**Date:** Tuesday 8 May 2018  
**Time:** 9.30am  
**Meeting Room:** Reception Lounge  
**Venue:** Auckland Town Hall  
301-305 Queen Street  
Auckland

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**Komiti Taiao ā-Hapori Hoki / Environment and Community Committee**

**OPEN ATTACHMENTS**

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**Note:** The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
Press Release Sent by Ministry for Primary Industries Friday 6 April

New approach to manage myrtle rust

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation say the fight against the plant disease myrtle rust is changing gear, given the prevalence of the disease across susceptible parts of New Zealand.

Myrtle rust has now been confirmed in the Tasman region at the top of the South Island, which means the disease has been found across almost all regions identified as most vulnerable based on habitat suitability and wind patterns.

“When myrtle rust was first discovered on mainland New Zealand in May last year, we said it would be a challenging disease to contain and eradicate but we would give it a good crack,” says the Ministry for Primary Industries’ Myrtle Rust Response Spokesperson Dr Catherine Duthie. “There has been an enormous operational effort over the last 11 months, but the windborne nature of the disease means that containment has not proved possible. We have signalled for a while the likely need to change gear from intensive surveillance and the removal and destruction of host plants, to one where we look to manage the disease over the long term.”

The fungus has been found in Tasman region on ramarama (*Lophomyrtus*) on a residential property in Collingwood in Golden Bay, and a commercial property at Pohara. In addition, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has confirmed infections on five properties at Omori on the south-western edge of Lake Taupo, which is also a new region for infection.

“We now have well over 540 infected sites across the North Island and now the top of the South,” says Dr Duthie. “Because of the windborne, pernicious nature of the disease, we have to anticipate that there are likely to be many more infected sites beyond these.”

Dr Duthie says the focus of efforts now had to be placed on a science programme designed to lift our understanding around the disease such as ways to treat myrtle rust, resistance and susceptibility, and to improve seed banking collection.

“A second key focus has to be on working with communities across New Zealand to support regional efforts to combat myrtle rust. As we transition to long term management, MPI and the Department of Conservation (DOC) will be engaging with iwi and hapu, territorial authorities, the plant and nursery industries, and communities to support the development of regional programmes. This could include regional surveillance programmes, identification and protection strategies for taonga plants and special locations, advice to landowners, seed banking, and broad community engagement.”

As part of involving and informing communities at the grassroots, MPI and DOC will hold hui with iwi and councils in affected regions over the coming months.
“We think this regional and community effort is really important. One of the most critical things is for people to continue to report suspected infections. We need to keep tracking the spread of the disease so we can better understand how it might behave in New Zealand and what its long-term impacts might be. This will help us to understand resistance of native species and will be vital to our myrtle rust science programme.”

More than 540 properties are known to have been infected by the fungal disease since it was first detected on mainland New Zealand in mid-May 2017. Since then, more than 5000 myrtle plants have been securely removed and destroyed, and more than 95,000 myrtle plants inspected.

Members of the public are encouraged to continue to report any possible cases to the Biosecurity Hotline – 0800 80 99 66.

DOC will continue to focus on seed collection to secure the long-term future of native myrtle plants and monitoring biodiversity impacts to inform science and management actions. It will also continue efforts to protect sites of high ecological and cultural significance.

Kendal Ratcliffe
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Memorandum

To: Environment and Community Committee
Cc: Jim Quinn, Chief of Strategy
Subject: SeaChange Tai Timu Tai Pari – Update on progressing outcomes for the Hauraki Gulf
From: Dave Allen Manager Natural Environment Strategy

Purpose

1. To provide an update on progress towards implementation of objectives shared by SeaChange Tai Timu Tai Pari (SeaChange), Auckland Council and relevant Council Controlled Organisations through the approved forward work programme, overseen by the Auckland Council SeaChange Political Reference Group.

2. To provide an update on other initiatives underway, or completed, such as the 10-year Budget and the Hauraki Gulf Forum’s State of Our Gulf Report, Auckland Plan 2050, Treaty settlements, and how they relate to and support SeaChange objectives.

