

HGI Plan Review: section 32 report for the Okiwi settlement area

1.0 Executive summary

This report summarises the evaluation undertaken by the council for the method of development of the settlement area of Okiwi in terms of section 32 of the Resource Management Act. The scope of this report is to look at the areas identified within the settlement area and the borders of the settlement area. With regard to the implementation of objectives, policies and rules for the residential amenity and local retailing areas, these can be found in separate s32 reports.

The main conclusions are:

- That a settlement plan identifying appropriate activities in different parts of Okiwi is the most effective manner in which to manage the land resource within the settlement.
- That a list of appropriate activities is identified to reflect the nature and sensitivity of the delineated areas in the settlement.
- That in terms of growth for Great Barrier Island, provision has been made for a number of sites in the Okiwi settlement to be developed, subject to site constraints.
- That the Okiwi settlement area also recognise the function of Okiwi School and domain area, as well as the existing garage.
- The proposed provisions are the most appropriate way of achieving the purpose of the Act.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this report

This report has been prepared to meet the section 32 requirements of the Resource Management Act.

2.2 Proposed plan provisions

The proposed plan incorporates the method of settlement areas to manage the resources for the various settlements on Great Barrier. The proposed method differs from the policy areas in the operative plan, in that the underlying land unit “layer” and the controls associated with the land units have been removed, and replaced with a comprehensive place, activity, and development control based settlement area. Any relevant policies and objectives from the landscape based land unit have been integrated into the settlement area.

The approach taken is a “hybrid approach” - it manages effects in terms of development controls and also activity lists. This hybrid approach manages effects that cannot easily be quantified and managed by development controls, such as amenity effects and community values.

The approach has been to minimise the number of consents required for general building activity in the residential areas of Great Barrier, by replacing the existing controlled activity status with permitted standards where appropriate.

The settlement areas identify areas within them in which a certain range of activities can take place. The relevant areas in Okiwi are:

- Okiwi residential amenity area
- Okiwi local retailing area
- Okiwi School and domain area

There are no equivalent provisions for the Okiwi settlement area in the operative plan.

2.3 Operative provisions

Presently, the residential land at Okiwi is managed using a mixture of land units 5 (foothills and lower slopes) and 3 (alluvial flats). The current provisions provide a mismatch in terms of development controls that are intended for large lot development rather than 800-2000m² sites.

2.4 Consultation

This section of the report briefly outlines the consultation that the council has undertaken to date and identifies any issues raised of particular relevance to the Okiwi area.

2.4.1 Consultation to date

The council undertook consultation in 2005 in preparation for drafting the proposed Plan.

Initial consultation

The main consultation period was from April to July 2005. Consultation during that period consisted of:

- public meetings, workshops, nga hui, and one-on-one meetings,
- a photographic exercise on Waiheke, and
- inviting written feedback on a consultation document which contained issues and options papers on a wide range of topics.

Focus groups

At the close of consultation, the council analysed the feedback forms received. From these, key issues were identified that subsequently became topics for focus groups on based on Waiheke.

The four topics for the focus groups were:

- landscape
- transport
- sustainability
- future planning (including subdivision, growth, and providing for business activity).

A workshop was also held on Great Barrier to give a further opportunity to discuss issues raised through the feedback forms.

Telephone survey

The council commissioned an independent research company to undertake a phone survey in late 2005. The survey was of a randomly selected sample of 1002 on-island residents and off-island ratepayers of Waiheke, Great Barrier and Rakino. The questionnaire used for the survey was designed to get responses on the key issues that had emerged from the consultation process and stakeholder feedback.

The survey provided a means of canvassing the views of a wide range of people who may not have been previously involved in the consultation process.

Consultation with other stakeholders

During the preparation of a proposed plan, the council has also consulted with the following parties:

- the Auckland Regional Council (ARC)
- the Department of Conservation (DOC)
- tangata whenua
- network utility authorities
- Ministry for the Environment (MfE)

Public notification

Notification of the Plan provides an opportunity for further public participation through the formal submission and appeal process.

