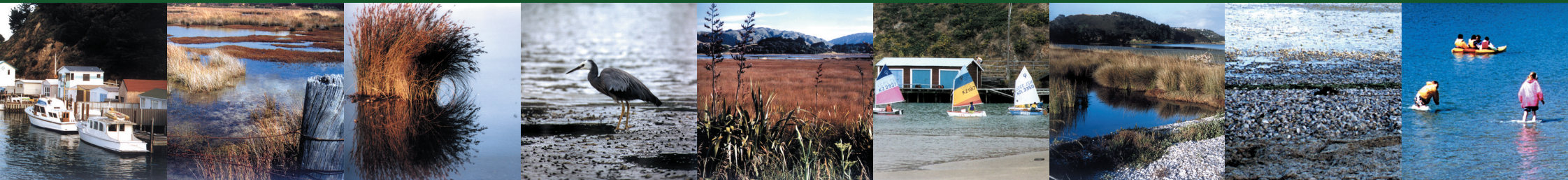




TOWARDS INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan



P A U A T A H A N U I I N L E T A D V I S O R Y G R O U P

PAUATAHANUI INLET ADVISORY GROUP
August 2000

Publication WRC RP-G-00/33

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P A U A T A H A N U I I N L E T A C T I O N P L A N

Introduction

This document contains a community vision for the Pauatahanui Inlet and its catchment. It has been prepared by the Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group (PIAG) in association with the local community and other interested parties, in response to the need for a blueprint for the future management of this important area.

The Vision is supported by an Action Plan, a set of actions which the Advisory Group believes must be taken in order to put in place the community's vision. The period covered by the Vision and Action Plan is twenty years.

It is intended that the recommendations will be considered and implemented by the Porirua City and Wellington Regional Councils. The other various agencies with management responsibilities in and around the Inlet will be encouraged to implement the aspects of the Action Plan relevant to them.

These agencies are:

- Department of Conservation
- Transit NZ
- Ministry of Fisheries
- Natural Gas Corporation
- Tranz Rail
- Transpower

A description of each agency's roles and responsibilities is at Appendix 1.

However, the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment is largely in private ownership and, therefore, the support of private landowners is critical to the success of implementing this plan.

Background

Pauatahanui Inlet is the larger of the two Inlets of Porirua Harbour. The Inlet covers an area of 4,500 hectares, of which about 1,100 hectares are tidal flats. The Inlet's catchment covers an area of 100 square kilometres.

Reserves in the catchment include Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve, a 43 hectare block reserved in 1984, administered for the Department of Conservation by a Forest and Bird Reserve Management Committee. A Wildlife Refuge (169 ha) gazetted in 1956 and managed by the Department of Conservation covers the eastern third of the Inlet. Duck Creek Scenic Reserve (1ha) and Horokiri Wildlife Management Reserve (5 ha) protect areas of saltmarsh and marsh vegetation. Kakaho estuary at the mouth of the Kakaho Stream is an esplanade reserve administered by Porirua City Council. In addition there are a number of other Porirua City Council reserves around the Inlet.

The Inlet is well recognised for its high ecological, aesthetic and recreational values. It is classified as a Site of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWI) by the Department of Conservation. The Regional Coastal Plan for the Wellington Region recognises Pauatahanui Inlet as an Area of Significant Conservation Value as follows:

"Natural, conservation, geological and scientific values. A wildlife reserve with a diverse waterfowl and wading-bird habitat (local and migratory) threatened fish species (including Galaxias spp) and endangered vegetation. The reserve contains significant salt marsh vegetation."

(Regional Coastal Plan, page 233)

Our Vision

Our Vision

P R E A M B L E

Pauatahanui Inlet is a significant estuarine area that is important to the community for a range of reasons. Natural processes and the effects of human activities have significantly changed the ecological and hydrological condition of the Inlet.

The Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group has drawn upon the skills and experience of its members and community input to prepare a Vision and Action Plan.

It is intended that the Vision and implementation of the Action Plan will serve to achieve better environmental outcomes.

V I S I O N S T A T E M E N T

The Vision Statement we have drawn up is:

"The Pauatahanui Inlet and its catchment is managed to:

Enhance the quality of the environment by protecting the integrity of existing ecosystems and by restoring degraded ecosystems wherever possible.

Enable people to enjoy recreational activities and to undertake economic activities without compromising the reasonably foreseeable needs of present and future generations.

This can only be achieved by management agencies and the community working together"

Partnership with Tangata Whenua

partnership with tangata whenua

The Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group recognises the unique relationship of the Tangata Whenua to the environment. It is intended that implementation of the Action Plan will be in partnership with the Ngati Toa people.

Format of the Action Plan

The plan is organised around 8 "themes": Research/Information; Inlet Ecology/Hydrology; Inlet catchment; Harbour Activities; Roading; Potential Conflicts; and Management and Education. For each theme, the most significant issues are identified and possible actions to address the issues are listed. It should be noted that, although the themes are separated for the purposes of this Action Plan, there is, in reality, considerable inter-relationship between the themes and their actions. For example, there is a strong education component in each of the themes.

Responsibilities for Action

In the "Who May Help" columns beside each action in the following tables, the agencies or groups who may be best placed to facilitate the action are identified. This is, however, only indicative. It is hoped that, in response to many of the issues, a multi-agency approach can be fostered.

