

Agenda 14 - Attachment A

Hi John and Moana,

Below and attached is some correspondence about a Waikato Regional Council submission process on “marine pest pathways management” which is being driven by Northland Regional Council, Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. All these Councils are apparently undertaking this submission process together, so Auckland Council will have or will soon have it underway too.

The above Councils are moving into this space because MPI is not interested in doing so, even though it is part of their statutory functions. From what I understand, the Biosecurity Act was recently changed to allow for the development of such a Management Plan, given MPI’s dis-interest.

There is not much appetite here for this to happen as Waikato Regional Council rates are high enough now without making them higher through taking up what is essentially a government function that has fallen by the wayside.

Hence I am raising the issue with the Forum in the hope that the Forum will consider using its powers under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act to hold MPI to account on this matter, especially as they do not appear to have considered the sensitivity of marine pest management throughout the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in their decision making, which would warrant a separate evaluation process, I would have thought.

I note that the two main purposes of the Hauraki Gulf Forum are to:

- 1. “Integrate the management and.....promote the conservation of the natural resources of the Hauraki Gulf....”; and*
- 2. “Facilitate communication, co-operation and co-ordination on matters relating to the constituent parties in relation to the Hauraki Gulf....”*

So I think it is an entirely legitimate function of the Forum to ask questions of MPI about this matter - and ask reasons why they have not acted on this matter themselves. In this respect, I note that one of the powers of the Forum is to “make recommendations to constituent parties”.

So I see no reason why MPI could not be asked to reconsider their involvement in this matter given the importance of the ecological values of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and because MPI is a constituent member of the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

In that regard, I would like to ask that this letter be placed on the agenda for the next Hauraki Gulf Forum.

*Regards,
Dal Minogue.*