Waimea Inlet Action Plan

2018 to 2021



Figure 1: Photograph by Duncan Cunningham

Updated August 2019

Contents

Preface	3
Introduction	6
Considerations for identifying priorities	6
Objectives, outcomes, actions and targets	8
Review	16
Glossary	16
Terms of Reference: Coordination Group for Waimea Inlet	19
Timeline for implementing targets from the Action Plan (2018-203	0) 21



PO Box 645 Nelson 2040 New Zealand PH 03 5460200 nelson.govt.nz

Figure 2: Map of the Waimea Inlet

Preface

Waimea Inlet is a special place, loved by many people, and home to a wide array of living organisms, some rare and threatened, others international migrants. The Inlet itself is a place of peace and tranquillity within a landscape of urban, industrial, and agricultural activity. As population increases, people increasingly value the estuarine environment as a place for quiet and restoration.

In 2010, citizens who cared about the Inlet worked with Tasman District and Nelson City Councils, DOC and Fish and Game to produce the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (WIMS). Members of the Waimea Inlet Forum are now coordinating progress on a broad front that involves restoring the margins, trapping predators, and caring for the whole.

The WIMS is a community-owned resource where the Councils facilitated its creation. As such both the Strategy and this Action Plan represent matters to be taken into account in related processes such as Council financial planning and resource management planning. The same applies to other statutory bodies such as DOC and Fish and Game. The Action Plan can only be effectively implemented if its aspirations are taken into account in the management of its catchments, related estuaries and Tasman Bay as a whole. Indeed, for migratory birds, complementary actions are needed in other places and even in other countries.¹

To help everyone build effectively on the Strategy, and the good work already underway, a Coordination Group² was formed to create an Action Plan to identify, prioritise, integrate and coordinate actions aimed at achieving the vision of the WIMS. This Action Plan is the product. It sets actions and targets for the next three years and beyond. It is a draft, intended as a basis for a wider discussion amongst interested parties before formal sign off by the signatories to the WIMS³, and any other organisations that will commit to implementing it.

In writing this Action Plan, the Coordination Group identified that the Waimea Inlet Strategy itself needs updating to reflect changes since it was drafted. Most significantly, Treaty settlements and their associated statutory recognitions, have defined roles for local iwi that must be better acknowledged, and this is supported by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010⁴. The Coordination Group suggests that the Strategy be

¹ For information on related processes see https://waimeainlet.wordpress.com/

² Members include representatives from Tasman District Council (TDC), Nelson City Council (NCC), Department of Conservation (DOC), Fish & Game, Tasman Environmental Trust, Waimea Inlet Forum Working Group and Te Tau Ihu iwi.

³ As at 2018, the signatories to the WIMS comprised Tasman District Council (TDC), Nelson City Council (NCC), Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fish & Game. Each of the eight Te Tau Ihu iwi has an open invitation to become signatories to the WIMS and to appoint representatives to the Coordination Group.

⁴ http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/science-publications/conservationpublications/marine-and-coastal/new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement/new-zealandcoastal-policy-statement-2010/policy-2-the-treaty-of-waitangi-tangata-whenua-and-maori/

updated in two to three years as information becomes available through completing the work described in this Action Plan.

The vision for the Waimea Inlet (as identified in Section 5 of the WIMS) is: "A vibrant place, richly appreciated by the community for its open space, natural and ecological values; happily remembered by generations for their activities, adventures and discoveries; a place where tangata whenua hold mana as kaitiaki of taonga; and a place to be shared with increasing respect."

Figure 3 outlines the relationship between signatories to the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy, members of the Coordination Group and groups/ individuals delivering actions on the ground.



Figure 3: Relationship between signatories to the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy, members of the Coordination Group and groups/individuals delivering actions on the ground

The areas of responsibility of the Coordination Group are:

- to periodically review the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (WIMS);
- to develop and update an Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy; and
- to monitor and report on implementation of the Action Plan and prepare an Annual Report for stakeholders.

The intention is that the Coordination Group will meet three or four times per year to undertake this work.

Each of the signatories of the WIMS has responsibility for reviewing, considering and approving any updates to the WIMS and/or Action Plan that are proposed by the Coordination Group.

For the Action Plan, signatories will focus on those specific actions that their organisation would like to assist with or take a lead on, and sign-off on those specific actions - rather than the Action Plan in its entirety. As the Action Plan will represent the collective effort of a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals, signatories are unlikely to be involved in all proposed actions.

The Waimea Inlet Forum representative provides an interface with community and sector groups, so that interested members of the public can have input. If required, the Tasman Environmental Trust representative will co-ordinate and manage project funding from the signatories and outside sources. Each representative on the Coordination Group is responsible for reporting back to the organisation that he/she represents.

The Terms of Reference for the Coordination Group are appended to this draft Action Plan.

This Action Plan was adopted by Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council and the Department of Conservation in 2019.

Introduction

The purpose of this Waimea Inlet Action Plan (the Plan) is to enable aligned action to implement the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (WIMS). The Plan identifies objectives and outcomes. It sets out priority actions. Once participant organisations have had a chance to say which actions they can support, the Plan will identify a lead for each action, and who will monitor progress toward collective targets. Being a lead will mean taking responsibility for initiating action, and for monitoring and reporting progress. It will not mean the party will undertake the action alone, or provide all the resources. Each party will make its own decisions about resources and actions. Some actions will have joint leads, mostly where an action should be council-led, and the work spans the geographic areas of both councils. Parties to this Plan will provide a full report every three years on achievement of targets and outcomes to the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group 18 months in advance of Councils' Long Term Plans. with the first report due by Feb/March 2020. A progress report on work completed to date will also be submitted to the Coordination Group annually.