Those agencies listed in bold type are those with statutory responsibilities and who will take the lead in implementing the Actions.

Timeframes

As noted the Action Plan is intended to cover a twenty-year period. Precise timeframes for implementation cannot be given at this stage and indicative timings only are used.

They are:

- On-going
- Immediately
- Short term (within 12 months)
- Medium term (12 - 24 months)
- Long term (longer than 24 months)

Reporting

It is proposed that a permanent and independent committee be established to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. There will be regular reporting to this committee by the various management agencies responsible for implementing the Action Plan.

P A U A T A H A N U I I N L E T A C T I O N P L A N

Theme 1: Research/Information

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|---|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1.1 | We don't know enough about what might be causing changes to the Inlet. | Review all the studies that have been undertaken about the Inlet and its catchment to find out what we do know and what we need more information on. Commission appropriate studies to fill in the gaps including research on the impact of different pesticides, herbicides and chemicals used in both rural and urban locations. | We will have a good understanding of how the Inlet is changing and what might be causing these changes. | WRC/PCC Consultants/ Research providers | Completed July 2000 Ongoing |
| 1.2 | We don't know with any accuracy what the effects of changes in land use (for instance subdivision) within the catchment might have on the Inlet. | Investigate the suitability of a catchment model for predicting the impacts of different land uses on the ecology of the Inlet. Commission study or studies subsequently. | Decision makers and the community have a clear understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the current ecological state/trends of the Inlet • the potential impacts of different land use on Inlet. All parties can then make informed decisions | WRC/PCC/ Consultants/ Research providers Tangata Whenua | Medium term |
| 1.3 | We don't know if the environmental policies of the Wellington Regional and Porirua City Councils are fulfilling their stated aims with respect to the Inlet. | Support and further develop the implementation of the integrated monitoring framework which fulfils the responsibilities of the Porirua City and Wellington Regional Councils under Section 35 of the RMA. Regular reporting back to the community. | Provision of base data to assist in development of appropriate policies | WRC/PCC Ministry of Health NIWA | Immediately |
| 1.4 | We don't know the effects that works or structures in, over or around the Inlet might have, or already are having, on the Inlet. (eg seawalls, bridges, jetties etc). | Gather available evidence and research, and commission appropriate studies where necessary. | Proposed works can be assessed with a better knowledge of their likely effects, and decisions tailored accordingly | WRC/PCC Research providers Community | Immediately |
| 1.5 | We don't know the effects of septic tanks on the Inlet. | Encourage PCC and WRC to investigate the environmental effects of current sewage disposal methods within the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment. | The effectiveness, or otherwise, of septic tanks will be determined and their contribution to nutrient enrichment and contamination of estuarine waters. | WRC/PCC | Immediately |

Theme 2: Inlet Ecology/Hydrology

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|---|---|--|---|---|
| 2.1 | We know that the biological communities of the seabed, the waters of the Inlet and its margins have been significantly changed and we are concerned about what that means. | <p>Investigate where we can do restoration work on the biological communities of the Inlet and its publicly owned margins.</p> <p>Investigate tools for this restoration work e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-planting vegetation; and • Plant and animal pest control. <p>Plan the work and implement the restoration programmes following prioritisation of sites.</p> <p>Support existing restoration activities e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and Bird at the Wildlife Management reserve; and • WRC and PCC at Kakaho stream mouth. <p>Support the implementation of the Pauatahanui Inlet Wildlife Reserve Management Plan and DOC's Wellington Conservation Management Strategy.</p> <p>Review water quality standards and monitoring regimes to ensure the water quality standards are being met.</p> | <p>Wherever possible, biological communities are restored and/or managed to ensure their long-term survival.</p> <p>Better information is available to assist management decisions.</p> <p>(Note: Other actions related to some of the other Themes (e.g. roading) also contribute to the desired outcome associated with this issue).</p> | <p>WRC Min Fish Landowners including PCC DOC Tangata whenua Community</p> <p>WRC PILG PCC</p> <p>DOC F&B</p> <p>WRC PCC</p> | <p>Short term</p> <p>On going</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Short term</p> |
| 2.2 | Few thresholds have been identified to indicate when the cumulative impacts of activities on the biological communities of the Inlet become too much for them to cope with. | Using research and information from the studies referred to in Theme 1, establish thresholds for the maximum amount of change that can be tolerated by the biological communities of the Inlet. | Decision-makers and the community have clear thresholds for cumulative impacts against which planning decisions can be made. | WRC PCC NIWA Tangata Whenua Community | Medium term |

Theme 2: Inlet Ecology/Hydrology continued

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|--|---|--|---|-------------|
| 2.3 | We are concerned that invasive alien plant and animal species have adversely affected ecological values in the Inlet and its margins. For example Undaria (an invasive Asian seaweed) has become established in part of the Inlet. | <p>Investigate and prepare an action plan for managing alien plant and animal species. This should include a regular surveillance programme.</p> <p>Ensure adequate resources are available to implement the action plan.</p> | Invasive alien plants and animal species are sufficiently managed that they do not pose a threat to the on-going ecological health of the Inlet. | <p>WRC DOC NIWA MinFish Community Research agencies</p> | Immediately |
| 2.4 | The relationship between Pauatahanui Inlet and the Porirua arm of Porirua Harbour must be acknowledged. It is possible that contaminants from the Porirua arm are carried into the Inlet. | Undertake the preparation of an Action Plan for the Porirua arm of Porirua Harbour. | Systematically address the issues facing Porirua Harbour. | <p>WRC PCC WCC</p> | Medium term |

