



**Mahurangi Action Plan:**  
A strategic plan for the catchment 2010-2030

September  
2010



### **Tihei Mauri Ora**

I breathe, let there be life

**Ka mihi atu ki te mauri o te waka mahi ringa kotahi  
kia tia mai te mana kaupapa o tena waka, o tena waka  
mai te aratakitanga ki toku waka, Mahuhu ki te Rangi.**

An acknowledgement of unified contribution, regardless of where one may have come from. Extra hands gave meaning, purpose and direction. Influenced always to help steer my canoe, Mahuhu ki Te Rangi.

**Katahi, ka huria ki nga wai e riringa atu ana ki te moana nui o Toi  
mai ana nga wai ata rere o Mahurangi i tau mai nei toku waka.**

Let's turn to the waters, the great sea of Toi that flows gently when tidal waters enter the estuary of Mahurangi where my ancestral canoe once made land fall.

**Ana te ohakitanga o ratou ma kua wheturangitia.**

A sacred final resting place (Mahurangi) where those who died were farewelled to journey home to Hawaiki and to their final resting place in the heavens of Ranginui.

**No reira, E tatou nga kanoahi maharahara**

Therefore for those of us living who remember and have contributed to times now past with the future now at hand.

**Tena koutou, Tena koutou, Tena tatou katoa.**

Greetings, Greetings, Greetings to us all



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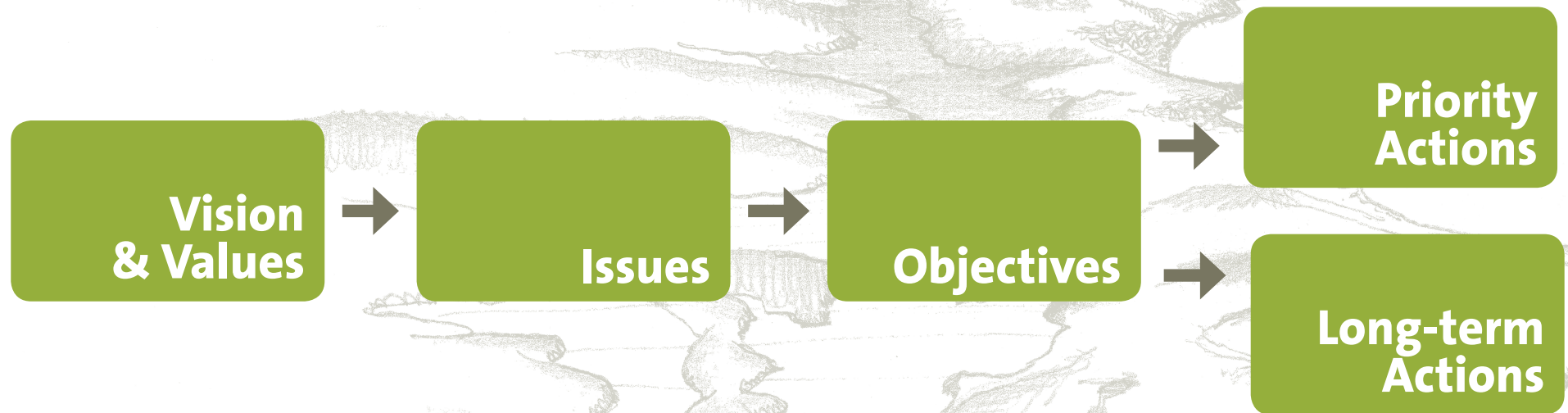
Magic Earth Theatre lead tree planting of Goodall Reserve



MAP Planting Day

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# Plan Structure





# Vision and Values

**Our vision is to restore and maintain a healthy Mahurangi river and harbour recognising environmental, recreational and economic opportunities as well as the uniqueness of the landscape and its location, the history of the river, the peninsula and the adjacent land and sea for present and future generations.**

*We value and want to protect:*

## **A healthy river and harbour and their ecosystems**

A “healthy” harbour and river is first and foremost about good water quality. The Mahurangi harbour has a problem with elevated levels of sediment and other contaminants. The source of elevated levels of sediment is the land and therefore to achieve a healthy river and harbour, sound land management practices, aimed at reducing elevated levels of sedimentation, are important.

## **A natural harbourscape and a robust landscape**

The appearance of the landscape from both land and from the water is part of the attraction of the Mahurangi. The presence of regional parks at the heads of the harbour help to conserve the sense of open space within this cultural landscape.

