

Seachange 05

Workshop 3

Mangroves Management

By Andrew von Dadelszen

Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Councillor



My credentials

- q New Councillor on Environment BOP
- q Sharebroking business in Tauranga
- q Treasurer & Director of ACOPS
(Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea)
- q Speaking from a personal viewpoint
not from my position as a
Councillor on Environment BOP



Mangroves Management

- q Mangroves are not the problem

Mangroves are the symptom of the problem

- q The problem is the sedimentation coming into our harbours, primarily from human development

- q We recognise the dangers to our lakes because of toxic algal bloom, and are prepared to spend huge sums to try to rectify it before it is too late

- q We seem reluctant to address the problems of our estuaries and harbours that are literally dying from siltation



2003 Mangrove Mapping

(visible red areas are the 2003 mangrove distribution)

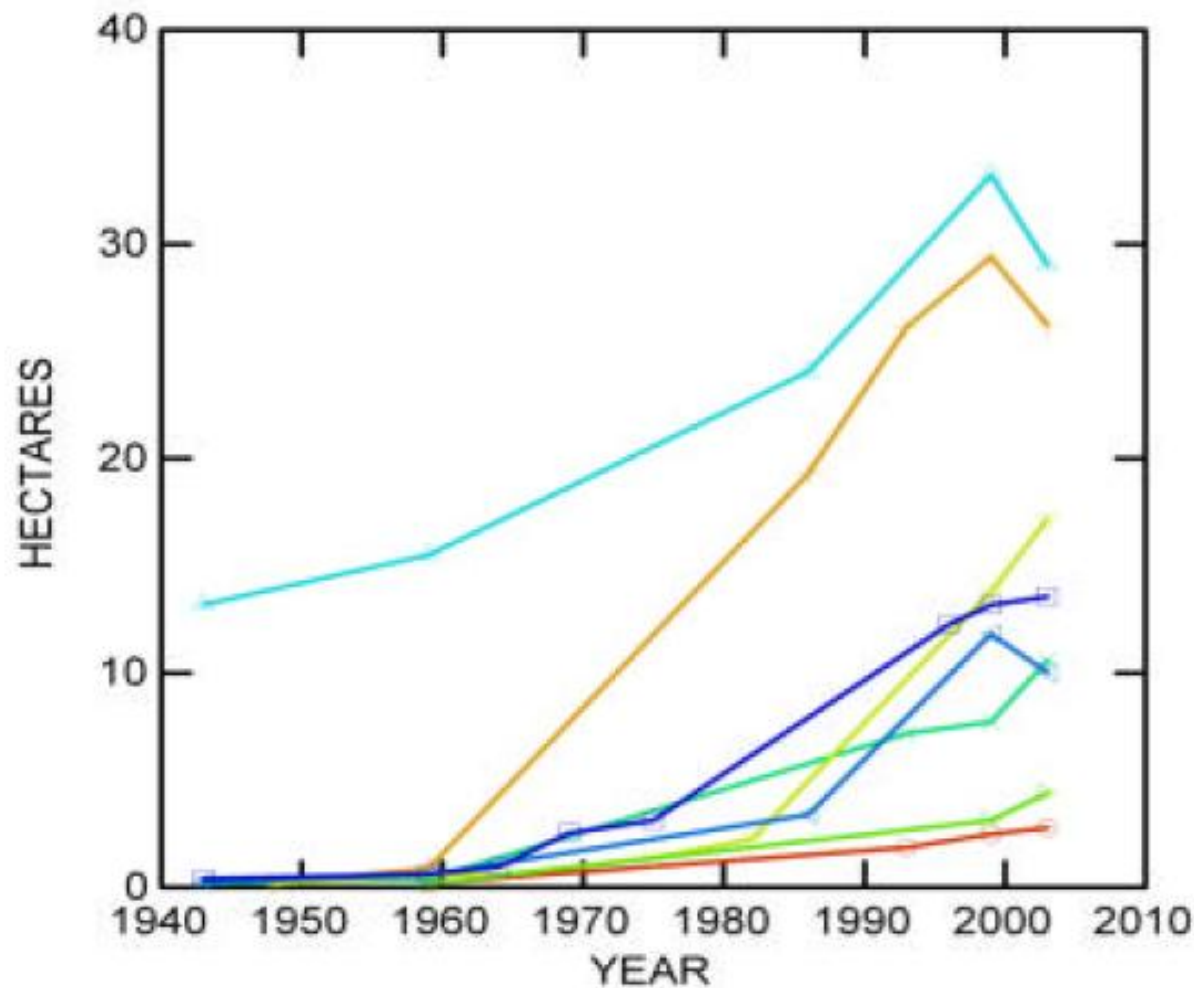


SOURCE: Park, Stephen. 2004: Aspects of Mangrove Distribution and Abundance in Tauranga Harbour. Environment Bay of Plenty Publication 2004/16



