

Hauraki District Council

*Hauraki Gulf Forum
Strategic Issue*

Active land management

Thames–Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill

The Thames–Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill passed its first reading stage in the House earlier this month and has been sent to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee.

Nothing further will happen until after the election and the Committee is re-constituted.

Link to MP Simpson's speech here:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/HansS_20170809_075450000/simpson-scott
Responses from other MPs are also available for reading.

Kaiaua Landfill Foreshore Cleanup

Soon after inheriting the Seabird Coast area from Franklin District Council (FDC), Hauraki District Council (HDC) became aware of an environmentally hazardous historic landfill site on the foreshore immediately south of Kaiaua township. Located on the foreshore, the landfill was within an area recognised as an internationally significant habitat for migratory birds by the Wetlands Convention, established at Ramsar in Iran in 1971. The rubbish, which included asbestos, was buried well before the area became part of the Hauraki District. As coastal erosion was causing ongoing problems with rubbish being washed down the beach and into the sea, HDC engaged contractors to clear the site and safely transport the rubbish to a more appropriate landfill site. The cost to HDC was considerable, but is easily outweighed by the environmental benefits of this project.

Paeroa Streamcare Project

In February 2016, Paeroa resident Eowyn Starr noticed water in Paeroa's urban Hape stream was pale pink in colour. When about 100 eels and kokopu (native fresh water fish) floated lifeless to the surface, she realised something was seriously amiss and called Waikato Regional Council. It turned out chemicals being used by a company contracted to clean the outside of a retirement home in the area, had found their way into the stream, which flows into the Waihou River and ultimately out to sea. Taken to court by Waikato Regional Council at the beginning of 2017, the company was sentenced and fined \$39,000 for its actions.

Surprised at how much life was contained in the small urban stream (largely perceived and treated as a stormwater drain), Eowyn researched and put together a detailed proposal to improve the health of the stream and build community understanding at the same time. Her work received the support of both HDC and WRC, with HDC making an initial contribution of \$5000 towards the project. Eowyn has since formed a Trust, gained community support, and held two community planting days (plants donated by WRC). She hopes to eventually plant the entire Hape stream which will provide a template for similar projects throughout the District.