

Hauraki Gulf Forum - Constituent Party Report

Constituent Party:	Auckland Council
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Date of Forum Meeting:	20 May 2019

Report

Auckland Council has many different divisions and departments that work on initiatives related to the Forum's three priorities and strategic issues. Key areas for collaboration with central government include:

- Contribution and response to the Essential Freshwater Package and Three Waters review.
- Contribution and response to a New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and NPS Indigenous Biodiversity.
- Various work streams providing input to the Urban Growth Agenda.

Key activities to protect and enhance water quality in the Hauraki Gulf include:

- The delivery of projects funded by the Water Quality Targeted Rate.
- Auckland Council's strategic approach to sediment programme.
- Development a Freshwater Management Tool (FWMT), which will generate continuous simulation information of water quality contaminants and enables the analysis of a range of mitigation strategies to inform objectives and identify optimal approaches to achieve these.

Projects delivered with funding from the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) are contributing to the delivery of biodiversity outcomes for the Gulf and its catchments.

Examples of specific workstreams under the NETR include:

- Improvement of the representation of subtidal marine habitats in the network of SEAs_marine identified in Auckland's Unitary Plan.
- Development of a marine pest pathway management plan through the Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership (consisting of representatives from northern regional councils, Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries).
- Initiatives to keep the Hauraki Gulf islands pest free under the 'Pest Free Hauraki Gulf' programme (previously called the Treasure Islands programme).

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

Strategic issue	Report
<p>Central government engagement (short-term)</p>	<p>Staff from the Natural Environment Strategy Unit and the Research and Evaluation Unit are seconded to the Ministry for the Environment contributing to the development of the Essential Freshwater Package and Three Waters Review. While focussed on freshwater there are aspects which relate to the coastal environment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a sediment attribute for the National Objectives Framework; • Changes to regulation of stormwater and wastewater networks; • Development of urban water quality principles; • Reform to how farming manages its impacts on water quality. <p>Staff from Plans and Places, Biodiversity and Natural Environment Strategy are supporting central government with the development of a New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity with input from other teams as required (mainly through participation in the Biomanagers Special Interest Group and workshops directly with central government). A discussion document is expected to be consulted on from 10 June 2019.</p> <p>Staff from the Strategic Advice Unit will be leading Auckland Council’s response to proposed new legislation under the Urban Growth Agenda with input from other teams across the organisation as required.</p>
<p>Tangata whenua participation (short to medium-term)</p>	<p>Auckland Council has a Māori Responsiveness Framework, Whiria Te Muka Tangata, to help the council family implement its responsibilities to Māori. The Māori Strategy and Relationships department - Te Waka Anga Mua ki Uta - is the central depository of Māori expertise within Auckland Council and updates.</p>

	Auckland Council has a maramataka - calendar of mana whenua meetings with council (including CCOs) and mana whenua events/activities. Examples include monthly Sports, Parks and Recreation hui, weekly workshops between Panuku and Mana Whenua, 2-monthly Watercare Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Managers Group meetings and monthly Infrastructure and Environmental Services hui.
Forum operations (immediate to longer-term)	Nothing to report.
Other	<p>Auckland Council established a Sea Change Political Reference Group in late 2017, incorporating members from the Environment & Community Committee, Planning Committee and representatives from Local Boards, with the purpose of providing oversight and integration of Sea Change throughout the Council family.</p> <p>This Group last met on the 30 April discussing progress with Auckland Council's approved SeaChange forward work programme. At this meeting members received forward work program updates from Auckland Transport and Biodiversity and Biosecurity teams.</p>

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

Strategic issue	Update
Sedimentation (immediate to longer-term)	<p>The Natural Environment Strategy Unit is leading a strategic approach to sediment program working with teams across the organisation (see previous reports to the Forum).</p> <p>Recently funding was secured jointly from Natural Environment Strategy and Healthy Waters for a 4-month pilot project with Targeted Initiatives (Compliance) to establish a mechanism to ensure appropriate erosion and sediment controls are in place on all 13,500 small sites from first cut through to first inspection</p>

