

# Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2050 and Action Plan 2023 to 2026

*June 2023*



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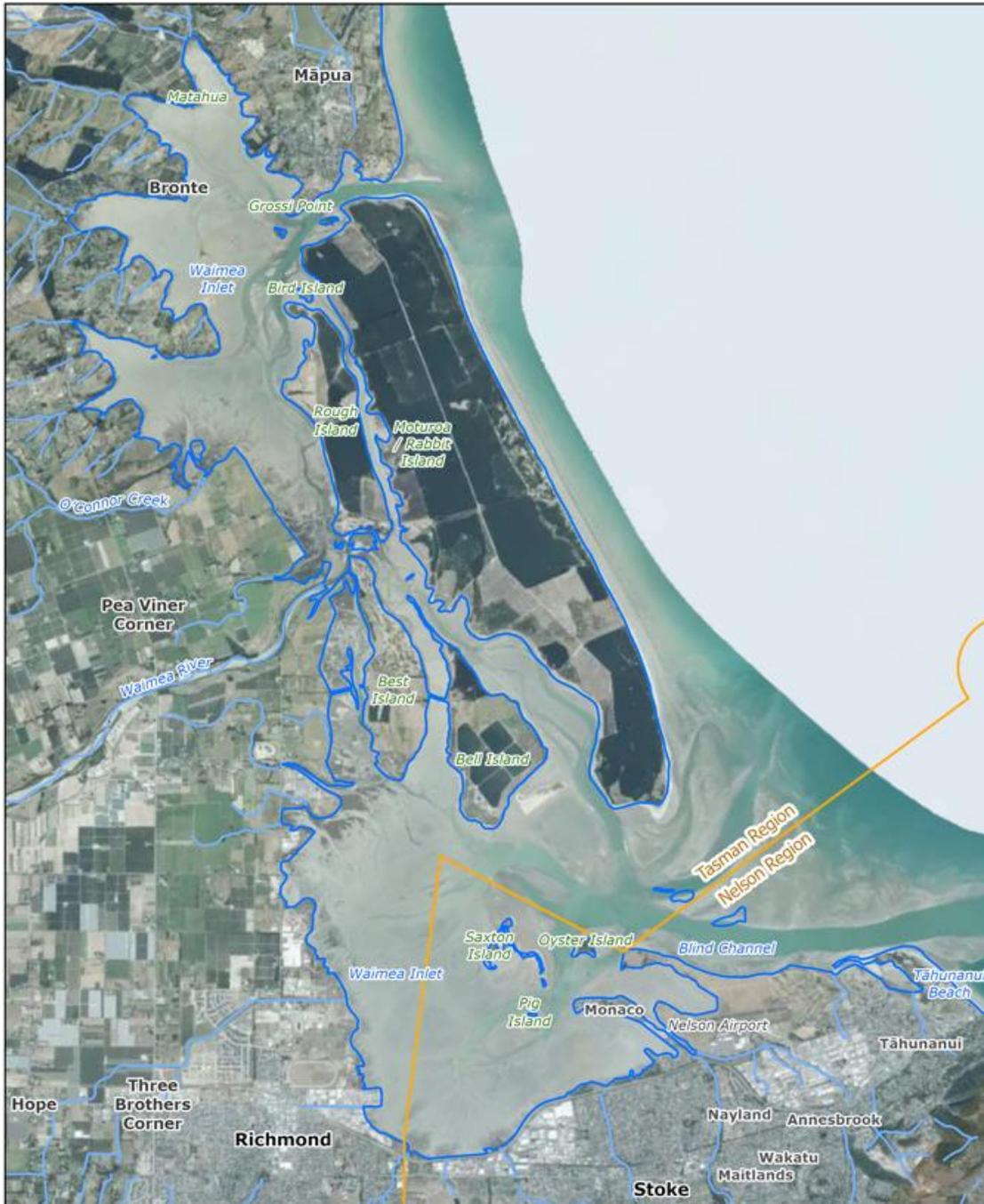
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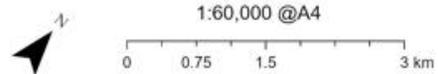
Figure 1: Map of the Waimea Inlet



June 8, 2023

**Legend**

- Regional boundary
- Coastline - Mean High Water (LINZ)
- Rivers (LINZ)



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## Preface

Waimea Inlet is a special place, a site of international and national importance for shorebirds and other waterbirds. It is home to a wide array of living organisms, some rare and threatened, others international migrants.

The Inlet itself is loved by many people; an intertidal seascape contained within a landscape of urban, industrial, and agricultural activity. People in ever greater numbers value the estuarine environment as a place for quiet and restoration.

However, the Inlet has been degraded by infilling, loss of its coastal margins and forests, and discharge of sediment and contaminants from the land. Pressures from climate change and continuing development in the catchment will exacerbate these impacts if restorative action is not taken.

In 2010, citizens who cared about the Inlet collaborated with Tasman District and Nelson City Councils, Department of Conservation (DOC), and Fish and Game to produce the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (the Management Strategy). Members of the Waimea Inlet Forum are collaborating on a broad front that involves restoring the margins, eradicating plant and animal pests, and caring for the Inlet as a whole – as described in the 2010 Vision statement:

*A vibrant place, richly appreciated by the community for its open space, natural, cultural, and ecological values; happily remembered by generations for their activities, adventures and discoveries; a place where tangata whenua hold mana as kaitiaki and rangatira; and a place to be shared with increasing respect.*

To help everyone build effectively on the Management Strategy, and the good work already underway, a Coordination Group<sup>1</sup> was formed by the signatories to the Waimea Inlet Charter<sup>2</sup> to create an Action Plan to identify, prioritise, integrate, and coordinate actions aimed at achieving the vision of the Management Strategy.