2.4.2 Issues raised during consultation

The following issues were raised in relation to Okiwi as part of the issues and options feedback.

1. Support a structure plan for Claris & Okiwi areas rather than a policy area approach [DOC]
2. Separate land units for Claris and Okiwi airfields.
3. Upgrade Okiwi to minimum wet weather use.

The summary of the consultation from the workshop from Great Barrier is attached as Appendix 5.

2.5 Issues

The issues for Great Barrier Island as a whole are:

1. How to protect the natural landscape character and natural features of the island.
2. How to assist economic growth on the island, particularly growth in the tourism industry.
3. How to provide for conservation and recreation activities on land owned by the Department of Conservation and other agencies.

4. How to recognise the particular character and identity of the island community.
5. How to encourage the further development of essential infrastructure on the island such as wharves, airports, telecommunications equipment, quarries and shared infrastructure such as water and wastewater systems and power generation.
6. How to recognise the relationship between Ngati Rehua and their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

The issues for the settlement areas are:

1. How to manage and facilitate growth within the existing settlement areas on Great Barrier without compromising the natural environment.
2. How to encourage activities within settlement areas that enable the community to provide for their social, cultural and economic wellbeing.
3. How to ensure that new activities within settlement areas are located so that they do not adversely affect other land uses.

2.6 Objectives

The objectives for the Okiwi Settlement are:

- 10b.11.2 To provide for residential development in the north of the island, and to support small scale commercial, education and recreation activities, while protecting existing vegetation and riparian areas.
- 10b.11.3 To maintain and enhance the low impact character of the residential amenity area.
- 10b.11.4 To recognise the importance of Okiwi School and sports fields to the northern Great Barrier community.
- 10b.11.5 To provide an area for commercial activities which are compatible with the character and scale of Okiwi, to service the north part of Great Barrier.

3.0 Statutory requirements under Part II, sections 31, 32, 72 and 76 of the Resource Management Act

Section 74(1) of the RMA states as follows:

A territorial authority shall prepare and change its district plan in accordance with its functions under section 31, the provisions of Part 2, a direction given under section 25A(2), its duty under section 32, and any regulations.

Section 31 sets out the council's functions for the purpose of giving effect to the Act. The council's functions include:

- (a) The establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district:

- (b) The control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development or protection of land...

Section 72 states as follows:

The purpose of the preparation, implementation, and administration of district plans is to assist territorial authorities to carry out their functions in order to achieve the purpose of this Act.

The following provisions of section 76 are also relevant:

- (1) A territorial authority may, for the purpose of –
 - (a) Carrying out its functions under this Act; and
 - (b) Achieving the objectives and policies of the plan, - include rules in a district plan.
- ...
- (3) In making a rule, the territorial authority shall have regard to the actual or potential effect on the environment of activities, including, in particular, any adverse effect.

In achieving the purpose of the Act, the council must carry out an evaluation under section 32 of the RMA before publicly notifying a district plan or a plan change. Section 32(3), (3A) and (4) state as follows:

- (3) An evaluation must examine –
 - (a) the extent to which each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act; and
 - (b) whether, having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness, the policies, rules, or other methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives
- (3A) This subsection applies to a rule that imposes a greater prohibition or restriction on an activity to which a national environmental standard applies than any prohibition or restriction in the standard. The evaluation of such a rule must examine whether the prohibition or restriction it imposes is justified in the circumstances of the region or district.
- (4) For the purposes of the examination referred to in subsections (3) and (3A), an evaluation must take into account –
 - (a) the benefits and costs of policies, rules, or other methods; and
 - (b) the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the policies, rules, or other methods.

The statutory requirements, including section 32 matters, are assessed below under the following headings:

- The extent to which each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act
- Whether the policies, rules, or other methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives
 - having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness
 - taking into account the benefits and costs of policies, rules, or other methods
 - taking into account the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the policies, rules, or other methods.

