

**HAURAKI GULF FORUM**

**STRATEGIC ISSUES**

**2008**

**Adopted at the Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting 19 June 2008.**

# INTRODUCTION

The national significance of the Hauraki Gulf is recognised in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (the Act). The preamble to the Act notes that the Gulf has a quality and diversity of biology that make it outstanding within New Zealand, and a rich history of human settlement and use. It also states that the Gulf must be managed in a manner that crosses territorial jurisdictions, crosses land and water boundaries, crosses cultures and that respects both conservation and development needs.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum was established through the Act for the following purposes:

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

One of the functions of the Forum identified in the Act is to prepare a list of strategic issues, determine a priority for action on each issue and regularly review that list. This document sets out the key issues facing Tikapa Moana - Hauraki Gulf and its catchments, the outcomes sought for the area and identifies the management processes and tools available to determine priority actions to inform both the Forum's work programme and its constituent parties.

The identification of Strategic Issues are to be reviewed every three years, unless it is resolved by the Forum to undertake a review sooner.

This document is structured as follows:

**Part A – Values** of the Gulf and Vision of the Forum.

**Part B – Strategic Issues** to be addressed by the Forum, and objectives and outcomes 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 Act.

The Strategic Issues relate to:

- Integrated management
- Raising awareness, understanding and recognition of the national significance of Tikapa Moana - Hauraki Gulf
- Pataka (storehouse of food and knowledge)
- Water quality
- Biodiversity
- Natural character and landscape
- Cultural heritage
- Access
- Coastal hazards
- Climate change

**Part C – Processes** for the integrated management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.

## Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf

In the preamble to the HGMPA it is recognised that there are a number of names for the waters of the Gulf, including Tikapa Moana and Te Moana Nui A Toi. For tangata whenua "Hauraki" refers to the land, not the sea. This is reflected in the traditional statement of identity (tauparapara) which is recited when Hauraki people visit other marae outside their region. It signals to the host tribe the significant landmarks which represent where the Hauraki visitors are from and who they represent,

rather than who the individual speaker is. Use of the term "Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf" in this document aims to clarify the fact that "Hauraki" refers to the land, and not to replace other traditional names in use in the area of the Gulf.

## PART A – Values of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf

In order to achieve its purpose of integrating the management of the Gulf and ensure Tikapa Moana – 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 – Hauraki Gulf is an integral link in the spiritual whakapapa of all iwi within whose rohe it is found connecting them in a long chain of being, to the beginning of time, to Papa, Rangī and Te Kore. The spiritual wellbeing of tangata whenua is inextricably linked to the wellbeing of Tikapa Moana – the vitality of its mauri as well as physical measures of ecological health and biodiversity. If these are impaired, then the spiritual wellbeing of tangata whenua will be impaired (and they may suffer having failed as kaitiaki). If these are vibrant, then so too can tangata whenua be spiritually vibrant. Thus the traditional spirituality and whakapapa associated with Tikapa Moana remains relevant and active today. Ranginui and Papatuanuku are the primal parents of our environment and the interplay of their children (eg Tangaroa, Tawhirimatea and Tane) affect the conditions of Tikapa Moana every day. The guardian taniwha, wahi-mauri and wahi-tapu of Tikapa continue to exert their influence and demand respect.

**High water quality:** Water quality is a 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.

**He Pataka a Tangaroa, storehouse of food and knowledge:** A primary value of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is as a provider of food. The richness of its marine resources has, since the earliest times, ensured this area's desirability and sustained the people who settled it. Tangata whenua have always been reliant on Tangaroa's cupboard for food and are aggrieved (and indeed all people who engage with Tikapa are disadvantaged) by the depletion of the pataka. The physical characteristics of the Gulf, including high quality water, its proximity to markets, airport and port facilities has also meant the Gulf is commercially valued as an area for food production. Historically this has centred on the harvest of kaimoana and more recently the Gulf has been recognised as an important area for aquaculture.

Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is also a storehouse of knowledge. Maturanga Maori (Maori knowledge) means the knowledge, comprehension or understanding of everything visible or invisible. It includes stories, legends, and place names that are used to retain awareness of the past. It also relates to knowledge of the environment and how it can be used, managed and preserved. The Gulf is an important place to learn about the environment and for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga.