The areas of responsibility of the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group are:

- To periodically review the Management Strategy.
- To develop and update an Action Plan for implementation of the Management Strategy.
- To monitor, report on and respond to the implementation outcomes of the Action Plan and prepare an Annual Report for stakeholders.

The Terms of Reference for the Coordination Group are appended.

Figure 2 shows diagrammatically how the parts fit together.

The Action Plan sets objectives and actions for the next three years and beyond for the signatories to the Management Strategy<sup>3</sup>, and any other organisations that will commit to implementing it.

The Management Strategy, and accompanying Action Plan, represent matters to be considered in related processes such as Iwi Management Plans and Council financial and resource management planning. The same applies to other statutory bodies, such as DOC and Fish and Game.

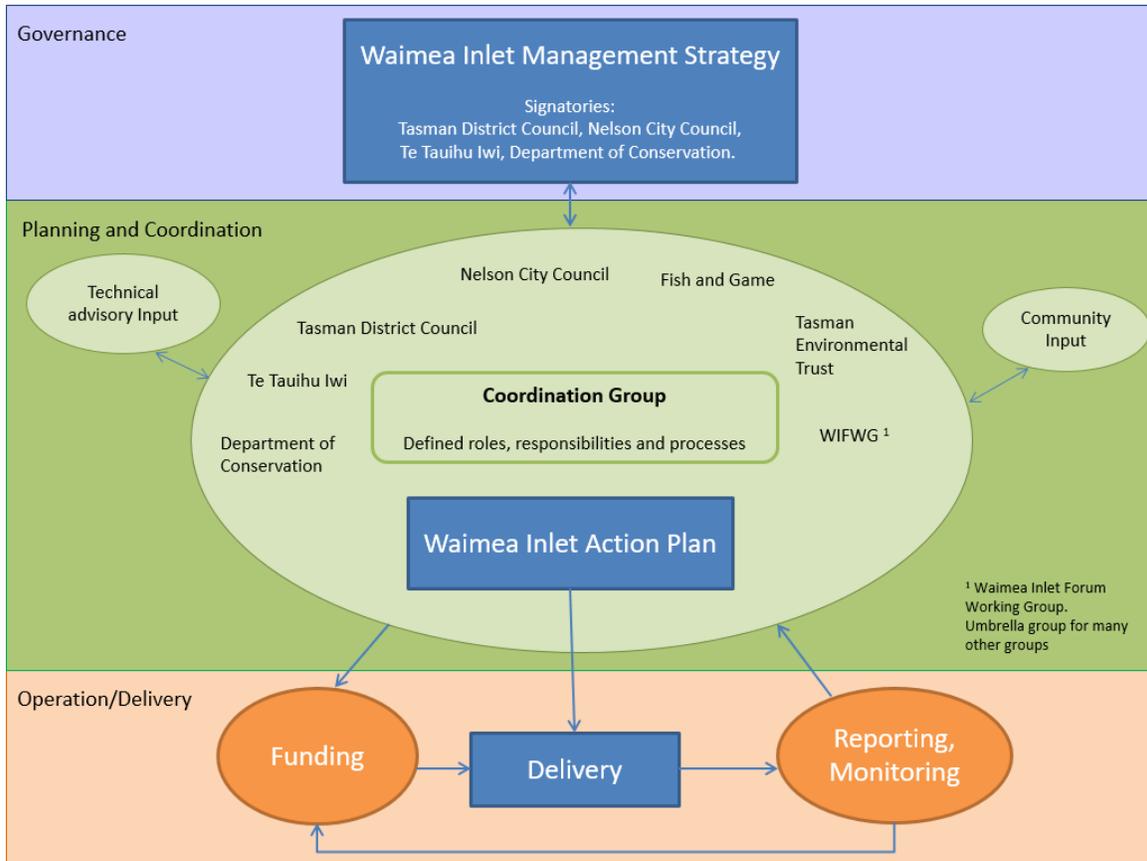
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<sup>1</sup> Members include representatives from Tasman District Council (TDC), Nelson City Council (NCC), Department of Conservation (DOC), Tasman Environmental Trust (TET), Waimea Inlet Forum Working Group and Te Tauihu iwi.

<sup>2</sup> <https://waimeainlet.wordpress.com/about-the-forum/waimea-inlet-charter/>

<sup>3</sup> As at 2023, the signatories to the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (WIMS) comprised TDC, NCC, DOC and Fish & Game. Each of the eight Te Tauihu iwi has an open invitation to become signatories to the WIMS and to appoint representatives to the Coordination Group.

**Figure 2: Relationship between signatories to the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy, members of the Coordination Group and groups/individuals delivering actions on the ground.**



As steps are taken to enable whole of catchment management, and to help nature and the community to adapt to climate change, this Strategy and Action Plan will need to be further developed. Its objectives will need to be recognised in parallel process by agencies and organisations.

The Action Plan can only be effectively implemented if its aspirations are taken into account in responsible human behaviour and management of its catchments, related estuaries, and Tasman Bay *Te Tai o Aorere* as a whole. Indeed, for internationally migratory birds, complementary actions are needed in other places and even in other countries.

