

PART 4

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND STRATEGY - INNER AND OUTER ISLANDS





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PART 4 - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND STRATEGY - INNER AND OUTER ISLANDS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This part of the District Plan examines and outlines the resource management issues and associated strategies for the Inner and Outer Islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

Part 3 outlines the overall issues, strategies, outcomes and means for the Hauraki Gulf Islands. The resource management outcomes established in this part are consistent with those outcomes.

The Outer Islands as an entity, are significantly different from the Inner Islands, particularly in the extent of reserves and protected land; population size; and the relatively slow rate of development. There are some situations where the resource management strategy for the Inner and Outer Islands differ in a localised sense and, as a consequence, different criteria are used to assess land use activities. In each case however the final outcome must be the same and must be consistent with the overall strategy for the Hauraki Gulf Islands.

The consequence of those similarities is that there will be a number of rules contained in the Plan which are general to both the Outer and Inner Islands. Rules contained within the Plan relate to specific effects and impacts of land use activities which are managed consistently for the Hauraki Gulf Islands area as a whole. These include controls relating to the removal of vegetation; the extent of earthworks which may be undertaken; restrictions on modifications to the natural landscape, including the impact of buildings on ridgelines and other prominent places; sewage disposal; roading standards; subdivision; and the bulk and location of buildings. While these rules have commonality between both areas, local features still lead to different evaluation criteria so that local circumstances are recognised.

Resource Management Strategy Overview

Research and analysis of the Hauraki Gulf Islands undertaken in the development of this Plan has indicated a need to identify appropriate resource management units as a basis for managing land use and subdivisions. In determining these units the differences between the Inner and Outer Islands have been recognised as have the similarities. The particular characteristics of the units are outlined in detail in Part 5 of this Plan.

The key element of the resource management strategy is to recognise in the Plan, that the Inner and Outer Islands require separation as areas in order to adequately manage land use activities and subdivision so that the purposes of the Resource Management Act are met.

Within those two areas (the Inner and Outer Islands) management units called Strategic Management Areas are used as the basis for managing the environment.

In the Outer Islands, 17 Strategic Management Areas are identified and used as the basis for resource management. Those areas are based on the natural environment and provide the means to integrate resource management and to address cumulative impacts in particular.

This approach is the key element of the resource management strategy for the Outer Islands. Within each of the strategic management areas, the strategy seeks to address land use and subdivision issues by identifying and using land units (see definitions) as a means of relating resource management techniques to identified, discrete areas. The strategies outlined in Part 5 of this Plan further identifies how the Plan manages activities within strategic management areas and land units.

The rules outlined in Part 6 of the Plan address the specific details of how that management is to be achieved.

In the Inner Islands, (three) 3 Strategic Management areas are identified. Waiheke Island is divided into (two) 2 Strategic Management Areas, (the Western and the Eastern) with the Other Islands, comprising the third.

The Other Islands Strategic Management Area comprises a number of islands of the Inner Gulf where a conservation status predominates. The characteristics of those islands is fully described in Part 5 of the Plan and addresses the reasons why those islands constitute a discrete management area in their own right.

Waiheke Island has strategically been divided into two management areas for the purposes of the resource management strategy of this Plan.

While the Western Strategic Management Area contains some rural land having similar character and land use capabilities to that found within the Eastern Strategic Management Area, there are a number of reasons why a geographical split of the island into two parts for strategic management purposes is justifiable.

The identification of the key elements of the physical and natural environment which need appropriate protection to secure sustainable land use and management has after analysis of options led to the conclusion that there are sufficient distinctions between the **two parts of Waiheke Island** to justify a particular resource management approach to each of them.



These distinctions include the;

- potential scale and intensity of development arising from existing subdivision patterns and land use capabilities.
- amenity and visual character.
- economic growth and opportunities.
- population concentration and potentials and associated resource management impacts.
- regional policy directives and consequences.
- relationships to the coastal environment.
- appropriate resource management techniques necessary to achieve sustainable management.

In part 5 of this Plan the characteristics, issues and resource management strategies for each of two Strategic Management Areas are fully outlined.

Rural land contained within the Western Strategic Management Area fulfils a number of strategic functions necessary to achieve sustainable management. In particular the effects of land use activities within the existing subdivided urban areas are likely to be managed appropriately only where existing areas of rural land are maintained as visual and environmental buffers. This strategic function requires a wider continuity of management which cannot be adequately achieved by using the same land units as apply to rural land at the eastern end of Waiheke Island. As a result a different approach to management is necessary at a Strategic Management Area level. The split of Waiheke Island into two such areas achieves the purposes of the Act in this manner.