**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 as loss of vegetation, large scale earthworks and inappropriate structures. It is recognised, however, that not all areas of high landscape or amenity value will be completely natural. Such areas 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 Tikapa Moana – 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 Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf. The historical, cultural and spiritual significance of the Gulf does not depend only on individual sites, but also on stories, associations and beliefs about the area and the resources of the Gulf.

**Diversity of experience:** The broad range of natural features, including geological formations, landscapes and habitat types, 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 and waterways are generally clean, free of litter and visible contaminants. Maintaining or enhancing this situation adds to the health status and positive experience enjoyed by the Gulf's communities and commercial interests as well as aiding ecosystems that can be damaged by litter and pollutants.

**High recreational value:** Tikapa Moana – 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.

**Economic potential:** Tikapa Moana – 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. Commercial activities particularly dependent on the Gulf include commercial fishing, tourism, aquaculture, shipping and the Port of Auckland.

## VISION FOR TIKAPA MOANA – HAURAKI GULF

### **Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is celebrated and treasured 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.

Tikapa Moana is thriving with fish and shellfish, kaimoana.

Rahui Tapu is being systematically instituted by communities conscious of maintaining the integrity of Tikapa Moana as a food cupboard, pataka kai.

Individuals, groups and communities are conscious of, and undertake their responsibilities to maintain optimum quality standards of the waters, air, and land in their catchments.

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

People are familiar with the rich history, cultural and physical heritage and spirituality of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf, gain a sense of place, connection and identity from these and behave in ways that respect and protect them.

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 Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and use its resources wisely to grow a vibrant economy.

The community is aware of and respects the values of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and is inspired to enhance and protect this great place.

## PART B – Strategic issues

### INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

This section is focussed on providing guidance on how the Forum and its constituent parties can achieve integrated management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and its catchments. The section applies across all of the other Strategic Issues.

#### Issues

- Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and its catchments extend across jurisdictional boundaries. Managing the effects of activities requires integration across boundaries and jurisdictions.
- The management of cumulative effects often requires an integrated approach.
- The management of the Gulf is undertaken by distinct parties with responsibilities under the Act that generally work independently of each other through different statutory and planning processes, and often have different priorities.
- Within parties with responsibilities under the Act, there is a low level of awareness of the requirements for integrating management through Part 1 of the Act.
- Similar activities may be undertaken by different parties independently of one another which can result in duplication of effort and unnecessary expenditure.
- Alignment of statutory and planning mechanisms will enable parties to enjoy the benefits of co-ordinated and joint projects.
- Information sharing and communication between parties is essential for effective and efficient management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- Monitoring methodologies, standards and reporting are often inconsistent across parties with responsibilities under the Act.
- The decline in environmental quality of the Gulf compromises the customary rights of Tangata Whenua guaranteed by the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Hapu and iwi environmental management planning is incomplete, inadequately recognised, and its development under resourced.
- Hapu and iwi planning documents are not always taken into account by statutory agencies.
- Kaitiakitanga and mātauranga Maori are inadequately integrated into environmental management.

#### Objectives

- Constituent parties identify and take up opportunities to achieve integrated management.
- Activities and planning of constituent parties are cooperative and coordinated.
- Community stewardship is encouraged throughout Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- Parties with responsibilities under the Act meet their statutory obligations with respect to Part 1 of the Act.

- ❑ Adequate staff and budget resources to undertake the Forum's annual work programmes are identified in constituent parties' planning processes.
- ❑ As part of the Hauraki Gulf State of the Environment reporting, constituent parties report how they have contributed to the outcomes identified in the Strategic Issues document.
- ❑ Statutory documents and processes are monitored for effectiveness in achieving integrated management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Consistent and best practice monitoring methodologies, standards and reporting are adopted by parties with responsibilities under the Act.
- ❑ Recognition of customary rights guaranteed to tangata whenua under the Treaty of Waitangi.
- ❑ Iwi planning documents are afforded appropriate status by councils, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Fisheries and other agencies with responsibilities under the Act, in undertaking their duties.
- ❑ Kaitiakitanga and mātauranga Maori are integrated into environmental management processes within the Gulf.

