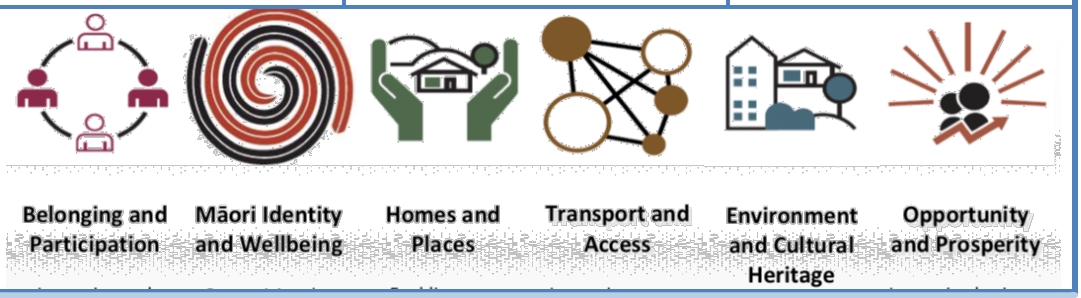
Attachment A

# PROPOSED TOPICS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AUCKLAND WATER STRATEGY

| The Auckland Plan | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Key challenges** | Population growth | Environmental degradation | Shared prosperity |
| **Outcomes** |  | | |

| Te mauri o te wai: a framework for putting water at the centre | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Vision** | Te mauri o te wai – the life supporting capacity of water – is protected and enhanced. | | | | |
| **Values** | Ecology<br>*Healthy water systems nourish the natural environment.* | Water Use<br>*We can meet our everyday water needs, safely, reliably and efficiently.* | Culture<br>*Water contributes to our identity and beliefs, as individuals and as part of communities.* | Recreation and Amenity<br>*We enjoy being in, on and near the water.* | Resilience<br>*Our water systems are resilient to changing conditions, and we are resilient to water hazards.* |

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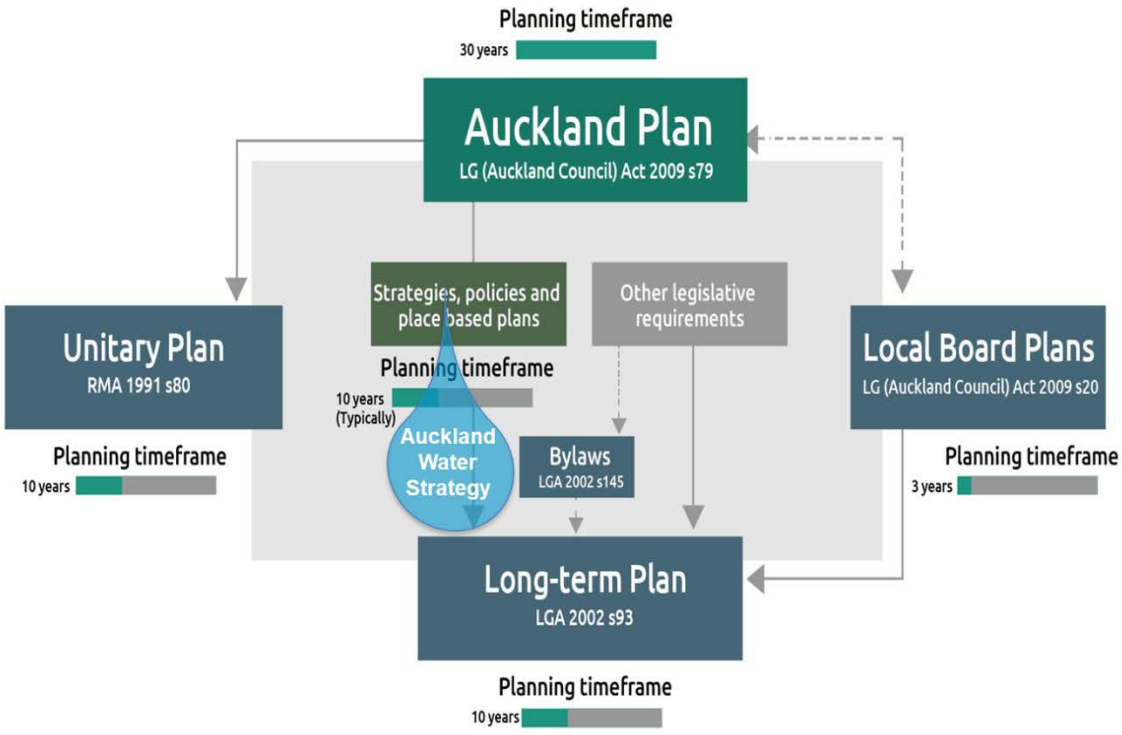
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Issues we need to work on** | Cleaning up our waters | Meeting future water needs | Growth in the right places | Adapting to a changing water future |
| **Processes we need to work on** | Creating our water future together | Setting priorities for investment | Achieving net benefits for catchments | |
| | Applying a Māori world view | | | |
| **Principles to guide our work** | Recognise that water is a taonga<br><br>Work with natural ecosystems | | Focus on achieving right-sized solutions with multiple benefits<br><br>Work together to plan and deliver better water outcomes | |
| | Deliver catchment scale thinking and action | | Look to the future | |

