

# Hauraki Gulf Forum

Promoting and facilitating integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana, Te Moana-nui-a-Toi



*He kaitiaki ahau  
He kaitiaki koe  
He kaitiaki tātou*



Under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, the Hauraki Gulf Forum is required to present an annual report on the exercise of its powers, the carrying out of its functions, and progress towards achieving its purposes to the House of Representatives, through the Minister of Conservation, on or before 31 August each year.

## KO Ō TĀTOU MOEMOEĀ

### Our Vision

Tikapa Moana / Te Moana-nui-a-Toi, the Hauraki Gulf is “celebrated and treasured”, is “thriving with fish and shellfish, kaimoana”, has a “rich diversity of life”, supports a “sense of place, connection and identity” and a “vibrant economy”.

## KO Ā TĀTOU WHĀINGA MAHI

### Our Mission

To promote and facilitate integrated and co-ordinated management of the Gulf’s environmental, cultural, economic and recreational resources.



Hauraki Gulf  
Marine Park  
Ko te Pataka kai  
o Tikapa Moana  
Te Moananui a Toi





## HE KŌRERO NĀ TE HEAMANA

# Message from the Chairperson

During 2017/2018, the Hauraki Gulf Forum published its fifth triennial state of the environment report. That document not only presents an accumulation of valuable information about the state of the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana / Te Moana-nui-a-Toi but it also draws conclusions about the need to address some of the significant environmental issues facing the Gulf.

The state of the environment report again tells a story of decline and ongoing degradation. The pressures on the Gulf are rapidly mounting as our population and tourism numbers increase, overfishing continues, toxic chemicals exceed water quality guidelines and sedimentation and excessive nutrients and the like remain major concerns. Regulatory and management frameworks and remedial action are not keeping up with these pressures.

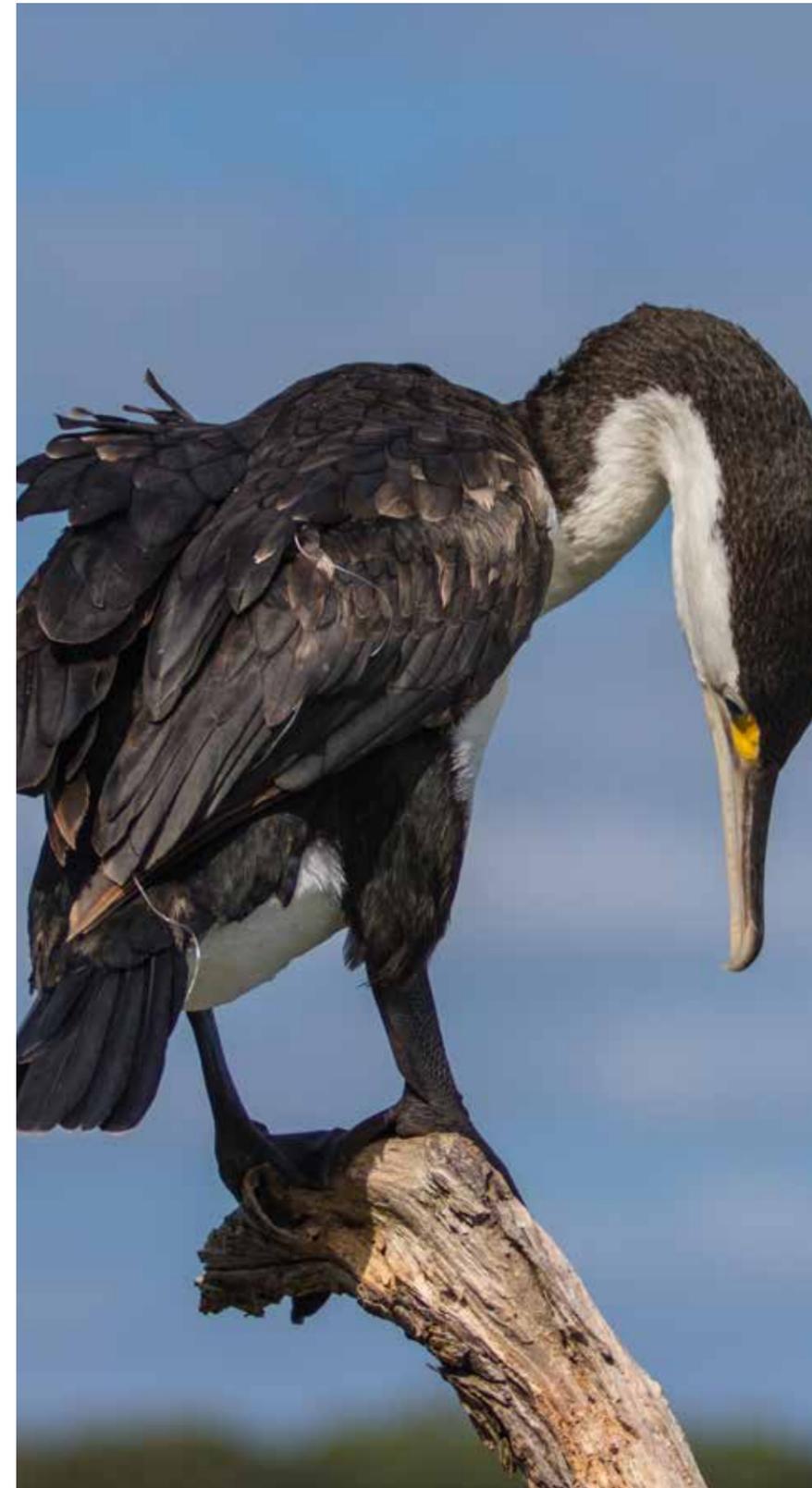
The 2017 report made recommendations regarding issues requiring reform or remedial work. The report also highlights the need to set targets to halt damage