## **Enjoyment of the Mahurangi: public use and recreation**

Getting out and enjoying the Mahurangi and its night sky is important to the local community and visitors alike. Public access to and around the coastline is essential for appreciation and enjoyment of the Mahurangi. Maintaining the ability to navigate on the river and harbour is also an important issue. The visual quality of the Mahurangi further adds to appreciation of the catchment.

## **A commercial asset: using the land and water economically**

The Mahurangi catchment provides the resources for its residents to make a living. The river and harbour supports fishing, aquaculture and tourism activities. Aquaculture in particular is dependent on a high standard of water quality. The land is mainly used for rural production, primarily pastoral farming. The Mahurangi, due to its close proximity to Auckland, also has considerable visitor numbers. Therefore, managing tourism is another important facet of protecting the Mahurangi.

## **The heritage of the Mahurangi through guardianship and advocacy**

The heritage of the Mahurangi provides a sense of identity to present and future residents. It is important to protect and share this history. Natural and cultural heritage sites and areas are vulnerable to degradation.

# Background and Status of Plan

The Mahurangi Action Plan (MAP) has been underway since 2004. MAP was introduced as a proactive response by the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) and the Rodney District Council (RDC) to reduce sediment entering the Mahurangi waterways, primarily through working with private landowners on best practice land management (e.g. fencing and riparian planting along waterways) as well as educational programmes.

The initial focus on sediment has been important as it has been identified as the primary issue facing the harbour. However, what MAP needs is an overarching strategic context and integrative process within which the broader issues and activities occurring in the Mahurangi could be considered. Following the 5-year pilot project, it was decided to take time to plan where to next with MAP. In particular, deciding what priority actions were needed to continue to protect the health of the Mahurangi Harbour and its catchment.

A strategic catchment plan for the Mahurangi (to also be known as the Mahurangi Action Plan) is being prepared to take a long term view with immediate actions for continued protection of the health of the Mahurangi. Since September 2009, tangata whenua, various communities in the Mahurangi, ARC and RDC have been progressing discussions on the plan. The plan has mainly been drafted through workshops with the Mahurangi forum and through the Taumata o Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara. Discussions have also taken place with Ngati Manuhiri. The forum comprises representatives from community groups including Snells/Algies residents, Mahurangi East/Scotts Landing residents, Mahurangi West residents, Warkworth residents, Cowan Bay, Hepburn Creek, Kaipara Flats, Woodcocks Road rural residents, Magic Earth Theatre, Oyster Farmers, Jane Gifford Trust, Riverbank Enhancement group, Forestry

companies, Federated Farmers and individual landowners that meet to discuss how we collectively look after the Mahurangi.

Several working papers have been prepared to help inform the development of the Mahurangi Action Plan:

- Water Quality and Ecological Values
- Land Use Planning and Management
- Public Access, Use and Cultural Heritage
- Landscape and Integrated Catchment Management

The Mahurangi Action Plan represents a collective effort amongst the community, tangata whenua, ARC and RDC. It embraces our strong sense of identity within the Mahurangi and its harbour and our concern for the state of the Mahurangi catchment now and into the future. This should be seen as a starting point for the new Auckland Council together with the wider Mahurangi community to continue to shape and progress in the future.

The traditional and customary relationships of the tangata whenua peoples of the Mahurangi are a valuable aspect of the catchment area. This relationship helps to sustain the mauri of the harbour and in turn the mauri of the people. There are many layers of tangata whenua interests in the Mahurangi and currently the ARC and RDC work with representatives from Ngati Whatua, Ngati Manuhiri and Ngati Paoa to understand the relationship of tangata whenua to the Mahurangi. The ARC and RDC acknowledges the significant place of tangata whenua in the Mahurangi area and recognises their role as kaitiaki (guardians). In acknowledging the importance

of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi it is also important to involve tangata whenua in these processes in ways which take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi. This collaboration will help to restore and maintain a healthy Mahurangi for the benefit of all people.

The Mahurangi Action Plan is a non-statutory document. Its development has had regard to its policy and statutory context which includes the Resource Management Act, the Local Government Act, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, iwi planning documents, Auckland Regional Policy Statement, regional plans, Planning Rodney, district plan, recreational strategies and the draft rural strategy for Rodney District currently under preparation.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act (2000) in particular recognises the importance of the Gulf and its ecological and recreational values, and therefore also the place of the Mahurangi Harbour within the Gulf. This Act focuses on the interrelationships between the landward and seaward parts of all the Hauraki Gulf (including Mahurangi) and the ecological health and capacity of the Gulf as a whole.