Theme 3: Pauatahanui Inlet Catchment

theme 3: pauatahanui inlet catchment

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|---|---|--|---|--|
| 3.1 | <p>Some things people do on the land, in both urban and rural areas, can have negative effects on the Inlet because all sorts of things end up in the streams which flow into the Inlet.</p> <p>Examples include: increasing the scale of flood flows; in-stream and soil erosion; nutrient loss; and contamination with toxic substances.</p> | <p>On-going implementation of the Porirua City District Plan, the Regional Policy statement and the Regional Plans.</p> <p>Use the results of the literature review (see issue 1.1) to research those catchment areas and activities where more information is needed.</p> <p>Use the research results to review District and Regional plan provisions to ensure catchment effects are adequately managed. For example, this is expected to include a full review of the Rural Zone part of the District Plan.</p> <p>Investigate developing a detailed policy framework for the management of cumulative effects (Refer 1.2).</p> <p>Identify areas of ecological significance within the catchment on both public and private land.</p> <p>Ensure areas of ecological significance on public land are protected and managed appropriately.</p> <p>Respond to private landowners wishing to voluntarily protect or enhance areas of significant ecological value on their land (This may include the provision of information and resources including rate relief).</p> <p>Encourage the establishment of care groups with assistance from appropriate agencies.</p> | <p>The Inlet catchment is managed with least adverse impact on the Inlet.</p> <p>Provide a clear indication of the information that is needed.</p> <p>Planning decisions will be based on known effects.</p> <p>Provide an opportunity for the community to debate issues surrounding the management of the rural zone and the Inlet.</p> <p>Increased number of riparian margins formally protected and managed to ensure on-going viability.</p> <p>Improved ecological condition of Inlet as indicated by monitoring.</p> <p>Community understanding of the special nature of the Inlet and a commitment to better management of the Inlet.</p> | <p>PCC/WRC</p> <p>WRC/PCC Research agencies.</p> <p>WRC/PCC</p> <p>PCC Community PILG</p> <p>PCC/WRC Transit DOC</p> <p>WRC Landowners PCC QEII National Trust</p> <p>WRC Landcare Trust landowners</p> | <p>On-going</p> <p>Short term (By June 2001)</p> <p>Medium Term</p> <p>Medium Term</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Short term</p> |

Theme 3: Pauatahanui Inlet Catchment continued

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|---|---|---|--|--|
| 3.2 | Sediment control methods do not seem to be working as there is undue discoloration in the Inlet after rain. | <p>Review the range of conditions imposed via resource consents for the control of sediments and nutrients from new developments/disturbances to ensure best practice.</p> <p>Disseminate best practice information on sediment and nutrient mitigation measures. (Refer to 7.1 - Education)</p> <p>Continue to monitor existing sediment and nutrient management systems to ensure that they are appropriately maintained.</p> <p>Support existing projects (See appendix IV).</p> | Sediment and nutrient flows into the Inlet are reduced to the best practicable minimum. | <p>PCC/WRC</p> <p>WRC/PCC</p> <p>WRC/PCC</p> | <p>Short term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>On going</p> |
| 3.3 | All stormwater ends up in the Inlet untreated. | <p>Investigate options for improving stormwater systems to reduce discharge into the Inlet.</p> <p>Continue public education re 'drains to streams' programme (Refer to 7.1).</p> | The water entering the Inlet will be less contaminated. | PCC Transit NZ | Short term |

Theme 4: Harbour Activities

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|--|--|--|---|--|
| 4.1 | Some recreational activities using the Inlet may have adverse effects on the Inlet and its ecology. | <p>Ongoing education with recreational users of the Inlet. (Refer to 7.1)</p> <p>Ongoing enforcement of existing regulations for recreational activities in the Inlet.</p> <p>Contribute to process to formulate new harbour bylaws relating to safe use of the Inlet.</p> <p>Assessment of the implications on the ecology of the Inlet of recreational activities, especially in the Wildlife Refuge area.</p> | <p>Better understanding of the regulations relating to use of the Inlet.</p> <p>The Inlet is used in a safe and responsible manner.</p> <p>Provide the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of current bylaws and recommend new approaches.</p> <p>Planning decisions are based on information about the impacts of activities.</p> | <p>WRC Boating clubs Retailers</p> <p>WRC</p> <p>WRC PILG Community DOC</p> <p>DOC WRC PCC Tangata Whenua Community</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Immediately</p> <p>Medium term</p> |
| 4.2 | There has been a significant decline in the fisheries and shell-fisheries of the Inlet, and there is still a perception that they are not being managed in accord with the protective provisions of the set-netting ban, the harvest prohibition in the reserves and the bag/size limit regulations. | <p>Ongoing education with fishing users of the Inlet.</p> <p>Improved signage to inform fishers of the regulations (multi language signs are required).</p> <p>Support the work of the Honorary Fishery Officers and the Customary Fisheries Iwi Liaison Officer for NgatiToa.</p> <p>Recommend a ban on all net fishing until the level of sustainability of the Inlet fishery is determined.</p> <p>Research the impacts of current fishing on ecology of the Inlet.</p> <p>Review of current regulations based on research.</p> | <p>Better understanding of the regulations relating to use of the Inlet.</p> <p>Improved fishery</p> <p>Precautionary approach until the health of the fishery has been determined.</p> <p>Better understanding of the impacts of fishing on the Inlet</p> | <p>MinFish/ Community WRC/PCC Tangata Whenua</p> <p>MinFish Community</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Immediately</p> <p>On going</p> |
| 4.3 | Linkages between recreational and fishery officers could be extended. | Negotiate with MinFish to extend Harbour Warden responsibilities to cover fisheries regulations enforcement. | Integrated management | MinFish WRC | Short term |
| 4.4 | There is strong demand for safe access to and around the Inlet. | Support the development of a walk/cycleway around all or part of the Inlet as long as this does not compromise ecological values. | Appropriate use of the Inlet that is neither in conflict with the Inlet itself or other users | PCC | Medium term |