In sponsoring the process, the councils have acted pursuant to their role under the Local Government Act 2002. Similarly, any iwi involvement, whether formal or informal, is centred on the Māori cultural obligation of kaitiakitanga. Should the councils, or any other party, adopt or endorse this Management Strategy, they will be bound by relevant law and regulation in its implementation. For example, in preparing statutory plans the councils and DOC will take guidance from the Management Strategy, but the relevant decisions about specific provisions will be made based on the full evidence and advice presented to decision makers at the time. Similarly, the Management Strategy and Action Plan will inform the work programmes of the agencies, but final decisions on resource allocation will be made within the context of a wide range of competing priorities.

## How the Management Strategy and Action Plan work together

### Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (the Management Strategy)

The Management Strategy sets:

1. The overarching **vision** for the Waimea Inlet to 2050. This is what we are working towards together.
2. The **strategic approach**. This brings forward Rautaki - the strategic approach developed by iwi in drafting Te Mana o te Taiao ki te Tai o Aorere/the Tasman Biodiversity Strategy. This acts as a reference point in determining priorities and judging alignment with the Strategy.
3. The **objectives** which detail what we will see as we work towards the vision.
4. How **implementation** will happen, including defining overall roles and responsibilities.

### Waimea Inlet Action Plan (the Action Plan)

The Action Plan details:

1. **Objectives** that define desirable outcomes.
2. **Actions** that will be taken over the three years of the Plan.

Each of the signatories has responsibility for reviewing, considering, and approving any updates to the Management Strategy and Action Plan that are proposed by the Coordination Group. For the Action Plan, signatories will focus on those specific actions that their organisation would like to assist with or take a lead on, and sign-off on those specific actions – rather than the Action Plan in its entirety.

The Waimea Inlet Forum (WIF), created in 2010, meets several times each year to discuss issues relevant to the Inlet. The WIF representative on the Coordination Group provides an interface with community and sector groups, so that interested members of the public can have input. If required, the Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) representative will coordinate and manage project funding from the signatories and outside sources.

Each representative on the Coordination Group is responsible for reporting back to the organisation that they represent.

# Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2050

## Moemoeā -2050 Vision

A vibrant place where the health of nature is restored and maintained; richly appreciated by the community for its open space, natural, cultural, and ecological values; happily remembered by generations for their activities, adventures and discoveries; a place where tangata whenua hold mana as kaitiaki and rangatira; and a place to be shared with increasing respect.

## Rautaki - Strategic Approach

I te tuatahi e whakamana te Taiao.

Whakamana ngā tikanga/kawa Taiao o ngā tangata whenua me manawhenua me ngā hapori hoki.

Manāki ngā hapori me ngā koporeihana o te rohe nei mō te Taiao.

Hangaia ngā raukaha me ngā manwa rahi o te Kāwanatanga mō te oranga o te Taiao.

*Acknowledging nature comes first.*

*Honouring customary protocols in relation to nature through partnerships between tangata whenua and manawhenua iwi and the community.*

*Ensuring communities, organisations and industries are committed to restoring nature.*

*Building the capability, capacity, and commitment of statutory agencies to support restoration of nature.*

## Whāinga - Objectives

1. Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.
2. Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.
3. The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.
4. Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.
5. The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.
6. The natural ambience of the Inlet is improved by controlling human activities which have potential to disturb its peaceful character.
7. Understanding and appreciation of the natural attributes and functions of the Inlet and their intrinsic characteristics and spiritual significance is increased.

## Whakahaere - Implementation

Achievement of this Strategy's objectives will be led by accountable statutory agencies, Te Taihū iwi, and community representatives, as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group.

1. Waimea Inlet Coordination Group members will recommend changes to the Strategy to constituent organisations and lead action in achieving its Goals.
2. Waimea Inlet Coordination Group members will develop, implement and report on three year Action Plans that record the commitments of statutory agencies and the application of other public funds.
3. Tasman District Council will provide support for the Coordination Group and Waimea Inlet Forum (with contributions from other statutory agencies as appropriate).
4. Statutory agencies represented on the Coordination Group will align their statutory policies, plans, regulations and compliance and enforcement to support achievement of this Management Strategy's Objectives.

# Waimea Inlet Action Plan 2023 to 2026

## Introduction

The purpose of this Action Plan is to enable aligned action to implement the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy. The Action Plan identifies objectives, and priority actions to be implemented by the next review in 2026.

The Action Plan identifies a lead organisation for each action, who will also monitor progress toward collective targets. Being a lead will mean taking responsibility for initiating action, and for monitoring, reporting progress and making recommendations. **It will not mean the party will undertake the action alone or provide all the resources.** Each party will make its own decisions about resources and actions. Some actions will have joint leads (e.g. those spanning the geographic areas of both councils).

Parties to this Action Plan will provide a full report every three years on achievement of targets and objectives, 18 months in advance of councils' Long-Term Plans<sup>4</sup>. A combined progress report on work completed to date will also be prepared by the Coordination Group annually.

## Considerations for identifying priorities

The considerations used to set priorities and sequence actions are listed below.<sup>5</sup> In the process of drafting this Action Plan, the Coordination Group realised that the future of the Inlet, and the effectiveness of actions, will be dominated by the effects of climate change.<sup>6</sup>

- Irreversibility if not confronted.
- Urgency: How soon irreversible change might happen, with precaution.
- Contribution to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity, threatened species, habitats and ecosystems including species for which the Inlet is a significant habitat, and national and international migrant species.
- Contribution to restoring and protecting ecosystem health.
- Contribution to tangata whenua values.
- Wider human community ownership and respect.
- Level of opportunity for multiple parties to be involved.
- Enhancing peoples' understanding, connection and engagement.
- Economic cost/benefit to te Taiao.
- Achievability – financial and outcome.

