

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2023

Progress update status: DELAYED/ ON HOLD IN PROGRESS ON TRACK/COMPLETE

Key: Iwi = Te Taihū iwi, TDC = Tasman District Council, NCC = Nelson City Council, DOC = Department of Conservation, NMFG = Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game, WIF = Waimea Inlet Forum, TET = Tasman Environmental Trust, WICG = Waimea Inlet Coordination Group

Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2023	NCC Progress 2023	DOC/TET/Iwi/NMFG/WIF Progress Update 2023
Ongoing actions	1 Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.1 Kaitiaki share in decisions about use and protection.	2. Ongoing support for Project Moturoa.	NMIT	All			IN PROGRESS NMIT did not receive adequate numbers of applicants for the 2023/2024 intake for the Project Moturoa training programme. They have decided to instead weave the Te Ao Māori strands into their Kaitiaki Whenua Trainee Ranger programme, which will benefit all students enrolled in this course. Iwi communications went out to whānau from some iwi for the programme.
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	5. Continue monitoring as part of State of the Environment reporting to determine the effectiveness of management actions in upstream catchments and within the estuary and compliance.	TDC and NCC		IN PROGRESS No 'State of the Environment' monitoring in the Waimea Inlet was scheduled for 2023 – this happens every 5-10 years. Report due soon on an investigation into the likely cause of local anoxia and macroalgae proliferation north of Nelson Pine Industries. Report due soon on saltmarsh restoration options for the Waimea Inlet.	IN PROGRESS NCC annual web reports have been published that provide 5 year medians for MCI in Stoke streams. The MCI current Target Attribute State is one measure for reporting on ecosystem health. The four streams monitored at the coast are all degraded, impacted by deposited fine sediment and loss of habitat from flooding and removal of flood debris, woody debris and vegetation.	IN PROGRESS Consultation with iwi through Whakawhitiwhiti Whakaaro (Iwi Portal) on Waimeha Inlet Salt Marsh Restoration – Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Rārua to be actively engaged. Te Aka Pūkenga iwi cadets 2024 to support monitoring, cadets to be appointed by end of Feb.
2024	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	1. By 1 January 2024, complete a comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements.	Birds NZ	-			COMPLETE This task was completed in March 2023 by Ivan Rogers and Laura Parks from DOC Motueka and David Melville from Birds NZ and includes all taxa, not just birds (see Appendix 1 below). Ngāti Apa and potentially other iwi working with Kārearea data gathering and indigenous data protection. Ngāti Rārua developing dedicated research centre - Tokomaru Te Mana Raraunga – data sovereignty network advocates for the protection of data.

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	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	2. By 1 January 2024, prepare a unified plan for current or proposed bird surveys, including counts of occupied nests of threatened species conducted by different groups.	Birds NZ	-			COMPLETE This task was completed in March 2023 by Ivan Rogers and Laura Parks from DOC Motueka and David Melville from Birds NZ and includes all taxa, not just birds (see Appendix 1 below).
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	1. By 1 January 2024, investigate potential for seagrass restoration.	NCC	TDC	DELAYED After failing to achieve this over a decade ago, this is not on our radar. We would like to see the methods proven first (Cawthron work).	DELAYED Nelson City Council will be doing broad scale habitat mapping in 2025/2026 to provide an indication of sea grass cover and extent. This will drive decisions relating to future seagrass restoration.	IN PROGRESS Ngāti Tama have partnered with Cawthron to undertake seagrass restoration research and other work in the Inlet. NIWA seagrass guide discusses iwi estuary monitoring toolkit underway.
2024	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	1. Continue with Waimea Inlet trapping programmes for mustelids, rats, feral cats and hedgehogs and review plan to identify gaps by 30 June 2024.	TET	-			
	1 Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.1 Kaitiaki share in decisions about use and protection.	1. By 30 June 2024, review plans and actions to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupūna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	IN PROGRESS Iwi actively participated in the recent review of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy & Action Plan, which was finalised mid-2023.	DELAYED No progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support iwi to advance this action.	IN PROGRESS Initial discussions at high level regarding cultural heritage strategy across Te Taihū at iwi GM/Kaihautū level
	1 Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.2 The mauri and wairua of Waimea are actively nurtured and perpetuated.	1. By 30 June 2024, identify what is negatively impacting the wairua and mauri of the Inlet.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	IN PROGRESS Iwi identified to lead, TDC will provide support as required. Some of these barriers are identified in the Moturoa/Rabbit Island reserve management plan (2016) and Moutere-Waimea Ward reserve management plan (2022). TDC Environmental Policy staff are working with Te Taihū Iwi on development of a freshwater	DELAYED No progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support TDC to advance this action.	IN PROGRESS CIA and CHI undertaken by iwi.

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						planning framework that gives effect to Te Mana O Te Wai, which will feed into this work.		
	1 Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.	1.2 The mauri and wairua of Waimea are actively nurtured and perpetuated.	2. By 30 June 2024, identify barriers to capacity to exercise customary practices, tikanga, and mātauranga processes including association with wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	IN PROGRESS See Action 1.2.1 above.	DELAYED No progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support TDC to advance this action.	IN PROGRESS FIF supported iwi with funding to undertake Mātauranga research. Uptake from MKM and Ngāti Kuia (video produced and released on World Wetland Day)
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	3. By 30 June 2024, explore options for protecting key areas where shore birds roost, nest and feed (e.g. potential to ban dog walking, motorboats and jet skis from these areas).	TDC and NCC	-	IN PROGRESS In Feb 2020, Nikki McArthur was commissioned to undertake a comprehensive review of threats to all coastal birds, and opportunities for restoring populations. This resulting report on 'Coastal Birds of Tasman – Areas of importance, threats, options and recommendations for management' was completed in September 2022. Staff have been instructed to develop a 'Coastal Bird Monitoring and Management Action Plan'. The results of this review will allow TDC and its partner agencies and stakeholders to prioritise the future delivery of coastal management actions towards those sites that support the most important populations of coastal birds in the Tasman District, and those sites that are being most severely impacted by one or more threats. The delivery of these management actions will in turn contribute towards the implementation of a number of policies in the new Tasman resource management plan, and a number of the actions outlined in both the Tasman	DELAYED No progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support TDC to investigate options further.	Te Ātiawa informed Council regarding nesting areas in Motueka being disturbed by horse riders – better signage required or barrier to ensure no access for horses

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						Biodiversity Strategy - Te Mana o te Taiao ki te Tai o Aorere and the Waimea Inlet Action Plan. During 2023, planning was undertaken to review the TDC Dog Bylaw. An initial consultation round will commence shortly. Formal consultation will be undertaken during the second half of 2024, with an estimated completion date of Sep/Oct 2024.		
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	1. By 30 June 2024, complete a unified strategic animal pest control plan to 'control' pigs, predators and herbivores, where these negatively impact threatened species and habitats.	TDC and NCC	-	DELAYED No funding has been allocated to implement this action, meaning it will not be completed by the deadline. There is a possibility that part of this work may be undertaken as part of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance pest control workstream, which could result in the creation of a unified ungulate plan, but not by the deadline.	IN PROGRESS Nelson City Council has allocated funding to support development of this pest control plan.	IN PROGRESS Iwi have supported various predator control programmes but no capacity to be involved for the most part. Initial discussions around potential to engage whānau with expertise and how that may work.
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	2. By 30 June 2024, methods of restoring salt marsh vegetation communities will be tested in at least four sites to develop effective restoration techniques.	TDC, NCC and TET	-	ON TRACK Saltmarsh restoration (i.e. planting areas below MHWS with appropriate species) is ongoing in a number of locations. Three salt marsh restoration trials are underway at Best Island/Greenacres Golf Course, Borck Creek Mouth and the Chenier ridge at the Orchard Stream delta. Further sites will be incorporated into the trials following a report by Salt Ecology, which recommends the areas with best potential and least barriers (financial and physical). A large amount of work has been undertaken through conventional planting of salt marsh too, which will	ON TRACK Monitoring report for the Nelson City Council chenier restoration project delivered. This report provided a summary of the progress of initial plantings and recommendations for additional planting and monitoring. As a result of this report 600 additional saltmarsh plants were planted in October 2023 and further planting will occur in May/June 2024.	IN PROGRESS Te Aka Pūkenga iwi cadets could support monitoring Ngāti Koata/Te Ātiawa going out on site Ngāti Rārua/Ngāti Apa/Ngāti Tama in support