Mangrove canopy cover

within a number of estuaries in the Tauranga Harbour



Location

Te Puna

TannerN

Tuapiro

Welcome Bay

Hunter

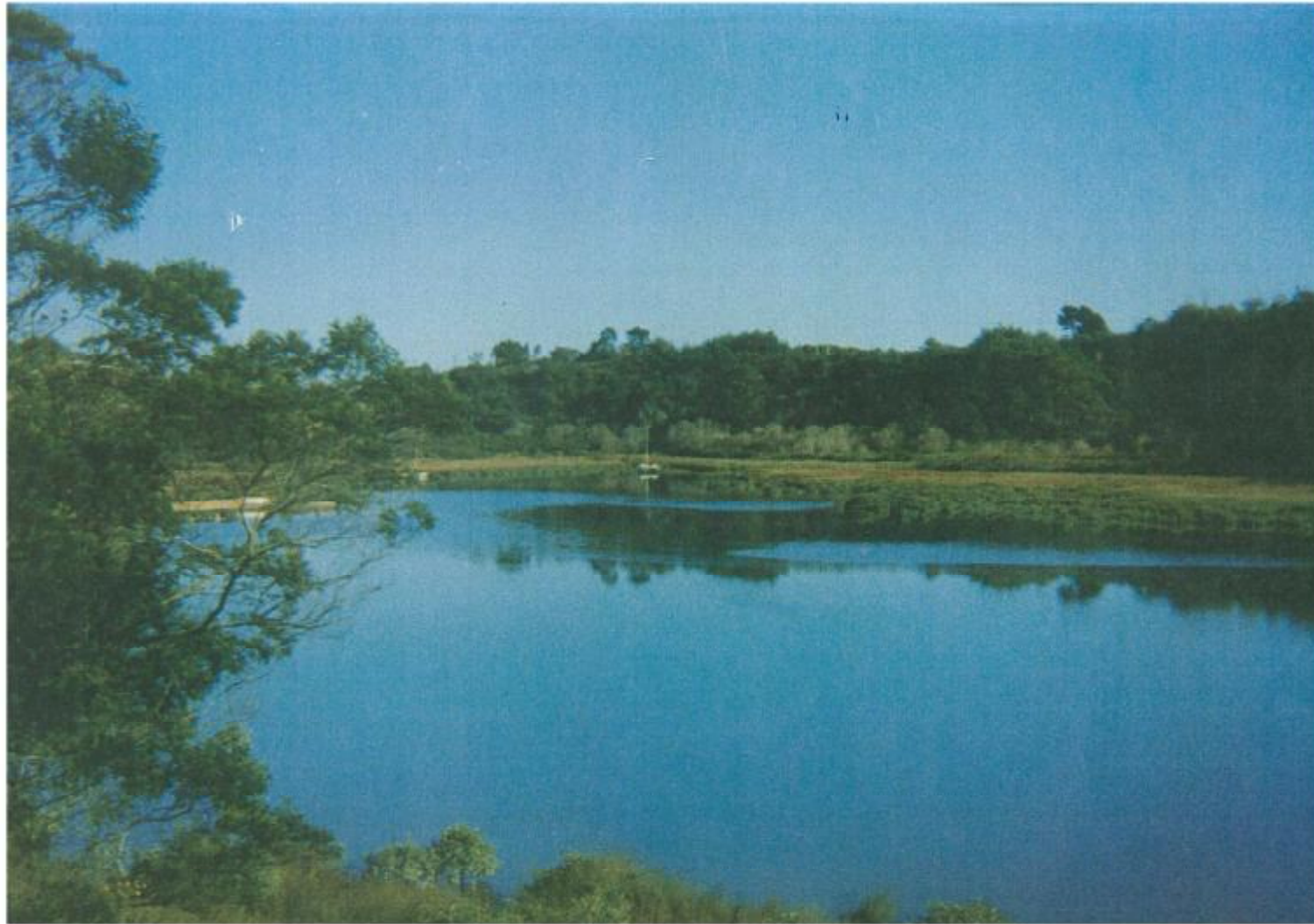
Waikaraka

Waimapu

Bluegum

SOURCE: Park, Stephen. 2004: Aspects of Mangrove Distribution and Abundance in Tauranga Harbour. Environment Bay of Plenty Publication 2004/16

