

Date: Thursday 10 April 2025
Time: 10.00am
Meeting Room: Reception Lounge
Venue: Auckland Town Hall
 301-305 Queen Street
 Auckland

Te Komiti mō te Kaupapa Here me te Whakamahere / Policy and Planning Committee

OPEN ATTACHMENTS

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

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**SECTION 32
EVALUATION REPORT**

Item 8

Attachment A

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1. Introduction

1. This report is prepared by Auckland Council to fulfil statutory requirements of Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**the Act** or **RMA**) for proposed Plan Modification X (**PMX**) to the Auckland Council District Plan - Hauraki Gulf Islands Section (**HGI Plan**).

1.1 The Section 32 Evaluation

2. Section 32 of the Act requires that before adopting any objective, policy, rule or other method, the Council shall examine the extent to which each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act, and whether the proposed policies, rules or other methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives.
3. A report must be prepared summarising the evaluation and giving reasons for the decisions on proposed provisions evaluation. The evaluation must also take into account:
 - The benefits and costs of policies, rules, or other methods; and
 - The risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the policies, rules or other methods.

1.2 The evaluation approach

4. In accordance with section 32(6) of the RMA and for the purposes of this report:
 - the 'proposal' means PMX;
 - the 'objectives' means the purpose of the proposal /PMX;
 - the 'provisions' means the policies, rules or other methods that implement or give effect to the objectives of the proposal.
5. No changes are proposed to the objectives in the current regulatory framework. The proposed changes to provisions are the purpose of the plan modification.
6. The proposal / PMX is provided at Attachment A.
7. This section 32 evaluation report will continue to be refined in response to any consultation feedback provided to the council, and in response to any new information received.

2. Background to PMX

2.1 Planning regime for helipads in the Hauraki Gulf

Regional and district planning provisions

Regional policy statement and Regional coastal policy statement

8. The regional policy statement and regional coastal policy statement are regional level regulations in the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP). The regional level provisions apply to the whole of the Auckland region including the Hauraki Gulf.

The following is noted:

- The HGI Plan was prepared before the New Zealand Coastal Policy 2010 Statement was released. The HGI Plan was notified in 2006 (decisions released in 2009 and fully operative in 2018) so was developed to give effect to the 1994 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and to sections seven and eight of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000¹. There is a concern that this potentially results in a narrower scope of consideration applied to the listed matters of discretion (noise effects and visual effects) than what is provided for in the NZCPS.
- The operative NZCPS is not specifically referenced in the Restricted Discretionary Activity provisions. The approach is that the provisions subject matter is what gives effect to the NZCPS – rather than by making direct reference.
- Noise from aircraft in flight is specifically excluded from section 326 RMA (excessive noise)², although there is a general duty to avoid unreasonable noise in section 16 of the RMA.

Auckland Council District Plan – Hauraki Gulf Islands section

9. The Auckland Council District Plan – Hauraki Gulf Islands section ('HGI Plan') currently sits outside of the AUP (the AUP district plan provisions do not apply to the Hauraki Gulf). The Hauraki Gulf will be brought fully within the AUP at its next review – scheduled to commence in 2026). The ('HGI Plan') became operative in part in on 1 October 2013 and fully operative on 22 March 2018. The provisions for helipads were the subject of submissions during the plan making process and were ultimately determined by an Environment Court Consent Order³.

¹ While notified in 2006 the HGI Plan was developed before the current NZCPS was gazetted in 2010. HGI Plan- Part 2 'Resource Management Review' identifies the NZCPS among documents by which the HGI Plan is influenced. It notes:

The degree to which the Plan is influenced by these other documents varies depending on the requirements of the RMA. These requirements are that the Plan must give effect to any national policy statement, any NZ coastal policy statement and any regional policy statement (made operative after 10 August 2005. It must not be inconsistent with any regional plan or any water conservation order.

² RMA 1991 section 16 'excessive noise' does not include any noise emitted by any (a) aircraft being operated during, or immediately before or after, flight'

³ Consent order to the topic of Air Transport (Topic: ENV-2009-304- 000457) and the following appeals the proposed Auckland Council District Plan (Auckland City Hauraki Gulf Islands Section):

- a) ENV-2009-AKL-000313: appeal by Heletranz Limited;
- b) ENV-2009-AKL-000336: appeal by Thumb Point Station Limited, South Coast Station Limited, Man O'War Station Limited, Man O'War Farm Limited and Huruhe Station Limited; and
- c) ENV-2009-AKL-000344: appeal by HeliLink Limited and North Shore Helicopters Limited.

10. The plan provisions regulating helipads and airfields are found under section 13.8 Transport. The provisions provide for helipads⁴ as permitted activities (Rule 13.8.1), restricted discretionary activities (Rule 13.8.2) and discretionary activities (Rule 13.8.3). These are provided as Attachment B to this report.
11. Permitted activities do not require a resource consent (provided they meet all other relevant standards in the HGI Plan); restricted discretionary activities (RDA) require an application for resource consent which can be declined but only for reasons that relate to the matters over which council has restricted its discretion; discretionary activities require a resource consent application which can also be declined. There are no limits on the scope of matters that can be considered when assessing a discretionary activity (provided they are within the scope of the Resource Management Act (RMA)).
12. Most helipad applications are received as RDAs (to qualify as RDA requires compliance with 50dB noise limit) and the matters of discretion are limited to noise effects and visual effects. RDA status enables processing on a non-notified basis, this is not a given however and is determined case by case.

National Planning Standard 15

13. National Planning Standard 15 Noise and Vibration Metrics Standard (NPS15) has relevance to this proposed plan modification. NPS15 (1) contains a mandatory directive that specifies use of New Zealand Standard 6807:1994 – Noise Management and Land Use Planning for Helicopter Landing Areas to exclude 4.3 use of averaging.
14. Resolution PEPCC/2023/48 of the PEP Committee (30 March 2023) acknowledged the AUP review as appropriate for undertaking any comprehensive review of helipad provisions in the HGI Plan. Notwithstanding, it resolved to amend the HGI Plan to adopt the NPS15 early (removing use of the 3-day rolling average for helicopter noise measurement).
15. NPS15 was incorporated into the HGI Plan on 20 April 2023. The effect of the early implementation was strengthening of the HGI Plan's Restricted Discretionary Activity rules, potentially resulting in increases to the number of helipad applications required to be assessed as Discretionary Activities (due to not meeting the pre-requisite noise standard to be considered as a Restricted Discretionary Activity. In other instances the result would be an increase to the separation distances to notional boundaries needed to achieve compliance with the noise standards; and /or may reduce flight numbers.

2.2 Community and Iwi regarding helipad provisions

16. There is a view in the community that the scope of consideration of the noise effects under the RDA provisions is not wide enough to consider all noise related effects on the wider environment, and in particular the coastal and natural environment. The concerns are:

⁴ Helipads are landing areas, for helicopter take-off or landing

- residential amenity values
- ecological sensitivity (rare and threatened species)
- cultural sensitivity (kaitiakitanga responsibilities)
- the provisions at 13.8.2.in relation to helipads lack clarity.
- concern that the scope of the operative NZCPS is not reflected in the helipad RDA assessment provisions

17. The following is noted:

- There is regular media interest and council has received expressions of concern from members of the community and tangata whenua that the consideration of effects is not considered broadly enough in terms of the scope provided by the NZCPS.
- Notices of motion from the Aotea/Great Barrier and Waiheke local boards have highlighted concerns about the level of consideration given to impacts on residential amenity and to sites of cultural significance and ecological significance.
- Tangata whenua have raised concerns about impacts to sites of cultural significance to the Aotea/ Great Barrier Local Board⁵. A letter from the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki o Aotea Trust outlining concerns about helicopter activity was appended to a notice of motion from the Aotea/ Great Barrier Local Board.

2.2.1 Contributing Information Used to understand the issues leading to development of Proposed Plan modification

18. A summary of the reports, documents, evidence, plan versions used to develop the plan modification is included in Attachment C. Copies of letters and reports / memorandum and Notices of Motion are included in the Attachment.

19. Notices of Motion from the Waiheke Local Board and Aotea/ Great Barrier Local Board; and Waitematā and Gulf Ward councillor Mike Lee have advocated for strengthened helipad provisions in the Hauraki Gulf.

20. The local boards' advocacy regarding seeking a plan modification is provided for under section 48K(1)(b) which identifies this as part of the role of the local board

(1)Each local board is responsible and democratically accountable for -(b) identifying and communicating to the unitary authority the interests and preferences of the people in its local board area in relation to the content of the strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws of the unitary authority;

⁵ Email to Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board from Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust) – dated 21 February 2020

3. Issues

The assessment criteria to the restricted discretionary activity assessment under Rule 13.8.2 has been investigated to identify gaps/ weaknesses that could result in a narrower scope of consideration being applied than is provided for in the rules, and in terms of the scope provided in the NZCPS. It is considered that the provisions do contain a weakness in regard to the consideration of noise effects.

The weakness relates to potential oversight of more nuanced noise considerations. This is considered to arise from some assessment criterion specifically referencing 'noise sensitive activities' – an activity which is defined in the HGI plan and applies to listed activities. The issue is that ecological sites and cultural sites are not among listed 'noise sensitive' activities. This does not preclude their assessment – as other assessment criteria provide more generally for all noise related effects to be considered; it is however considered the criterion which references 'noise sensitive activities' creates the potential for noise related ecological and cultural impacts to be overlooked. This can occur with focus being directed from general considerations to specific considerations.

Clarification to Rule 13.8.2 assessment criteria through addition of express identification that ecology and cultural sites are also 'noise sensitive' would remove the risk of oversight and ensure the scope of noise effects provided for in the assessment criteria.

As this issue has implications for the rule performance in the manner intended and including alignment with the scope provided under the NZCPS to the extent of the matters of discretion the remedy of this situation through a proposed plan modification is considered to be a justified response by council.

4. The Proposed Plan Modification

4.1 Objective (Purpose) of the proposed plan modification

21. The objective (purpose) of the plan modification is to amend Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary Activity to explicitly acknowledge the NZCPS 2010 relevance in the assessment of noise effects and to add clarity to the consideration of noise given by assessment criteria by adding ecological sites and cultural sites as noise sensitive activities in relation to the assessment of helipads. It aims to ensure the context and scope for the consideration of noise effects provided by the policy directives of the current NZCPS 2010 are applied to the extent permissible by section 104(c) of the RMA.