<b>Outcomes</b>
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- ❑ Constituent parties develop and undertake coordinated projects, activities, research, strategies, guidelines etc to address the Forum's Strategic Issues.
- ❑ Where appropriate, increased community based programmes are supported.
- ❑ New policies and plans are compliant with Part 1 of the Act, address the Forum's Strategic Issues and achieve integrated management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Existing policy and planning documents and processes are monitored for effectiveness and reviewed as necessary.
- ❑ Where appropriate, consistent monitoring methodologies, best practice, standards and reporting are shared and adopted by constituent parties to aid the Hauraki Gulf State of the Environment reporting.
- ❑ Projects are identified within the Forum's annual work programme that support partnership projects with stakeholders.
- ❑ Opportunities such as Forum agenda reports are used to aid information sharing and communication between Forum parties.
- ❑ Where appropriate, kaitiakitanga and mātauranga Maori are integrated into projects.
- ❑ Tangata whenua issues and objectives are expressed through hapū and iwi planning documents and appropriately considered in statutory processes.
- ❑ Statutory provisions, such as RMA section 33 transfer of powers and section 36B joint management agreements, and HGMPA Deeds of Recognition are implemented to enable tangata whenua participation in management.

## **RAISING AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF TIKAPA MOANA - HAURAKI GULF**

### **Issues:**

- ❑ Tikapa Moana - Hauraki Gulf does not have the public awareness it should do as an area of national significance.
- ❑ Actions to raise awareness and recognition of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf need to have particular regard to the historic, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the Gulf, its islands and catchments, as well as providing for the social, economic, recreational and cultural well-being of people and communities, the use of the resources of the Gulf for economic activities and recreation, and to maintain the soil, air, water and ecosystems of the Gulf.
- ❑ Increased awareness and recognition of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf will be most effective if it is integrated across Forum parties.

### **Objectives:**

- ❑ Communities are aware of the national significance and values of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ The range of Forum values are widely recognised and taken into account.
- ❑ Forum parties work together to raise awareness and understanding of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.

### **Outcomes:**

- ❑ Public awareness of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is increased.
- ❑ The measures to raise awareness of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf place priority on its spiritual, cultural, traditional and historical values as well as recognising environmental, economic, social and recreational values.
- ❑ Forum parties assist the Department of Conservation where appropriate in raising awareness and recognition of the identity and values of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
- ❑ The Forum encourages and supports its constituent parties in developing key recognition messages for Tikapa Moana - Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments.

## **MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING TIKAPA MOANA – HAURAKI GULF AS A PATAKA (STOREHOUSE OF FOOD AND KNOWLEDGE)**

### **Issues**

- ❑ Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is the spiritual link in the chain that connects tangata whenua through whakapapa to Tangaroa and to all things in the universe. This link can be affected by human activities.
- ❑ Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf has been a provider of food to tangata whenua for millennia (mai ra ano). Physical influences can and do contaminate the mauri and life giving forces of Tikapa Moana. Of particular concern are discharges of cremated human remains and burials at sea, discharges of sewage which have not passed through land which are all culturally and spiritually offensive to Tangata Whenua.
- ❑ Regulatory constraints can be impediments to maintaining and enhancing Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf as a pataka. Matters of particular relevance include: the Auckland / Waikato regional boundary across Tikapa Moana; effective prohibitions on aquaculture over extensive areas of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf; insufficient weight being given to tangata whenua values by comparison to the increasing preference placed on landscape, natural character and public access considerations by RMA decision-makers.
- ❑ Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf's role as a storehouse of knowledge and matauranga Maori has been weakened by a lack of recognition of traditional place names, legends and local histories, and through insufficient regard to traditional knowledge and kaitiakitanga.

### **Objectives**

- ❑ Negative physical influences on Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf as a pataka are avoided or minimised.
- ❑ Artificial regulatory boundaries over Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf do not inhibit its ability to be a pataka for the people.
- ❑ Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf as a pataka is healthy and abundant.
- ❑ Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf's value as a storehouse of knowledge and matauranga Maori is protected and enhanced.

### **Outcomes**

- ❑ Land based discharges are actively promoted in the planning instruments of local authorities as alternatives to discharges to Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Forum parties acknowledge that discharges of cremated human remains, burials at sea, and discharges of sewage that has not passed through land, are unacceptable to Tangata Whenua and should be avoided as a matter of urgency.
- ❑ Attention to producing joint, co-ordinated RMA planning instruments reflecting the national importance of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ That priority be given to establishing new Aquaculture Management Areas in Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- ❑ Ensuring the policies and plans of local authorities and government departments with responsibilities under the HGMPA maintain and enhance Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf as a

pataka for the people.