## A conversation we need to have: the purpose of the Auckland Water Strategy

Water is a precious taonga, giving us life, shaping our environment, and adding to the beauty of our city. Water has powered Auckland's development, and has also borne the costs of that development. Today, our waters support a rapidly growing population and more than a third of New Zealand's economic activity. The purpose of the Auckland water strategy is to start a conversation about the choices that we, as Aucklanders, will need to make. What kind of water future do we want to create? This document presents the proposed framework for the strategy. It suggests a vision for 2050, and identifies eight key issues we will need to focus on, in pursuit of that vision.

The Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum has provided advice on developing the strategy. The forum has prioritised te mauri o te wai, and seeing Auckland's rivers, estuaries and harbours restored to a state of health. Involving mana whenua in governance and decision-making roles is an ongoing part of this process.

## Legislative context




The Auckland Water Strategy will be a non-statutory document built on the directions set out by Auckland Plan. The Auckland Plan 2050 sets the development strategy and six outcomes for Auckland by 2050. It identifies directions that we need to take now to move towards the outcomes, and focus areas for action. The water strategy will contribute to the implementation of the Auckland Plan 2050.

## Setting the vision

*Te mauri o te wai – the life supporting capacity of water - is protected and enhanced.*

Te mauri o te wai means the life force or vital essence of water. Putting te mauri o te wai at the centre of the strategy means ensuring Auckland's waters are restored to a state of health.

# Describing our values

What is it that we value about water? We are proposing five values to help frame the discussion about the state of Auckland's waters[1]:

## 1. Ecology

*Healthy water systems nourish the natural environment.*

The health of our waterways is very closely connected to the activities that are happening on the surrounding land. Some streams are surrounded by native bush and have clean water and thriving animal and plant populations.

By contrast, most of our urban streams are in poor health. Symptoms include high levels of pollutants, low oxygen levels, and low animal and plant populations. In our estuaries and coastal marine waters, sediments are muddying the waters, and smothering sea life.

**Future challenges and opportunities**

Continued population growth and urbanisation, and the impacts of climate change will all add to the pressures on our waterways.

**What we need to work on**

- Cleaning up our waters
- Growth in the right places
- Creating our water future together
- Achieving net benefits for catchments

## 2. Water use

*We can meet our everyday water needs safely, reliably and efficiently.*

Water is essential to life. Clean water is critical for households, food production and industry. In urban areas, we value having an efficient, trustworthy system that provides safe water, as easily as turning on a tap. In rural areas, where we must be stewards of our own water resources from season to season, we value every drop. We also use water to transport our wastes and minimise risks of infectious diseases.

Although it rains regularly, we are actually a water-scarce city. Safe potable water is a finite resource. Its availability depends on a significant water and wastewater infrastructure which

[1] This is the same value-based approach as has been used nationally for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and will flow through to our implementation of the policy statement in Auckland.

is expensive to build, maintain and operate. We are not water self-sufficient: between 10-15 percent of Auckland's municipal water supply is sourced from outside Auckland region.

**Future challenges and opportunities**

Our demand for safe, reliable water is expected to grow along with our population. By 2050, that demand will exceed supply, and we will need to have new solutions in place. We have limited prospects for increasing either supply or storage within our regional boundaries, so we will need to use a mixture of tools to meet our urban and rural water needs.