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						continue to provide best practice guidance. The Waimea Delta is also an area where restoration of salt marsh (as well as brackish and freshwater wetlands) is underway.		
	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.1 The health, mauri and wairua of the Inlet’s water, substrate, flora, and fauna is improved by reducing inputs of contaminants.	1. By 30 June 2024, develop a long-term plan for the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit, which considers its operations with regards to sustainability, environmental and cultural impacts.	NRSBU	TDC and NCC	IN PROGRESS Te Taihū iwi, TDC and Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit (NRSBU) and are in partnership codesigning a regional wastewater philosophy/actions for the region. These overarching vision and actions will ultimately be direction-setting for the management of the region’s wastewater treatment plants. Community conversations will be part of this process in the future. Remediation planting (5000 plants) is also underway at Best Island.	IN PROGRESS NCC staff worked with the NRSBU to refine this action and planned a site visit for the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group to the Bells Islands sewerage treatment plant in February 2024.	IN PROGRESS Iwi working group – Wastewater
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	1. By 30 June 2024, commission a study to assess the full range of effects from climate change and land subsidence on the Inlet.	TDC and NCC	-	IN PROGRESS While no funding has been allocated to completing this specific action, the effects of climate change on Tasman District’s coastlines are being taken into consideration during the development of the 'Tasman Climate Response Strategy and Action Plan' (due to be adopted in mid-2024) and the Tasman Environment Plan (TEP), our second-generation resource management plan. Staff have undertaken a coastal risk assessment and drafted issues and options for the TEP. The joint Nelson-Tasman Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment will also inform the review of both documents.	IN PROGRESS The Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment due to be completed at the end of 2023 will allow to anticipate a range of actual and potential impacts of inland and coastal flooding, and sea-level rise on the inlet. The online tool – Resilience Explorer – will also include information on the vulnerability of certain ecosystems where data exists. From March 2024, new data can be integrated to the Resilience Explorer on a quarterly basis. This tool will be available to the public and may be used to host the full climate change impact assessment on the inlet. This impact assessment will inform the	IN PROGRESS Consultation with iwi – risk assessment tool. Ngāti Tama actively engaged. Ngāti Rārua had been undertaking own research and advised earlier engagement was needed with when concept was proposed. Priority area for Ngāti Kuia/Apa.

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							development of adaptation options to allow indigenous ecosystems to adapt as coastal and environmental change occurs using the Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning approach.	
	6 The natural ambience of the Inlet is improved by controlling human activities which have potential to disturb its peaceful character.		1. By 30 June 2024, map areas where hunting occurs and identify those areas where parties are agreed it is appropriate to restrict this activity.	TDC and F&G	-	IN PROGRESS DOC maintain public access for gamebird hunting in the Waimea Inlet.		
	7 Understanding and appreciation of the natural attributes and functions of the Inlet and their intrinsic characteristics and spiritual significance is increased.	7.1 People value and understand the Waimea Inlet at every level.	1. By 30 June 2024, create and keep current applicable mātauranga Māori information, along with evidence-based information and research strategy, that identifies the information required to improve the overall understanding of the Inlet, how that can best be organised and maintained, and gaps that need to be filled by further kōrero with tangata whenua and research.	Iwi	TDC/NCC/DOC	DELAYED No progress made specifically on this action during 2023. Note that TDC has mātauranga Māori projects happening as part of our FIF wetland and fish passage projects, but there are not many in the Waimea catchment area.	DELAYED No progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support TDC and Iwi to advance this action.	IN PROGRESS Iwi Capacity Building Grant 22/23 made available for iwi from Kaihautū budget. Ngāti Kuia developed cultural narrative for Waimeha. Intention to get whānau out on site. Rangitāne and Ngāti Apa developing mapping tool.
2025	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	2. By 1 January 2025, establish or continue control of pest plants for <i>Wilsonia</i> and <i>Spartina</i> at all relevant sites.	DOC	TDC	IN PROGRESS Surveys and control of <i>Spartina</i> continue to be undertaken by both DOC and Project De-Vine (through the Protecting Flora Jobs for Nature project, overseen by TDC). No <i>Wilsonia</i> control was undertaken by TDC during 2023.		ON TRACK/COMPLETE This work is ongoing and has a target of eradication and is a priority DOC have an annual programme of surveillance and control of <i>Spartina</i> throughout the Waimea Inlet, this work has been supported with additional surveillance by jobs for Nature through the restoring flora project.