4.1 OUTER ISLANDS

4.1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Outer Islands of the Hauraki Gulf Islands Section of the District Plan comprise all of those islands which were previously contained within the Auckland City Transitional District Plan Great Barrier section. These islands include Great Barrier Island, Little Barrier Island, Mokohinau Islands, Rakitu (Arid) Island, Kaikoura Island, Broken Islands, and various other smaller islands or islets within the area. For the purpose of the Plan the Outer Islands comprise a discrete area having characteristics such that it is appropriate to view them as a whole from a resource management viewpoint. The Outer Islands comprise a unique natural environment relatively close to New Zealand's major urban area. They are an area of regional as well as national significance.

The Outer Island part of the Plan identifies 17 strategic management areas (SMAs) (refer Fig. 6) within which appropriate resource management occurs on the basis of rules specific to identifiable land units. In the Outer Islands there are 11 land units. This part of the Plan identifies resource management issues and a resource management strategy for the Outer Islands so that sustainable land use is facilitated. The resource management strategy for the Outer Islands establishes a major component of the resource management strategy for the Gulf Islands as a whole. Land use activities and subdivision are managed through specific District Plan rules which relate to both land units and to the objectives and policies for the particular strategic management areas to be found within the Outer Islands.

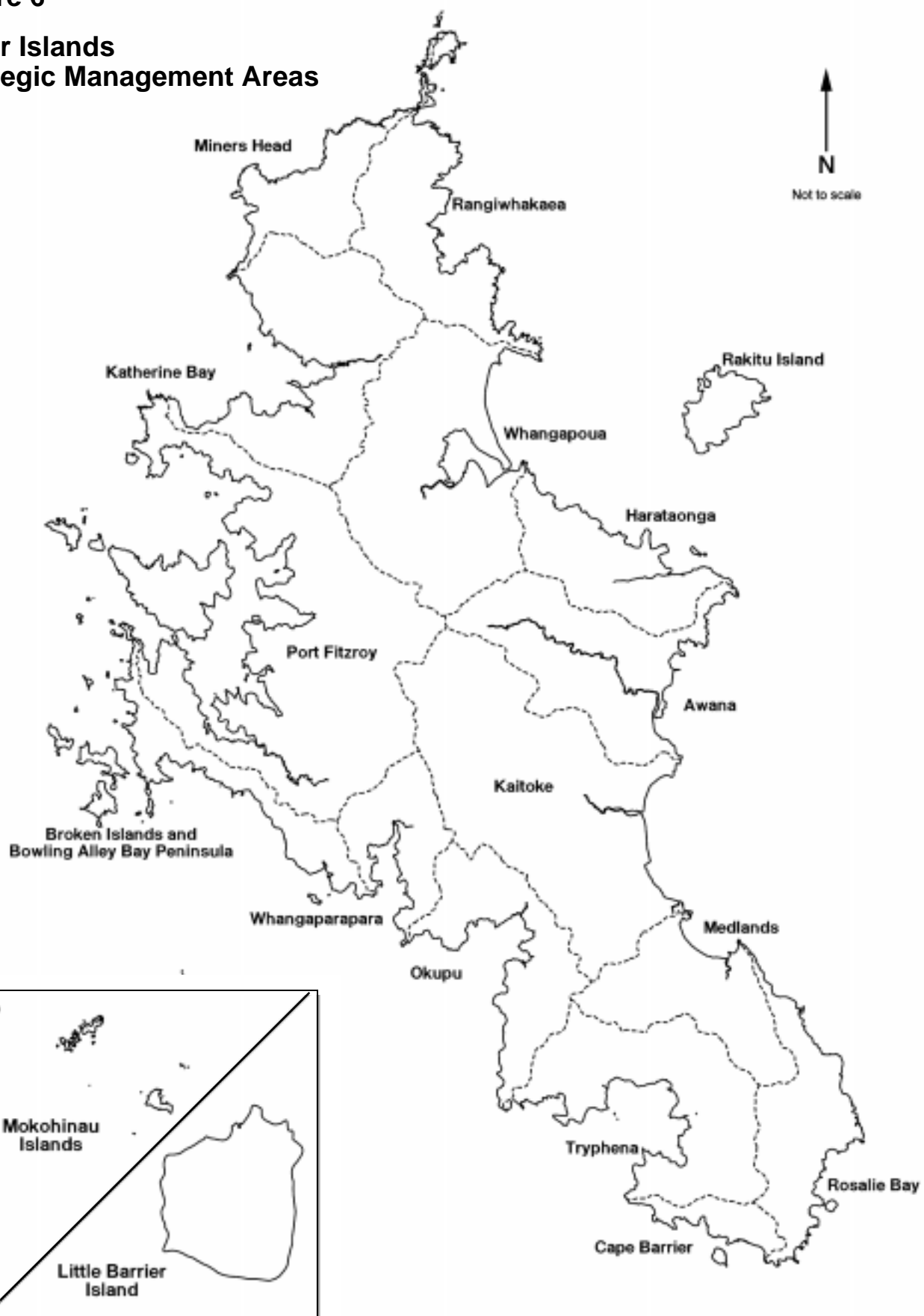
In the Outer Islands there are a number of locations which exhibit a need for a special approach to resource management in addition to the District Plan rules formulated in terms of land units. These areas are termed "policy areas". Objectives and policies for the policy areas provide an additional resource management mechanism allowing more specific goals to be achieved in terms of key areas in the Outer Islands.

