

Department of Conservation

Hauraki Gulf Forum
Strategic Issue

Regenerating green and
blue areas

Enhanced fisheries

Mana whenua integration

Active land management

Knowledge generation

within an eco-system

based framework

Planned work for the 2017/2018 year

As indicators of the Department's work in the year ahead, we are planning to undertake the following pieces of work that contribute to the Forum's five strategic issues. This is not exhaustive, but provides a sample of the planned work.

Regenerating green and blue areas:

- Rakitu ship rat eradication
- "War on Weeds" – weed control across the Gulf islands
- Eradication of plague skink from Gt. Barrier (joint project with Auckland Council)
- Support Pohutukawa Trust's work towards a pest free Kawau
- Allocation and management of funds through the DOC community Fund for a range of community projects including island based initiatives
- Island biosecurity – increasing our capacity through establishing a formal conservation dogs team

Enhanced fisheries:

- Marine reserve compliance & public education

Mana whenua integration:

- Completion of Hauturu CMP
- Working with the Tūpuna Taonga Trust to initiate Motu Plan (a CMP for three inner Gulf islands)
- Implementation of Treaty settlements with Treaty partners (subject to timing of legislation) including Ngāti Rehua, Ngai Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Paoa, and others

Active land management:

- Removal of asbestos from controlled mine base on Rangitoto
- Stabilisation of slips on Motutapu following storm damage in autumn of 2017

Knowledge generation within an eco-system based framework:

- Supporting and initiating research on marine mammals, particularly on the effects of marine mammal watching tourism
- Supporting research in marine reserves
- Developing a threatened species strategy for the Gulf islands – the role the islands play in the management of nationally endangered species

Regenerating green and
blue areas

Mana whenua integration

Policy and Plan Development, Regulation and Compliance

Hauturu/Little Barrier Conservation Management Plan

Creation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Hauturu/Little Barrier is a key piece of redress in the Ngāti Manuhiri Treaty settlement.

The draft plan has been amended after review by the NZ Conservation Authority and the Minister of Conservation, and by the date of the Forum's meeting the plan will hopefully be approved.

The Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and the Auckland Conservation Board are co-approvers of this plan. It is planned that the CMP will be approved by the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust shortly, and by the Auckland Conservation Board at its meeting on 16 August 2017. Once both parties have approved the plan, it will become operative on a date to be agreed by both parties.

For more see: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2016/te-hauturu-o-toi-little-barrier-island-conservation-management-plan/>

Constituent party name: **Department of Conservation**

Motu Plan (Conservation Management Plan)

Development of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for four inner Gulf Islands (Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga, Motukorea/Browns) is a key piece of redress in the Tāmaki Collective Treaty settlement. The Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust (a post Treaty settlement entity of the Tāmaki Collective) and the Auckland Conservation Board are co-approvers of this plan.

Work on the plan has been deferred while resourcing needs for both the Department and the Trust are identified, and a funding package can be approved.

The CMP will no longer include Motukorea/Browns Island following the return of administration of that island to Auckland Council.

Regenerating green and blue areas

Active land management

Regenerating green and blue areas

Operations and Asset Management

Rakitu Island pest eradication

We are continuing to plan towards undertaking the pest eradication of Rakitu in the winter of 2018.

The Department is planning on engaging with iwi and other interested parties about the future of the weka present on the island, which were introduced many years ago from the mainland. This population is considered to be important as it is one of the few safe populations of North Island weka.

Kauri dieback recreation facilities upgrades

The Department has previously reported the Government's funding of \$21m to fund upgrades to recreation facilities to prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease.

Work on upgrading a number of tracks comprising the Aotea Track on Gt. Barrier is now well advanced. A large number of tracks on the Coromandel are scheduled for upgrades under the project and this work is being planned.

For more see: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/kauri-dieback-recreation-project/>

Storm damage

The series of significant storms earlier in the year resulted in damage to recreation facilities in a number of sites across the Marine Park. Damage was reported in the Kauaeranga Valley and on some of the Gulf islands such as Motutapu.

The Department has continued its work to progressively re-open tracks and other facilities once repairs have been made and public safety can be assured. Motutapu remains temporarily closed to the public.

Myrtle rust

Fortunately myrtle rust has not been detected with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park or its catchment. Nevertheless the Department has undertaken a lot of work in the Gulf area as part of the wide response to the disease.

See collection from all species in the affected plant family (Myrtaceae) was undertaken in late autumn/early winter from as many species and sites as possible on behalf of MPI who are the lead agency in the response. The seed will be stored in a central seed bank at Massey. Further seed collection will be repeated in future years to ensure that a full range of genetic variability within the various species is held.

A surveillance programme has also been developed, to monitor sites to which the disease may potentially spread from the known sites of infection. At the time of writing this only included some areas on Aotea/Great Barrier. Local staff are being sent to other regions to contribute to the national effort.

Fire & Emergency New Zealand (FENZ)

The Department's role in firefighting changed with effect from 1 July, when the new Fire & Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) started operations. The Department no longer has statutory responsibilities for fire control as a rural fire authority, but is now a support agency for FENZ. We will continue to retain firefighting and incident management capabilities. We will assist FENZ with fighting fires on public conservation land and on some other types of land eg. kawenata, and be available if requested by FENZ to support firefighting off public conservation land.

"Bring Back Kōkako" project

Department of Conservation

Ngāti Rehua are leading a project to eradicate pests from the Te Paparahi block at the north end of Aotea/Great Barrier, with the ultimate objective of seeing the return of kōkakō to the island. The last kōkakō were removed in the early 1990's and transferred to Hauturu/Little Barrier.

The Department has supported the project through the DOC Community Fund. That has funded a feasibility study by Dr. Ian Flux, which confirmed that the concept was achievable. Planning work is currently underway to establish monitoring lines in the block and to assess the methodology for pest eradication.

Regenerating green and blue areas

Education and Communication

Predator Free 2050

The Department continues to provide advice, and where it can, resources, for those communities seeking information and support for predator free projects. An example is the group proposing a predator free Devonport-Takapuna. In support of this, to help build knowledge in the community about trapping, the Department is holding a "Predator Free Maungauika/North Head" event on 12 August. Members of the local community will be shown how to lay out trap lines. The intention is to use the event to build support for making Maungauika predator free, as one step towards the wider goal.

The Department also supported the Auckland Council led "Pestival" event on 24 June, at which the department had a stand, and at which the Director-General spoke about Predator free 2050.

Conservation Week

Planning is underway for Conservation Week, which will be held over 14-22 October. The theme this year is "Love my backyard".