- Recognition and use of matauranga Maori, traditional place names, legends, local histories and kaitiakitanga increases around Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.

## WATER QUALITY

### Issues

- ❑ The cumulative effects of many diverse uses of the waters of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf can cause local degradation and there is limited understanding of the thresholds at which pollutants affect ecosystems.
- ❑ Localised and cumulative effects of activities on the waters of the Gulf can degrade mauri, mahinga mataitai and other taonga valued and used by tangata whenua.
- ❑ Management of stormwater and wastewater is constrained by funding gaps, a lack of national level regulation of contaminant sources, lack of awareness in the community, and a lack of skills relating to new management methods and approaches.
- ❑ Water quality monitoring methods and reporting are not applied consistently around the Gulf.
- ❑ Activities occur in the catchments of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf which result in accelerated soil erosion and sedimentation of estuaries and harbours, and a reduction in marine biodiversity.
- ❑ The community's potential to contribute to management of water quality is not always appropriately recognised and utilised.

### Objectives

- ❑ Land use activities and discharges to the waters of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf are managed to minimise effects on the life-supporting capacity, spiritual and cultural values of the Gulf.
- ❑ The effects of erosion of soil and movement of sediment into waterways resulting from activities in the catchments of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf are managed to avoid localised and cumulative effects.
- ❑ Communities in and around Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf are appropriately supported to participate effectively in water quality management through involvement in planning processes and community-based programmes such as Wai Care.

### Outcomes

- ❑ Water quality within the Gulf is maintained and where practicable enhanced.
- ❑ Consistent approaches to managing water quality are used throughout the Gulf.
- ❑ Planning instruments within the Gulf seek enhanced outcomes with respect to point and non-point discharges.
- ❑ Management agencies work together so that wherever practicable, consistent monitoring methodologies for determining the effects of all inputs to water are adopted and implemented throughout the Gulf.
- ❑ Active programmes are put in place to manage sedimentation issues.
- ❑ The number and geographic distribution of community programmes (e.g. Wai Care) responding to water quality management issues is maintained or increased.

## BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

### Issues

- ❑ The biological diversity of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and its value as kai moana have been adversely affected by, and remain threatened by, activities undertaken within the Gulf and its catchments (eg reductions in water quality, loss of marine habitats, over fishing and harvesting).
- ❑ There is limited knowledge of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf's marine biodiversity.
- ❑ Invasive species are a significant threat to the biodiversity of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ The Gulf is a key entranceway for vessels visiting New Zealand and so is a high risk area for marine pest incursions.
- ❑ Competing demands place pressures on Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf's customary, recreational and commercial fisheries.

### Objectives

- ❑ The biological diversity of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is recognised, understood and respected.
- ❑ The diversity of species, habitats and physical natural features is maintained or enhanced.
- ❑ The intrinsic, scientific, recreational, tourism and commercial values of biodiversity, and opportunities for sustainable use of biodiversity are recognised.
- ❑ Recognition and provision for customary and development rights of tangata whenua are appropriately integrated into environmental management processes.
- ❑ There is an integrated and co-ordinated programme to protect a full range of marine species, habitats and ecosystems within the Gulf.
- ❑ The opportunities for protecting and enhancing biodiversity provided by the islands of the Gulf are maximised.
- ❑ A comprehensive knowledge base of terrestrial and marine biota, their habitats, and ecosystems in Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is developed.
- ❑ Biosecurity systems and programmes are in place to manage existing pests and prevent, eradicate or manage new incursions.
- ❑ Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf contains high quality habitats able to support sustainable customary, commercial, and recreational fisheries.
- ❑ Improvement of all the factors that impact on the condition of kai moana in Tikapa, mean it again acts as a full and healthy pantry that can be accessed by all in a sustainable way and maintains its bounty for our descendants.

### Outcomes

- ❑ Marine and terrestrial biodiversity in Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is maintained or enhanced.
- ❑ Recognised areas of significant conservation value are afforded priority consideration for marine protection, particularly those areas that are unique or rare within Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and/or the New Zealand coastal marine environment.