Examples of those areas are the wharf areas at Port Fitzroy and Tryphena, Claris Airport and vicinity, Medlands beach area, and the Tryphena settlement areas. One of the primary purposes of using policy areas within the Outer Islands is to achieve the enhancement of the amenities of existing settlements. In this Plan it is recognised that this enhancement may be a long term exercise, but is necessary in order to draw those existing settlements into the framework of sustainable land use and resource management.



Figure 6

**Outer Islands
Strategic Management Areas**



4.1.2 DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENT

The Outer Islands comprise a special natural environment which provides a home for over one thousand residents. The Outer Island landscapes are dominated by coastlines and coastal influences, steep rugged forest clad hills, distinctive summit points, wetland habitats and pastoral land. The landscapes contain ecological systems supporting a range of wildlife habitats, including habitats for rare and endangered indigenous species of flora and fauna of national and international significance. The Islands are free of possums and other introduced animal pests such as mustelids. Currently approximately 65% of Great Barrier Island, together with several associated islands, is Crown Land under the management of the Department of Conservation (DOC). This status affords protection to those species and landscape features within that estate. The DOC land is subject to the constraints of a Conservation Management Strategy formulated pursuant to the provisions of the Conservation Act 1987.

Traditional sea links and the physical nature of these islands has resulted in a resident population characterised by scattered and independent settlements. The settlements have a strong sense of community spirit which is an important aspect of life on the islands.

The Ngati Wai iwi own large areas of land in the Katherine Bay area, together with a number of islands including Rangiahua Island (Flat Island), Mahuki Island (Anvil Island) and adjacent islands, and Aiguilles Island to the north of Great Barrier Island. A small number of Ngati Wai settlements occupy the area surrounding Katherine Bay, namely Motairehe and Kawa and also the offshore island, Rangiahua (Flat Island).

Limited employment prospects exist in usual areas of employment. Some people are forced to leave to find employment while others follow a subsistence lifestyle. The marine resources of the local waters support a productive commercial fishing industry, marine farming and recreational fishing. Pastoral farming is a significant component of the activities undertaken in the Outer Islands. Beef cattle and sheep farms form the majority of holdings. Marginal soil quality in many areas and high transport costs place limitations on the viability of traditional pastoral farming and horticultural practices. Many land areas are now being left to revert back to native shrubland. The opportunity exists for pastoral farming activities to better realise the productive potential of the land by using sustainable management techniques. A limited number of orchards and other intensive uses are in operation where soil quality permits. There is a heavy reliance upon the Auckland Region for agriculture, horticulture, commercial and industrial activity. As many residents rely on the wider

region for the purchase of major items, a substantial proportion of money leaves the local economy. This places limits on opportunities for economic growth on the islands themselves.

