

THE WAY FORWARD

Despite its aspirational nature, the Vision for the Māngere Inlet provides a solid foundation for resource management in and around the Inlet. This document seeks to guide how public agencies can align their activities to contribute to the Vision – to improve the mauri of the Māngere Inlet.

While this document serves as a reflection of mana whenua expectations for the Inlet, it is not a substitute for public agencies engagement with wana whenua. At a minimum, it serves as a reference point that will guide the work that the organisations do within the Māngere Inlet catchment.

It is not just public agencies that can effect positive change, but private institutions and the wider community can also influence the health of the Inlet. This document serves to inform and build

a consensus around a common vision. Many of the outcomes and measures in this document are already contributing to similar objectives of whānau, community organisations and businesses. If it is seen as useful, the wider community may use this tool to align their projects and actions to a shared vision.

The document also aims to serve a wider audience with an interest in or connection to the Manukau Harbour. The outcomes sought are beneficial to a wide cross-section of Auckland. These include healthy water, a place where nature is an attraction and where the local history and relationships are alive.

The vision and outcomes can best be achieved if all parties involved commit to working in a more collaborative manner when considering future investment opportunities and activities.

EAST WEST LINK

The East West Link is a proposed new state highway connecting SH1 at Mt Wellington to SH20 at Neilson St, generally running along the northern foreshore of the Māngere Inlet.

To find out more about the East West Link project, please visit www.nzta.govt.nz/east-west or contact the EWL team by Freephone at **0508 NZTA EWL** (0508 698 2395)



'RESTORING THE MAURI OF THE MĀNGERE INLET'



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document presents a shared vision, set of values and desired outcomes to be achieved through current and future investments and activities in and around the Māngere Inlet.

The document has been developed using kaitiaki or guardianship principles. These will help embed Maori cultural values in decision-making that could affect the Inlet and surrounding catchment area.

The vision, "Restoring the Mauri of the Māngere Inlet," is a reflection of mana whenua aspirations for the Manukau Harbour. It has been defined by a collective of local iwi and central and local Government agencies.

A VISION FOR THE MĀNGERE INLET

In the past, projects and activities in the Inlet and surrounds have been undertaken without consideration of their broader impacts or opportunities. At times, the result has been that the health and accessibility of the Inlet has been affected.

This document takes a holistic approach to a wide range of cultural, natural, social and economic issues. The Vision recognises that the Inlet is an integral part of the Manukau Harbour and the wider region.

Its aim is to provide for more integrated decision-making across current and future investments and activities which may affect the Inlet, directly and indirectly. The desired outcomes and indicators are intended to influence the planning, implementation, and operation.

BACKGROUND

This document has been developed out of the 'East West Link', which is a proposed NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) project generally located along the northern edge of the Māngere Inlet.

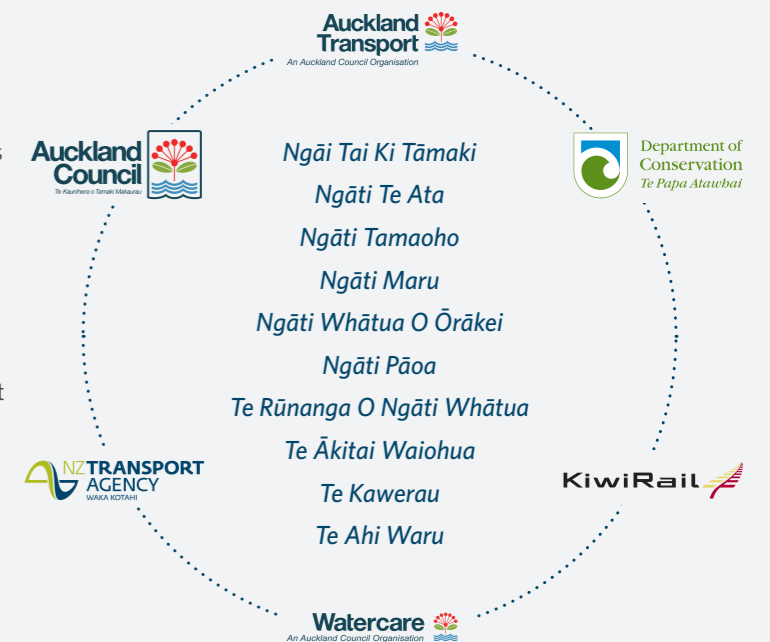
The catchment surrounding the Māngere Inlet has been considerably compromised as a result of historic land use decisions and activities in and around the Inlet.

In early planning for the project, the NZTA and Auckland Transport identified potential environmental improvements that could be achieved through the project. The organisations also recognised though the need to acknowledge that there are wider influences on the health of the Inlet, beyond just the northern shore.

Early engagement with mana whenua on the East West Link project showed the need to develop a unified vision along with a set of values and desired outcomes. To do so, the Agency invited other local and central government organisations with an investment and/or policy interest around the Māngere Inlet to join them.