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<sup>4</sup> Noting that implementation of the three waters reforms may change what is possible.

<sup>5</sup> The many reports documenting the values of the Inlet and its condition can be found at <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-region/environment/environmental-management/estuaries/waimea-inlet/>

<sup>6</sup> The current state and trends in the Inlet can be seen at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/588d9cc93f8f485b8878b832195dce70>

## Objectives and Actions

**Objective 1** Rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Taihū iwi are provided for.

**Objective 1.1** Kaitiaki share in decisions about use and protection.

**Actions:**

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. (Lead: Te Taihū iwi supported by statutory agencies)
2. Ongoing support for [Project Moturoa](#). (Organised in the Coordination Group)

**Objective 1.2** The mauri and wairua of Waimea are actively nurtured and perpetuated.

**Actions:**

1. By 30 June 2024, identify what is negatively impacting the wairua and mauri of the Inlet. (Lead: Te Taihū iwi supported by statutory agencies)
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. (Lead: Te Taihū iwi supported by statutory agencies)

**Objective 2 Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are safeguarded from harm and disturbance.**

**Objective 2.1 Indigenous species and their habitats protected from harm and disturbance.**

**Actions:**

1. Continue with Waimea Inlet trapping programmes for mustelids, rats, feral cats and hedgehogs and review plan to identify gaps by 30 June 2024 (Lead: TET)
2. By 1 January 2025, establish or continue control of pest plants for *Wilsonia* and *Spartina* at all relevant sites. (Lead: DOC)
3. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project<sup>7</sup>, undertake effective control of Class 1, 2 and 3 species as determined in the Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Strategy. (TDC and NCC)
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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)

**Objective 2.2 Nationally and regionally threatened species are under informed active management.**

**Actions:**

1. By 1 January 2024, complete a comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements. (Lead: Birds NZ) Complete – see Appendix 1.
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<sup>8</sup>. (Lead: Birds NZ)
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). (Lead: TDC and NCC)
4. By 30 June 2026, update the DOC Ecological Management Unit assessment. (Lead: DOC)

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/projects/economic-recovery-projects/jobs-for-nature/waimea-inlet-enhancement-project-updates/>

<sup>8</sup> A report (McArthur *et al* Feb 2022) recommended the following: a programme of annual counts of occupied nests at known Black-billed Gull/Tarāpuka, Caspian Tern/Taranui, Banded Dotterel/Pohowera and White-fronted Tern/Tara colony sites within the Tasman District be carried out, to improve our knowledge of the breeding population size and trends of these key threatened and/or declining coastal bird species.

## Objective 2.3 Habitats for indigenous species protected, enhanced, and increased.

### Actions:

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<sup>9</sup> and habitats. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
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 (Lead: TDC).
3. By 30 June 2026, *Gambusia* eradication programme reviewed in context of national programmes. (Lead: DOC)
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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)



*Waimea Delta restoration project (April 2023)*

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<sup>9</sup> As defined at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/bbb9.pdf>

**Objective 3      The healthy natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.**

**Objective 3.1      Native vegetation sequences and habitats around the shores of the Inlet, and along contributing waterways, are protected, restored, and cared for.**

**Actions:**

1. By 1 January 2024, investigate potential for seagrass<sup>10</sup> restoration. (Lead: NCC)
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. (Lead: TDC, NCC and TET)
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). (Lead: TDC and NCC)
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 (Lead: TDC)
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. (Lead: TET and TDC)
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. (Lead: TDC, NCC and TET)

**Objective 3.2      Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.**

**Actions:**

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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
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. (Lead: TDC, NCC and TET)
3. By 1 January 2025, assess feasibility, and if appropriate seek funding, to alter the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island to achieve flushing and therefore reduce sea-lettuce proliferation in the non-flushed pockets of the Inlet. (Lead: TDC)

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<sup>10</sup> Seagrass is a tohu/indicator species.

4. By 1 January 2026, no increase in the net extent of shoreline armouring, and replace with “soft engineering” techniques wherever possible. All new shoreline protection uses soft engineering techniques, unless it is not feasible. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
5. Survey the quality of the marine habitat, shellfish beds and fish numbers with a view to restoration by 1 January 2026. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
6. By 30 June 2026, reduce the level of nitrates reaching the Inlet to ensure that there is no further increase in nuisance macroalgae. (Lead: TDC)
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). (Lead: TDC)



*Salt marsh restoration trial near Orchard Stream mouth, Nelson*

**Objective 4**      **Human activities including land uses in the catchment around the Inlet make a positive contribution to its health and natural values.**

**Objective 4.1**    **The health, mauri and wairua of the Inlet’s water, substrate, flora, and fauna is improved by reducing inputs of contaminants.**

**Actions:**

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. (Lead: NRSBU. Support: TDC and NCC)
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. (Lead: TDC and NCC for respective waterways)
3. Ten percent of urban and industrial storm water and effluent discharges to streams in the catchment meet ANZECC (2000)<sup>11</sup> ISQG low sediment toxicity criteria within 50m of the discharge outfall by 2050. (Lead: TDC and NCC for respective waterways)

**Objective 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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
2. By 30 June 2026, improve discharge and land disturbance monitoring and enforcement by:
  - 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.

