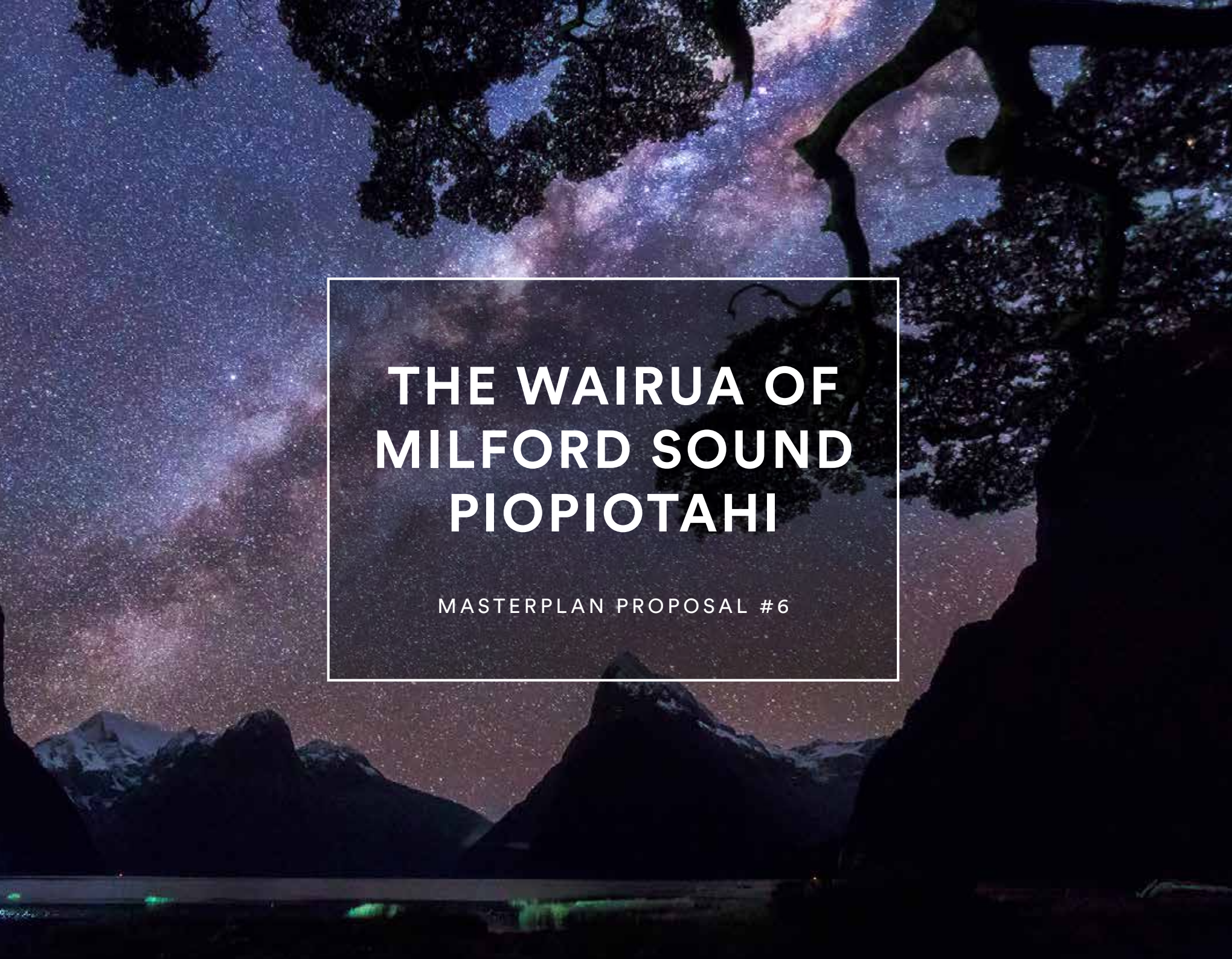
For example, an entrance to Fiordland National park, a shelter that fits the environment at Eglinton Valley, improved environments and links to short walks at Knobs Flat and Cascade Creek, a track starting point in the vicinity of Lake Marion/the Divide.

These attractions are often missed because most visitors are time-constrained, particularly if they are taking a bus tour from Queenstown, to get into Milford Sound Piopiotahi and back in a day. Grouping activities at various points of interest protects biodiversity and the landscape.

Examples include shared cycling and walking trails, shelters and interpretation which is themed and of high quality.







# THE WAIRUA OF MILFORD SOUND PIOPIOTAHĪ

MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL #6



Reorganising Milford Sound Piopiotahi to remove conflict, such as cruise ships and the airstrip.

Cruise ships are seen as incongruous with the beautiful natural setting as sometimes they block key views and release pollution. The runway is not in a sustainable condition as it partially floods in high spring tides and that will worsen with sea level rise. Groundwater is undermining the runway foundation and the runway takes up a large area of the flat area in the sound, for flights that are for only a small number of visitors.

The removal of the runway will enable the creation of an outstanding reveal of Mitre Peak and the sound and the ability to link Deepwater Basin and Freshwater Basin with new walkways and vantage points – places to experience the wairua of the place.





Creating an innovative visitor centre in Milford Sound Piopiotahi will make a starting point for all visitors.

This will provide a central point for visitors, a shelter from the weather when necessary and enable people to find out what else they can do in the sound other than boat trips.