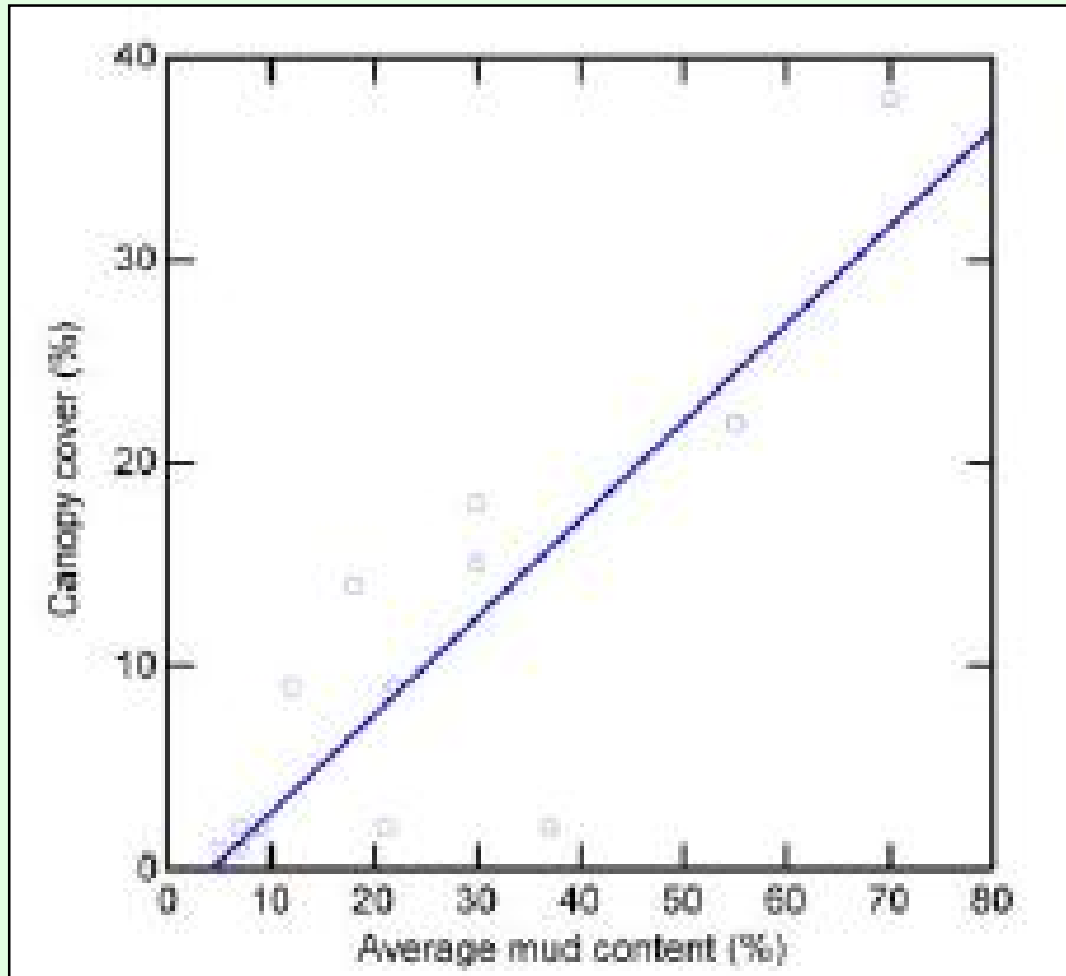
Welcome Bay - late 1970's



Welcome Bay - late 1990's



The percentage of mangrove cover versus mud content in Tauranga Estuaries



SOURCE: Park, Stephen. 2004: Aspects of Mangrove Distribution and Abundance in Tauranga Harbour. Environment Bay of Plenty Publication 2004/16



Current policy

- Under Environment Bay of Plenty's current plan – the removal, damage, modification or destruction of indigenous vegetation that is growing on the foreshore or the seabed is a ***discretionary activity***
- Therefore, the removal of mangroves requires a resource consent under the Resource Management Act
- This policy encourages community consultation, resulting in the setting up of estuary care groups, which will then develop detailed estuary management plans. Taking a collaborative and consultative approach should then allow for a ***non-notified resource consent*** to be lodged for any mangrove removal.