The Outer Islands, especially Great Barrier, have landscape features and ecological systems that form the basis of visitor attractions. Formally and informally there is physical access to lengthy coastlines, a number of popular beaches and harbours, scenic reserves and walkways, camp grounds, fishing, boating and historic sites. Structured around these attractions are bus tours, fishing trips and holiday accommodation. A significant number of holiday homes of non-permanent residents are located on Great Barrier Island, predominantly in coastal locations. A large number of people visit Great Barrier Island (around 35,000 per annum) with the majority originating from the Auckland Region. Visitor numbers are characterised by a summer peak, with numbers well in excess of 20,000 persons during summer. With the advent of improved transportation links to Auckland, the Outer Islands are likely to receive a steady increase in tourist and recreational visitors. As a consequence, there is likely to be increased pressure for development and land use activities.

4.1.3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

In order to formulate an appropriate resource management strategy for the Outer Islands, a number of resource management issues have been identified:

1. The need to balance conservation of the natural environment with the development of a sustainable local economy.
2. The need to recognise and provide for Maori social, spiritual and cultural values.
3. The need to provide for community needs in the context of sustainable development patterns.
4. The need to protect, conserve and enhance the special characteristics of the Outer Island's natural environment.
5. The need to integrate the provisions of the District Plan with any approved conservation management strategy for the Department of Conservation's Protected Area in the Outer Islands.
6. The need to provide for appropriate infrastructure, including transportation, telecommunication and radio communication links, energy, water supply, effluent and waste disposal techniques and a built environment, in a manner which is compatible with sustainable land use objectives.
7. The need to consider alternative opportunities for land use activities and development in the Hauraki



Gulf when considering development proposals in the Outer Islands.

8. The need to recognise existing land use activities and settlement patterns.
9. The need to recognise the existing natural hazards and their effects upon land use and development.
10. The need to provide opportunities for the economic and social well-being of the residents.
11. The need to achieve the sustainable management of the cultural heritage resources of the Outer Islands.

4.1.4 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In recognition of the special environment and resource management issues identified for the Outer Islands, an appropriate resource management strategy has been formulated.

The resource management strategy for the Outer Islands seeks to achieve sustainable management in order to protect, preserve and enhance the special physical and natural characteristics of the area. The method employed is to specifically identify strategic management areas within the Outer Islands as a basis for managing the impacts of activities on the physical and natural environment. Within those strategic management areas a number of land unit areas have been identified and special rules formulated for them. Each land unit is managed according to its capacity to absorb development impacts.

The effects of particular land use activities are considered in terms of their inter-relationships within the strategic management area. In this strategy it is recognised that the range and diversity of activities appropriate to the Outer Islands is large. As a consequence it is necessary to employ a number of particular rules which recognise that diversity. A major aspect of the strategy is the recognition of the existing subdivision and historically established settlement pattern. There is also a recognition of those needs of the residents of the Islands, particularly those related to their economic and social well-being. The Plan provides for the means by which development and conservation can be complementary. In terms of the approach promoted through this Plan, existing use opportunities are recognised to the extent that they are anomalies in an appropriate resource management strategy. This strategy, therefore, recognises that there is a necessity to allow continued development and land use activities to occur, in terms of current subdivision patterns, but within the constraints of Plan rules structured towards achieving sustainable land use.

In that regard the Plan does not provide for a specific continuation of existing settlement patterns. Rather the

resource management strategy for the Outer Islands is to achieve a scale and dispersion of land use activities and development appropriate to land unit capabilities and as a consequence to achieve sustainable land use at the land unit, strategic management area and Gulf Island level overall. In general terms the resource management strategy for the Outer Islands (and Hauraki Gulf Islands overall) is to manage the effects of activities rather than allocating activities to particular areas irrespective of land use capabilities.

The resource management strategy also recognises that a large portion of the land within the Outer Islands area is administered by the Department of Conservation as a Protected Area. The Department of Conservation is required by law to develop Conservation Management Strategies for Protected Areas. Once such a strategy is adopted the Council considers that it will provide a complementary means of implementing the Plan's strategy of preservation, protection, and conservation of these Protected Areas.