(Lead: TDC and NCC for respective areas)

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<sup>11</sup> ANZECC & ARMCANZ (2000). *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality*. Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand, Canberra.

**Objective 5      The natural ecosystems of the Inlet can evolve in response to climate change and land subsidence effects.**

**Objective 5.1      Indigenous ecosystems can adapt to any future shore-line change.**

**Actions:**

1. By 30 June 2024, commission a study to assess the full range of effects from climate change and land subsidence on the Inlet. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
2. By 1 January 2025, acknowledge that changes to the morphology of the Inlet and to its interface with Tasman Bay *Te Tai o Aorere* 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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
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 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. (Lead: TDC, NCC and TET)
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. (Lead: TDC, NCC and TET)
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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)
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. (Lead: TET)

**Objective 6      The natural ambience of the Inlet is improved by controlling human activities which have potential to disturb its peaceful character.**

**Actions:**

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. (Lead: TDC and Fish and Game NZ)
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. (Lead: TDC and NCC)



*Ongoing restoration work around the Rough Island Wetland  
Photo Credit: Tim Cuff*

**Objective 7      Understanding and appreciation of the natural attributes and functions of the Inlet and their intrinsic characteristics and spiritual significance is increased.**

**Objective 7.1 People value and understand the Waimea Inlet at every level.**

**Actions:**

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. (Lead: Te Taihū iwi supported by statutory agencies)
2. By 30 June 2025, measurably increase community involvement by informing and supporting people to manage threats and restoring natural ecosystems<sup>12</sup>. (Lead: TET)



*Tamariki planting event at Moturoa/Rabbit Island  
Photo Credit: Whenua Iti*

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<sup>12</sup> This will begin with a communications plan for the Inlet and include initiatives such as "Smart benches" and QR codes on signs along the cycleway.

## Implementation

1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.
2. Coordinate with the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance on planning for the Inlet's future.
3. All participating organisations contribute to combined annual progress reports.

## Review

The Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed every three years, approximately 18 months in advance of the Tasman District and Nelson City Council Long Term Plans.

When reviewing the Action Plan, the Coordination Group will take into consideration updates to relevant planning documents (such as iwi management plans, the resource management plans for Nelson and Tasman, relevant reserve management plans, and the Richmond Stormwater Catchment Management Plan) and objectives from related processes including the DOC threatened species reviews and national policy statements.

## Glossary

**Amenity values** means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.

**Biological diversity** (biodiversity) means the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

**Climate change** means a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

**Community** in relation to biodiversity means a group of organisms growing or living together in a given area.

**Community of Interest:** For the responsible implementation of kaitiakitanga, the real community of interest must encompass all living organisms (including humans), in the *place* that is the subject of management, be it about managing the status quo or about changing it. In the broadest sense, the 'place' is Planet Earth.

**Contaminant** includes any substance (including gases, odorous compounds, liquids, solids, and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy, or heat when discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of water; or when discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged.

**Customary use** means, according to tikanga, the extractive use of indigenous plants or animals by tangata whenua for traditional uses including food gathering, carving, weaving, and rongoā (traditional medicine).

**Disturb** has the same meaning as in the Wildlife Act 1953.

**Ecosystem** means an ecological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit; an interacting system of living parts and non-living parts such as sunlight, air, water, minerals, and nutrients.

**Environment** includes ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and all natural and physical resources; and amenity values; and the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect them.

**Habitat** means the area or environment where an organism or ecological community lives or occurs naturally for some or all of its life cycle or as part of its seasonal feeding or breeding pattern.

**Hard protection structure** includes a seawall, rock revetment, groyne, breakwater, stop bank, retaining wall or comparable structure or modification to the seabed, foreshore or coastal land

that has the primary purpose or effect of protecting an activity from a coastal hazard, including erosion.

**Harmful aquatic organisms** are aquatic organisms which, if introduced into coastal water, may adversely affect the environment or biological diversity, pose a threat to human health, or interfere with legitimate use or protection of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment.

**Infrastructure** means fixed, long-lived structures that facilitate economic performance and wellbeing. Infrastructure includes "horizontal" physical networks such as transport, water, energy and telecommunications. See also the definition provided in s2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and replacement legislation.

**Inappropriate development and infrastructure** are development and infrastructure that do not conform with the guidance of the NZ Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

**Indigenous species** means a species or genetic variant found naturally in New Zealand, including migrant species visiting New Zealand on a regular or irregular basis. Indigenous vegetation means any local indigenous plant community through the course of its growth or succession consisting primarily of native species and habitats normally associated with that vegetation type, soil or ecosystem or having the potential to develop these characteristics. It includes vegetation with these characteristics that has been regenerated with human assistance following disturbance or as mitigation for another activity but excludes plantations and vegetation that have been established for commercial harvesting.

**Iwi customary practices** are those recognised as tika by the tangata whenua and manawhenua. See tikanga.

**Kaitiaki** mean guardian, trustee, minder.

**Kaitiakitanga** means the exercise of guardianship by the tangata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Maori in relation to natural and physical resources; and includes the ethic of stewardship.

**Locally significant species** are those not threatened or at risk nationally but at risk of loss from Waimea Inlet and which are or were part of its original natural character.

**Manawhenua** - authority over land.

**Mātauranga Māori** means 'Māori knowledge'. It's a modern term that broadly includes traditions, values, concepts, philosophies, world views and understandings derived from uniquely Māori cultural points of view.<sup>13</sup>

**Mauri means** life principle, life force, vital essence.

**Ngā taonga tuku iho** are the treasures handed down from the ancestors.

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<sup>13</sup> Source: [Mātauranga Māori | Tākai \(takai.nz\)](https://www.takai.nz/).

