

The Great Barrier Local Board formally considered this matter at its 9 August meeting and passed the following resolutions at Item 14.

14 Feedback on the Hauraki Gulf Forum Governance Review

That the Great Barrier Local Board:

- a) Approve the tabled feedback on the Hauraki Gulf Forum Governance review for consideration by the Forum at its 12 September 2016 meeting.*
- b) Thank board member J Cleave for his work on the Forum and the feedback on the Hauraki Gulf Forum governance review.*
- c) Forward a copy of the tabled feedback to the Waiheke Local Board, Chair Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea and Councillor Mike Lee, for their information.*

A copy of the feedback follows.

The Great Barrier Local Board's feedback on the Hauraki Gulf Forum Governance Review

Summary

The Great Barrier local Board asks that:

A. The following additional principle be included in the review recommendations:

(f) The Forum needs to be made up of people who have a key role to play in the future of the Hauraki Gulf and as such at least one member will represent the communities of inhabited Hauraki Gulf islands

B. That Recommendation (e) bullet point 3 be amended by adding the words in italics:

- 3 members appointed by local authorities (1 from each of the Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council and the territorial authorities collectively) – these may or may not be elected *members and provided one member is a representative of the Hauraki Gulf Island communities*

In addition the Great Barrier Local Board seeks the following outcomes from the Review:

- The Auckland Council representative's mandate formally includes a requirement to consult with the Waiheke and Great Barrier local boards on all matters related to the Hauraki Gulf, prior to attending Forum meetings

- The proposal to seek legislative amendment to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 includes a specific change that requires that the Forum consult with the Waiheke and Great Barrier local boards on all matters related to the Hauraki Gulf

Discussion

The Great Barrier Local Board supports the need for change at the Forum. As a member with a strong interest in the activities of the Forum and the protection of the Hauraki Gulf, the board via its representative, has participated in and observed the Forum at work over the years.

Along with other members and associated parties the Board has seen and applauded the areas the Forum excels in, such as its State of the Gulf reports, publicity material, advocacy and efforts to create change. It has also however been frustrated and disappointed that the Forum has no teeth to effect change and that its work has often fallen on deaf ears or been ignored by commercial interests.

The board agrees that the two areas that need change are in the make-up of the Forum itself and giving it specific legislative teeth to enable change. It considers that Forum members, with such authority behind them, will get a new lease of life and this will make a huge difference to the Forum's effectiveness.

Central to the Board's feedback on the Governance Review is its view that the communities of the Hauraki Gulf must have a voice at the Forum table. The proposed structure will see the existing voices of the Waiheke and Great Barrier local board's disappearing and the board is very concerned about this.

The Board accepts that a smaller streamlined Forum structure based on influence means that the Waiheke and Great Barrier local board seats would disappear, but it considers that a mechanism must be found for these communities to influence the Forum's work. The most obvious way to do this is to retain a "gulf communities" seat at the table.

If that isn't supported then the Board considers that the Auckland Council representative's mandate needs to formally include a requirement that he/she consult with these communities during the discharge of Auckland Council's duties.

In addition, the Board considers that enshrining consideration of the views of Hauraki Gulf communities in the HGMPA is desirable. As the Waiheke and Great Barrier Local Boards represent the bulk of those communities, it makes sense that these agencies are the vehicle for that consideration.

The Board suggests that the Forum doesn't look at the contribution of its representative over the years as being reflective of what this role could be if the above changes are introduced. The Board's representatives have felt powerless and frustrated at times by the way the Forum operates and the board considers that a new approach would result in the kind of contribution its members have wanted to make being realised.

Jeff Cleave
Hauraki Gulf Forum representative, on behalf of the Great Barrier Local Board