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								<i>Wilsonia</i> locations on Saxton Island are visited and controlled annually in March each year
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	1. By 1 January 2025, repeat broad scale habitat monitoring (at least for opportunistic macroalgae and substrate) to monitor the ecological health of the Inlet, and periodically re-assess Inlet vulnerability to ensure management targets key stressors.	TDC and NCC		DELAYED The 2020 broad-scale mapping report provided robust information about the health of the estuary. A StoryMap was published so people can more easily assimilate this information. The frequency of this mapping has been pushed out to free up resources to achieve several of the recommendations from this report. The next report will be in 2026-27 instead of 2023. One of the recommendations in the 2020 report is impact monitoring, such as looking more closely at the causes of the issues raised in the broad-scale mapping report.	DELAYED NCC have Waimea Inlet Broadscale habitat mapping scheduled for 2025-26.	DELAYED Te Pūkenga iwi cadets can assist with monitoring
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	2. By 1 January 2025, complete a scoping study into the opportunities for restoring salt marsh around the Inlet margin in the areas not already completed.	TDC, NCC and TET		ON TRACK TDC commissioned two reports from Salt Ecology, to identify areas with the best potential for salt marsh restoration. The first report identified the areas best suited in the Eastern half of the inlet; recommended actions from this report have already been undertaken and salt marsh restoration is underway at multiple sites (as per Objective 3.1). The second report focuses on the Western half of the Inlet.	DELAYED No progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support TDC to advance this action wherever possible.	ON TRACK Presented to iwi at iwi engagement hui
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	3. By 1 January 2025, assess feasibility, and if appropriate seek funding, to alter the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit	TDC		DELAYED No progress made during 2023.		Moturoa is a wāhi tapu for iwi suggest cultural safety if this progresses to an operational stage

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			Island to achieve flushing and therefore reduce sea-lettuce proliferation in the non-flushed pockets of the Inlet.					
	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.1 The health, mauri and wairua of the Inlet's water, substrate, flora, and fauna is improved by reducing inputs of contaminants.	2. By 1 January 2025, work with landowners to ensure contaminant loads do not exceed the assimilative capacity of the Inlet and are below levels that cause significant adverse effects, particularly due to excess fine sediment, in the eight monitored waterways discharging to the Inlet.	TDC and NCC for respective waterways		IN PROGRESS Addressed in part through Freshwater Farm Plans (FWFP) from 2025 for waterways outside of urban catchments. It is to be noted that the regulations will not apply to Tasman District until 2025.	IN PROGRESS Nelson City Council continues to support actions that reduce impacts on its waterways. The establishment of an Integrated Catchments Team will continue to work towards improving waterway health in catchments within Nelson.	IN PROGRESS Freshwater Farm Plans – MfE provision for iwi catchment officer oversight of plans. May be iwi forestry blocks to consider
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	2. By 1 January 2025, acknowledge that changes to the morphology of the Inlet and to its interface with Tasman Bay <i>Te Tai o Aorere</i> will result from the increase in the tidal compartment due to sea level rise, and use adaptive pathways to accommodate these natural processes, rather than seeking to prevent, control or restrict them.	TDC and NCC		IN PROGRESS While no funding has been allocated to completing this specific action, the effects of climate change on Tasman District's coastlines are being taken into consideration during the development of the 'Tasman Climate Response Strategy and Action Plan' (due to be adopted in mid-2024) and resource management decision making processes. Staff completed a first pass coastal risk assessment in 2020 and a joint Nelson-Tasman Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment is currently being completed. This information will inform future community adaptation planning and council documents and processes as noted above.	IN PROGRESS Council has been continuing to work on its assessment of Coastal Hazards. Some of this work involves Waimea Inlet.	IN PROGRESS Te Mana o Te Wai alignment. Iwi statements (Te Puna Kōrero?)
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	3. By 1 January 2025, work with tangata whenua, key landowners, and stakeholders to establish, in a non-confrontational way, a methodology using the adaptive planning approach to	TDC, NCC and TET		IN PROGRESS As a first step, TDC has commissioned and received two reports from Salt Ecology to identify areas with the best potential for salt marsh restoration, for both the	IN PROGRESS Nelson City Council has been supporting investigations at the Wakapuaka sandflats and the Whakatu Drive that will guide future saltmarsh restoration.	IN PROGRESS Ngāti Apa/MKM Blue carbon project to support as a methodology

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			enable the future migration of salt marsh and marginal vegetation onto publicly and privately owned low-lying rural land, incrementally over time, without unduly burdening individual parties.			eastern and western sides of the Inlet.		
2025	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	3. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, undertake effective control of Class 1, 2 and 3 species as determined in the Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Strategy.	TDC and NCC		ON TRACK Pest plant control is underway across the Inlet. No recent discoveries of Class 1 species. Resource consent recently granted for Herbicide applications in the CMA. Focus for the next 12 months will be on Class 2 species such as Jelly Bean Iceplant and Tamarisk.	ON TRACK Nelson City Council is supporting Tasman District Council to implement the pest plant strategy within Nelson.	
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.	4. By 30 June 2025, reduce disturbance from human activities, plant and animal pests, and domestic animals (cats, dogs, and browsers) through legal, physical, educational and compliance programmes.	TDC and NCC		IN PROGRESS TDC has initiated the process of reviewing their Dog Control Bylaw and creating a proposed Cat Management Bylaw. An initial consultation round will take place this summer, with formal consultation scheduled for Q3 in 2024.	DELAYED No further progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support TDC to advance this action wherever possible.	IN PROGRESS Te Kāhui Mātauranga – iwi rōpu focuses on education
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	2. 30 June 2025, 3ha of marsh bird habitat will be enhanced by wetland creation and ecological restoration activities in the Waimea River Delta as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project.	TDC		ON TRACK This target has already been exceeded, with 3.5 ha enhanced since early 2022. Two phases of earthworks have been undertaken (during 2022 and 2023) to create greater open water areas and 're-wet' portions of the project site. Over 10,000 native plants have been planted in the last two years and targeted weed control undertaken. Monitoring and maintenance will continue for the next several years. Further planting is planned for 2024.		ON TRACK Waimea Delta site visit with iwi – Ngāti Kuia/Apa, Ngāti Koata. Te Ātiawa in support. Iwi monitors on site during construction phase.

