

Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2050 and Action Plan 2023 to 2026

Draft for public comment

December 2022

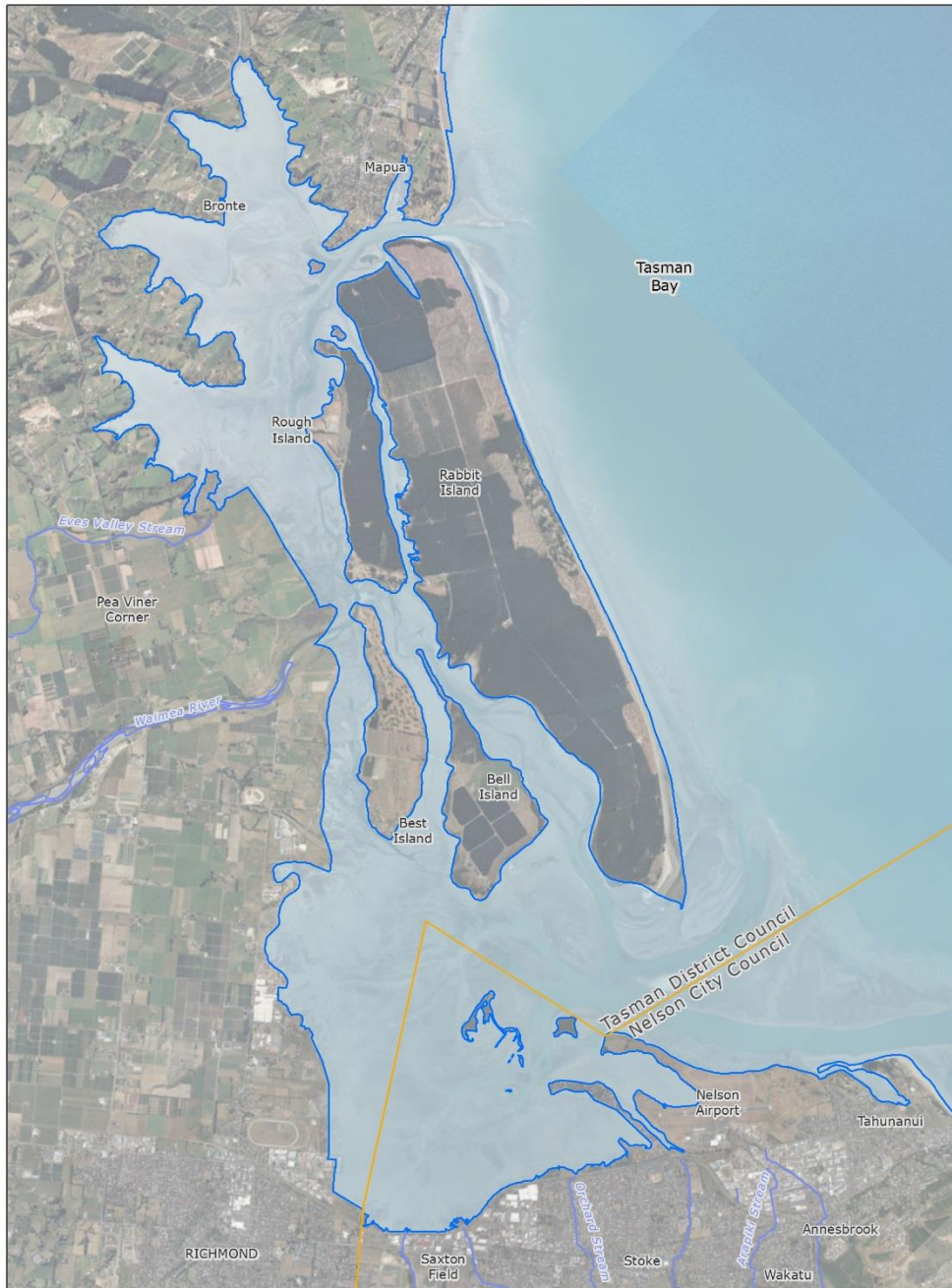


Trial planting of salt marsh species at the Orchard Stream Delta, behind a chenier ridge

Contents

- Preface 3
- How the Management Strategy and Action Plan work together 5
- Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2050..... 7
- Waimea Inlet Action Plan 2023 to 2026 8
- Objectives, and actions 9
- Implementation 18
- Review 18
- Glossary..... 19
- Terms of Reference: Coordination Group for Waimea Inlet 23

Figure 1: Map of the Waimea Inlet



Waimea Inlet

 Nelson City Council
te kāunihera o whakatu

Legend

- Coastline
- Council Boundary

April 2018

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

PO Box 645 Nelson 7040 New Zealand PH 03 5460200 nelson.govt.nz

The map is an approximate representation only and must not be used to determine the location or size of items shown, or to identify legal boundaries. To the extent permitted by law, the Nelson City Council, their employees, agents and contractors will not be liable for any costs, damages or loss suffered as a result of the data or plans, and no warranty of any kind is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information represented. Nelson City Council information is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 New Zealand License. Nelson City Council data must not be sold without prior written consent. For more information please contact us. CARTAGRAM INFORMATION DERIVED FROM LAND INFORMATION NEW ZEALAND. CROCHET COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

Preface

Waimea Inlet is a special place, loved by many people. It is home to a wide array of living organisms, including people, some rare and threatened, others international migrants.

The *Waimea Inlet Community of Interest* encompasses all living organisms in the *place* which is the subject of management.

The Inlet itself is a place of peace and tranquillity, a boutique seascape contained within a landscape of urban, industrial, and agricultural activity. As the human population increases people in ever greater numbers increasingly value the estuarine environment as a place for quiet and restoration.

In 2010, citizens who cared about the Inlet worked 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 coordinating progress on a broad front that involves restoring the margins, eradicating plant and animal pests, and caring for the Inlet as a whole.

To help everyone build effectively on the Management Strategy, and the good work already underway, a Coordination Group¹ was formed to create an Action Plan to identify, prioritise, integrate and coordinate actions aimed at achieving the vision of the Management Strategy:

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.

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, report on and respond to the implementation outcomes of the Action Plan and prepare an Annual Report for stakeholders.

The Action Plan sets objectives and actions for the next three years and beyond. It is a draft, intended as a basis for a wider discussion amongst interested parties before formal sign off by the signatories to the Management Strategy², and any other organisations that will commit to implementing it.

The Management Strategy, and accompanying Action Plan, represent matters to be taken into account, 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. The Action Plan can only be effectively implemented if its aspirations are taken into

¹ 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 Tau Ihu iwi.

² As at 2022, the signatories to the WIMS comprised TDC, NCC, DOC and Fish & Game. Each of the eight Te Tau Ihu iwi has an open invitation to become signatories to the WIMS and to appoint representatives to the Coordination Group.

account in responsible human behaviour and management of its catchments, related estuaries, and Tasman Bay as a whole. Indeed, for migratory birds, complementary actions are needed in other places and even in other countries.³

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.



³ For information on related processes see <https://waimeainlet.wordpress.com/>

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 Inlet to 2050. This is what we are working towards together.
2. The **strategic approach**. This brings forward Rautaki - the strategic approach developed by manawhenua 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 for each Objective:

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

Each of the signatories of the Management Strategy has responsibility for reviewing, considering and approving any updates to the Management Strategy (and/or 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.