Considerations for identifying priorities

The considerations used to set priorities and sequence actions are listed below. In the process of drafting this Plan, the Coordination Group realised that the future of the Inlet, and the effectiveness of actions, will be dominated by the effects of climate change. The Group recommends that priority is given to understanding these effects, before the Strategy and Action Plan are reviewed.

Well beings	Considerations
Environmental	 Irreversibility if not undertaken. Urgency, how soon irreversible change might happen. Contribution to protecting indigenous biodiversity, threatened species, habitats and ecosystems. Role for national and international migrant species. Contribution to ecosystem health.
Cultural	Contribution to tangata whenua values.Community ownership and respect.
Social	 Level of opportunity for multiple parties to be involved. Enhancing peoples' connection and engagement.
Economic	Economic cost/benefit.Achievability - financial and outcome.

Figure 4: Logic structure

Waimea Inlet Vision

A vibrant place, richly appreciated by the community for its open space, natural and ecological values; happily remembered by generations for their activities, adventures and discoveries; a place where tangata whenua hold mana as kaitiaki of taonga; and a place to be shared with increasing respect.



Objective 3

People value and enjoy the Inlet and collaborate in caring for it for present and future generations.

Outcome 7 An inclusive culture of collaboration and care is sustained. Outcome 8 Places and resources are available for ecologically sustainable use.

Intermediate Outcome 7.1 Difference is respected and consensus fostered.

Intermediate Outcome 7.2 People value and understand the Waimea Inlet. Intermediate Outcome 8.1 Resources important to the community are enjoyed, sustained, and restored.

Objectives, outcomes, actions and targets

Objective 1 The environmental health of the Inlet is sustained			
Outcome 1 Natural systems are ecologically connected to sustain their functioning.			
Intermediate Outcome 1.1	Intermediate Outcome 1.2		
Ecological functioning, water quality, habitat, flows, and amenity values are restored in the Inlet.	Estuary margins are protected and restored.		
 Actions: Investigate the potential feasibility and cost of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island to achieve flushing and therefore reduce sea-lettuce proliferation in the non-flushed pockets of estuary. Ensure commitment to repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and Estuary Vulnerability Assessment on a 5-yearly cycle to ensure ecological health of the estuary is sustained. 	 Actions: Manage and restore key habitats located on public and private land. Develop ecological corridors and transition zones linking habitats. Increase the area of saltmarsh⁵, and naturally vegetated duneland and estuary margin in the Waimea Inlet. Minimise further shoreline armouring⁶ and promote use of "soft engineering⁷" techniques wherever possible for all infrastructure including replacement armouring, roads, and cycleways. Promote formal protection of natural areas (e.g. covenant, change in land tenure). 		
 Targets: Complete feasibility study of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island by 2020. Reduce the area of nuisance algal area (areas where macroalgae exceeds 20% cover) by 5% by 2030. Repeat broad scale habitat monitoring in 2018, 2023, and 2028. 	 Identify key sites, plus linking corridors and transition zones, to be managed to protect estuarine habitats by 1 July 2019. Also consider options for formal protection. Increase the area of saltmarsh in the Waimea Inlet by 5% by 2030. Increase the area of naturally vegetated dune land on Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Island by 10% by 2030 and maintain Sand Is free of marram. Increase the area of naturally-vegetated estuary margin by 10km (to an average width of 10m) by 2030. No increase in the net extent of shoreline armouring by 2030 and increase use of "soft engineering" techniques wherever possible. 		

 ⁵ Saltmarsh includes estuarine shrubs, tussock, reeds, grasses, herbs, sedges and other herbaceous saline vegetation.
 ⁶ Hard protection structures creating shoreline armouring include: seawalls, rock revetments, groynes, breakwaters, stop banks, retaining walls or comparable structure or modification to the seabed, foreshore or coastal land that has the primary purpose or effect of protecting an activity from a coastal hazard, including erosion and sea level rise.

⁷ Soft engineering means the use of ecological principles and practices to reduce erosion and achieve the stabilization and safety of shorelines while enhancing habitat, improving aesthetics, and saving money.

