

Title: Key points of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan 2012

Purpose: To assist the Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee in understanding the key points of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan 2012.

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1. Key points of the strategy and action plan

- Prepared following three rounds of **public consultation** – values, issues and then public submissions and hearings on a draft strategy document (NB – Rawiri Falkner was chair of the Hearing Committee).
- MOU was endorsed by **key stakeholders** to support and facilitate preparation of a harbour strategy. Four key partners (PCC, TROTR, WCC & GWRC) and nine other agencies (NZ Transport Agency, DOC, QEII National Trust, Forest & Bird, Fish & Game, Regional Public Health, Porirua Harbour Trust, PICT and GOPI). PCC agreed as lead agency.
- Document comprises a **three-part ‘story’** – what the harbour was like and how we got to where we are now; where we are now; and what are we going to do - written in a popular and minimal technical way. (Received a national award from NZPI for consultation and presentation).
- Sets out a **long-term strategy** to manage and reduce the ‘Big 3’ challenges to the health of the harbour: Excessive sedimentation rates; pollutant inputs; and ecological degradation.
- Contains a pragmatic approach underpinned by **6 principles**: Integrated management; restoration as a priority; sustainability; evidence-based decision-making; community stewardship; and recognition of mana whenua.
- The Strategy reflects a clear **vision**: “A healthy catchment, waterways and harbour, enjoyed and valued by the community”.
- Three clear **objectives**: reduce sedimentation rates; reduce pollutants; and restore ecological health.
- The Strategy has clear **targets** set by a Porirua Harbour Science Group (which includes independent consultants), as shown in the following table:

Reduce sedimentation rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim 50% reduction in inputs • Long-term reduction to 1mm per year on average (natural rate) 	2021 2031
Reduce pollutants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitability for recreation beach grade of at least ‘Good’ • Improved kaimoana safety from selected gathering locations • Maintain or reduce nitrogen levels and nuisance algal coverage • Significant reduction in toxicants from Porirua Stream and Semple St outfall • Maintain or reduce zinc and other heavy metals to at/ below ANZECC ‘low’ guideline • Significant reduction in litter accumulations 	2021 2021 2021 2016 2021 2016
Restore ecological health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish saltmarsh cover in suitable locations. • Significantly expand seagrass distribution • Implement sustainable land use plans and riparian protection on regional parks • Establish riparian plant cover along majority of stream lengths • Improve stream and harbour bed communities to accepted ‘healthy’ levels. 	2021 2021 2016 2031 2031

- The **Action Plan** to accomplish the three objectives describes 4 broad activities: Regulation; Projects; Education; and Research, and provide timing priorities for each action: Completed/Current; Immediate; or Medium term. Each activity has a lead agency identified. There is a separate associated 'Details Action Plan' document that describes each action in greater detail.
- The Strategy is subject to a **three-year review**. This review has been done in consultation with the Strategy partners. A revised strategy will be publicly released in April 2015. Apart from minor updating of text, most changes are in updating a slight restructuring of the Action Plan.

Report prepared by

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