

HAURAKI GULF FORUM

STRATEGIC ISSUES

*A Guide for the Activities of the
Hauraki Gulf Forum*

VISION FOR THE HAURAKI GULF

It's a great place to be...because...

...Kaitiaki sustain the mauri of the Gulf and its taonga...communities care for the land and sea...together they protect our natural and cultural heritage.

...there is rich diversity of life in the coastal waters, estuaries, islands, streams, wetlands, and forests, linking the land to the sea...

...waters are clean and full of fish, where children play and people gather food...

...people enjoy a variety of experiences at different places that are easy to get to...

...people live, work and play in the catchment and waters of the Gulf and use its resources wisely to grow a vibrant economy...

...the community is aware of and respects the values of the Gulf, and is empowered to develop and protect this great place to be.

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Hauraki Gulf Forum is to integrate the sustainable management of the resources of the Gulf and to facilitate communication, co-operation and co-ordination on matters relating to the statutory functions of the Forum members. It also has a purpose of recognising the special relationship of tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and its catchments.

This document helps to achieve one of the functions of the Forum which is to prepare a list of strategic issues, determine priority for action on each issue, and regularly review that list. This document, the identification of Strategic Issues and actions and the prioritisation of actions are to be reviewed every three years, unless it is resolved by the Forum to undertake a review sooner. The document consists of:

Part A – Values of the Gulf.

Part B – Issues, objectives and actions identified by the Forum relating to its role in facilitating **Communication, Co-operation** and **Co-ordination** amongst its members.

Part C - Strategic Issues to be addressed by the Forum, and objectives which define what the Forum wants to achieve with regard to each issue. This is to enable the Forum to exercise its role to promote sections 7 and 8 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Part Act 2000 (2000).

The Strategic Issues relate to:

- ◆ **Water Quality**
- ◆ **Soil Erosion and Sedimentation**
- ◆ **Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity**
- ◆ **Biosecurity**
- ◆ **Natural Character and Landscape**
- ◆ **Cultural Heritage**
- ◆ **Recreation, Tourism and Access**
- ◆ **Coastal Hazards**
- ◆ **Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- ◆ **Relationships with Tangata Whenua and Community**
- ◆ **Knowledge and Monitoring**

The Forum has determined a list of actions to address each strategic issue. These actions are divided into two categories – those actions which the Forum will undertake itself and those actions that the Forum will encourage Forum members to undertake. Priority actions have been identified which are highlighted.

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PART A – VALUES OF THE HAURAKI GULF

In order to achieve its purpose of an integrated management of the Gulf and ensure the Hauraki Gulf provides for the spiritual, social, economic and cultural well-being of its communities, the Forum has identified the following values it wishes to maintain and enhance.

Spiritual well-being: Tikapa Moana is an integral link in the spiritual whakapapa of the Hauraki iwi whanui which links Hauraki iwi back in a long chain of being, to the beginning of time, to Papa, Rangi and Te Kore. The spiritual link is encoded in the common chemistry shared by the waters of Tikapa Moana, all creatures therein and humankind

High water quality: Water quality is the fundamental determinant of the environmental health of the Gulf. The quality of water from catchments discharging into the Gulf, and of the marine waters within the Gulf, impacts on the ecology of the Gulf habitats. Many of the activities people undertake within the Gulf and many of the experiences people have within the Gulf are contingent on high water quality. Experiences include swimming, sight seeing, shellfish collecting, diving, fishing, aquaculture, and tourism. If water quality is reduced, the experience or ability to undertake these activities and the enjoyment of the experience is diminished.

Natural character: Within the Gulf are examples of environments that have had minimal impact since pre-European times. The value of the experience people enjoy in the Gulf is often dependent on the natural character of that environment, including its landscape, geology, landform, amenity value, and the ability of the ecosystem to function in terms of biological and physical processes. Natural character is diminished by actions such a loss of vegetation, large scale earthworks and inappropriate structures. It is recognised, however that not all areas of high landscape or amenity value will necessarily be completely natural and also require protection and careful management.

Diversity of habitats and features: The diversity of the habitats and features of the Gulf determine its special value. This is valued in terms of recreation and tourism, and contributes to “the quality of the experience” and opportunities. The diversity of habitats has intrinsic value and is also valued for scientific, conservation and commercial purposes.

Presence of rare and endangered species: Rare and endangered species are an important aspect of the biodiversity of the Gulf. Rare and endangered species are valued intrinsically and are significant for their scientific, cultural and conservation values. They are also important to the tourism industry, as well as to the community as a whole. The presence of such species is also a measure of habitat quality.

History and culture: Centuries of human habitation of the Hauraki Gulf, its hinterland and islands have left a legacy of culturally significant sites both historic and prehistoric. Sites include areas once inhabited by Maori, early industrial sites such as Maori stone working sites at Motutapu Island, numerous pa on the coastline and islands, urupa, coastal dune midden archaeological landscapes, the Copper Mine at Kawau and the whaling station at Whangaparapara, defence sites at North Head and Stony Batter, stone wharf at Port Charles shipwrecks and the like. Each of these sites adds to the history of the Hauraki Gulf.

Diversity of experience: The broad range of natural features, including geological formations, landscapes, habitat types etc. are important as they provide a broad range of experiences for the community. This natural environment has been built on by people, and this human element to the environment in many places complements the natural environment. The size and diversity of the Gulf provide opportunities to experience remote areas close to population centres.

Clean environment: The natural environment of the Gulf, its beaches, waterways etc. are clean, free of litter and contaminants, thereby adding to the health status and positive experience enjoyed by its communities and commercial interests alike.

