

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board feedback on Te Koiora O Te Koiora – our shared vision for living with nature

Context

- Aotea Great Barrier Island lies 90km east of Auckland City in the Hauraki Gulf and is Auckland Council's most remote and isolated area.
- Over 60% of the island is Department of Conservation (DoC) estate; 43% of which is the Aotea Conservation Park.
- Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2017 has an outcome where 'Our environment is protected and enhanced'
- 'Aotea Great Barrier Island: A world of its own, where people and place are woven in a tapestry of ecological richness' - Aotea Great Barrier Island Ecology Vision statement 2016
- The island is free of possums and mustelids.
- Aotea is home to many of New Zealand's endemic species including Chevron skink, Hochstetters frog, Black petrel, Paua slug and smaller banded Dotterel.

Feedback

1. Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board fully endorses Auckland Council's comprehensive draft submission.
2. Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board supports the overarching intent of the Department of Conservation's biodiversity strategy.
3. Despite the existence of Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, SeaChange - Tai Timu Tai Pari (Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan) and the Hauraki Gulf Forum the biodiversity of the Hauraki Gulf continues to decline at an alarming rate. We would like to see more in the vision concerning the marine environment including more support for the above listed plans and an acknowledgment that we should be striving for levels of biodiversity abundance and not just levels of species sustainability.
4. Aotea Great Barrier Island has its own community-led Ecology Vision. We currently support many biodiversity, biosecurity, social science and education programmes. We would like to note our concern for the lack of detail for resourcing in the discussion document.