The key elements of the Plan's strategy for the Outer Islands are as follows:

1. To secure the conservation of the special aspects of the natural environment of the Outer Islands for the present and future benefit of residents and visitors.
2. To encourage opportunities for people to experience the physical, social, environmental and cultural aspects of the Department of Conservation Protected Area in a manner supportive of their values and, consistent with the principles of sustainable management.
3. To ensure that areas of land which are not suitable for pastoral farming, afforestation, or similar rural activities are managed and used in a manner compatible with their environmental capacity and landscape values.
4. To promote a management system which reflects the distinctiveness of the Outer Islands, based upon the identification of common land units contained within strategic management areas, in order to specifically relate resource management controls to the particular capabilities of particular areas.
5. To provide for a variety of land use activities and opportunities within the framework of a management system where the effects of such activities are the major factor in decision making, rather than the nature of the activity itself.
6. To clearly identify natural constraints on development and land use activities, so that resource management limitations and land use opportunities can be more easily understood and accepted.
7. To confirm that the existence of separate communities within a village type concentration, will



be maintained but not extended through traditional planning techniques of incremental land use zoning.

8. To facilitate an environmentally aware, informed and responsive community, capable of appreciating and monitoring resource management controls and systems in order to maximise appropriate social and economic opportunities.
9. To limit the roading system, including standards of formation, width of roads, vehicle speeds and environmental impacts arising from construction, to levels appropriate to the culture of the residents and special characteristics of the Outer Islands.
10. To adopt a development philosophy which has a major emphasis on supporting small scale land use activities, while still providing for a wide range of opportunities.
11. To secure through the District Plan rules, better management of the effects and impacts of land uses so that quality of natural water systems is maintained at an appropriate standard.
12. To ensure special regard is given to the attributes of the coastal environment of the Outer Islands and to protect, conserve and enhance the intrinsic values therein through District Plan rules.
13. To encourage land use activities at appropriate scales and locations so that local economic infrastructure and employment opportunities are enhanced, in recognition of the opportunities that such activities can create to achieve conservation goals as well as ensuring the social and economic well-being of the residents.
14. To encourage farming activities which minimise detrimental impacts on the natural environment, and achieve sustainable use of resources.
15. To recognise the relationship of the Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga; and to have regard to kaitiakitanga when managing the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources of the district.

The resource management strategy for the Outer Islands of the Hauraki Gulf Islands fulfils a significant function in terms of establishing and securing the place of the Hauraki Gulf Islands in a local, regional and national context as a place of significant heritage and environmental value.

4.2 INNER ISLANDS

4.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Inner Islands of the Hauraki Gulf Islands Section of the District Plan includes all those islands formerly subject to the Auckland City Transitional District Plan (Waiheke Section). These include the islands of Waiheke, Rangitoto, Motutapu, Rakino, Pakatoa, Rotoroa, Motuihe, Ponui, Browns, Pakihi, Karamuramu and a number of small islets and rock outcrops. These islands form a distinctive geographic unit within the Hauraki Gulf Islands district and display characteristics of landscape and location and social and cultural development which both define and unify this part of the Hauraki Gulf Islands district.

The resource management framework for the Inner Islands is based on three (3) Strategic Management Areas (SMAs) encompassing 23 land units. The Western Waiheke SMA and the Eastern Waiheke SMA are based on common physical, social and economic attributes which divide the principal island of Waiheke into two distinct yet complementary areas and which form the basis of the resource management strategy for the Inner Islands (refer Figure 7).

