



Hauraki Gulf Forum

Promoting and facilitating integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana

Annual Report 2009 – 2010



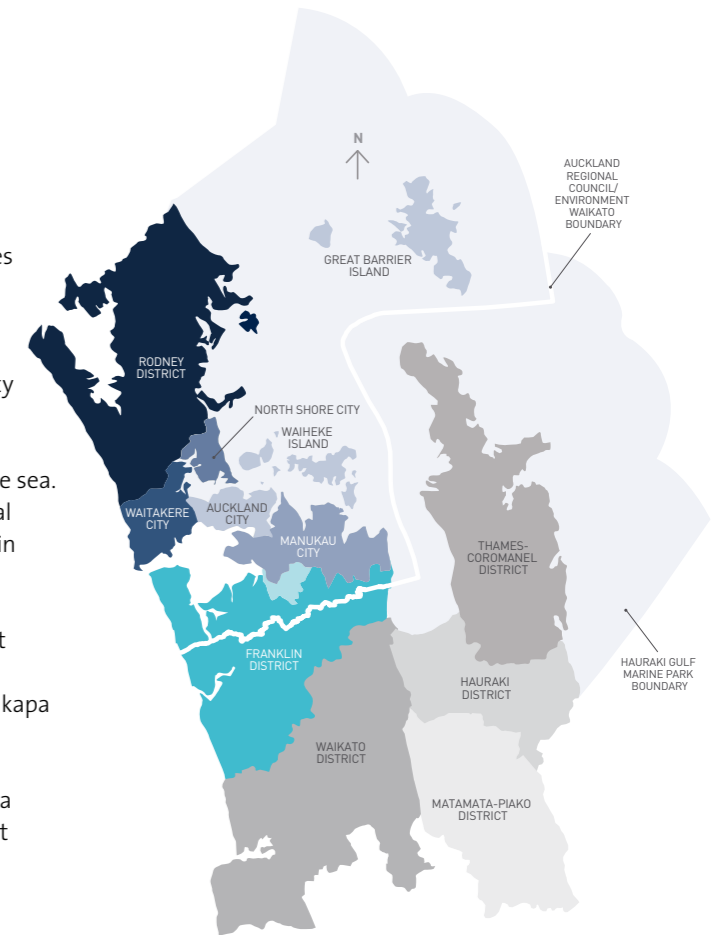
Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana



Our Vision

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.



Our Mission

To achieve the Forum’s vision for the Hauraki Gulf by promoting and facilitating the integrated and co-ordinated management of the Gulf’s environmental, cultural, economic and recreational resources.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum was established under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000. The Forum is required to present an annual report on the exercise of its powers, the carrying out of its functions and progress towards achieving its purposes to the House of Representatives, through the Minister of Conservation, on or before 31 August each year. The Forum met four times during the past financial year: on 3 August 2009, 2 November 2009, 15 March 2010 and 17 May 2010.



From the Chairman

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act asks management agencies to focus on sustaining the life-supporting capacity of the Gulf, to protect and enhance its resources and recognise the relationships tangata whenua has with it.

I am pleased to report that three quarters of the councils which currently make up the Hauraki Gulf Forum have formally adopted the guidance we produced last year, *Governing the Gulf: Implementing the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act through Policies and Plans*.

Case law and planning documents are starting to reflect important principles of the marine park legislation, and impending reforms in local government and resource management will create further opportunities.

This year saw the Forum initiate an ambitious programme of activity to mark the 10th anniversary of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act.

The Forum played a role in encouraging the expansion of the marine park through the vesting of Waitakere City Council reserves bordering the Waitemata Harbour

and three covenanted reserves on Waiheke Island, owned by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

The New Zealand Herald reported the Forum-initiated three-part magazine series on the marine park was one of its most popular supplements. Guided discovery cruises initiated by Fullers as part of the promotion sold out within days and demonstrated the popular appeal of the marine park and the economic opportunities its natural features can create.

Over 130 people enjoyed the hospitality of the Department of Conservation, the Motutapu Restoration Trust and tangata whenua on 27 February 2010, the park anniversary day, to acknowledge the significant gains and contributions made around the marine park over the past decade by many different agencies and groups.

