

HAURAKI GULF FORUM STRATEGIC ISSUES 2018

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Hauraki Gulf is recognised through the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 ('HGMPA') as being a place of 'national significance'. The HGMPA also provides for the establishment, purpose and functions of the Hauraki Gulf Forum ("Forum"). The purposes of the Forum are set out in section 15 of the Act as follows:

"15 Purposes of Forum

The Forum has the following purposes:

(a) to integrate the management and, where appropriate, to promote the conservation and management in a sustainable manner, of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand:

(b) to facilitate communication, co-operation, and co-ordination on matters relating to the statutory functions of the constituent parties in relation to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, and the Forum:

(c) to recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and, where appropriate, its catchments."

Section 17 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 also sets out the functions of the Forum requiring it to:

(a) prepare a list of strategic issues, determine a priority for action on each issue, and regularly review that list.

Under its current leadership it is proposed through this discussion paper that the Forum focus its future work programme around three priority topic areas and associated strategic issues. The Forum will pursue and progress these in a future focussed and integrated way, incorporating Mātauranga Māori and in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi consistent with the HGMP Act.

The three work priority topics and associated strategic issues to which the Forum will apply its focus are:

- 1. Improving integrated management through collaborative planning, informed decision-making and credible action.**
- 2. Restoring water quality values through addressing land use activities that degrade those values.**
- 3. Recognising those critical marine values and ecosystems through advocating for protection, restoration and enhancement.**

1. IMPROVING INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PLANNING, INFORMED DECISION-MAKING AND CREDIBLE ACTION

Enshrined in its purpose, the Forum is intended (s.15) to integrate the management and, where appropriate, to promote the conservation and management in a sustainable manner, of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments. Also, to facilitate communication, co-operation, and co-ordination amongst the constituent parties on matters relating to the responsibilities and statutory functions of each party.

There is also the duty to recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and, where appropriate, its catchments. Areas for improvement include:

Strategic issue	Forum activities	Priority
Central government engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite more oversight from the Minister of Conservation to gain more collaborative involvement in achieving the purposes of the HGMP Act by the Crown. • Establish regular meetings between the Hauraki Gulf Forum Chair and the Minister of Conservation and request that the Minister use her office as a conduit for appropriate engagement with central government agencies represented on, or relevant to, progressing the Hauraki Gulf Forum's strategic issues. • Request Ministerial input to, and confirmation of, the strategic issues developed by the Forum. 	Short term
Tangata whenua participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of a set of Māori cultural indicators aligned to the Forum's role and for the purposes of embedding meaningful input by iwi and hapū into the delivery and monitoring of the integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf. • Seek reports from constituent parties regarding how Mātauranga Māori is currently imbedded in policy development, and if required, develop a means for tangata whenua to provide leadership and guidance to promote improved integrated management and protect the essence of the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf. • Better enable a means to facilitate a cohesive tangata whenua voice and position, as appropriate, on progressing the strategic issues. • Discuss with the Minister of Conservation, the potential for all three Ministers with Māori portfolios to play a leadership role in the Forum, to assist in addressing some issues, particularly those related to fishing, marine reserves and protected areas in Tikapa Moana/ Te Moana-nui-a-Toi. 	Short to medium term
Forum operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clearly articulated and costed work programme based on the Forum's strategic issues to facilitate improved integrated planning. Define the reporting expectations of constituent parties so that 	Immediate to longer

	<p>they provide a clearer evolving view on the Forum’s strategic issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As appropriate, through all available channels, and underpinned by relationship building efforts, the leadership of the Forum shall advocate for increased recognition of the state of the Hauraki Gulf, and promote its strategic issues and the work of the Forum. • Identify the Technical Officers (TOs) in each constituent agency who will provide support to members of the Forum and, through them, work to integrate the planning and programmes of constituent agencies and other Crown agencies with responsibilities that affect the Gulf. • As required, on a topic-by-topic basis, bring together the Technical Officers to effect collaboration and integrated planning for the Forum, and the work programme of the Forum. • Explore the development of a financial reporting system that could be used by constituent parties to enable “coordinated financial planning by the constituent parties” in accordance with section 17 (1) (b) of the HGMP Act. • Upon consideration of its forward work programme, reconsider the meeting frequency of the Hauraki Gulf Forum. 	term
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2. RESTORING WATER QUALITY VALUES THROUGH ADDRESSING LAND USE ACTIVITIES THAT DEGRADE THOSE VALUES

Water quality degradation is one of the most universally unmet costs associated with land use activities and discharges (terrestrial and marine) that affect the waters of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and its catchments. The State of the Gulf report and Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan both identify water quality degradation as a key threat to improving the overall health, quality and mauri of the Gulf. The Hauraki Gulf Forum will focus on three strategic issues associated with improving water quality and related land management practices.