3.1 The extent to which each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act

3.1.1 The purpose of the Act

Section 5 states that the purpose of the Act is 'to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources'. Section 5(2) states:

- (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 of the RMA 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 of the RMA identifies matters of national importance, which need to be recognised and provided for in achieving the purpose of the Act. The matters of particular relevance to the Okiwi settlement area are identified below:

Clause		
(a)	The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development	✓
(b)	The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development	✓
(c)	The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna	✓
(d)	The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers	✓
(e)	The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga	✓
(f)	The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development	
(g)	The protection of recognised customary activities	

Section 7 deals with 'other matters' which, in achieving the purpose of this Act, persons exercising functions and powers under the Act shall have particular regard to. The matters of particular relevance to the Okiwi settlement area are identified below:

Clause		
(a)	Kaitiakitanga	

(aa)	The ethic of stewardship	
(b)	The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources	✓
(ba)	The efficiency of the end use of energy	
(c)	The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values	✓
(d)	Intrinsic value of ecosystems	✓
(f)	Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment	✓
(g)	Any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources	✓
(h)	The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon	
(i)	The effects of climate change	
(j)	The benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy	

Section 8 provides that in achieving the purpose of the Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti O Waitangi).

3.1.2 Appropriateness in achieving the purpose of the Act

The objectives for Great Barrier and for Okiwi seek to manage the land resource by containing the more densely populated settlements within a certain boundary in existing settled areas, away from areas of outstanding natural landscape. The objectives for Okiwi are based on an overall direction for the settlement, and objectives for each of the activity-based areas identified within the settlement. In particular, they seek to provide for further growth for Great Barrier, to enable and sustain the social wellbeing of the Great Barrier community.

The settlement areas introduce a range of human activities to the planning framework for Great Barrier, recognising the importance for economic, social and cultural activities in an area where these co-exist with the natural environment. Consideration has been given to similar or dominant activities that identify the characteristics of a particular area. By providing for these activities, the community is able to provide for its social, cultural and economic wellbeing by providing for appropriate activities in similar locations.

In terms of the natural environment, the objectives seek to maintain the life-supporting capacity and intrinsic values of ecosystems that still remain within the Okiwi settlement area, as well as their amenity values. For Okiwi, these can be found in the stream areas along the valley floor, which have been identified as a site of ecological significance. An integrated approach to these areas at the time of subdivision will ensure their ongoing protection.

The objectives could be structured around a purely effects-based approach, where any activity can occur depending on its effects. In this case, activities occur on an ad-hoc basis, with no guidance or structure as to where activities occur. This may result in inappropriate activities locating next to each other, creating cross-boundary conflicts. It is considered that the provision of activity-based areas will allow for better development in terms of associating similar activities together, creating a better “feel” for the township and consolidating commercial development to form a better sense of place. In addition, the reverse sensitivity effects of different activities conflicting will be reduced. A purely effects-based approach, while addressing a number of environmental effects on the environment, is not considered to be an integrated management approach, as it is not able to provide for un-measurable effects such as amenity and community values.

It is considered that the structure and content of the objectives based around activities is therefore the most appropriate means for meeting the purpose of the Resource Management Act, and enables Council to fulfil its functions under s31, 72 and 74(1).

3.2 Whether the policies, rules, or other methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives

In terms of efficiency and effectiveness, the plan needs to be able to be easily implemented, understandable, manage adverse effects of activities, and provide an equitable balance between environmental, social, cultural and economic costs and benefits. In addition, there needs to be a clear relationship between the objectives for the land, the policies that will be implemented by the Council, and the rules which will achieve the objectives.

The following describes these relationships.

10b.3.1 Objective

To provide for limited growth in existing settlements while protecting the natural environment.

