



Hauraki Gulf Forum

Tikapa Moana

Te Moananui-ā-Toi

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Hauraki Gulf Forum will be held on:

Date: Monday, 10 June 2024
Time: 1.00pm
Meeting Room: Ministry for Primary Industries
Venue: Level 1 Meeting Room M1.07
17 Maurice Wilson Avenue
Auckland Airport
Auckland 2022

Hauraki Gulf Forum OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Co-chairperson	Mayor Toby Adams	Hauraki District Council
Co-chairperson	Ms Nicola MacDonald	Tangata Whenua
Tangata Whenua		
Members	Cr Andrew Baker	Auckland Council
	Ms Charmaine Bailie	Tangata Whenua
	Cr Christine Fletcher	Auckland Council
	Mr Terrence Hohneck	Tangata Whenua
	Mr Jacob Hore	Ministry for Primary Industries
	Mr Tom Irvine	Tangata Whenua
	Cr Mike Lee	Auckland Council
	Cr Kerrin Leoni	Auckland Council
	Cr Warren Maher	Waikato Regional Council
	Mr Martin Mariassouce	Te Puni Kōkiri
	Cr Paaniora Matatahi-Poutapu	Waikato District Council
	Mr Dean Ogilvie	Tangata Whenua
	Mr Chris Ollivier	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board (Auckland Council)
	Ms Bianca Ranson	Waiheke Local Board (Auckland Council)
	Mr Alex Rogers	Department of Conservation
	Cr James Sainsbury	Matamata-Piako District Council
	Mayor Len Salt	Thames-Coromandel District Council
	Cr Wayne Walker	Auckland Council

(Quorum 11 members)

Mike Giddey
Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere / Governance
Advisor

5 June 2024

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Note: The reports contained within this agenda are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Members require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

Selected extracts from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to—

- (a) integrate the management of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (b) establish the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park:
- (c) establish objectives for the management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (d) recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of the tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf and its islands:
- (e) establish the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Part 1 Management of Hauraki Gulf

7 Recognition of national significance of Hauraki Gulf

- (1) The interrelationship between the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments and the ability of that interrelationship to sustain the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands are matters of national significance.
- (2) The life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Gulf and its islands includes the capacity—
 - (a) to provide for—
 - (i) the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of the tangata whenua of the Gulf with the Gulf and its islands; and
 - (ii) the social, economic, recreational, and cultural well-being of people and communities:
 - (b) to use the resources of the Gulf by the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand for economic activities and recreation:
 - (c) to maintain the soil, air, water, and ecosystems of the Gulf.

8 Management of Hauraki Gulf

To recognise the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, the objectives of the management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments are—

- (a) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (b) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (c) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of those natural, historic, and physical resources (including kaimoana) of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments with which tangata whenua have an historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship:
- (d) the protection of the cultural and historic associations of people and communities in and around the Hauraki Gulf with its natural, historic, and physical resources:
- (e) the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the contribution of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments to the social and economic well-being of the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand:

- (f) the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, which contribute to the recreation and enjoyment of the Hauraki Gulf for the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand.

Part 2 Hauraki Gulf Forum

15 Purposes of Forum

The Forum has the following purposes:

- (a) to integrate the management and, where appropriate, to promote the conservation and management in a sustainable manner, of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand:
- (b) to facilitate communication, co-operation, and co-ordination on matters relating to the statutory functions of the constituent parties in relation to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, and the Forum:
- (c) to recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and, where appropriate, its catchments.

16 Establishment of Forum

- (1) A body called the Hauraki Gulf Forum is established.
- (2) The Forum consists of the following representatives:
 - (a) 1 representative appointed by the Minister:
 - (b) 1 representative appointed by the Minister of Fisheries:
 - (c) 1 representative appointed by the Minister of Maori Affairs:
 - (ca) 7 representatives appointed by the Auckland Council:
 - (d) 1 representative appointed by each of the following local authorities:
 - ...(iv) Hauraki District Council:
 - ...(vi) Matamata-Piako District Council:
 - ...(ix) Thames-Coromandel District Council:
 - ...(x) Waikato District Council:
 - ...(xi) Waikato Regional Council:
 - (e) 6 representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the tangata whenua and the Minister of Maori Affairs.
- (2A) The representatives appointed in accordance with subsection (2)(ca) must—
 - (a) be members of—
 - (i) the Auckland Council; or
 - (ii) a local board of the Auckland Council elected in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001; and
 - (b) include 1 member of each of the Great Barrier Island and Waiheke Island local boards.
- (3) The representatives appointed in accordance with subsection (2)(d) or (5) must be members of the local authority elected in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001.