from rural and urban land use. In respect of issues that fall within the responsibilities of the regional and district councils represented on the Forum, it is heartening to see that they are paying considerably more attention to making improvements in this regard, in line with the relevant recommendations in the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari plan.

The 2017 state of the environment report notes, too that *“outcomes arising from current fisheries’ management practices are increasingly being questioned”* [p.13] and this issue will no doubt be a focus for the Forum going forward. The recommendation is that priority should be given to creating new marine protected areas covering the variety of habitats found in the Gulf. Recent experience with existing marine reserves suggests that those created will need to be of a size sufficient to actively assist in the regeneration of healthy stocks of endemic marine life.

The release of the 2017 state of the environment report came shortly after the current Government was formed. It was pleasing to have the new Minister of Conservation, the Hon. Eugiene Sage, acknowledge the need to see proposals for improvement implemented. The Forum is appreciative of the Minister’s interest and looks forward to her involving central government more actively in the work of the Forum.

The past year has also been one of notable change for leadership of the Hauraki Gulf Forum. After 11 years of service, John Tregidga, Mayor of the Hauraki District Council, resigned from the role of Chairperson of the Forum. Mayor Tregidga has served 14 years as a Forum member and has presented four of the five triennial state of the environment reports during his time as Chairperson. Tangata whenua member Liane Ngamane decided to also resign from her role as Deputy Chair. Liane served for five years as Deputy Chairperson and provided strong support to Mayor Tregidga in his role.



The Forum’s long-serving Executive Officer, Tim Higham, resigned in late 2017. Both Tim and Mayor Tregidga have put an enormous amount of energy into raising the profile of the Hauraki Gulf over the past decade and to bringing attention to its beauty, its potential and its fragility. Through dogged efforts over many years they were particularly successful in respect of reducing the rate of fatal strikes on Bryde’s whales by establishing a protocol to ensure that large ships reduce their speed in the Gulf. The Forum extends much gratitude to Mayor Tregidga, Liane Ngamane and Tim Higham.