Summary

- The approved work programme for SeaChange implementation is currently being advanced through the 10-year Budget, Auckland Plan 2050 and other work programmes.

- The Auckland Council SeaChange Political Reference Group met on 14 February 2018, and received staff presentations from Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, and Waikato Regional Council. These presentations provided an overview of how shared objectives with the SeaChange plan were being advanced in accordance with the approved forward work programme.

- Auckland Council’s future work programme will also be influenced by central government initiatives with a bearing on the Hauraki Gulf, including proposed Treaty settlements. The Office for Treaty Settlements has recently held initial discussions with relevant iwi to determine how such negotiations should be approached.

- On 14 June 2018, the Auckland Council SeaChange Political Reference Group will convene to further consider how the various initiatives are further integrated, with advice from staff involved in these on-going discussions, whether related to the outcomes of recent consultative efforts undertaken by councils, or as a result of interactions with central government agencies.

Context/Background

3. The Auckland Council SeaChange Political Reference Group (the group) was formed in May 2017 (PLA/2017/50). The group met provisionally in August 2017 and then again on 14 February 2018 with confirmed membership, including further local board representation.

4. The group’s purpose is to guide and shape Auckland Council’s response to SeaChange, in accordance with the forward work programme, approved in September 2017 (ENV/2017/115) and ensure its objectives are embedded in Auckland Council activities.

Forward Work Programme – 10-year Budget proposals

5. Two new targeted rates are proposed in the 10-year Budget, which contribute to the forward work programme, for Natural Environment and Water. If these new targeted rates are introduced, they will provide significant additional funding to support better outcomes in the Hauraki Gulf.

- The Environment targeted rate proposes additional funding for pest free harbours, restoring native seabird habitats and protecting Hauraki Gulf Islands from pests. These new programmes are consistent with the SeaChange objectives.
• The Water targeted rate proposes accelerating investment in wastewater infrastructure, to deliver improvements to beach water quality in 10 years, rather than 30. The proposal aims to improve beach water quality for swimming, reduce contaminant runoff from roads, better manage on-site wastewater systems and improve compliance of domestic wastewater and stormwater connections.

Forward work programme - Auckland Plan 2050

6. The Auckland Plan 2050, which sets the strategic direction for Auckland, also supports improving the health of our environment, while balancing other priorities. It strengthens the focus on protecting and enhancing the environment. It recognises the decline in natural environments and aims to better integrate growth with protecting the environment.

7. The Auckland Plan 2050 also supports Auckland Council’s approach to advancing SeaChange objectives, through both existing and future work programmes, where there is alignment. The Environment and Cultural Heritage outcome aims to encourage Aucklanders to act as stewards of the environment, and treat the environment as a Taonga to be passed on to future generations. It recognises that we need to make different choices to improve the quality of our environment.

Discussion

Auckland Council SeaChange Political Reference Group

8. The group received updates on how the approved forward work programme is being advanced, including:

• The 10-year Budget and proposals of targeted rates for Water and Natural Environment.

• Auckland Transport Sustainability framework, which supports SeaChange outcomes through improving run-off from the transport network, and reducing the amount of litter reaching the Hauraki Gulf via the installation of tetra-traps in stormwater systems.

• Research, Investigations and Monitoring outlined how the research proposals in SeaChange could be implemented and managed, potentially through a research hub, as proposed by SeaChange.

• Natural Environment Strategy Unit staff discussed the Hauraki Gulf Forum’s State of our Gulf report, and how the report tracks the impacts on the Hauraki Gulf, and discussed a possible response from Auckland Council, to integrate SeaChange objectives, with State of our Gulf results and direction, as well as understanding existing and proposed council activity.