- ❑ No net loss in ecosystems under threat, particularly saltmarsh and seagrass communities.
- ❑ Wildlife corridors are maintained or enhanced.
- ❑ Successful translocations of appropriate species to and from the islands of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Improved protection for marine habitats and kai moana from point and non-point discharges, sea bed disturbances and effects of fishing.
- ❑ Increases in levels of information about and understanding of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Pest species that are already present in the Gulf are managed, and where practicable eliminated, to enhance biodiversity.
- ❑ Species incursions are prevented, eradicated or managed to minimise adverse effects on biodiversity.
- ❑ Customary, recreational and commercial harvest of fish and shellfish species are provided for within sustainable limits that meet the reasonable needs of these sectors.

## NATURAL CHARACTER AND LANDSCAPE

### Issues

- ❑ The Gulf and its surroundings are treasures and taonga that need to be protected for their intrinsic values, and hence provide for future generations.
- ❑ The natural character and landscape values of the Gulf are susceptible to degradation, and appropriate development and modification are not well defined.
- ❑ Past activities such as reclamation, vegetation removal and construction have decreased the natural character of the seabed and foreshores of the Gulf.
- ❑ The attributes of natural character and landscape are not consistently described or monitored.
- ❑ Landscape assessment must take into account the cultural component, which reflects the associations and interactions of people.

### Objectives

- ❑ Activities do not cause significant adverse effects on the natural character and landscapes that provide Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf with its special character and uniqueness.
- ❑ Natural character and landscape values are managed consistently across the Mean High Water Springs boundary and are recognised for the foreshore and seabed.
- ❑ Communities value Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf's natural character and landscape.
- ❑ Areas having significant natural character and landscape values are defined and monitored using consistent methodologies which include effective cultural landscape assessment.

### Outcomes

- ❑ Outstanding landscapes and areas of high natural character are protected.
- ❑ No loss of areas of significant natural character and/or landscape value.
- ❑ There is an increase in the number of programmes that contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of the natural character and landscape values of the Gulf.
- ❑ The natural character of seafloor and foreshore environments is enhanced and restored so that they are thriving habitats with a full complement of species and ecosystem functions.
- ❑ Improved understanding of the contribution of natural character and landscape to the spiritual, social, cultural and economic wellbeing of people and communities.
- ❑ Areas of significant natural character and landscape are consistently identified throughout the Gulf.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Issues

- ❑ Tikapa Moana – 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 because of inadequate protection and insufficient information.
- ❑ For tangata whenua, cultural heritage is inseparable from their whakapapa back to Ranginui and Papatuanuku. Tikapa Moana is their cultural heritage.
- ❑ Cultural heritage includes stories, names, events, proverbs and beliefs as well as sites, and is ongoing rather than fixed at a particular point in history. Focusing heritage protection on sites and historical remains can ignore this rich history that has not left a mark but provides links to ancestors and gives a sense of place, purpose and spiritual connection.
- ❑ Much cultural heritage is retained in oral tradition, in literature or in photographic archives. Co-ordination between tangata whenua, management agencies and the community in the collection, recording, interpretation and protection of heritage information is limited.
- ❑ The values of archaeological landscapes, such as duneland midden areas, rather than specific sites are not always recognised and effectively protected.
- ❑ Pre-European archaeological sites and landscapes are numerous and are often protected, but significant losses of the cultural heritage of tangata whenua continue.
- ❑ Tangata whenua are not effectively involved in cultural heritage decision-making processes within Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Community awareness and respect for tangata whenua values for their cultural heritage are necessary for effective heritage protection, and opportunities for education about the cultural heritage of tangata whenua are often missed.
- ❑ Cultural heritage resources are often located on land in private ownership which can add complexity to their management.

### Objectives

- ❑ There is widespread recognition and respect of the diverse cultural heritage values found intrinsic to Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and its surroundings, including archaeological landscapes and sites.
- ❑ Co-ordinated conservation action ensures protection of cultural heritage values in Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf, including waahi tapu and sites of significance to Maori.
- ❑ Cultural landscapes are recognised, recorded, and provided appropriate protection.
- ❑ Traditional names and tikanga are in common usage and contribute to raising public awareness of the cultural heritage values of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Tangata whenua are actively participating in cultural heritage decision making processes associated with Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf, and are enabled to protect and manage waahi tapu and heritage sites and features in accordance with tikanga Maori using statutory and non-statutory methods.
- ❑ Cultural heritage on private land is acknowledged and respected by landowners.