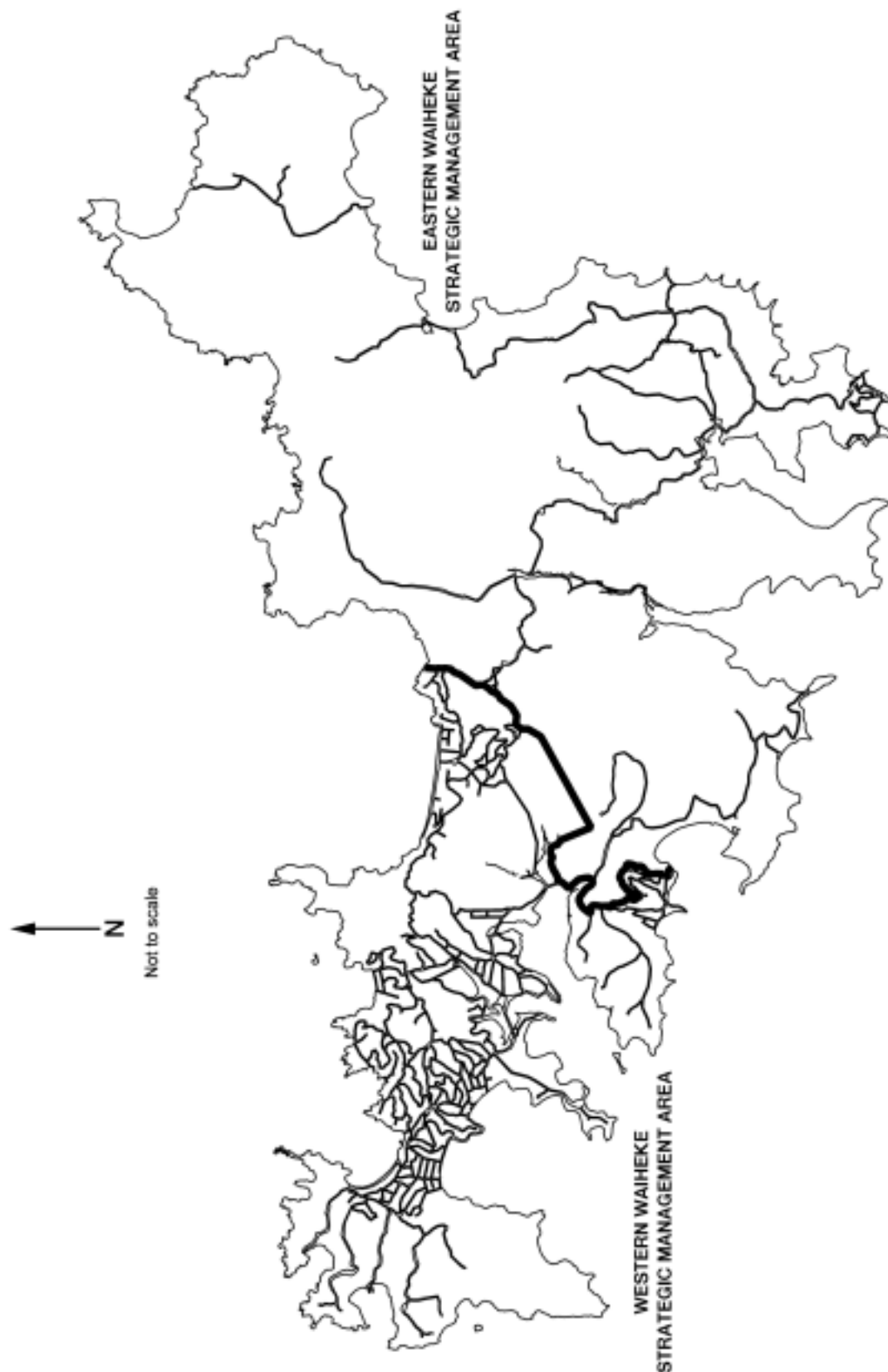
Rakino and Pakatoa Island is included in the Other Islands SMA, which encompasses the remaining islands of the Inner Islands part of the Hauraki Gulf Islands.

For each of the three SMA's, a set of objectives and policies has been adopted which reflect the fundamental resource management imperatives within them. The separate character and function of the three areas are formalised in these statements which secure the resource management strategy and are the basis for the formulation of specific rules in the Plan.

In addition to the resource management framework for the Inner Islands set up by way of the strategic management areas and the land units, the Plan provides for objectives, policies and rules for "policy areas". These areas relate to a number of locations which require a more specific approach to resource management than that afforded by the rules for land units. In the Inner Islands, areas such as the business areas at Oneroa, Ostend, Tahiroa and Onetangi require specific provisions, which will enable comprehensive development of activities. It is recognised that the environmental outcomes can only be realised over a period of time and therefore it is necessary to provide a clear outline of the principles to be addressed when development takes place.



Figure 7
Waiheke Island Strategic Management Areas



4.2.2 DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENT

The Inner Islands consists of a number of distinctive island masses forming a complex landscape. The islands of the Inner Islands have their geological origin some 50 million years ago along with the formation of the ancient rock masses of Waiheke, Ponui and Motutapu. These three islands are relics of the ancient New Zealand landform and are composed of greywacke. There are also the more recent islands (including Motuihe, Rangitoto and Rakino) created by the volcanic activity of the Auckland Isthmus beginning some 40000 years ago. Of these volcanic outcroppings, Rangitoto is the most recent addition to the landscape having appeared some 750 years ago. In addition to their geological importance many of the Inner Islands have exceptionally rich archaeological sites which in the case of Motutapu, Motuihe and Browns are highly valued both regionally and nationally.

