

Waiheke Area Plan project news

November 2018



Introducing the Waiheke Area Plan project

Waiheke Local Board has started preparing an area plan for Waiheke Island and the other inner Hauraki Gulf islands that make up the Waiheke local board area. This newsletter is to let you know what we are doing, the information we are using, and the timetable for completing it, including opportunities for your input next year. Overleaf we set out the emerging issues coming through from our research to date.

The Waiheke Area Plan will present a 30-year vision for the future of the islands. It will bring together previous

studies, plans and existing knowledge of the islands to identify key matters to be addressed in the next 30 years. The completed area plan will set out key outcomes and actions to achieve the vision.

We will be consulting with the wider community and working with Ngāti Pāoa and other iwi who have expressed an interest throughout this process. We will also be consulting with mataawaka at Piritahi Marae.

How the Waiheke Area Plan relates to other plans and projects

We have heard your views on a range of topics in recent years. Feedback from previous consultation, along with our current research, will be used to inform the draft area

plan. Here's how the Waiheke Area Plan relates to other plans and projects.

Council documents and projects

- Auckland Plan 2050.
- 10-Year Budget 2018-2028
- Auckland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018.
- Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan.
- Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part).
- Auckland Council District Plan – Hauraki Gulf Islands Section.

Council documents specific to Waiheke

- Waiheke Local Board Plan 2017.
- Waiheke Community Survey (April 2018)
- Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Islands Waste Plan 2018.
- Upcoming consultation for two reserve management plans, one plan for Rangihoua Onetangi Sports Park, and a second one for all other local parks on Waiheke.

Waiheke Area Plan

Auckland Transport documents

- Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan 2018-2028.

Community-led documents and projects

- Essentially Waiheke Refresh 2016.
- Matiatia Directional Plan project.
- Project Forever Waiheke.

Some of our findings from earlier community

feedback and our research are:



Waiheke's waters

- Poor water quality has been identified in several streams of western Waiheke, particularly at Little Oneroa.
- Steep slopes, poor-draining clay soils and small lots, together with Waiheke's fluctuating population which make the design and operation of onsite wastewater systems challenging.
- Overland flow paths are the main drainage for stormwater, and increased paved areas from development are contributing to flooding and slips.
- Summer water shortages have been recorded on Waiheke. Changes in how the supply of water is managed are needed to meet existing and future demand.



Natural hazards and climate change

- Roads, paths and wharves experience challenges and risks from stormwater and coastal processes which are expected to increase with climate change.
- Coastal hazards will be exacerbated by projected sea level rise.
- The islands will need to build resilience to the effects of climate change.



Biodiversity

- Huge opportunity for enhanced wildlife experiences as a result of Predator Free Waiheke.
- Potential degradation of beaches and future marine protected areas from inadequate onsite wastewater disposal systems and stormwater runoff.



Natural landscapes and character

- Maintaining the island character of natural coastlines, open sea vistas, white sandy beaches, dark skies and richly diverse native bush in areas with increasing development pressures is a challenge.



Waste management

- The resource consent process needs to be reviewed to respond to community-led waste management initiatives.
- The two existing cleanfill sites are nearly full. Reducing cleanfill volumes and finding a new cleanfill site will be essential.
- Remediation and disposal of contaminated soils, and waste from construction and road works need to be managed to protect human health and the environment.



Transport

- Walking and cycling are not well-provided for on Waiheke leading to issues of road safety.
- The design and construction of roads, footpaths and other transport infrastructure need to recognise Waiheke's special 'island' character while still being safe and durable.



Better developments and protecting heritage places

- Buildings and development in and around village centres such as Oneroa and Ostend need to reflect their unique island character.
- Future development at Matiatia Wharf presents an opportunity to showcase a uniquely Waiheke built form and heritage.
- Māori and European heritage and character need to be recognised and celebrated.
- Many places of historic heritage interest are yet to be identified and protected, without which they could be lost to future generations.



Recreational and community facilities

- The open space network needs to be better utilised to meet the needs of locals and visitors.
- Opportunities to build a public pool on Waiheke continue to be explored.
- Significant ongoing demand for coastal recreational facilities such as pump-out facilities, moorings, boat ramps and jetties is anticipated.



The local economy

- Whether there is enough industrial land available to meet local demand needs to be explored.
- Wastewater capacity constraints need to be resolved to enable commercial growth at Oneroa and Ostend.
- The importance of Auckland to the local economy is recognised in terms of mainland employment and the origin of visitors.
- The hospitality sector continues to be the largest source of employment.
- More local jobs, particularly higher paid ones, are needed for economic wellbeing.



Communities

- Community organisations, volunteer groups and individuals provide strong hands-on care of the islands' environmental, community and heritage resources.