Much activity is already underway in the Mahurangi Catchment. This plan seeks to draw that existing activity together into a broader context, providing opportunities to link and create synergies between those existing initiatives, and identify both priorities and any gaps.

Existing and future initiatives of the Mahurangi Action Plan sit within the context of the national, regional and local planning framework. These documents have significant influence on achieving the objectives of this plan. The actions set out in this plan will be considered annually through Council's annual planning process.





Schollum's mud flats before riparian planting



Trotter's farm before gully planting



Schollum's mud flats after riparian planting



Trotter's farm after gully planting



# The Issues

This section describes the issues impacting on the values of the Mahurangi catchment described in the Vision and Values section. These issues represent collective understanding between various stakeholders within the Mahurangi and have been used to inform the objectives and actions for the plan.

## Sediment

As stated in the background to this plan, sediment is the priority issue in the Mahurangi Catchment. Rates of sediment entering the Mahurangi harbour have significantly increased as a result of human activities, including deforestation, development, and intensive land use.

Sediment accumulates in the river and harbour which impacts on the quality of the river and harbour for navigation, recreation (swimming, fishing), commercial use (fishing, aquaculture) and as a habitat.

How the land is used and how activities are managed has the most significant impact on rates of sedimentation. Particular issues include:

- Land has differing sediment generating characteristics across the catchment and these characteristics should be taken into account when deciding how to use land
- Heavy rainfall events allow sediment from land to be transported into waterways and ultimately the harbour
- Derelict oyster farms collect sediment
- Streambank and bed erosion contributes to increased sediment in waterways

- Foreshore erosion contributes to sediment entering the harbour
- Using highly erodible land too intensively
- Access to, and use of, riparian margins and waterways (e.g. stock access) causes erosion and destroys natural buffers
- Lack of vegetation to provide ground cover and capture sediment
- Forestry harvesting
- Soil exposure and disturbance at development sites
- Increase in stormwater and runoff from impervious surfaces as a result of growth and development in the catchment

## Other Contaminants

Other contaminants (e.g. nutrients, septic tank and agricultural leachate, fertiliser) enter the river and harbour directly or indirectly due to human use and management of land and these impact on the health of streams, the river and the harbour by affecting recreation, commercial use and habitat values.

Some of these contaminants can compromise water quality and make it unsafe for recreational users (e.g. swimming) and aquaculture. Poor water quality also affects ecology and biodiversity.

Particular issues include:

- Land use activities contribute other contaminants (e.g. nitrogen, faecal bacteria, fertilisers) that affect water quality (e.g. runoff of nutrients and biocides, septic tank leachate)
- Contaminants from specific discharge points (e.g. wastewater plants)



# The Issues

## Rural Activities

The Mahurangi Catchment has a rural character and rural activities are the basis of its economy.

The primary land use is rural production, particularly pastoral farming (64%), followed by native forest (20%), production forestry (8%) and roading (4-5%). Economic pressures for a return from the land can lead to more intensive land use practices or over application of fertilisers which then adversely affect the environment.

There can also be pressures on farmers to change land use if the rural activities are not profitable. Development can alter the rural aesthetic of the Mahurangi. Supporting a strong rural economy can reduce the pressures on farmers and facilitate improvements in land use practices and better environmental outcomes.

## Access, commercial and recreational use of the river and harbour.

The Mahurangi Harbour is a significant asset for commercial activities such as aquaculture, fishing and tourism. It is also widely used for recreational activities by locals and visitors. Maintaining its quality for these purposes is important.

Issues:

- Increased commercial (tourism) activities can bring economic benefits to the area
- Commercial and recreational use can result in conflicts between users
- Increased visitor numbers can put pressure on the environment
- Access up river is desired to enable recreation and commercial use
- Access to the coast benefits recreational values
- Moorings
- Proposed Marina

## Public Access and Recreation

Public walkways around the Mahurangi catchment and to and along the coast are limited in number and extent. There is a need for more public walkways and access so the Mahurangi can be enjoyed. There are many public spaces which could be linked.

Public access can affect the natural values of the coast (e.g. foreshore erosion, natural character values, specific ecological values) and generate visitor numbers which exacerbate adverse effects. Some public spaces may therefore benefit from limits on public access.

In some areas natural coastal processes may affect the public access in the long term through foreshore erosion of existing walkways.



# The Issues



Jane Gifford on the Mahurangi



Mahurangi harbour from above Huawai Bay

## Access and Navigation of the River and Harbour

The sedimentation problems in the Mahurangi Harbour have affected the ability for navigation of vessels on the river and harbour.

