

TE MURIWAI O TE WHANGA



Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan – Internal Working Group Progress Table

The Internal Working Group is made up of officers from Te Komiti Muriwai o te Whanga partner organisations – HBRC, NCC, DOC and Mana Ahuriri . The table is used to document and track operational progress against key actions in Te Muriwai o te Whanga Plan and communicate these to Te Komiti.

Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health								
Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date		Partners	Updates – March / April 2026
Stormwater is either diverted or treated so that it does not negatively impact the water health of Te Whanga	1.1 Stormwater diversion and treatment	1.1a Lagoon farm stormwater project. Stormwater treatment and flood storage diversion	Underway	2024	2030+	NCC	MAT	The Regional Park Masterplan has been endorsed by both Councils. The Stormwater concept design has been completed, and further investigative works are being undertaken. The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee meeting was held on Monday, 16th March 2026. A new Chair and Deputy Chair have been appointed.
		1.1b Thames/Tyne stormwater consent implementation and working group. Stormwater Working Group meetings are intended to have representation from those interacting with and contributing to stormwater quality affecting Thames-Tyne waterways and the Ahuriri Estuary. NCC's stormwater resource consent expires next year. A programme is needed to continue monitoring to capture long-term trends and look towards further optioneering and implementation of treatment options.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC	MAT, Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, Te Komiti, Catchment Collectives, Stormwater working group, industry owners, residential groups, stakeholder groups	Ongoing. The new consent has been applied for; HBRC and NCC are working through the consent application process. Work is continuing under the previous consent in the meantime.
There is a strong understanding of potential pollutants in the stormwater going into the estuary at all times	1.2 Stormwater quality monitoring	1.2a Water quality stations. Permanent water quality stations at strategic locations throughout stormwater network. Automating spill gate operations (to prevent contamination into the estuary) are being investigated.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	MAT, Stormwater working group	Water quality monitoring stations have been installed at the Thames and Tyne spill gates.
		1.2c Westshore tidal gates. Continuation of the 3-year joint monitoring program with HBRC on waterways feeding the discharge to inform budget priorities, identify contaminant sources, and meet resource consent requirements under Westshore tidal gates consent conditions. Additionally, consider end-of-line treatment solutions, stormwater education requirements, and establish a Collaborative Stormwater	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC	MAT, Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, Te Komiti, Catchment Collectives, Stormwater working group, industry owners, residential groups, stakeholder groups	Ongoing. NCC are continuing to undertake monitoring as per the consent and work through the consent conditions. An in-stream treatment feasibility study is underway.

		Working Group that serves beyond compliance purposes.						
Tributaries in the catchment have plans in place to manage the risks of negatively impacting Te Whanga	1.3 Catchment management	1.3a Freshwater farm plans. The Plan is relevant to landholders of the 1,000 small blocks that surround the estuary. We anticipate that the landowners commit to activities such as excluding stock from waterways, riparian planting, planting steep slopes, establishing small wetlands. This will help to reduce sediment runoff and support resilience of the catchment in future storm events.	On hold	Ongoing	Ongoing	ATCGT	NZ Landcare Trust A2E	
		1.3b Ahuriri catchment/Flood control scheme. Improved flood resilience for Napier residential areas through design of ARP. Particularly with regard to management of the Taipo stream.	Underway	2024	2030+	NCC	MAT, wider community	
		1.3c Proposed Plan Change 9 - TANK. The Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) Plan change introduces new provisions to manage the land and waterways of the Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) catchments. The Plan includes objectives for how to manage the water bodies in the catchments and the policies and rules needed to achieve the objectives	Underway	2020	Ongoing	HBRC	MAT, NCC, Te Komiti, Catchment Group, landowners, industry and stakeholders	HBRC have submitted their first round of evidence to the Environment Court at the end of September. Appellants are due to submit their evidence by 24th October. Environment Court hearings are still scheduled for mid-2026.
		1.3d Erosion Control Scheme. Hawke's Bay Regional Councils Erosion Control Scheme is there to help landowners across the region tackle erosion issues by using tools such as fencing, land retirement and non-commercial tree planting to help keep soil on hillslopes and out of water ways	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	2028	HBRC	MAT, Landowners	
A baseline of water and related environment quantity and quality is collectively formed.	1.4 Water and related environment quality monitoring and testing	1.4d Reporting of any environmental hazards/concerns. Take photos of any notable occurrences in the environment, such as slips, and send them to NCC Environmental Solutions team.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS	NCC	Ongoing as part of BAU
		1.4d State of the environment monitoring. Monitoring of estuary ecology (infauna, fish, habitat, eDNA), estuary sediment quality (nutrients, metals, grain size, accumulation rate), stream water quality (nutrients, suspended sediment, E.coli), stream ecology (habitat, macroinvertebrates, fish, eDNA).	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	MAT	State of the Environment report 2021-2024 complete (Three Yearly Report Hawke's Bay Regional Council). Sampling of Ahuriri Estuary and stream water quality monitoring undertaken monthly (ongoing) Sampling of Ahuriri Estuary sediment and ecology undertaken annually (ongoing). Sampling for recreational water quality undertaken weekly over the summer swimming season (ongoing). Update 02/03/26: Estuarine ecology sampling completed for 2025/2026 financial year. Recreational water quality sampling data being uploaded to LAWA (Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) - Can I Swim Here?). Recreational Water Quality season ended March 18th.