Policies

1. *By identifying areas in which additional subdivision can occur within the Okiwi and Claris settlement areas.*
2. *By identifying boundaries that limit the expansion of the settlements into surrounding areas in order to avoid the spread of development into sensitive natural areas.*

The policies identify areas that are targeted for growth, and also how the limits to growth within the settlements will be managed and the reasons for limiting growth, so that natural areas are protected.

10b.3.2 Objective

To facilitate appropriate development in suitable places throughout the settlement areas, based on the type of existing activities.

Policies

1. *By identifying areas within the settlement areas that have common characteristics, so that these activities can support each other and limit adverse effects on more sensitive activities.*
2. *By ensuring that development maintains or enhances the high landscape and ecological values of Great Barrier*
3. *By limiting adverse effects of activities and encouraging or requiring low impact design methods including:*
 - a. *Onsite management and re-use of stormwater and wastewater*
 - b. *Noise insulation*
 - c. *Minimising impermeable surfaces*
 - d. *Utilising renewable energy sources*
 - e. *Maintaining or increasing indigenous biodiversity*

f. Mitigation of visual impacts of development

The policies determine three important aspects that determine what appropriate development is on Great Barrier, that is ensuring that similar activities are located in similar locations, maintain the high landscape and ecological values of GBI, and then limiting the adverse effects of activities.

10b.11.2 Objective - Okiwi settlement area

To provide for residential development in the north of the island, and to support small scale commercial, education and recreation activities, while protecting existing vegetation and riparian areas.

Policies

- 1. By limiting the adverse visual effects of buildings through standards on colour and ensuring that the natural landscape remains the dominant element in terms of visual amenity.*
- 2. By ensuring that development is subject to bulk, coverage and location controls, and where these standards are exceeded, that the adverse effects are avoided or mitigated.*
- 3. By limiting removal of indigenous vegetation in order that drainage, stormwater and sedimentation problems are reduced or avoided and landscape values are maintained.*
- 4. By requiring replanting of indigenous vegetation where new development requiring resource or subdivision consent is proposed.*
- 5. By protecting riparian areas around streams and requiring replanting to maintain water quality.*
- 6. By allowing for additional residential sites to be created within the Okiwi settlement area.*

The policies recognise the diversity of activities and potential for future growth at Okiwi. Of particular importance in achieving the objective is the protection of existing vegetation and riparian areas. Standards for colour have been developed to help to achieve integration of buildings with Great Barriers dominant natural environment, which exists in the Okiwi catchment in the regenerating upper slopes around the settlement.

10b.11.3 Objective – Okiwi residential amenity area

To maintain and enhance the low impact character of the residential amenity area.

Policies

- 1. By limiting the footprint of buildings to ensure that building sizes are of a residential scale.*

2. *By providing for home occupations and home stays as a permitted activity to enable an economic use of appropriate scale for residential sites.*
3. *By limiting activities that are likely to have a detrimental effect on residential amenity due to effects such as noise or traffic.*
4. *By ensuring that where new subdivision occurs, that it protects riparian areas and avoids culverting of stream areas in favour of bridging where necessary.*

The policies seek to maintain discrete, appropriate development in the residential areas, to ensure that residents can maintain an appropriate level of residential amenity. The existing patterns of development are recognised through the proposed boundaries of the policy area, as well as providing for new development that protects riparian areas.

10b.11.4 Objective – Okiwi School and Domain area

To recognise the importance of Okiwi School and sports fields to the northern Great Barrier community.

Policies

1. *By enabling a range of activities at Okiwi School to assist with sustaining its viability and provide a focus for the community of Okiwi.*
2. *By enabling the ongoing recreational use of the Okiwi Domain.*

The policies seek to provide an opportunity for appropriate activities that fall outside of the schools designation, and recognise the ongoing recreational use of the Okiwi domain. These will enable activities such as markets, from which the school might be able to raise additional financial support to supplement its operation.