**Rangatiratanga** means chieftainship, right to exercise authority, sovereignty, self-determination.

**Restoration and enhancement** mean the active intervention and management of degraded biotic communities, landforms, and landscapes in order to restore biological character, ecological and physical processes.

**Rautaki** means operational strategy.

**Tangata whenua** means the people of the land, who possess mana and are responsible as kaitiaki over the whenua, which has been inherited through whakapapa and embedded in the landscape through Taunahanaha whenua.

**Take tupūna** are ancestral land rights conferred through continuous occupation of land through several generations.

**Te Tauihu iwi** are the tribes of the top of the South Island, literally the people of the land of the prow of the canoe of Maui.

**Threatened species** means a species facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild and includes nationally critical, nationally endangered, and nationally vulnerable species as identified in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists. At risk means a species facing a longer-term risk of extinction in the wild (either because of severely reduced or naturally small population size or because the population is declining but buffered by either a large total population or a slow rate of decline) as identified in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists.

**Tikanga** concerns correct procedure, custom, habit, lore, method, manner, rule, way, code, meaning, plan, practice, convention, protocol - the customary system of values and practices that have developed over time and are deeply embedded in the social context.

**Wāhi tapu** is a sacred place.

**Wāhi taonga** is a treasured place.

**Wairua** means spirit, soul - spirit of a person which exists beyond death. It is the non-physical spirit, distinct from the body and the mauri. Some believe that all animate and inanimate things have a whakapapa and a wairua. Some believe that atua Māori, or Io-matua-kore, can instil wairua into something.

**Wetland** includes permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.

**Wildlife** has the same meaning as in the Wildlife Act 1953.

## Appendix 1: Waimea Inlet Threatened and At Risk species

THREATENED			IUCN	Local status	Requirements
<b>Nationally critical</b>					
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	White Heron	Kōtoku		Regular non-breeding visitor in small numbers	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	Matuku-hūrepo	Vulnerable	Regular non-breeding migrant in small numbers	Wetland habitat creation Waimea river mouth
<i>Charadrius obscurus obscurus</i>	Southern New Zealand Dotterel	Tūturiwhatu	Critically Endangered	Very rare non-breeding migrant	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Zecillenus tillyardi</i>	Tahuna Back Beach Beetle			Occurs on Bell Island shellbank	Current survey to determine range; Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Grey Salt Bush			Established around landward margins	Maintain coastal margin of Waimea Inlet
<i>Lepidium banksii</i>	Coastal Peppercross			Conservation dependent	Under management by DOC
<b>Nationally endangered</b>					
<i>Chlidonias albobristatus</i>	Black-fronted Tern	Tarapirohe	Endangered	Waimea Inlet is of International Importance; Regular non-breeding visitor; occasionally attempts nesting lower Waimea River	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; integrate management of Waimea River Park with Waimea Inlet; reduce vehicle access; predator control; river works (gravel management and bank protection) meet ecological objectives - river works is both a threat and an opportunity if done right; improve the ecosystem health of the Waimea River as this species feeds in

the river, which has a degraded macro-invertebrate state (MCI is in the C-band under the NPS-FM); reduce vehicle access to the Waimea River, particularly the crossings over the riffles to improve macro-invertebrate abundance and condition (and therefore food for the birds), as well as the riffle-dwelling fish: Torrentfish and juvenile long fin eel. Riffles are a “power-house of life” in our rivers and regular vehicle movements over these critical habitats is a significant adverse effect.

### Nationally vulnerable

<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	Taranui		Breeding, >1% of national population	Maintain open habitat on shellbank; Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; predator control [cat]
<i>Stictocarbo punctatus</i>	Spotted Shag	Kawau Tikitiki		Uncommon non-breeding visitor (mostly Tasman Bay)	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Anarhynchos frontalis</i>	Wrybill	Ngutu Pare	Vulnerable	Regular migrant, some over-winter	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Anas chlorotis</i>	Brown Teal	Pateke	Near Threatened	Rare visitor - presumably birds dispersing from Abel Tasman National Park	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; predator control
<i>Atriplex buchananii</i>	Buchanan's Orache			Rare in Waimea Inlet - recorded from Bell Island	Maintain coastal margin habitat
<i>Rorippa divaricata</i>	New Zealand Watercress	Matangoa		Historic record - no longer present in Waimea Inlet	Reintroduction would be required

## AT RISK

Declining					
<i>Bowdleria punctata punctata</i>	South Island Fernbird	Mātātā		Uncommon; previously bred	Maintain coastal edge vegetation; predator control
<i>Calidris canutus rogersi</i>	Red Knot	Huahou	Near Threatened	Non-breeding migrant; Waimea Inlet is of National Importance	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; safeguard Sand Island, Bell Island shellbank and East end Moturoa/Rabbit Island
<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	Banded Dotterel	Pohowera	Near Threatened	Non-breeding migrant; occasionally attempts nesting lower Waimea River	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; integrate management of Waimea River Park with Waimea Inlet; reduce vehicle access; predator control; river works (gravel management and bank protection) meet ecological objectives - river works is both a threat and an opportunity if done right; improve the ecosystem health of the Waimea River as this species feeds in the river, which has a degraded macro-invertebrate state (MCI is in the C-band under the NPS-FM); reduce vehicle access to the Waimea River, particularly the crossings over the riffles to improve macro-invertebrate abundance and condition (and therefore food for the birds), as well as the riffle-dwelling fish: Torrentfish and juvenile long fin eel. Riffles are a “power-house of life” in our rivers and regular vehicle