This document has been developed in partnership among representatives of the following organisations:

- iwi as kaitiaki or guardians
- Council as local government in a policy and project delivery role
- Auckland Transport, Watercare, NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail as infrastructure and service providers
- The Department of Conservation (DOC) as central government in a conservation and policy role



Wrybill/Ngutu Pare: The only bird in the world with a laterally curved bill (always curved to the right), which it uses to reach insect larvae under rounded riverbed stones. After breeding on South Island rivers large numbers fly north to the Firth of Thames and Manukau Harbour. The highly-coordinated aerial manoeuvres of these flocks have been described as resembling a flung scarf.

Bar-tailed Godwit/Kuaka: Kuaka were birds of mystery to Māori as they were believed to accompany spirits of the departed; but they were also a source of food. Some 90,000 visit our shores to spend the summer, flying to and from western Alaska, the longest flight of any of our feathered visitors.

ABOUT THE MĀNGERE INLET

Māngere Inlet has a marine area of 6.6 km² and a land catchment of 34.5 km². As a distinctive part of the larger Manukau Harbour, the Inlet is sensitive to changes in the local environment.

The area has a long history of human use and development, due to the fertile soil and abundant marine life. Māngere was long been home to Maori who cleared forests to grow crops such as kumara, yams, taro and gourds.

Intensive European settlement began in the 1840s and the area around the Inlet became Auckland's agricultural centre.

By the late 1870s many small industries were established around the Inlet and the railway line was laid along the eastern shore. Commercial and industrial development expanded throughout the 19th century.

Unfortunately, from the early days of industrial growth, the environment was of little concern. First commercial, then human waste was discharged untreated into the Inlet, resulting in severe environmental degrading.

On top of this, landfilling and industrial development has resulted in a gradual reclamation of the coastal edge. This has resulted in huge and lasting changes to the character of the environment from a natural environment abounding in wildlife to one of heavy industry and infrastructure such as roads, railways, and ports.

Access to the coastal area for recreational activities is recognised as something that needs to be improved and various initiatives have been undertaken or planned.

Although some of the environment is degraded, several valued resources have been recognised and are protected. These include bird and plant communities as well as scrubland and saline vegetation habitats and intertidal mud- and sand-flats.

This document follows other work focused on the health of the Inlet and its communities. A 1985 Waitangi Tribunal report documented the impacts on the Manukau Harbour and its inhabitants through government action and inaction. The 1990 Manukau Harbour Action Plan that resulted for the Tribunal report also highlighted key issues and areas for improvement.



SHARED VALUES

The Inlet has a number of key values, including:

- Natural character and biodiversity
- Economic development potential
- Food production prospects
- Recreational and open space opportunities
- Transport access and connectivity

Development and growth are increasing the demands on the Inlet's natural resources so each of these values needs wise consideration.

From their settlement of the area and their traditions, mana whenua have enduring relationships with these values. Of key importance to mana whenua is the Mauri of the Inlet. This is the energy which binds and animates all things in the physical world covering its vital essence and special nature.

The view of mana whenua is that the Inlet had strong Mauri in its early days but this is much less so now. Enhancing Mauri should underpin development, use and management of land and water in the Inlet and its catchment area.

resources, and man himself. Everything in nature has its physical basis and its Mauri – the psychic counterpart or vital essence. In the Maori world, it is essential to protect the Mauri because without it, objects wither and die.”

MAURI

“In Maori belief, every natural object or aggregate of objects possesses a spiritual essence, a non-material core, or life principle – this is *Mauri*, and to this is due their vitality, even their very existence. Forests have Mauri, as do land, buildings, fishing places, villages, the different kinds of water, other natural

Source: Manukau Harbour Action Plan: Tangatawhenua Perspectives on Manukau Harbour: Report prepared for Auckland Regional Water Board; April 1990

DESIRED OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

The following is a set of outcomes that can inform and be integrated into projects and activities across the Inlet and its catchment. Along with defining desired outcomes, some high level indicators have been identified to try and give guidance to what success might look like. These are accompanied by some sample measures that would traditionally be considered as having the ability to enhance mauri.

OUTCOME 1: MANA WHENUA EXPECTATIONS & UNDERSTANDING WILL FORM PART OF HOW ORGANISATIONS OPERATE

1.1 Meaningful engagement

- This indicator captures the importance of engagement and an understanding of cultural and traditional values by staff at all levels. It is important that when considering investment proposals and new or modified activities that staff are able to demonstrate a clear understanding of how the proposal may affect traditional values.

