

Auckland Council Hauraki Gulf Political Reference Group

Terms of Reference

FINAL (September 2019)

Purpose

1. To provide oversight and guidance to, and encourage integration of, Auckland Council group¹ activities and initiatives that advance Hauraki Gulf outcomes.
2. To, where possible, integrate the activities of the Auckland Council group with the those of other agencies in the Hauraki Gulf and the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Background

The SeaChange – Tai Timu Tai Pari Marine Spatial Plan was completed by an independent working group of stakeholders in December 2016. The Sea Change plan's broad vision is to ensure that the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf is strong, and it is vibrant with life, productive, and supports healthy and prosperous communities.

The Planning Committee acknowledged the shared vision and intent of the Sea Change plan and Auckland Council's goals in May 2017. At the direction of the Planning Committee, the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group was established, with a preparatory meeting in August 2017.

A work programme of council group activities to progress shared objectives with the Sea Change plan was approved by the Environment and Community Committee in September 2017. At the same time, the purpose of the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group was approved, being to provide oversight and guidance to council departments and council-controlled organisations in delivering this agreed work programme, and to integrate with other agencies in the Hauraki Gulf and the Hauraki Gulf Forum where possible.

The Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group has made the following observations since its formation:

- a) Hauraki Gulf aspirations are being progressed through various initiatives, and the Sea Change plan is one reference point amongst a broad range of strategies, plans and activities.

¹ The Auckland Council group includes Auckland Council and its council controlled organisations, particularly Watercare, Auckland Transport, Punuku Development Auckland, and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development.

- b) Some council group activities with a significant impact on Hauraki Gulf aspirations have not been considered to date, as they were not directly referenced in the Sea Change plan.
- c) Since the Sea Change plan was released in December 2016, and the council group work programme was agreed in September 2017, various substantial strategies, plans, activities and programmes have been initiated or completed that have a significant impact on Hauraki Gulf outcomes. Examples include the America's Cup 36 programme, the Auckland Plan 2050, and the Auckland Unitary Plan.
- d) There is the potential to enable greater synergies and collective buy-in through embracing a wider range of strategies, plans, activities and initiatives.
- e) There is the potential to effect greater system change, and therefore more holistic approaches to Hauraki Gulf outcomes, through integrating a wider range of council group functions in the oversight role of the political reference group.

For these reasons, the purpose and membership of the political reference group has been broadened, resulting in this updated (September 2019) Terms of Reference and membership below.

Membership

The Chair of the Auckland Council Hauraki Gulf Political Reference Group is the Chair of the Environment and Community Committee (or the Deputy Chair in their absence).

Membership, outlined in Table 1 below, reflects the desire to include inter-related responsibilities and membership from the Environment and Community, Planning, Finance and Performance, and Regulatory Committees. Additionally, membership includes Local Board representatives – one from the Hauraki Gulf Islands and three from the adjoining mainland (geographic distributed preference to representatives from Franklin, Hibiscus and Bays, and Rodney local boards). Independent Maori Statutory Board representation is also included.

Members may be replaced as required, while retaining the relative mix of representatives from differing backgrounds and interests. The Environment and Community Committee have agreed to delegate to the Chair of that committee the ability to agree to any such changes, particularly following the outcome of the September 2019 local body elections.

Table 1: Membership on the Auckland Council Hauraki Gulf Political Reference Group

Chair, Environment and Community Committee
Deputy Chair, Environment and Community Committee
Chair or Deputy Chair, Planning Committee
Chair or Deputy Chair, Finance and Performance Committee
Chair or Deputy Chair, Regulatory Committee
Deputy Mayor or Mayor
Additional councillor
Islands local board member
Mainland local board members (3) adjoining Hauraki Gulf coast (Franklin, Rodney, Hibiscus & Bays)
Independent Maori Statutory Board member

Meetings and sharing of information

Meetings are proposed to be called as required, with an expectation of at least two meetings to be held in the 2020 calendar year. Members will be provided information for their consideration prior to any such meeting.

Quorum

Four members, with at least one being the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Environment and Community Committee shall form a quorum.

Tenure

The scope, currency and need for the Auckland Council Hauraki Gulf Political Reference Group should be reviewed by the Environment and Community Committee prior to December 2020.