Theme 5: Rooding

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--------------|
| 5.1 | The Inlet is surrounded by roads and its catchment holds some of the regions major roads. These roads have altered the natural character and the ecological values of the Inlet and its margins. | <p>The roading agencies should develop a strategic plan, addressing the long-term roading options around the Inlet and the catchment.</p> <p>Ensure that such a plan takes into account the Wellington Regional Council's Regional Land Transport Strategy, and Porirua City's Draft Strategic Plan.</p> | The adoption, following public consultation, of a 10-year strategy for all roading in the Inlet catchment aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of roading on the Inlet. | PCC/WRC/ Transit NZ Community Tangata Whenua | On going |
| 5.2 | Maintenance and construction on the existing roads will have an effect on the condition of the Inlet e.g. upgrading of SH1 and SH 58 and Grays Road, Grays Road Bypass. | <p>Ensure that the roading agencies develop and adopt a Memorandum of Understanding based on best practice which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management systems for on-going maintenance activities which identify and mitigate adverse environmental effects on the Pauatahanui Inlet; and • New applications for roading activities under the RMA must recognise that the protection of the Inlet from adverse environmental effects is a critical issue to be addressed. <p>Making good, as opportunities arise, the adverse effects of previous roading activities where these have adversely impacted on the natural character of the Inlet.</p> | <p>Avoid a piece-meal approach and avoid unnecessary roadworks, and thereby reduce the impact of roading.</p> <p>The adverse environmental effects of roading are reduced and, wherever possible, are remedied and the impacts are lessened as much as possible so that natural resources are protected, enhanced and restored. Those agencies undertaking road works of any kind within the Inlet and catchment have clear guidelines within which they operate and an understanding of the standards expected from them.</p> | Transit NZ PCC WRC Community Tangata Whenua | By July 2001 |
| 5.3 | The construction of the Transmission Gully and/or the upgrading of the existing SH1 corridor, with a new bridge at the entrance of the Inlet are likely to have significant impacts on the Inlet. | <p>Ensure that transport planning recognises and provides solutions for the issue of Kapiti Coast to Hutt Valley commuters.</p> | Comprehensive and adequate planning for transport impacts on the Inlet and catchment. | WRC PCC | Short term |
| 5.4 | With the increasing population growth on the Kapiti Coast there will be increasing volumes of traffic between the Coast and the Hutt Valley. As there is no public transport on this route, commuters travel in private cars on the Transit and PCC roads through the catchment. Currently this issue is not adequately recognised in WRC's Regional Land Transport Strategy or PCC's Strategic Plan. | | | | |

Theme 6: Potential Conflicts

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|--|--|---|---|---|
| 6.1 | <p>People use the Inlet as a place where they can undertake a wide range of recreational activities, for example: cycling, Sunday driving, water skiing, yachting, birdwatching, fishing and painting. Some of these actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conflict with each other (eg water skiing and kayaking) • conflict with other users e.g. access around the Inlet is difficult and dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists because the roads are arterial roads • conflict with wildlife | <p>Enforcement of existing regulations for recreational activities on the Inlet.</p> <p>Enforcement of existing wildlife protection regulations.</p> <p>Investigate improved parking and access to the Inlet without compromising ecological values.</p> | <p>Appropriate use of the Inlet that is neither in conflict with the Inlet itself or other users.</p> | <p>WRC/PCC</p> <p>DOC</p> <p>PCC/DOC/Community Tangata Whenua</p> | <p>Immediately</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Medium term</p> |
| 6.2 | <p>People have different expectations about how the Inlet and its catchment should be used and managed.</p> | <p>Set up open process for resolving conflict and potential conflict between users.</p> <p>Develop understandings of the range of legitimate uses of the Inlet and its catchment.</p> | <p>Users have a greater understanding of other users.</p> | <p>WRC/PCC PILG Community</p> | <p>Immediately</p> |
| 6.3 | <p>An increase in the number of boatsheds will change the character of the Inlet and restrict access to the foreshore. Increased use of the boatsheds may lead to increased contamination from stormwater and sewage.</p> | <p>Advocate restriction of any modifications to existing boatsheds to those that do not increase the overall size of the structure (no double stories)</p> <p>Enforcement of policies of Regional Coastal Plan.</p> | <p>Retention of existing character of boatsheds.</p> <p>The area occupied by boatsheds does not extend beyond the current parameters.</p> | <p>WRC/PCC</p> | <p>On going</p> |
| 6.4 | <p>Some people have expectations that their existing view will remain as at present without consideration of the property rights of the owners of the land in question.</p> | <p>The planned review of the rural section of the District Plan should facilitate a debate on property rights and reasonable expectations.</p> | <p>Users have a greater understanding of other users.</p> | <p>PCC Community</p> | <p>On going</p> |