The Forum is currently reviewing the list of strategic issues it must develop under its empowering legislation, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000. You can read about this work on page nine of this annual report. These strategic issues will become the Forum’s focus for its future work. It is now our intention to take a spotlight to some of the most significant issues and examine how collectively we can realise and advocate for improvements. Many of the recommendations in the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari plan will assist in this endeavour.

I was elected to the role of Chairperson in May 2018. I look forward to progressing the Forum’s advocacy for a healthier, thriving Hauraki Gulf and meeting many more of the community associated with and interested in enhancing the state of our precious taonga.

I am pleased to deliver this report on our work this past year to the Minister of Conservation, for presentation to the House of Representatives.



**John Meeuwsen**  
Chairperson  
Hauraki Gulf Forum

# HE AHA NGĀ MAHI KUA WHAKATUTUKIHI E TĒ NEI RŌPŪ?

## What we have achieved

Since the commencement of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, the Forum has shaped understanding and expectations about the way the Gulf should be protected, used and managed.

**1990** Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park disestablished as government reduces number of environmental and conservation ‘quangos’.

**1991** Minister of Conservation Denis Marshall establishes working party, led by Jim Holdaway, which recommends creation of a Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

**1992** Many iwi of the Gulf meet to consider a marine park and ratify the Motutapu Accord asserting tangata whenua ownership of this taonga.

**1997** Auckland Regional Council establishes a Hauraki Gulf Forum of local and central government agencies to co-ordinate management of the Gulf.

**1998** The Waitangi Tribunal considers a claim on the proposed Hauraki Gulf Marine Park legislation lodged by the Hauraki Māori Trust Board.

**2000** Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act (HGMPA) comes into force, with purpose to integrate management and sustain the life-supporting capacity of the environment.

**2000** The Hauraki Gulf Forum established to promote HGMPA management objectives; with members from 13 local authorities within the Gulf’s catchment, three ministerial representatives and six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Gulf and its islands.

**2000** Auckland Regional Council acts as administering authority and its Chairman Philip Warren is elected the first Chairperson of the Forum.

**2001** Waitangi Tribunal submits report (Wai 728) on the HGMPA

claim, encouraging all parties to focus on “the need for the Hauraki Gulf environment to be protected for future generations.”

**2002** Tangata whenua representative Laly Haddon of Ngāti Wai / Ngāti Manuhiri is elected second Chairperson of the Forum.

**2002** Forum publishes first Strategic Issues paper, emphasising the importance of public access.

**2002** Forum endorses inclusion of 304 ha of covenanted private land on Waiheke Island within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

**2003** Report on depletion of shellfish resources commissioned, leading to establishment of the Community Shellfish Monitoring Programme, which has continued since.

**2004 First state of the environment report published, providing mixed report of environmental declines and improvements.**

**2004** External review of Forum recommends new governance statement, shared budget and dedicated executive support.

**2007** Hauraki Mayor John Tregidga elected third Chairperson of the Forum.

**2007** Conservation Minister Chris Carter attends Forum meeting and outlines pest eradication programme for Rangitoto-Motutapu.

**2007** Appointment of jointly-funded Forum Executive Officer.

**2008** Forum initiates *Weaving the Strands* quarterly newsletter.

**2008** Cross-boundary planning approach advocated within review of Strategic Issues paper, particularly by tangata whenua members.

**2008 Second state of the environment report finds regulatory approaches and management arrangements may be inadequate to deal with pressures facing the Gulf. Launched with United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Achim Steiner.**

**2009** *Governing the Gulf* published, to guide implementation of the HGMPA in Resource Management Act policies and plans.

**2010** *Fishing the Gulf* published, to guide alignment of fisheries management with the HGMPA.

**2010** Waitākere City Council reserves bordering the Waitematā Harbour and Forest and Bird covenanted land on Waiheke are vested in marine park.

**2010** 10th anniversary of HGMPA held on Motutapu Island. First Hauraki Gulf Marine Park seminar held with Auckland War Memorial Museum, becoming an annual event.