Objective 1 The environmental health of the Inlet is sustained Outcome 2			
Degradation of natural ecosys	tems is halted and reversed.		
Intermediate Outcome 2.1	Intermediate Outcome 2.2		
Sediment, contaminant, and nutrient input from the land to the Inlet is reduced to sustainable levels.	Biosecurity threats are managed.		
Actions:	Actions:		
 Include consideration of the natural values of the inlet in all proposed changes to the Resource Management Plans. Clean up pollution sources (both point and non-point pollution) and monitor progress.⁸ Restore freshwater ecosystems. Promote riparian fencing and planting programs. Monitor toxin levels, identify problems, establish clean-up programmes and monitor progress. 	 Undertake biosecurity surveillance and response. Manage and reduce weed populations and exclude new weeds. 		
Targets:	Targets:		
 Review the policies of the Nelson and Tasman Resource Management Plans to ensure that they require protection of Inlet values and meet the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (as set out in the progressive implementation plans). Complete review of water quality in contributing waterways and document required remedial action by 2025. Establish a list of priority sites for restoration work on freshwater ecosystems by 31 December 2019. Catchment nutrient, sediment, faecal and other contaminants concentrations to the tributaries going into the Inlet are reduced by 10% by 2021. All urban and industrial storm water and effluent discharges to streams in the 	 Develop a unified strategic weed management control plan with appropriate agencies/stakeholders that identifies species and sites, establishes the most appropriate management approach by 2020. Spartina eradication programme fully funded and implementation commenced (5-year control and 5-year monitoring) by 2020. Management plan for <i>Gambusia</i> written by March December 2019, and implementation of the fully funded plan commenced by 2020. Secure funding for control of jelly bean ice-plant by 2020. 		
catchment meet ANZECC (2000) ISQG low sediment toxicity criteria within 50m of the discharge outfall by 2030.6. Commence remediation of old dumps on the estuary margins as they are discovered.			

⁸ Note that this will mean adoption of best practice for stormwater including the use of swales, infiltration and wetlands rather than further direct discharges to the Inlet and its tributaries.

The environmental health of the Inlet is sustained

Outcome 3

The natural functioning of the Inlet is resilient in the face of natural hazards and their intensification due to climate change.

Intermediate Outcome 3.1

Natural ecosystems can persist as sea levels rise and climate related impacts intensify.

Actions:

- 1. Plan for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify.
- 2. Prevent new infrastructure on sites where managed retreat for biodiversity is required and analyse the social and economic effects on the community.

Targets:

- 1. Integrate consideration of the likely impact of sea level rise and other climate change effects on the viability of estuary margins and on threatened species and wildlife, into Council-led climate change planning, by April 2019.
- 2. Create a priority list of sites to be managed, including key habitats/seed source by April 2019.
- 3. Identify key opportunities to enhance ecological sequences and support landowners/stakeholders to implement to enable managed retreat by 1 July 2020.
- 4. Create a managed retreat and climate change response action plan and review the Strategy and Action Plan by 1 July 2021.

Natural ecosystems in the Inlet are restored and protected

Outcome 4

Special places and representative examples of native ecosystems are protected and restored.

Intermediate Outcome 4.1

Biological diversity, sensitive habitats, and biological communities are restored in the Inlet.

Actions:

- 1. Restore fish habitat and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways.
- 2. Identify and protect areas of native vegetation within the Waimea Inlet and surrounds.
- 3. Identify areas subject to tidal influence and work with landowner to exclude stock.
- **4.** Enhance ecological sequences and support landowners/stakeholders to implement (e.g. embayment margins).

Targets:

1. Complete programmes to restore fish habitat, including spawning sites, and identify and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways by 1 July 2025.

Natural ecosystems in the Inlet are restored and p	rotected
--	----------

Outcome 5			
Native species are sustained or restored.			
Intermediate Outcome 5.1 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under active management.	Intermediate Outcome 5.2 Wildlife and their habitats are protected.		
Actions:	Actions:		
 Protect the Back Beach Beetle from extinction. Actively manage all threatened species in the Inlet and its surrounds. Manage the effects of domestic and feral animals on native animals and plants including effects of cats and dogs. Develop and implement baseline distribution surveys and/or monitoring programmes for banded rail, fern bird, marsh crake, spotless crake, and Australasian bittern. 	 Manage human disturbance of wildlife. Reduce the impacts of cats and dogs around the estuary as populations pressures increase. Give formal protection to, and manage human activities in, important wildlife areas Follow recommended actions from 'Effects of selected activities on shorebirds in Tasman District - Management issues and options for site of International Importance' David S. Melville and Rob Schuckard (November 2013). Continue monitoring of populations and site conditions (roosting, nesting, feeding) as part of State of the Environment monitoring to determine the effectiveness of coastal management actions and RMA compliance⁹. 		
Targets:	Targets:		
 Develop a strategic approach to the current and future management of the Back Beach Beetle by 31 December 2019. Update the DOC Ecological Management Unit assessment including comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements by 1 July 2023. Pursue a full programme of recovery actions for <i>Lepidium banksii</i> - coastal peppercress including with community and botanic gardens for ex-situ populations and seed banking including annual weed and pest control, monitoring in situ and ex-situ of peppercress and its threats and identifying, and if required, restoring sites suitable for the introduction of <i>Lepidium banksii</i> by 2020. Complete a unified strategic animal pest control plan to "control" all predators and herbivores where these are a threat to threatened species and habitats by 30 June 2020. Prepare a unified plan for bird surveys, including site conditions (roosting, nesting, feeding), conducted by different groups by 31 December 2020. Note, also applies to Action 5. 	 Identify activities that disturb wildlife and develop actions to reduce them by 1 July 2019. Identify important wildlife areas (including related areas outside Waimea) and actions required to manage human activities that disturb wildlife¹⁰ by 1 July 2020 ¹¹. 		

 ⁹ Specific monitoring recommendations are listed in Schuckard & Melville (August 2013).
 ¹⁰ Including drones.
 ¹¹ Includes investigating use of wildlife sanctuaries and reserves to protect areas important to wildlife.