*Cheimarrichthys fosteri* Torrentfish Panoko

*Eudyptula minor* Blue Penguin Kororā

*Rallus philippensis* Banded Rail Moho Pererū

*Haematopus finschi* South Island Pied Oystercatcher Tōrea

Small numbers may breed on Moturoa/Rabbit Island Resident, breeding around Inlet. Non-breeding migrant; Waimea Inlet is of International Importance

movements over these critical habitats is a significant adverse effect. Reduce vehicle access to Waimea River, particularly the crossings over the riffles, to improve macro-invertebrate abundance and condition (an important food source for Torrentfish); maintain and improve fish passage. Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; predator control including pigs on Moturoa/Rabbit Island Maintain coastal edge vegetation; predator control Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; safeguard Sand Island; potential birdstrike risk at Nelson Airport; integrate management of Waimea River Park with Waimea Inlet; reduce vehicle access; predator control; river works (gravel management and bank protection) meet ecological objectives - river works is both a threat and an opportunity if done right; improve the ecosystem health of the Waimea River as this species feeds in the river, which has a degraded macro-invertebrate state (MCI is in the C-band under the NPS-FM); reduce vehicle access to the Waimea River, particularly the crossings over

*Larus bulleri*

Black-billed  
Gull

Tarāpuka

Near  
Threatened

Fomerly bred on Sand  
Island; non-breeding  
visitor

the riffles to improve macro-invertebrate abundance and condition (and therefore food for the birds), as well as the riffle-dwelling fish: Torrentfish and juvenile long fin eel. Riffles are a “power-house of life” in our rivers and regular vehicle movements over these critical habitats is a significant adverse effect. Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; safeguard Sand Island; integrate management of Waimea River Park with Waimea Inlet; reduce vehicle access; predator control; river works (gravel management and bank protection) meet ecological objectives - river works is both a threat and an opportunity if done right; improve the ecosystem health of the Waimea River as this species feeds in the river, which has a degraded macro-invertebrate state (MCI is in the C-band under the NPS-FM); reduce vehicle access to the Waimea River, particularly the crossings over the riffles to improve macro-invertebrate abundance and condition (and therefore food for the birds), as well as the riffle-dwelling fish: Torrentfish and juvenile long fin eel. Riffles are a “power-house of life” in our rivers and regular vehicle

<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Red-billed Gull	Tarāpunga		Formerly bred on Sand Island; non-breeding visitor	movements over these critical habitats is a significant adverse effect. Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; safeguard Sand Island
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	Kuaka	Near Threatened	Non-breeding migrant; Waimea Inlet is of International Importance	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; safeguard Sand Island, Bell Island shellbank and East end Moturoa/Rabbit Island
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Marsh Crake	Koitareke		Rare migrant	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; predator control
<i>Sterna striata</i>	White-fronted Tern	Tarapirohe		Occasionally nests on Bell Island shellbank, and formerly Sand Island	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; safeguard Sand Island and Bell Island shellbank
<i>Anguilla duffenbachi</i>	Longfin Eel	Kuuwharuwharu, Reherehe			Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet and inflowing freshwaters; maintain coastal edge vegetation; maintain and improve fish passage
<i>Galaxias argentatus</i>	Giant Kokopu				Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet and inflowing freshwaters; maintain coastal edge vegetation; upstream wetlands - maintain or improve smaller streams with deep, slow-moving water habitat and native tree cover; maintain and improve fish passage
<i>Galaxias maculatus</i>	Inanga	Inanga			Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet and inflowing freshwaters; maintain coastal edge vegetation; maintain and improve fish passage
<i>Carex litorosa</i>	Estuary Sedge			Rare in Waimea Inlet	Restoration planting to bolster existing population being done by DOC, TDC, community groups

<i>Coprosma acerosa</i>	Sand Coprosma	Tātaraheke			Maintain coastal margin habitat; Restoration planting
<i>Ficinia spiralis</i>	Pingao	Pingao	Rare in Waimea Inlet		Included in suitable restoration projects led by community groups
<i>Melicytus crassifolius</i>	Coastal Porcupine Plant		Rare in Waimea Inlet		Included in suitable restoration projects led by community groups
<i>Zostera mulleri</i>	Eelgrass				Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Poa billardiarei</i>	Estuary Tussock	Hinarepe	Not present		DOC may re-establish on Bell Island Shell Bank
<b>Recovering</b>					
<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	Variable Oystercatcher	Tōrea Pango	Resident; Waimea Inlet is of International Importance.		Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; predator control including pigs on Moturoa/Rabbit Island
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Shag	Kāruhiruhi	Resident; nests Best Island		Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; plant trees for future nesting; establish artificial roost/nest structures
<b>Relict</b>					
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Black Shag	Māpunga	Uncommon non-breeding visitor		Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Little Shag	Kawaupaka	Resident; small numbers nest Best Island		Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; plant trees for future nesting; establish artificial roost/nest structures
<b>Naturally Uncommon</b>					
<i>Eseyornis melanops</i>	Black-fronted Dotterel		Occasional on Waimea River		Integrate management of Waimea River Park with Waimea Inlet; reduce vehicle access; predator control
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Australian Coot		Breeds on freshwater pond Hoddy Estuary Park		Maintain Hoddy Estuary Park; encourage local landowners to