State of our Gulf report 2018

9. The State of our Gulf 2017 (the report) is the fifth state of environment report released by the Hauraki Gulf Forum, following its independent preparation. The Hauraki Gulf Forum is required to report every 3 years on the health of the Hauraki Gulf Tikapa Moana / Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi and progress being made towards integrated management. The report is relevant to Auckland Council’s response as it tracks environmental issues and their impact in the Hauraki Gulf.

10. The report is useful as a tool for tracking progress towards improving the health of the Hauraki Gulf, and for assessing strategic priorities. The key message from the report is that management frameworks and responses are not keeping pace with growth and change in the Hauraki Gulf. The report considers SeaChange a significant step forward for moving beyond current state, but is not the silver bullet for improving everything. The report and other environmental monitoring programmes are nonetheless important tools for tracking progress.

Hauraki Gulf Forum

11. The Hauraki Gulf Forum will consider its strategic priorities at its 14 May 2018 meeting. Strategic priorities were developed by the Forum in 2012 and have not been updated. The Forum is charged with advancing integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf, and is expected to use the objectives and messages from several sources (eg, SeaChange and the report) to guide its strategic directions. Auckland Council staff are hoping that there will be an opportunity for their input, with the aim of objectively consolidating strategic priorities, including some reflection of what
agencies are doing in practice (eg, forward work programme), and with reference to the relevant legislative obligations.

Next steps

12. The Auckland Council SeaChange Political Reference Group will meet next on 14 June 2018. Operationally, and given the statutory responsibility to address it, the meeting will be themed around sediment objectives, and how Auckland Council is embedding these in work programmes.

13. These various initiatives, work programmes and research need to be brought together as an integrated package, to best assess how they support each other in improving Hauraki Gulf outcomes. This analysis is underway and will be reported to the group.

14. Several other initiatives are approaching, which will have an impact on how Auckland Council responds to the management of the Hauraki Gulf, such as Treaty settlements, or refinements to how the Hauraki Gulf Forum is run. These initiatives will need to be assessed for their impact on Auckland Council’s approach to improving the health of the Hauraki Gulf.

15. Staff also expect that the Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries may soon be able to comment on their approach to considering SeaChange. Their response to SeaChange was delayed by the timing of the 2017 general election and release of the State of our Gulf report. The Minister of Conservation has met officials during March 2018, and is scheduled to attend the Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting on 14 May 2018.

16. Auckland Council staff are particularly mindful of the need to keep a collective lens on the approach to advancing shared SeaChange objectives over the short to medium term. Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council staff continue to advocate for an integrated approach, with appropriate weightings on some actions by respective agencies given the relative importance of some issues within their geographic area. There is a risk that reliance on one report or plan will not reflect the significant value associated with a more integrated approach going forward.
Memorandum
17 April 2017

To: Chair and Members of the Environment and Community Committee

Subject: Update on progress to become a friendlier city for all Aucklanders

From: Katarina Maki, General Manager, Community and Social Policy

Purpose
1. To provide an update on progress towards Auckland becoming a friendlier, more inclusive city for all.

Key messages
- Work is progressing to look at how Auckland can be a friendlier city for all Aucklanders.
- A key step is including belonging and participation as an outcome area in the Auckland Plan refresh.
- We have run a combined demographic advisory panels with 45 panel members (including Seniors Advisory Panel members), and held 37 workshops with over 650 diverse Aucklanders to identify what makes them feel they belong and the enablers and barriers to inclusion.
- Insights from this along with other research on Auckland’s diverse populations will be used to inform council’s policy, plans and service delivery.
- We will report to the committee in mid-2018 on key findings and proposed next steps.

Staff asked to investigate how to make Auckland a friendlier city for all
2. On 1 September 2016 the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee considered a proposal to become a member of the World Health Organisation’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.
3. The committee resolved not to join the network, but asked staff to progress the intent of the framework (to become a friendlier city for a range of populations, including older people) through council’s existing strategy and policy framework and report back (REG/2016/92).
4. A copy of the full resolution is attached.