**2010** Auckland Council formed, with administrative authority responsibility for the Forum passing to it.

**2011** Marine park poster series initiated with *New Zealand Herald*, to be repeated in subsequent years.

**2011** *Spatial Planning for the Gulf* published, noting potential as process to integrate and improve management, consistent with HGMPA.

**2011 Third state of the environment report published, concluding incremental, ongoing decline off a low environmental base, with bold steps needed for change.**

**2012** REMAK Strategic Issues framework identified in response to state of the environment report.

R	Regenerating areas
E	Enhanced fisheries
M	Mana whenua expression
A	Active land management
K	Knowledge utilisation (ecosystem-based)

**2012** Forum meets on Great Barrier Island. Visits Glenfern Sanctuary. Seeks to broaden involvement and ownership of stakeholders in resolution of Gulf issues.

**2012** Collaborative group initiated to examine ship strike, prompting Ports of Auckland transit protocol a year later, and progressive reductions in ship speed.

**2012** New community group formed to explore restoration of mussel reefs following Forum seminar.

**2012** Commissioned report indicates economic activities in the Gulf generate over \$2 billion annually and have “environment at the very core of their value proposition”.

**2012** Forum briefed on the significance of new legislation to settle the historical treaty claims of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Ngāti Manuhiri and provide financial and cultural redress. Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier returns to Ngāti Manuhiri and is then gifted back to the people of New Zealand as a nature reserve.

**2012** Meeting at Ōrākei Marae supports marine spatial plan project design with Forum role on steering group.

**2013** *Seabirds of the Hauraki Gulf* published, helping, along with other initiatives, to promote the Gulf as a ‘seabird hotspot’.

**2013** Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari marine spatial plan process launched.

**2013** Auckland War Memorial Museum’s *Moana–My Ocean*, prompted by the Forum’s *State of our Gulf* assessment, becomes its most popular temporary exhibition.

**2013** Forum supports Southern Seabird Solutions Trust to promote seabird smart fishing in the Gulf.

**2013** Inaugural Holdaway Award for leadership introduced as part of marine park seminar.

**2014** Forum briefed on Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act which provides mana whenua with ownership and governance responsibilities for maunga and motu. Interests in harbours are signalled.

**2014 Fourth state of the environment report published, reiterating environmental decline and ongoing challenges for integrated management.**

**2015** Independent 10-year review challenges Forum to strengthen its influence in promoting Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act objectives.

**2015** Forum notes signing of Treaty settlement with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki.

**2016** Online *Gulf Journal* initiated to support inspired management and action around the Gulf.

**2016** Forum draws attention to marked decline in crayfish within Cape Rodney – Ōkakarī Point Marine Reserve at Leigh.

**2016** Foundation North announces \$5 million Gulf Innovation Fund Together (GIFT) to respond to issues identified in *State of our Gulf* reports.

**2016** Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari plan released.

**2017** Marine scientist tells Radio NZ “Hauraki Gulf Bryde’s whale crisis averted”.

**2017 Fifth state of the environment report published presenting a well-articulated, clear pathway for addressing some of the issues facing the Gulf.**

**2018** Mayor John Tregidga retires as Chairperson of the Forum after 11 years’ service.

**2018** John Meeuswen is elected forth Chairperson of the Forum.

## Our work this year

The Forum meets quarterly to receive reports and examine issues essential for integrated and effective future management of the Gulf.

### State of our Gulf 2017

In late 2017 the Forum approved its fifth state of the environment report for publication. The report outlines significant key issues affecting the Hauraki Gulf including:

- Water quality degradation and ecosystem decline as a consequence of development in Gulf catchments.
- The Gulf's declining fish stocks with tāmure (snapper) and rock lobster populations well below target stock levels.
- Strong public support for more protected marine areas requires corresponding stronger political priority to progress and implement new legislation.
- 'Ocean sprawl' illustrated by 3,290 ha of marine space zoned or consented for mussel, oyster and fish farms in 2014 and an additional 505 ha consented or applied for since.
- The New Zealand fairy tern, New Zealand storm petrel, black petrel and flesh-footed shearwater are under threat, the last two mainly because of by-catch from snapper longline fishery.