Housing choice, supply and affordability

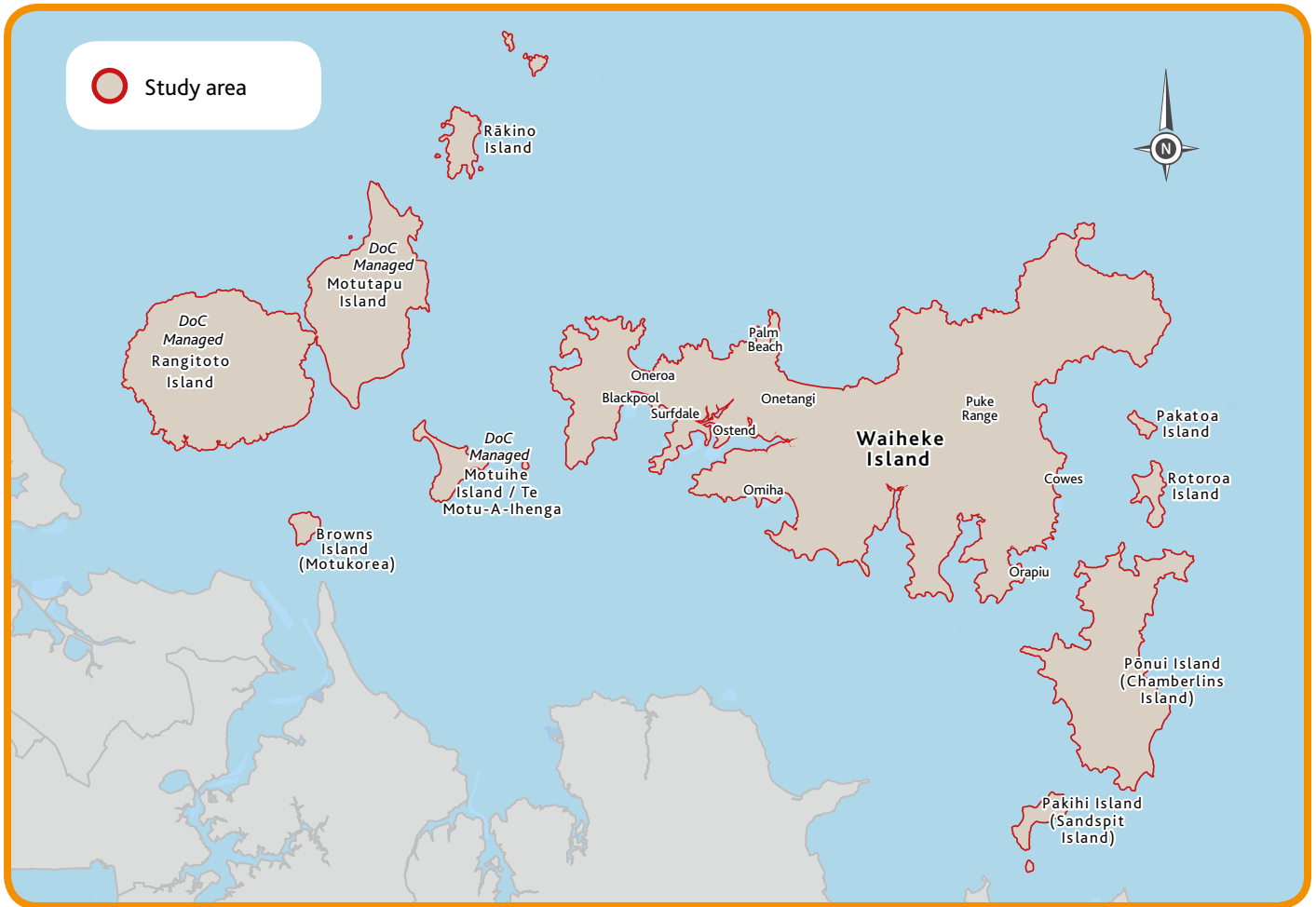
- There is a strong community desire to keep the villages on Waiheke distinct from each other.
- Housing choice on Waiheke typically consists of single houses due to limitations of onsite wastewater management systems.
- The large number of holiday homes, combined with the popularity of Airbnb and the need to accommodate local residents and seasonal workers, impact on Waiheke's housing supply and affordability.



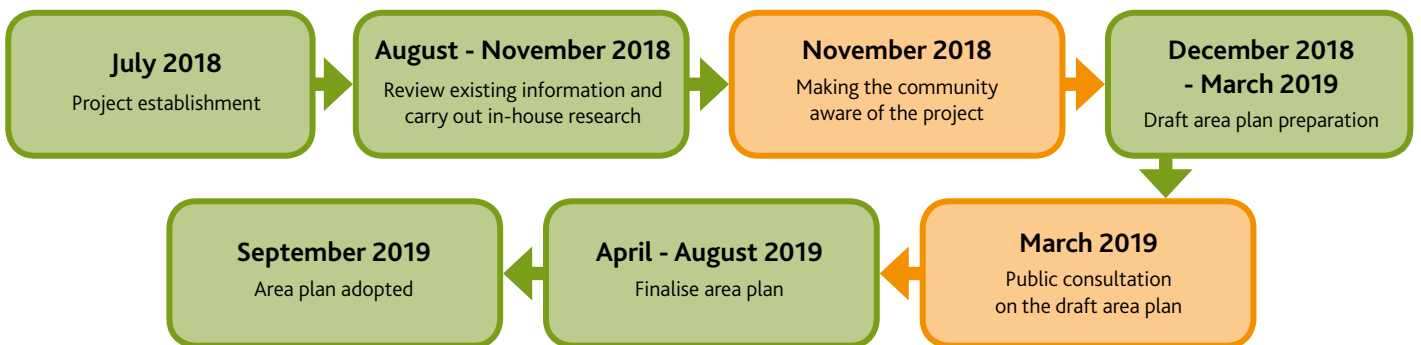
Tourism

- Development of additional accommodation and visitor facilities is constrained by the limitations of Waiheke's wastewater infrastructure.
- Tourism pressures are affecting Waiheke's special character and way of life. This needs to be managed more sustainably.

Study area



Project timeline



How can I stay informed?

Look out for wider consultation in March 2019. Email us now if you want to stay informed as we develop the Waiheke Area Plan: waihekeareaplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz