Welcome... to the first catchment-wide newsletter for the Tairua Harbour and Catchment Management Plan. In developing the draft plan, we have made contact with a range of stakeholder groups, agencies and landowners in an effort to ensure the issues, outcomes and works areas are what you, the community, want. As we have not been able to meet with everyone, this newsletter is your chance to tell us if we are on target with the content of the harbour and catchment management plan so far. Tell us what’s missing and if we are on track.

The plan and its resulting works and outcomes will only be as good as the community that supports and implements it. It’s up to all of us to take on the responsibility of preserving the values of this catchment.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Emily O’Donnell
Project manager

E: emily.o'donnell@ew.govt.nz
P: 0800 800 401

About harbour and catchment management plans

Harbour and catchment management plans (HCMP) are an integrated approach to the management of natural resources and the protection of community values. They seek to consider the values and uses of a catchment collectively in order to maximise their long term sustainability.

The guiding principles are the:
- promotion of best practice techniques
- importance of partnership; agencies, community, iwi, stakeholders
- support of sound economic, social, environmental and cultural outcomes.

A key factor behind HCMP is the involvement of communities. Community-based management initiatives are encouraged as people who live, work or have a strong connection to an area generally have a greater sense of ownership, therefore leading to greater success.

The Tairua HCMP intends to provide an assessment of current pressures and issues in the harbour and catchment, and a practical implementation strategy to alleviate these. More detailed site specific plans will be developed in conjunction with landowners and land managers for specific works and issues on their properties.

This plan is non statutory but has the capacity to inform and support statutory documents such as district and regional plans.

Why a plan for Tairua

Sedimentation of Tairua Harbour has long been of concern for this community and agencies. A report by the Hauraki Catchment Board (in 1977) stated that it seemed ‘fairly certain that the tidal compartment is under attack’ from greatly increased sediment flow over the previous 100 years. The report went on to say that “there is an urgent need for a comprehensive catchment scheme aimed…at a plan of land use which will conserve native forest, and will create an appropriate compromise between ‘production’ and ‘protection’ for the purpose of controlling the entry of sediment into the river system”.

In 2006 and again in 2008 Environment Waikato staff were invited by various groups to attend meetings about the health and wellbeing of the Tairua catchment and harbour. This, along with an interest in preservation of environmental and community values, became the catalyst for Tairua being recommended for the next plan development area.
Give us your feedback
In preparing the draft Tairua HCMP, we’ve consulted and gathered a lot of information. Now we need to know if you think the draft is on the right track. Outlined below is a summary of the:
• key concerns
• proposed methods for addressing them and
• the expected outcomes.

Simply complete the feedback form included with this newsletter and freepost it back to us by **20 December 2010**. If you want to learn more or have questions please freephone 0800 800 401 and ask for Emily O’Donnell.

Your feedback will be used to further refine the Tairua HCMP. The Tairua HCMP will be approved by the Tairua Pauanui Community Board and the Coromandel Liasion Subcommittee before it is finalised.

What’s in the draft Tairua HCMP

Key outcomes sought

*High level vision*
To ensure the preservation of the communities’ values, the harbour, surrounding lands, water and biodiversity for future generations to enjoy.

**Key outcomes**

• Sedimentation minimised and managed.
• Ecological health and biodiversity values enhanced.
• Water quality improved and maintained.
• An engaged and proactive community.
• Commercial forests well managed.
• Management of coastal vegetation – saltwater paspalum and expansion of mangroves.
• Recreational opportunities enhanced and managed.
• Stable catchments.
• Lifestyle, values and opportunities maintained.