High recreational value: The Hauraki Gulf is the largest area of public open space in the Auckland and Waikato Regions. The Gulf and its hinterland contain significant areas of highly valued and appreciated public lands which enable the public to experience and enjoy the values of the Gulf.

Quality access: The ability of people to gain access to and use the Gulf and its resources with relative freedom is highly valued. Access to resources is also enjoyed by commercial enterprises such as the commercial fishing and shipping sectors, the tourist and transport industries, and by the armed forces for such activities as defence training.

High quality food production: The physical characteristics of the Gulf, including high quality water, its proximity to markets, airport and port facilities make it a valued area for food production. Historically this has centred on the harvesting of natural products, however more recently the Gulf is being recognised as an area important for farm production including aquaculture.

Economic potential: The Hauraki Gulf is valued by the regional and national community for its contribution to the economic wellbeing of New Zealand. Much of the present economy is dependent on the maintenance of the natural and physical values of the Gulf. This dependence will most likely increase in the future.

PART B - THE FORUM IN ACTION

1 Facilitating Communication, Co-ordination and Co-operation

The success of the Forum depends on establishing a partnership between the Forum members. This means establishing close linkages and synergies between the various central and local government agencies and tangata whenua in order to achieve the integrated management of the Gulf. Important components of this partnership are Communication, Co-operation and Co-ordination. These are critical for the Forum to address the Strategic Issues identified and meet its purpose of integrated management of the Gulf.

1.1 Communication.

1.1.1 Issues

- ❑ Activities undertaken or decisions made by one agency in isolation from the other members of the Forum which affect the Gulf can cause problems for other agencies.
- ❑ Forum members undertake research within their own areas and communities which may benefit other Forum members, however this information is not always shared or communicated.
- ❑ Activities of Forum members could be undertaken more effectively or efficiently if there is better information sharing and communication between Forum members in order to avoid duplication of effort and identify interrelationships.
- ❑ Where there are no mutually agreed protocols or processes between Forum members and tangata whenua and where liaison capacity is limited, communication and sharing of information between Forum members and tangata whenua is difficult.

1.1.2 Objective

- ❑ Forum members are aware of decisions, research and activities of other members which may affect them or the integrated management of the Gulf because there are effective communication processes in place.

1.1.3 Actions

- ◆ Include constituent member reports as an agenda item to each meeting of the Forum which updates decisions, research and activities of each Forum member which may impact on the integrated management of the Gulf.
- ◆ Investigate methods and mechanisms for improved communication and information sharing and exchange between Forum members. Particularly to enable Forum members to share information and examples of studies, methods, management approaches, options and planning provisions to gain a greater understanding and improve management of the Strategic Issues identified by the Forum.
- ◆ Produce summary of activities and research being undertaken by Forum members and update annually.
- ◆ Promote the Forum as an 'umbrella organisation' for aligning the actions of local government, central government, tangata whenua and communities in and around the Hauraki Gulf towards shared goals.
- ◆ Promote the building up of capacity within Forum members and tangata whenua to develop and implement protocols and processes for communication and information sharing.

1.2 Co-operation

1.2.1 Issues

- ❑ The Forum consists of distinct agencies that generally work either in isolation from each other, through statutory processes, or have different priorities and access to resources. The Forum is established as a partnership of agencies with an equal share of power, rights, obligations and responsibilities. Therefore, the Forum's capacity to address the Strategic Issues requires building relationships between Forum members and an understanding of the contexts and communities in which each agency works
- ❑ Many actions which the Forum may undertake to address the Strategic Issues identified will involve advocating or promoting a collective position of the Forum to its Forum members and other agencies external to the Forum. This may involve some compromise for Forum members in terms of direction and expenditure in order to achieve the overall Vision for the Gulf and purpose of the Forum.
- ❑ Tangata whenua representatives have additional complexities.
 - ❑ Not all iwi in the Gulf and catchments have representation and therefore tangata whenua representatives cannot assume a mandated right to respond on their behalf. Confirming responses with iwi in the area that do not have representation can be time consuming and costly.
 - ❑ Resourcing for tangata whenua input is not equivalent to that of the Local Authority and Crown agencies. In particular the infrastructural resources such as administration, IT, research, communications, data, and staff support networks are met out of iwi resources.
 - ❑ The formal relationship between iwi and Crown agencies is determined by Acts of Parliament derived from the Treaty of Waitangi. This is different from the relationship between Local Authorities in terms of such legislation as the Local Government Act and Resource Management Act. These differences may be difficult to resolve in terms of the Forum.
- ❑ The Hauraki Gulf Forum and the HGMP Act are not given mana or status within member organisations which leads to a lack of commitment, direction and action. A lack of action and progress may result in loss of motivation and dissatisfaction both within and outside the Forum.

1.2.2 Objectives

- ❑ Forum shares a collective vision for the Hauraki Gulf and members are committed to promoting the purpose of the Forum and achieving outcomes.
- ❑ Forum members see beyond parochial, local interest issues and short term solutions to focus on common interests and concerns, and advocate for or promote long term solutions for the greater good of the Gulf.
- ❑ Forum members feel that they have been fairly heard, their concerns are listened to and are equally involved in decision making.
- ❑ Forum members believe that costs are apportioned fairly and consistently.
- ❑ Tangata whenua feel empowered to participate in the Forum, including the development of iwi responses to issues.
- ❑ Tangata whenua have access to local authority and Crown Agency infrastructural resources to achieve work outputs related to the Forum.
- ❑ The nature of the Treaty relationships within the Forum are clarified with respect to differing legislative criteria

- ❑ Achievement of outcomes and the relationship of the Forum is regularly celebrated and publicised.
- ❑ Forum has mana and status in the Gulf communities and in each member organisation.
- ❑ Forum has a reputation for co-operation and adding value to the activities of the Forum members.