Objective 3 People value and enjoy the Inlet and collaborate in caring for it for present and future generations		
Outcome 6 Tangata whenua are respected as kaitiaki and opportunities for customary uses are sustained.		
Intermediate Outcome 6.1 Kaitiaki ¹² share in decisions about use and protection.	Intermediate Outcome 6.2 The mauri and wairua of Waimea are nurtured and perpetuated.	
 Actions: 1. Review plans and actions with tangata whenua¹³ to ensure rangatiratanga¹⁴ and take tupūna¹⁵ are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho¹⁶. 2. Support the Moturoa Wananga pilot project.¹⁷ 	 Actions: Identify what is negatively impacting the wairua and mauri of the Inlet, Identify barriers to capacity to exercise customary practices, tikanga¹⁸, and mātauranga ¹⁹ processes including association with wāhi tapu²⁰. 	
 Targets: 1. Dialogue established with all iwi with statutory acknowledgements by 1 July 2018. 2. Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan updated by 31 December 2020. 	Targets: 1. Baseline assessments of issues, barriers and remedial actions completed by 1 July 2020.	

¹² Guardian

¹³ People belonging to a place

¹⁶ Treasured resources

¹⁷ The programme involves restoration of Moturoa/Rabbit Island as a basis for a leadership programme for rangatahi up to the age of 24 nominated by the eight Te Tau Ihu iwi and maata waka.

¹⁸ Custom, practice

¹⁹ Māori customary knowledge, traditional knowledge or intergenerational knowledge
 ²⁰ Sacred place or site

¹⁴ Self determination

¹⁵ Ancestral

Objective 3 People value and enjoy the Inlet and collaborate in caring for it for present and future generations			
Outcome 7 An inclusive culture of collaboration and care is sustained.			
Intermediate Outcome 7.1	Intermediate Outcome 7.2		
Difference is respected and consensus fostered.	People value and understand the Waimea Inlet.		
 Actions: Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum²¹ as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration. Coordinate with Waimea FLAG²² group and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao group on planning for future of Inlet. 	 Actions: Create, and keep current, an evidence- based information and research strategy that identifies the information required, how that can best be organised and maintained, and gaps that need to be filled by further research. Inform people and help them value the Inlet. Increase citizen involvement in caring for the Inlet including managing threats and restoring natural ecosystems. 		
 Targets: Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually. Invite representatives from Waimea FLAG group and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao group to provide regular updates to the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group (e.g. twice yearly). 	 Targets: Complete information and research and education and social marketing strategies in an integrated process by 1 July 2020. Include reporting of selected themes for the Inlet in state of the environment reporting²³ by 1 July 2024. 		

²¹ The Waimea Inlet Forum was created as a result of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy, an inter-agency strategy that included the Tasman and Nelson councils, statutory agencies, non-statutory groups and organisations, businesses and residents who have an interest in and a commitment to the Waimea Inlet and its sustainable future.

https://waimeainlet.wordpress.com/about-the-forum/

²² Freshwater Land Advisory Group.

²³The annual monitoring summaries are comprehensive documents that provide the key monitoring results for water, air and bathing water quality.

People value and enjoy the Inlet and collaborate in caring for it for present and future generations

Outcome 8

Places and resources are available for ecologically sustainable use.

Intermediate Outcome 8.1

Resources important to the community are enjoyed, sustained, and restored.

Actions:

- 1. Include natural and cultural values of the inlet in all strategic and infrastructure planning²⁴.
- 2. Protect and restore fisheries habitat within the Inlet.
- 3. Improve opportunities for recreation and public access where these are in harmony with caring for other values of the Inlet. ²⁵
- 4. Implement the Moturoa/Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan to ensure no adverse environmental effects on the Inlet, restoration of natural values of inlet margins.
- 5. Promote ecologically sustainable uses of the Inlet and its environs.

Targets:

- 1. Survey quality of fisheries habitat and fish stocks by 31 December 2020.
- 2. Identify at risk areas to vehicle access and create a remediation plan by 1 July 2019.
- 3. Develop plans to remediate past damage and avoid or mitigate future impacts from major infrastructure on the inlet by 1 July 2022.
- 4. Support major infrastructure owners and operators supported to review the impacts of their activities on the inlet and remediate past damage by 1 July 2022.

²⁴ Includes Long Term Plans, Annual Plans, and Resource Management Act, Local Government Act and Biosecurity Act mandated plans
 ²⁵ Including provision for social seating.

Review

The Action Plan will be reviewed every three years, approximately 18 months in advance of the Tasman District and Nelson City Council Long Term Plans. The first review will take place in February/March 2020.

When reviewing the Action Plan, the Coordination Group will take into consideration updates to relevant planning documents (such as the TRMP, Nelson Plan, Richmond Catchment Management Plan) and outcomes from related processes (e.g. Waimea FLAG etc).

Glossary

Amenity values means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.

Biological diversity (biodiversity) means the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Climate change means a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Community in relation to biodiversity means a group of organisms growing or living together in a given area.

Contaminant includes any substance (including gases, odorous compounds, liquids, solids, and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy, or heat when discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of water; or when discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological or air onto or into which it is discharged.

Customary use means, according to tikanga, the extractive use of indigenous plants or animals by tangata whenua for traditional uses including food gathering, carving, weaving, and rongoa (traditional medicine).

Disturb has the same meaning as in the Wildlife Act 1953.

Ecosystem means an ecological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit; an interacting system of living parts and non-living parts such as sunlight, air, water, minerals and nutrients.