Issue 1: Coastal land and water management
(including mangrove management)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key concerns</th>
<th>Potential methods</th>
<th>Expected outcomes</th>
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</table>
|   • Sedimentation of harbour and decreased access even during high tide.  
   • Increased use of harbour and sometimes conflicting users.  
   • Access to harbour and coastal environment.  
   • Expansion of mangroves (last decade) into recreational area and other significant habitats such as seagrass.  
   • Rapid expansion of saltwater paspalum.  
   • Decline in coastal habitats.  
   • A reduction in number of fish caught in the harbour.  
   • Shellfish toxins leading to gathering and consumption restrictions.  |
|   • Review of dredging consent and possible increased dredging.  
   • Land management practices implemented up stream to alleviate sediment input.  
   • Preservation of coastal habitats through restoration works including saltwater paspalum control, planting and retirement.  
   • Ongoing Beachcare works.  
   • Appropriate mangrove removal consents gained and implemented.  
   • Saltwater paspalum control consent sought and implemented.  
   • Enforcement of navigation safety bylaws.  
   • Re-establishment of harbour committee with multiple stakeholders.  |
|   • Improved harbour access.  
   • Improved habitat.  
   • Historical recreation access point regained.  
   • Line held on mangrove spread.  
   • Intact dunes systems providing buffers for coastal erosion, landscape values and habitat.  
   • Better communication between agencies and harbour users.  |
### Issue 2: Land and water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key concerns</th>
<th>Potential methods</th>
<th>Expected outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Erosion of hill slopes and stream banks.</td>
<td>• Appropriate erosion control and prevention planting.</td>
<td>• Improved and maintained water quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sedimentation of waterways.</td>
<td>• Retirement of erosion prone areas.</td>
<td>• Reduction in sediment entering streams/rivers and therefore the harbour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Decline in biodiversity and habitat.</td>
<td>• Fencing and planting stream banks and wetlands.</td>
<td>• Improved biodiversity and habitat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nutrient and effluent management and possible leaching into waterways.</td>
<td>• Developing and implementing nutrient management plans.</td>
<td>• To be able to drink from or swim in waterways and harbour maintained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stock access to waterways.</td>
<td>• Education and advocacy for pest plant control.</td>
<td>• Improved production on farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Invasive weed species.</td>
<td>• Pest animal control programme in conjunction with landowners (DOC) and interest groups, also look at Canada geese cull.</td>
<td>• Long term viability of productive land enhanced and maintained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Poorly vegetated stream banks.</td>
<td>• Best management practices for roading, farming and forestry promoted.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Decline in wetland habitat area and quality.</td>
<td>• Monitoring to determine source of faecal coliform.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Poor forest structure from pest browse impacting on stability and availability of food for indigenous species.</td>
<td>• On farm field day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Decline in water quality and its impact on kiwi way of life, such as swimming in and drinking (from for example, the Pepe Stream).</td>
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<td>• Impact – post harvest of forestry practices.</td>
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### Issue 3: Recreation and community

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Linkages between Pauanui, Hikuai and Tairua.</td>
<td>• Proposed new walkway/cycleway linking Pauanui, Hikuai and Tairua, provide business opportunities as well as better connections.</td>
<td>• Recreational access and opportunities maintained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Linkages between agencies and community.</td>
<td>• Upgrade of Broken Hills track (DOC).</td>
<td>• More engaged and involved community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Opportunities for community involvement.</td>
<td>• Annual newsletter notifying of progress of HCMP and of upcoming events where people can get involved.</td>
<td>• Enhanced relationships with agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ongoing involvement of community in projects.</td>
<td>• Regular attendance at and information provided to community board.</td>
<td>• Opportunities for business through promotion and development of walkways and facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Boating access and navigable channel.</td>
<td>• Upgrade to boating facilities (Thames-Coromandel District Council’s current plan).</td>
<td>• A reduction in waste being dumped on road sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lack of facilities at Hikuai and towards Broken Hills for people in motorhomes. Need rubbish disposal, water supply.</td>
<td>• Sports and youth zone development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Facilities provided at Hikuai/Broken Hills for tourists.</td>
<td>• Facilities provided at Hikuai/Broken Hills for tourists.</td>
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### Issue 4: River and flood management

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<tr>
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<th>Expected outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Flooding of production land.</td>
<td>• Proposed new walkway/cycleway linking Pauanui, Hikuai and Tairua, provide business opportunities as well as better connections.</td>
<td>• Adequate flow path during peak rain events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Threats to infrastructure such as roading (restricting access), businesses (farming and Redbridge Road area) and houses (such as, Grahams Creek) from flooding.</td>
<td>• Removal of silt and gravel build up in stream channels.</td>
<td>• Increased flood storage capacity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Poor channel capacity.</td>
<td>• Removal of inappropriate vegetation such as crack willow and silver poplar.</td>
<td>• Reduced sediment entering system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stream bank erosion.</td>
<td>• Re-vegetate stream banks with appropriate vegetation cover and species.</td>
<td>• Improved stream bank stability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Debris and sediment out of forested land.</td>
<td>• Identify appropriate methods and complete stream bank stabilisation.</td>
<td>• Improved access during flood events and decreased risk to infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Removal of silt and gravel build up in stream channels.</td>
<td>• Work with Transit to identify opportunity for improving route security.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Removal of inappropriate vegetation such as crack willow and silver poplar.</td>
<td>• Work with Thames-Coromandel District Council to upgrade Manaia Road causeway.</td>
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</table>
Take action now – help available
Environment Waikato is not waiting for the Tairua HCMP to be completed to carry out works and services on the ground. If you are interested in carrying out weed or pest control, retiring forests, wetlands or riparian areas or undertaking erosion protection or river works on your property, please contact us. You may be entitled to financial assistance to carry out the work. Here’s how we can assist you.