17 Functions of Forum

- (1) To promote sections 7 and 8, the Forum has the following functions in relation to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
 - (a) to prepare a list of strategic issues, determine a priority for action on each issue, and regularly review that list:
 - (b) to facilitate and encourage co-ordinated financial planning, where possible, by the constituent parties:
 - (c) to obtain, share, and monitor information on the state of the natural and physical resources:
 - (d) to receive reports on the completion and implementation of deeds of recognition:
 - (e) to require and receive reports from constituent parties on the development and implementation of policies and strategies to address the issues identified under paragraph (a):
 - (f) to receive reports from the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf on the development and implementation of iwi management or development plans:
 - (g) to prepare and publish, once every 3 years, a report on the state of the environment in the Hauraki Gulf, including information on progress towards integrated management and responses to the issues identified in accordance with paragraph (a):
 - (h) to promote and advocate the integrated management and, where appropriate, the sustainable management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
 - (i) to encourage, share, co-ordinate where appropriate, and disseminate educational and promotional material:
 - (j) to liaise with, and receive reports from, persons and groups having an interest in the Hauraki Gulf and business and community interests to promote an interest in the purposes of the Forum:
 - (k) to commission research into matters relating to the functions of the Forum.
- (2) When carrying out its functions under subsection (1), the Forum must have particular regard to the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments.

18 Powers of Forum

- (1) The Forum has the powers that are reasonably necessary to carry out its functions.
- (2) The Forum's powers include the powers—
 - (a) to consider issues related to its purpose; and
 - (b) to receive reports from constituent parties; and
 - (c) to make recommendations to constituent parties; and
 - (d) to advise any person who requests the Forum's advice; and
 - (e) to commission or undertake those activities that are necessary to achieve its purpose.
- (3) The Forum must not—
 - (a) appear before a court or tribunal other than as a witness if called by a party to proceedings; or
 - (b) take part in a decision-making process under any enactment other than to advise when requested to do so.

Governance Statement – updated May 2021

Whakatauki

“He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.”

A canoe that is interlaced will not become separated at the bow. In unity there is strength.” In the highly developed craft of building ocean going waka the bow section was laced to the centre hull. The waka provides a metaphor for tangata whenua, in that a people interlaced will not be separated and through that unity we find strength.

This Governance Statement replaces all prior versions. It covers how the Forum works, and key roles and responsibilities. The Forum’s purposes, membership, functions and powers are set out in detail in Part 2 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA) and are not repeated here.

How the Forum works

Te whakahonore i o maatau hononga Tiriti hei painga mo Te Moananui-ō-Toi; Tīkapa Moana; Hauraki Gulf. The Forum will operate in partnership under the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, including the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under Section 6.

It will integrate and respect both Te Ao Māori and other world views.

The Forum’s conduct, and all those that interact with it, will adhere to the intent of the following principles:

- Aroha: being considerate – having respect for relationships and being of service.
- Openness and impartiality: having an open mind when making decisions and listening to other points of view.
- Tautoko: supporting others by respecting and upholding others mana, dignity, identity and unique perspective.
- Manaaki: caring for others by responsibly valuing others and ensuring they feel valued.
- Stewardship: using powers and resources prudently.
- Awhi: helping others by entering into effective engagements in the spirit of co-operation and good faith.
- Leadership: inspiring action toward achieving common goals.
- Tika: being responsible – doing the right thing with integrity and accountability.
- Pono: being effective – building credibility.
- Ethics: maintaining the highest standard of ethical conduct.

The Forum will endeavour to meet quarterly, with meetings split between the Auckland and Waikato regions. It will hold additional workshops and meetings as required.