Waikaraka Estuary

The key drivers of this success have been:

- A shared vision and an action plan for protecting and enhancing the health of the estuary ecosystem, and the values that the community places on the estuary.
- The human dimensions of leadership, partnership, flexibility, an open mind and a willingness to listen to each other even when in conflict are fundamental to this success.
- A recognition that this is a land-based issue and that if we want to restore our waterways then we have to look closely at our catchments, and ensure that land-management is in harmony with our waterways management.



Waikaraka Estuary

1976 - 1999 - 2003



Waikaraka Estuary

- Waikaraka has shown us a model for small committed community projects to successfully integrate a science and research based approach that through collaboration has been successful.
- Waikaraka managed to work through its Resource Management issues and through a “non-notified” process achieve superb environmental outcomes.
- Today we see fish and bird life returning in numbers to their estuary, and their success is both visual and documented.



The Problem

- q Trying to replicate the Waikaraka model in more densely urbanized areas.
 - q Getting a consensus for action
 - q The cost of a notified hearing
 - q Years of delays cause huge frustration

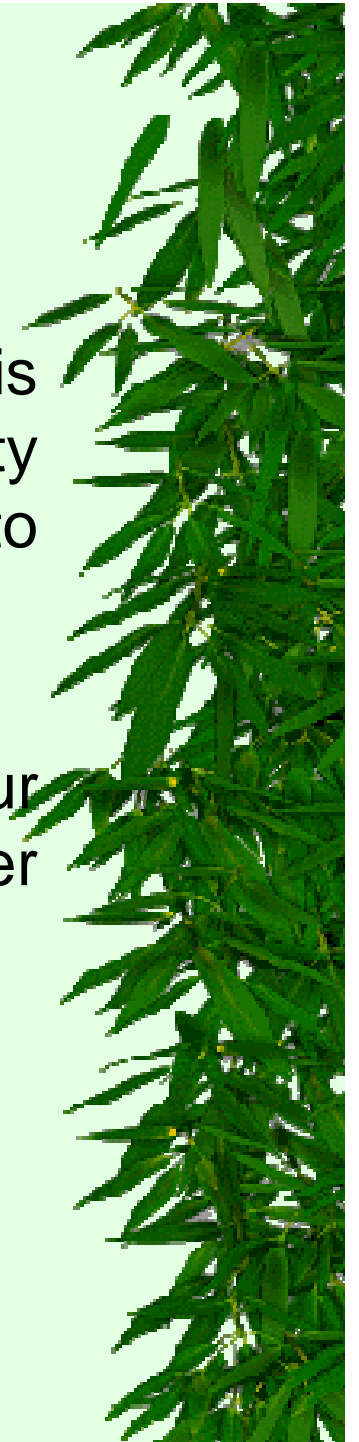
Is there a better way forward?

- q A “permitted baseline”
- q Based on the historical data from the 70’s or 80’s