**What we need to work on**

- Meeting future water needs
- Adapting to a changing water future
- Setting priorities for investment

## 3. Recreation and amenity

*We enjoy being in, on and near the water.*

Auckland's waters are very actively used for recreation, with popular spots receiving more than 10,000 visitors a day at peak times. Faecal contamination from humans and animals is of most concern as a public health risk. Some of this we can improve, and some we cannot.

**Future challenges and opportunities**

Increased population will result in increased demand for recreational use of waterways, beaches and the associated public facilities like boat ramps. More urban development will put further pressure on the health of our waters, and have an effect on their recreational and amenity values. With climate change, coastal inundation and more severe storm events are likely to undermine access to water for recreation. Already-sensitive environments will become more vulnerable to the impacts of visitors.

**What we need to work on:**

- Cleaning up waterways
- Taking responsibility for impacts on waterways

## 4. Culture

*Water contributes to our identities and beliefs, as individuals and as part of communities.*

The mauri of Auckland's waters has suffered severe degradation. Overfishing, population increase, sedimentation, pollution and wastewater overflows all have an impact. This has adversely affected mana whenua and their ability to practice their tikanga and to exercise manaakitanga.

**Future challenges and opportunities**

Population growth and climate change could put further strain on the cultural values of water, such as mana whenua's ability to gather kai from traditional food grounds. Changing attitudes to water may also play a big part in how we manage our water resources. Recognising significant natural features as a person in the eyes of the law, as has happened with the Whanganui river, could help to ensure the long-term protection and restoration of significant water bodies. Treaty settlements are creating new co-governance and

management arrangements with Iwi Authorities. These arrangements recognise Māori values as a fundamental driver for the sustainable management of natural resources.

**What we need to work on**

- Cleaning up waterways
- Applying a Māori world view

## 5. Resilience

*We are resilient to water hazards*

Auckland is frequently affected by natural hazards such as flooding, coastal erosion and land instability; and others that occur less frequently, such as wildfires, volcanic activity and meteorological hazards, such as cyclones, tornadoes and drought. All these hazards can affect our people, and property, as well as the quality of our water supply and the water that enters our lakes and oceans.

**Future challenges and opportunities**

Climate change will place pressure on our water resources, as it is likely to exacerbate the frequency and severity of already occurring natural hazards. It is expected that Auckland will experience increasing numbers of hot days, soil moisture deficits, greater wildfire risk, and increasingly intense rainfall. This is likely to lead to fluctuations in the availability of drinking water from our current sources, and place increased pressure on the health of our water bodies and the ecosystems that live in them.

**What we need to work on**

- Adapting to a changing water future
- Growth in the right places
- Setting priorities for investment

**Issues we need to work on**

- Cleaning up waterways
- Growth in the right places
- Meeting future water needs
- Adapting to a changing water future

**Processes we need to work on**

- Creating our water future together
- Setting priorities for investment
- Achieving net benefits for catchments

**Applying a Māori world view**

Putting ‘Te mauri o te wai’ at the centre of the vision will mean that applying a Māori world view will need to underpin work programmes of the strategy.

## How we will work: a principles-based approach

As we work towards our vision and the Auckland Plan's directions, we are proposing the following principles to help to guide our decisions:

1. **Recognise that water is a taonga**
   Water is life, and needs to be managed carefully to restore te mauri o te wai.

2. **Work with ecosystems**
   Working with the natural environment, and mimicking its systems wherever possible is key to a water sensitive approach.

3. **Deliver catchment scale thinking and action**
   The catchment is the best scale to think about water flows and uses, and the balance between different activities and effects.

4. **Focus on achieving right-sized solutions with multiple benefits**
   Achieving our regional aspirations will require solutions at different scales. Local variables will drive the fine-grained responses to our regional aspirations.

5. **Work together to plan and deliver better water outcomes**
   We all have a stake in our water future. Collaboration with mana whenua, communities, and across disciplines helps find durable and effective solutions.

6. **Look to the future**
   Our planning and development takes future uncertainties into account, so that communities and infrastructure are future-proofed and resilient.