Typical measures:

- Quality of engagement throughout project development process
- Transparency of engagement processes
- Alignment of organisational values with cultural and traditional values
- Organisational reporting on cultural and traditional outcomes

1.2 Legislation reflects and supports iwi expectations

- This indicator recognizes that past activities have detrimentally affected the health of the Māngere Inlet. The ability to have cultural values recognised through legislative tools is considered to provide greater opportunities for co-management among those parties with the responsibility for the Māngere Inlet as part of the Manukau Harbour.

Typical measures:

- Reference of the Vision in legislation
- Iwi involvement in decision making
- Collaborative approach to environmental management

OUTCOME 2: TO ACHIEVE A QUALITY OF WATER THAT SUSTAINS DIVERSE AND BALANCED LIFE

2.1 Biodiversity - there is a diverse range of healthy and resilient wildlife

- From historical records and accounts, the Māngere Inlet was once home to an abundance of wildlife. This indicator is targeted at activities which can encourage the return of species that previously would have inhabited or visited the Inlet, while also supporting those species that are currently there to thrive.

Typical Measures:

- Diversity of species and habitat that would have originally been present in the Inlet
- Abundance of species that would have originally been present in the Inlet becoming established

2.2 Improved water quality measured by technical indicators (e.g. chemical composition)

- The majority of water entering the marine receiving environment from the surrounding catchment is currently degraded. This indicator attempts to measure an activity's ability to demonstrate quantitative improvements to the quality of water entering the Inlet through established and agreed technical indicators.

Typical Measures:

- Local and national statutory standards for water quality

2.3 Improved water quality as measured by cultural indicators (e.g. mauri meter)

- Applied science is unable to fully capture and measure certain cultural values, such as the spiritual and traditional practice associated with food or kai gathering. This indicator is targeted at those measures that can demonstrate improvements in areas that are harder to quantify but that are culturally significant.

Typical Measures:

- Cultural indicators for water quality, such as:
 - Turbidity
 - Blooming of certain Rakau
 - Kai gathering
 - Ancestral knowledge

OUTCOME 3: TO REHABILITATE AND IMPROVE LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONNECTIONS FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENTS

3.1 Greater connectivity, e.g. green corridors

- This indicator supports and encourages the exploration of non-traditional connections, including opportunities for improving and establishing biodiversity linkages. Connectivity needs to be considered from a human and community perspective as well as from the perspective of plants and animals. This indicator should encourage opportunities for establishing new connections where appropriate.

Typical Measures:

- Identification and establishment of connections to new community and biodiversity linkages
- Existing and new avian migratory patterns recorded
- Establishment of eco-tourism activities in area
- Novel ecosystem initiatives progressed

3.2 Ease and variety of access

- If the Inlet is to become a destination, it needs to be easy to access. This indicator encourages multi-modal investment to ensure access is readily available and of a sufficient standard to enable all those who want to visit the area, to be able to do so.

Typical Measures:

- Integration and quality of public transport infrastructure
- Availability of public transport modes and services
- Attractiveness, safety and convenience of walking and cycling facilities
- Quality of access points and paving standard – accessible to all abilities, e.g. young, elderly, disabled
- Number of people visiting the area
- Journey times to/from key points
- Connections to wider Auckland, especially city centre and the Airport

3.3 Understanding and recognising all heritage assets

- The area around the Inlet is steeped in indigenous and colonial history. This includes the prominence of Otahuhu as a portage route for early Maori and the history of Onehunga as a significant trade port. This indicator seeks to better communicate the rich heritage of this area, resulting in a greater appreciation and understanding of the area and its heritage assets.

Typical Measures:

- Communication and understanding of heritage assets & values
- Exposure of the heritage assets and values through a diversity of media

OUTCOME 4: A CONNECTED COMMUNITY THAT IS THRIVING AND NURTURING - A PLACE THAT IS VALUED

4.1 Community ownership and involvement

- This indicator acknowledges the correlation between places of value and places that are valued. Given the high number of heavy industrial activities that are located in the surrounding catchment, there is both a high risk of an industrial accident as well as a high opportunity for increased private investment in environmental activities. This indicator seeks to encourage activities which can address both.

Typical Measures:

- Number of industries with pollution prevention programmes in place
- Investment by private individuals and organisations in activities with the aim of improving health of the Inlet
- Community involvement in voluntary activities, such as clean ups, planting days, etc.

4.2 The community feels proud of and connected to their local environment

- Where a community exhibits a strong sense of ownership and pride in an area, typical factors associated with negative behaviours and attitudes are less prevalent. This indicator looks at opportunities for improving community sentiment and ownership of the local environment.

Typical Measures:

- Community sentiment as measured through surveys and questionnaires

4.3 Ethnic diversity values

- Auckland is increasingly a city of cultural inclusion, with a wide variety of ethnic groups living and working within the catchment of the Inlet. This indicator acknowledges the diversity of the population, but looks to ensure that there is a common understanding shared and understood by all ethnic groups with respect to the potential impacts of ethnic customs on cultural values.

Typical Measures:

- Understanding of cultural values and traditions