4.2 Effect of the proposed plan modification

22. The plan modification will impact tangata whenua, mana whenua, landowners and residents of the Hauraki Gulf Islands; and helicopter operators (private and commercial) seeking to establish helipads in the Hauraki Gulf Islands area. The primary impact will be on resource consents applicants, and for council planning staff assessing applications – by having a clearer regulatory framework.

23. The proposed plan modification does not introduce new standards. The proposed amendments aim only to clarify the existing regulatory framework. The proposed plan modification will have no impact on future applications for helipads as a Restricted Discretionary activity in the Hauraki Gulf.
24. The proposed plan modification will have no impact on the existing consented helipads in the Hauraki Gulf area.

4.3 The scope of the proposed plan modification

In-scope:

25. Previous reports received by the Planning Committee and the Planning, Environment and Parks committee discuss the helicopter rule framework for the Auckland region (both the HGI Plan and the AUP). These reports identified that the existing rules of the HGI Plan provide for an adequate assessment of a range of effects and can be relied on in the interim period – until the Hauraki Gulf is brought fully within the AUP.
26. The proposed plan modification scope has purposely been kept narrow - focusing on the Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8.2. to improve its overall performance in the assessment of noise. The focus of the proposal is targeted at clarifying nuanced considerations - noise impact on ecological sites and cultural sites. These are recognised as nuances of noise effects assessment that are at risk of being overlooked, thereby risking lessening the scope for noise assessment to be less than what is provided by the NZCPS .

Outside of scope:

27. Objectives and policies are outside the scope of the plan modification. This focus recognises that any change to objectives and policies would involve reviewing strategic directions for the Hauraki Gulf Islands which integrate with the transport topic. The specificity of the Planning, Environment and Parks committee resolution to Restricted Discretionary activities (Rule 13.8.2) also responds to timing considerations associated with the need to bring the Hauraki Gulf Islands fully within the scope of the AUP (recognising the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Planning provisions already apply) and the timing of that review, commencing in 2026.

4.4 Development of Options

28. As discussed in section 4.3 above, the development of options is limited to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8.2. Options were developed in the context of the following:

4.4.1 Local identification of issue

29. Iwi, resident and local board advocacy highlighted concerns about helicopter noise in the Hauraki Gulf. Details are included at Attachment C to this report. Council implemented National Planning Standard 15 ahead of its required implementation date as an intermediate measure to ensure noise measurement is standardised. This section 32

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evaluation is further consideration of the issue : noise generated by helicopters and whether provisions for consideration under Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary Activities provides adequate consideration of noise effects.

Notices of motion

30. The Notices of Motion from the Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier Local Boards on the topic of helicopter management and resolutions of the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee (PEP Committee) are relevant to the development of this Plan Change. For example the PEP Committee Resolution PEPCC/2023/48 (30 March 2023) directed the early implementation of National Planning Standard 15 in the HGI Plan. This effectively strengthened the helipad provisions for helipads and has relevance to the topic of assessment of helipads under Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary, and the rules alignment with the NZCPS. Background is provided below, to the extent that it is relevant to the development methodology.
31. This plan modification began with a review of the Notices of Motion from Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier Local Boards and from Mike Lee – Councillor for Waitemata and Gulf on Auckland Council concerning helicopter rules and management of helicopter activity; and a review of the responses (Memorandum and reports) from Auckland Council's Planning Unit, Consents Unit, and Compliance and Monitoring Unit to the Local Boards and the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee.
32. The local boards' concerns included the number of helipads in the Hauraki Gulf Islands area and the ability of the rules for Restricted Discretionary Activity (Rule 13.8.2) to fully consider associated adverse amenity, ecology and cultural effects. Stronger management provisions were sought including a moratorium on helipad consents and Prohibited Activity status.
33. A number of reports and memorandum have been provided to the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee (PEP) detailing the rules of the HGI Plan and the AUP and jurisdictional matters (see Table 1 above - '*Information used to understand the issues leading to Proposed Plan Modification*'). These have verified that the HGI Plan Rule 13.2.8 is able to consider a wide range of effects and that subject to amendment to apply the National Planning Standard for helicopter noise measurement early (removing use of a 3 day rolling average) the rule is considered to provide an adequate effects assessment. It was also noted that the rules responded to the objectives and policies of the HGI Plan in terms the relative balance of competing outcomes (environmental, social, cultural, and economic).

4.4.2 Issues investigation

Analysis of alignment of NZCPS 2010 and HGMPA

34. s75(3)(b) of the RMA requires plans to give effect to the NZCPS. The following analysis has been undertaken to confirm that the current HGI Plan provisions meet this requirement.

35. This analysis responds to concerns that HGI Plan was not developed under the current NZCPS 2010. Rather, it was developed under NZCPS 1994 and HGMPA policies 7 and 8, (noting these are to be considered as NZ Coastal Policies⁶).
36. The issues covered by the HGMPA policies 7 and 8 require recognition of the relationship 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 (policy 7) and sets management objectives (policy 8) to protect the life-supporting capacity, protect the natural, historic and physical resources, and those with which tangata whenua have an historic, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship. The life-supporting capacity includes the capacity to maintain air, soil, water and ecosystems, and for use of the resources of the Gulf by the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand for economic activities and recreation.
37. An analysis of the directives contained in the NZCPS 2010 and HGMPA to determine the degree of alignment between the two. The is set out in sections 4.3 and 4.4 of this report. The analysis compares relevant directives of the HGMPA and the NZCPS (with an outline of the equivalent provisions of the HGMPA). It concludes that overall, the directives of each broadly cover the same matters, with the HGMPA obviously focused on the Hauraki Gulf.

The key findings (summarised) are as follows:

- Although framed differently the policy directives of the NZCPS and HGMPA are generally in alignment. Both include directives for recognition, protection, and use of the natural, physical and heritage resources of the coastal environment; including provision for the health and wellbeing of communities and people; and recognition of tangata whenua relationships (historic, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationships) and role as kaitiaki.

Natural and Physical resources

- HGMPA directives concerning protection, management and enhancement of natural, historic and physical resources, soil, water, air and ecosystem health correlate to NZCPS Objective 2 Natural Character - “indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems directives” in policies 6 and 11; “natural character, landscapes and features directives” in policies 13, 14, 15, “historic heritage directives” in policy 17 “vehicle access directives” in policy 20.

Tangata whenua

- HGMPA directives to recognise tangata whenua historic, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationships with the Hauraki Gulf and use of its resources, and role as kaitiaki correlate to NZCPS Objective 3 Te Tiriti o Waitangi and policy 2).

⁶ HGMPA s10(1) (1) states “For the coastal environment of the Hauraki Gulf, sections 7 and 8 must be treated as a New Zealand coastal policy statement issued under the Resource Management Act 1991.”

Community and social wellbeing

- HGMPA directives for management of the use of resources to provide for community and social wellbeing, health and safety while protecting values of the coastal environment correlate to Objective 6 and strategic planning directives in policy 7 regarding subdivision, use, and development.

Recreation and open space

- HGMPA directive providing for use and enjoyment of resources of the Gulf by the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand for economic activities and recreation correlate to Objective 4 “public open space” and recreation opportunities of the coastal environment.

38. Noting the high level of correlation between directives of the NZCPS and the matters contained in HGMPA policies 7 and 8, it is concluded that the provisions of the HGI Plan governing helipads prepared under the HGMPA is consistent with the NZCPS in its current form.

Balance of HGI Plan provisions

39. Given the conclusion that there is relative alignment of the directives in the HGMPA and the NZCPS (discussed above) the balance of provisions adopted in the operative HGI Plan (recognising the provisions are a decision of the Environment Court and considered against the plans wider strategic directions) is considered appropriate to maintain.

4.4.3 Perceived Rule Weaknesses – Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary Activity (helipads)

40. The concerns raised by the Waiheke and Aotea /Great Barrier Local Boards and tangata whenua indicate there are areas of weakness in the Rule 13.8.2 assessment of particular aspects of noise from helipads, in particular the assessment of impacts to ecological and cultural sites such that these effects are potentially overlooked.
41. Tangata Whenua views from Ngāti Rehua Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust (attached to the Aotea /Great Barrier Local Board Notice of Motion) state that the provisions at Rule 13.8. in relation to helipads lack clarity.
42. The assessment criterion at Rule 13.8.2 have been investigated with particular focus given to criterion 1, 2 and 4, which are considered most relevant to the consideration of noise in terms of the concerns raised.
43. It is considered that the provisions as a whole provide for consideration of all noise impacts including to ecological and cultural sites. It is however considered that the criterion for consideration of noise impacts is problematic due to the mix of explicit criteria (criterion 1 and 2) with general criteria (criterion 4). It is noted that a mix of general and specific can result in attention being focused to the more explicit provisions. In the case of noise effects, the general criteria is criterion 4, which provides generally for consideration of noise and amenity effects is potentially given less attention than

criterion 1 and 2 which refer to the defined term 'noise sensitive activities'⁷, This risks a narrower scope of consideration inadvertently being applied to noise effects, whereby more nuanced noise effects relative to ecological and cultural sites could be overlooked.

44. It is noted that the interrelationship of assessment criteria 1, 2 and 4 potentially results in narrower scope of consideration of noise effects than the scope provided by the NZCPS.
45. Options development has been informed by these concerns and consideration of appropriate trigger points in Rule 13.8.2 to address the perceived gaps in the assessment of effects for helipads as restricted discretionary activities under Rule 13.8.2 and to ensure the provisions are applied in a manner that aligns to the scope given under the NZCPS.

4.4.4 Adequacy of assessment - Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary Activities

46. Previous reports received by the (former) Planning Committee and Planning, Environment and Parks Committee discuss the helicopter rule framework for the Auckland region (both the HGI Plan and the AUP). These reports identified that the existing rules of the HGI Plan provide for an adequate assessment of a range of effects and can be relied on in the interim period – until the Hauraki Gulf is brought fully within the AUP. The recommendations in the reports and memorandum were that Rule 13.8.2 could be retained until the next review of the AUP subject to early implementation of NPS15. It was identified that the adequacy of the assessment of effects under the existing rule and the high cost of plan changes indicated that use of the AUP review was the most effective and efficient process to investigate a comprehensive review of the approach to helipad management in the Hauraki Gulf for the future. This took into consideration that the HGI Plan will not be renewed outside of the AUP. The AUP review must⁸ fully incorporate the Hauraki Gulf into the AUP.