		1.4h Ecological health assessments. Multiple different methods to assess estuary health (Bayesian Network model, different health indices, susceptibility to eutrophication).	The reports have been completed, but the calculation of benthic health scores/indices is ongoing.			HBRC	MAT	Calculations for Benthic Health Indices being undertaken annually using State of the Environment estuarine ecology data (ongoing). Report on Bayesian modelling of multiple stressors on six Hawke's Bay estuarine ecosystems . Report on Estuarine trophic index susceptibility screening for Hawke's Bay . Update 9/12/25: Grady Petersen from ES-NZ to give presentation on Ahuriri Estuary Bayesian Network project at the April Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga meeting
		1.4i Hydrodynamic model of estuary. Creation of a hydrological and constituent model of the Ahuriri Estuary to facilitate the understanding and management of environmental flows within the catchment. This model will also help to improve the water quality and ecological functions of both the catchment and the estuary	Complete			HBRC	MAT	Report completed – The sediment dynamics of Ahuriri Estuary, Napier, New Zealand
Water quality is improved through fit for purpose solutions in the catchment	1.5 Water quality enforcement and compliance	1.5a Stormwater Bylaw enforcement. NCC are able to follow up on any breaches of the stormwater bylaw to ensure only rain is discharged to the stormwater network. If non-complying discharges are found, NCC is going to provide enforcement to ensure this doesn't happen again as well as improving the quality of the discharge.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC		Ongoing as part of BAU
	1.6 Water quality environmental health and restoration	1.6a Post-Cyclone Environmental Health Inter-Agency Working Group. Have worked on silt management, air quality, freshwater quality, shellfish etc.	Unsure	2024	Ongoing	NCC, HBRC & DOC joint initiative.	MAT, NCC, HDC, CHBDC, Te Whatu Ora, FENZ, NIWA, MPI, MfE etc	Work has come to a natural end as it was linked to post-cyclone environmental concerns.
		1.6b Seagrass Initiative. Investigate and implement methods of restoring seagrass beds in Te Whanga. This involves sourcing seagrass from other parts of Hawke's Bay to restore habitat in parts of the estuary where it's been lost.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC and MAT joint initiative	MAT, DOC, biodiversity HB, EIT, National Aquarium, Sustainable HB	Ahuriri Estuary Seagrass Restoration group monthly meetings. Currently working on mapping the environmental data collected from within Ahuriri Estuary to find potential suitable restoration locations. Update 9/12/25: Planning to undertake seagrass flower surveys over 25/26 summer at Pourerere and Mangakuri. Working on engagement with relevant mana whenua. Update 02/03/26: Seagrass flower sampling has been undertaken at Mangakuri and Pourerere. Flowers have been found at both locations. Environmental suitability models have been developed by EIT to identify potential areas for seagrass restoration in Te Whanganui ā Orotu

	1.7 Water quality planning	1.7a Water quality masterplan - Estuary and tributaries.	Underway	2024	2025	NCC	MAT, DOC	
Environmental restoration is routinely undertaken with the support of the community	1.8 Community engagement and cleanup	1.8a Monthly litter clean up. Start at Pandora pond and work around the estuary. A couple of hours on the second Sunday of every month. NCC collects big black rubbish sacks and provides all other resources in support of the clean up.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS	NCC	Ongoing
Te Mauri o te Taiao - Biodiversity								
Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date		Partners	Updates
Invasive species, pests and diseases have been addressed or are actively managed	2.1 Managing pests and invasive species	2.1b Servicing and maintaining traps, bait stations etc. Support the community in delivering animal pest control to areas of high biodiversity value.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	MAT, Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui a Orotu and other members of the public	
		2.1f Staff led surveillance and Service Delivery. Apple of Sodom, White Edged Nightshade, Chilean Needle Grass.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing		MAT, Relevant landowners, relevant landowners, affected landowners	Surveillance in the area as per HBRC's Regional Pest Management Plan
		2.1d Tubeworms. Tubeworm is an invasive species that blocks waterways, it is manually removed to maintain waterways, eradication is highly unlikely	Underway	2024	Ongoing	DOC	HBRC, Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui a Orotu and other members of the public	HBRC attended tubeworm hui in August hosted by Toronge/Grant (DoC). Update 9/12/25: HBRC investigating spawning peak of tubeworms over the summer (e.g., through deployment of settlement plates).
Habitats supporting biodiversity have been restored to an acceptable level	2.2 Kaitiaki	2.2a Research of at risk indigenous species- Māori musk (Thyridia repens). A subgroup of AEPS is organising the work to protect the plant. Aiming to create a display area.	Underway	Ongoing	2026	AEPS	DOC	Underway – regular contact with group.
Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu - Social								
Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date		Partners	Updates
The estuary supports a range of recreational options for the community in a sustainable way	5.2 Infrastructure	5.2a Ahuriri Regional Park	Underway	2024	2030+	NCC	MAT, HB airport, DOC, wider community	The Regional Park Masterplan has been endorsed by both Councils. The Stormwater concept design has been completed and further investigative works are being undertaken. The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee meeting was held on Monday, 16th March 2026. A new Chair and Deputy Chair have been appointed.
Ahurea o te Whenua - Cultural & Spiritual								
Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date		Partners	Updates
Monitoring of items of cultural	6.3 Cultural monitoring	6.3a Cultural monitoring programme. Under consent conditions, four cultural monitoring programmes are	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	MAT	Ongoing. In July 2025 the 24/25 report was finalised. This combines cultural

importance is occurring		underway to ensure health and wellbeing of taiao and māhinga kai are protected.						monitoring from a number of sites in te Whanga
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