	<p>by Building Inspectors. A full update report on this program will be presented to Auckland's Environment and Community Committee in July 2019, as part of the 'Strategic approach to sediment' programme.</p> <p>The Research and Evaluation Unit have a small amount of funding to initiate monitoring of sediment accumulation rates in addition to the measurements of grain sizes to track muddiness at around 90 sites covered in the existing marine monitoring programme.</p>
<p>Coastal development and urbanisation (medium to longer-term)</p>	<p>Plans and Places have prepared draft structure plans for Warkworth (public consultation closed; with a final plan going to Auckland's Planning Committee for adoption in June 2019) and the Silverdale West Dairy Flat industrial area (public consultation closed on 28 April 2019). Plans and Places are also preparing area plans for Waiheke and Great Barrier Island.</p> <p>The April 2019 Economic update for Auckland, circulated by the Research and Evaluation Unit, shows that 13,847 new dwellings were consented in the year ending February 2019.</p> <p>The Coastal team of the Specialist Unit, Coastal and Water Allocation, Resource Consents provided technical regulatory advice on a number of applications related to America's Cup 36 (AC36). They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure for AC 36 proposed by Panuku. This application was processed as direct referral to the Environment Court. Consent was granted. Compliance Monitoring reports including Construction, Noise and Biosecurity Management Plans have been reviewed by this team and the works are underway. • Sealink relocation. Consent was granted, works have been started. • Sections of seawalls proposed by Auckland Transport along Quay Street. Hearings are complete and waiting for the decision.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mooring dolphin/Queens Wharf upgrade. This application had its hearing and the consent has been granted for 15 years. • Ferry Terminal relocation (Stage 1). Consent was granted and work started. <p>This team also provided input into several other publicly notified complex applications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westhaven Marina extension & Half Moon Bay Marina extension. • Healthy Waters water quality improvement projects. • Watercare’s Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges (Army Bay and Waiuku/Clarks Beach). <p>Aquaculture</p> <p>The Coastal team of the Specialist Unit, Coastal and Water Allocation, Resource Consents provided technical input on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 large mussel farm applications (644ha, 128ha and 131ha) in Firth of Thames. Consents were granted after the hearing. • An oyster farm application for an extension in Clevedon Kawakawa Road has been in the processing stage. • 221ha of a mussel farm application (East of Ponui Island) is in the processing stage.
<p>Water quality (nutrients and contaminants) (short to longer-term)</p>	<p>Healthy Waters provided a progress update on the water quality targeted rate work programmes (\$452 million of investment over the next ten years supporting water quality outcomes) to Auckland’s Environment and Community Committee on 12 February 2019. Highlights from the last quarter relevant for the Hauraki Gulf include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource consent for the St Mary’s Bay and Masefield Beach water quality improvement project was granted in November 2018. Four appeals have been made against the consent to the Environment Court. These will be addressed through mediation in late February 2019. A main contractor for the first phase of the construction project will be appointed in March 2019. The project is

currently on track to start construction in mid-2019 and be completed by late 2020.

- The construction consent for the Daldy Street outfall upgrade was lodged in October 2018 and is expected to be granted in February 2019. This project will improve water quality in the Freeman's Bay, Viaduct Harbour and Wynyard Wharf areas.
- Resource consent for the Picton Street stormwater outfall extension has been lodged and the affected landowners are being notified. The project was tendered for construction in November 2018. Construction is expected to commence in May 2019 and be completed around November 2020.
- Council and Watercare are working together to complete significant network investigations in the areas of Laingholm, Takapuna, Red Beach and Meadowbank to trace sources of contamination found in the stormwater network and identify solutions.
- An additional \$200,000 has been allocated to the Waterways Protection Fund to support projects in the Wairoa and Papakura catchments to improve water quality.