1.2.3 Actions

- ◆ Develop the identity of the Hauraki Gulf Forum and the Marine Park linked to the Vision and actively work towards recognition of the Hauraki Gulf in order to unite the Forum.
- ◆ Develop an agreed formula for apportionment of costs and review it regularly.
- ◆ Proactively seek funding where appropriate from sources outside the Forum members, for example, central government research and public good project funds.
- ◆ Clarify tangata whenua representation and improve ability for tangata whenua to engage in the Forum at both political and technical officer level.
- ◆ Investigate and where possible determine protocols for access of tangata whenua to local authority and Crown Agency infrastructural resources.
- ◆ Seek clarification of the relationship between Treaty of Waitangi related legislation as it affects the Forum members and tangata whenua representatives.
- ◆ Celebrate and publicise achievement of outcomes and objectives.
- ◆ Prepare and deliver a presentation road show on Hauraki Gulf Forum and Hauraki Gulf Marine Park to be hosted by each member to promote the purpose of the Forum and work they are doing.
- ◆ Encourage Forum members to regularly report their actions towards the achievement of the Objectives and Vision back to the Forum.
- ◆ Hold Hauraki Gulf Forum meetings and activities at various venues including marae around the Gulf.

1.3 Co-ordination

1.3.1 Issues

- ❑ Similar activities may be undertaken by different Forum members independently of one another which can result in duplication of effort and unnecessary expenditure.
- ❑ Forum members develop financial, statutory and strategic planning mechanisms independently of each other. Therefore the Forum members ability to co-ordinate activities or undertake joint projects to address Strategic Issues may be hampered by lack of alignment between the mechanisms of each agency that allow procurement of staff time and resources for work.
- ❑ Hapu / iwi environmental management planning is incomplete, inadequately recognised, and its development under resourced.

1.3.2 Objectives

- ❑ Activities that the Forum members undertake which will address Strategic issues in the most cost effective manner because there is little duplication of effort in achieving the same objectives, and interdependencies between Forum members and activities are recognised.
- ❑ Co-ordinated activities and joint projects are able to progress rapidly because there are effective processes in place which ensure that there is integration between each Forum members financial planning mechanisms, which will allow adequate resources to be available at the right time.

- ❑ There is a clear understanding by the Forum members of each agency's annual financial planning and long term strategic planning cycles.
- ❑ Hapu/iwi environmental management planning are completed and recognised by Forum members.

1.3.3 Actions

- ◆ Undertake a review of expenditure on activities across Forum members which address the Strategic Issues of the Forum and identify areas where there is a duplication of effort and where there are gaps.
- ◆ Produce a summary showing key dates of Forum members annual and strategic planning cycles.
- ◆ Ensure alignment of relevant financial, statutory and strategic planning documents of each agency, including iwi management plans, with Strategic Issues of the Forum.
- ◆ Encourage Forum members to undertake joint policy development and incorporation of jointly developed policy into statutory plans.
- ◆ Ensure that resources in line with the funding policy of the Forum for any co-ordinated activities or joint projects are clearly allocated in terms of amount and timing in financial planning documents of relevant Forum members.
- ◆ Encourage Forum members to develop common approaches to managing information across the agencies involved and work to better integrate their programmes.

PART C – STRATEGIC ISSUES

2 Strategic Issues

The Forum has identified the following strategic issues to be addressed.

- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Soil Erosion and Sedimentation
- ◆ Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity
- ◆ Biosecurity
- ◆ Natural Character and Landscape
- ◆ Cultural Heritage
- ◆ Recreation, Tourism and Access
- ◆ Coastal Hazards
- ◆ Fisheries and Aquaculture
- ◆ Relationships with Tangata Whenua and Community
- ◆ Knowledge and Monitoring

The Forum has also identified actions to address those issues and prioritised these actions. The actions fall into two categories.

(i) Forum undertakes actions

The Forum may undertake actions as an entity in its own right under section 18 (2) (e) and subject to section 20 of the HGMPA in order to address the strategic issues identified in this document. This is partly achieved by facilitating Communication, Co-ordination and Co-operation between Forum members as outlined in Part B.

(ii) The Forum encourages Forum members to undertake actions

This recognises that Forum members may already be undertaking actions which address strategic issues within their own statutory roles and functions. The Forum may identify priority actions to Forum members and encourage them to undertake these actions as a priority with other Forum members wherever possible. This is partly achieved by facilitating Communication, Co-ordination and Co-operation between Forum members as outlined in Part B.

2.1 Review of strategic issues and priority actions

It is intended to review the list of Strategic Issues and priority actions every three years – the next review being in the year 2005/06, unless it is resolved by the Forum to review the list sooner.

2.2 Water Quality

2.2.1 Issues

- ❑ The waters of the Hauraki Gulf are being locally degraded by the cumulative effects of many diverse uses, some of which in themselves are insignificant, localised and may be permitted activities under the RMA. For example, septic tanks not being maintained, discharges from boats, ballast water, boat maintenance, fish cleaning, littering, fuel spills, stormwater discharge, earthworks, reclamation, as well as non-point source discharges such as nutrient runoff from farming activities.
- ❑ The effects of activities managed by different Forum members in and around the Hauraki Gulf and in its catchment can be manifested beyond the jurisdiction of each management agency, leading to localised degradation of estuaries and along the urbanised and industrialised margins.
- ❑ Localised and cumulative effects of activities on the waters of the Gulf are degrading mahinga mataitai and other taonga valued and used by tangata whenua.