<b>Outcomes</b>
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- ❑ Unauthorised impacts on cultural heritage sites are avoided.
- ❑ Planning instruments are effects based, and contain cultural heritage recognition methods such as protection orders, alert layers, predictive mapping, cultural heritage inventory.
- ❑ There is an increase in the number of historic sites in Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf added to the national register.
- ❑ A comprehensive data base, including sites and landscapes, is developed for Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Traditional names that recall people, events and concepts related to the Gulf are emphasized and used.
- ❑ Effective tangata whenua participation in cultural heritage management is increased.
- ❑ Tangata whenua are resourced to manage and protect their cultural resources, and to ensure that customary practices (included rahui tapu) are able to be maintained and implemented.
- ❑ There are an increased number of covenants protecting cultural heritage sites on private land.

## ACCESS TO TIKAPA MOANA – HAURAKI GULF

### Issues

- ❑ Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is the largest area of public open space in the Auckland and Waikato regions. Use and development of the coastal environment may alienate this space and restrict public access and enjoyment.
- ❑ The ability of people and communities to use and enjoy Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf, its islands and coastal areas contributes to their knowledge and understanding of the values and importance of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Increasing demand for access to Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf can adversely affect the environment, the exercising of customary rights and protection of taonga.
- ❑ Management of access to the Gulf is a shared responsibility of regional, local authorities and the Department of Conservation.
- ❑ Tangata whenua perspectives and values need to be included in planning for access.
- ❑ The boating community operates across regional boundaries.

### Objectives

- ❑ The needs of the multiple users of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf are recognised and balanced.
- ❑ Management agencies share information and work together so that access opportunities are enhanced while the effects of access on the values of the Gulf are minimised.
- ❑ An integrated suite of facilities are provided which support and enhance the values and understanding of the Gulf, and which together provide a range of visitor experiences.
- ❑ Navigational rules are consistent and well-publicised across the Gulf.

### Outcomes

- ❑ Access opportunities that enable people to enjoy Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf, its islands and coastal areas are maintained or enhanced.
- ❑ Opportunities to acquire new access resources such as esplanade reserves and strips are taken up.
- ❑ Access opportunities are used to enable people to better understand the environment of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Access is managed to avoid adverse effects on Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ The boating community is aware of navigation and discharge rules and operates in a safe and considerate manner.

## COASTAL HAZARDS

### Issues

- ❑ Natural hazards, such as coastal erosion, inundation and sea level rise, threaten private property, community assets and natural areas.
- ❑ There is a lack of understanding of natural coastal processes which can lead to management decisions that are not appropriate for the location (for example placing assets in eroding areas that subsequently require protection works).
- ❑ Management of coastal hazards is a joint responsibility between regional and local authorities.
- ❑ Natural hazards need to be identified and recognised in statutory plans and RMA decisions.
- ❑ Accidents that lead to spills of oils, chemicals or other pollutants are a major risk to Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.

### Objectives

- ❑ Natural hazards are identified and responses are managed co-operatively by regional councils and territorial authorities.
- ❑ Communities and agencies have a greater understanding of natural coastal processes.
- ❑ Where protection of coastal assets is appropriate, it is undertaken in a way that minimises the effects on the environment.
- ❑ Appropriate pollutant spill response processes are in place for Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.

### Outcomes

- ❑ Natural hazards are identified, assessed and integrated responses are developed across Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ People and communities have a good understanding of the coastal hazards of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ There is a regionally consistent civil defence response to significant events.
- ❑ Coastal hazard intervention works are responsive to the maintenance or enhancement of the values and usage of areas.
- ❑ Pollutant spill events are avoided, and the effects of those that occur are minimised.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Issues

- ❑ The effects of climate change have many potential negative environmental impacts. Many of these impacts can have serious consequences for Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.
- ❑ Greenhouse gas emissions increase global warming. New Zealand needs to reduce its level of greenhouse emissions. Emission sources in and around Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf include those from transport, shipping, businesses, homes and recreation activities.
- ❑ The range of impacts from climate change on Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is extensive, and effective long term planning and integrated management responses are essential to ensure adequate adaptation.
- ❑ Parties with responsibilities under the HGMPA have roles and functions with regard to climate change.
- ❑ Information on the specifics of climate change impacts within Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf is limited.

