

Hauraki Gulf Forum - Constituent Party Report

Constituent Party:	Waikato Regional Council
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Date of Forum Meeting:	20 May 2019

Priority Issue #1: Improving integrated management through collaborative planning, informed decision-making and credible action

**Note: Priority Issue #1 is largely internal to the Forum*

Strategic issue	Report
Central government engagement (short-term)	Not applicable noting this strategic issue is internal
Tangata whenua participation (short to medium-term)	Not applicable noting this strategic issue is internal
Forum operations (immediate to longer-term)	Not applicable noting this strategic issue is internal
Other	Nothing to report

Priority Issue #2: Restoring water quality values through addressing land use activities that degrade those values

Strategic issue	Update
Sedimentation (immediate to longer-term)	Work ongoing. WRC provided a report on its sedimentation management activities to the August 2018 Forum meeting (refer agenda). Sedimentation is being considered as part of the 'water quality' topic review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan under the 'Healthy Environments Plan'. For further info and updates: https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/waikato-regional-plan-review/

	<p>An April 2019 updated report on the WRC Regional Estuary Monitoring Programme (REMP) sedimentation measurements (which includes the Firth of Thames and Sea Change actions) can be viewed at:</p> <p>http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/publications/technical-reports/2019-technical-reports/tr201904/</p>
<p>Coastal development and urbanisation (medium to longer-term)</p>	Not applicable
<p>Water quality (nutrients and contaminants) (short to longer-term)</p>	<p>Work ongoing.</p> <p>Water quality is a standalone topic in the review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan under the 'Healthy Environments Plan'. For further info and updates:</p> <p>https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/waikato-regional-plan-review/</p>
Other	Nothing to Report

Priority Issue #3: recognise critical marine values and ecosystems through advocating for protection, restoration and enhancement

Strategic issue	
<p>Marine Protected Areas (medium to longer-term)</p>	<p>WRC does not hold a direct role in decision-making around marine protected areas (MPAs). Relevant technical inform held by WRC is available to inform those agencies leading decision-making around MPAs.</p>
<p>Biodiversity loss/reduction (immediate to longer-term)</p>	<p>Work ongoing.</p> <p>WRC provided a report on its work to support fisheries health to the November 2018 Forum meeting (refer agenda).</p> <p>Coastal biodiversity is a standalone topic in the review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan under the 'Healthy Environments Plan'. For further info and updates:</p> <p>https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/waikato-regional-plan-review/</p>

Marine contaminants (medium to longer-term)	Work ongoing. Marine contaminants are being considered as part of the 'water quality' topic review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan under the 'Healthy Environments Plan'. For further info and updates: https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/waikato-regional-plan-review/
Other	Nothing to report

Other reports relevant to s17 HGMPA

WRC Sea Change implementation work continues. This includes:

- Sedimentation monitoring work in the Firth of Thames and Coromandel estuaries
- Research and information gathering underway to identify significant values to inform the review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan ('Healthy Environments Plan')
- Progress on scoping 45 policy-related recommendations from the Sea Change Plan for consideration in the review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan ('Healthy Environments Plan')

In March WRC provided **feedback to the Minister of Conservation on the draft Terms of Reference for the Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee**. Key points in the feedback included:

- That wording be included to make clear the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park
- That wording be included to make clear the extent and formality of any relationship between the 'Government Response Strategy', regional councils, and the implementation activities of the regional councils
- That wording be included on the scope and framework of the Government Response Strategy and that 'scope' is expanded to consider:
 - the role of the Ministry for Environment and the RMA
 - the processes recommended in the Sea Change Plan to facilitate implementation
 - costs, resourcing and practicability to implement proposals.
- That the Committee composition include skills relevant to the management of sedimentation and water quality.

Updates to Iwi Management Plans

Iwi management plans are taken into account by WRC in the management of the region's natural resources, providing a formal way for iwi interests to be incorporated into the council's decision making.

Ngati Haua Iwi Environmental Management Plan was finalised in September 2018. The plan relates to the catchments and waters of the upper Waihou and Piako rivers – both of which flow into the Firth of Thames. The plan can be viewed at:

<https://ngatihauaiwitrust.co.nz/publications/trust-documents/>

Attachments

No Attachments