Our Roles and Responsibilities

- Co-Chairs
 - One Co-Chair is from and elected by the membership at large
 - One Co-Chair is from and decided by the Tangata Whenua members
 - Co-Chairs lead the Forum and are its spokespeople
 - Co-Chairs work in partnership with each other
 - Co-Chairs exemplify the principles by which we work
 - Co-Chairs chair Forum meetings, set strategic direction, support and work with all Members, and front public engagement
- (A separate Co-Chairing arrangement records the practical aspects of Co-Chairing)

- Members
 - o Members support and work with the Co-Chairs and each other to take effective decisions and progress the agenda of the Forum
 - o Members bring their expertise and mana to ensure quality decision making in the interests of the Marine Park
 - o Members represent their Constituent Party, as defined under the HGMPA
 - o Members may send alternates to meetings they are unable to attend so long as this is notified in advance and in accordance with any applicable practice

- Executive Officer
 - o The Executive Officer functions as the Chief Executive of the Forum and is responsible for taking forward resolutions of the Forum, ensuring adherence to the HGMPA, supporting the Co-Chairs and all Members, preparing meeting papers, coordination with external partners, and the Forum's management, contracts, finance and administration.
 - o The Executive Officer chairs meetings of Technical Officers and works closely with the Governance Advisor.

- Governance Advisor
 - o The Governance Advisor is responsible for collating and publishing meeting agendas, writing minutes and providing advice on process.

- Technical Officers
 - o Members are encouraged to have technical officers to provide them and the Forum with expert support and advice.
 - o Technical Officers will work with their Members, the Executive Officer and each other to progress the Forum's resolutions, as appropriate.

- Administering Authority
 - o Auckland Council is the Administering Authority (for responsibilities see s28, HGMPA)

Review

This Governance Statement will be reviewed every 3 years.

Karakia

Mihi Whakatau

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Karakia

1 Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) whakaū / confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on [Monday, 4 March 2024](#), as a true and correct record.

4 Public Forum

4.1 Public Forum - Lisa Tolich, Kawau Pest Eradication Project Lead

Te take mō te pūrongo **Purpose of the report**

1. The Kawau Island multi-species eradication project is a partnership between Auckland Council, Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and the Department of Conservation that actively engages and collaborates with the Kawau Island community. The project aims to eliminate invasive wallabies, possums, rodents, and stoats to restore the island's native ecosystems and biodiversity.

Ngā tūhonga **Recommendation/s**

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) thank Lisa Tolich for her presentation.

4.2 Public Forum - Kelsey Miller, Research Fellow Leigh Laboratory, University of Auckland

Te take mō te pūrongo **Purpose of the report**

1. Understanding what Kina removal can and cannot do, and its potential use for kelp restoration.

Ngā tūhonga **Recommendation/s**

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) thank Kelsey Miller for her presentation.

5 Extraordinary Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

Co-Chairs' Report

File No.: CP2024/03983

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To provide an update from the Forum's Co-Chairs.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. From a Te Ao Māori perspective, the closing of the year before Matariki holds significant cultural and spiritual significance. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and preparation for the new year ahead. Looking ahead, it's imperative for the Forum to maintain efforts in engaging with the new Government, so that together we can address the myriad challenges and opportunities that lay before us in the preservation of the Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi / the Hauraki Gulf.
3. In April, Mayor Toby and Alex Rogers gave a verbal presentation to the Environment Committee regarding the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill in Auckland.
4. The Forum was invited to submit feedback on several consultations by MPI/Fisheries NZ: enabling the removal of sea urchins for the management or prevention of urchin barrens; reviewing the recreational daily kina limit in Fishery Management Area 1; the Hauraki Gulf Temporary Fishery Closures, and a submission to the EPA for the Te Puru Business Park Referred Project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.
5. A significant issue that continues to dominate our landscape is the spread of Exotic Caulerpa. Since our last hui, the Government has invested \$5M in the Accelerator Programme that brought capacity to removal efforts at Iris Shoal; perimeter management at Aotea; and surveillance at Ahuahu. Alongside this, we have observed a huge step up in efforts by the Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, iwi and community groups. However, what is apparent is that the spread of Caulerpa is outstripping all of our efforts. Since our last hui, new incursions of Exotic Caulerpa have been identified around the Mokohinau Islands, Rakino Island and west coast Coromandel. We have invited several presentations to our Forum meeting to ensure we stay as current as possible with this immense challenge.
6. We received an invitation to meet with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, MP Jenny Marcroft. During this meeting, we briefed her on the Hauraki Gulf Forum, our strategic issues and priorities.
7. Since our last hui, we received Alex Rogers' resignation. As members are aware, Alex, has moved to the role of Director of Regional Operations for Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland at Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Alex for his dedication and contributions to the Forum. His leadership has been instrumental in our progress, and we wish him all the best in his new role. Alongside former Forum Member Moana Tamaariki-Pohe, Nicola had the honor of handing Alex over to Te Papa Atawhai at his pōwhiri.
8. We appointed Katina Conomos as the interim Executive Officer to ensure support for the Forum during the transitional period, while we have been engaged in a recruitment process to find a permanent replacement for Alex.