2.2.2 Objectives

- ❑ The water quality of the Hauraki Gulf continues to provide for a diversity of habitats and experiences including the safe harvesting of kaimoana and exercise of customary rights, swimming, boating and aesthetic enjoyment.
- ❑ The waters of the Hauraki Gulf do not receive inputs either directly or indirectly from human activities that exceed the assimilative capacity of natural processes.
- ❑ Communities in and around the Hauraki Gulf are aware of and take responsibility for the effects of their activities on water quality and ecology in the waters and the catchment of the Gulf, and have the capacity and resources to respond effectively.
- ❑ The management of point source and non-point source discharges to the waters of the Gulf including its catchment is seamless with all management agencies and resource users working towards common water quality objectives.

2.2.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Undertake joint research initiatives to better understand the cumulative effects of discharges on the Hauraki Gulf.
- ◆ Promote awareness of the localised and cumulative effects of activities on mahinga mataitai and other taonga values and uses by tangata whenua.
- ◆ Promote awareness of the extent and relationship between activities on land and the Gulf through consistent signage at river crossings and other relevant locations indicating entry into/presence in the catchment of the Hauraki Gulf.

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Align water quality objectives and where relevant, rules for discharges into the Coastal Marine Area, from land within the catchment of the Hauraki Gulf, including standard rules for discharges from vessels in the Auckland and Waikato Regional Coastal plans.

- ◆ Promote sustainable land management within the Hauraki Gulf catchment to reduce levels of nutrients and other contaminants, including communication with business (includes land users) and community groups to identify and restore riparian margins to reduce nutrient input into the Hauraki Gulf.
- ◆ Have consistent communication with business in the catchment of the Hauraki Gulf, on best practices for the disposal of trade wastes.
- ◆ Implement or support implementation of programmes to enable communities to contribute to water quality management (such as Wai Care).
- ◆ Provide for the use of standard couplings for sewage disposal from boats when Regional and/or District plans are being prepared or changed and when resource consent applications are being considered.
- ◆ Produce consistent guidelines to reduce the levels of nutrients in streams and rivers.
- ◆ Have consistent communication with the general public as to the effects of everyday activities on the quality of the Gulf waters.
- ◆ Use available penalties for activities which illegally degrade water quality.

2.3 Soil erosion and sedimentation

2.3.1 Issues

- Activities occur in the catchments of the Hauraki Gulf which result in accelerated erosion of soil and consequential accelerated sedimentation of estuaries and harbours.

2.3.2 Objectives

- Erosion of soil and movement of sediment into waterways resulting from activities of people using the catchments of the Hauraki Gulf is minimised.

2.3.3 Actions

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Promote through communication with business (includes land users) and community groups sustainable land management within the Hauraki Gulf catchment to conserve soil resources and reduce levels of sediment input and other contaminants, including the:
 - ◆ retirement of riparian areas from agricultural and pastoral use and their re-vegetation either by conservation planting or establishment of continuous cover forestry.
 - ◆ re-vegetation of eroding and potentially erodable land either for production or protection forestry.
- ◆ Produce consistent guidelines for activities which can cause soil erosion and/or movement of sediment into waterways e.g. the removal of vegetation from erosion prone land.

2.4 Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity

2.4.1 Issues

- ❑ Tangata whenua have traditional relationships with and uses of a range of biota, many of which are now endangered or survive within environments where regulation limits or precludes the relevant exercise of sustainably managed customary rights guaranteed by the Treaty of Waitangi.
- ❑ The Gulf and its catchments contain populations of indigenous flora and fauna that reflect the diversity of natural ecosystems and habitats that exist throughout the area. Some populations are remnant and some are under threat of loss or degradation. The biological diversity of the Gulf is threatened directly and indirectly by activities undertaken within the catchments that feed into the Gulf, as well by activities undertaken within the Gulf itself.
- ❑ Direct threats include: unsustainable harvesting of species; degradation of natural ecosystems they rely upon, increasingly restricted range of natural areas, and; introduction of exotic species which prey upon them or compete for habitat and food.
- ❑ Indirect threats include: changing the natural balance of ecosystems in ways that affect the species ability to survive e.g. reducing food sources, or resting and nesting sites. Some of these changes are minor, however cumulatively these changes may be significant.
- ❑ The continuing decline in New Zealand's unique biological diversity was described in the State of New Zealand's Environment Report (1999) as "the most pervasive environmental issue"
- ❑ Many of the islands of the Gulf retain natural habitats that support rare and endangered species. Some areas have been the focus of conservation effort, but many are not formally protected.
- ❑ There is limited knowledge about New Zealand's marine biological diversity.
- ❑ In many areas of high natural significance there is a lack of comprehensive knowledge of flora and fauna and therefore indigenous species management and control programmes for invasive species may not be targeted or their effects monitored effectively.
- ❑ Dredging of harbours affects natural heritage and biological diversity.

2.4.2 Objectives

- ❑ The exercise of customary rights to biota and their habitats and ecosystems as guaranteed by the Treaty of Waitangi is actively protected.
- ❑ People recognise, understand and respect the value and benefits of natural heritage and indigenous biological diversity of the Gulf. They support and participate in widespread and co-ordinated activities to sustainably manage the use of biological diversity resources.
- ❑ The diversity of species, habitats and physical natural features are maintained for their intrinsic, scientific, recreation, tourism and commercial values and opportunities for sustainable use.
- ❑ There is a comprehensive knowledge base of the biota of significant indigenous areas and restorative or control programmes are therefore targeted and monitored effectively.

2.4.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Raise awareness and understanding of natural heritage and biological diversity values, as well as the relationships between peoples' activities and effects on natural heritage, biological diversity and ecosystem processes.