Theme 7: Management

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|---|---|---|---|--|
| 7.1 | <p>There are a number of agencies with responsibilities for aspects of management in and around Pauatahanui Inlet. (These agencies are listed in Appendix 1). There is, at times,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confusion about who is responsible for specific issues; • a lack of co-ordination between agencies when co-operation in responding to a particular issue would produce the best results; • lack of understanding about the implications of the Wildlife refuge designation. | <p>The Advisory Group recommends the establishment of a Pauatahanui Inlet Liaison Group with responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan. • Providing feedback to management agencies on the rate of progress of implementing their stated actions. • Engendering community support. <p>Investigate appointing a person (on a full or part time basis) as a key point of contact for the general public. This person would have particular relationships with the various interest groups to facilitate and enable dialogue between officials and the community.</p> | <p>Action Plan is implemented and there is on-going commitment to the integrated management of the Inlet from the management agencies and the community.</p> <p>Facilitation of interaction between general public and management agencies.</p> | <p>WRC/PCC/ Tangata Whenua/ Community/ Management agencies</p> <p>WRC/PCC</p> | <p>December 2000</p> <p>Short term</p> |
| 7.2 | <p>There is also confusion about what is and isn't possible under present regulations. For instance, contrary to widespread belief under present regulations personal watercraft ("jetskis") cannot be treated any differently from other vessels.</p> | <p>It is recommended that a guide for the public identifying which agency is responsible for what aspect of management be produced.</p> <p>It is also recommended that as part of the education programme (see Theme 8) the public is made more aware of current laws, bylaws and regulations controlling activities on the Inlet.</p> | <p>Integrated management within RMA context.</p> | <p>WRC/PCC DOC MinFish Tangata Whenua Community</p> | <p>Short term</p> |
| 7.3 | <p>Signage informing the public of their responsibilities under various regulations is deficient.</p> | <p>Investigate the design and production of attractive and functional co-ordinated signage for erection at strategic locations.</p> | <p>Public awareness of relevant regulations.</p> | <p>WRC/PCC DOC MinFish</p> | <p>Short term</p> |
| 7.4 | <p>There are no models for integrated management of estuarine environments and their catchments in New Zealand at present.</p> | <p>Actively explore ways in which the management agencies could work together to manage the Inlet in an integrated manner.</p> | <p>Integrated management.</p> | <p>All agencies</p> | <p>Medium term</p> |

Theme 8: Education

| | WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES | OUTCOMES SOUGHT | WHO? | WHEN? |
|-----|--|---|---|--|-------------|
| 8.1 | There is insufficient understanding by the community of the Inlet and the processes affecting it. | <p>Undertake a comprehensive education programme aimed at all sectors of the community.</p> <p>Develop and implement an education programme for residents, the business community, visitors to the Inlet and the general community. This may include a 'know the area' brochure for new property purchasers identifying the vulnerable character of the Inlet and ways to avoid causing harm to it.</p> | Increases awareness of the issues affecting the Inlet and the actions individuals and organisations can take to mitigate these. | WRC/PCC Community Management Agencies | Immediately |
| 8.2 | Chemicals used for agricultural and domestic purposes can have a detrimental impact on the Inlet if used or disposed of incorrectly. | Develop and implement an education and training programme in the appropriate use of chemicals including pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers used on farms and gardens (such as "Growsafe"). | Reduce contamination of the waters of the Inlet. | WRC | Short term |
| 8.3 | Plantings of appropriate species can have a number of beneficial effects. Often people are unsure what to plant. | Provide information and encourage residents to undertake appropriate plantings for a variety of purposes. | Increase in the total amount of vegetative cover in the catchment. | WRC PCC Botanical Society | Short term |

Note: Education underlines a significant number of the actions in Themes 1-7. For Example, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3.

Appendix I

MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND THEIR EXISTING RESPONSIBILITIES OF RELEVANCE TO PAUATAHANUI INLET

WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

Harbourmaster responsibilities (including Pauatahanui Inlet)

Environmental monitoring

Regional Transport Strategy

Managing Regional Parks (e.g. Battle Hill Farm Forest Park)

Environmental Education

Environmental monitoring

Responsible under the Resource Management Act for preparation of Regional Policy Statement, Regional Coastal Plan and other Regional Plans, and the issuing of consents for activities involving using, crossing or disturbing rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands, activities in the coastal marine area (below mean high water springs), large scale soil disturbance and discharging contaminants into water, the air, or onto land. For activities that are defined as restricted Coastal Activities the Minister of Conservation is the consent authority.

PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL

Responsible under the Resource Management Act for managing the effects of land use, i.e. preparing and administering the Porirua City District Plan which covers resource consents for land use including subdivision and noise.

Roading authority responsible for the maintenance and development of Grays Road and the suburban roading network.

Manages an extensive network of public reserves around the margins of the Pauatahanui Inlet.

Responsible for infrastructure in Porirua such as the stormwater system.

The Strategic Plan for Porirua City which includes goals and actions for the natural and physical environment of Porirua including the Inlet.

Signs

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

General Conservation Advocacy

Management of:

- i) Pauatahanui Inlet Wildlife Refuge
- ii) Pauatahanui Inlet Wildlife Management Reserves (Day to day management of the largest Wildlife Management Reserve has been delegated to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society)
- iii) Duck Creek Scenic Reserve
- iv) Horokiri Wildlife Reserve

Indigenous fauna and flora

Freshwater fisheries and habitats

Signs

Appendix I continued

MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND THEIR EXISTING RESPONSIBILITIES OF RELEVANCE TO PAUATAHANUI INLET

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

Development and enforcement of fishing regulations

Honorary Fishery Officers

Signs

TRANSIT NZ

Strategic planning for long term highway development
(e.g. Transmission Gully, SH1 Coastal Route)

Maintenance and development of SH58 and SH1

Signs

NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

Maintenance of main Taranaki to Wellington gas pipeline which passes through Wildlife Management Reserve and other gas pipelines within the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment.

TRANZ RAIL

Maintenance and operation of Paremata Rail Bridge at entrance to Inlet and the North Island Main Trunk Railway line.

TRANSPower NZ LTD

Owns and operates Paekakariki - Takapu Road 110kv double circuit transmission line which traverses the catchment.

Appendix II

BACKGROUND TO THE PAUATAHANUI INLET ADVISORY GROUP

For some time concern has been expressed that the Inlet's acknowledged values were not being adequately recognised or protected and that it is deteriorating as an ecosystem. In May 1999 a number of interested parties came together at the suggestion of the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet to discuss this important issue. The meeting was co-hosted by the Porirua City and Wellington Regional Councils.

The most significant outcome of the workshop was agreement from all parties present to seek community involvement in the formulation of a "Vision" for the Inlet and an Action Plan to enable the vision to be realised. The Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group (PIAG) was established to carry out these tasks by 30 June 2000. The Group comprises local residents and officers of the Wellington Regional and Porirua City Councils.

HOW THE PLAN WAS PREPARED

The Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group has drawn upon the skills and experience of its members and community input to prepare a Vision and Action Plan.

Since its formation in August 1999 the Group:

- drew up a draft Vision Statement and identified key issues affecting the Inlet;
- held a series of discussions and meetings with the local community culminating in a public meeting attended by 80 interested persons;
- as a result of the feed back received drew up a draft Action Plan identifying the major issues and possible actions to remedy these issues;
- reported back to the participants of the original May 1999 meeting;
- commenced consultation with the various management agencies with responsibilities within the Inlet;
- sought the public's views on the draft Action Plan, and
- prepared this shared Vision and Action Plan.

OUR ASSUMPTIONS

The underlying assumptions guiding the development of this plan, and confirmed through the consultation process, are:

- i) Pauatahanui Inlet is a special place that the community values. It has ecological, economic, recreational, aesthetic and spiritual values, some of which have been well documented.
- ii) It is the community's desire to see these values at least maintained and, perhaps where possible, enhanced for future generations.
- iii) It is unlikely that rules and regulations alone will achieve the desired results. The Advisory Group recognises that partnerships and shared goals within the community will achieve much.
- iv) Estuaries are dynamic entities and the processes that form and maintain them will inevitably bring about change. The challenge taken up by the Advisory Group has been to attempt to develop a plan that marries the community's wishes and expectations with the ecological and physical realities of the Inlet.
- v) The Inlet and its catchment are an ecological continuum. It is not possible to plan for the Inlet without considering activities in the catchment.

Appendix II continued

FUNDING

Many of the proposals in the Action Plan have cost implications. Funding for these actions will come from a variety of sources depending on the type of action. Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council and the other management agencies will be encouraged to make appropriate provision in their Annual Plans and budgets. The Action Plan will also assist non profit organisations with an interest in the wellbeing of Pauatahanui Inlet (such as the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet, Residents Associations, Care Groups etc) in seeking support from public contestable funds such as Lottery Board Grants and the Public Good Science Fund.

Potential also exists to obtain funding for some projects from other sources such as corporate sponsorship.

WILL THE ACTION PLAN BE REVIEWED?

One of the objectives of the Action Plan is to improve our understanding of the Inlet. As this happens, some of the Issues and Actions in the plan may become obsolete. It is intended; therefore, that the plan be reviewed annually to ensure it's continued relevance.

Appendix III

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES RAISED BY SUBMITTERS

A number of issues were raised by submitters on the draft Action Plan that related more to the implementation phase of the plan. These are listed below and have been referred to the relevant agencies:

1. Agencies

- The commitment of agencies is essential to the success of the Implementation Plan
- Proposed liaison group should include representatives of WRC, PCC, DOC, MinFish.
- Proposed group should include paid researchers and advisors.