The settlement of treaty claims in the Auckland region provides opportunities to further strengthen the role of tangata whenua in the marine park. The Forum has kept abreast of these discussions

and the values associated with Ko te Pataka kai o Tikapa Moana.

In March we pulled these many strands together in an anniversary seminar hosted by the Auckland Museum and Auckland Regional Council. The seminar demonstrated the collective knowledge and value of an integrated management approach in the Gulf.

I am delighted to present this annual report on the work of the Hauraki Gulf Forum for 2009 – 2010 and am confident the Forum has an important role to play in protecting and enhancing the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana well into the future.

Mayor John Tregidga
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum,
MNZM, JP



Who we are



Mayor John Tregidga (Chair)
Hauraki District Council



Cr John Kirikiri
Rodney District Council



Alison Henry
Thames-Coromandel District Council



Liane Ngamane
Tangata whenua



Cr Mike Lee (Deputy Chair)
Auckland Regional Council



Cr Chris Darby
North Shore City Council



Cr George Vickers
Waikato District Council



Rangimarie Rawiri
Tangata whenua



Sean Goddard
Department of Conservation



Cr Peter Chan
Waitakere City Council



Cr Bob McGrail
Matamata-Piako District Council



Betty Williams
Tangata whenua



John Taunton-Clark
Ministry of Fisheries



Cr Denise Roche
Auckland City Council



Laly Haddon
Tangata whenua



Cr Sandra Coney
Auckland Regional Council
(Non-voting member)



Pauline Kingi
Ministry of Māori Affairs
Te Puni Kokiri



Cr Maggie Burrill
Manukau City Council



Teddy Andrews
Tangata whenua



Cr Dianne Glenn
Auckland Regional Council
(Non-voting member)



Cr Simon Friar
Environment Waikato



Cr Jennie Hayman
Franklin District Council



Paul Majurey
Tangata whenua

What we have achieved

The 2009 – 2010 work plan focused on six project areas.

Indicator framework

In May 2010 the Hauraki Gulf Forum endorsed an indicator framework for 'state of the environment' reporting drawn from the existing monitoring programmes and indicator sets collected by its member agencies.

The measures of catchment pressures, coastal water quality and coastal marine ecology were chosen based about their ability to regularly and reliably provide information about pressures on the Gulf and its state. It was noted, however, that little information is available on the state of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning outside near-shore areas.

The next 'state of the environment' report, due in June 2011, will include a plan to guide future research and monitoring investments in the Gulf.



Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act guidance

Nine of the 12 Hauraki Gulf Forum member councils formally adopted *Governing the Gulf: Implementing the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act through Policies and Plans* for use in the preparation of policies and plans.

Over 100 people attended seminars on the guide in Auckland and Thames, organised in conjunction with the Resource Management Law Association, the New Zealand Planning Institute and the New Zealand Coastal Society.

The guide was noted in professional association journals, newsletters and websites.

The Forum produced additional guidance documents: *Fishing the Gulf: Implementing the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act through Fisheries Management*, and *Co-operation, Capacity, Charisma: Enhancing the Hauraki Gulf Environment through Non-regulatory Approaches*.



Tangata whenua policy development

The Forum was kept abreast of the significant issues relating to Māori interests in Tikapa Moana – Hauraki Gulf, including progress toward settlement of treaty claims and repeal of the Foreshore and Seabed Act.

An analysis of policy and programme alignment with tangata whenua values will be included in next year's triennial 'state of the environment' report.

The Forum provided feedback to Maritime New Zealand on its review of sewage discharge regulations, drawing attention to tangata whenua concerns regarding the disposal of human waste into the marine environment.

In May the Department of Conservation facilitated a hui a iwi at Maungauika/North Head to discuss issues and future opportunities related to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and Hauraki Gulf Forum.



Communications

The Forum published four issues of *Weaving the Strands* over the year, to document important initiatives around the Hauraki Gulf, to foster awareness and encourage co-ordinated management.