Land management with Matt Highway, Land management officer
Large gains downstream in the battle against sediment can often be made by simple changes upstream. A basic fence helping to retire steep slopes and gullies from grazing or fencing off regenerating native forest land, streams or wetlands can have amazing benefits on and off the farm. Biodiversity has the chance to increase, erosion is reduced and reports often come back about how much easier stock control is once these areas are fenced off.

Planting is also another tool in the arsenal of reducing sedimentation. It is well documented that native planting along stream banks and wetlands has great stabilising and biodiversity benefits, but less is known about exotic plants, which also have their place. Non invasive poplars planted in steep grazing land have been proven to reduce slipping; they also provide shade and shelter for stock as well as provide additional summer fodder.

Funding is also available for much of these works. So pick up the phone and give me a call on 0800 800 401, I’m here to help.

Pest plants with Hirini Rolleston, Biosecurity officer
Woolly nightshade is one of the most insidious weeds we have on the peninsula. Fortunately it is not as prevalent around Tairua as it is in other parts of the Coromandel. However we need to ensure that this remains the case as woolly nightshade spreads very quickly as it often flowers and seeds within its first year of growth. Individual plants can be cut down and stump treated and larger infestations can either be sprayed or mulched, in most cases annual follow up will be required to successfully eliminate this pest.

Invasive weeds are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity and production land on the peninsula. For more info or options for controlling such nasties please contact me on 0800 800 401.

Funding and anticipated costs
Environment Waikato funds river and catchment services on the Coromandel Peninsula under the Peninsula Project funding policy. This policy provides for a Peninsula (targeted catchment) rate, a general rate plus landowner or community contribution toward soil conservation, river management and flood protection works.

The Peninsula Project is already significantly committed to existing projects in other communities and catchments. Under existing funding the implementation of the Tairua HCMP would be carried out over 10 years or so.

If large scale works and services are required that are outside of existing funding policy or outside of Peninsula Project responsibilities then a targeted rate would also be considered and consulted on. Such activities could include mechanical mangrove removal, large scale dredging of harbour or river channels and capital works for flood protection.

An indication of anticipated works costs are provided. It is important to note that there is considerable variance for these works and that they depend greatly on the scale of activity and the desired end result. Costs will be refined as detailed works plans are developed.

- **Coastal land and water** $350,000 – does not include dredging, mangrove or saltwater paspalum control and existing navigation safety expenditure.
- **Land and water** $670,000 – includes animal pest control estimates for one to two rounds only.
- **Recreation and community** – this area of expenditure is generally dependent on resourcing and funding from other agencies, such as DOC and Thames-Coromandel District Council. The scale and extent will impact on works costs greatly. Newsletter and farm field day is included in current funding policy.
- **River and flood management** $160,000 – does not include Grahams creek or other capital works flood scheme.

Demystifying the ETS – information evenings
Do you have existing areas of exotic trees, including pinaster pine? Or are you looking at establishing new areas of forest either exotic or native, regen or planted? Is the area over one hectare?

If so you will be entitled to carbon credits.

To find out how your trees are treated under the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) come along to a Forestry and the ETS Information Evening. Deadlines for claiming carbon credits are looming – don’t miss out.

Information evenings with: Sarah Pitcher-Campbell, forestry ETS specialist, Interpine Forestry Ltd and Matt Highway, land management officer, Environment Waikato.

Coroglen Hall Monday, 20 December, 7pm
Hikuai Hall Tuesday, 21 December, 7pm

For further information and to RSVP please contact Matt Highway 07 866 0172, 021 277 1344, matthew.highway@ew.govt.nz