



Tauranga Harbour catchment action plan progress report 2013-16

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is investing more than \$63.8m over the coming ten years to help care for land, water and wildlife in the Tauranga Harbour and catchment.

Together with tangata whenua, Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District Councils, local businesses, landowners, community groups and the wider community, we're leading work to support:

Hei oranga te whenua
Healthy land

Hei oranga te moana
Healthy harbour

Hei oranga te tangata
Healthy people

One component of Regional Council's Tauranga Harbour care work has been to deliver on catchment action plans for each of the Harbour's 16 sub-catchments. This report provides a summary of what's been achieved against catchment action plan targets since they were developed in 2013.



Catchment action plan delivery is just one part of our work to care for Te Awanui Tauranga Harbour. Together with our partners we're also working on:

Keeping water clean

Helping landowners to protect stream, drain, wetland and coastal margins. We're aiming to protect **50 kilometres of waterway margins each year**, to reduce sediment, nutrient and bacterial pollution from erosion and agricultural run-off.

Keeping wildlife wonderful

Supporting landowners and community groups to care for natural areas and wildlife through work like fencing, pest control and planting. We're aiming to **protect 122 new biodiversity sites**, in addition to the 122 sites and 53 kilometres of sand dunes we already help out with.

Preventing pollution

Regularly checking industrial areas, water takes and consented discharges such as from stormwater, agricultural effluent, irrigation and spray systems for consent and plan compliance. We maintain a 24/7 oil spill and other pollution response system. To report pollution incidents to the Pollution Hotline call 0800 884 883.

Empowering iwi

Assisting the Tauranga Moana Iwi Collective to develop and implement a framework for co-management of the Tauranga rohe, following treaty settlement. We're also supporting Manaaki Taha Moana to integrate matauranga Māori (traditional knowledge) with western science methods to measure the cultural and environmental health of the harbour.

Monitoring land, air, water and wildlife

Recording data and trends on ground water, rivers, soil, air and coastal environmental health indicators at **more than 160 monitoring sites**. See real-time data at www.boprc.govt.nz/livemonitoring.

Improving water management

From 2018 we'll be starting implementation of central government's National Policy Statement for Freshwater in the Tauranga Harbour catchment. We'll be involving the community in plan changes to set local water quality and quantity targets.

New research

Supporting the University of Waikato Coastal Science Chair to lead research and PhD studies into topics such as harbour nutrient dynamics, sea lettuce management options and aquaculture opportunities.

Holding the line on mangrove expansion

Mangrove spread is sediment and climate led. We're trialling **new ways to reduce sedimentation**, and supporting 11 Estuary Care groups to control mangrove seedlings in 600 hectares of harbour bed that they want to keep open for public access, fishing and water sports.

Cleaning up the harbour

Sea lettuce is natural but a nuisance. We work with Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council to collect large sea lettuce accumulations from busy beaches over summer. We also involve school children in litter pick-ups around their local estuaries and streams.

Keeping boating brilliant

Providing Harbourmaster services including maintaining marker buoys, managing swing moorings, harbour safety patrols and reviewing the Navigation Safety Bylaws.

Stopping the spread of pests

We keep watch for new plant, animal, freshwater and marine pests. We help landowners to **contain or eradicate more than 137 different pest species** around the catchment. Visit www.boprc.govt.nz/pestpatrol or call 0800 STOP PESTS (0800 786 773) for pest identification and advice.



Tauranga Harbour

Overall report for all sub-catchments

The Tauranga Harbour catchment covers an area of 129,257 hectares from the top of the Kaimai Mamaku ranges to the Tauranga Harbour, between Waihi Beach and Welcome Bay, and including Matakana Island.

Many waterways run through the catchment from the top of the mountains into the 21,800 hectare Tauranga Harbour, including the Wairoa, Aongātete, Waipapa, Waimapu and Wainui Rivers.

Matakana Island does not currently have a sub-catchment action plan. Results for Matakana included in the totals below are 1.7 kilometres of stream margin protected from stock; 42.7 hectares of land use change; six properties with management plans to protect biodiversity values.



Keeping water clean



By excluding stock and restoring vegetation beside waterways we can reduce the amount of faecal bacteria, nutrient and sediment run-off that enters the waterways and receiving harbour.

That means cleaner water, less mangrove habitat, and healthier kaimoana (shellfish).

Length of stream margins protected from stock



2013 - 2016 total length of new stream protection **216.4 km**

When 2022 targets are met, 91.85 percent of all stream margins in the Tauranga Harbour catchment will be protected from stock.

Reducing erosion risk



Soil loss from erosion reduces land productivity and contributes to sediment run-off into nearby waterways and the harbour. Steep land is especially prone to erosion when used for cattle or deer grazing. Earthworks can also result in serious soil loss if not carefully managed.

Number of properties 'at risk' of erosion which are managed through a property management plan



*equates to 1393.7 ha of land use change



Protecting wildlife habitat

By protecting and restoring wetlands, forests, saltmarsh and coastal margins, we can help wildlife to thrive. Pollination, water filtration, plentiful kaimoana (seafood) and pest suppression are just some of the benefits that healthy habitats and native wildlife populations can provide.

Number of areas of indigenous forest, estuary margin or wetland being actively managed by the community to protect biodiversity values



Tauranga Harbour sub-catchments



Individual action plans and 2013-16 progress report cards for each of the 16 Tauranga Harbour sub-catchments are available at www.boprc.govt.nz/catchmentaction

- Aongātete
- Kaitemako
- Kopurererua
- Mangatāwa
- Oturu
- Te Mania
- Te Puna/Waipapa
- Te Rereatukāhia
- Tuapiro
- Uretara
- Waiau
- Waimapu
- Wainui
- Wairoa
- Waitekohe
- Welcome Bay



For more information about *Te Awanui* Tauranga Harbour:

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