Alex Rogers' pōwhiri with the Department of Conservation. Alex wears the korowai Tūmanako gifted for the occasion by Ngati Manuhiri.



With Undersecretary for Oceans and Fisheries, MP Jenny Marcroft.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) note the report.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Submission: Enabling the removal of sea urchins for the management or prevention of urchin barrens	17
B	Submission: Review of the recreational daily kina limit in Fishery Management Area 1	19
C	Submission: Te Puru Business Park Referred Project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020	21
D	Submission: Hauraki Gulf Temporary Fishery Closures	25

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Mayor Toby Adams – Co-Chairperson Ms Nicola MacDonald – Co-Chairperson – Tangata Whenua
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Fisheries New Zealand
by email: FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Enabling the removal of sea urchins for the management or prevention of urchin barrens

*He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.
A canoe that is interlaced will not become separated at the bow. In unity there is strength.*

5 April 2024

Tēnā koe,

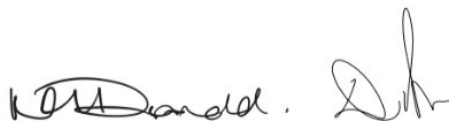
The Hauraki Gulf Forum (the Forum) appreciates the invitation from Fisheries New Zealand to submit its views on [creating a new purpose](#) for a special permit under s97 of the Fisheries Act to allow the harvesting, culling or translocation of sea urchins for the purpose of habitat restoration and/or prevention of urchin barrens.

The Forum **supports** this new special purpose. It has the potential to make a significant impact on kina barrens in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, and its use would support a number of other innovative workstreams underway including (i) the commercial potential for harvesting of barren kina by taking them to tanks on land, fattening them up with a special diet and then selling as top grade uni (ii) utilisation of the whole kina including the spines (bioactives) and shells (kinacrete, other potential uses) and (iii) kelp forest restoration. Importantly, the measure would cover both kina and centros – the latter is emerging as a serious threat to marine protected areas.

That said, this purpose is on its own likely to be insufficient for rebalancing the ecosystem, which is seriously out of balance at present. It relies on continued manpower to try and shift the ecosystem through commercial fishers who can find business models that support taking scrawny, barren kina.

The Forum submits that the Minister should also consider what is likely to be a **much** more effective and indeed sustainable longer-term solution: to set higher biomass targets for the predators of kina – large snapper and crayfish – and potentially maximum size limits too. This would allow nature to rebalance itself, and would also have flow on benefits to local communities and fishers through increased abundance of kaimoana.

Ngā mihi nui,



Nicola MacDonald
Co-Chair Tangata Whenua,
Hauraki Gulf Forum

Toby Adams
Co-Chair,
Hauraki Gulf Forum

Constituent Party Reports

File No.: CP2024/03986

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To update the Forum on key developments among its Constituent Parties.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The Forum has received a joint written briefing from the Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand.
3. The Forum will also receive oral briefings during this agenda item on:
 - Exotic Caulerpa response from the perspective of Aotea Caulerpa Response Team (Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board)
 - Exotic Caulerpa (Biosecurity New Zealand and NIWA)
 - Revitalising the Gulf (Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand)
 - Research and monitoring in the Hauraki Gulf (Auckland Council).

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) thank Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand for their written report
- b) thank Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board, Biosecurity New Zealand, NIWA, Department of Conservation, Fisheries New Zealand and Auckland Council for their presentations.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A ¹	Revitalising the Gulf update: Department of Conservation & Fisheries New Zealand	29

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Author	Katina Conomos – Interim Executive Officer Hauraki Gulf
Authoriser	Jacques Victor – General Manager Auckland Plan Strategy and Research

Hauraki Gulf Forum Work Plan 2024-2026

File No.: CP2024/03987

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose of the report

1. To propose a work plan to guide the Forum's work from this meeting until end 2026.

Whakarāpopototanga matua

Executive summary

2. By law, the Forum is required to identify and maintain a list of strategic issues and keep that list under regular review. Additionally, the Forum must produce a comprehensive state of the environment report every three years, with the last report completed in 2023.
3. Although not legally mandated, the Forum has historically maintained a three-year work plan. This has proven valuable for prioritising and delivering key initiatives.
4. The previous work plan has expired, and this report proposes a new work plan for the 2024-2026 period.
5. At its meeting on 4 March, the Executive Officer facilitated a round-table discussion on priorities for the next three years. During this meeting, it was suggested that the Forum has too many strategic-level documents and recommended combining the Strategic Issues, Big Goals, and Work Plan into a single document for clearer tracking of work.
6. The Executive Officer, Interim Executive Officer, and Technical Officers have incorporated feedback from the 4 March meeting into the version presented to the Forum today.

Strategic Issues

7. The Forum's Strategic Issues have been largely consistent since 2018, with the last review in 2021. The current strategic issues are:
 - **Integrated Management:** Improving integrated management through collaborative planning, informed decision-making and credible action. (Note: this relates directly to the Forum's purposes in s15 of the HGMPA).
 - **Water Quality:** Restoring water quality values through addressing land use activities that degrade those values.
 - **Marine ecosystems:** Recognising those critical marine value and ecosystems through advocating for protection restoration and enhancement.
8. In the refreshed work plan, a refinement of the language of two of the Strategic Issues is presented, as follows:
 - **Water Quality** becomes "**Healthy Environments**" : Ensure healthy environments by improving water quality and managing land use practices that impact the Gulf.
 - **Marine Ecosystems** becomes "**Marine Ecosystems**" : Improve marine ecosystems through recognising critical marine values and advocating for their protection and restoration.

Big Goals

9. The Forum has previously had four "Big Goals", which have been collapsed into three Big Goals for this refreshed work plan as follows:
 - A healthy catchment
 - At least 30% marine protection
 - A restored seafloor
10. For reference, the Forum's previous four Big Goals were:
 - At least 30% marine protection
 - 1,000 sqkm of restored shellfish beds and reefs
 - No marine dumping in the Marine Park or near its boarder
 - Riparian planting of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Catchment
 - The big goals and work plan retain the Forum's commitment to marine dumping prevention, riparian planting (under the goal of *A healthy catchment*), and shellfish restoration (under the goal of *A restored seafloor*).

Priority actions and additional work areas

11. The work plan presents specific actions to be undertaken or advocated for.
12. There is a section for "Additional Work Areas" allowing the Forum to articulate other kaupapa it supports or will work on, beyond its primary goals.
13. There is considerable overlap among the strategic issues, goals, and corresponding actions, as many interconnected and interdependent.

Other comments

14. It is recommended that Members allocate time for a workshop with the incoming Executive Officer to ensure clarity of understanding and alignment between words and interpretation, and if necessary, articulate a clearer priority to specific actions.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) consider and adopt the 2024-2026 work plan.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Proposed Work Plan	33

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Author	Katina Conomos – Interim Executive Officer Hauraki Gulf
Authoriser	Jacques Victor – General Manager Auckland Plan Strategy and Research