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Appropriately manage activities that have a potential to adversely affect natural heritage and biological diversity values of the Gulf.
- ◆ Expand or support the expansion of the network of reserves, including marine reserves where it is consistent with the vision of the Forum and has tangata whenua and community support.
- ◆ Advocate for the conservation of natural heritage and biological diversity values.
- ◆ Identify where the exercise of customary rights to biota, their habitats and ecosystems is being compromised by current management regimes, and promote alternative methods to minimise the impacts.
- ◆ Promote and support co-ordinated community and tangata whenua action to protect and enhance the biological diversity of the Gulf.
- ◆ Develop programs to increase knowledge of the flora and fauna of significant indigenous areas as part of any programme for the restoration or control of species.
- ◆ Develop consistent monitoring and evaluation of species control programmes.
- ◆ Retain suburban streams as open waterways (rather than piped or concreted) where possible for flood mitigation and connections between reserves. Promote "low impact" stormwater design features eg. swales, raintanks, permeable paving etc. to reduce flooding.
- ◆ Support initiatives such as the Department of Conservation's "Return of the Dawn Chorus" for control of predators on New Zealand's indigenous natural heritage and biological diversity.

2.5 Biosecurity¹

2.5.1 Issues

- Natural marine and fresh water ecosystems, natural character, fisheries, the economy, recreational and spiritual values and human health are threatened by colonisation of invasive introduced marine and freshwater species. These species may be introduced as a result of vessel activity (e.g. on ship's hulls, in ballast water or on contaminated fishing equipment).
- Although New Zealand's biosecurity systems are among the best in the world they are under constant pressure from increasing contact with foreign places due to increased trade and travel.
- Management of marine biosecurity between central government agencies and Regional Councils, particularly in terms of roles and responsibilities for incursion response, control or eradication are not clear or well understood which leads to potential gaps and/or overlaps in management structures.
- The ability to police and prosecute infringements (e.g. the unauthorised landing on islands by boats and helicopters) is limited.

¹ Note that Biosecurity and the maintenance and enhancement of Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity as described above are closely linked. They have been separated in this document to improve clarity.

- ❑ Pests and weeds on islands and the mainland threaten natural heritage and natural character values of the Gulf. The ARC has made that part of the Hauraki Gulf within its region a Controlled Ara under the Biosecurity Act.
- ❑ Climate change is expected to increase the pressures on biosecurity as a greater number of exotic species may be able to successfully establish in New Zealand, if they are accidentally introduced into the wild.

2.5.2 Objectives

- ❑ Biosecurity systems and programmes are in place that are capable of managing existing pests and preventing incursions of new ones.
- ❑ Structural arrangements are in place that support defined roles for biosecurity programmes. There is an agreed framework for decision-making related to emergency procedures to respond to incursions promptly and effectively and responsibilities for action.
- ❑ Biosecurity risks to values of the Gulf are monitored.
- ❑ Unauthorised activities which threaten the biosecurity of the Gulf and its islands are adequately policed and available penalties are used to prosecute offenders.

2.5.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Assess biosecurity risks to values in and of the Gulf.

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Contribute to the development of a national Biosecurity Strategy and advocate for:
 - an overall direction for biosecurity
 - an effective and workable management structure for hull attachment and ballast water threats.
 - agreement on goals and objectives for future biosecurity systems and programmes.
 - agreement of roles and responsibilities of management agencies for incursion response, control and eradication of invasive marine and freshwater species.
 - a framework for co-ordinating decision making for responding to incursion emergencies.
- ◆ Undertake improved policing of infringements and the use of available penalties.

2.6 Natural Character and Landscape

2.6.1 Issues

- ❑ Natural character and landscape encompasses visual amenity, ecological and biotic systems, and biological and physical processes that make up a distinct environment. The natural character and landscape values of the Gulf are important in retaining the national significance of the Gulf.
- ❑ The natural character and landscape values of the Gulf are susceptible to degradation from introduction of exotic plants and animals, modification of natural processes, use of natural resources, and human activities such as development along coastal margins.

- ❑ Perceptions about appropriate and acceptable levels of modification and protection of 'naturalness' vary. Significant areas or attributes of natural character and landscape are not consistently described, and the circumstances where development and modification are appropriate are not well defined.

2.6.2 Objectives

- ❑ Significant areas or attributes of natural character and landscape are described and there is consistent policy to define appropriate development.
- ❑ Natural character and landscape values are managed consistently across the MHWS boundary.
- ❑ The public appreciates and values the Gulfs natural character and landscape and is empowered and encouraged to participate in its management.

2.6.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Promote public awareness and appreciation of natural character and landscape values of the Gulf, islands and catchments.

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Develop a consistent definition of significant natural character areas and landscapes and identify what is considered to be appropriate development in these areas
- ◆ Develop a consistent understanding and management of natural character and landscape values.

2.7 Cultural Heritage

2.7.1 Issues

- ❑ The Hauraki Gulf and its surroundings contain a wealth of cultural heritage values. Many sites, features or artefacts are not formally protected and heritage values are being degraded and lost.
- ❑ Tangata whenua are not effectively involved in cultural heritage decision-making processes associated to the Gulf.
- ❑ Much cultural heritage is retained in oral tradition, (including songs, poems, nursery rhymes, prayers, and story telling) or in literature and photographic archives distributed throughout the region. Records about the extent and nature of this heritage are incomplete, dispersed, and often inaccessible to people. Inaccurate and incomplete information and the complexity of management systems to record and store archaeological information limits effective protection. Holders of cultural heritage knowledge can be reluctant to share information with agencies and the community in the absence of protocols for protection of information. Co-ordination between tangata whenua, Forum members and the wider community in the collection, recording, interpretation and protection of heritage information is limited.
- ❑ There is an imbalance in the types of cultural heritage that is protected. For example there is a strong emphasis on heritage found in urban areas (specifically describing buildings of particular periods) while heritage of rural, industrial and commercial, coastal and marine areas is not well represented and continues to be lost. Also there is a management focus on protecting isolated heritage sites rather than protection of heritage landscapes.