The report emphasises that the key issue for the Gulf is the current pace of change outstripping the ability of existing management frameworks to respond effectively. An ongoing constraint is the lack of an accepted, holistic and integrated plan across agencies, mana whenua and users. In addition, the report describes constraints like technical complexity, legislative change and lack of funding as significant barriers to improving agency responses. Legislative

conflicts, including between the Fisheries Act and Resource Management Act, make decision-making challenging.

Several issues previously identified by the Forum have shown some progress. However, the report cautions that these small gains could easily be undone by new activities, or by the emerging effects of climate change. The improvements include that:

- Nutrient loads from the Hauraki Plains and heavy metal concentrations in Auckland's urban estuaries remain elevated but show signs of improvement.
- The implementation of a voluntary transit protocol to reduce speed restrictions and encourage safe passage through the Gulf has brightened the outlook for Bryde's whales.
- Biodiversity gains are being made on the islands of the Gulf with Ahuahu / Great Mercury island becoming the 47th island in the Gulf to be mammalian pest free.

The 2017 *State of our Gulf 2017* and summary is available at <https://goo.gl/5etj7U>

### Continuing education and building profile

The Forum has continued to communicate the distinctive character of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in collaboration with New Zealand Media and Entertainment Limited (NZME), through the publication of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park poster. Now in its ninth year, 140,000 copies of the poster were distributed through the New Zealand Herald on 3 March 2018 to coincide with Seaweek – Kaupapa moana. The 2018 poster invited a Dive into the Gulf, through immersive and compelling artwork by renowned wildlife artist Dave Gunson, and points to the Young Ocean Explorer App revealing new video content linked to the poster see: [www.yoe.co.nz](http://www.yoe.co.nz)

Young Ocean Explorers advised as at May 2018 that they had almost 1,100 teachers signed up to their website, and were expecting to exceed 400,000 views of videos, polls and quizzes by the end of that month. The poster insertion was supported by a comprehensive marketing campaign (provided by the New Zealand Herald), with an estimated value of \$200,000.

Around 4,750 posters were also distributed by Young Ocean Explorers, mainly to schools, plus approximately 1,000 more via Auckland Council, NZME (Education Gazette) and during Seaweek events, mostly to schools. The poster series is made possible through funding from Foundation North, Department of Conservation, and in-kind support Foundation North, and in-kind support from NZME and Soar Print.



The Gulf Journal, initiated by the Forum in 2016, provides a quarterly platform to explore Gulf issues and initiatives in depth, alongside a wrapup of news stories and access to the Forum's knowledge products. Four issues have been released this year, the timing of which coincides with the Forum's meetings.

The annual Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar continues to be a popular event in Auckland War Memorial Museum's calendar of activities, with the highest attendance to date being recorded for this event in its seven-year history. The 2017 seminar took its inspiration from seabirds, ngā manu o te Moana, with presenters unpacking the rich and complex lives of the 27-seabird species that make their home in the Hauraki Gulf, and presentation of stories of determined restoration efforts. The Seminar is a collaboration between the Hauraki Gulf Forum and the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

The Seminar included presentation of this year's Holdaway Award to seabird scientist Elisabeth Bell for her research of and commitment to protecting the black petrel.

### Collaboration with a species focus

The Hauraki Gulf Forum continues to act as the secretariat of the Bryde's Whale Ship Strike Collaborative Group and supports and regularly hosts meetings of the Black Petrel Working Group.

Following the implementation of a voluntary speed reduction protocol in 2013, large vessel speeds through the Hauraki Gulf are now close to the internationally-accepted target speed of 10 knots, with only one whale killed since the protocol was introduced (compared to an average of two fatalities per year previously).

The Black Petrel Working Group, which initiated and operationalised a pledge to seabird smart fishing in 2014, has successfully trialled the use of on-board cameras to monitor performance and accidental captures, initiated and implemented seabird smart fishing practices training and, throughout this year, investigated a safe seabirds assurance scheme with industry.