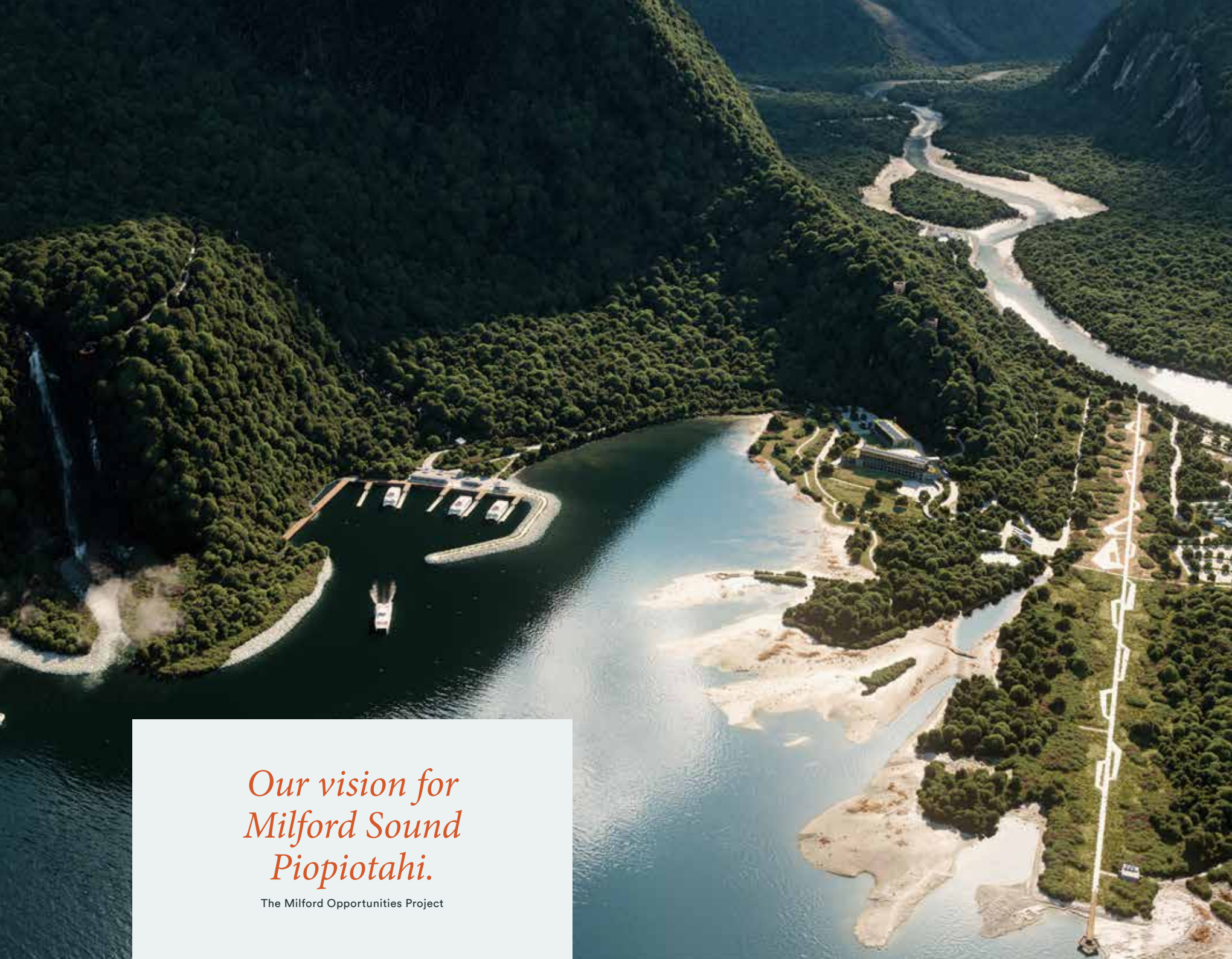
Modernising facilities and infrastructure by building a new hotel beside the visitor centre. Staff accommodation would also be nearby. Much of the existing infrastructure is old and in poor condition. Staff accommodation is in different places. Having all of these in one area will not only free up more space, but also provide a level of hazard protection as there are several natural hazards in the sound that pose a risk to staff and visitors alike.



*Creating a starting point for all visitors.*

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*Our vision for  
Milford Sound  
Piopiotahi.*

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*Bringing an accessible  
& protected world  
to you.*

The Milford Opportunities Project





## *A journey of discovery.*

The Milford Opportunities Project

This booklet is a summary of the masterplan which has been created from engagement with many key stakeholders, from tourist operators to the general public throughout New Zealand, from businesses to national organisations.

Research and engagement have resulted in reports on a number of topics all informing the full masterplan document. To read the masterplan and supporting documents, please go to [www.milfordopportunities.nz](http://www.milfordopportunities.nz)

It is essential to note this masterplan puts forward recommendations but it is not an implementation plan. That detailed work is still to come in stage three. The Government will make the decisions on what the next steps are in the coming months.



It has been a journey to get here— a journey of discovery, of listening, of research, of engagement, of debate. The journey will continue into implementation, but the underlying principles remain the same – to protect the wonder of Te Anau, Fiordland and Milford Sound Piopiotahi while also enhancing the experience for all.

We hope you stay on the journey with the Milford Opportunities project.





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