There is also a lack of public access to the coast associated with navigation of the harbour including:

- Limited opportunities for all tide access to boat ramps
- Limited facilities at boat ramps
- Mangroves encroach onto open water reducing navigation and use of the river and harbour
- Pressure on mooring space (e.g. future needs for mooring areas and marinas)

## Visual Character of the Mahurangi

The Mahurangi catchment is a highly scenic area. All land in the catchment contributes to the visual quality of the area. Changes to vegetation patterns or subdivision and built development result in visual change. A key feature of the character of the area is the strong visual connection between land and sea. The natural character of the coastline is also important. These elements are important to residents and to visitors and therefore also reflect the recreation and commercial attributes of the areas.

Issues:

- The quality of the visual and physical connection between the land and the harbour/water is integral to the character of the catchment.
- The natural character of the coastline can be threatened by development. Many parts of the coastline are relatively unmodified.
- Changes in rural activities can also affect the visual qualities of the Mahurangi catchment e.g. changes to vegetation patterns
- Built development (subdivision, ancillary roads, driveways and structures) can change the landscape through earthworks
- Loss of vegetation has a visual / landscape impact as well as contributing to sedimentation
- Subdivision and development provides an opportunity for landscape protection and enhancement.
- Built structures can adversely impact the natural qualities.



# The Issues



Unmodified stream in the Mahurangi catchment



Historic cement works

## Cultural Heritage

The Mahurangi Catchment has an important heritage. Communicating this heritage to current and future generations is important. Getting the community better involved in managing this heritage is beneficial.

Some heritage sites are becoming degraded due to lack of maintenance.

Generally better access to heritage sites is appropriate however in some cases there may be a conflict between use/access and protection.

Many of the Mahurangi's cultural heritage sites are closely linked with coastal areas around the harbour and river. The 'Enjoyment of the Mahurangi' section is also interrelated with heritage issues. The access strategy identified to promote coastal walkways and public open space can also be supplemented by including heritage sites in this strategy.

Cultural heritage therefore has a strong linkage to actions for commercial activities, recreation and visitor activities.

## Natural Heritage/ Biodiversity/ Ecological Values

There are many areas of natural heritage significance within the Mahurangi catchment, this includes sites of ecological significance such as remnant areas of bush, wetlands, riparian areas, Manuka and Kanuka scrubland, and coastal vegetation and estuarine habitats.

Sediment and contaminants in the river and harbour have reduced the quality of the marine and freshwater environment as habitat. On land, deforestation of the Mahurangi has resulted in the loss of habitats for many native birds, animals and plants. The fragmented nature of existing habitats is a continuing threat to remaining species, in particular in preventing species movement between habitats.

In addition, natural heritage values have social, economic, and cultural importance to the community.





## **Objectives and Priority Actions 2010-2016**



# Objectives and Priority Actions 2010-2016

This section sets out key objectives and corresponding priority actions to address the identified values and issues facing the Mahurangi over the following five years. Please note that some of the actions outlined below are existing or extension of existing actions, others are new. Some will take longer than five years to achieve.

For each action a proposed method of delivery is included. The key methods are:

- Research/policy – studies to be instigated/commissioned and monitored by the Council
- Education – to inform best practice
- On the ground implementation

Objective	Action	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe	Monitoring	Indicators
Healthy harbour, river and land						
1. <b>Sediment generation is reduced</b>	1. Develop a riparian management programme (including retiring, fencing and replanting of riparian and foreshore corridors) including prioritising and funding	Implementation programme and funding set aside in annual budget.  On the ground implementation	Auckland Council Landowners	Begin by 2011-12 financial year	Annual progress against strategy	Plan prepared within timeframe.  Hours of volunteer contribution.  Mangroves have retreated
	2. Plant shoreline margins, and fence where adjoining land will be grazed	For both Actions 2 and 3:  On the ground in line with Action 1 supported by Auckland Council and other sources. Education	For both Actions 2 & 3:  Landowners responsible for delivery.  Landcare groups	Immediate & ongoing	For actions 2 and 3 : Reduction in sediment generation.	Number of linear metres of shoreline and stream margin fenced and planted.
	3. Plant stream margins, and fence where adjoining land will be grazed			Immediate & ongoing		Number of plants in the ground  Measure sediment yield in water.  Mangroves have retreated