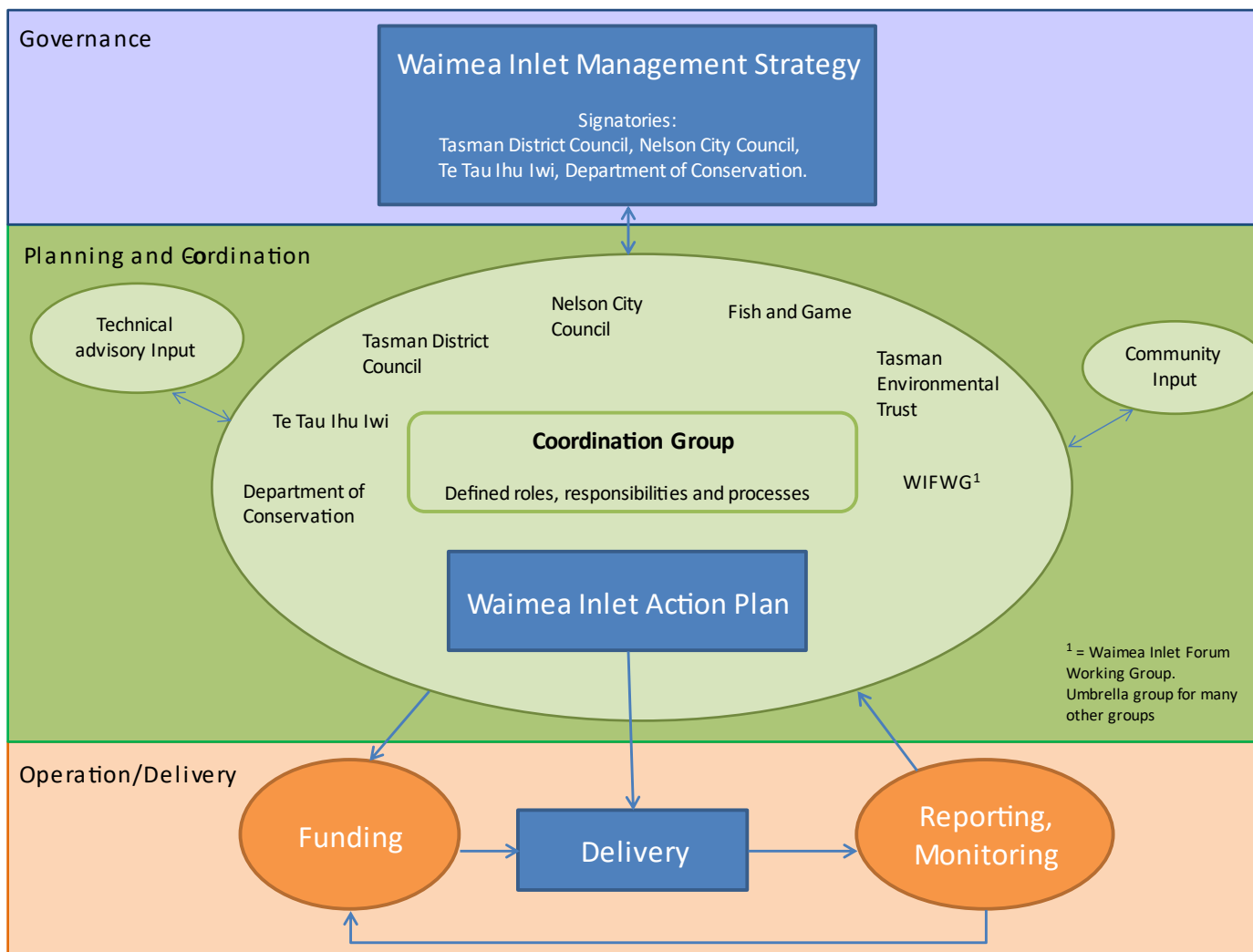
The Waimea Inlet Forum representative provides an interface with community and sector groups, so that interested members of the public can have input. If required, the Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) representative will co-ordinate and manage project funding from the signatories and outside sources. Each representative on the Coordination Group is responsible for reporting back to the organisation that they represent.

The Terms of Reference for the Coordination Group are appended to this draft Action Plan.

Figure 2 below shows diagrammatically how the parts fit together.



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



The revised Strategy is presented on the following page.

Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2050

Moemoeā -2050 Vision

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.

Rautaki - Strategic Approach

I te tuatahi e whakamana te Taiao.

Whakamana ngā tikanga/kawa Taiao o ngā 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 in conjunction with 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. Co-governance provides for rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Tau Ihu iwi.
2. Indigenous species and their habitats are protected, enhanced, and increased and are protected from harm and disturbance.
3. The natural functioning of ecosystems is ecologically sustained.
4. Human activities and land uses in the catchment around the Inlet have no adverse effect on its health and natural values.
5. The Inlet can evolve in response to climate change effects without any net loss of its natural values.
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 values and functions of the Inlet and their spiritual significance is increased.
8. Opportunities for people to access, appreciate and enjoy the Inlet's natural character are enhanced and maintained where this is compatible with protecting its intrinsic values.

Whakahaere - Implementation

Achievement of this Strategy's objectives will be led by accountable statutory agencies, Te Tau Ihu 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, mostly where an action should be council-led, and the work spans 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 to the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group, 18 months in advance of Councils' Long Term Plans⁴. A progress report on work completed to date will also be submitted to the Coordination Group annually.

