

Management plan

In late 2011 the Tairua Harbour and Catchment Management Plan was completed. The focus now shifts to the plan's implementation and support for the already numerous projects underway within the catchment.

Our thanks to members of the combined communities of Tairua, Hikuai and Pauanui for their involvement and contribution. Without the community's participation in the plan, and more importantly its implementation, the realisation of the plan's goals would not be possible.

Have your say - make a submission

The council would like you to have your say on proposed funding changes to Tairua mangrove management. You can do this by filling in the attached submission form and mailing it, no stamp required, to:

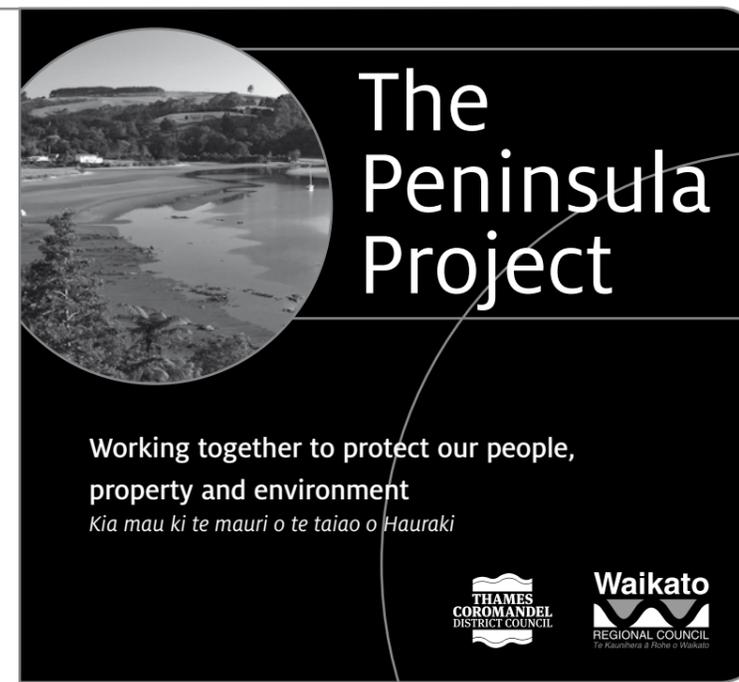
Corporate Planning and Development Unit
Freepost 118509
Waikato Regional Council
Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240

You can read about or submit on other matters included in the 2012-2022 Draft Long Term Plan, available online at www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/ltp from 27 March 2012, or by visiting your local library or Waikato Regional Council office.

Submissions must be received by 4pm on Friday 27 April 2012.

Need some assistance?

Are you restoring streams, wetlands, erosion prone areas, or need help removing blockages from streams? It can be hard sometimes to know where to start and how to get the maximum benefit for the cost and effort involved. Our staff can provide advice or develop a plan specifically for your property, and provide information on how to achieve the results you want. To learn more call us on freephone 0800 800 401.



The Peninsula Project

Working together to protect our people, property and environment
Kia mau ki te mauri o te taiao o Hauraki

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL
Waikato REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

Tairua newsletter – March 2012

Since the last newsletter seeking your input into the development of the Tairua Harbour and Catchment Management Plan, progress is being made in a number of areas that you identified as being important.

Highlights include:

- preparation of a mangrove removal consent application
- stage one of the weed control at Hikuai Cabbage Tree forest completed, with planting commencing this winter
- Harbour and Catchment Management Plan finalised.

The purpose of this newsletter is to seek your feedback on the proposed mangrove removal consent application and the associated targeted rate. It is also to keep you informed on catchment works progress.

Tairua: mangrove removal proposal

Mangrove removal consent

Through the development of the Tairua Harbour and Catchment Management Plan you told us that there was a strong desire to see active management of mangroves. Of the 250 feedback forms received during development of the plan, 84 per cent supported mangrove removal within the harbour environment. This formed the basis for our subsequent investigation.

