

# Part 2

## Resource management overview

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## 2.1 Introduction

This part of the Plan describes the characteristics that make up the islands, sets out the statutory context of the Plan, describes how the Plan encourages sustainable management and identifies broad gulf-wide resource management issues and related objectives.

## 2.2 Description, environment and resources

The islands are spread over a large area of the Hauraki Gulf and are a significant part of Auckland City. The islands contain substantial natural and physical resources which include location, climate, topography and landscape. In particular, the landscape values inherent in the natural environment of the islands contribute to the unique identity of this part of the city. The landscape values include the:

- varied coastline
- rugged interior
- bushed slopes
- sweeping white sand beaches on north and eastern coastlines
- extensive wetland and estuarine systems
- significant and extensive wildlife habitats and ecological corridors
- bays and coastal headlands with significant areas of native bush and shrubs.

The natural environment has been modified significantly in some areas by historical land use practices and development of physical resources including buildings and structures. In some areas the built environment dominates, but in others it is well integrated with the natural landscape features. The islands are an essential part of the city's heritage as a place of conservation and preservation of the natural environment, as well as an area where wide opportunities exist for recreational activities.

The people who live, work, visit, or own land in the islands are the human resource which enhances these natural and physical resources. They influence the pattern of development and their enterprise will ensure its future viability and prosperity. Consideration must be given to the integration of the natural and physical environment and the complex set of issues that development of the islands brings with it. Conservation of the landscape and natural environment; respect for and protection of heritage values; and the fostering of cultural aspirations, are all issues which need to be addressed in the management of future development on the islands.

Limited land use capacity coupled with infrastructural constraints means that the potential use of land for particular intensive activities is limited. Transport linkages are crucial to development potential, as well as being instrumental in facilitating appropriate recreational opportunities consistent with a conservation ethic. Sensitive control coupled with innovation and initiative will be essential to the proper management of the future development of the islands.

The character of the islands has also been influenced by the nature and qualities of its people who, from the early Maori inhabitants to the later European settlers, turned the islands into a special place to live and visit.

Maori have a history of long occupation on different islands and this is evidenced by a large number and range of archaeological sites which can be identified today. The islands have played a significant part in Maori pre-history and history, dating from the time of the arrival of the first canoes in Aotearoa.

While European heritage is far more recent, there is a rich and varied history of European settlement and activities. Many resident families have origins tracing back to those early settlers.

Further information about the history of human settlement in the islands can be found in [annexure 1a – The history of human settlement of the islands](#).

A simple summary of the island's resources would include the coastline, the unique natural landscape, the diversity of cultures and people, the built environment and clusters of communities, and the transport networks.

## 2.3 Statutory context

The RMA is the primary statutory document governing the Plan. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 also needs to be considered as do a range of other national and regional planning documents.

### 2.3.1 Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of the preparation, implementation and administration of the Plan is to assist the council to carry out its functions in order to achieve the purpose of the RMA. The council's functions are further described in section 31 of the RMA but they are, broadly, to manage and control the effects of the use, development and protection of land.

The purpose of the RMA is 'to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources'. Section 5(2) defines 'sustainable management' as follows:

- "2. In this Act, 'sustainable management' means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while–
- a. Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
  - b. Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
  - c. Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment."

Environment is defined in section 2 as including:

- "a. Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
- b. All natural and physical resources; and
- c. Amenity values; and
- d. The social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this definition or which are affected by those matters:"

Section 6 identifies matters of national importance, which need to be recognised and provided for in achieving the purpose of the RMA. Section 7 deals with 'other matters' which need to be given particular regard to in achieving the purpose of the RMA.

Section 8 requires the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti O Waitangi) to be taken into account in achieving the purpose of the RMA.

### 2.3.2 The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

The Plan covers considerable areas which are subject to the provisions of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (the 'HGMPA'). The purpose of the HGMPA is to:

- "a. integrate the management of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- b. establish the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park:
- c. establish objectives for the management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- d. recognise the historic, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship of the Tangata Whenua with the Hauraki Gulf and its islands:
- e. establish the Hauraki Gulf Forum."

The HGMPA requires the council to ensure that any part of the Plan that applies to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments does not conflict with sections 7 and 8 of that Act which recognise the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf and set out objectives for its management.

The HGMPA also requires the council, when considering an application for a resource consent for the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments, to have regard to the matters set out in sections 7 and 8 of the HGMPA.

The provisions of the Plan accord with those of the HGMPA. The council will have regard to the sections 7 and 8 of the HGMPA when considering any application for a resource consent that may reasonably impact on the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments.

The interrelationship between the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments and the ability of that interrelationship to sustain the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands are recognised as matters of national significance by the HGMPA and by this Plan.

Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the HGMPA are attached to the Plan as [appendix 10 – Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000](#).

### 2.3.3 Other statutory documents

The Plan is influenced by the planning documents of other agencies. Those documents include:

- national policy statements and the NZ coastal policy statement
- regional policy statements and plans
- management plans and strategies prepared under other legislation (such as the conservation management strategy prepared by the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act 1987).

Other influences include:

- iwi authority considerations
- the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Plan must give effect to any national policy statement, any NZ coastal policy statement and any regional policy statement (made operative after 10 August 2005). It must not be inconsistent with any regional plan.

## 2.4 Sustainable management

### 2.4.1 Concept of sustainable management

As noted above, the purpose of the RMA is 'to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources'. The concept of sustainable management is complex and involves a range of considerations, including the following elements:

- managing the adverse effects of human activities on the environment
- considering the natural environment
- enabling people to meet their needs
- considering future generations.

These four elements are briefly outlined below.

#### Managing the adverse effects of human activities on the environment

The use of natural and physical resources can result in damage to the environment. Controlling these effects is an important part of sustainable management. Their impacts can be managed by establishing environmental limits for the effects of development.

#### Considering the natural environment

The natural environment has values that are extremely important to the district. Where significant values are identified, the Plan is used to manage and protect the particular sites, areas and systems.

#### Enabling people to meet their needs

The Plan makes provision for activities that enable people to meet their needs and aspirations while at the same time it aims to ensure the environment can sustain the needs and aspirations of future

generations. This provides a level of certainty to the community about what can happen in their environment and gives people the ability to influence how things occur.

### **Considering future generations**

Each generation has a continuing obligation to leave future inhabitants of the district with a sustainably managed environment.

## **2.4.2 Sustainable management and the Plan**

The district plan is one of the tools used by the council to promote sustainable management. The district plan is most effective when it works together with the long-term community plan, the annual plan, and other council regulatory and non-regulatory methods and initiatives to promote good resource management outcomes.

The Plan will encourage, and in some cases require, particular methods to be used as part of development, to promote sustainable management.

Examples of these methods include:

- Controlling the type, scale and location of activities and development in order to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment.
- Protecting sites and items with significant heritage values including archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation areas, sites of ecological significance, geological items, and notable trees.
- Protecting areas of landscape significance.
- Including a sustainable design guideline to encourage low impact development (refer [appendix 11 – Sustainable design guidelines for the islands](#)).

## **2.5 Resource management issues and objectives**

### **2.5.1 Introduction**

This part of the Plan sets out the broad high-level issues and resulting objectives for the islands as a whole. [Part 3 – Strategic management areas](#) sets out issues and objectives and policies for particular islands or groups of islands. Other parts of the Plan have more specific issues, objectives, policies and rules relating to particular topics (such as heritage, natural hazards, hazardous facilities and contaminated land) or areas (such as a particular land unit or settlement area).

All the issues, objectives, policies and rules set out in the Plan are targeted at achieving sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

### **2.5.2 Sustainable management**

#### **Issues**

The significant resource management issues which need to be addressed in the Plan are:

1. How to encourage more sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
2. How to ensure that growth and development occurs in a manner that is consistent with sustainable management.

#### **Objectives**

1. To manage land use activities to ensure that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
2. To limit the intensity of subdivision and land use to a scale that is appropriate to the different characteristics of various island environments.
3. To promote more sustainable transport options such as walkways and cycleways as an alternative to use of the private motor vehicle.
4. To enable the growth of the local economy, including business and employment.

5. To encourage low impact methods of resource use and development including more sustainable building practices and cleaner production techniques.

### 2.5.3 Coastal

#### Issues

The significant resource management issues which need to be addressed in the Plan are:

1. How to encourage more sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of coastal environments.
2. How to manage the hazards posed to people, property, and the natural environment by coastal erosion and inundation by the sea (and considering the impact of climate variability).
3. How to recognise the requirements of coastal policy statements, plans and legislation (such as the National Coastal Policy Statement, Regional Coastal Policy Statement, and Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000) which apply to the islands.
4. How to ensure that development pressures do not result in adverse effects on sensitive coastal environments and unique coastal character.
5. How to ensure that public access to the coastal environment is maintained and improved.
6. How to ensure that land uses activities do not degrade coastal water quality due to:
  - sediment runoff from earthworks and erosion
  - effluent runoff from inadequate or malfunctioning effluent disposal systems
  - other contaminant runoff from roads or other hard surfaces.