- ❑ Pre-European archaeological sites and landscapes are numerous which reflects the lifestyle and resources used by Maori in the past. While these sites are often protected, significant losses of the cultural heritage of tangata whenua continue. Community awareness and respect for the relationships that tangata whenua share with waahi tapu and cultural heritage sites and landscapes is necessary for effective heritage protection. The culture of the people who once lived and used these areas is not well described or connected to these places. Opportunities for educating communities about the cultural heritage of tangata whenua are often missed.
- ❑ The values of archaeological landscapes, such as duneland midden areas, are not always valued. Because protection is focussed on identified and investigated sites there can be inadequate provision for the protection of undiscovered sites under the RMA and Historic Places Act.
- ❑ Cultural heritage sites are often located on land in private ownership which can add complexity to management by public agencies. However it may also have beneficial spin-offs as landowners may voluntarily protect heritage values on behalf of the community.

2.7.2 Objectives

- ❑ There is widespread recognition and respect of the diverse cultural heritage values found in the Gulf and its surroundings, including archaeological landscapes and sites.
- ❑ Co-ordinated conservation action ensures protection of cultural heritage in the Gulf.
- ❑ Waahi tapu and cultural heritage sites of tangata whenua are being actively protected.
- ❑ Tangata whenua are actively participating in cultural heritage decision making processes associated with the Gulf.
- ❑ Tangata whenua protect and manage waahi tapu and heritage sites and features in accordance with tikanga Maori.
- ❑ Comprehensive records are established and maintained that add description of the status of significant cultural heritage sites, features and artefacts.
- ❑ Cultural heritage in private ownership is acknowledged and respected by owners. Similarly the Forum and community acknowledges the important role that private landowners play in protecting cultural heritage on their land.

2.7.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Raise awareness and understanding of cultural heritage values and its preservation, in particular with regard to archaeological landscapes and sites and heritage values of tangata whenua.

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Develop an efficient, effective and integrated information management system to record and store archaeological information.
- ◆ Advocate for the conservation of cultural heritage values.
- ◆ Promote and support co-ordinated community and tangata whenua action to protect the cultural heritage of the Gulf.
- ◆ Establish consistent and comprehensive approaches to recording the characteristics of significant cultural heritage resources and values.
- ◆ Identify where devolving the management of waahi tapu to tangata whenua is appropriate as a way to protect the heritage values of tangata whenua.

2.8 Recreation, Tourism and Access

2.8.1 Issues

- ❑ The Hauraki Gulf is the largest area of public open space in the region. Use and development of the coastal environment has the potential to alienate this space and restrict public access to coastal areas including the land and waters of the Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Increasing demand for access to the Hauraki Gulf places greater necessity for facilities to minimise adverse effects on the environment and people's enjoyment of that environment.
- ❑ Management of access to the coast is a joint responsibility of regional and local authorities, which if not effectively integrated, may result in gaps or overlaps in management resulting in inconsistency and confusion.
- ❑ Tangata whenua perspectives and values in specific area are inadequately presented and promoted. Recognition of tangata whenua relationships to specific areas, for instance in the form of pouwhenua or placenames, are not planned for or resourced sufficiently.
- ❑ Visitor and public access to the Gulf can compromise customary rights and taonga, including waahi tapu and mahinga mataitai used and valued by tangata whenua.
- ❑ There is a lack of awareness of navigation and safety controls and foreshore controls.
- ❑ Different rules for navigation safety in different parts of the Hauraki Gulf, enforced by numerous agencies can result in confusion and in low levels of compliance.
- ❑ There is a lack of integrated management of marine mammal tourism initiatives.

2.8.2 Objectives

- ❑ A network of public access facilities provides appropriate access to the full range of Hauraki Gulf sites from typical to unique.
- ❑ Public facilities are provided in such a manner as to support and enhance the values and understanding of the Gulf, its resources and its people.
- ❑ Presentation and promotion of tangata whenua perspectives and values and the recognition of tangata whenua relationships to specific locations is resourced and provided to the satisfaction of tangata whenua.
- ❑ Customary rights and taonga used and valued by tangata whenua are protected from impacts of visitor and public access to the Gulf.
- ❑ The Hauraki Gulf is internationally recognised as a coastal recreation and tourism destination.
- ❑ The water and foreshore areas of the Hauraki Gulf are managed in a safe and orderly manner and compliance with navigational rules, regulations and bylaws is high.
- ❑ There is integrated and effective management of marine mammal tourism.

2.8.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Promote the Hauraki Gulf as a highly diverse and dynamic destination.
- ◆ When appropriate advocate the objectives and vision of the Forum to Central Government on navigational and safety matters relating to the Hauraki Gulf.

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Take account of the broader context of the Hauraki Gulf in work they do which provides public access to the Hauraki Gulf such as:
 - the taking of esplanade reserves or purchasing of coastal land;
 - the preparation of reserve management plans;
 - the preparation of broader strategies for example - recreation or walkway strategies;
 - the preparation of any statutory plans;
- ◆ Undertake (with other parties) joint projects to develop appropriate access and facilities.
- ◆ Co-ordinate the preparation, review and implementation of bylaws and other regulatory controls.
- ◆ Undertake joint education programmes in partnership with industry, interest groups and communities to promote safety matters such as safe boating practices, safety on coastal walkways and wharves, or safe swimming, jet skis.
- ◆ Provide public information on tangata whenua values and perspectives and promote and support projects to provide appropriate means of recognising tangata whenua relationships to specific locations.
- ◆ Identify where customary rights and taonga used and valued by tangata whenua might be compromised by visitor and public access and promote methods for resolution.
- ◆ Develop protocols for marine mammal tourism operations.