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	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	3. By 30 June 2025, identify terrestrial Inlet margin areas subject to tidal influence and secure resources to work with landowners to exclude stock and prevent infilling, channelisation and new barriers to tidal connection (e.g., bunds, flap gates).	TDC and NCC		IN PROGRESS A total length of 805 linear metres of fencing has been established through the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, with MfE and TDC funding. This was on private land that was previously being grazed.	DELAYED No further progress on this action to date, but Nelson City Council will support TDC to advance this action wherever possible.	Fish Passage?
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	4. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, fence watercourses to exclude stock and vehicles around the Waimea Inlet – target of 2km of fencing.	TDC		IN PROGRESS A total length of 805 linear metres of fencing has been installed to date. However, it is very unlikely that the 2km target will be reached, due to the very high material cost associated with fencing currently.		
	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.2 Human uses are managed to sustain natural attributes.	1. Support major infrastructure owners and operators to review the impacts of their activities on the Inlet and develop plans to remediate past damage and avoid or mitigate future impacts by 30 June 2025.	TDC and NCC		IN PROGRESS Refer to update under Action 4.1.1 above.	IN PROGRESS Productive discussions have been had with Nelson City Council staff that manage infrastructure renewal and development to build the profile of the Waimea Inlet Strategy and this particular action.	
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	4. By 30 June 2025, identify areas of the Inlet in which managed retreat can be achieved 'at scale' while protecting and restoring biodiversity and support landowners to implement managed retreat opportunities.	TDC, NCC and TET		IN PROGRESS TDC and Salt Ecology have developed a list of priority sites for restoration around the Waimea Inlet. Restoration of priority sites is progressing. Waimea Delta wetland enhancement project is well underway, with a further phase of earthworks undertaken during 2023. This complemented work undertaken in 2022 when large ponds were created, with the aim of creating suitable habitat	IN PROGRESS Ongoing conversations have been occurring between the Nelson City Climate Change and Biodiversity team to investigate options for managed retreat of coastal ecosystems.	

Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2023

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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2023	NCC Progress 2023	DOC/TET/Iwi/NMFG/WIF Progress Update 2023
						for marsh birds. Saltmarsh restoration is underway at several sites.		
	6 The natural ambience of the Inlet is improved by controlling human activities which have potential to disturb its peaceful character.		2. By 30 June 2025, identify options for controlling disruptive human activities (e.g. use of vessels, jet skis, hovercraft, drones, float planes and shooting) in order to protect natural quiet and calm.	TDC and NCC		DELAYED Will be addressed through the Plan review which has been delayed due to legislative uncertainty.	IN PROGRESS This Nelson City Council Environmental Planning team have lodged this action and will progress it in due course.	
	7 Understanding and appreciation of the natural attributes and functions of the Inlet and their intrinsic characteristics and spiritual significance is increased.	7.1 People value and understand the Waimea Inlet at every level.	2. By 30 June 2025, measurably increase community involvement by informing and supporting people to manage threats and restoring natural ecosystems.	TET	-			ON TRACK TET: Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 volunteers contributed over 3,500 hours to restoration efforts around the Waimea Inlet in the Battle for the Banded Rail project. There are a multitude of additional projects including those led by Mapua Districts Community Association, Forest and Bird, Fish and Game, and Keep Richmond Beautiful.
2026	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	4. By 1 January 2026, no increase in the net extent of shoreline armoring, and replace with “soft engineering” techniques wherever possible. All new shoreline protection uses soft engineering techniques, unless it is not feasible.	TDC and NCC		ON TRACK There has not been any new rock armoring around the Waimea Inlet over the past year. Saltmarsh trials are underway. These may be an effective soft-engineering technique to help protect sections of Tasman’s Great Taste Trail. Current TDC coastal protection policy supports no net increase in extent of shoreline armoring, unless protecting high risk infrastructure. Planning for the development of a Coastal Asset Hazard Management Strategy is underway, to provide TDC with clear guidance on our approach to coastal structures in the future.	ON TRACK Conversations have occurred with capital projects and infrastructure delivery teams to encourage the use of soft engineering options and their wider implementation.	