2. Agrichemicals

- Storage
- Usage in the catchment by public agencies

3. Education

- Establish a regular column in local newspapers to facilitate communication.
- Install signs to educate users of the Inlet

4. Emergency Services

- Alert services to the need to wash debris away from Inlet after accidents, spills etc.
- Data should be gathered about on-farm dump sites and other contaminated sites in the catchment.

5. Inlet Issues

- Consider creating a marine reserve over the Inlet
- Develop monitoring procedures to examine the impacts of harbour activities.
- Acknowledge effects of sea level rise

6. Margins of the Inlet

- Promote planting of indigenous species

7. Marine Activities

- Effects of chemicals used in cleaning and painting vessels
- Contaminants from boatsheds

8. Northern side of Inlet

- Consider Regional Park status for this area.

9. Plantation Forestry

- Research the effects of plantation forestry on water quality

10. Status of Action Plan

- Consider Action Plan becoming a statutory plan under the RMA combining elements of the Regional Plans and Porirua District Plan.

11. Stock effluent

- There are no controls over stock effluent disposal

12. Walkway/Cycleway

- Must not compromise natural values of the Inlet
- Consider self-guided natural history interpretation.

13. Water Quality

- Need to establish thresholds for sediments/toxins.
- A greater level of monitoring and testing of water quality and sediments is required. Publish the results.
- Need to collect data on heavy metals