NZCPS

47. The PEP committee noted the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement as a specific issue to be considered during its consideration the Notice of Motion from Cr M Lee on 14 March 2024 seeking plan changes to the AUP and HGI Plan to introduce Prohibited Activity Status. The Committee recognised that the NZCPS 2010 was gazetted after the HGI Plan had been notified so the HGI Plan was based only on the NZCPS 1994 and HGMPs s7 and 8 (under s10 these are recognised as NZCPS policies). The Committee considered this situation could have a bearing on the assessment of effects and resolved that a plan change to the HGI Plan Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary Activity be initiated to add the NZCPS to Restricted Discretionary Activities as a matter of discretion.

⁷ HGI Plan Part 14 definitions 'noise sensitive activities': means any of the following activities that are sensitive to air transport noise: dwellings; education facilities, care centres, healthcare services; accommodation for care, accommodation for retired, elderly or disabled people, boarding house or hostel, visitor facilities.

⁸ Legislative provisions enabling the HGI Plan to exist outside of the Auckland Unitary Plan apply only to the first Unitary Plan. The enablement ceases thereafter.

4.5 Description of options

Four options

48. Having regard to the considerations outlined above at section 4.4, four options have been developed which aim to increase certainty about the influence of the NZCPS on the assessment of effects for helipads as restricted discretionary activities under Rule 13.8.2.
49. The options have the objective of removing uncertainty and providing greater understanding about the scope of effects able to be considered for helipads that are Restricted Discretionary Activities.
50. The clarification of the scope for consideration of noise effects is recognised as a key outcome that would address residents, iwi and community concerns about weaknesses in the existing provisions at Rule 13.8.2 concerning the consideration of noise effects.

Option 1: Do nothing (Status quo)

51. Under Option 1, Council would not introduce any change to the Restricted Discretionary Activity provision - Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary activities. Restricted Discretionary activities for helipads would be evaluated against existing HGI provisions including NPS 15.
52. This option recognises that the assessment of effects for a resource consent is undertaken in accordance with s104(1)(b)(ii) of the RMA and 104(c) and must have regard to the NZCPS in the consideration of effects. The consideration is limited to the matters over which council has restricted its discretion.
53. This option continues to rely on s104 rather than introducing an 'up front' trigger within Rule 13.8.2 to raise awareness of the NZCPS policy directions that influence the scope of the assessment of effects.
54. This option involved no change to the provisions at Rule 13.8.2 . The rules will continue to read as follows:

Rule 13.8.2 "Matters of Discretion"

When considering an application to establish a helipad or airstrip, the council has restricted its discretion to the following matters:

- Noise effects
- The visual effect of any earthworks or retaining structures required to establish a helipad or airstrip.

Option 2: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8 for Helipads – Matters for Discretion – ADD NZCPS as a NEW line item

55. This option involves amending the section of the Rule 13.8.2 titled 'Matters of Discretion' to add the NZCPS as a third matter of discretion.

56. There are currently two matters of discretion under Rule 13.8.2. These are noise effects and visual effects. Adding the NZCPS here would result in the provision being amended thus (words added are underlined):

Rule 13.8.2 “Matters of Discretion”

When considering an application to establish a helipad or airstrip, the council has restricted its discretion to the following matters:

- Noise effects
- The visual effect of any earthworks or retaining structures required to establish a helipad or airstrip.
- NZCPS 2010

Option 3: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8.2 for Helipads – Matters for Discretion – adding reference to the NZCPS; AND amending Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise criterion for Māori heritage sites, ecological sites, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species - particularly indigenous species

57. This option involves amending the Rule 13.8.2 ‘Matters of Discretion’ so the two listed matters (noise effects / visual effects) receive additional text, referencing the NZCPS to clarify that the scope of consideration of the listed matters is informed by the policy directives of the NZCPS on ecological, cultural, natural character, amenity and recreational enjoyment values.

58. This option would also amend the Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise criterion giving clarification that ‘Māori heritage sites’, and ‘Sites of Ecological Significance /sensitive species/habitat’ are to be considered as noise sensitive areas. The potential amendments are shown below (words added are underlined):

1. Amend Rule 13.8.2 Matters of Discretion

Matters of Discretion

When considering an application to establish a helipad or airstrip, the council has restricted its discretion to the following matters:*

- Noise effects
- The visual effect of any earthworks or retaining structures required to establish a helipad or airstrip

**The scope of consideration for the listed matters includes the policy directives of the NZCPS on ecological values, cultural values, natural character, amenity and recreational enjoyment which can be adversely affected by noise (as relevant).*

2. Amend Rule 13.8.2 - Add new assessment criteria X

Assessment criteria

When considering the above matters of discretion, the council will have regard to the following assessment criteria:

1. *The effects of noise received or within the notional boundary of the noise sensitive activities;*

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2. *The cumulative noise levels received by any noise sensitive activity; generated by use of the proposed helipad or airstrip along with any other consented or permitted landing area;*
- X *The effects of noise on natural and historic heritage including:*
 - *māori heritage sites, with particular regard given to NZCPS policy 2*
 - *sites of ecological significance, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species (particularly indigenous species) with particular regard to NZCPS policy 11*
3. *The adverse visual or amenity effects resulting from the type and size of the facility to be provided.*
4. *Whether the noise* generated by use of the proposed helipad or airstrip can be adequately mitigated so as not to give rise to adverse noise and amenity effects, including appropriate controls over:*
 - *the type of helicopter(s)*
 - *the flight procedure, (flight track / path, ground idling, hovering)*
 - *the hours of operation and frequency of movements*
 - *the location of helipad or airstrip.*
5. *Proposed consent conditions which provide for recording, monitoring, reporting and review.*

Option 4: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8 for Helipads – Matters of Discretion by adding “ecological effects” and “cultural heritage effects” AND amending Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise criterion for Māori heritage sites, ecological sites, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species – particularly indigenous species.

59. This option involves amending the Matters of Discretion by adding ‘Ecological effects’ and Cultural heritage effects’; and amending the Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise giving clarification that ‘Māori heritage sites’, and ‘Sites of Ecological Significance’ and breeding sites/nesting areas of sensitive species – particularly indigenous species. The potential amendments are shown below (words added are underlined):

1. Amend Rule 13.8.2 Matters of Discretion

Matters of Discretion

When considering an application to establish a helipad or airstrip, the council has restricted its discretion to the following matters:

- *Noise effects*
- *The visual effect of any earthworks or retaining structures required to establish a helipad or airstrip*
- *Ecological effects*
- *Cultural effects*

2. Amend Rule 13.8.2 – Add new Assessment criteria

When considering the above matters of discretion, the council will have regard to the following assessment criteria:

1. The effects of noise received at or within the notional boundary of the noise sensitive activities;
2. The cumulative noise levels received at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity; generated by use of the proposed helipad or airstrip along with any other consented or permitted landing area;
- X The effects of noise on natural and historic heritage including:
 - māori heritage sites, with particular regard given to NZCPS policy 2
 - sites of ecological significance, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species (particularly indigenous species) with particular regard to NZCPS policy 11
3. ...

4.6 Evaluation of options

60. The criteria used to evaluate the options include appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, and costs (s32(1)(b) of the RMA). A summary of the evaluations is provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Options Evaluation summary: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activities Rule 13.8.2 for Helipads

	Option 1 Do Nothing	Option 2 Amend Matters of Discretion – ADD NZCPS as a new (3rd) matter of discretion	Option 3 Amend Matters of Discretion - ADD clarification reference to NZCPS Amend Assessment criteria' to add a specific noise criterion for Māori Heritage Sites and Ecological Sites of Significance / and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species – particularly indigenous species	Option 4 Amend Matters of Discretion - ADD ecological and cultural heritage effects as new (3 rd and 4 th) matters of discretion Amend Assessment criteria to add a specific noise criterion for Māori Heritage Sites and Ecological Sites of Significance / and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species- particularly indigenous species
Appropriateness	(technical)	X		X
Effectiveness		X		X

Efficiency		X		X
Costs (financial)	lowest	high	low	medium/high
Benefits		X		X low

X NO ✓ Yes

4.6.1 Evaluations:

Option 1: Do Nothing

- 61. Appropriateness/Effectiveness/Efficiency: Doing nothing is technically an appropriate, and efficient solution from a process perspective given that the consents process assessment of effects under s104 of the RMA already requires regard to be had to the NZCPS to the extent that the matters over which discretion has been restricted correspond to the NZCPS provisions. Practice guidelines discuss the assessment of adverse effects and consents planners are aware of the scope of the NZCPS and its influence in the assessment of effects. The practice guideline expressly discusses consideration of effects in relation to sites of cultural significance and sites with ecological values.
- 62. Maintaining the status quo misses the opportunity for resource consent applicants being expressly directed to consider relevant matters in preparing their applications.
- 63. Benefit: The benefit of doing nothing is the resulting rationalisation of resources for plan modification/plan changes. The Do-Nothing option recognises the timing of the next review of the AUP which includes work to bring the Hauraki Gulf Islands into the AUP and will involve comprehensive reviewing of the regulatory framework for helipads along with integration of local planning matters in resource management issues for the whole region. There is a financial benefit in terms of rationalising costs to one change process (the review of the AUP and its application to the Hauraki Gulf).

Cost: The do nothing option has the least direct financial costs to council of the options. This is due to the cost savings associated with the rationalisation of the plan modification/ change process (outlined above under 'benefits').

Appropriateness	
Effectiveness	
Efficiency	
Costs (financial)	lowest
Benefits	

Option 2: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8.2 for Helipads – Matters for Discretion – ADD NZCPS as a NEW line item

64. Appropriateness: An amendment to the Matters of Discretion to add the NZCPS as an additional matter is not considered to be an appropriate method. Adding the NZCPS would expand the matters of discretion significantly wider than noise and visual effects to include all aspects of amenity including more esoteric consideration of character, landscape and general amenity. The NZCPS is a comprehensive policy statement traversing a wide range of coastal issues. The expanded matter of discretion would be outside the scope of the current HGI Plans policies which are designed to ensure a balance of outcomes including environmental, amenity, economic and transport outcomes (refer to paragraph 39 discussion regarding the balance of provisions).
65. Not acting forgoes the opportunity to expressly reference noise effects on ecological and cultural values. Based on iwi and community feedback and as evidenced by resource consent data, applications for helipads seldom include noise impact assessments on cultural heritage sites or in relation to ecological areas or species despite these being technically relevant and appropriate restricted discretionary activity matters for consideration.
66. Effectiveness: The method would not be an effective tool controlling restricted discretionary activity. The NZCPS in its entirety is too great a scope to be a 'matter of discretion'. It would contradict the key mechanism underpinning Restricted Discretionary activity status, which is to place specified limitations on the matters that can be considered. Potentially any effect on a subject of the NZCPS may be considered, the scope created would be broader and more akin to a discretionary activity. Potentially the Restricted Discretionary activity status may be made redundant – a consent category in name only. This creates an issue of lack of transparency as the balance of the regulatory framework for helipads is significantly changed and is contrary to the requirement for specificity set out in section 77B of the RMA. The option is essentially removing the Restricted Discretionary activity status and replacing it with Discretionary Activity status.
67. Efficiency: This method would not promote efficiency. The lack of specificity regarding limitations on matters of discretion is likely to result in confusion rather than providing the desired degree of clarity and transparency as potentially any effect may be considered relevant and trigger a broad assessment more akin to a Discretionary activity. Uncertainty will open up assessments to include irrelevant matters. The additional breadth of the assessments of effects and reporting evaluations will add to consenting costs for both the applicant and for council.
68. Costs/Benefits: The benefits of the method are questionable in light of the effectiveness and efficiency issues outlined. The costs of the method would include incurring unnecessary consent processing costs including costs associated with consent applications prepared and lodged as a Restricted Discretionary Activity instead of Discretionary Activity. Procedurally, the cost of the plan modification is likely to be high in terms of resourcing. Helicopters are a contentious topic and introduction of an open-

ended matter of discretion is likely to result in intense debate with a lengthy hearing and appeals process. Any change will be strongly contested by both supporters and opponents to change. Helicopter flights have positive and negative effects for the Hauraki Gulf Islands, related environments and people. Given the difficulties outlined the overall benefit of Option 2 is considered to be low.

Appropriateness	X
Effectiveness	X
Efficiency	X
Costs (financial)	high
Benefits	X low

Option 3: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8 for Helipads – Matters for Discretion – adding reference to the NZCPS; AND amending Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise criterion for Māori heritage sites, ecological sites, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species - particularly indigenous species

69. This option involves targeted amendments to clarify the existing matters of discretion (noise, visual) by adding a cross reference to the NZCPS noise related policies.

70. Appropriateness: The proposed cross reference to the NZCPS in the Matters of Discretion signals early on in the Rule 13.8.2 provisions, that the scope of the assessment of these effects is undertaken in the context of the NZCPS. The current approach is less transparent as the statutory requirement to have regard to the NZCPS is not explicitly stated by the HGI Plan. Instead, its application arises by applying s104(c) in the consents assessment under s104 of the RMA. The resulting ‘up front’ awareness of the influence of the NZCPS is considered appropriate. This change would make clear to all plan users the relevance of NZCPS noise related policies to Restricted Discretionary applications for helipads. From a plan administration perspective this option would also assuage concerns that the relevant matters in consent application evaluation may be overlooked.

71. In regards to the noise sensitive activities, Māori heritage sites and ecological sites, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species are noise sensitive receiving areas which may be considered under operative assessment criterion 4 but have the potential to be overlooked – being less obvious examples and potentially obscured by criteria 1 and 2 which focus on ‘noise sensitive activity’ – a defined term in Part 14 Definitions⁹ The Pt 14 definition is focused only on people as residents or

⁹ HGI Plan -Pt 14 Definitions “Noise sensitive activities: means any of the following activities that are sensitive to air transport noise: dwellings: educational facilities, care centres; healthcare services; accommodation for care: accommodation for retired, elderly or disabled people; boarding house or hostel, visitor facilities.

occupiers of neighbouring properties. Noise effects arising from the establishment and use of helipad are not however confined to these settings. It is noted however, each criterion is separate and the assessment under criterion 4 is not bound by the working of criteria 1 and 2. The proposed amendment is considered to have merit as it brings awareness to less obvious aspects of noise sensitivity.

- 72. An example of cultural effects from helipads and associated take-off and landing are the potential noise disturbance to the metaphysical extent and aesthetic amenity (including noisescape) of culturally significant and culturally sensitive sites e.g. urupā.
- 73. An example of ecological effects from helipads and associated take-off and landing is disturbance of habitat amenity (e.g. species not returning to nesting sites as a result of fright from noise and visual stimulus). This is particularly relevant for species whose habitat is in the coastal environment.
- 74. Noise effects on ecological and cultural sites is within the ambit of what must be considered as a Restricted discretionary activity under Rule 13.8.2. The noise-relevant NZCPS policies are applied under s104(1b), as s104(c) and the matters over which discretion is limited make consideration of the relevant NZCPS policies necessary. A wider consideration of NZCPS policies is not permissible. Section 104C limits the application of section 104.
- 75. Effective/Efficient: The method is considered effective and efficient because it clarifies the scope of the matters of discretion and removes ambiguity from the assessment criteria regarding noise sensitivity considerations. The proposed amendments provide for ready consideration of more nuanced noise effects, removing the potential for their being overlooked, which could occur if criterion 4 is relied on to capture them (as per Option 1).
- 76. Costs/Benefits: The benefits of the method are that it improves certainty and transparency for users of the HGI Plan. The plan modification costs of the method are minimised given the s104 assessment of effects already requires regard to be given to the NZCPS to the extent the NZCPS is relevant to the matters over which the council has reserved its discretion; and the amendments to the Matters of Discretion and the Assessment criteria increase transparency of the noise sensitivity considerations.

Appropriateness	
Effectiveness	X
Efficiency	X
Costs (financial)	high
Benefits	

Option 4: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8.2 for Helipads – Matters of Discretion by adding “ecological effects” and “cultural heritage effects” AND amending Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise criterion for Māori heritage sites, ecological sites, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species - particularly indigenous species.

77. Option 4 would amend the Matters of Discretion to add ‘Cultural effects’ and ‘Ecological effects’. Amendments are also proposed to Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary Activity Assessment Criteria as per Option 3 to add a specific noise criterion for ‘Māori heritage sites’ and ‘Sites of Ecological Significance and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species – particularly indigenous species’.
78. Analysis of the proposed amendments to the assessment criteria involving clarification of ‘noise sensitive activities’ has been undertaken in the analysis for Option 3 and applies to Option 4 too. The analysis is not repeated here. This aspect of Option 4 is considered to have merit.
79. Analysis of the proposed addition of ‘ecological effects’ and ‘cultural effects’ is provided below:
80. Appropriateness. The expansion of the matters of discretion to add ecological effects and cultural effects as standalone line items is not considered appropriate. The appropriate limitation applied to the consideration of effects is considered to be noise and visual effects. This scope responds to the broader framework of HGI Plan objectives and policies and the strategic resource management approach of the HGI Plan. The context in which the provisions for helipads as Restricted Discretionary activities were finalised strikes a considered balance of protection outcomes (including maintenance of physical and natural heritage resource, amenity and cultural relationships) with development and use outcomes (including economic and transport outcomes). Noting the current helipad framework is considered to give effect the NZCPS (See conclusion of alignment between the directives of the HGMPA and the NZCPS as detailed in s5.3 and 5.4 of this report), the balance struck is considered appropriate to retain.
81. Effectiveness /Efficiency: The principal effects of helipad activity are considered to be noise and visual effects. A key drawback of the inclusion of ecological effects and particularly cultural effects as matters of discretion would be that it may introduce very open-ended discretion of these matters. This is unsuitable for decision-makers assessing Restricted Discretionary activities in - which should place clear limits on the matters able to be considered (a necessary component of restricted activity status).
82. Also noted is that Rule 13.8.2 Matters of Discretion are vertically aligned to policies which are also noise/visual effects based. As discussed in Option 2 widening the matters of discretion (i.e. not limited to noise and visual effects) would have no policy support.
83. Cost /Benefit: The costs of the method are likely to be medium/high as the method challenges the Restricted Discretionary activity status – which must be based on specified limitations. The introduction of any open-ended matter of discretion is not good planning practice. Introducing ambiguity to the HGI Plan would likely result in contested hearing and appeals process. Any change will be strongly contested by both

supporters and opponents to change. Pursuing an option that is unlikely to successfully proceed is inefficient and wasteful of all participants resources. A longer plan modification process may overlap into the 2026 AUP review of the AUP. On balance, the cost of the option is considered to outweigh the benefit. The benefit on balance is considered low.

84. Adding ecology effects and cultural effects - and for completeness, social and economic effects as additional categories under the Matters of Discretion has also been considered and ruled out on the basis that this would represent a catchall approach which is inconsistent with a restricted discretionary activity status.

Appropriateness	X
Effectiveness	X
Efficiency	X
Costs (financial)	medium/high
Benefits	X low

4.7 Economic growth and employment effects

85. Section 32(2)(a) and (b) of the Act requires this evaluation to assess effects of the proposed plan modification on employment and economic growth (whether anticipated to be provided or reduced).
86. The proposed amendments clarify the assessment of effects for noise and do not introduce any new considerations. There is no material change in the consenting regime there will be no impact on economic growth or employment opportunity as a consequence.

4.8 Risk of acting or not acting

87. Section 32(2)(c) of the Act requires this evaluation to assess the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions.
88. There is considered to be sufficient information about helicopter noise effects to proceed – in terms of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act and their relationship to the operative Restricted Discretionary activity Matters of Discretion (noise effects) for helipad activity.
89. The proposed amendments to the Rule 13.8.2 Restricted Discretionary Activity have been subject to an evaluation according to the directives contained in the HGMPA, NZCPS and RPS (refer section 5). It is considered based on the evaluation undertaken,

the risks of not acting (i.e. option 1) are that local board's advocacy, iwi and community concerns would not be responded to, and the scope of assessments of helipads as RDA activities may (potentially) be less than what is provided for under the NZCPS and the RMA resource consent decision regime for Restricted Discretionary activities.

90. In contrast, the risk of acting (i.e. Options 2, 3 and 4) is limited, as the amendments proposed will provide further clarity about application of the NZCPS – which is already relevant, in terms of the noise relevant policies. This should however be considered in the context that the HGI provisions for helipads as a Restricted Discretionary Activity were determined through a court order and that the determination took into account the many competing community interests.
91. It should be noted then that Options 2 and 4 by presenting significant departure from the current balance of provisions, risks opposition from other sectors of the community who support the helipad provisions as they stand.
92. Other risks from these options are that council would be breaching its s77B duty under the RMA to restrict its discretion. Knowingly advancing a technically inappropriate planning approach would not enhance the council's reputation.