Objective	Action	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe	Monitoring	Indicators
<b>2. Vegetation cover is maintained and increased</b>	4. Educate on best practice methods of development and land use (e.g. roading, farming, forestry); simple stormwater solutions (green engineering and Low Impact Design (LID) as techniques to reduce the impact of stormwater from heavy rainfall/ storm events); balancing economic return and environmental effects of land use; and promote engagement with land user groups to promote less sediment generating forms of land use (e.g. farm forestry, indigenous forestry, permaculture groups and Federated Farmers	Education resources by council, delivery by landowner and industry groups	Auckland Council working with landowners and industry groups	Immediate and ongoing	Improved information and education on best practice. Reduction in sediment generation.	Number of education seminars/leaflets produced. Measure sediment yield in water.
	5. Investigate options for foreshore protection to minimise and manage erosion in Mahurangi	Implementation programme and on the ground implementation	Auckland Council working with the local community	Begin by 2011-12 financial year	Comprehensive approach to foreshore management	Area of coastal frontage protected from erosion
	6. Plant the steeper hills in indigenous forest (either permanently or for commercial harvest) to increase resilience of the land and reduce sediment generation	Build on success of 'Open Ground Indigenous Plant Project' on the ground	Landowners, Forestry companies, Landcare groups	Immediate & ongoing	Survey of land cover	Number of hectares of steep land retired from farming and planted with indigenous forest (i.e non-harvested). Amount of indigenous forest commercially planted.
	7. Selectively plant the shoreline with a broad band of indigenous coastal vegetation to reduce foreshore erosion and increase resilience to sea level rise	On the ground implementation	Landowners of both public and private land	Immediate & ongoing	Reduction in coastal erosion	Number of hectares shoreline planted in indigenous coastal vegetation
	8. Protect Warkworth's river backdrop of indigenous forest	Provide incentives (e.g. rates relief, covenanting) to support retention of indigenous vegetation	Auckland Council to provide incentives to landowners	Immediate and ongoing	Visual change from river over time	Number of hectares of forest protected and restored.



Objective	Action	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe	Monitoring	Indicators
<b>A commercial asset</b>						
<b>3. Water quality is safe for commercial and recreational activities</b>	9. Continue assessment of sources, concentrations and effects of principal contaminants and non point source	Monthly monitoring of streams and waterways in set locations	Auckland Council/ Watercare/ Landowners	Immediate and ongoing	Stream health and performance of treatment devices for point and non-point sources of contaminants/ sediment  Improved quality of water for water-based commercial operations	Turbidity, dissolved oxygen, macroinvertebrate taxa etc
	10. Improve communication on the treatment and disposal of treated wastewater from Warkworth's treatment plant into the Mahurangi River	Education and information incorporating tikanga maori	Auckland Council/ Watercare	Begin by 2012-13 financial year	Improved information and education efforts	Number of info meetings Number of information leaflets published
	11. Improve water quality for the oyster farms	By putting into effect actions 8 & 9	As above in consultation with Oyster farmers	Immediate & ongoing	Success of oyster farms in production	Shellfish quality – e.g. number of shellfish beds closed to harvest, number of substandard produce
<b>4. An attractive harbour and river is maintained for recreational users (locals &amp; visitors)</b>	12. Remove derelict oyster farms	Identify any derelict oyster farms and remove all structures	Oyster farmers in conjunction with Auckland Council (coastal operations)	Begin by 2011-12 financial year	All oyster farms within the Mahurangi are fully operational	Number of operational and non-operational oyster farms
	13. Plan for future moorings and marina needs	Consultation with water users on appropriate locations for moorings/ marina	Auckland Council	Begin by 2012-13 financial year	Consultation process and locations identified for moorings / marina	Number of meetings and information sharing. Agreed plan for moorings and marinas.
	14. Operate the <i>Jane Gifford</i> as a floating classroom for young people to study the Mahurangi river, harbour and catchment	Continue the existing project work already begun within the community	Jane Gifford Trust with support from others	Immediate & ongoing	Increased awareness of environmental issues within the Mahurangi	Number of students using Jane Gifford per annum