As part of an ongoing programme to address poor water quality at Little Oneroa Lagoon, 417 properties in Little Oneroa catchment were visited (if high risk) or received a letter (if low risk) by Council's Regulatory Compliance Unit's Targeted Initiatives Team in order to assess the inspection records and system condition. Low rates of compliance were identified, mainly due to out of date or inadequate inspection records, and council officers are currently following up with property owners. The feedback to the visits has been very positive from the community and there appears to be a willingness to help clean up the streams and waterways in the Little Oneroa area. Water quality will be monitored after improved compliance is achieved to determine effectiveness.

<p>Other</p>	<p>Auckland Council released the discussion document 'Our Water Future' on 17 February 2019. The document will inform future policy regarding water management in Tāmaki Makaurau and lays out the vision, values, the big issues facing Auckland in relation to water management and the principles and processes to support effective management. Feedback on the discussion document was open until 19 April 2019. Auckland's Watershed Plans are currently being updated to reflect this document.</p> <p>The Wai-Ora Healthy Waterways team are developing a whole-of-region, process-based model, which will generate continuous simulation information of water quality contaminants. The model is called the Freshwater Management Tool (FWMT) and will enable the prediction of frequency, duration and magnitude of contaminant behaviour in the region's streams and to the coast. It will take into account a range of factors such as rain events, topography, and types of land use, to provide an assessment of the following contaminants for water quality grading: copper, zinc, <i>E.coli</i>, sediments and nutrients. The FWMT enables the analysis of a range of mitigation strategies to inform objectives and identify optimal approaches to achieve these.</p> <p>RIMU deployed a water quality monitoring buoy in the Mahurangi Harbour in November 2017 and are considering locations for the deployment of another two buoys that are ready for deployment.</p>
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Priority Issue #3: recognise critical marine values and ecosystems through advocating for protection, restoration and enhancement

<p>Strategic issue</p>	
<p>Marine Protected Areas (medium to longer-term)</p>	<p>The constituent party report from the 19 November 2018 Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting provided an overview of agency roles and responsibilities to manage and regulate pressures and environmental effects in the marine environment and identified work carried out by the Department of Conservation,</p>

	<p>Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council that focusses in the identification and protection of significant ecological areas in the marine environment.</p> <p>RIMU and Plans and Places are currently carrying out a gap analysis of Significant Ecological Areas_Marine (SEAs_Marine) identified in Auckland's Unitary Plan and are formulating a sampling plan to carry out additional survey work as well as threat assessment and value assessment to improve the representation of subtidal marine habitats.</p> <p>The draft National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) signals central government direction on the identification of areas of ecological significance. If these provisions are included in the proposed NPSIB they will influence how this is progressed (see also priority issue #1).</p>
<p>Biodiversity loss/reduction (immediate to longer-term)</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Environmental Services provided a progress update on the natural environment targeted rate funded work programmes (\$311 million of additional investment into environmental outcomes over ten years) to Auckland's Environment and Community Committee on 12 February 2019. Significant achievements in quarter two of 2018/2019 relevant for the Hauraki Gulf include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new community co-ordination and facilitation grant opened in December 2018, with the aim of increasing collaboration, capacity and on the ground delivery of environmental outcomes. The total value of the grant is \$300,000 per annum. • An additional \$200,000 was allocated to 29 community conservation projects in December 2018 through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grant. • A new inspector and dog team has been engaged to operate on the waterfront at vehicle departure points for Great Barrier and Waiheke. The new team will include additional pest detection dogs specialising in

plague skinks, stoats, ferrets and rodents. The stoat dog (Gecko) has been recently deployed to respond to a suspected stoat incursion on Aotea Great Barrier. In total three suspected incursions have been responded to since January (stoats and two rat reports).

