



TE AWARUA-O-PORIRUA HARBOUR AND CATCHMENT JOINT COMMITTEE

14 SEPTEMBER 2017

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17 - TE AWARUA-O-PORIRUA HARBOUR AND CATCHMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE

To present to the Joint Committee the Annual Report of activities commenced or undertaken by strategy partners during the 2016-17 year to implement *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan 2015* and the Work Plan for the 2017/18 year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee recommend that the Councils:

1. Receive the Annual Report 2016/17 and Work Plan 2017/18 for the implementation of *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan*.

BACKGROUND

1. In 2010 the three Councils, the Rūnanga and seven other agencies formally signed an MOU supporting development of a Porirua Harbour Strategy. A draft strategy was completed, adopted by councils and released for public submission in August 2011. Following public submissions, hearings in 2011 and appropriate amendments, the final strategy document was adopted by the Strategy partners and released in April 2012.
2. The Strategy had its first 3-year review in 2014 and the updated *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan 2015* was formally adopted by Strategy partners.
3. Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee was established in 2014 and now oversees the implementation of the Harbour Strategy.
4. Significant progress in implementing the Harbour Strategy over the 2016/17 year has included:
 - Completion of Stages 1 and 2 of the jointly-funded Porirua Stream Mouth Estuary Enhancement Plan, including construction of an innovative dune/wetland system
 - Increased school participation in the 'Drains to Harbour' street drain labelling and education programme.

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- Ongoing success of the Porirua Harbour Trust, Enviroschools and ‘Healthy Harbour Porirua’ school environmental education programmes.
 - Progress of the Greater Wellington Regional Council Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee towards policy and rules governing freshwater quality and quantity in the harbour catchment.
 - The review of the Porirua City Council District Plan that seeks to elevate the centrality of the harbour and better reflect the significance of the harbour to the community and the objectives of the harbour strategy and the harbour as a strategic priority to the Council.
5. The report also recognises that another wet year has again highlighted ongoing sediment challenges for the catchment and harbour, and at current activity levels strategy targets will not be met. This was illustrated by the 2016 Cockle Count that showed a population reduction – the first time in the 24 year history of the count.

CONCLUSIONS

6. Implementation of Te Awarua-o- Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan continues to gain momentum and a number of Strategy programmes continue to expand and intensify.
7. After five years of implementing the Strategy, it is still too early to expect any environmentally meaningful improvement in harbour and stream health directly attributable to Strategy implementation. However, while most indicators have not worsened, neither have they shown improvement.
8. This year’s report is the second in the new format. A more attractive and public-friendly news-letter-type report is intended for distribution to programme partners, community groups and interested individuals. It is written in a manner that is easier to understand and appreciate the active commitments to improving the health of the harbour.
9. Following comments from the Committee and community, this year’s report includes the Annual Report and the Work Plan for the coming year into the one document.

ATTACHMENT

Draft Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan Annual Report 2016/17
#5141472

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