4.9 'Mark-up' of Options 1 to 4 (words added are underlined)

Option 1

No change

Option 2

1. Amend Rule 13.8.2 Matters of Discretion

Matters of Discretion

When considering an application to establish a helipad or airstrip, the council has restricted its discretion to the following matters:

- Noise effects
- The visual effect of any earthworks or retaining structures required to establish a helipad or airstrip.
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

Option 3

1. Amend Rule 13.8.2 Matters of Discretion

Matters of Discretion

When considering an application to establish a helipad or airstrip, the council has restricted its discretion to the following matters:*

- Noise effects
- The visual effect of any earthworks or retaining structures required to establish a helipad or airstrip

*The scope of consideration for the listed matters includes the policy directives of the NZCPS on ecological values, cultural values, natural character, amenity and recreational enjoyment which can be adversely affected by noise (as relevant).

2. Amend Rule 13.8.2 Add new assessment criteria X

Assessment criteria

When considering the above matters of discretion, the council will have regard to the following assessment criteria:

1. The effects of noise received at or within the notional boundary of the noise sensitive activities;
2. The cumulative noise levels received at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity; generated by use of the proposed helipad or airstrip along with any other consented or permitted landing area;
- x. The effects of noise on natural and historic heritage including:
 - māori heritage sites, with particular regard given to NZCPS policy 2
 - sites of ecological significance, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species (particularly indigenous species) with particular regard to NZCPS policy 11
3. The adverse visual or amenity effects resulting from the type and size of the facility to be provided.
4. Whether the noise generated by use of the proposed helipad or airstrip can be adequately mitigated so as not to give rise to adverse noise and amenity effects, including appropriate controls over:
 - the type of helicopter(s)
 - the flight procedure, (flight track / path, ground idling, hovering)
 - the hours of operation and frequency of movements
 - the location of helipad or airstrip.
5. Proposed consent conditions which provide for recording, monitoring, reporting and review.

Option 4

1. Amend Rule 13.8.2 Matters of Discretion

Matters of Discretion

When considering an application to establish a helipad or airstrip, the council has restricted its discretion to the following matters:

- Noise effects
- The visual effect of any earthworks or retaining structures required to establish a helipad or airstrip
- Ecological effects
- Cultural effects

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2. Amend Rule 13.8.2 Add new assessment criteria X

Assessment criteria

When considering the above matters of discretion, the council will have regard to the following assessment criteria:

1. The effects of noise received at or within the notional boundary of noise sensitive activities;
2. The cumulative noise levels received at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity; generated by use of the proposed helipad or airstrip along with any other consented or permitted landing area;
- x. The effects of noise on natural and historic heritage including:
 - māori heritage sites, with particular regard given to NZCPS policy 2
 - sites of ecological significance, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species (particularly indigenous species) with particular regard to NZCPS policy 11
3. ...

4.10 Preferred Option Recommendation

93. Having regard to the options assessment, the preferred option recommendation is Option 3.

Option 3: Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8 for Helipads – Matters for Discretion – adding reference to the NZCPS; AND amending Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise criterion for Māori heritage sites, ecological sites, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species- particularly indigenous species

94. In regard to subsections 32(1)(a) and (1)(b)(ii) of the RMA, the Option 3 is considered the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives (purpose) of the proposed plan modification and achieve the purpose of the RMA.

95. The addition of a specific noise criterion for Māori heritage sites, Sites of ecological significance, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species as noise sensitive activities is considered the most appropriate, effective and efficient interim measure with highest benefit; least cost and least risk to recognise less obvious aspects of noise effects which are covered by the scope of the NZCPA.

96. Option 3 benefits plan users by explicitly acknowledging the NZCPS' influence in the assessment of the effects of noise, giving pause to think beyond the most obvious impacts. A key benefit will be the greater certainty and transparency of the scope of consideration of noise effects for users of the HGI Plan. Guidelines to the consents process for Helicopter resource consents are also available which provide greater commentary on the assessment of effects and specifically discuss cultural and ecological effects.

97. Option 3 is also consistent with the consent category of Restricted Discretionary Activity as it retains the specified limitations to the matters to be considered, albeit amended to provide greater transparency and clarity.

5. Statutory Evaluation under the RMA

This section of the report evaluates the recommended preferred option (Option 3).

98. Recommended preferred option (Option 3) involves:

Amendments to Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 13.8 for Helipads – Matters for Discretion – adding reference to the NZCPS; AND amending Assessment Criteria by adding a specific noise criterion for Māori heritage sites, ecological sites, and breeding sites/ nesting areas of threatened, endangered, or rare species - particularly indigenous species.

99. The proposed plan modification responds to concerns that the assessment of effects of helipads as a Restricted Discretionary Activity in the HGI Plan may overlook relevant NZCPS policies. The potential to overlook the full scope is due in part to the development of the HGI Plan being prior to the gazetting of the NZCPS 2010, with NZCPS policy being delivered under NZCPS 1994 and s10 of the HGMPA, where s7 and s8 are treated as NZCPS policy.
100. The plan modification highlights the NZCPS influence on the scope of effects assessment and provides clarity in a manner which is appropriate for the Restricted Discretionary Activity status, and which maintains the plan wide balance of objectives and policies outcomes of the HGI Plan (as a whole).
101. The proposed plan modification has been developed in accordance with the First Schedule procedure in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the relevant statutory matters – listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Plan modification – district plan matters under the RMA

Plan change- district plan matters under the RMA Relevant Act/ Policy/ Plan	Section	Matters
Resource Management Act 1991	Part 2	Purpose and intent of the Act
Resource Management Act 1991	Section 31	Functions of territorial authorities in giving effect to the Resource Management Act 1991
Resource Management Act 1991	Section 73	Sets out Schedule 1 of the RMA as the process to change a district plan
Resource Management Act 1991	Section 74	Matters to be considered by a territorial authority when preparing a change to its district plan. This includes its functions under section 31, Part 2 of the RMA, NZCPS, national policy statement, other regulations and other matters
Resource Management Act 1991	Section 75	Outlines the requirements in the contents of a district plan

Resource Management Act 1991	Section 76	Outlines the purpose of district rules, which is to carry out the functions of the RMA and achieve the objective and policies set out in the district plan. A district rule also requires the territorial authority to have regard to the actual or potential effect (including adverse effects), of activities in the proposal, on the environment.
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5.1 Part II - Purpose and principles of the RMA (s5,6,7,8)

102. The relevance of the plan modification to sections 5, 6,7,8 of the RMA is outlined in Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Relevance to RMA Part 2 - Purpose and principles

RMA 1991	Relevant section	Relevance to Proposed Plan modification
S5 Purpose	<p>5 Purpose</p> <p>(1) The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.</p> <p>(2) In this Act, sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while—</p> <p>(a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and</p> <p>(b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and</p> <p>(c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>The proposed plan modification will support promotion of the sustainable management of land resources of the Hauraki Gulf Islands by ensuring there is an appropriate consideration (NZCPS) of the cultural well-being of people and communities when considering adverse effects of helicopter activities on the environment including sensitive ecological areas and species.</p>
S 6 Matters of National Importance	<p>6 Matters of national importance</p> <p>In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:</p> <p>(a) the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their</p>	<p>The proposed plan change responds to a weakness in the regulatory framework for Restricted Discretionary helipads in relation to protection of natural character, ecological and cultural values. The proposed plan modification aims to ensure these effects</p>

	<p>margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:</p> <p>(b)the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:</p> <p>(c)the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:</p> <p>(e)the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga:</p> <p>(f)the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:</p>	<p>as related to noise and visual effects are not overlooked.</p>
S7 Other matters	<p>7 Other matters</p> <p>In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to—...</p> <p>(a) Kaitiakitanga (aa)The ethic of stewardship</p> <p>(b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resource ...</p> <p>(c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values</p> <p>(f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment</p>	<p>High</p> <p>The proposed plan modification promotes the matters listed under s7 on the basis that the NZCPS responds to these matters in relation to the national coastal environment. The proposed plan modification confirms the scope of the operative NZCPS applies when considering adverse effects of helicopter activities on the environment including values and settings beyond noise sensitive activities defined in Part 14 of the HGI Plan.</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga and stewardship are integrated in the NZCPS directives as is consideration of amenity values and the quality of the coastal environment.</p>
S8 Treaty of Waitangi	<p>8 Treaty of Waitangi</p> <p>In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga extends to land and water resources in the coastal environment and taonga with which Māori have a cultural or spiritual relationship.</p>

		<p>The proposed plan change responds to a weakness in the regulatory framework for Restricted Discretionary helipads in relation to protection of taonga associated with ecological and cultural values. The proposed plan modification aims to ensure these effects as related to noise and visual effects are not overlooked and that tangata whenua are able to action their role as kaitiaki.</p>
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103. The approach proposed is in accordance with the purpose and intent of Part 2 of the RMA. It is considered to be aligned with the purpose set out in section 5 and the principles set out in sections 6, 7 and 8.
104. Section 5 – Purpose sets out the purpose of the RMA, which is sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The proposed modification is consistent with the sustainable management purpose by enabling people and communities to provide for their cultural, social and economic wellbeing and health and safety while safeguarding life supporting capacity of the Hauraki Gulf and avoiding adverse effects on the environment. In particular the proposed modification will improve interpretation of the Restricted Discretionary Activity provisions for assessment of the effects of helipads as a Restricted Discretionary activity with heightened awareness of the NZCPS context for that assessment. Ecological effects to ensure alignment with s5(2) matters; and improve awareness and consideration of cultural effects
105. Section 6 – Matters of National Importance: Section 6 of the RMA sets out the matters of national importance which must be recognised and provided for. Of relevance to the proposed plan modification is clause 6(a) and (b) concerning preservation of natural character and protection of natural features; (c) concerning protection of indigenous flora and fauna; and (e) concerning cultural heritage and (f) concerning historic heritage. The proposed plan modification to the matters for discretion to cross reference to the operative NZCPS is consistent with the requirement to recognise and protect heritage and cultural values to achieve an appropriate balance of providing for people and communities social wellbeing, health and safety while maintaining protection of these values.
106. Section 7 – Other Matters, sets out matters which shall be given particular regard to. The proposed plan modification has been developed with particular regard to relevant matters set out in sections 7 concerning management of use, development and protection with regard to kaitiakitanga, efficient use of physical resources, maintenance and enhancement of amenity values and heritage values.

107. Section 8 – Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi: Section 8 of the RMA requires the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to be taken into account. The development of the proposed plan modification has been in consultation with iwi authorities in a manner that recognises the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi of partnership and participation. Consultation undertaken with iwi authorities is outlined in section 6 of this report.