New publications and proceedings from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park 10th Anniversary celebration and seminar were made available on the website – www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park 10th Anniversary

The Forum initiated and co-ordinated a programme to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, including:

- Production of a three-part supplement series published by *The New Zealand Herald*
- A discovery voyage programme, initiated by Fullers with island trusts and expert guides
- An anniversary celebration on Motutapu Island, hosted by the Department of Conservation
- The launch of a new Hauraki Gulf website by Tourism Auckland
- The hosting of a Hauraki Gulf Marine Park 10th Anniversary Seminar by the Auckland Museum and ARC
- Provision of information about the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park during the Louis Vuitton Racing Series and International Boat Show.



Shellfish monitoring

Shellfish surveys with community groups and schools were carried out at 12 locations within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Ten schools and 465 community volunteers, students, and parent helper volunteers participated.

Surveys at Okahu Bay, Kawakawa Bay and Beachlands are being supported by NIWA's Estuarine Ecodiagnostics project.

The programme's Shellfish Monitoring Teacher Resource Kit is being translated into te reo Māori by Ngāti Whangaunga, to encourage future involvement of schools in the Coromandel area.

Survey results are analysed by Ministry of Fisheries' scientists and stored in the ARC's ecological monitoring database, and are proving increasingly valuable for fisheries management.

Community group monitoring and concern played an important role in the Minister of Fisheries' decision to close Whangateau Harbour to the harvest of cockles and pipi from 25 March 2010 for three years. The dieback of around 70 per cent of eating-size cockles, first noted at the end of last summer, was found to be the result of heat stress, a naturally occurring parasite and bacterial infection.



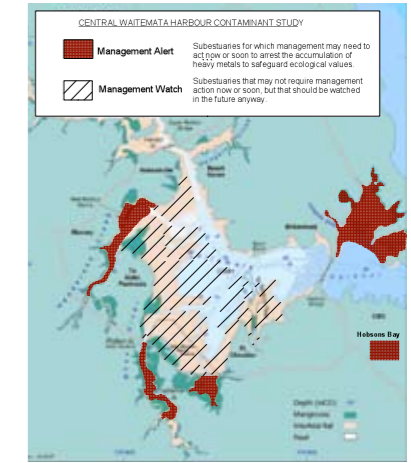
Successful bird translocations and natural recolonisation around the Gulf



Sediment dumping by "thin-layer disposal"



Bryde's whale on vessel bow in Auckland port



Management alert areas for harbour accumulation of heavy metals

Communication, co-operation and co-ordination

The Forum meets quarterly and receives reports from its constituent parties and interested groups on issues of strategic importance to the Hauraki Gulf.

In August...

The meeting was hosted by Waitakere City Council and was preceded by visits to Project Twin Streams field sites.

The Forum received a deputation from community interests in relation to a consent application to dredge and dispose of sediments from the channel to Pine Harbour Marina in the Whitford embayment.

Pine Harbour Marina is the only company disposing of dredgings in the near-shore environment in Auckland and concerns around dumping played a role in shaping the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park legislation.

The Forum was briefed by the Department of Conservation on the operation to remove rats, mice, wild cats, stoats, rabbits and hedgehogs from Rangitoto-Motutapu, to create a 3881-hectare sanctuary suited to the reintroduction of rare and

endangered species. The Forum noted it was one of the most important conservation projects in Auckland's history.

The Forum was briefed on recent studies showing patterns and levels of stormwater sediment contaminants in the Waitemata Harbour: a priority issue noted in the last Hauraki Gulf State of the Environment Report.

Models were presented showing those areas where heavy-metal levels are likely to start to impact on marine ecology. Copper and zinc are present in combination with other potentially harmful chemical contaminants and the Forum requested further information on likely effects on invertebrates, fish and mammals.

The ARC has commissioned literature reviews and studies on the ecological impacts of stormwater run-off.

In November...

The meeting was hosted by the Department of Conservation on Tititiri Matangi Island.

Chairperson of the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Incorporated Society Peter Lee reflected on lessons learned over 21 years of restoration work and highlighted the importance of:

- An enduring and binding vision
- Stakeholder management and communication
- Diversified volunteering opportunities
- Trusting partners
- Diverse income streams
- Visionary leaders and guardians.