- Nine ambassadors have also been stationed at ferry terminals since December to educate the public on preventing the spread of pests and pathogens to Hauraki Gulf islands. A kauri dieback passenger cleaning station has been installed on Pier 2, with ambassadors directing passengers to clean their gear before departing for Waiheke.

RIMU is developing a new regional Seabird and Shorebird Monitoring and Restoration Programme, a direct response to recommendations in SeaChange, which is being funded by the new Natural Environment Targeted Rate. The major aims of this programme are to help fill in the key knowledge gaps about Auckland's seabirds and shorebirds, such as where are they breeding, how successfully, and what threats exist at these sites. This knowledge will then be used to prioritise and develop restoration actions RIMU will implement with Environmental Services, with the ultimate goal to improve the conservation status of Auckland's seabirds and shorebirds.

One of the most recent activities is a collaborative project with Auckland Museum and Biodiversity (Environmental Services) where we have installed an acoustic attraction system on Otata Island, Noises Group (including 3D printed parekareka / spotted shag replicas, hand-painted by museum volunteers), which we hope will attract and encourage spotted shags to establish a new colony on this safe, pest-free island.

Biosecurity

- Staff from the Biosecurity team (Environmental Services) and the Natural Environment Strategy Unit have participated in the development of a discussion

	<p>document for an inter-regional marine pest management plan through the Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership (a group composed of councils from the upper North Island, Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries). The discussion document focuses on managing the risk of spreading marine pest species through vessel hull-fouling and was approved by Auckland Council's Environment and Community committee in February 2019. The document is out for public consultation on between 18 March and 24 May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Biosecurity team has recently commissioned a 2-year contract for the annual regional hull surveillance program. Around 600 hulls will be inspected in marina and non-marina areas across the Auckland region using a combination of SCUBA divers and ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles).• The Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Notice 1998 provides Council with authority under the Biosecurity Act to prevent the transfer of pests to, from or between the islands of the Gulf. The list of specified pests will be updated in the upcoming Regional Pest Management Plan, and includes plague skinks, Argentine and Darwin ants, as well as the usual suspects.• The biosecurity programme known as 'Treasure islands' has been rebranded 'Pest Free Hauraki Gulf'. This joint Auckland Council and Department of Conservation programme includes expanding the Pest Free Warrant scheme, which approves operators in the Gulf who practice good biosecurity standards in their operations, and through them, reaches their clients. Advocacy and behaviour change has increased – with Ambassadors at all main ferry wharfs during summer; behaviour change research underway to reach boaties on the Gulf; upgrades of cleaning facilities planned for Wynyard Wharf, and future downtown wharf
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	<p>redevelopment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to keeping pest free islands pest free, the Biosecurity team also supports a number of islands that become pest free. To this end, support is provided to community-led Te Korowai o Waiheke - Towards Pest Free Waiheke (a complete stoat eradication, and trial rat eradication of 25% of Waiheke), a consultation plan is underway for a multispecies eradication for Kawau island, and expanded pest control on Great Barrier/Aotea. These islands are residential and as such, this is breaking new territory in New Zealand. In addition, weed control on islands has also expanded. • Americas Cup (AC36) is a focus for biosecurity in the Gulf including making necessary preparations for this significant event. Construction of the new facilities at Wynyard Wharf are being inspected.
Marine contaminants (medium to longer-term)	See update on Priority Issue #2: Restoring water quality values through addressing land use activities that degrade those values.
Other	Nothing to report

Other reports relevant to s17 HGMPA

Development of an Auckland Climate Change Action Plan

The Chief Sustainability Office is preparing an Auckland Climate Action Plan. A draft plan is expected to be presented to Auckland's Environment and Community Committee in July 2019. As part of the development of this plan Auckland Council held a three-day climate symposium - Our climate future today – in March 2019. At this symposium a number of risk assessment reports were presented which form the evidence base for the preparation of the action plan. These reports can be found on our Knowledge Auckland website using the CCRA search term (Climate Change Risk Assessment).

A draft plan for public consultation is expected to be presented to Auckland's Environment and Community Committee in June 2019 with adoption of the final plan anticipated in September 2019.

Citizen Science

King Tides Auckland has recently installed three publicly visible water level (tide) gauges at: Wynyard Pedestrian Bridge, Half Moon Bay boat ramp, and Orewa estuary wharf, with a fourth gauge to be installed in the Birkenhead area. The gauges are designed to be monitored by communities and schools, with water levels able to be measured against tide levels marked on the gauge. The gauges include historic tide height, current mean high tides, and projected high tides in 2020 under different global emission scenarios. The intention is for the gauges to provide an opportunity for groups to learn about the causes and impacts of sea level rise on their own coastline.

Coastal hazards (erosion, inundation, tsunami)

Engineering and Technical Services are currently preparing Coastal Compartment Management Plans (CCMP's) for four key areas of the Auckland region. The CCMP's are being developed under the 'Coastal Management Framework for the Auckland Region', July 2017, as practical, operational implementation plans for coastal hazard and asset management. In summary, they will:

1. Explore the natural coastal system and its interactions with wider natural and other systems within the defined compartment.
2. Define any issues or opportunity areas.
3. Develop and assess high level management response options in line with the decision-making framework (note management responses are defined below as do nothing, protect, adapt and managed realignment).
4. Enable cost estimates to be prepared and timeframes for high level implementation.
5. Provide a platform for informed consultation at key stages of development.

The preparation of CCMP's for the remainder of the region's coastline will follow after a review of the 4 initial pilot studies.

Engineering and Technical Services are currently undertaking a Coastal Erosion study for the Auckland region which involves identifying and spatially mapping areas susceptible to coastal erosion. This study will consider a range of planning horizons out to 100 years and consider a range of sea level rise scenarios aligned with national guidance and best practice. The study is anticipated to be completed by March 2020.

Auckland's coastal inundation mapping is undergoing its latest revision to remap the inundation extents using our most up to date LiDAR data. The revision will also include mapping of the Barrier Islands. This study carried out by Engineering and Technical Services is anticipated to be completed October 2019.

Plan changes Auckland Unitary Plan

The Unitary Plan is a combined RPS, regional plan, regional coastal plan and district plan. The regional coastal plan component of the Auckland Unitary Plan was made operative in part on 31 May 2018.

The two appeals that were remaining in May 2018 have since been resolved. The provisions that were still subject to appeal (genetically modified organisms provisions and two sites in the Significant Ecological Area – Marine overlay) were sent to the Minister of Conservation for approval on 7 March 2019.

Plan Change 4 (admin plan change) included minor corrections to several coastal plan provisions, schedules and maps. The decisions version of the plan change was sent to the Minister of Conservation for approval on 7 March 2019.

Plan Changes 7 and 10 (Historic Heritage schedule) added 49 sites to the Historic Heritage schedule and corrected several anomalies and errors in the schedule. The changes include several sites fully or partly in the coastal marine area. The plan changes were notified on 16 November 2017 and 25 January 2018. Decisions were notified 15 and 21 March 2019.

Plan Change 15 (improving consistency of coastal provisions) addresses technical issues in the regional coastal plan provisions. These include provisions that are ambiguous or unclear, gaps or misalignment in provisions, and improving integration between provisions. The plan change was notified on 29 November 2018 and received 12 submissions. The hearing will be held in May 2019.

Plan Change 22 (Sites and places of significance to Mana Whenua) adds 31 sites to the schedule and maps for the 'Sites and places of significance to Mana Whenua' overlay and adds recognition of the 'importance to mana whenua' criterion for nine sites in the Outstanding Natural Features overlay schedule and five sites in the Historic Heritage schedule. Several of the sites extend into the coastal marine area. The plan change was notified on 21 March 2019.

Updates to Iwi Management Plans Nothing to report.

Attachments There are no attachments to this report.