Environment includes ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and all natural and physical resources; and amenity values; and the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect them.

Habitat means the area or environment where an organism or ecological community lives or occurs naturally for some or all of its life cycle or as part of its seasonal feeding or breeding pattern.

Hard protection structure includes a seawall, rock revetment, groyne, breakwater, stop bank, retaining wall or comparable structure or modification to the seabed, foreshore or coastal land that has the primary purpose or effect of protecting an activity from a coastal hazard, including erosion.

Harmful aquatic organisms are aquatic organisms which, if introduced into coastal water, may adversely affect the environment or biological diversity, pose a threat to human health, or interfere with legitimate use or protection of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment.

Infrastructure means pipelines that distribute or transmit natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, biofuel, or geothermal energy; a network for the purpose of telecommunication as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001; a network for the purpose of radiocommunication as defined in section 2(1) of the Radiocommunications Act 1989; facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person uses them in connection with the generation of electricity for the person's use; and does not use them to generate any electricity for supply to any other person; a water supply distribution system, including a system for irrigation; a drainage or sewerage system; structures for transport on land by cycleways, rail, roads, walkways, or any other means; facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers transported on land by any means; an airport as defined in section 2 of the Airport Authorities Act 1966; a navigation installation as defined in section 2 of the Civil Aviation Act 1990; facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers carried by sea, including a port related commercial undertaking as defined in section 2(1) of the Port Companies Act 1988; anything described as a network utility operation in regulations made for the purposes of the definition of network utility operator in section 166 of the Resource Management Act.

Inappropriate development and infrastructure are development and infrastructure that do not conform with the guidance of the NZ Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

Indigenous species means a species or genetic variant found naturally in New Zealand, including migrant species visiting New Zealand on a regular or irregular basis. Indigenous vegetation means any local indigenous plant community through the course of its growth or succession consisting primarily

of native species and habitats normally associated with that vegetation type, soil or ecosystem or having the potential to develop these characteristics. It includes vegetation with these characteristics that has been regenerated with human assistance following disturbance or as mitigation for another activity, but excludes plantations and vegetation that have been established for commercial harvesting.

Kaitiakitanga means the exercise of guardianship by the tangata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Maori in relation to natural and physical resources; and includes the ethic of stewardship.

Locally significant species are those not threatened or at risk nationally but at risk off loss from Waimea Inlet and which are or were part of its original natural character.

Maataitai means food resources from the sea and mahinga maataitai means the areas from which these resources are gathered.

Restoration and enhancement means the active intervention and management of degraded biotic communities, landforms and landscapes in order to restore biological character, ecological and physical processes.

Tangata whenua, in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area.

Threatened species means a species facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild and includes nationally critical, nationally endangered and nationally vulnerable species as identified in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists. At risk means a species facing a longer-term risk of extinction in the wild (either because of severely reduced or naturally small population size or because the population is declining but buffered by either a large total population or a slow rate of decline) as identified in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists.

Wetland includes permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.

Wildlife has the same meaning as in the Wildlife Act 1953.

Terms of Reference: Coordination Group for Waimea Inlet

1 Purpose

The purpose of the Coordination Group for the Waimea Inlet²⁶ is to identify, prioritise, integrate and coordinate actions aimed at achieving the vision of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (WIMS).

The vision for the Waimea Inlet (as identified in Section 5 of the WIMS) is:

"A vibrant place, richly appreciated by the community for its open space, natural and ecological values; happily remembered by generations for their activities, adventures and discoveries; a place where tangata whenua hold mana as kaitiaki of taonga; and a place to be shared with increasing respect.

To achieve this vision we will need to:

- work together
- keep the inlet healthy
- share its opportunities
- make it better for the future
- maintain commitment to the inlet."

2 Membership

Membership of the Coordination Group may include representatives from each the following organisations:

- Te Tau Ihu Iwi
- Tasman District Council (TDC)
- Nelson City Council (NCC)
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council (Fish & Game)
- Tasman Environmental Trust (TET)
- Waimea Inlet Forum (WIF)

One member should be appointed as Chairperson of the Coordination Group.

Representatives may be elected members, staff members, or have some other affiliation with the organisation they are representing. The representatives will bring to the group their organisation's expertise and ideas for implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Action Plan.

3 Stakeholders

These include the organisations listed under 'Membership' above, along with other individuals and groups with an interest in the Waimea Inlet.

4 Quorum

The quorum shall be no less than four members, none of whom need to be elected Council representatives.

5 Areas of Responsibility

The areas of responsibility of the Coordination Group are:

- to periodically review the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (WIMS);
- to develop and update an Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy; and
- to monitor and report on implementation of the Action Plan and prepare an Annual Report for stakeholders.

6 Powers to decide

None.

²⁶ The diagram appended to this Terms of Reference outlines the relationship between signatories to the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy, members of the Coordination Group and groups/ individuals delivering actions on the ground.

7 Powers to recommend

Each of the signatories of the WIMS²⁷ is requested to review, consider and sign off on any updates to the WIMS and/or Action Plan that are proposed by the Coordination Group.

With regard to the Action Plan, signatories should focus on those specific actions that their organisation would like to assist with or take a lead on, and sign off on those specific actions - rather than the Action Plan in its entirety. As the Action Plan will represent the collective effort of a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals, signatories are unlikely to be involved in all proposed actions.