5.2 National and Regional Planning Context

108. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, National Planning Standard 15 and Regional Policy Statement set the National and Regional planning context for the proposed plan modification.
109. In regard to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement the key issue driving the proposed plan modification is the difference in how relevant matters are covered by the HGMPA and the NZCPS. The most relevant sections of each are outlined under their respective headings, additionally, the NZCPA section identifies the corresponding provisions to its directives in the HGMPA.

5.3 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA)

110. The entire area covered by the HGI Plan is subject to the provisions of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (the 'HGMPA').
111. The purpose of the HGMPA 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."*
112. Under section 75(3) of the RMA a district plan must give effect to any NZCPS. At the time of development of the HGI Plan the NZCPS 2010 had not been gazetted, and in terms of the NZCPS the HGI Plan was prepared under NZCPS 1994, and section 7 and 8 of the HGMPA
- 10. Creation of New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement by this Act*
- 1. For the coastal environment of the Hauraki Gulf, sections 7 and 8 of this Act must be treated as a New Zealand coastal policy statement issued under the Resource Management Act 1991.section 10 of the HGMPA states sections 7 and 8 of this Act must be treated as a New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement ('NZCPS').*
113. Sections 7 and 8 of the HGMPA state:
- "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.*

**Komiti mō te Kaupapa Here me te Whakamahere / Policy and Planning Committee
Forward Work Programme 2025**

This committee deals with setting the direction for the physical development and growth of Auckland through a focus on land use and policies relating to planning, growth, infrastructure, housing (as well as programmes and strategic projects associated with these activities). It also deals with the development and monitoring of policy associated with community, social, cultural and environment matters (including climate change activities). The full terms of reference can be found here: [Auckland Council Governing Body Terms of Reference](#)

Note: Annual Budget decisions may affect the work programme.

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Planning – Unitary Plan and Land Use Planning														
Consideration of plan change for Integrated intensification Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance	Statutory requirement	To receive updates on progress, provide policy direction and consider a plan change. Progress to date: To confirm policy settings for the council's integrated intensification plan change a series of confidential committee workshops have been scheduled from April to May 2025, with further workshops and committee reporting to be confirmed as this work programme progresses.												
Consideration of plan change for notification – Natural hazards Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance	Strengthened Auckland Unitary Plan natural hazards management. Statutory basis is section 6H of the Act.	To kohuki /consider a plan change. Progress to date: Plan change preparation continuing with engagement focused on risk tolerance. Confidential committee workshop held on 11 December 2024. Work on track for March 2025 subject to government signalled changes to the RMA. Clarity for committee reporting should become clear early in 2025 A workshop was held on 12 March 2025 (Natural Hazards Plan Change – draft stage. Link to agenda , minutes and minutes attachments .												

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<p>Consideration of plan change for notification – Helipad management: Amend Hauraki and Gulf Islands District Plan</p> <p>Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>Direction of the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee to prepare a plan change to amend Rule 13.8.2 of the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to add the NZ Coastal Policy Statement as a matter of discretion to be considered in helipad consent applications. (PEPCC/2024/14).</p>	<p>To kohuki /consider a plan change.</p> <p>Progress to date: Hauraki Gulf Islands section of the Auckland District Plan - Proposed Plan Change – Helipads – 13 March 2025 – this item was withdrawn from the March agenda, to be considered at the next available committee meeting.</p>												
<p>Consideration of plan change for notification – Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua Tranche 2b</p> <p>Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>Statutory requirement</p>	<p>To kohuki /consider a plan change.</p> <p>Progress to date: A consultant is assisting with the preparation of this tranche. Six sites have been identified: Pukapuka, Te Uru Tapu, Turakirae, Pukekooiwiriki, Te Aparangi, and Te Maketuu. The analysis of some of these sites is more progressed than others and it is currently being considered whether to progress the more advanced and most at-risk sites ahead of others. Tranche 2b is delayed and staff are working towards a report back to committee in late 2025. Tranche 3 is currently being resourced.</p>												
<p>Southern Rural Strategy</p> <p>Policy Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>Priority implementation action of the adopted Future Development Strategy</p>	<p>To whakaae / approve the final Southern Rural Strategy.</p> <p>Progress to date: The Draft Southern Rural Strategy was endorsed by the Policy and Planning Committee for public consultation on 7 October 2024. Public consultation runs from 29 October 2024 and 1 December 2024. Iwi engagement is ongoing through early 2025. To date nine out of 10 iwi have confirmed their interest in the Strategy, and staff are yet to meet with two iwi with an interest in the south. Seeking adoption of the final Southern Rural Strategy from the Policy and Planning Committee is planned in May 2025.</p>												

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			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whenuapai Structure Plan Update Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance	Statutory requirement	To whakaae / approve the updated Whenuapai Structure Plan. Progress to date: Approval to prepare an update to the Whenuapai Structure Plan 2016 including new areas of Red Hills North and Whenuapai West – 23 May 2024. Link to decision Note: Public engagement was to happen in last quarter of 2024. A draft plan will be presented to the Upper Harbour and Henderson-Massey Local Boards then to this committee for public engagement, followed by an item to the boards and then to this committee for approval for the final version. Iwi consultation has commenced, and a workshop is to be held with the Henderson-Massey and Upper Harbour Local Boards. Preliminary discussions have been held with relevant council departments, CCOs and Government departments. A draft structure plan and engagement plan will be prepared for the March committee meeting.												
Making plan changes operative Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance	Statutory requirements	To whakaae / approve plan changes as requests are received. Progress to date: See completed plan changes at the end of this document. Members will be updated via memo on any private plan changes being accepted under delegated authority. Current plan changes that could potentially be made operative during the current year (depending on appeals): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 93: Warkworth South. (7 September 2023, Link to decision) <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 94: Wairaka Precinct <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Change 96: Open Space and Other Rezoning Matters (2024). (30 November 2023, Link to decision). <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 98: 47 Golding Road and 50 Pukekohe East Road, Pukekohe (15 February 2024, Link to decision) <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 99: 13 Cresta Avenue and 96 Beach Haven Road, Beach Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 100: Riverhead <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 101: Pilkington Park and Point England 	As required											

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Change 102: Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua Tranche 2a. Pre-hearing submitter discussions are largely concluded pending a follow up discussion with Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei on some points of their submission. (11 April 2024, Link to decision). Hearing date set for 12 and 19 February 2025. <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 103: Silverdale West Industrial Area. (13 June 2024, Link to decision) <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 104: Remuera Precinct <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 105: Waitomokia Precinct <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Change 106: Filming on Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua. (8 December 2022, Link to decision). <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Change 108: Papakura. (10 December 2024, Link to decision). <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Change 109: Whenuapai Green/Totara Road. (10 December 2024, Link to decision). <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 110: 9, 33 and 49 Heights Road, Pukekohe (20 February 2025, Link to decision) <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change 111: 84-100 Hobsonville Road, Hobsonville Grove, (20 February 2025, Link to decision) <input type="checkbox"/> Private Plan Change: 70A and 70B Lisle Farm Drive, Pukekohe, (13 March 2025, Link to decision) 												
<p>Clause 25, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act - Determination</p> <p>Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	Statutory requirement	<p>To kohuki /consider private plan changes that may require a clause 25 determination by this committee in 2025.</p> <p>List of possible clause 25 determinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 485 and 467 Puhinui Rd; 5,10 and 11 Campana Road <input type="checkbox"/> 290 Victoria Street West, Pukekohe <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Wastney Road 'Alfriston Village' (KO/Windermere) <input type="checkbox"/> 55 Cosgrave Road, Winton <input type="checkbox"/> Karaka North Peninsula: Fortland Capital Limited – (Various) rural zones to Future Urban Zone 	As required											

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Legislative Reform																
Resource Management Act – Replacement legislation Policy; Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance	An opportunity to influence government reforms and national policy changes, and to advocate for effective affordable housing measures.	To whakaae / approve the council submission and tautapa / delegate approval for final version of submissions on the bills to replace the RMA to be introduced in mid-2025, premised on the enjoyment of property rights as a guiding principle. Progress to date: Memorandum: Resource Management Act reform phase two and three: Government’s recent announcements, 18 October 2024, Link to memorandum .														

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<p>Resource Management Act – Amendment Bills</p> <p>Policy; Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>An opportunity to influence government reforms and national policy changes, and to advocate for effective affordable housing measures.</p>	<p>To whakaae / approve the council submissions and tautapa / delegate approval for final version of submission on:</p> <p>Second Resource Management Act Amendment Bill – to be introduced before the end of 2024. Submissions likely due in late Feb/Mar 2025.</p> <p>National direction discussion documents (4) – consultation on seven new national direction instruments, and amendments to fourteen existing ones. Expected to be released in Feb 2025.</p> <p>To kohuki /consider matters relating to Going for Housing Growth.</p> <p>Progress to date:</p> <p>Memorandum: Auckland Council submission on the Fast-track Approvals Bill, 5 April 2024, Link to memorandum</p> <p>Auckland Council submission on the Fast-track Approvals Bill, 22 April 2024. Link to submission</p> <p>Auckland Council submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Bill, June 2024 – Link to submission</p> <p>Memorandum: Going for Housing Growth: Government’s recent announcements, 18 July 2024 - Link to memorandum</p> <p>Memorandum: Resource Management Act reform phase two and three: Government’s recent announcements, 18 October 2024, Link to memorandum.</p> <p>Memorandum: Fast-track Approvals Bill update – Environment Select Committee’s report, November 2024, Link to memorandum.</p> <p>Update on Going for Housing Growth by memo and input to submission due February - March 2025.</p> <p>An open workshop was held on 5 February 2024 (Auckland Council’s submission on the RMA Phase 2 Bill – Link to agenda, minutes and minutes attachments</p>												

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Legislation changes Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	An opportunity to influence government reforms and national policy changes.	To whakaae / approve submissions and tautapa / delegate approval for final version of submission. To whakaae / approve priority submissions for Auckland Council Group. List of possible submission opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Adaptation Framework – Draft Bill expected early 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> National Infrastructure Plan – Draft Plan expected 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> Building System Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works Act Review <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and Litter Act 1979 replacements Progress to date: Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill – Submission closed 7 January 2024 – Link to submission Priority submissions for Auckland Council Group – 13 March 2025 – Link to decision													
Urban Regeneration															
Central Wharves Masterplan – Preparation and Development City Centre Major Projects Eke Panuku Development Auckland	Delivery of Long-term Plan 2024-2034 Mayoral Proposal recommendation.	To make decisions on the central wharves master-planning exercise to better accommodate public space, cruise facilities and ferry services while maintaining port operations. Progress to date: Timing still to be confirmed.													

