

Report 99.588

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Report to the Environment Committee
from Tim Porteous, Policy Advisor, Resource Policy

Pauatahanui Inlet Core Group

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the accomplishments to date of the Pauatahanui Inlet Core Group

2. Background

In May 1999 the Wellington Regional Council and the Porirua City Council convened a workshop at the suggestion of the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet to discuss the environmental problems facing the Pauatahanui Inlet. Representatives of Ngati Toa, the major agencies with responsibilities for aspects of management within the Inlet or its catchment (including the Department of Conservation, Natural Gas Corporation, Transit NZ, Porirua City Council, and Wellington Regional Council) and others attended. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Buchanan.

The participants at the workshop concluded that there were indeed significant environmental issues detrimentally affecting the Inlet. (The most significant of these problems are listed in the Issues and Possible Actions document in the appendix to this report)

The Regional Council agreed to set up and lead a process to obtain a shared community vision of how the Inlet should be managed and the steps that needed to be taken to achieve this. It was agreed that a Core Group representing the parties with an interest in the Inlet be established to further matters.

3. The Pauatahanui Inlet Core Group

The Core Group has now been set up and consists of representatives of the following:

- Ngati Toa
- Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet

- Federated Farmers of NZ Inc
- Pauatahanui Resident's Association
- Whitby Resident's Association
- Porirua City Council
- Wellington Regional Council

Silverwood Forests and Whitby Coastal Estates, major developers in the area, were represented at the initial meetings but have chosen to step back from the process for the time being. A total of four meetings of the Group have been held to date and considerable progress has been made.

The Group now feels it is important to communicate its progress to the wider community and to the relevant agencies. One avenue for doing this is through this report and a similar report to the Porirua City Council.

4. **Progress of the Core group**

The Core Group has made considerable progress in a short period of time. The Group has:

- developed a draft vision statement for the Inlet;
- prepared a "scenario" of how the Inlet might be in the future in order to illustrate the draft vision and make it more tangible;
- marshalled the issues identified at the May workshop and identified actions that might be taken to resolve these issues; and
- identified a set of major steps which will need to be taken in order to implement the vision (which the Core Group calls "Goal Statements").

All of these can be made available to the Committee and will be used in future communications with interested parties and the local community. The draft vision statement, its supporting scenario, and "issues and actions" statements are attached as Appendix 1.

5. **Where to from here?**

The Core Group has now reached the stage that it feels its ideas should be communicated to other management agencies, interest groups, and the general community of the area. The Group would like feedback on these draft ideas and to obtain some views from the community on the long-term management of the Inlet. The Group's deliberations are not in a final form and the consultation process may well change them.

The Group proposes undertaking this consultation over the next eight weeks by the following means:

- Representatives of the management agencies will be invited to the next meeting of the Core Group to discuss the draft ideas and provide feedback. Additional meetings with officers of the organisations will be held as required.
- Groups with an interest in the Inlet will be contacted and, if possible, met with to discuss the draft ideas.
- A public meeting will be held at Pataka Porirua Museum of Arts and Cultures, Norrie St, Porirua on 2 November. Extensive efforts to inform the community of this meeting are being undertaken including the production of a flyer to go to schools, community groups and for public display, and the purchasing of space in community newspapers.
- It was also agreed that the Core Group would report back on its work to the representatives of organisations present at the original May workshop. This is intended to take place in December.

6. **Summary**

The process to date has proven to be most positive with considerable goodwill and effort shown by the parties involved. At the current rate of progress, we expect to be able to deliver the vision and action plan in December as originally requested.

7. **Communications**

Specific communication actions have been identified within this report.

8. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and its contents noted.

Report prepared by:

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