

Hauraki Gulf Forum



The Hauraki Gulf State of the Environment Report

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 be¹.

¹ Developed by the Hauraki Gulf Forum

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Chairman's Foreword

No matter what people have called it – Te Moananui o Toi, Tikapa Moana or The Hauraki Gulf – the semi enclosed stretch of water east of present day Auckland has long been a special place for those who know it or have passed through it. The rich history of the Gulf reflects the value that our ancestors saw in it, and the reasons our early settlers – both Maori and Pakeha – were drawn to its shores remain as strong today as ever.

In contemporary society people value the Gulf for all sorts of reasons. To tangata whenua the Gulf is a link to the past. It was the landing place for many of the migratory waka from Polynesia; the highway that connected people for centuries; and the location of major food sources. Many battles have been fought on its waters. Today the Gulf provides opportunities for the future prosperity of Maori in the fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries.

To holiday-makers the Gulf is a place to enjoy over long summer breaks, to weekend fishers the Gulf is a place to catch the “big one”, to conservationists and researchers the Gulf is a place of fascinating biological diversity. To business the Gulf is an important trade route and place of abundant commercial opportunity. To many observant Kiwis, the Gulf is place of iconic landscape and an evocative expression of natural, social and cultural identity.

The Hauraki Forum was established to recognise these multiple values and multiple interests. One of its key functions is to prepare a state of the environment report in recognition that the many interests in the Gulf share one thing in common – a quality, sustainable environment.

The production of this report is the single-most important achievement of the Form to date. Not only does the report provide a snapshot of the state of the Gulf but it includes a stocktake of what the statutory agencies are doing in response to these issues.

The report provides a basis for the Forum to prioritise future action. It also provides a tangible example of what the Forum is all about – taking a holistic and integrated approach to the management of the Gulf: an approach that crosses statutory functions and deals with the Gulf as a single natural and social system.

Inevitably, some may suggest that the report could contain and present information to better advantage. To that I would simply say that this is a first effort at an extraordinarily complicated task. The Forum will continually search for better ways to tell the story of the Gulf. It will have its next opportunity in three years time when it produces its second State of the Gulf report.

Finally, I would like to thank all those with contributed to the report's production and commend it to all those with an interest in the future of the Gulf.

Laly Haddon
Chair

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