The Forum remains interested in exploring other collaboration opportunities to address detrimental activities within the Hauraki Gulf.



Top: The Forum's 2017 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar

Bottom: The Forum's 2018 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Poster

## KO WAI TĀTOU? Who we are



John Meeuwssen  
(Chairperson)  
Waiheke Local Board,  
Auckland Council



Andrew Baucke  
Department of Conservation



Jeff Cleave  
Great Barrier Local Board,  
Auckland Council



Cr Paul Cronin  
Matamata-Piako District  
Council



Cr Christine Fletcher  
Auckland Council



Mayor Sandra Goudie  
Thames-Coromandel District  
Council



Steve Halley  
Ministry for Primary  
Industries



Cr Richard Hills  
Auckland Council



Terrence Hohneck  
Tangata Whenua



Cr Michael Lee  
Auckland Council



Nicola MacDonald  
Tangata Whenua



Paul Majurey  
Tangata Whenua



Cr Rob McGuire  
Waikato District Council



Cr Dal Minogue  
Waikato Regional Council



Liane Ngamane  
Tangata Whenua



Dean Ogilvie  
Tangata Whenua



Marty Rogers  
Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of  
Māori Development



Moana Tamaariki-Pohe  
Tangata Whenua



Mayor John Tregidga  
Hauraki District Council



Cr Wayne Walker  
Auckland Council



Cr John Watson  
Auckland Council



## E TITIRO WHAKAMUA ANA Looking ahead

### Spotlight on issues

Since publishing the 2017 State of the Gulf report, the Forum has been reviewing and resetting its strategic issues (as required by Section 17(a) of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act).

The Forum has identified three priority topics and associated strategic issues on which it will focus going forward. These are:

- (1) To improve integrated management through collaborative planning, informed decision-making and credible action. This area of work will include a focus on engagement with central government, tangata whenua participation and improvements to Forum operations.
- (2) To restore water quality values through addressing land use activities that degrade those values. This topic will see the Forum focusing on issues of sedimentation, coastal development and urbanisation as well as on water quality issues, such as nutrients and contaminants.
- (3) To recognise critical marine values and ecosystems through advocating for protection, restoration and enhancement. This area of work will bring a focus on marine protected areas, biodiversity loss and reduction and marine contaminants.

### Looking towards 2020

The year 2020 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. This anniversary will create an opportunity for the Government and communities to celebrate, reflect and ensure an ongoing legacy of protection and enhancement.

### Voices of the Gulf

This year's Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar on 5 September 2018 will draw speakers together around the theme of finding a voice – that the Gulf speaks through those who look and listen. The Seminar will include storytelling from poets, writers and songwriters who call the Gulf home, and have drawn inspiration and their voice from the Gulf, as well as presentations from researchers who strive to understand its birdsong and underwater chorus.

Bookings at <https://goo.gl/3XijLB>



## KO TE PŪTEA UTU WHAKAHAERE

# Funding and administrative support

Auckland Council acts as the administering authority of the Hauraki Gulf Forum. It provides support for the meetings of the Forum as a joint special committee of the council.

The Forum is usually supported by a full-time Executive Officer; however,

since the departure of Tim Higham in December 2017, the Executive Officer role has been filled in an interim capacity by an independent contractor, Ms Katina Conomos.

Forum Members are individually supported by Technical Officers (staff from the constituent party, and in the

case of tangata whenua, Technical Officers are appointed by the tangata whenua member).