8 Role of the Coordination Group

The Coordination Group will identify, prioritise and coordinate the actions needed to achieve implementation of the WIMS and collate these into a proposed Action Plan.

Each representative on the Coordination Group will report back to the organisation that he/she represents with recommendations from the Coordination Group and seek that organisation's support and endorsement of specific actions. The organisation may decide to take full or partial responsibility for specific actions recommended by the Coordination Group. An organisation's formal support of specific actions will be communicated back to the Group by the organisation's representative. An organisation may choose to support specific actions in various ways, e.g. by allocating funding and/or including action items within planning documents and work programmes.

The Waimea Inlet Forum representative will provide an interface with community and sector groups, so that interested members of the public can have input.

If required, the Tasman Environmental Trust representative will co-ordinate and manage project funding from the signatories and outside sources.

9 Role of the Chairperson

The Chairperson will:

- prepare the agenda for Coordination Group meetings;
- chair meetings and assist the Coordination Group to reach consensus on issues and options;
- act as the spokesperson for the Coordination Group; and
- as necessary, support or present Coordination Group recommendations to the signatories.

10 Role of staff

Council staff will provide advice and support to the Coordination Group as required. Organisations may choose to nominate a staff member as their representative on the Coordination Group, instead of (or in addition to) an elected member.

11 Conflicts of Interest

Any potential conflicts of interest will be declared at the start of each Coordination Group meeting.

12 Reporting

Notes of Coordination Group meetings will be taken by a member of the Group (to be selected by Group consensus) and circulated before the next meeting of the Group.

Each representative on the Coordination Group will be responsible for reporting back to the organisation that he/she represents.

13 Review of Terms of Reference

This terms of reference shall be reviewed at least every three years.

As at August 2017, the signatories to the WIMS comprised TDC, NCC, DOC and Fish & Game. Each of the eight Te Tau Ihu iwi has an open invitation to become signatories to the WIMS and to appoint representatives to the Coordination Group.

Timeline for implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan, for the period 2018 to 2030

Key: TDC = Tasman District Council, NCC = Nelson City Council, DOC = Department of Conservation, NMFG = Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game, WIF = Waimea Inlet Forum, WICG = Waimea Inlet Coordination Group, TET = Tasman Environmental Trust, Iwi = Te Tau Ihu iwi

Year	Action	Target	Lead	Support
All years	1.2.5 Promote formal protection of natural areas (e.g. covenant, change in land tenure).	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	2.1.4. Promote riparian fencing and planting programs.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	2.2.1 Undertake biosecurity surveillance and response.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	3.1.2. Prevent new infrastructure on sites where managed retreat for biodiversity is required and analyse the social and economic effects on the community.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	4.1.2. Identify and protect areas of native vegetation within the Waimea Inlet and surrounds.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	4.1.3. Identify areas subject to tidal influence and work with landowner to exclude stock.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC	
	4.1.4. Enhance ecological sequences and support landowners/stakeholders to implement (e.g. embayment margins).	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	7.2.3. Increase citizen involvement in caring for the Inlet including managing threats and restoring natural ecosystems.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	8.1.1. Include natural and cultural values of the inlet in all strategic and infrastructure planning.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC/NCC	
	8.1.4. Implement the Moturoa/Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan to ensure no adverse environmental effects on the Inlet, restoration of natural values of inlet margins.	Ongoing action - reported annually	TDC	
2018	1.1.2 Ensure commitment to repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and Estuary Vulnerability Assessment on a 5-yearly cycle to ensure ecological health of the estuary is sustained.	Repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and vulnerability assessments in 2018, 2023, and 2028.	TDC/NCC	
	3.1.1. Plan for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify.	Create a priority list of sites to be managed, including key habitats/seed source by April 2019.	WIF	DOC/TDC/NCC
	6.1.1. Review plans and actions with tangata whenua to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupūna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho.	Dialogue established with all iwi with statutory acknowledgements.	Chair of WIC Group	DOC/TDC/NCC
2019	2.1.3. Restore freshwater ecosystems.	List of priority sites for restoration work on freshwater ecosystems established.	TDC/NCC	
	2.1.2. Clean up pollution sources (both point and non-point pollution) and monitor progress	Complete initial review of water quality in contributing waterways (based on existing monitoring information only).	TDC/NCC	
	2.1.5. Monitor toxin levels, identify problems, establish clean-up programmes and monitor progress.	Remediation of old dumps on the estuary margins commenced as they are discovered. Ongoing.	Yet to be confirmed	TDC/NCC
	2.2.2. Manage and reduce weed populations and exclude new weeds.	Management plan for <i>Gambusia</i> written by December 2019, and implementation of the fully funded plan commenced by 2020.	DOC	TDC/NCC
	3.1.1. Plan for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify.	Integrate consideration of the likely impact of sea level rise and other climate change effects on the viability of estuary margins and on threatened species and wildlife into Council-led climate change planning.	TDC/NCC	
	5.1.1 Protect the Back Beach Beetle from extinction.	Develop a strategic approach to the current and future management of the Back Beach Beetle by 30 June 2019.	NCC	DOC
	5.2.1. Manage human disturbance of wildlife.	Identify activities that disturb wildlife and develop actions to reduce them by 1 July 2019 ²⁸ .	WIF/TET	TDC/NCC/DOC
	6.1.2. Support the Project Moturoa wananga pilot project.	No target	TDC	
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	First annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	All	
	7.1.2. Coordinate with Waimea FLAG group and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao group on planning for future of Inlet.	Invite representatives from Waimea FLAG group and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao group to provide regular updates to the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group (e.g. twice yearly).	TDC/DOC/NCC	All
	8.1.3. Improve opportunities for recreation and public access where these are in harmony with caring for other values of the Inlet.	Identify at risk areas to vehicle access and create remediation plan by 1 July 2019.	TDC/NCC	WIF

²⁸ Includes investigating use of wildlife sanctuaries and reserves to protect areas important to wildlife.

