

Partnering to restore the mauri of Te Moananui-ā-Toi, Tīkapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

Briefing to Incoming Government from the Hauraki Gulf Forum

November 2020



**Hauraki Gulf
Marine Park**
Ko te Pātaka kai
o Tīkapa Moana
Te Moananui-ā-Toi



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tīkapa Moana
Te Moananui-ā-Toi



The kahu korari pictured are Te Moananui-ā-Toi (left, on Nicola) and Tīkapa Moana (right, on Pippa)

He waka kōtuia
kāhore e tukutukua
ngā mimira.

A canoe that is
interlaced will not
become separated
at the bow. In unity
there is strength.

Tēnā koe e te Pirimia e ngā Minita.

The realm of Aotearoa New Zealand is over 90% ocean, and no part of that moana is more intensively used than the Hauraki Gulf, Tīkapa Moana, Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

The Hauraki Gulf was once a jewel in our crown – an abundant, thriving ecosystem with kaimoana for all. Even today it still sparkles in the sunshine. But it is far from its former glory, having been degraded for generations.

Our recently released 2020 State of our Gulf Report speaks of kina barrens, arm-deep soft sediment, plastics in the puku of our marine life, beach closures and disappearing birdlife and habitat. Those are among many worrying trends outlined in the report which, taken together, show an ecosystem struggling, an Atua – Tangaroa – hurting, and a challenge that demands our full attention.

Why? Because the Auckland and Waikato regions, and Aotearoa as a whole, will not reach full potential until our oceans thrive.

There is no reason the Hauraki Gulf cannot be the most pristine urban harbour in the world.

The path to that vision is undoubtedly challenging. At 20 times the size of Lake Taupō, with a catchment that extends almost as far south as Rotorua, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is a big area with large-scale, interconnected problems that will take time to fix. In addition, there are a broad range of stakeholders with diverse a range of views on the way forward.

However, if we partner to tackle those challenges together, we can make rapid and sustained progress in restoring the mauri of Tīkapa Moana, Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

Nā māua noa, nā.

Nicola MacDonald
Co-Chair – Tangata Whenua

Pippa Coom
Co-Chair

Partnering to restore mauri:

Areas for central government leadership

Our objectives and goals with requests for central government action this term.



Ensuring Integrated Management

Deepen partnerships with mana whenua to support their aspirations for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Ensure whole-of-government coordination on the Marine Park to support the Minister of Conservation's lead role – this must include the Minister/Ministry for the Environment.



Improving Water Quality

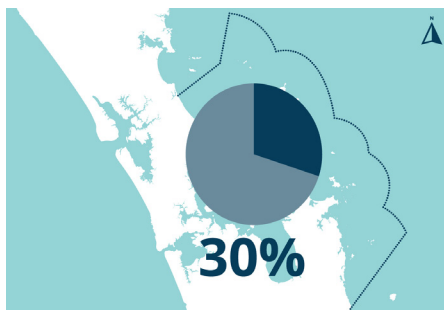
Partner and co-invest with local/regional government and impacted communities to bring forward water quality improvements in both urban and rural areas and restore waterway health to reduce flows of pollutants, including sediment, plastics and heavy metals, into the Marine Park.



Restoring Marine Ecosystems

Adopt holistic ecosystem-based management of the marine environment which enhances indigenous biodiversity.

Continue investments in science and research.



At least 30% marine protection

Support all available tools, including customary protection measures and resourcing of their enforcement.

Reform the antiquated Marine Reserves Act 1971 to broaden its purposes and usability.

Take immediate steps to protect the seafloor of the Marine Park from dredging and other destructive methods.



Restoration of 1000sqkm of shellfish-beds and reefs

Ensure a supportive biosecurity regulatory framework which enables restoration and is complimentary to applicable local/regional government frameworks.

Expand initial investment in partnership with mana whenua and community to supercharge deployments.



Riparian planting of the catchment

Invest in a whole ecosystem of regenerative success, from nursery production to ongoing care and maintenance.

Set ambitious targets for the Hauraki Gulf catchment using natives.



Ending marine dumping near the Marine Park

Reform the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act to prevent marine dumping near the Marine Park.

Further detail on all of those recommendations can be provided on request.



Learn about our recent shift to a co-governance leadership model in our latest Annual Report:
<https://bit.ly/35byl6Q>



Understand the challenges by reading the State of our Gulf 2020 summary:
gulfjournal.org.nz/state-of-the-gulf/



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