The Forum's \$275,000 budget in 2017/2018 was met through a shared funding formula adopted by the Forum, as follows:

2017 / 2018 Budget								
Funding contribution per sector	Authority	Population in the Gulf catchment (2006)	Population (%)	Land area in the Gulf catchment (ha)	Land area (%)	% contribution per project	% population: % land area (60:40 weighting)	Contribution to a \$265,000 budget
33.3%	MPI					11:10	11:10	\$30,525
	DoC					11:10	11:10	\$30,525
	TPK					11:10	11:10	\$30,525
33.4%	WRC	75,624	7.13	565,137	72.25	24.23	11.08	\$30,473
	AC	985,029	92.87	217,080	27.75	9.27	22.32	\$61,377
33.3%	AC	985,029	92.87	217,080	29.45	9.81	22.48	\$61,816
	WDC	1,776	0.17	15,051	2.04	0.68	0.31	\$840
	HDC	17,757	1.67	124,355	16.87	5.62	2.58	\$7,100
	TCDC	25,944	2.45	218,980	29.71	9.89	4.45	\$12,227
	MPDC	30,147	2.84	161,567	21.92	7.30	3.49	\$9,951
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,060,653</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>737,032</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>

The Forum accumulates revenue in advance for the triennial state of the environment report, through an annualised contribution of \$50,000 per annum, rather than by constituent parties providing a larger contribution once every three years.

Whilst the collected revenue from constituent parties is \$275,000 as presented above, the forecast revenue presented on the following page is shown as \$375,000 which reflects the accumulated budget for the state of the environment report.

The performance against budget for 2017/2018 is presented [right].

The Auckland Council contribution has been treated differently to other constituent party contributions whereby it is not invoiced in line with the agreed funding formula but, instead, the costs associated with the employment of the Executive Officer, as incurred by Auckland Council, have been considered to be the Auckland Council contribution. This practice has occurred for many years (as itemised separately as 'Auckland Council contribution' in the revenue table shown).

The Forum has resolved to change the practice of the Auckland Council contribution being treated separately, and from 2018/2019 the Auckland Council contribution will be treated the same as other constituent party contributions, as an invoiced and capped contribution.

In 2017/2018 Auckland Council has contributed \$21,914 in additional funds to cover the contracted interim Executive Officer.

Revenue from constituent party contributions is shown at \$31,000 lower than forecast, due to an invoicing error regarding the treatment of GST.

The combination of these two factors has meant that expenditure for the year is higher than was originally forecast in the budget, but this has been offset (in part) by Auckland Council.

As at the end of June 2018, the Forum has an accumulated surplus of \$101,540.

The Department of Conservation contributes to the remuneration and costs of tangata whenua members and their technical officers. In 2017/2018 this amounted to \$41,667.

### 2017 / 2018 Expenditure

	Forecast (\$)	Actual to end of June (\$)
State of the environment report	150,000	144,415
Communications	50,000	52,015
Facilitation of response to issues	10,000	15,791
Operating model changes	40,000	-
Executive support	125,000	148,108
Other miscellaneous expenses	-	510
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>360,840</b>

### 2017 / 2018 Revenue

	Forecast (\$)	Actual to end of June (\$)
Constituent party contributions (2017/2018)	151,806	131,821
Auckland Council contribution (2017/2018)	123,194	148,108
Sponsorship towards the gulf posters project	-	20,000
Revenue in advance for state of the environment report	100,000	100,000
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>399,929</b>

<b>Forecast revenue less expenditure</b>	-	<b>39,090</b>
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<b>Accumulated surplus balance as at end of June 2018</b>	-	<b>101,540</b>
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All costs are presented exclusive of GST.



Councils must give effect to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act's management objectives in regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans as if they were a National Policy Statement or New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Consent authorities must have regard to these management objectives when considering an application for resource consent within the Gulf area.

The Minister of Primary Industries shall have regard to the management objectives when setting or varying a sustainability measure under the Fisheries Act.

*The Hauraki Gulf Forum is a statutory body charged with the promotion and facilitation of integrated management and the protection and enhancement of the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Minister of Conservation, Fisheries and Te Puni Kōkiri, elected representatives from Auckland Council (including the Great Barrier and Waiheke local boards), Waikato Regional Council and the Waikato, Hauraki, Thames-Coromandel and Matamata-Piako district councils, plus six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.*

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Cover photo taiko / black petrel on Aotea / Great Barrier Island. All photography by Shaun Lee.



**Hauraki Gulf Forum**

Tikapa Moana

Te Moananui a Toi