

Issues and Possible Actions

The Core Group has marshalled the issues identified at the May workshop and identified possible actions in response as follows:

Issue	Possible Actions
<p>1. The ecological condition/natural character of Pauatahanui Inlet has been significantly changed by human activities. Examples of changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of extensive areas of saltmarsh and intertidal eelgrass • Reduction in the number of native bird species and abundance of those species • Significant reduction in the numbers of shellfish and other filter feeders • Significant reduction in fin fish species, numbers and average size • Significant increase in troublesome algae blooms (eg sea lettuce) Change is continuing. 	<p>Develop and use a suite of techniques to protect and restore the ecological/natural character values of the Inlet and its margins. This will include regulatory, education and incentive (including financial) tools and active restoration works.</p>
<p>2. Rooding has significantly altered the natural character and ecological values of the Inlet. Road maintenance and construction activities have not always been undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner.</p>	<p>Key roading agencies develop a strategic plan addressing the long term roading options around the Inlet. Investigate and implement management systems for on-going maintenance activities which identify and mitigate adverse environmental effects on the Pauatahanui Inlet.</p> <p>New applications for roading activities under the RMA must recognise that the protection of the Inlet from adverse environmental effects is a critical issue to be addressed.</p>
<p>3. Invasive alien plant and animal species have adversely affected ecological values in the Inlet and its margins.</p>	<p>Investigate and prepare an action plan including a regular surveillance programme. Ensure adequate resources are available to exclude, control and where possible eradicate alien plant and animal species.</p>
<p>4. Catchment land use activities continue to have adverse effects on the Inlet.</p>	<p>Enforce existing District and Regional plan provisions.</p> <p>Investigate options for establishing a programme to retire riparian margins and other at risk areas (this may include financial assistance for fencing and planting)</p> <p>Develop and implement an environmental education programme for landowners and the community generally.</p>
<p>5. Sediment and nutrient management systems do not appear to be achieving the desired environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>Review the range of conditions imposed on resource consents for the purposes of managing sediments and nutrients for new developments/disturbances. Develop new conditions where appropriate.</p> <p>Disseminate best practice information from the international conference on stormwater held in</p>

	<p>Auckland in 1999.</p> <p>Investigate options for retrofitting stormwater systems that discharge into the Pauatahanui Inlet.</p> <p>Continue to monitor existing sediment and nutrient management systems to ensure that they are appropriately maintained.</p>
<p>6. The planning framework for addressing the cumulative effects of sediment, nutrients and pollutants on the Inlet needs to be strengthened.</p>	<p>Develop a detailed policy framework for management of cumulative effects which may include threshold levels of maximum acceptable change. Initiate changes to the Porirua District Plan and the regional plans as appropriate</p> <p>Consider establishment of an independent group to monitor the degree of cumulative effects and the appropriateness of granted resource consents and their conditions.</p>
<p>7. There is an absence of data to quantify many of environmental trends in the Inlet and to facilitate the prediction of the impacts of specific actions/activities.</p>	<p>Identify aspects requiring research and commission appropriate studies.</p> <p>Investigate the options for development of a predictive model of the Inlet's response to development. Implement the model as appropriate.</p> <p>Develop and implement an integrated monitoring framework, which fulfils the responsibilities of the Porirua City Council and Wellington Regional Council under Section 35 of the RMA.</p>
<p>8. Overlapping responsibilities between agencies have diminished accountabilities for responsive action (e.g. excluding aliens; controlling the effects of land use on water quality). There is confusion about who is responsible for administering/managing different aspects in the Inlet and there appears to be a lack of co-ordination between management agencies.</p>	<p>Agencies clarify accountabilities for specific roles and projects.</p> <p>Prepare guidebook on responsibilities. Investigate options for developing a centralised point for inquiries.</p> <p>Investigate the options for the preparation of a joint WRC/PCC statutory plan for the Inlet and its catchment under the RMA</p> <p>Investigate options for developing a management structure which facilitates co-ordination, eg. Joint consultative committee.</p> <p>Initiate an independent review/audit of the implementation of statutory plans prepared under the RMA in the Pauatahanui Inlet</p> <p>Agencies prepare their business plans in consultation with each other to facilitate co-ordinated timetables for linked actions.</p>