These island landscapes constitute a unique coastal environment. A combination of dissected and steep slopes leading to wide valley floors which in turn open into an indented coastline, creates a physical landscape of regional significance. This landscape has the capacity for use and development of a sensitive nature while recognising the limitations imposed by steep slopes, sensitive coastal margins, vulnerable habitats and fragile vegetative cover.

Originally covered with the typical vegetation of the Auckland district, (including kauri forest), the Inner Islands now support isolated stands of remnant forest as well as many areas of regenerating native bush. This pattern of vegetation helps to create the distinctive character of the area and comprises another element of the resources of the Inner Islands area which this Plan seeks to protect.

The Ngati Paoa own a large block of land at the eastern end of Waiheke Island as well as various other areas and islands. There is also a multi-cultural marae (Piritahi) at Blackpool on Waiheke Island.

The Inner Islands comprises the most developed part of the Hauraki Gulf Islands. The proximity to the Auckland metropolitan area has led to the emergence of a unique combination of urban and rural development. This is particularly evident on Waiheke Island where the pastoral and agricultural land uses which predominated during the early part of the 20th century have been increasingly interspersed with residential and commercial development. Although some islands, including Rangitoto, Motuihe and Rotorua have been the subject of development for specific governmental or institutional uses, the rural/urban pattern has become the distinguishing feature of the landscape of Waiheke Island. The present character of the area principally, emerged since the 1960s when the islands accessibility to Auckland encouraged the establishment of

holiday homes, along with a scattering of dwellings for permanent residents.

With the advent of high-speed water transport, Waiheke Island has seen increasing numbers of permanent residents who commute to the mainland. This growth in population has principally occurred over the last decade and has produced a social and cultural diversity which is a particular feature of the island. In this regard, Waiheke Island is the third most populated island in New Zealand. (According to the 1991 census, 5406 people resided on the island). This fact brings with it issues of resource management relating to the consequences of urbanisation.

The natural landscape of the islands has been modified by a dispersed pattern of settlement. This is particularly evident in the western half of Waiheke Island which reflects the growth of population and the emerging servicing needs of a growing community. The Eastern SMA of Waiheke Island and the Other Islands SMA have not been affected to any great degree by urbanisation, but are affected in several ways by the requirements of visitors and the efforts of landowners to cater for these demands.

The rural areas of the Inner Islands are largely utilised for pastoral farming. The traditional farming regimes have strongly shaped the natural landscape of these areas. The physical capability of the landscape provides opportunities to achieve the productive potential of the land when sustainable management techniques are undertaken.

Each island of the Inner Islands area has a unique character and plays an individual role in the overall socio-economic development of this part of the district. Some islands display more evidence of human occupation than others. Waiheke, Rakino and Pakatoa have been and continue to be subject to development pressures. On the other hand, Rangitoto, Motuihe, Motutapu and all or part of various smaller islands are owned by the Crown and are part of the Department of Conservation Protected Area. This status protects these islands from extensive development and should secure the retention of the existing character.

Because of the historical pattern of development, Waiheke, Rakino and Pakatoa are susceptible to further development and urban type land uses. While neither Rakino nor Pakatoa have been developed in accordance with the opportunities set out in previous planning schemes, such development could still eventuate. Similarly, Waiheke Island has potential for further development subject to the use of appropriate infrastructure and meeting the objectives and policies of the Plan.

The Inner Islands area has increasing significance, locally, regionally and nationally as a place for recreation and for visitors. With the growing demand for informal holiday-making and the increasing desire of visitors to experience the qualities of New Zealand's natural attractions, localities such as the Hauraki Gulf as a whole and the Inner Islands in particular, will see growing numbers of short- and long-stay



visitors. This growth in visitor activity is centred on the islands of Waiheke, Pakatoa, Rakino, Motuihe and Rangitoto as well as the surrounding marine areas themselves, which form an attraction to recreational fishermen, sailors, divers and those simply attracted by a maritime environment. The scenic and cultural qualities of the Inner Islands are an increasing drawcard for a host of local and international visitors and the resource management strategy for this part of the Hauraki Gulf Islands recognises and provides for this important social and economic activity.

The natural and cultural features of the Inner Islands as described contribute to the heritage of the district. These features are worthy of protection and conservation in order to establish the foundation upon which the heritage of future residents may be built.