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City Centre Masterplan – City Centre Action Plan implementation update City Centre Lead Agency Eke Panuku Development Auckland	Information update.	To whiwhi / receive updates on the City Centre Action Plan. Progress to date:													
Process to confirm new priority locations – Urban regeneration programme Strategy and Planning Eke Panuku Development Auckland	Delivery of Statement of Intent 2023-2026 – Add new locations to the Eke Panuku urban regeneration programme.	To whakaae / approve a process for selecting two to three new locations for addition to the Eke Panuku urban regeneration programme. Progress to date:													
Climate change															
Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate Governance and Oversight Group Chief Sustainability Office Group Strategy and Chief Executive Office	Governance and oversight of the Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate.	To kohuki / consider any matters relating to the Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate Governance and Oversight Group. Progress to date:													

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C40 Cities – Decision on membership Chief Sustainability Office Group Strategy and Chief Executive Office	Reapplication for C40 membership.	To whakaae / approve a preferred option on C40 membership. Progress to date: C40 Cities is updating their leadership standards. They are unsure whether the innovative cities programme that Auckland Council belongs to will continue. If it does not, continue they have indicated that we would become a regular member. This does not require membership renewal. Auckland Council has been advised that we will now be informed of the process around June- July.													
Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Resolution of the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee (PEPCC/2023/81) to endorse 'Accelerating a Resilient Tāmaki Makaurau'.	To agree a position and delegate authority to approve a future submission on the national climate adaptation framework. Progress to date: An open workshop was held on 12 March 2025 (Auckland Council's approach to community planning for climate disruption. Link to agenda , minutes and minutes attachments .													
Snapshot of progress of Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan Chief Sustainability Office Group Strategy and Chief Executive Office	Reporting update.	To whiwhi / receive a snapshot of progress of Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan. Progress to date: Information to inform the progress update will not be received until <u>October 2025</u> , therefore the snapshot will be presented to the relevant committee of council at the earliest availability.													
Shoreline Adaptation Plan programme Engineering, Assets and Technical Advisory Resilience and Infrastructure	The Shoreline Adaptation Plan programme is planning for the future of Auckland's 3,200km of shorelines (beaches, cliffs, harbours and estuaries) in response to the impacts of climate change, erosion and flooding.	To whakaae / approve the Shoreline Adaptation Plans as they are completed. Progress to date: See completed adaptation plans at the end of this document.													

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Water														
Access to affordable water - Adopt an Auckland Council position statement Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Opportunity to enable a coordinated response to the water access issues across the council group and deliver a commitment through the Auckland Water Strategy (2022-2050).	To kohuki / consider a position statement on access to affordable water to enable a coordinated response across the council group. Progress to date: Adoption of the Auckland Water Strategy – 10 March 2022 Link to decision Timing to be confirmed.												
Achieving better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Opportunity to provide strategic direction for achieving better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour.	To whiwhi / receive updates on council’s actions to achieving better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour. Progress to date: Achieving better outcomes for the Manukau Harbour – Environment and Climate Change Committee, 12 November 2020 Link to decision Memorandum – Update on achieving better outcomes for the Manukau Harbour- Environment and Climate Change Committee, 2 August 2022 Link to memorandum Achieving better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour – progress update – 7 February 2024 Link to memorandum Public Input: The Onehunga Enhancement Society/Manukau Harbour Restoration Society – rebuilding the Manukau Harbour and whether it needs a better management plan – 15 February 2024 Link to presentation Strategic direction for achieving better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour – 13 June 2024 Link to decision Note: Iwi/committee members hui proposal considered and approved by delegated authorisers in February 2025 for purpose of engaging with mana whenua representatives in March 2025												

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Annual Update on delivery of the Auckland Water Strategy Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Reporting update.	To whiwhi / receive the Auckland Water Strategy (2022-2050) Annual Progress report. Progress to date: Annual update on delivery of the Auckland Water Strategy – 7 September 2023 Link to decision Auckland Water Strategy annual implementation update – 12 September 2024 Link to decision													
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance	Statutory requirement	To whiwhi / receive updates on progress. Progress to date: The Government has extended the statutory deadline for notifying freshwater planning instruments to 31 December 2027 (from late 2024), which will impact work on Auckland Unitary Plan plan change and action plans. Outcomes from issues and options reports (April 2025). Responding to revised NPS-FM (September 2025)													
Updating Demand Targets - Auckland Water Strategy Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Updating targets to reduce gross per capita consumption that would be embedded in the Auckland Water Strategy.	To whakaae / approve updated water demand targets (reducing gross per capita consumption) for Auckland Progress to date: Adoption of the Auckland Water Strategy and associated demand targets – 10 March 2022 Link to decision													

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Watercare Metropolitan Water and Wastewater Servicing Strategy Policy Policy, Planning and Governance Watercare	Watercare’s development of a Metropolitan Servicing Strategy and Watercare’s engagement approach.	To kohuki / consider any matters relating to Watercare’s development of a Metropolitan Servicing Strategy (long-term vision for water and wastewater) and engagement approach. Progress to date: A workshop was held in February 2025. – Link to agenda , minutes and minutes attachments .												
Water quality targeted rate programme Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience Resilience and Infrastructure	Targeted rate programme for projects that will ensure cleaner beaches, streams and harbours.	Annual report for information. Will be provided with the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Regional Pest Management Plan implementation annual reporting update. Progress to date: Natural environment and water quality targeted rates annual report 2022/2023 – 2 November 2023 Link to decision Report likely ready for October/November 2025.												
Waste														
Proposal for fortnightly rubbish collection (trial) Waste Solutions Resilience and Infrastructure	A decision is needed on a proposed trial of fortnightly kerbside rubbish collections, proposed through Auckland’s Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2024.	A decision is required on whether to proceed with a trial following planned consultation with households and ratepayers affected by the proposal in late October/November 2025. Adoption of the Auckland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024, 10 October 2024, Link to decision for a trial Progress to date:												
Council strategies														

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Auckland Plan 2050 - Annual Monitoring report 2025 Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Reporting update.	To whiwhi / receive the Auckland Plan 2050 - Annual Monitoring Report 2025. Progress to date: Auckland Plan 2050 - Annual Monitoring Report, 10 October 2024 Link to decision Report is likely to be ready in <u>October 2025</u> and will be reported to the relevant committee. Note: Full review/refresh of the Auckland Plan 2050 will be considered once the Resource Management reform/legislation is confirmed.													
Community facilities and open space – Use non-use values Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Information update.	To whiwhi / receive findings of updated use non-use values Aucklanders place on community facilities and open space. Progress to date:													
Community Facilities Network Plan Improvement Programme Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Action 170 of the Community Facilities Network Plan is a strategic action. It was requested by 11 local boards when the action plan was refreshed in 2022.	To seek approval for an improvement programme for the Community Facilities Network Plan 2015 following completion of Action 170 of the Community Facilities Network Plan Action Plan: Carry out a fit-for-purpose assessment of the Community Facilities Network Plan. Progress to date: Aquatic network review: Key findings and next steps, 20 February 2025 Link to decision The initial timelines for this Improvement Programme are being extended to enable learnings from the More Empowered Local Boards programme to be incorporated.													

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<p>Manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau (Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy)</p> <p>Policy Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>Resolution of the Parks, Arts, Community and Events Committee [PAC/2022/68]</p>	<p>To seek adoption of the strategy following engagement.</p> <p>Progress to date:</p> <p>Staff have been delivering a programme of work to refresh and consolidate five plans and strategies related to open space, sport and recreation. The work has been directed by a Joint Political Working Group.</p> <p>A background paper that outlines eight key challenges and opportunities for the draft strategy to consider was reported to the committee and local board members in April 2024.</p> <p>July 2024: workshop with the committee, local board chairs and political working group on the investment principles and open space provision options.</p> <p>October 2024: workshop with the committee, local board chairs and political working group on the open space provision options.</p> <p>Draft Auckland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy (Part One/Part Two), 10 December 2024 Link to decision</p>												
<p>Infrastructure Priorities Programme - Auckland Council inputs</p> <p>Policy Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>Infrastructure Priorities Programme.</p>	<p>To ohia / endorse a project list for the Infrastructure Priorities Programme which feeds into the National Infrastructure Plan.</p> <p>Progress to date:</p> <p>Link to NZ Infrastructure Commission Website.</p> <p>Memorandum – Resilient Tamaki Makaurau – Community Planning for Climate Disruption: Papakura Pilot, 12 November 2025 Link to memorandum</p> <p>A closed workshop was held on 26 February 2025. Link to the agenda; link to the notes, link to the notes attachments</p> <p>Auckland Council Group project list to be submitted to the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (Part of the National Infrastructure Plan), 13 March 2025 Link to decision</p>												

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			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Open space acquisitions – Monitoring report Policy Policy, Planning and Governance	Monitoring report	To receive a monitoring report of the recent open space acquisitions and future pipeline of planned investment assessed against existing open space policies. Progress to date:													
Māori Outcomes framework and implementation															
Cultural Initiatives Fund Marae and Papakāinga Development Applications Ngā Mātārae	Review of the funding grants.	To whakaae / approve Cultural Initiatives Funding grants for marae development and papakāinga/Māori housing for the 2025/2026 financial year. Progress to date: Cultural Initiatives Fund FY 2023-2024 Marae and Papakāinga Development Applications – 3 August 2023 Link to decision Cultural Initiatives Funding 2024/2025 Marae and Papakāinga Development – 25 July 2024 Link to decision													

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Review and refresh of Māori Outcomes Fund Ngā Mātārae	Review of the fund.	To whakaae / approve the revised approach for the Māori Outcomes Fund which responds to the specific directives outline in the Mayoral Proposal on Auckland Council’s Long-Term Plan 2024 – 2034. Progress to date: Review of the Cultural Initiatives Fund and the Marae and Papakāinga Development as part of the planned review of the Māori Outcomes Fund – 25 July 2024 Link to decision As part of the review of the Māori Outcomes Fund, input will be sought from the existing Māori Outcomes Political Working Group, which includes membership from the Governing Body and Houkura – 25 July 2024 Link to decision												
Refresh of Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau, Māori Outcomes performance measurement framework Ngā Mātārae	Review of the framework.	To whakaae / approve the refreshed approach of Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau, Māori Outcomes performance measurement framework. Progress to date:												
Te Pūrongo a Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ngā Huanga Māori 2023-2024: Auckland Council Group Māori Outcomes Report 2022-2023 Ngā Mātārae	Monitoring report.	To whiwhi / receive the annual Auckland Council Group Māori Outcomes Report: Te Pūrongo a Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ngā Huanga Māori 2024-2025. Progress to date: Te Pūrongo a Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ngā Huanga Māori 2023-2024: Auckland Council Group Māori Outcomes Report 2023-2024 – 14 November 2024 Link to decision												

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Environment														
Annual report on the council's operational plan for implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 Environmental Services Community	Under section 100B of the Biosecurity Act, the council is required to report annually on its operational plan for implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan.	To whiwhi / receive the annual report for information. Will be provided with the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Water Quality Targeted Rate annual reporting update. Progress to date: Natural environment and water quality targeted rates annual report 2022/2023 – 2 November 2023 Link to decision Report likely ready for October/November 2025.												
Natural environment targeted rate programme Environmental Services Community	Targeted rate will support projects that help protect the environment and tackle the pests, weeds and diseases that are threatening the native species.	To whiwhi / receive the annual report for information. Will be provided with the Water Quality Targeted Rate and Regional Pest Management Plan implementation annual reporting update. Progress to date: Natural environment and water quality targeted rates annual report 2022/2023 – 2 November 2023 Link to decision Report likely ready for October/November 2025.												
Regional Pest Management Plan 2030-2040 Environmental Services Community	Statutory requirement.	To receive updates and provide direction to inform the development of the proposed plan. Progress to date: The outcome of the deliberative democracy session shared December 2024. A summary of submissions will be provided to the Policy and Planning Committee in mid-2025. Local boards will also receive a summary of submissions relevant to their area, and an opportunity to provide formal feedback to inform the drafting of the proposed plan.												

