

Manukau Harbour Forum Joint Committee – Terms of Reference (Updated 30 August 2019)

1. Introduction

The formation of a forum to champion the sustainable management of the Manukau Harbour and adjacent communities has arisen through the collective aspirations of local boards bordering the harbour itself. Local Boards have a statutory responsibility and are democratically accountable for identifying and communicating the interests and preferences of the people in their Local Board area in relation to the content of the strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws of the Auckland Council.

The Manukau Harbour is a regional taonga/treasure for all the peoples of Auckland. It is therefore appropriate that Local Boards collectively contribute to strategies and outcomes that restore and enhance the well-being of the harbour itself.

A 2019 Manukau Harbour Forum sponsored review identified benefits having closer relationships with the Governing Body and having member representation on the Forum. The Manukau Harbour Forum resolved to invite Governing Body involvement via two councillor representatives to be appointed to the Forum, including one as co-chair and retaining local board membership of nine local boards and increasing overall Forum membership to 11.

2. Background / Context

Prior to November 2010, agencies generally approached issues of community concern in alignment with the previous local authority boundaries, and somewhat independently in each area. Five legacy territorial authorities and the Auckland Regional Council had a direct interest in the harbour due to proximity. Under the Auckland Council, the following local boards¹ share a boundary with the harbour and constitute member boards:

- Waitakere Ranges
- Whau
- Puketapapa
- Maungakiekie-Tamaki
- Otara-Papatoetoe
- Mangere-Otahuhu
- Manurewa
- Papakura
- Franklin

There is sufficient commonality of issues and interests, for synergies to be gained from a sub-regional approach to advocacy in relation to the management of the Manukau Harbour. This is also supported by the legislative imperative for local boards to work together where the interests and preferences of communities within each local board area will be better served by doing so.

Furthermore, to enhance the effectiveness and influence of the Forum, representation from the Governing Body is encouraged with two Councillors being invited to be appointed to be members of the Forum, with one Councillor to be co-chair of the Forum alongside of a local board representative.

Likely benefits of such an alliance of multiple local boards along with governing body representation are early identification of and response to emerging issues, a more cohesive approach to multi-causal problems, and greater efficiency and effectiveness of planning and interventions. These benefits are particularly pertinent planning matters relating to:

- Auckland Council's statutory obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi
- The Auckland Plan and the Unitary Plan
- The Annual Plan and the Long-term Plan (LTP)
- The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008
- The 1990 Manukau Harbour Action Plan
- National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards

¹ Member boards listed in geographical order from north to south

- The activities of CCOs in relation to the harbour and the coastal environment
- Other harbour and coastal ownership and management issues

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Manukau Harbour Forum is to provide for a means of collective Local Board advocacy on issues affecting the Manukau Harbour, and the adjacent foreshore. Issues to be addressed by the Forum may include:

- Restoration of the health and wellbeing of the Manukau Harbour
- The role of Mana Whenua in relation to the Manukau Harbour
- A unified management-approach to the Manukau Harbour
- Advocacy on issues related to both natural and human activities affecting the harbour foreshore
- Wastewater and stormwater discharges
- The strategic removal of mangroves and Pacific oysters
- Coastal erosion mitigation opportunities
- The enhancement of marine and coastal habitats that assist with increased Biodiversity
- The preservation of sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries within the harbour
- The protection of Maui's Dolphin and other species
- Catchments and tributary streams that flow into the harbour
- Access to the harbour
- The role of the port operation at Onehunga

4. Principles

The Forum is in principle collectively accountable to the wider community for supporting the development and delivery of the community's vision in relation to the Manukau Harbour. In practice, individual members are accountable to their own boards and to the constituents whose interests they represent.

The Forum:

- Is strategic, not operational
- Deals only with matters where collaboration and synergy add value (it does not duplicate what already exists, or deal with matters that are better dealt with more locally, i.e. it does not work at a single board level) though it may deal with issues that impact some but not all member boards.
- Is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi, and it will work actively to ensure that it also acknowledges and recognises the interests of mana whenua through continued development of an open relationship with mana whenua
- Recognises the local, regional, and national significance of the Waitakere Ranges and its foothills and coasts, as set out in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, and acknowledges the statutory obligations to protect the Heritage Area.
- Will focus on commonalities rather than differences.