10b.11.5 Objective – Okiwi local retailing area

To provide an area for commercial activities which are compatible with the character and scale of Okiwi, to service the north part of Great Barrier.

Policies

1. *By requiring assessment of the design, appearance, and scale of all buildings in the Okiwi local retailing area to maintain or enhance amenity of the Okiwi township.*
2. *By ensuring that new development in the local retail area blends with rather than dominates existing development.*
3. *By ensuring that premises are not used for residential purposes, except where it is for the purpose of managing other activities on the site.*

The policies seek to allow for a mix of visitor and retail uses, while protecting land for these uses from residential development. The policies recognise the value of good design in creating a sense of place for Great Barrier.

In summary, the policies have been carefully considered against the objectives, and are considered the most appropriate means of achieving the objectives.

The following section outlines the costs and benefits of different approaches for looking at the boundaries of the Okiwi settlement area. Outlined are the main alternatives which the council has considered as a means of achieving the objectives for Okiwi:

- Create a new activity-based settlement area that incorporates a single planning framework, providing for Okiwi School and domain, and local retailing activities. Enabling for growth of the settlement by identifying sites for expansion outside of the existing development pattern (Refer map at Appendix 1). Remove land unit provisions.
- Continue with the status quo - land units

While option 1 does provide for growth, the use of a structure plan for a single type of development (being residential) is not considered necessary due to the small scale of the expansion (approximate 50 new sites over four existing properties). The most effective and efficient method is for the sites to be identified then constraints considered at the time of subdivision.

3.2.1 Option 1

Create a new activity-based settlement area that incorporates a single planning framework, providing for Okiwi School and domain, and local retailing activities. Enabling growth of the settlement by identifying sites for expansion outside of the existing small lot development pattern. Remove land unit provisions.

Benefits	Costs
Provides for residential growth for Great Barrier (potentially up to 53 sites over four separately owned properties).	Current use of land is for pastoral farming, will result in retiring of small amounts of productive land.
Growth is provided for in close proximity to a school.	There will be a visual effect resulting from the expansion of the existing settlement (although the area to be expanded into is not considered to be an outstanding natural landscape).
Growth is provided for with smaller lot sizes (minimum 2000m ²), as indicated was needed in the economic assessment by Strateg.ease.	Further areas could be identified for local retailing adjacent to the garage if a need was identified.
The location is appropriate in terms of locating near the proposed marine reserve, with servicing activities possibly locating at Okiwi in the future.	Ability for higher impact activities to be located in the residential area is reduced.
Good access at Okiwi airfield in the summer months.	Individual property owners won't benefit from higher density provisions outside of the proposed settlement area that would allow them to subdivide their land.
The site of ecological significance can be protected by legal mechanisms at the time of subdivision.	May be seen as restricting freedom to undertake any activity anywhere.
Avoids sprawl of settlement boundaries.	

Provides for growth in an area where landscape quality is already modified.	
Avoids inappropriate developments (retail, higher impact activities) from occurring in areas of higher residential amenity	
A number of property owners will be able to subdivide properties, resulting in a private financial benefit.	
Allows different development controls for different areas within the settlement, rather than basing development controls on land units.	
By making similar activities in particular areas permitted, reduces costs of compliance by not always requiring a resource consent.	
Continues to allow for economic use of residential sites by allowing for home occupation/cottage industry type activities.	

The risk of acting or not acting

The option outlined above, which is the preferred option, is reasonably low risk. Any practical limitations to subdivision can be dealt with at the time of subdivision on a case-by-case basis. There is sufficient information from consultation, survey and economic work to determine a need for smaller residential sites, and the location is considered appropriate given the regional policies as outlined in section 5 of this report.

3.2.2 Option 2

Maintain the status quo - existing land unit 5

Benefits	Costs
Provides a planning framework based on characteristic of land type.	Inappropriate lot coverage provisions for small residential scale sites.
Familiar planning framework	Does not recognise Okiwi as a separate settlement.
	No provision for expansion of the settlement.
	High impact activities could establish on small sites, resulting in erosion of residential amenity of the area.
	No colour controls in existing LU 5, could result in adverse effects of highly reflective buildings in the landscape environment.