4.2.3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The resource management strategy for the Inner Islands has been founded on the following resource management issues:

1. The need to provide for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the coastal environment.
2. The retention of the identity and character of the Inner Islands of the Hauraki Gulf.
3. The demand for land for residential activities providing for a diverse range of lifestyle opportunities within a quality environment.
4. The provision of services and infrastructure to meet community needs within the context of sustainable development.
5. The impact and effects of visitor and recreation facilities.
6. The necessity to provide adequate infrastructure so that effective transportation, telecommunication and radio communication, effluent and waste disposal systems are provided.
7. The need to protect, conserve and enhance the special characteristics of the natural environment of the Inner islands.
8. The need to recognise and provide for Maori social, spiritual and cultural values.
9. The need to recognise existing land use activities and settlement patterns in the resource management strategy for the Inner islands.
10. The need to provide opportunities for the economic and social well-being of the residents of the islands.
11. The need to achieve the sustainable management of the cultural heritage resources of the Inner Islands.

4.2.4 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The resource management strategy for the Inner Islands is based on the resource management issues which have been identified and on the framework for management of the Hauraki Gulf as a whole, as set out in Part 3. The strategy recognises the essential qualities of the Inner Islands and the desirability of protecting and conserving these features. Accordingly, the use and development of the resources of the Inner Islands will be governed by the need to retain and conserve the environmental attributes of the area, while allowing for continued sustainable use and development of those resources.

The strategy continues the confinement of urban development on Waiheke to predominantly the Western SMA (with the exception of Orapiu). Development opportunities within this area are provided within a framework of continuing historical development patterns in discrete village locations and maintained by the utilisation of rural land as buffer areas. Within this area development is further constrained by the environmental capacities of the land and, in particular, the capabilities for sewage disposal; the need for minimisation of earthworks and bush removal; the need for minimisation of visual obtrusion; enhancement of environmental and amenity values including protection of the coastal environment.

Management of the eastern sector of Waiheke island will continue to recognise the predominance of the rural landscape and associated characteristics and values; the need for coastal management sensitivity; the existence of a number of diverse and sensitive natural ecosystems, habitats and corridors; and the need to protect the physical and natural environment.

The strategy for management of the Other Islands SMA recognises the existing subdivision pattern and potential for development opportunities. In that regard, a distinction is made between opportunities provided for on Pakatoa and Rakino as opposed to the limited development opportunities on other islands such as Rangitoto, Motutapu, Browns, Motuihe, the Noises and Ponui Island where a conservation management approach predominates.

The resource management strategy of the Inner Islands recognises and protects the natural and physical resources of the district and provides for the emergence of a pattern of activities which the landscape can sustain and which are appropriate for the future of the district. The basic element of the strategy is to identify Strategic Management Areas (SMAs) within which common resource issues which require comprehensive management can be identified. Within the Inner Islands area, three SMAs have been identified. Each of the strategic management areas contains a number of land units for which specific objectives, policies and rules have



been formulated. Each land unit is managed in such a way that the range of permitted activities are complementary to the landscape and each other, thus producing an integrated pattern of resource use.

Accordingly, the key elements of the strategy for the Inner Islands are:

1. To conserve the natural and physical environment for the enjoyment of present and future generations of residents and visitors.
2. To identify constraints on resource use and development and to formulate resource management techniques, which ensure mitigation measures preventing environmental degradation.
3. To manage land use activities so that the intrinsic values of the coastal environment are recognised and preserved.
4. To promote a management system which reflects the distinctive character of the Inner Islands, based upon the identification of common land units contained within identifiable strategic management areas, in order to specifically relate resource management controls to the particular capabilities of specific areas.
5. To provide a variety of land use activities and opportunities within the framework of the management system, where the effects of such activities are the major factor in decision making rather than the nature of the activity itself.
6. To provide opportunities for the economic and social growth of the residents.
7. To encourage farming activities which minimise detrimental impacts on the natural environment, and achieve sustainable use of resources.
8. To continue the village pattern of development and provide for a diverse range of activities within it.
9. To recognise the relationship of the Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga; and having regard to kaitiakitanga when managing the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources of the district.
10. To establish where necessary and appropriate, infrastructure in a manner which recognises the limitations of the landscape.
11. To secure through the District Plan rules better management of the effects and impacts of land uses so that quality of natural water systems, including wetlands is maintained at an appropriate standard.
12. To enable the emergence of a built environment which recognises and is complementary to the

physical limitations of the land within the Inner Islands.