### Objectives

- ❑ Constituent parties develop operational strategies to reduce their own impacts and hence mitigate climate change.
- ❑ Local body constituent parties develop strategies to reduce the public's contribution to climate change.
- ❑ Parties with responsibility under the HGMPA develop strategies and amend statutory instruments to ensure adaptation for climate change is optimised.
- ❑ Projects are developed to increase the information on the potential impacts of climate change within Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf. These will include development of Gulf-wide monitoring methodologies.

### Outcomes

- ❑ Constituent parties reduce their carbon footprints within or below national targets.
- ❑ The public's reduction of contribution to climate change meets constituent parties' strategic targets.
- ❑ Policies and instruments responding to climate change adaptation are effective and consistent.
- ❑ Information on the potential impacts of climate change is developed to enable effective management. Monitoring methodologies are developed to determine the effectiveness of interventions.

# **PART C – Processes for the integrated management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf**

Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf contains complex systems for which incomplete information exists. The integrated management of the Gulf needs to be responsive and adaptive to new knowledge and expertise. The Forum and its constituent parties could undertake a multitude of actions that could aid the management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf.

A number of documents come together to help guide the integrated management of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf. The Strategic Issues document is not a stand-alone document. It sits together with a number of documents to guide the integrated management of the Gulf, the activities of the Forum and its constituent parties. These documents are:

## **The Strategic Issues document**

This document identifies the critical issues facing Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and the objectives and outcomes that are sought through its management. This will help inform the Forum's work programming and should also be used by its constituent parties alongside the Hauraki Gulf State of the Environment Report.

## **The Hauraki Gulf State of the Environment Report**

This document identifies the current state of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and reports on progress toward addressing the Strategic Issues. The Act requires that a State of the Environment report be prepared every three years. The report helps to identify critical areas of concern and notes on how the constituent parties are contributing to the outcomes listed in the Strategic Issues document. This report will help identify what will be the key areas of action for both the Forum and its constituent parties.

## **Annual report**

The Act requires the Forum to send an annual report to the House of Representatives regarding the carrying out of its functions and the progress made towards achieving the purposes of the Forum.

## **The Forum's 1-3 year work programme**

This is the Forum's priority setting tool. Having determined the current state of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf and the outcomes sought, priority areas for action can be identified through this tool.

There are 3 levels of action that can be included in the work programme:

1. Forum led project work – The Forum undertakes or commissions specific work.
2. Forum co-ordination – The Forum takes a lead role to enable constituent parties to act individually in a consistent manner.
3. Forum advocacy - The Forum advocates for individual constituent party action in key priority areas.

Each of these levels of action can include:

- Regulation
- Policy
- Advocacy
- Communication/Education
- Community based programmes
- Research
- Monitoring
- Physical works
- Funding

Integrated management involves a mix of regulation and policy making, science, and partnership both amongst the constituent parties of the Forum as well as between the Forum, the communities and other agencies.

To help guide which are the more appropriate actions and to ensure balanced treatment of all aspects of Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf the long term goal of the Forum will be to ensure that, using the matrix below, there are a range of tools for effective integrated management. This will require identifying gaps, setting priorities for development, specifying agency responsibility, and ensuring development programmes are implemented through actions of the Forum or its constituent parties. Within each 1-3 years of activity the Forum can determine what strategic issue(s) takes precedence, what type of action is most appropriate (e.g. policy development, education) and whether it needs to play a leadership or coordinating role.

	Regulation	Policy	Advocacy	Communications/ Education	Community based	Research	Monitoring	Physical works	Funding
<b>Integrated Management</b>									
<b>Raising Awareness, Understanding and Recognition</b>									
<b>Pataka (Storehouse of Food and Knowledge)</b>									
<b>Water Quality</b>									
<b>Biological Diversity</b>									
<b>Natural Character and Landscape</b>									
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>									
<b>Access</b>									
<b>Coastal Hazards</b>									
<b>Climate Change</b>									