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Area of work and Lead Department	Pūnga / Reason for work	Committee role (whakatau / decision and/or tika / direction)	Expected timeframes Highlight the month(s) this is expected to come to committee in 2025												
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Deed of Acknowledgement for the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 Ngā Mātārae	The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 provides for 'Deeds of Acknowledgement' to be agreed between the mana whenua groups, Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua, and the Crown or Council.	To whiwhi / receive a comprehensive report on progress to agree deeds of acknowledgment with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua. Progress to date: Memorandum - Interim update on the development of a Deed of Acknowledgement for the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 – 30 November 2023 Link to memorandum Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed of Acknowledgement – progress update and initial advice – 25 July 2024 Link to decision Consultation on the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed of Acknowledgement is open from 24 March 2024 until 28 April and further information can be found here .													
Other															
Helicopter management – Options analysis report Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance	Helicopter Compliance and Monitoring Project initially considered at the Planning Committee – 5 May 2022	To whakarite / provide direction on options for the management of helicopter activity as part of the Auckland Unitary Plan review. Progress to date: Options analysis for helicopter management will be further developed as part of the review of the Auckland Unitary Plan scheduled to commence in 2026.													

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			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Review of committee forward work programme* Governance and Engagement Policy, Planning and Governance	Regular reporting.	To whai / adopt the committee work programme. To whiwhi / receive updates (monthly) To arotake / review the content of the forward work programme six-monthly. Progress to date: Planning, Environment and Parks Committee Forward Work Programme – 2 March 2023 Link to decision Review of the Forward Work Programme - Planning, Environment and Parks Committee – 7 September 2023 Link to decision Review of the Forward Work Programme – Planning, Environment and Parks Committee – 15 February 2024 Link to decision													

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Completed

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Area of work and Lead Department	Committee role	Whakatau / Decision
<p>Plan Changes Planning and Resource Consents</p>	<p>Statutory requirements</p>	<p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Plan Change 25 – Warkworth North – 5 October 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Private Plan Changes 48, 49, 50, 51 and 61 in Drury East and Drury West to the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) operative – 8 December 2022 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Private Plan Change 55 - Patumahoe South – 29 June 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Private Plan Change 59 - Albany 10 Precinct to the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) Operative – 8 December 2022 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative in part Plan Change 60 - Open Space (2020) and Other Rezoning Matters – 2 March 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Making Plan Change 60 – Open Space and Other Rezoning Matters (2020) Fully Operative – 2 November 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan (operative in Part) – 30 March 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Private Plan Change 63 – 911-975 New North Road, Mount Albert operative – 8 December 2022 Link to decision</p> <p>Private Plan Change 64 - 953 New North Road, Mt Albert to the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) operative – 8 December 2022 - Link to decision</p> <p>Plan Private Plan Change 69 – Spedding Block to the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) (operative in Part) – 30 March 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) - Request to make operative Private Plan Change 70 (751 and 787 Kaipara Coast Highway, Kaukapakapa) – 2 March 2023 Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan (operative in Part) - Making operative further parts of the Auckland Unitary Plan – Crater Hill/Ngā Kapua Kohuora and Pūkaki Peninsula -2 March 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – consideration of private plan change request – Riverhead South – 4 May 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Memorandum – Update on the Environment Court decision on an appeal against an Auckland Council decision to reject a private plan change request – 17 May 2024 - Link to memorandum</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Consideration of private plan change request – Beachlands South Limited Partnership – 8 December 2022 - Link to decision</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL: Auckland Unitary Plan - Beachlands South Private Plan Change Decision (Plan Change 88) – 23 May 2024 - Link to restatement</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL: Plan Change 88 Beachlands South – Proposed settlement of appeal by Auckland Council (as Submitter) ENV-2024-AKL000106 – 12 September 2024 - Link to restatement</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making private plan change operative - Plan Change 88 (Beachlands South) – 10 December 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan and Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan - Making operative Plan Change 71 and Plan Modification 14 - Removal of Car Parking Minimums – 7 September 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Making operative Private Plan Change 72 – McKinney Road, Warkworth – 4 May 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Making operative Private Plan Change 74 - Golding Meadows and Auckland Trotting Club – 30 November 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Making private plan change operative – Plan Change 75 (Mason Clinic) – 10 October 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Private Plan Change 76 - Kohe in eastern Pukekohe – 29 June 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Making operative Private Plan Change 77 – Pakuranga Golf Club – 4 May 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Plan Change 80 - Regional Policy Statement Well-functioning urban environment, Resilience to the effects of climate change and Qualifying matters – 14 November 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making Operative Plan Change 81 - Additions to Historic Heritage operative Plan Change 82 - Amendments to Historic Heritage operative in part – 12 September 2024 Link to decision</p>

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		<p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making Operative Plan Change 83 - Additions and amendments to Schedule 10 Notable Trees Schedule – 30 November 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Making operative Private Plan Change 85 – 48 Esmonde Road, Takapuna – 30 November 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan – Making operative Private Plan Change 86 – 41-43 Brigham Creek Road, Whenuapai – 15 August 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Private Plan Change 89 - Clevedon Quarry – 25 July 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Private Plan Change 90 - 8 Sparky Road, Ōtara – 10 December 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Private Plan Change 91 - 80 McLarin Road, Glenbrook Beach – 25 July 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making operative Private Plan Change 92 (Private) Wellsford North – 13 March 2025 – Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making Operative Private Plan Change 95 - Lot 3 DP 185893 Golding Road, Pukekohe – 10 December 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Unitary Plan - Making Operative Private Plan Change 97 - Redwood Park Golf Club – 10 December 2024 - Link to decision</p>
<p>Shoreline Adaptation Plans Infrastructure and Environmental Services</p>	<p>To whakaae / approve the Shoreline Adaptation Plans as they are completed.</p>	<p>Shoreline Adaptation Plan Kahawairahi ki Whakatiwai / Beachlands and East Pilot Report – 2 March 2023 – Link to decision</p> <p>Shoreline Adaptation Plan: Āwhitu Report – 3 August 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Shoreline Adaptation Plan: Manukau South Report – 3 August 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Approval of the Pahurehure Inlet Shoreline Adaptation Plan – 10 October 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Approval of the Manukau Harbour East Shoreline Adaptation Plan – 10 October 2024 - Link to decision</p>
<p>Structure Plans Planning and Resource Consents Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>To whakaae / approve structure plans.</p>	<p>Approval to prepare an update to the Whenuapai Structure Plan 2016 including new areas of Red Hills North and Whenuapai West – 23 May 2024 - Link to decision</p>
<p>Adoption or review of policies and strategies Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>An opportunity to influence government reforms and national policy changes.</p>	<p>Adoption of the Future Development Strategy – 2 November 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>I am Auckland three year review – 5 October 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Infrastructure Strategy 2024: Long-term issues for Auckland’s infrastructure – 30 March 2023 - Link to decision</p> <p>Endorsement to prepare Auckland’s Southern Rural Strategy – 11 April 2024 - Link to decision</p> <p>Southern Rural Strategy – 10 October 2024 - Link to decision</p>
<p>Submissions Policy, Planning and Governance</p>	<p>An opportunity to influence government reforms and national policy changes.</p>	<p>Resource management reform: Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill – 8 December 2022 Link to decision</p> <p>Approval of Auckland Council submission on the Spatial Planning Bill and the Natural Built Environment Bill – 2 February 2023 (meeting held on 9 February 2023) Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Council’s Submission – Spatial Planning Bill, dated 17 February 2023 Link to submission</p> <p>Auckland Council’s Submission – Natural and Built Environment Bill, dated 17 February 2023 Link to submission</p> <p>Resource management system reform: report of the Environment Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill, dated 20 July 2023 Link to memorandum</p> <p>Resource management system reform: Transitional National Planning Framework, dated 3 October 2023 Link to memorandum</p> <p>Memorandum - Resource management reform: transitional National Planning Framework – 21 December 2023 Link to memorandum</p> <p>Memorandum - Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Repeal and Interim Fast-track Consenting) Act 2023 – 1</p>

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Area of work and Lead Department	Committee role	Whakatau / Decision
		<p>February 2024 Link to memorandum</p> <p>Auckland Council submission on the Fast-track Approvals Bill – 11 April 2024 Link to decision</p> <p>Memorandum – Auckland Council’s submission on the Fast-track Approvals Bill, 5 April 2024 Link to memorandum</p> <p>Council submission on Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill – 13 June 2024 Link to memorandum</p> <p>Auckland Council feedback on Making it Easier to Build Granny Flats – 25 July 2024 Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Council technical staff submission on proposed temporary closures under Section 186A Link to submission</p> <p>Auckland Council’s submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill Link to draft submission Link to final submission</p> <p>Going for housing growth: Government’s recent announcement – 18 July 2024 Link to memorandum</p> <p>Draft submission on New Zealand’s second emissions reduction plan – 15 August 2024 Link to decision</p> <p>Auckland Council’s submission on proposed amendments to the Biosecurity Act – 14 November 2024 Link to decision</p>