Year	Action	Target	Lead	Support
2020	1.2.1. Manage and restore key habitats managed on public and private land.	Identify key sites, plus linking corridors and transition zones, to be managed to protect estuarine habitats by 1 July 2020. Also consider options for formal protection.	WIF	TDC/NCC/DOC
	2.2.2. Manage and reduce weed populations and exclude new weeds.	Develop a unified strategic weed management control plan with appropriate agencies/stakeholders that identifies species and sites, establishes the most appropriate management approach by 2020.	TDC/NCC	DOC
	2.2.2. Manage and reduce weed populations and exclude new weeds.	<i>Spartina</i> eradication programme fully funded and implementation commenced (5-year control and 5-year monitoring) by 2020.	DOC	TDC/NCC
	2.2.2. Manage and reduce weed populations and exclude new weeds.	Management plan for <i>Gambusia</i> written by December 2019, and implementation of the fully funded plan commenced by 2020.	DOC	TDC/NCC
	2.2.2. Manage and reduce weed populations and exclude new weeds.	Secure funding for control of jelly bean ice-plant by 2020.	DOC	NCC
	3.1.1. Plan for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify.	Identify key opportunities to enhance ecological sequences and support landowners/stakeholders to implement to enable managed retreat by 1 July 2020.	TDC/NCC	
	5.1.2. Actively manage all threatened species in the Inlet and its surrounds.	Pursue a full programme of recovery actions for <i>Lepidium banksii</i> - coastal peppercress including with community and botanic gardens for ex-situ populations and seed banking including annual weed and pest control, monitoring in situ and ex-situ of peppercress and its threats and identifying, and if required, restoring sites suitable for the introduction of <i>Lepidium banksii</i> by 2020.	DOC	All (restoration projects)
	5.1.3. Manage the effects of domestic and feral animals on native animals and plants including effects of cats and dogs.	Complete a unified strategic animal pest control plan to "control" all predators and herbivores where these are a threat to threatened species and habitats by 30 June 2020.	TET	All
	 5.1.4. Develop and implement baseline distribution surveys and/or monitoring programmes for banded rail, fern bird, marsh crake, spotless crake, and Australasian bittern. 5.2.5. Continue monitoring of populations and site conditions (roosting, nesting, feeding) as part of State of the Environment monitoring to determine the effectiveness of coastal management actions and RMA compliance. 	Prepare a unified plan for bird surveys, including site conditions (roosting, nesting, feeding), conducted by different groups by 31 Decemsber 2020.	WIF/TET	NCC/TDC
	 5.2.2. Reduce the impacts of cats and dogs around the estuary as populations pressures increase. 5.2.3. Give formal protection to, and manage human activities in, important wildlife areas. 5.2.4 Follow recommended actions from 'Effects of selected activities on shorebirds in Tasman District - Management issues and options for site of International Importance' David S. Melville and Rob Schuckard November 2013. 	Identify important wildlife areas (including related areas outside Waimea) and actions required to manage human activities that disturb wildlife by 1 July 2020.	WIF/TET	TDC/NCC/DOC
	 6.2.1. Identify what is negatively impacting the wairua and mauri of the Inlet. 6.2.2. Identify barriers to capacity to exercise customary practices, tikanga, and mātauranga processes including association with waahi tapu. 	Baseline assessments of issues, barriers to capacity to exercise customary practices, tikanga ²⁹ , and mātauranga ³⁰ processes including association with wāhi tapu and remedial actions completed by 1 July 2020.	lwi	TDC/NCC/DOC
	6.1.1. Review plans and actions with tangata whenua to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupūna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho.	Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan updated by 31 December 2020.	All	
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Second annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	All	
	7.2.1. Create, and keep current, an evidence-based information and research strategy that identifies the information required, how that can best be organised and maintained, and gaps that need to be filled by further research.	Complete information and research and education and social marketing strategies in an integrated process completed by 1 July 2020.	TET	All
	8.1.2. Protect and restore fisheries habitat within the Inlet.	Survey quality of fisheries habitat and fish stocks by 31 December 2020.	NCC/NMFG	
2021	1.1.1. Investigate the potential feasibility and cost of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island to achieve flushing and therefore reduce sea-lettuce proliferation in the non-flushed pockets of estuary.	Feasibility study of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island completed.	Yet to be confirmed	TDC
	2.1.3. Restore freshwater ecosystems.	By 2021, catchment nutrient, sediment, faecal and other contaminants concentrations to the tributaries going into the Inlet reduced by 10% compared with 2018*. *Amend target to align with National Policy Statement-Freshwater and draft Nelson Plan.	Yet to be confirmed	TDC/NCC