Today the society has 1800 financial members, more than 250 regular volunteers, \$1.2m in assets and generates over \$180,000 profit per year. It has overseen the planting of 30,000 trees and the introduction of 15 species of birds and reptiles.

The Forum was briefed on research into the cause of recent illness in dogs that had visited Hauraki Gulf beaches, and reports of penguin, pilchard and dolphin mortality around the Gulf over winter.

Illness in dogs was identified as tetrodotoxin (TTX) poisoning, found to be present in grey-gilled sea slugs, washed up on the beaches particularly on the North Shore. Mortality in other species was found to be unrelated, and was attributed to seasonal fluctuations in environmental conditions and food supply.

The ARC led the multi-agency response to the reports to ensure accurate, consistent and timely information was available to the public and to minimise risk.

In March...

Chief Crown negotiator Mike Dreaver provided a briefing on progress and process for the settlement of treaty claims in the Auckland region. He noted resulting agreements were likely to affect management of the Hauraki Gulf through:

- Co-governance arrangements between iwi and the Department of Conservation
- The transfer of some Crown-owned land
- Enhanced relationships between iwi and fisheries managers
- Official place-name changes
- Negotiation of harbour recognition and redress
- A stronger political voice and better resourcing for iwi participation.

The Forum received a briefing on a new 'state of the environment' report for Great Barrier Island, prepared by the Great Barrier Island Charitable Trust. It heard how iconic species such as black petrel, pateke and chevron skink could be victims of a further wave of extinctions without intensive pest control.

The Forum supported the report's recommendation that a technical feasibility study on the methods, issues and costs/benefits of an island-wide eradication of rats and feral cats be initiated.

In May...

The Forum welcomed and endorsed the inclusion of additional private land in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, comprising three covenanted reserves owned by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society on Waiheke Island.

University of Auckland's Rochelle Constantine reported concerns about potential decline in the population of Bryde's whales in the Gulf due to vessel strike. The whales favour the same shallow water habitats used by vessel traffic. The Forum requested that it be kept informed of discussions with shipping interest in exploring the feasibility of speed restrictions to reduce fatalities. Such actions have been employed with success in other parts of the world.

Researcher Chris Gaskin gave a presentation on the importance of the Hauraki Gulf for seabirds and their potential as biological indicators of the health of the Gulf. The Forum agreed to seed funding to purchase recording units enabling acoustic surveying of island groups. This helped leverage an additional \$50,000 funding for the project from the ARC's Coastal Enhancement Fund.



Looking ahead

The 2010 – 2011 work plan builds on strategic documents, momentum from successful delivery of projects this year and the requirement to produce a triennial state of the environment report.

2011 State of the Environment Report

Scheduled for June 2011, the Forum's third Hauraki Gulf State of the Environment Report will:

- Utilise the defined inter-agency monitoring and indicator framework
- Help define a research plan for the Gulf
- Analyse policy and programme alignment with tangata whenua values
- Assess progress towards integrated management and addressing priority issues.

Raising awareness

- *Weaving the Strands* newsletter (four issues)
- Hauraki Gulf Forum website, updated at regular intervals
- Marine park promotion campaign in February/March, extending partnerships developed in 2009 – 2010.

Advocacy

- Capacity for engagement with Environment Waikato in the development of its Regional Policy Statement, and the Auckland Council in formulation of policy and its spatial plan.
- A commissioned review of international experience and developments in marine spatial planning and analysis of its relevance to the New Zealand institutional, legal and policy context, and as a tool for implementing the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act.

Community-based shellfish monitoring

- Steering group facilitation, technical and educational support to survey co-ordinators, quality control of data, provision of results to Ministry of Fisheries, reporting and communications.

Project support

Advice, advocacy and initiation of strategic projects, including seed funding for:

- Assessment of the technical, economic and social feasibility of island-wide eradication of rats and feral cats on Great Barrier Island
- A field research programme to enhance knowledge of the behaviour and distribution of seabirds on islands in the Hauraki Gulf.



Funding and administrative support

The Auckland Regional Council acts as the administering authority of the Hauraki Gulf Forum. It services the meetings of the Forum as a joint special committee of the council.