2.9 Coastal Hazards

2.9.1 Issues

- Foreshore erosion threatens private property and community assets such as parks and beaches. Degradation and destruction of wetland ecosystems is a major factor exacerbating coastal erosion.
- There is a lack of understanding of natural coastal processes that create and maintain sandy beaches and the long term and cyclical nature of these processes.
- Lack of public awareness and recognition of existing coastal hazards leads to demand for development in high-risk areas, uncertainty of legal requirements and responsibilities, and demand for physical protection works.
- Continuing inappropriate subdivision and development along the coast place more property at risk from coastal erosion and sea level rise.
- Control of coastal erosion or flooding using physical protection works (e.g. sea walls) can have adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment, public access and amenity values, biological diversity, waahi tapu and cultural heritage sites.
- Management of coastal hazards is a joint responsibility of regional and local authorities, which if not effectively integrated, may result in gaps or overlaps in management resulting in inconsistency, confusion and ineffective overall management.
- The potential for oil spills is a major risk to the values of the Gulf.

2.9.2 Objectives

- ❑ Consistent and co-operative management of natural hazards between regional councils and territorial authorities.
- ❑ Communities and agencies have a greater understanding and respect for natural coastal processes and the need to take the long-term view to allow for natural processes and manage development on the coast accordingly.
- ❑ Where protection of coastal development is appropriate it is undertaken in a way that minimises effects on the environment, waahi tapu and cultural heritage sites of tangata whenua, while allowing reasonable use of coastal properties.
- ❑ Existing wetlands are maintained, enhanced and protected and where possible areas of wetland are restored.
- ❑ The potential for oil spills is minimised through preventative management and recognition of MARPOL regulations.

2.9.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Co-ordinate and promote opportunities for learning such as visiting speakers, conferences and reports that are relevant to the issues faced by several parties.

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Co-ordinate development of educational materials for the public and target groups (e.g. developers, homeowners, builders) to raise awareness and understanding of coastal hazards within the wider community.
- ◆ Undertake proactive planning to avoid the damage or destruction of waahi tapu and cultural heritage sites when authorising, developing and maintaining physical protection works associated with coastal erosion and flooding.
- ◆ Undertake joint coastal hazards assessments and other studies to improve knowledge of coastal hazards in the Gulf.
- ◆ Develop and promote consistent policy direction and management of coastal hazards.
- ◆ Provide for the protection, maintenance, enhancement and where possible restoration of wetlands in the Gulf catchment.
- ◆ Develop a consistent approach on where engineering approaches e.g. seawalls to the management of coastal erosion is acceptable and where other approaches should be used.
- ◆ Proactively plan for the effects of sea level rise, such as coastal erosion.
- ◆ Develop and implement preventative mechanisms to minimise the potential for oil spills and contingency plans to minimise the severity of impact of oil spills.

2.10 Fisheries/Aquaculture

2.10.1 Issues

- ❑ The Hauraki Gulf sustains nationally important recreational and commercial fisheries and is also a sought after area for aquaculture. This can be threatened by over-fishing, habitat loss and habitat degradation caused by pollution and sedimentation.
- ❑ Conflicts can arise between customary, recreational and commercial fishing activities, and in respect of aquaculture due to increasing demand for coastal space and access to fisheries resources.
- ❑ Customary fishing and development rights of tangata whenua are not adequately recognised or integrated into current conservation and resource management processes.

2.10.2 Objectives

- ❑ The Gulf contains healthy fisheries that meet the demands of commercial, recreational and traditional users.
- ❑ The Gulf contains high quality habitats able to sustain fisheries.
- ❑ Recognition and provision for customary and development rights of tangata whenua are integrated into current conservation and resource management processes.
- ❑ There is an integrated and co-ordinated programme for the strategic development of marine reserves and other protected areas within the Gulf
- ❑ The community is aware of and understands the threats to fisheries.
- ❑ Users of fishery resources acknowledge their management responsibilities and undertake appropriate actions to minimise threats.
- ❑ The Gulf supports an aquaculture industry at a size, scale and location in harmony with the natural environment and other users.

2.10.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Prepare a report on the linkages between management of fisheries and the management of their habitats, the functions and roles of the Forum members, and advocating options for improved management.

The Forum will encourage relevant Forum members to:

- ◆ Undertake research into the potential of marine reserves and other protected areas, such as rahui and taiapure, to contribute to the enhancement of the marine environment; undertake integrated and co-ordinated strategic development of marine reserves and other protected areas within the Gulf in response to the research findings.
- ◆ Co-ordinate marine research on fisheries and fisheries habitats in order to better understand the relationship between fisheries and fish habitats.
- ◆ Manage aquaculture in a co-ordinated manner across the Hauraki Gulf, including recognising cross boundary issues relating to provision of marine farming and marine farming services when preparing or changing regional and/or district plans.

- ◆ Integrate the management of marine reserves and other protected areas with the management of the adjacent catchment.
- ◆ Support tangata whenua research initiatives for sustaining and enhancing fisheries and fisheries habitat.
- ◆ Develop or facilitate development of materials to raise public awareness of fisheries, the factors that affect fisheries, and appropriate actions in land management and in fishing, harvesting or aquaculture management to minimise the threats to fisheries.
- ◆ Undertake joint projects with business and community groups relating to fisheries and fisheries habitat management.
- ◆ Investigate the use of beach wardens to deter over-harvesting or illegal taking of shellfish or fish.