 ²⁹ Custom, practice
 ³⁰ Māori customary knowledge, traditional knowledge or intergenerational knowledge

Year	Action	Target	Lead	Support
	3.1.1. Plan for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify.	Create a managed retreat and climate change response action plan and review the Waimea Inlet Strategy and Action Plan by 1 July 2021.	TDC/NCC	
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Third annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. First full reporting by all participating organisations at Waimea Inlet Forum.	All	
2022	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Fourth annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	TDC/NCC	
	8.1.5. Promote ecologically sustainable uses of the Inlet and its environs.	Develop plans to avoid or mitigate future impacts from major infrastructure on the inlet by 1 July 2022.	TDC/NCC	
	8.1.5. Promote ecologically sustainable uses of the Inlet and its environs.	Support major infrastructure owners and operators supported to review the impacts of their activities on the inlet and remediate past damage by 1 July 2022.	WIF	TDC/NCC
2023	1.1.2 Ensure commitment to repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and Estuary Vulnerability Assessment on a 5-yearly cycle to ensure ecological health of the estuary is sustained.	Repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and vulnerability assessments in 2018, 2023, and 2028.	TDC/NCC	
	5.1.2. Actively manage all threatened species in the Inlet and its surrounds.	Update the DOC Ecological Management Unit assessment, including comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements by 1 July 2023.	DOC	
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Fifth annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	All	
2024	7.2.2. Inform people and help them value the Inlet.	Reporting of selected themes for the Inlet included in state of the environment reporting ³¹ by 1 July 2024.	TDC/NCC	
	2.1.2. Clean up pollution sources (both point and non-point pollution) and monitor progress	Complete review of water quality in contributing waterways and document required remedial action by 2025.	TDC/NCC	
	4.1.1. Restore fish habitat and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways.	Complete programmes to restore fish habitat, including spawning sites, and identify and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways by 1 July 2025.	TDC/NCC	
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Sixth annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Second full reporting by all participating organisations at Waimea Inlet Forum.	All	
2025	2.1.1. Include consideration of the natural values of the inlet in all proposed changes to the Resource Management Plans.	Review the policies of the Nelson and Tasman Resource Management Plans to ensure that they require protection of Inlet values and meet the requirements of relevant National Policy Statements (NPS), including the NPS for Freshwater Management, and the NZ Coastal Policy Statement (as set out in the progressive implementation plans).	TDC/NCC	
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Seventh annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	All	
2026	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Eighth annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	All	
2027	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Ninth annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Third full reporting by all participating organisations at Waimea Inlet Forum.	All	
2028	1.1.2 Ensure commitment to repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and Estuary Vulnerability Assessment on a 5-yearly cycle to ensure ecological health of the estuary is sustained.	Repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and vulnerability assessments in 2018, 2023, and 2028.	TDC/NCC	
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Tenth annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	All	
2029	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Eleventh annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	All	
2030	1.1.1. Investigate the potential feasibility and cost of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island to achieve flushing and therefore reduce sea-lettuce proliferation in the non-flushed pockets of estuary.	Area of nuisance algal area (areas where macroalgae exceeds 20% cover) reduced by 5% compared with 2018.	Yet to be confirmed	TDC/NCC
	1.2.3. Increase the area of saltmarsh, naturally vegetated duneland and naturally vegetated estuary margin in the Waimea Inlet.	Increase the area of saltmarsh in the Waimea Inlet by 5% by 2030*. * Target to be determined after saltmarsh extension assessment (Action 1.2.1 and 1.2.2).	TDC/NCC	WIF
	1.2.3. Increase the area of saltmarsh, naturally vegetated duneland and naturally vegetated estuary margin in the Waimea Inlet.	By 2030, the area of naturally vegetated dune land on Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Island has increased by 10% compared with 2018.	TDC	
	1.2.3. Increase the area of saltmarsh, naturally vegetated duneland and naturally vegetated estuary margin in the Waimea Inlet.	Sand Island is kept free of marram grass.	NCC/DOC	

³¹The annual monitoring summaries are comprehensive documents that provide the key monitoring results for water, air and bathing water quality.

Year	Action	Target	Lead	Support
	1.2.3. Increase the area of saltmarsh, naturally vegetated duneland and	By 2030, the area of naturally-vegetated estuary margin has increased by 10km (to an average width of	TDC/NCC/WIF	
	naturally vegetated estuary margin in the Waimea Inlet.	10m) compared with 2018.		
	1.2.4. Minimise further shoreline armouring and promote use of "soft	No increase in the net extent of shoreline armouring by 2030 (compared to 2018) and increase use of	TDC/NCC	
	engineering " techniques wherever possible for all infrastructure including	"soft engineering" techniques wherever possible.		
	replacement armouring, roads, and cycleways.			
	2.1.5. Monitor toxin levels, identify problems, establish clean-up	All urban and industrial storm water and effluent discharges to streams in the catchment meet ANZECC	TDC/NCC	
	programmes and monitor progress.	(2000) ISQG low sediment toxicity criteria within 50m of the discharge outfall by 2030.		
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of	Twelfth annual progress report of Waimea Inlet Coordination Group.	All	
	community collaboration.	Fourth full reporting by all participating organisations at Waimea Inlet Forum.		
	7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of	Fourth full reporting by all participating organisations at Waimea Inlet Forum.	All	
	community collaboration.			