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	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	5. Survey the quality of the marine habitat, shellfish beds and fish numbers with a view to restoration by 1 January 2026.	TDC and NCC		<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>A report from NIWA on fish surveys within Waimea Inlet is due to be finalised by the end of 2023.</p> <p>Key marine intertidal habitats are mapped as part of broad-scale mapping processes every 5-10 years. Shellfish beds are only mapped on a cursory basis.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>The Mark Morrison paper on Waimea Inlet fish populations is finalised. TDC and NCC are continuing a project compiling existing marine and coastal spatial data throughout the region, for a future review of significant sites.</p>	
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	5. By 1 January 2026, through involvement in resource management planning and policy processes, ensure that priority provision is made for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify, preventing new infrastructure on sites required for future biodiversity.	TDC and NCC		<p>DELAYED</p> <p>The TDC Coastal Management Project (CMP) is working towards developing our long-term adaptive plan for sea level rise and coastal hazards. This information will inform review of Council's resource management plan as well as wider Council work programmes (e.g. infrastructure and asset management). Following community engagement in 2021 looking at high level coastal management options, TDC released a summary of feedback report in April 2022. However, the whole of plan review to produce a new resource management plan is on hold. The recently passed legislation to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA), combined with the uncertain political climate means refocusing Tasman's Environmental Policy work program. The short-term focus will be on progressing a smaller number of policy topics of importance to Tasman. This includes responding to natural hazards and climate change, however will be on a longer timeframe than this action.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>The Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment due to be completed at the end of 2023 will allow to anticipate a range of actual and potential impacts of inland and coastal flooding, and sea-level rise on the inlet. The online tool – Resilience Explorer – will also include information on the vulnerability of certain ecosystems where data exists and therefore allow Council to plan accordingly.</p>	

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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2023	NCC Progress 2023	DOC/TET/Iwi/NMFG/WIF Progress Update 2023
	5 The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.	5.1 Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.	6. By 1 January 2026, support processes that allow the carbon sequestration of estuarine ecosystems (including areas historically drained or cut-off from tidal connections), and areas potentially inundated by future sea level rise, to be properly valued for their ecosystems services, and identify potential economic incentives to be achieved through financial incentives such as environmental compensation and Blue Carbon credits and how these can be used to benefit future initiatives for Waimea Inlet.	TET	-			ON TRACK/COMPLETE TET: Core and Restore Blue Carbon Pilot project complete with report and field protocol available. TET is participating in the Pou “Coastal Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration as part of the national Community of Practice facilitated by Helen Kettles of DOC. This collaboration is working to develop policy and best practice for coring, wetland protection and restoration. It is also considering developments in systems for valuing Blue Carbon Credits and Biodiversity Credits in Aotearoa and how they will apply for coastal wetland ecosystems.
2026	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.	4. By 30 June 2026, update the DOC Ecological Management Unit assessment.	DOC	-			ON TRACK DOC is currently undergoing a change in how it plans and prioritises its work. The full process is likely to have been completed by June 2026. The EMU may then have another definition.
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	3. By 30 June 2026, <i>Gambusia</i> eradication programme reviewed in context of national programmes.	DOC	-			IN PROGRESS Still working on this.
	2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.	2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.	4. Continue programmes to restore freshwater fish habitat, including inanga spawning sites, and identify and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways by 30 June 2026.	TDC and NCC	-	ON TRACK A tidegate was installed at Pearl Creek in September 2023 to improve fish passage and inanga spawning in that waterway. Fish habitat restoration in Neimann Creek continuing. Fish passage project work in the	ON TRACK NCC has ongoing programmes to survey inanga habitat, remediate fish passage barriers and enhance habitat as part of Utilities Operations & Maintenance and Catchment Team.	