2.11 Relationships with Tangata Whenua and Community

2.11.1 Issues

- ❑ The people of the Gulf may not see themselves as an interrelated part of the environment of the Gulf and may not recognise that their activities, when combined with others, may have a significant impact of the values of the Gulf.
- ❑ Conflict between users and uses of the Gulf may arise and parochial interests may conflict with common interests and concerns.
- ❑ Tangata whenua values and practices are not recognised in the management of the Gulf.
- ❑ Organisations mandated to represent tangata whenua are inadequately resourced to complete iwi management plans, develop Memoranda of Understanding with Forum members and implement kaitiakitanga.
- ❑ Disseminating consistent messages to the wider community can be difficult and there are limited opportunities and forums for raising awareness of the Gulf amongst the wider community.

2.11.2 Objectives

- ❑ People feel connected to the environment of the Gulf and work together towards achieving common goals for the management of the resources and values of the Gulf.
- ❑ People acknowledge and appreciate the values associated with the Gulf and understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining and enhancing these values.
- ❑ People work collaboratively to find equitable means to resolve conflicts of interest between divergent users and uses of resources and values of the Gulf.
- ❑ People have equitable access to information and the processes of decision-making in relation to the use or protection of the resources and other values of the Gulf.
- ❑ Forum members coordinate their communications activity to ensure messages are consistent and collaborate to ensure communications strategies and programmes are complementary and promote raised awareness and understanding about the values of the Gulf.
- ❑ The wider community of the Gulf recognises the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park as an entity, and is aware of its identity and character.
- ❑ Tangata whenua values and practices are valued and recognised in the management of the Gulf.
- ❑ Iwi organisations are adequately resourced to complete iwi management plans, develop Memoranda of Understanding with Forum members, and implement kaitiakitanga.

2.11.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Develop a communication strategy to facilitate the communication of information about the Hauraki Gulf Forum, the Forum's vision for the Gulf, the values of the Gulf, and the Strategic Issues and objectives to the community and tangata whenua..
- ◆ As part of the Communication Strategy develop and circulate a newsletter or other form of regular communication with the wider community.
- ◆ Raise awareness about the identity of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and of the surrounding area that contributes to its character.
- ◆ Encourage Forum members and external parties to participate in proceedings of Hauraki Gulf Forum meetings where this is appropriate

The Forum will encourage Forum members to:

- ◆ Involve the communities of the Gulf in the processes of developing plans and programmes relevant to addressing Strategic Issues of the Gulf.
- ◆ Actively seek the participation of all the diverse communities of the Gulf in the management of the Gulf through targeted projects.
- ◆ Share information and improve communication with other agencies and the wider community of the Gulf.
- ◆ Recognise and support hapu/iwi environmental management plans and develop Memoranda of Understanding with hapu/iwi.
- ◆ Facilitate community initiatives and seek the empowerment of diverse communities to participate effectively in the management of resources and protection of values in the Gulf.
- ◆ Embrace tangata whenua and tikanga Maori in decision making processes.
- ◆ Design and conduct targeted environmental education campaigns to address Strategic Issues.

2.12 Knowledge and Monitoring

2.12.1 Issues

- Knowing and having knowledge about the state of the natural and physical resources is a key function of the Forum. Information about the Gulfs' resources is presently scattered throughout numerous organisations. Not only is this information gathered by different organisations, it is often collected in various formats resulting in information that may be used for a one-off situation only.
- The gathering of such information can become expensive and unnecessarily duplicated over time thereby adding unnecessary costs to our communities. Collection of information should be linked to what is needed to make management decisions.
- Tangata whenua customary indicators have not yet been integrated into mainstream monitoring programmes. The active participation by tangata whenua in mainstream environmental monitoring programmes is not commonly regarded as a method for implementing kaitiakitanga.
- There are no effective mechanisms for safeguarding indigenous intellectual property rights.

2.12.2 Objectives

- ❑ There is integrated, efficient and effective monitoring of the Gulf, its islands and catchment whilst at the same time providing knowledge that is required for reviewing policy, providing for communication and promotion programs and future state of the environment reports for the Gulf.
- ❑ Collection of information is linked to what is needed to make management decisions.
- ❑ Tangata whenua indicators are developed and used consistently, and tangata whenua actively participate in mainstream environmental monitoring programmes.
- ❑ The intellectual property rights of Maori are respected.

2.12.3 Actions

The Forum will:

- ◆ Produce a State of the Environment report for the Gulf, its islands and catchments to meet statutory requirements.
- ◆ Collect targeted, relevant and robust information about the state of the natural and physical resources and the environment, trends or changes in environmental quality and the reasons for these changes.
- ◆ Provide for maximum uptake of the information by decision makers, interest groups, and the wider community.
- ◆ Identify indicators which measure the 'pressures on the environment', 'state of the environment' and 'responses by society' relevant to each Strategic Issue. Align indicators to National Indicators to ensure integration across agencies and boundaries.
- ◆ Develop protocols for data sharing between Forum members.

The Forum will encourage relevant Forum members to:

- ◆ Utilise and integrate tangata whenua indicators and 'hands on' involvement of tangata whenua in monitoring activities.
- ◆ Adopt common protocols and indicators, record and store data in a form allowing compatible interfacing across organisations.
- ◆ Develop protocols for the protection of indigenous property rights.
- ◆ Promote and contribute to the development of the MfE tangata whenua indicators and ensure their integration into the monitoring strategy.