Waikato Regional Council's river and catchment services group intends applying for two mangrove management consents for the Tairua Harbour. These consents form part of the implementation of the Tairua Harbour and Catchment Management Plan.

Information has been gathered and costings prepared on the process to apply for and undertake mangrove management in Tairua Harbour. This proposal has been included in the Waikato Regional Council's 2012-2022 Draft Long Term Plan. Under current funding policy this work would predominantly be funded by the local community. Feedback is being sought on whether the community is prepared to fund this work and how the rating structure should be applied. No work will be carried out if this process is not supported.

Mangrove management

It is proposed that removal of mangrove seedlings and mature plants be undertaken. Mangrove management in the Tairua setting aims to:

- maintain diverse vegetation communities within the coastal marine area
- provide for recreational opportunities and to reinstate areas of historical recreation use
- preserve areas of mature mangrove forest where key vegetation sequences exist
- maintain open river and stream channels and mouths
- ensure mangrove removal is carried out in an appropriate manner that considers the environment, harbour users and the impact on other habitats
- increase awareness of the role mangroves play in healthy harbour systems.

This work would be carried out in conjunction with catchment management works to decrease sediment loads entering the harbour environment.

Total areas for removal are being finalised, and the current investigation is for between 20 to 25 hectares of actual mangrove cover,

although the total area over which removal would occur is larger. Removal of seedlings would be an ongoing controlled activity within the area to manage mangrove populations. It is proposed that a seedling removal consent be sought for a 20 year period over which time the effectiveness of the seedling control would be monitored. Mature removal would be for a term of three to five years depending on methodology used.

If a resource consent is granted, it is proposed that works would begin in the 2012/13 financial year and rating to fund the work would commence from 1 July 2013.

Estimated costs

The estimated total cost to gain mangrove removal consents and carry out removal works for Tairua is approximately \$700,000. This includes the cost of mangrove seedling removal and management of this over a 10 year period (\$15,000/annum, which would be reduced if the community decided to carry out this work). The total also allows for a potential resource consent hearing and possible mitigation and monitoring costs. In the costing exercise for this activity, the upper level of potential costs has been used to provide a potential worst case scenario in the hope that a lesser amount will be achieved. The actual rate struck would depend on final costings. The following table provides a breakdown of the estimated costs for mangrove management. Note these costs are for a 10 year period.

Item	Estimated cost	Comment
Preparation of application	\$ 91,000	Cost includes preparation of Assessment of Environmental Effects, technical information, public consultation, and application documentation.
Consent processing (including hearing costs if required)	\$140,000	A hearing may not be needed, however it has been allowed for to provide an upper level of potential costs.
Mature removal	\$160,000	Actual removal and disposal costs for removal of mature mangroves.
Seedling removal	\$90,000	Cost is based on an estimate of \$9,000 per year for ten years for seedling removal. This is potentially an ongoing cost.
Mitigation, compliance and monitoring	\$125,000	Monitoring costs will potentially be reduced through cost sharing with other areas. Mitigation may not be required and will depend on consent conditions.
Management and reporting	\$120,000	This cost allows for management and reporting for a ten year timeframe for all of the above.