<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	Little Black Shag	Kawau tūī	Non-breeding visitor	establish/manage freshwater wetlands around Waimea Inlet
<i>Platalea minor</i>	Royal Spoonbill	Kōtuku ngutupapa	Non-breeding visitor	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet
<i>Gobiomorphus gobioides</i>	Giant Bully			Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet; plant trees for future nesting; establish artificial roost/nest structures
<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>	New Zealand Spinach	Kōkihi	Relatively common in Waimea Inlet	Maintain ecosystem health of Waimea Inlet and inflowing freshwaters
<i>Thyridia repens</i>	Native Musk		Uncommon in Waimea Inlet	Maintain coastal margin habitat
<b>Data deficient</b>				
<i>Ranunculus macropus</i>	Swamp Buttercup	Waoriki	Status uncertain	Maintain coastal margin habitat; Reintroduction?
<b>Coloniser</b>				
<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Australian Wood Duck		Freshwater ponds around Waimea Inlet are the only site in New Zealand where species breeds.	Encourage local landowners to establish/manage freshwater wetlands around Waimea Inlet; encourage nest box deployment.

# Terms of Reference: Waimea Inlet Coordination Group

## 1 Purpose

The purpose of the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group (Coordination Group)<sup>14</sup> is to identify, prioritise, integrate and coordinate actions aimed at achieving the vision of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy (WIMS).

The vision for the Waimea Inlet is:

*“A vibrant place where the health of nature is restored and maintained; richly appreciated by the community for its open space, natural, cultural, and ecological values; happily remembered by generations for their activities, adventures and discoveries; a place where tangata whenua hold mana as kaitiaki and rangatira; and a place to be shared with increasing respect.”*

## 2 Membership

Membership of the Coordination Group may include representatives from each the following organisations:

- Te Taihū Iwi
- Tasman District Council (TDC)
- Nelson City Council (NCC)
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council (Fish & Game)
- Tasman Environmental Trust (TET)
- Waimea Inlet Forum (WIF)

The Coordination Group should be co-chaired, with one member appointed as co-chair by Te Taihū Iwi and the other co-chair appointed by participating agencies.

Representatives may be elected members, staff members, or have some other affiliation with the organisation they are representing. The representatives will bring to the group their organisation’s expertise and ideas for implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Action Plan.

## 3 Stakeholders

These include the organisations listed under ‘Membership’ above, along with other individuals and groups with an interest in the Waimea Inlet.

## 4 Quorum

The quorum shall be no less than four members, none of whom need to be elected Council representatives.

## 5 Areas of Responsibility

The areas of responsibility of the Coordination Group are:

- to periodically review the Management Strategy;
- to develop and update an Action Plan for implementation of the Management Strategy; and
- to monitor and report on implementation of the Action Plan and prepare an Annual Report for stakeholders.

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<sup>14</sup> Figure 2 on page 4 outlines the relationship between signatories to the Management Strategy, members of the Coordination Group and groups/individuals delivering actions on the ground.

## **6 Powers to decide**

None.

## **7 Powers to recommend**

Each of the signatories of the WIMS<sup>15</sup> is requested to review, consider and sign off on any updates to the Management Strategy and/or Action Plan that are proposed by the Coordination Group.

With regard to the Action Plan, signatories should focus on those specific actions that their organisation would like to assist with or take a lead on and sign off on those specific actions – rather than the Action Plan in its entirety. As the Action Plan will represent the collective effort of a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals, signatories are unlikely to be involved in all proposed actions.

## **8 Role of the Coordination Group**

The Coordination Group will identify, prioritise and coordinate the actions needed to achieve implementation of the WIMS and collate these into a proposed Action Plan.

Each representative on the Coordination Group will report back to the organisation that they represent with recommendations from the Coordination Group and seek that organisation's support and endorsement of specific actions. The organisation may decide to take full or partial responsibility for specific actions recommended by the Coordination Group. An organisation's formal support of specific actions will be communicated back to the Group by the organisation's representative. An organisation may choose to support specific actions in various ways, e.g., by allocating funding and/or including action items within planning documents and work programmes.

The Waimea Inlet Forum representative will provide an interface with community and sector groups, so that interested members of the public can have input.

If required, the Tasman Environmental Trust representative will coordinate and manage project funding from the signatories and outside sources.

## **9 Role of the Chairs**

The Chairs will jointly or as they agree:

- prepare the agenda for Coordination Group meetings;
- chair meetings and assist the Coordination Group to reach consensus on issues and options;
- act as the spokesperson for the Coordination Group; and
- as necessary, support or present Coordination Group recommendations to the signatories.

## **10 Role of staff**

Council staff will provide advice and support to the Coordination Group as required. Organisations may choose to nominate a staff member as their representative on the Coordination Group, instead of (or in addition to) an elected member.

## **11 Conflicts of Interest**

Any potential conflicts of interest will be declared at the start of each Coordination Group meeting.

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<sup>15</sup> As at June 2023, the signatories to the Management Strategy comprised TDC, NCC, DOC and Fish & Game. Each of the eight Te Taihu iwi has an open invitation to become signatories to the WIMS and to appoint representatives to the Coordination Group.

## **12 Reporting**

Notes of Coordination Group meetings will be taken by a member of the Group (to be selected by Group consensus) and circulated before the next meeting of the Group.

Each representative on the Coordination Group will be responsible for reporting back to the organisation that they represent.

## **13 Review of Terms of Reference**

This terms of reference shall be reviewed at least every three years.