The risk of acting or not acting

There are no relevant risks of acting or not acting in terms of information in relation to this option, however this is not the most appropriate means of managing the land resource at Okiwi.

3.2.3 Conclusion

Having considered the costs and benefits of the different options that are available to Council, the most efficient and effective means of managing the land resource at Okiwi is Option 1:

1. Use the method of a settlement area identifying appropriate activities in different parts of Okiwi, and limiting the extent of the settlement area to the areas defined in Appendix 2.
2. That a list of appropriate activities is identified to reflect the nature and sensitivity of the identified areas in the settlement, and control these by way of different activity status and development controls.
3. That in terms of growth for Great Barrier Island, provision has been made for extending the settlement pattern at Okiwi to provide for additional growth for the northern end of Great Barrier.

3.3 Whether the proposed rules assist the council to carry out its function of control of actual or potential effects of the use, development or protection of land

The district plan, with the proposed settlement area and separate areas identified within it will assist with Council discharging its functions for controlling the action and potential effect of the use of land in Okiwi, as enabled by s72 and 74(1).

In particular, the changes reflect a review of the district plan, its objectives, policies and methods, that achieve integrated management of the use and management of land in the Okiwi settlement as required under s31. Particular rules regarding subsections (b), (d), and (e), and developed under s76, are set out in other s32 reports, relating to each of the sub-areas within the settlements.

4.0 National planning documents

4.1 National and NZ coastal policy statements

Section 75(3) of the RMA states:

- (3) A district plan must give effect to –
 - (a) any national policy statement; and
 - (b) and any New Zealand coastal policy statement; and
- ...

It is noted the settlement area is located away from the coast, however the proposed settlement area reflects the sustainable management of the land resource in the Okiwi catchment, which empties into the Whangapoua estuary. The proposed settlement area contributes to preserving the natural character of the coastal environment by encouraging appropriate development away from the coast where the character has already been compromised, and avoiding sprawling or sporadic subdivision, as outlined in Policy 1.1.1.

The settlement area does not contain any known areas of coastal Maori heritage, or any that have been requested to be identified in relation to Okiwi, however there are rules in the heritage section of the plan that require consents where archaeological sites are going to be affected by development.

It is considered that the approach taken gives effect to the policies set out in Chapter 3 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, with the remaining content of the statement not having relevance to the Okiwi settlement.

The relevant parts of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement have been appended as Appendix 2.

4.2 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

Section 9(3) of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, requires the council to ensure that:

... any part of a district plan that applies to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, does not conflict with sections 7 and 8 of this Act.

Section 7 recognises the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf and Section 8 provides management direction for the Gulf. Section 10 of the Act requires that sections 7 and 8 be treated as a New Zealand coastal policy statement under the RMA. Sections 7 and 8 are attached as Appendix 3.

In relation to the settlement area method and its boundaries, these recognise the importance of providing for the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the community of Okiwi, while at the same time protecting the life-supporting capacity of the ecosystems of the gulf from further inappropriate development outside of existing modified areas.

5.0 Regional planning documents

5.1 Regional policy statement

Section 75(3) of the RMA states:

- (3) A district plan must give effect to –
 - ...
 - (c) any regional policy statement.

The objectives, policies and rules of the settlement area give effect to the strategic objectives in chapter 2 of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS), particularly 2.5.1, objective 3, being to protect the soil resources, amenity values, rural character, landscape values and mineral resources of rural areas from the regionally significant effects of inappropriate subdivision, use or development. In addition, the delineation of the settlement area at Okiwi is consistent with 2.5.3.2.3(ii) that provides for definition of the limits of rural and coastal settlements to protect environmental values, and that the integrity of those limits are maintained. This will avoid small scale ad-hoc development outside of and adjoining the settlement areas.