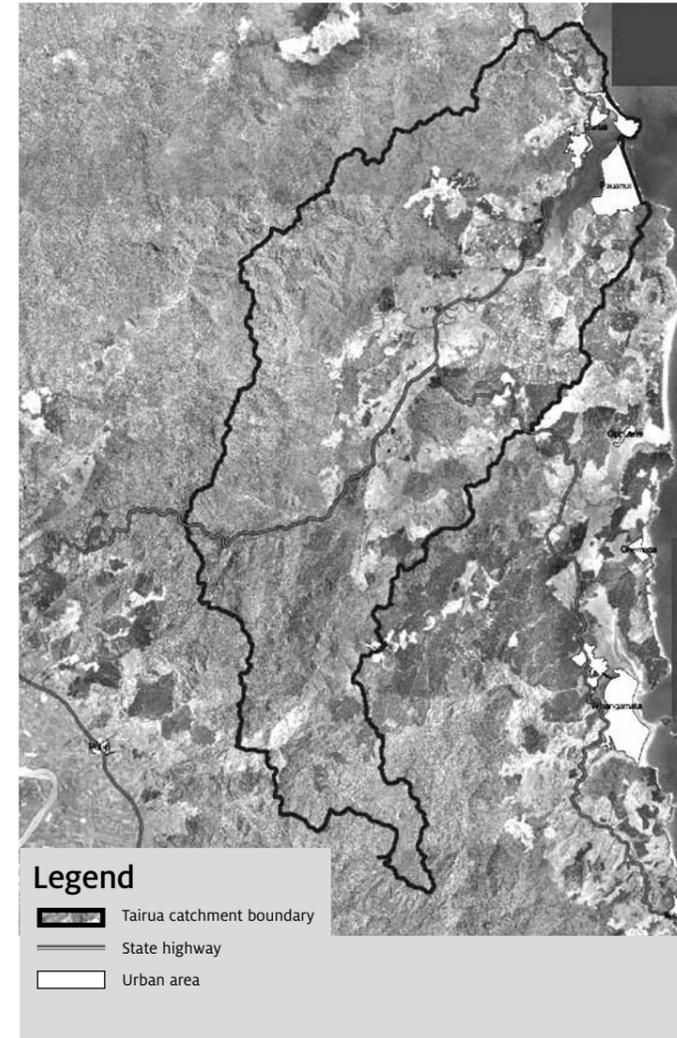
Rating options and implications

At present this type of work would be funded via an 80 per cent contribution from the immediate community with the remaining 20 per cent from the Coromandel Zone. In the 2012-2022 Draft Long Term Plan, the council is proposing that a regional rate contribution to this work be considered to better reflect the wider benefits of this activity and the value of harbours to both the local and regional community. Three options are identified for consideration. Option 1 reflects the current funding policy while Options 2 and 3 include a regional contribution of 10 to 15 per cent. The inclusion of a regional contribution is consistent with the funding of other works and services on the Coromandel Peninsula and across the Waikato region, such as capital flood protection and soil conservation works.

Contribution source	Option 1		Option 2		Option 3	
	Funding policy	10 year rating implication	Funding policy	10 year rating implication	Funding policy	10 year rating implication
Waikato region (per \$100,000 capital value)	-	-	10%	\$0.01	15%	\$0.02
Peninsula zone (per \$100,000 capital value)	10%	\$0.10	7.5%	\$0.07	10%	\$0.10
Peninsula zone (per property)	10%	\$0.54	7.5%	\$0.41	10%	\$0.54
Tairua targeted community rate area (per property)	80%	\$22.59	75%	\$21.18	65%	\$18.36

The table above shows the three rating models with a change in regional contribution. The dollar amounts are based on a total cost of \$700,000 for mangrove management for Tairua Harbour. The figure of most interest to you as a ratepayer in the Tairua catchment (refer to map showing boundary) will be the targeted rate amount at the bottom of the table (although you will also contribute via the regional and peninsula rates).

Beyond the 10 year targeted rate for mature mangrove removal, a maintenance rate would be required for ongoing cost and seedling removal.



Hikuai cabbage tree forest

After years of discussion, the first stage of work has been completed at the Hikuai cabbage tree forest with approximately 3 hectares of weeds mulched down to ground level. The weeds controlled at the Bailey bridge end of the site included Chinese privet, Japanese honeysuckle, blackberry, convolvulus bindweed and wattle.

Mature native species including pukatea, cabbage tree and manuka were left intact, as was a small wetland at the centre of the site. The next phase will involve grass seeding, along with further weed control measures. Once this is completed the community will get involved over winter by helping to replant the site with appropriate native species. Planning will also begin on the next phase of works.

This project is a collaboration involving Thames-Coromandel District Council, the Ngati Hei Trust, Tairua-Pauanui Community Board, Hikuai community and Waikato Regional Council.

Photos: Matthew Highway



Before



After



Mangroves - photo: Jonathan Barran