Belonging and participation is a key outcome area in the Auckland Plan refresh
5. The Auckland Plan sets the high level strategic direction for all of council’s activities. Ensuring there are outcomes in the Auckland Plan that focus on creating a friendlier, more inclusive city is therefore critical.
6. As part of the Auckland Plan refresh, we have provided policy input and subject matter expertise on diversity and inclusion including technical papers on ethnic diversity and Auckland’s older population.
7. Fostering an inclusive Auckland where everyone belongs and improving health and wellbeing for all Aucklanders are now strategic directives in the draft Auckland Plan that was consulted on in March 2018.

Work is underway to identify what makes Aucklanders feel included (‘Investing in Aucklanders’ project.)
8. We are also undertaking a project (with a working title of ‘Investing in Aucklanders’), to identify what helps Aucklanders feel like they belong.
9. Using an “appreciative enquiry” (strengths-based) approach, we have engaged with a diverse range of Aucklanders about their experience of Auckland, to understand what belonging and inclusion means to them, and to identify enablers and barriers to this.
10. The engagement phase began on 25 September 2017 with a combined demographic advisory panels workshop. This was attended by 45 panel members and by Councillors Casey, Filipaina and Hills in their roles as panel liaison councillors.

11. During the engagement phase staff ran 37 workshops with over 650 participants. These workshops have reached a diverse range of people including school students, Chinese, Indian and Pacifica communities. Workshops with older Aucklanders have included a seniors writing group, a group of older Muslim men and women, North Shore Seniors Womens Network, and a Chinese seniors support group. Sessions have been held across Auckland to ensure a geographic spread.

12. Many of the people who have attended these workshops told us they have never engaged with the council before. Hearing the voices of those we don’t normally reach is a key objective of the project.

13. In April a workshop was held with a small group of participants and panel members (including representatives from the Seniors Advisory Panel) to present the overall findings of the project, test conclusions, and identify priorities.

Research on various demographic groups has been completed and is being used to inform policy

14. Council’s policy work on inclusion and diversity is underpinned by research. Recent research has looked at the:
   - quality of life of older Aucklanders (a report with key findings from this research will be circulated to all councillors shortly)
   - challenges and opportunities for rainbow communities
   - social impacts of ethnic diversity
   - current status of children and young people in Auckland
   - Auckland Māori children under five and their whānau.

15. These reports are available on the council’s Knowledge Auckland website.

16. This research will be used to help inform council policies, plans and the way services are delivered to support positive outcomes for Auckland’s diverse communities and demographic groups.

Next steps

17. A series of walkthroughs are planned in May and June to present the key insights from the engagement phase of the Investing in Aucklanders project. Councillors will be invited to attend these, along with advisory panel members, council staff and other key stakeholders.

18. Staff will then report the findings and the proposed next phase of the project to the Environment and Community Committee in mid-2018.

19. It is anticipated that the next phase will involve using the findings alongside other research to inform policy, planning and service delivery. This could include specific actions as well as testing new ways to design and deliver services to create a more inclusive and friendly environment for everyone, including older Aucklanders.

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Attachment 1 – Regional Strategy and Policy Committee Resolution – 1 September 2016

Resolution number REG/2016/92

MOVED by Chairperson GS Wood, seconded by Cr LA Cooper:

That the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee:

a) agree that Auckland Council is committed to the intent of the WHO Age-friendly Cities and Communities Framework for Aucklanders aged 65 years and over.

b) agree that many Auckland populations could benefit from the intent of the WHO Age-friendly Cities and Communities Framework:

i) to be friendly, and to tap into each population’s potential and contributions to improve their wellbeing; and

ii) that there are shared issues across populations, as well as those which are unique to each.

c) agree to progress Option 1: Utilise existing council strategic frameworks and processes to progress the intent of the Framework (a more friendly city for a range of populations, including older people) for consideration by the incoming Council.

d) direct staff through the delegations of the Chief Executive to start implementing Option 1 by identifying issues and opportunities to progress the intent of the Framework across a range of populations and report back to the appropriately delegated committee.

CARRIED