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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2023	NCC Progress 2023	DOC/TET/Iwi/NMFG/WIF Progress Update 2023
						Waimea catchment is planned to take place during 2024-25.		
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	5. By 30 June 2026, increase the area of naturally vegetated inlet margin by a further 10km (to an average width of 10m) and complete the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Phase 2 Project to plant and maintain 70,000 indigenous plants around the Waimea Inlet.	TET and TDC		ON TRACK The Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees Project (Phase 2) is on track to plant circa 100,000 natives around the Inlet by June 2025. This project has already increased the margin of native vegetation by 4.9 km since 2021.	DELAYED Discussions around additional planting along Whakatu Drive within Nelson City are yet to occur for the 2024 planting season and as planting sites are at capacity there may only be space for limited infill planting.	ON TRACK TET: Battle for the Banded Rail planted 13,408 plants in 2023 (mapping distance yet to be completed).
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.1 Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.	6. By 30 June 2026, increase the area of naturally vegetated dune land on Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands by 750 square metres, and on airport peninsula by 900 square metres.	TDC, NCC and TET		ON TRACK The Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees (Phase 1 project lead by TET)) has planted 50,000 coastal native species along the margins of both Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands over the last three years. These are back dune plantings along the Inlet margins. Additionally, as part of TDC's coast care project, 1,200 sand binding native plants were established on Moturoa during the winter of 2023, in the dune area adjacent to the front beach and at the Māpua Ferry landing area on the western edge of the island.	ON TRACK Nelson City Council has planted approximately 300 square metres of coastal dune vegetation from May to July 2023. 2340 Plants were planted and these included plants across the entire dune profile from foredune, mid dune, back dune, and dune forest. Next year additional planting will occur to significantly increase the planting in this area.	
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	6. By 30 June 2026, reduce the level of nitrates reaching the Inlet to ensure that there is no further increase in nuisance macroalgae.	TDC		ON TRACK This issue is on track to be included in the new Land and Freshwater Plan Change (LFPC) in 2024/25 and addressed in part through Freshwater Farm Plans from 2025.		

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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2023	NCC Progress 2023	DOC/TET/Iwi/NMFG/WIF Progress Update 2023
	3 The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.	3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.	7. By 30 June 2026, if external funding can be obtained, assess feasibility of turning causeways blocking tidal flows into bridges to allow for the free flow of water (e.g., at Māpua Drive cutting off Dominion Flats reserve from the Inlet; at the Traverse linking Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands).	TDC		DELAYED No progress made during 2023.		
	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.2 Human uses are managed to sustain natural attributes.	2. By 30 June 2026, improve discharge and land disturbance monitoring and enforcement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. plan effectiveness monitoring (are the current regulations achieving what is intended or do they need to be strengthened?); ii. reviewing effectiveness of granted resource consents (are they achieving what they are supposed to achieve?); iii. targeted compliance monitoring and enforcement; and iv. compiling and making available to the public the forthcoming expiry dates of existing consents. 	TDC and NCC for respective areas		IN PROGRESS Regarding (i) plan effectiveness monitoring, RMA s35 efficiency and effectiveness assessments of the existing regulation in the TRMP were undertaken in 2019-20 as part of the whole-of-plan review. While parts of this review are on hold, given the resource management reform process, the freshwater work is being progressed through the Land and Freshwater Plan Change in 2023-25. The Section 35 review for freshwater related parts of the plan identified aspects to retain in the new framework, but identified overall review was needed to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai and implement the NPS-FM and some rule frameworks required greater clarity and stringency to give effect to the objectives and policies. These changes will be addressed through the Land and Freshwater Plan Change.	IN PROGRESS Discussions have been had with the Nelson City Council consenting team about how this objective can be met. A member of the NCC consents team will attend a Waimea Inlet Coordination Group meeting soon to discuss how this action can be addressed.	

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Year	Objective	Sub-objective	Action/Target for Waimea Inlet	Lead	Support	TDC Progress Update 2023	NCC Progress 2023	DOC/TET/Iwi/NMFG/WIF Progress Update 2023
2050	4 Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.	4.1 The health, mauri and wairua of the Inlet's water, substrate, flora, and fauna is improved by reducing inputs of contaminants.	3. Ten percent of urban and industrial storm water and effluent discharges to streams in the catchment meet ANZECC (2000) ISQG low sediment toxicity criteria within 50m of the discharge outfall by 2050.	TDC and NCC for respective waterways, then new WSE		IN PROGRESS Environmental monitoring of urban waterways in Richmond, focusing on Jimmy Lee Creek/Beach Road Drain, commenced in early 2023 and is ongoing. Staff are scoping monitoring efforts for Māpua, Brightwater and Wakefield, building on the stormwater Catchment Management Plans that are either complete or in development. Increased "consent monitoring" budgets are being championed through the 2024 LTP process to facilitate more sampling.	IN PROGRESS NCC undertook a point source sediment contaminant survey in July 2023 at discharge outlets in the Waimea and Haven to set a baseline. The report will be available by Dec 2023.	