It is considered that the settlement area addresses the issues set out in 7.2 of the ARPS and is consistent with the objectives 7.3.1-10. Subsequently, the proposal is consistent with the methods and policies set out in section 7.4. These relevant sections are attached as Appendix 4.

5.2 Regional plan

Section 75 (4) of the RMA states:

- (4) A district plan must not be inconsistent with –

- ...
- (c) a regional plan for any matter specified in section 30(1).

The objectives, policies and rules of the settlement area are consistent with the following:

- Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal,
- Auckland Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water,
- Auckland Regional Plan: Sediment Control
- Auckland Regional Plan: Farm, Dairy Discharges

The provisions that are of most relevance are:

- To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment by protecting the coastal marine area from inappropriate subdivision use and development.
- To maintain and enhance the diversity, integrity and landscape quality of the coastal environment.
- To maintain and enhance public access to, along and within the coastal marine area.

The provisions of the settlement area gives effect to the regional policy statement by avoiding activities and buildings that will have an adverse effect on the natural character of the coastal environment, and ensuring that the natural environment remains the dominant element in terms of landscape.

6.0 Procedures for monitoring

The council will monitor the effectiveness of the proposed provisions as a means of achieving the objectives and policies by:

- monitoring resource consents including the number of applications granted consent, compliance with consent conditions, and the effectiveness of those conditions
- monitoring complaints and enforcement actions
- undertaking land use surveys and ecological surveys
- monitoring trends through analysing statistics (census, building consents)
- monitoring the number of developed sites in the Okiwi settlement
- monitoring the number of subdivisions granted in the Okiwi settlement
- monitoring potential hazards in the Okiwi area

7.0 Conclusions

The feedback that was received as part of the consultation process on Great Barrier generally has been carefully considered in terms of how it affects the Okiwi catchment and the boundaries of the settlement. With the overall purpose being to provide for growth where it was needed, it was determined that the modified landscape qualities around Okiwi makes it an appropriate area for further development.

The duties and functions of council, and the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act have been used to develop the objectives for the settlement area, and as indicated in the assessment, the objectives achieve the purpose of the Act.

The policies and methods chosen by Council reflect the objectives for the settlement area, implementing efficient and effective means of achieving them. A qualitative consideration of the costs and benefits of different options considered indicate that the best option has been proposed. Furthermore, the proposed option is consistent with regional and national statutory documents.

Overall, the proposed settlement area is considered to fulfil the statutory requirements of s32 of the Resource Management Act.

Appendix 1 - Okiwi settlement area

Appendix 2 - Relevant sections of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

Appendix 3 - Sections 7 and 8 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

Section 7 states as follows:

Recognition of national significance of Hauraki Gulf

- (1) 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 matters of national significance.
- (2) The life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Gulf and its islands includes the capacity—
 - (a) to provide for—
 - (i) the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of the tangata whenua of the Gulf with the Gulf and its islands; and
 - (ii) the social, economic, recreational, and cultural well-being of people and communities:
 - (b) to use the resources of the Gulf by the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand for economic activities and recreation:
 - (c) to maintain the soil, air, water, and ecosystems of the Gulf

Section 8 states as follows:

Management of Hauraki Gulf

To recognise the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, the objectives of the management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments are—

- (a) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (b) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (c) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of those natural, historic, and physical resources (including kaimoana) of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments with which tangata whenua have an historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship:
- (d) the protection of the cultural and historic associations of people and communities in and around the Hauraki Gulf with its natural, historic, and physical resources:
- (e) the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the contribution of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments to the social and economic well-being of the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand:
- (f) the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, which contribute to the recreation and enjoyment of the Hauraki Gulf for the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand.

Appendix 4

Relevant provisions from the Auckland Regional Policy Statement

Appendix 5 - Summary of consultation from GBI workshop