Objective	Action	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe	Monitoring	Indicators
5. A mix of recreational and commercial uses is available at major access points	15. Further develop the Warkworth Town Basin	Use policy/planning tools to enable a range of recreational and commercial uses	Auckland Council in consultation with local businesses	Immediate and ongoing	Development in basin against identified objectives	Number of new recreational and commercial uses within Warkworth Town basin
Enjoyment of the Mahurangi						
6. Access to the river and coast is readily available from land and water	16. Secure more public access to the coast and develop connected walking trails	Develop an integrated access (walking, cycling etc), open space and recreation strategy for the catchment including identifying sensitive locations where access should be discouraged	Auckland Council, local community and landowners	Begin by 2011-12 financial year	Access strategy prepared and implemented thereafter	Annual progress against access strategy
	17. Create an all-tide landing at Mahurangi West	Construction works for Mahurangi West	Auckland Council	Begin by 2012-13 financial year	Access improved through all tide landing for vessels	Landing properly constructed
	18. If economically feasible create an all-tide landing at Dawson Creek	Commission economic feasibility study for Dawson Creek.	Auckland Council in consultation with local community groups	Begin by 2012-13 financial year	Access improved through all tide landing for vessels	Landing properly constructed
	19. Enhance Dawson Landing and build on the Te Whau walkway to Goodall Reserve	Extend the walkway project	Auckland Council in consultation with Goodall Advisory Committee	Immediate and ongoing	Access improved	Walkway completed
	20. Investigate options to improve navigation access of the Mahurangi River including access to Warkworth by water	Study has been instigated and needs to be expanded to examine all options including dredging. Commercial use of dredged material to be explored	Local community	Begin by 2011-12 financial year	Vessels able to navigate river	Channel deepened enough for navigation

Objective	Action	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe	Monitoring	Indicators
<b>A natural harbourscape and a robust landscape</b>						
<b>7. The sense of Mahurangi being “a million miles from the metropolis” is preserved</b>	21. Research the land use and subdivision pressures on the Mahurangi	Study could inform future planning for rural Mahurangi	Auckland Council	Begin by 2014-15 financial year	Compare aerial photographs over time to monitor change	Number of subdivisions in 5-year period
	22. Protect ridgelines and highly visible areas from visually obtrusive development	Use planning controls to restrict development in such places	Auckland Council	Begin by 2012-13 financial year	Ridgelines protected from visible development.  Compare aerial photographs over time to monitor change	Zoning and number of new developments in highly visible locations
	23. Further develop the ‘Locker lookout’ above Huawai Bay	Add to existing facilities at this lookout/lay-by	Auckland Council	Begin by 2011-12 financial year	Lookout development	‘Locker lookout’ developed to  Community satisfaction
	24. Develop other ridge road lookouts/lay-bys	Install carpark, picnic spots and interpretation at public vantage points on the ridge roads as appropriate and restrict access to day-time hours only	Auckland Council	Begin by 2012-13 financial year	Lookout development	Number of appropriate facilities developed at lookouts



Warkworth and the Mahurangi



Mahurangi harbour from above Huawai Bay

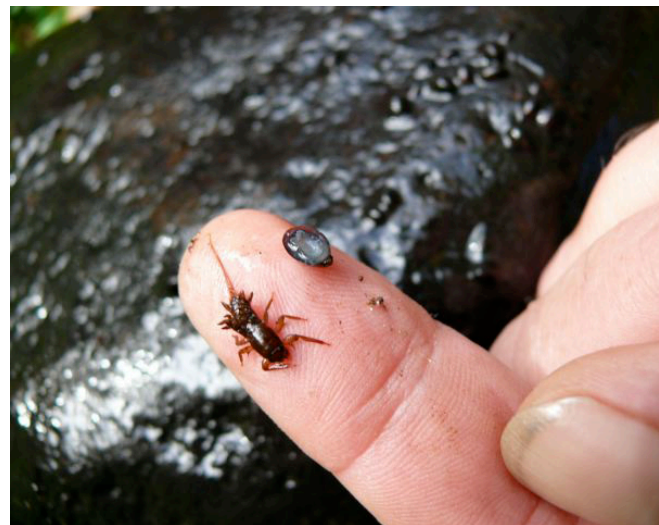




Objective	Action	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe	Monitoring	Indicators
<b>Heritage</b>						
<b>8. Cultural heritage resources are protected for future generations</b>	25. Continue to develop community-led projects including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warkworth-Wilson Cement works walkway</li> <li>• Water-based heritage trail</li> <li>• Mahurangi regatta</li> </ul>	On the ground community-led projects with support of Heritage Agencies	Local community supported by Heritage Agencies	Immediate and ongoing	Increased community awareness of heritage resources	Heritage walkways completed. Water-based heritage trail established. Number of boats in Mahurangi regatta
<b>9. Habitat areas retained and enhanced and new ecological connections made</b>	26. Develop and implement a restoration plan, including a weed and pest control programme, that seeks to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and restore existing areas of ecological significance</li> <li>• Promote the restoration of ecological corridors through revegetation and protection of existing vegetation;</li> <li>• Protect and restore isolated bush remnants; and</li> <li>• Strengthen indigenous vegetation corridors through riparian planting</li> </ul>	On the ground community-led projects with incentives from the Council	Local community landcare groups supported by Auckland Council	Immediate and ongoing	Monitoring to be developed as part of strategy	Annual progress against the plan



Mahurangi Regatta



Freshwater macroinvertebrate



MAP 3 year old planting



## **Medium to Long Term Actions**



# Medium to Long Term Actions

The following are the remaining actions that have been developed through consultation with the community, ARC and RDC. These represent a list which can be drawn from and implemented over time either as interest is generated or the actions rise in priority. Some of these actions are already underway.

Objectives	Actions	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe
<b>Healthy harbour, river and land</b>				
<b>1. Sediment generation is reduced</b>	27. Encourage the development and implementation of sustainable farm and property plans for farms not already within MAP.	Council to educate, landowners to implement	Council	Ongoing
	28. Promote effective use of incentives (e.g. rates relief, covenanting) to support improved land use practices and selective retirement of land not already within MAP	Council to incentivise / landowners to implement	Council	10 years plus
	29. Develop awards for land use best practice initiatives	Community representatives	Community	5 years plus
<b>2. Soil quality improved</b>	30. Public education to help improve soil quality and Visual Soil Assessment (VSA) demonstrations	Demonstration days in conjunction with other field days and educational information	Landowners	10 years plus
<b>3. Sealed areas reduced</b>	31. Review, update and enforce regulatory controls for stormwater management	Council to undertake review	Council	10 years plus as part of regular plan review
	32. Limit hard surfacing or require better stormwater detention and management through LID	Council to undertake review	Council	10 years plus as part of regular plan review
<b>A commercial asset</b>				
<b>4. Water quality is safe for commercial and recreational activities</b>	33. Develop a stream health management strategy to monitor water quality and biodiversity in streams against an established baseline	As identified through integrated access, open space and recreation strategy (Action 16 priority actions)	Council	Ongoing
<b>5. An attractive harbour and river is maintained for recreational users (locals and visitors)</b>	34. Manage swimming areas by targeting identified degraded swimming areas for monitoring and enhancement, and maintaining quality swimming and water spots locations elsewhere (water clarity, swim-ability)	Regular monitoring of swimming areas	Council with local community groups	10 years plus

Objectives	Actions	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe
<b>6. A mix of recreational and commercial uses is available at major access points</b>	35. Identify key threats to water based commercial activity using tikanga maori and cross reference to water quality initiatives to identify if managed through current processes	Information on existing threats gathered from industry groups incorporating tikanga maori	Council with local industry groups (e.g. oyster farmers)	10 years plus
	36. Undertake research into the land pressures on the Mahurangi (including subdivision potential, potential effects of this subdivision and effectiveness of existing rules	Council	Council	Ongoing as will affect new plans for area
	37. Identify and develop suitable access spots for commercial ventures (e.g. town basins, kayak access, kayak trail, riverfront café etc)	As identified through integrated access, open space and recreation strategy (Action 16 priority actions)	Community	5 years plus
	38. Identify sites (including river, inner and outer harbour) where visitor numbers need management to protect the asset	Council to commission study	Council	5 years plus
	39. Improve information resources to educate visitors on the important values of the Mahurangi (e.g. via i-site and on internet)	Community representatives to implement education	Community particularly tourism groups	5 years plus
	40. Brand the visitor assets of the Mahurangi (e.g. kowhai festival – “Kowhai coast”)	Branding exercise and local awards for sustainable tourism ventures/ innovative tourism management Community representatives of locations to nominate	Locally based tourism groups	10 years plus
	41. Advocate for resourcing to support tourism management in the Mahurangi from groups such as Tourism Auckland	Community/business association to arrange with sponsors	Support from Tourism Auckland	10 years plus
	42. Appoint business co-ordinator/group for particular industries or places (e.g. Warkworth) and build capacity in businesses toward more sustainable tourism (e.g. mentoring)	Establish local group and position of co-ordinator	Tourism representatives/ local business association	10 years plus
	43. Investigate any appropriate new uses e.g. aquaculture ventures, future moorings and marina needs	Council to study	Council	10 years plus



Objectives	Actions	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe
Enjoyment of the Mahurangi				
<b>7. Access to the river and coast is readily available from land and water</b>	44. Continue to plan a Warkworth – Snells Beach walkway	Community to instigate with support from Council and other sources	Community/ Council	10 years plus
	45. Safeguard public land (e.g. paper roads) from being appropriated privately and sign them	Monitoring	Council and other public landowners	Ongoing
	46. Develop a greater range of track construction standards (i.e. so Council standards enable tracks rather than urban quality walkways to be developed)	Policy/development of standards	Council with other organisations	5 years plus
	47. Secure more public access to and along the coast (including voluntary access agreements and incentives to access private land; and formalising existing informal access agreements)	On the ground	Landowners in conjunction with Council	Ongoing
	48. Map existing formalised esplanade reserve to identify current and desired connections	Desktop exercise	Council – using existing data	5 years plus
	49. Identify paper roads and provide for public access (including for launching small vessels (e.g. kayaks) where appropriate)	Education and on the ground	Council and Scotts Landing community	Ongoing
	50. Improve day to day management of open space (e.g. local wardens, rubbish bins, security)	On the ground	Community groups	5 years plus
	51. Provide better water based signage for navigation and safety and promote use of GPS where available to identify best navigation channel	On the ground	Council and harbourmaster	Ongoing
	52. Provide infrastructure for recreational boating where appropriate (all tidal access, mooring, launching and refuelling) and manage the effects (i.e. traffic, parking)	On the ground	Council with local boat clubs	5 years plus

Objectives	Actions	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe
<b>A natural harbourscape and a robust landscape</b>				
<b>8. The naturalness of the coastline and harbour is preserved</b>	53. Promote a local vision for landscape outcomes between land and water and where they interface for the Mahurangi	Community survey instigated by Council	Council	5 years plus
<b>9. The sense of Mahurangi being “a million miles from the metropolis” is preserved</b>	54. Further develop the Council’s “development design guideline” for appropriate landscape and visual outcomes	Policy development	Council	10 years plus – for plan review process
<b>10. The way the land is used and developed is consistent with the rural character of the Mahurangi</b>	55. Educate and support good design (e.g. through toolkit and design awards) to support good landscape outcomes	Education and incentives	Council to instigate	10 years plus
	56. Promote the rural economy so landowners have the funds to enhance rural land	Education	Rural landowners	Ongoing
<b>11. New subdivision and development brings about a net gain to the landscape values</b>	57. Require, through subdivision rules, enhancements to land to bring about landscape improvements.	Policy	Council	Ongoing
	58. Identify and protect special viewshafts through public survey and selection of prime public views	Public survey and policy development	Council	5 years plus
	59. Identify special landscapes / areas where change is not desired (i.e. outstanding natural landscapes)	Public survey and policy development	Council	5 years plus
	60. Protect identified areas through planning controls including restrictions on development in the coastal fringe where these areas have high natural character	Policy development	Council	10 years plus plan review
	61. Monitor landscape to pre-empt adverse landscape change	Compare aerial photographs over time and public survey	Council	Ongoing



Objectives	Actions	Method of delivery	Lead Parties	Timeframe
Heritage				
<b>12. Cultural heritage resources are protected for future generations</b>	62. Promote local heritage sites including fostering a better understanding of the significance of local sites	Community heritage groups	Council	5 years plus
	63. Include heritage sites within the access strategy to ensure sites are connected and accessible and to identify and protect sites which could be adversely affected by public access	Council to include in strategy	Council	Ongoing
	64. Ensure any heritage projects inform visitors as to the wider context of the heritage site	Identify context in the signage and interpretation material of heritage sites.	Council	5 years plus
	65. Provide improved visitor amenities (e.g. car parking, rubbish bins, toilets) at appropriate heritage sites or access points for heritage trails	Identify key sites and construct facilities as appropriate.	Council	10 years plus
	66. Work with tangata whenua to re-identify and protect recorded sites of significance to Maori within the Mahurangi	Tangata whenua to identify sites to council as appropriate.	Iwi/Council	Ongoing
	67. Statutory protection for significant items not currently protected or discovered in the future	Community including tangata whenua to advocate sites. Council / Historic Places Trust to protect	Council	5 years plus
	68. Identify sites at risk of deterioration or under threat from natural processes (e.g. foreshore erosion) or human activities (e.g. earthworks)	Community heritage groups to identify to council	Community heritage groups	5 years plus
	69. Identify priority sites/items for protection (as all sites under threat can't be addressed immediately).	Council	Council	Ongoing
	70. Ensure park management plans reflect heritage issues (from local, regionally and nationally significance)	Council to include in plan drafting, Ngati Whatua and community to advise on local issues	Council	Ongoing