14. Wildlife Refuge

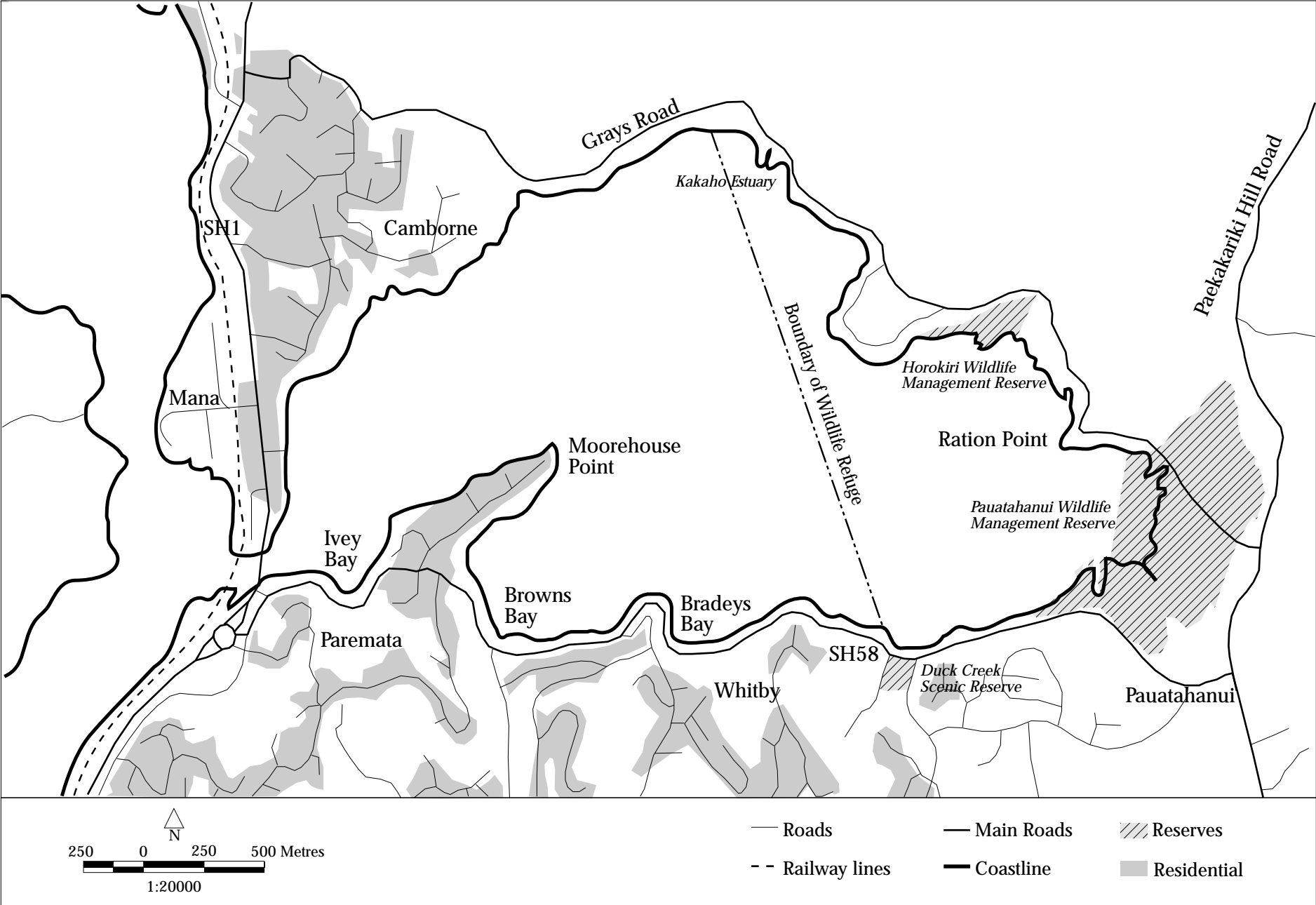
- Enter into on-going dialogue with DOC

Appendix IV

PROJECTS OF RELEVANCE TO THE PAUATAHANUI INLET CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

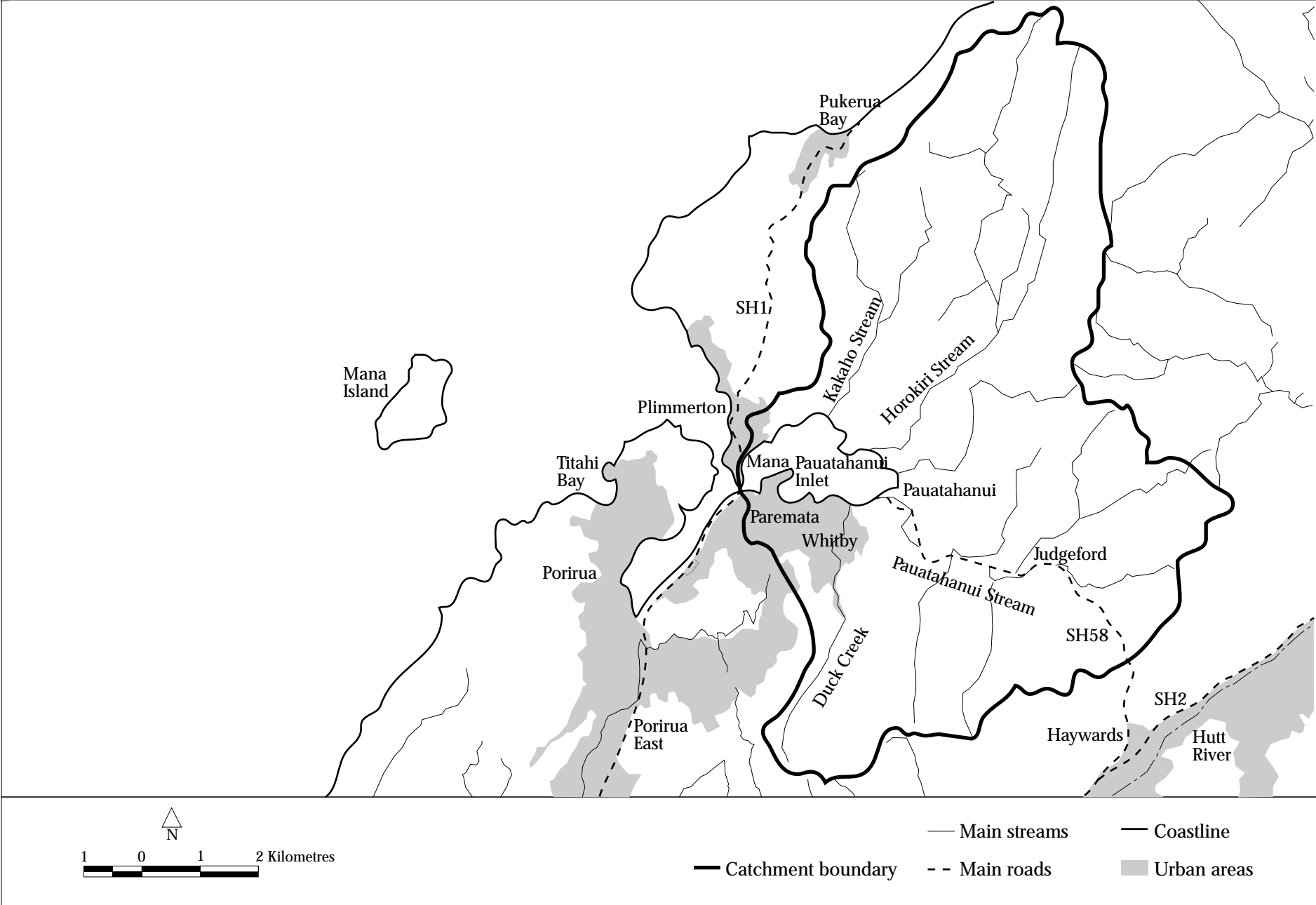
1. Literature review.
A review of all previous research projects and publications on Pauatahanui Inlet.
Jointly funded by WRC/PCC.
Completed 31 July 2000.
2. Ecosites Inventory.
An inventory of sites of ecological significance within Porirua City.
Funded by PCC.
Completion by 31 December 2000
3. Sediment Control Investigation
An investigation into the suitability and effectiveness of the techniques used for the control of sediment run-off from soil disturbance in relation to the environmental outcomes anticipated in Porirua City's District Plan.
Jointly funded by WRC/PCC.
Completion by 20 December 2000
4. Integrated Monitoring Framework Project
The Wellington Regional Council and territorial local authorities have agreed in principle to share coastal water quality monitoring data
5. Comparison of silt generation between urban and non-urban catchments within Pauatahanui Inlet. A project in part fulfilment of a Bachelor of Natural Resource Engineering by Simon Drew.

Pauatahanui Inlet



P A U A T A H A N U I I N L E T A C T I O N P L A N

Pauatahanui Inlet Catchment



P A U A T A H A N U I I N L E T A C T I O N P L A N

Appendix VII

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P A U A T A H A N U I I N L E T A D V I S O R Y G R O U P