Hauraki Gulf Forum Budget 2024-2025

File No.: CP2024/03988

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To confirm a budget for the 2024-2025 Financial Year.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The Forum's annual budget is met through contributions from its Constituent Parties.
3. In recent years the Forum has run a lean budget, adjusted annually for inflation to ensure the Forum maintains its purchasing power for key contracted services, including the State of the Gulf reports, which the Forum must do by law.
4. The proposed budget (see Attachment A) for the next financial year, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025, continues this trend, with last year's budget adjusted for inflation (current Consumer Price Index of 4%) to ensure purchasing power parity, resulting in a total proposed budget of \$375,000.
5. Individual contributions from Constituent Parties are reflected at Attachment A. Billing will occur once the new financial year begins in July 2024.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) approve the budget for 2024-2025 as contained in Attachment A to this report.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Proposed Budget 2024-2025	37

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Author	Katina Conomos – Interim Executive Officer Hauraki Gulf
Authoriser	Jacques Victor – General Manager Auckland Plan Strategy and Research

Executive Officer's Report

File No.: CP2024/03989

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To provide an update from the Forum's Interim Executive Officer.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. It's an honour to support the Forum again in an interim capacity in the period between Alex Rogers' departure and this Forum meeting.
3. At the end of April, Co-Chair Nicola MacDonald was awarded the Ministry for the Environment New Zealand Environmental Hero of the Year. I wish to record congratulations to Nicola for this honour.

Marine Protection Bill

4. The Marine Protection Bill remains a key focus for the Forum's political engagement. The Select Committee's date for reporting back to Parliament has been delayed twice, now set for 20 June 2024.

Exotic Caulerpa

5. Exotic Caulerpa remains very dominant, and in collaboration with Auckland Council, we have initiated a virtual Community Information Forum. This platform convenes periodically to facilitate information sharing and networking among Hauraki Gulf communities responding to Exotic Caulerpa infestations. Two meetings have already taken place on 7 March and 23 May.
6. The New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) was commissioned to assess the natural capital loss resulting from a widespread, uncontrolled incursion of exotic Caulerpa in the Hauraki Gulf. This assessment used a framework previously developed by NZIER for valuing the ecosystem services of the Gulf.
7. This exercise highlighted the challenges in accurately pricing the impact of the exotic Caulerpa infestation. While there are quantifiable impacts on recreational fishing, commercial fishing, and biodiversity values, there is little-to-no data available for accurately pricing impacts on other ecosystem services (such as aquaculture, ports and shipping, cruise tourism and carbon sequestration). Additionally, there is a low level of confidence in the data related to recreational and commercial fishing. I am currently working with NZIER to rescope the assessment, so we can present their findings effectively framed around assumptions and risks.

Convex Seascape Survey

8. The University of Exeter (UK) and Blue Marine Foundation are collaborating on a global project, The Convex Seascape Survey, led by Professor Callum Roberts. This initiative investigates the carbon sequestration potential of soft sediment habitats on continental shelves worldwide.
9. The Convex Seascape Survey team has conducted multiple expeditions and is now turning its focus to the Hauraki Gulf for a specific aspect of the project. This phase aims to explore the impact of seabed protection on carbon storage and seabed ecology utilising the cable protection zone in the Hauraki Gulf. The research is scheduled for Nov-Dec 2024. A summary of this project is attached (Attachment A).

10. Discussions are underway between the University of Exeter, NIWA, University of Auckland and DOC for potential partnerships, with plans to finalise the project proposals and logistical arrangements. The project manager specifically contacted the Forum as a means to connect with iwi.
11. I can supply Members with the project manager's contact details if you would like to make direct contact with the researchers.

Financial position

12. Please find attached (Attachment B) the financial position of the Forum to 31 March 2024.

Technical Officers

13. Please find attached (Attachment C) the notes of the most recent meeting of the Forum's Technical Officers.

Other hui

14. Alex Rogers convened a meeting on 12 April to discuss the **RMS Niagara wreck**. Recent dives reveal the wreck is disintegrating, and oil continues to surface at the site, underscoring the need for more proactive measures. Financial constraints remain a major barrier to effectively addressing the risk.
15. I attended the **Waikato Regional Aquaculture Forum** on 8 May, where the implementation of the Waikato Regional Aquaculture Strategy implementation was discussed. The Forum is invited as an observer to these hui.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) note the report.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

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Ngā kaihaina Signatories

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