The Forum is supported by a jointly-funded servicing officer, the Hauraki Gulf Forum Manager, and a Technical Officers Group, comprising a staff member or nominee from each of the parties on the Forum.

The Forum's \$195,000 budget in 2009 – 2010 was met through an agreed formula shown above.

The budget meets the salary of the Hauraki Gulf Forum Manager and the cost of projects defined in the annual work plan. Work plan outputs were delivered within budget.

The Minister of Conservation contributes to the remuneration and costs of tangata whenua Forum members and their technical officers. In 2009 – 2010 this amounted to \$32,133.

2009 – 2010 Budget

Funding Contribution per Sector	Authority	Population in the Gulf Catchment (2006)	Percentage Population	Percentage Contribution per Project	Contribution to \$195,000 Budget
20%	MFish			10.00	\$19,500
	DoC			10.00	\$19,500
40%	ARC	985,029	92.87	37.15	\$72,439
	EW	75,624	7.13	2.85	\$5,561
40%	RDC	65,082	6.14	2.45	\$4,786
	NSCC	205,626	19.39	7.75	\$15,122
	WCC	174,678	16.47	6.59	\$12,846
	ACC	349,035	32.91	13.16	\$25,668
	MCC	187,860	17.71	7.08	\$13,815
	FDC	3,309	0.31	0.12	\$243
	WDC	1,776	0.17	0.07	\$131
	HDC	17,196	1.62	0.65	\$1,265
	TCDC	25,944	2.45	0.98	\$1,908
	MPDC	30,147	2.84	1.14	\$2,217

The Forum approved a budget of \$275,000 to support the 2010 – 2011 financial year work programme, comprised of member contributions at the same level as previous years, a carry-over of unspent funds, and a contribution from the Ministry of Māori Affairs – Te Puni Kokiri at the level of other central government members.

Co-funding, sponsorship and co-ordinated project delivery will also be facilitated to support the Forum's work plan and objectives.

Funding arrangements will be reviewed from 2010 – 2011 to reflect changes in boundaries and member organisations following the creation of the Auckland Council.

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

Purposes of the Forum

The Forum has the following purposes:

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

Functions of the Forum

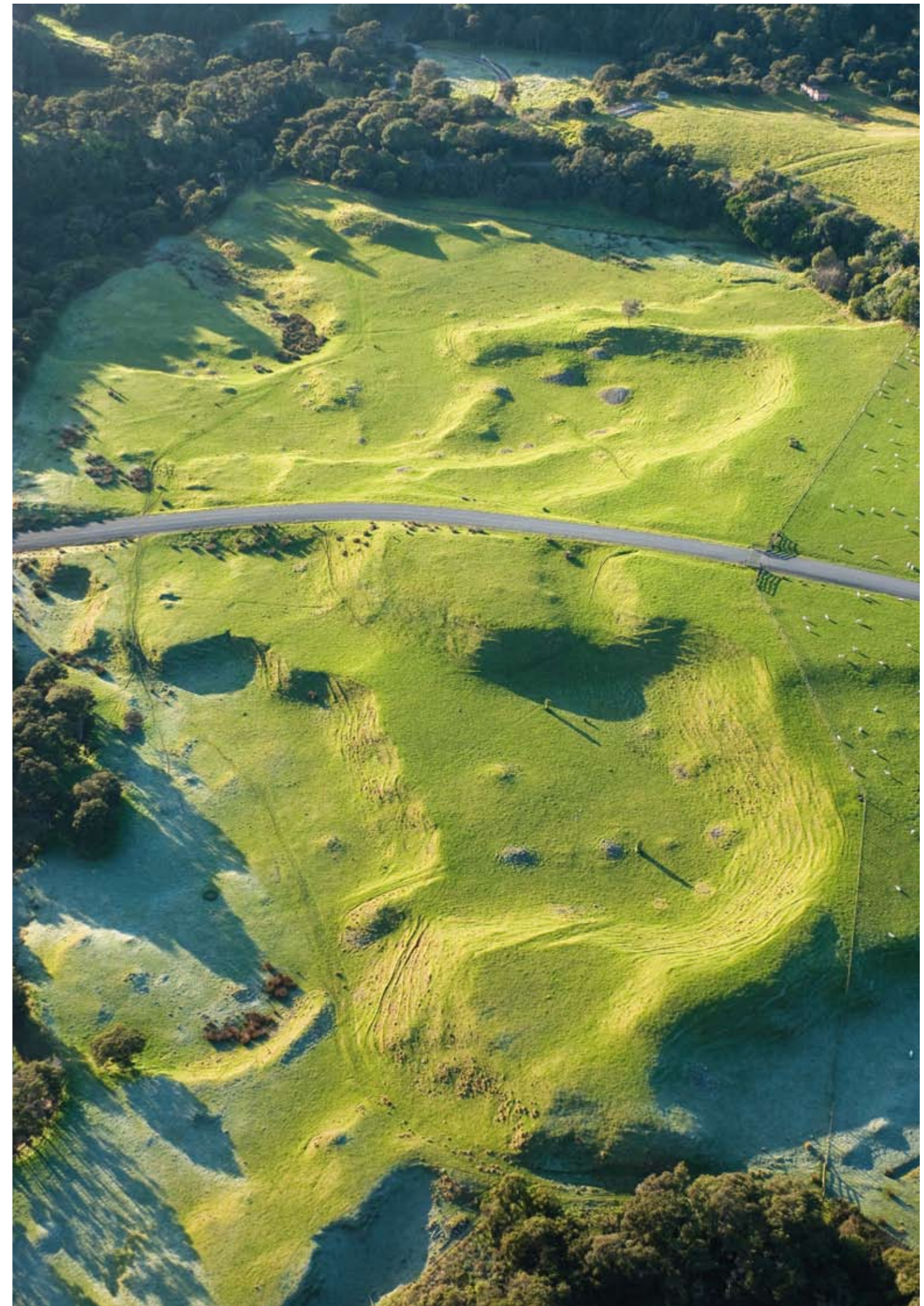
- (1) To promote sections 7 (Recognition of national significance of Hauraki Gulf) and 8 (Management of Hauraki Gulf), the Forum has the following functions in relation to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments:
 - (a) to prepare a list of strategic issues, determine a priority for action on each issue and regularly review that list;
 - (b) to facilitate and encourage co-ordinated financial planning, where possible, by the constituent parties;

- (c) to obtain, share and monitor information on the state of the natural and physical resources;
- (d) to receive reports on the completion and implementation of deeds of recognition;
- (e) to require and receive reports from constituent parties on the development and implementation of policies and strategies to address the issues identified under paragraph (a);
- (f) to receive reports from the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf on the development and implementation of iwi management or development plans;
- (g) to prepare and publish, once every three years, a report on the state of the environment in the Hauraki Gulf, including information on progress towards integrated management and responses to the issues identified in accordance with paragraph (a);
- (h) to promote and advocate the integrated management and, where appropriate, the sustainable management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments;
- (i) to encourage, share, co-ordinate where appropriate, and disseminate educational and promotional material;
- (j) to liaise with, and receive reports from, persons and groups having an interest in the Hauraki Gulf and business and community interests to promote an interest in the purposes of the Forum; and
- (k) to commission research into matters relating to the functions of the Forum.

- (2) When carrying out its functions under subsection (1), the Forum must have particular regard to the historic, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the natural, historic and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments.

Powers of the Forum

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





“The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act is not just a replacement for the old Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Act which was repealed in 1990. In its scope it is visionary. It takes a 21st-century approach to protection and resource management. It doesn’t impose a further bureaucratic regime; it works to strengthen and enable and connect what is already there from rangatiratanga and kaitiaki to local government, the RMA, ministers, fisheries and reserves. It reflects the complexity of the Gulf’s dynamic environment and the complexity of its communities and it provides opportunities to act.”

Auckland Conservator Stella Frances, February 2000, recounted
by current Auckland Conservator Sean Goddard, 27 February 2010

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is a statutory body responsible for the integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Ministers of Conservation, Fisheries and Māori Affairs, Auckland Regional Council and Environment Waikato, 10 local authorities (Rodney, Franklin, Waikato, Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and Matamata Piako District Councils, North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland and Manukau City Councils), plus six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.

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