Strategic issue	Forum activities	Priority
Sedimentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate coordinated constituent party reporting on how each is managing sedimentation within their jurisdiction. • Acknowledging that a whole of life cycle approach to policy is important to this issue, assess where constituent party policies and operations can be improved. • Through constituent party reporting, examine the limitations of the current regulatory tools and frameworks (locally, regionally and nationally) as they relate to the Gulf. • Ensure agencies’ monitoring and measuring of sedimentation is consistent. • Through constituent party reporting, facilitate consideration of the implications of climate change for the health of the Gulf. 	Immediate to longer term

Coastal development and urbanisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure constituent party reporting on the cumulative impacts of coastal development, and current management practices is consistent and fit for purpose. • Through constituent party reporting, examine what limitations there are to current regulatory tools and frameworks (locally, regionally and nationally) as they relate to the Gulf. • Through constituent party reporting, examine the implications of climate change on coastal communities and consider whether current plans for mitigation and management are adequate. 	Medium to longer term
Water quality (nutrients and contaminants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek coordinated reports from constituent parties regarding current work programme associated with managing and controlling sources of nutrients and other urban generated contaminants (NB: these could be by subject area and/or holistically). Subjects to include stormwater contamination, inflow and infiltration, port and industrial activities, marinas, agriculture and landfill). • Seek coordinated reports from constituent parties regarding issues and shortcomings associated with their current controls, and what is currently being done about these. • Through constituent party reporting, examine what limitations there are in the current regulatory tools and frameworks (locally, regionally and nationally) as they relate to the Gulf. • Through constituent party reporting, examine the implications of climate change on this particular issue. • Identify and champion good policy and practice regarding contaminant and nutrient management. • Through constituent party reporting, assess the implications of changing governance and operational arrangements in relation to the three waters as they relate to the Hauraki Gulf. 	Short to longer term

3. RECOGNISING THOSE CRITICAL MARINE VALUES AND ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH ADVOCATING FOR PROTECTION, RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

The Hauraki Gulf and its islands are of national and global significance ecologically and have high biodiversity values. Section 8(a) of the HGMP Act sets out objectives for the management of the Gulf which includes the protection and enhancement of the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments. Biodiversity and the interaction of ecological systems holistically are what creates the Gulf's life-supporting capacity.

Strategic issue	Forum activities	Priority
Marine Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek constituent party reports on the areas that should be protected to ensure a fuller range of habitats and ecosystems than are currently protected. • Advocate for the establishment of a range and area of marine protected areas and 'no take' marine reserves sufficient in size and number to ensure areas of protection for the full range of habitats and ecosystems represented in the Gulf and to make a significant contribution to the restoration of biodiversity and ongoing 	Medium to longer term

	<p>sustainability of the marine and bird life formerly abundant in the Gulf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request regular reports from the Crown on work being done to establish marine protected areas and marine reserves. • Work with Fisheries NZ to affect the phasing out of trawling, Danish seining and dredging in all parts of the Hauraki Gulf as soon as politically feasible. 	
Biodiversity loss/reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek regular coordinated constituent party reports on current work programmes to improve marine and terrestrial biodiversity in the Gulf. Relate these reports to New Zealand’s current biodiversity goals and commitments. • Invite reports from other agencies and not-for-profits regarding their efforts to improve marine and terrestrial biodiversity. • Through constituent party reporting, assess limitations of current efforts and identify areas where the Forum could fulfil a coordination and advocacy role. • Work actively with Foundation North and other philanthropic agencies to identify areas for increased collaboration and funding to improve the state of the Gulf. • Seek out positive efforts/stories of biodiversity recovery to celebrate. • Advocate for and/or facilitate research into the implications and impacts of climate change on biodiversity (micro and macro). 	Immediate to longer term
Marine contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for research into the risks associated with oil spillage from the RMS Niagara and for reduction of unacceptable risk by appropriate means. • Through constituent party reporting, examine policy and regulatory frameworks in relation to marine litter, and identify current limitations and gaps. 	Medium to longer term

MECHANISMS FOR THE FORUM TO PROGRESS STRATEGIC ISSUES

The HGMP Act provides for the Hauraki Gulf Forum to be a “political peer group”, rather than a management agency. The intent is that the Forum should positively influence its constituent agencies as well as other organisation, sectors and interest groups involved with the Gulf. While not having regulatory powers, the action mechanisms available to the Forum include:

- Work with statutory organisations
- Writing in support
- Promoting the Forum’s viewpoint
- Making presentations to government decisions makers (local, regional and central)

- Facilitating discussions
- Inviting and encouraging collaboration
- Co-ordinating implementation
- Pool funding through constituent parties for projects.

The priority assigned to each strategic issue is expressed as immediate, short-term, medium-term and/or longer-term. Generally, the priority assigned reflects both the difficulty of the tasks and the Forum's extent of control over the tasks.