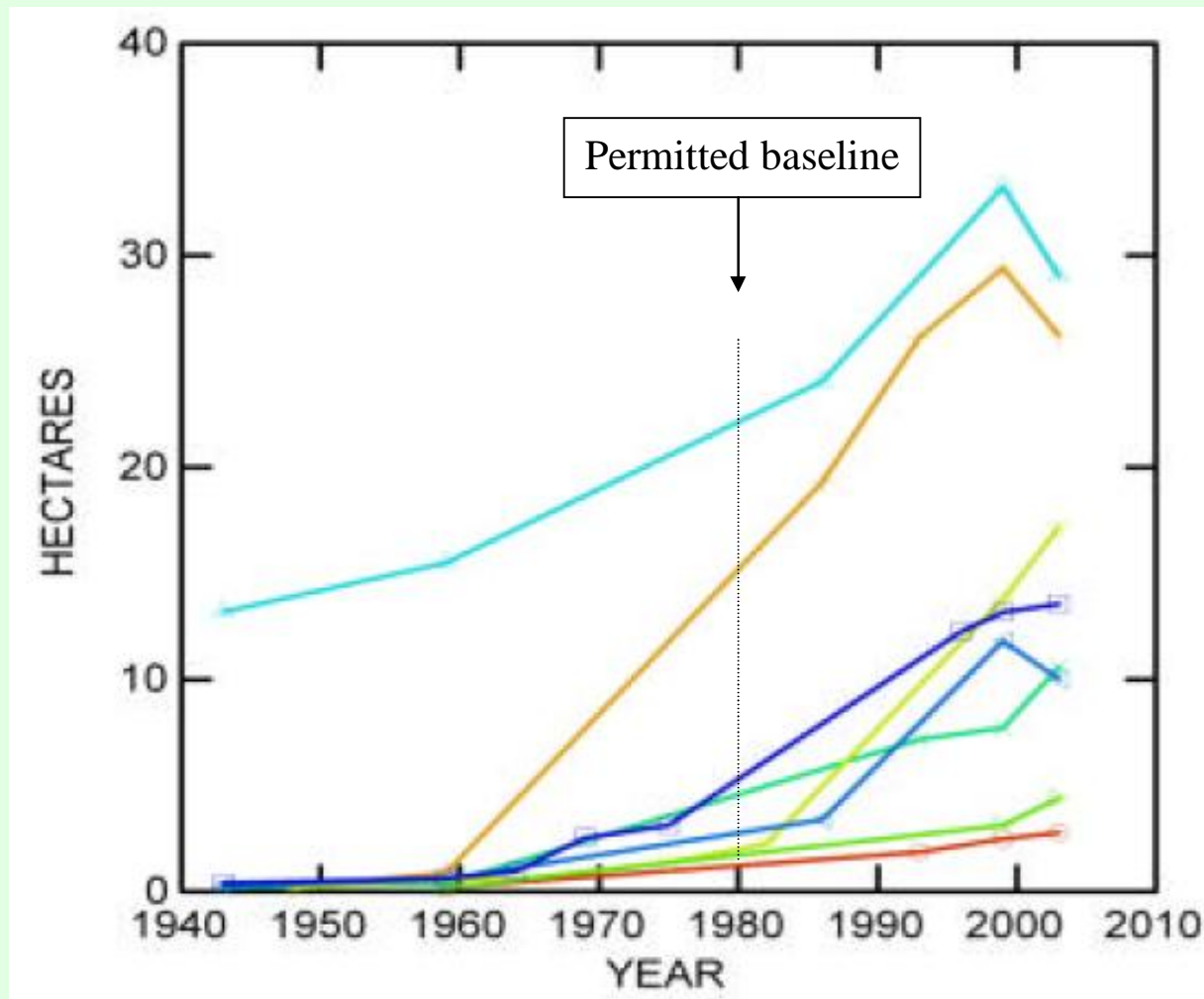
Conclusion – a personal viewpoint

- q It is time for our Regional Councils to look at this issue more pro-actively. They have the opportunity to look to their statutes and amend their plans to provide better guidance.
- q There is clear research on the Tauranga Harbour showing the increase in mangrove canopy cover over the past 30 years.



Mangrove canopy cover

within a number of estuaries in the Tauranga Harbour



Location

Te Puna

TannerN

Tuapiro

Welcome Bay

Hunter

Waikaraka

Waimapu

Bluegum



Permitted Baseline

- Determine a “permitted baseline” based on the historical data from the 70’s or 80’s
- Allow within our Coastal plans for the removal of vegetation back to that “permitted baseline” level.



Hurdle Approach

- For the RMA to be effective as an environmental protection instrument we need to focus on the hurdle approach
- Set a standard and allow activity of right, with a clear whip if that right is exceeded
- Land development will not stop, and neither it should
- Growth will continue – we continue to build new cities within our existing cities





Environmental Responsibility

- q We must ensure that land development is managed to ensure that environmental degradation does not occur.
- q We must all take responsibility to ensure a rational and science-based approach is taken to ensure that our environment degrades no further.
- q Lets use our governance for positive, not draconian law making, and ensure that we leave this country in a better shape than when we found it.