#### Objectives

1. To ensure that coastal subdivisions provide for improved public access to the coast except where this is not practicable due to erosion or safety concerns.
2. To prevent subdivision and development in coastal areas where there is a high risk of natural hazards.
3. To limit the intensity of land use and subdivision to a level which is appropriate to the natural character of the coastal environments.
4. To limit and manage earthworks and vegetation clearance so as to avoid or minimise sediment runoff into coastal waters.

### 2.5.4 Landscape

#### Issues

The significant resource management issues which need to be addressed in the Plan are:

1. How to encourage more sustainable management of natural features and landscapes.
2. How to ensure that outstanding natural features and landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
3. How to maintain the dominance of natural features over built features in areas which are valued for their natural landscapes.

#### Objectives

1. To ensure that buildings and structures in area of significant landscape value are sited and designed in a manner which maintains the dominance of the natural environment.
2. To protect significant geological landforms and ecological areas from being destroyed, or degraded through alteration or other means.

3. To encourage the retention, management and enhancement of existing indigenous vegetation.
4. To achieve positive environmental benefits from subdivision and development such as planting and protection of significant environmental features.

### **2.5.5 Water**

#### **Issues**

The significant resource management issues which need to be addressed in the Plan are:

1. How to encourage more sustainable management of natural and physical resources so that activities occurring on land do not adversely affect water systems.
2. How to ensure that activities occurring on the land do not degrade or reduce the long term availability of water through natural systems such as aquifers and bores.
3. How to ensure that activities occurring on the land do not adversely affect the quality, quantity or flows of water in permanently flowing streams and rivers, lakes and wetlands due to:
  - sediment runoff resulting from vegetation removal, earthworks and erosion
  - effluent runoff from inadequate or malfunctioning effluent disposal systems
  - other contaminant runoff from roads or other hard surfaces
  - changing volumes of runoff due to an increase in hard surfaces.

#### **Objectives**

1. To limit and manage earthworks and vegetation clearance so as to avoid or minimise sediment runoff.
2. To ensure that new development uses appropriate methods to minimise runoff.

### **2.5.6 Natural environment**

#### **Issues**

The significant resource management issues which need to be addressed in the Plan are:

1. How to encourage more sustainable management of natural and physical resources so as to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the natural environment.
2. How to ensure that the development pressures do not result in adverse effects on the natural environment. This includes adverse effects on:
  - indigenous vegetation and fauna habitat
  - coastal areas
  - wetlands
  - the margins of lakes and rivers
  - water resources
  - the natural character of the landscape
  - areas of high ecological value
  - geological features.
3. How to prevent the loss and degradation of significant ecological features. This can result from:
  - removal of indigenous vegetation
  - sediment runoff from vegetation removal, earthworks and erosion
  - reduced water quality, or changes in the quantity or flow of water
  - pest and weed encroachment



- stock encroachment.

4. How to address conflicts between the use and preservation of the natural environment.
5. How to address the potential for mining, and its associated adverse effects on the natural environment.

### Objectives

1. To protect the significant elements of the natural environment.
2. To protect and preserve areas of significant ecological value.
3. To prohibit, throughout the islands, the introduction, keeping or farming of new organisms, and identified plant and animal pest species.
4. To prohibit mining throughout the islands.

## 2.5.7 Maori

### Issues

The significant resource management issue which needs to be addressed in the Plan is:

- How to ensure that matters of significance to Maori are not adversely affected by subdivision, use and development.

### Objectives

1. To provide for Maori to develop and manage their ancestral lands in a manner which meets their needs. On Waiheke, this includes the Ngati Paoa land at the eastern end and the Piritahi Marae. On Great Barrier this includes the Ngati Rehua land and marae at Motairehe and Kaoa.
2. To recognise and provide for the protection of waahi tapu and other ancestral sites in a sensitive and culturally appropriate manner.
3. To recognise in the Plan's provisions the kaitiakitanga role of Maori with mana whenua.

## 2.5.8 Human environment (other)

### Issues

The significant resource management issues which need to be addressed in the Plan are:

1. How to provide for a variety of lifestyle and residential opportunities including:
  - a range of residential property sizes
  - permanent residents, holiday homes, and accommodation for seasonal visitors.
2. How to manage the effects of the use and development of land in accordance with the requirements of the RMA without placing unreasonable restrictions and costs on residents and landowners.
3. How to manage diverse and conflicting aspirations about the way in which the resources of the islands should be used, developed or protected.

### Objectives

1. To ensure that residential development is undertaken in a manner which respects the character and amenity of the islands while allowing for a variety of lifestyle choices.
2. To ensure that the requirements of the RMA, Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 and other relevant legislation are adhered to within the Plan while appropriately and fairly applying the costs of this administration.
3. To appropriately balance the varying requirements and aspirations of residents and visitors to the islands while recognising and protecting its unique character and amenity.