Considerations for identifying priorities

The considerations used to set priorities and sequence actions are listed below. 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.

- 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 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.

⁴ Noting that implementation of the three waters reforms may change what is possible.

Objectives, and actions

Objective 1 Co-governance provides for rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Te Tau Ihu iwi.

Objective 1.1 Kaitiaki share in decisions about use and protection.

Actions:

1. Review plans and actions with tangata whenua⁵ by 30 June 2023 to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupūna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
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 Tau Ihu 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 Tau Ihu iwi supported by statutory agencies)



Whakatu Marae



Te Āwhina Marae

⁵ Enable tangata whenua to scope this.

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

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

Actions:

1. By 1 January 2025, reduce disturbance by people, vehicles, plant and animal pests, and domestic animals through legal, physical, educational and compliance programmes. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
2. By 1 January 2025, establish or continue control of pest plants for *Wilsonia* and *Spartina* at all relevant sites. (Lead: Department of Conservation)
3. Continue with Waimea Inlet wide trapping programme for mustelids, rats and hedgehogs and review plan to identify gaps by 30 June 2023 (Lead: Tasman Environmental Trust)
4. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project⁶, undertake effective control of Class 1, 2 and 3 species as determined in the Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Strategy. (Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)



Banded rail Waimea Inlet (photo credit Stuff)

⁶ <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/projects/economic-recovery-projects/jobs-for-nature/waimea-inlet-enhancement-project-updates/>

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

Actions:

1. Prepare a unified plan for current or proposed bird surveys, including counts of occupied nests of threatened species conducted by different groups⁷ by 31 December 2023. (Lead: Tasman Environmental Trust)
2. Update the DOC Ecological Management Unit assessment, including comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements, by 30 June 2024. (Lead: Department of Conservation)



Back Beach Beetle (photo credit Andy Macdonald)

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

Actions:

1. 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
2. Complete a unified strategic animal pest control plan to “control” all predators and herbivores where these are a threat to threatened species and habitats by 30 June 2023. (Lead: Tasman Environmental Trust)
3. By 30 June 2023, *Gambusia* eradication programme reviewed in context of national programmes. (Lead: Department of Conservation)
4. 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: Tasman District Council).



Gambusia (photo credit Stuff)

⁷ 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 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 30 June 2025, methods of restoring salt marsh vegetation communities will be tested in three sites to develop effective restoration techniques. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
2. By 30 June 2026, Increase the area of naturally vegetated dune land on Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Islands and airport peninsula. (Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
3. Sand Island is maintained free of marram. (Lead: Department of Conservation)
4. By 30 June 2026, Increase the area of naturally-vegetated inlet margin by a further 10km (to an average width of 10m). (Lead: Tasman Environmental Trust)
5. By 30 June 2025, identify terrestrial 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
6. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, fence watercourses to exclude stock around the Waimea Inlet – target of 2km of fencing (Lead: Tasman District Council)
7. By 30 June 2025, as part of the Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees Project (Phase 2) plant and maintain 70,000 indigenous plants around the Waimea Inlet (Lead Tasman District Council).
8. By 1 January 2024, investigate potential for seagrass restoration. (Lead: Tasman Environmental Trust)



Salt marsh (photo credit Department of Conservation)

Objective 3.2 Degradation of natural ecosystems is halted and reversed.

Actions:

1. By 30 June 2023 investigate management of areas where there are high levels of opportunistic macroalgae e.g. off the shoreline near NPI and Jimmy-Lee Creek mouth. (Lead: Tasman District Council)
2. 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 estuary. (Lead: Tasman District Council)
3. 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
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 will use soft engineering techniques, unless it is not feasible. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
5. By 1 January 2025, complete a scoping study into the opportunities for restoring salt marsh around the estuary margin in the areas not already completed. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
 - a. Survey the quality of the marine habitat and fish numbers by 31 December 2024. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)



Waimea River Delta wetland enhancement project (photo credit Tasman District Council)

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 1 January 2025, 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council for respective waterways)
2. 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 with a further ten percent of the total added each decade thereafter to reach 100% in 2140. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council for respective waterways)
3. By 30 June 2024 develop a long-term plan for the sustainable, environmentally acceptable and culturally sensitive operation of the Sewerage Business Unit. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)

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 2024. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
2. By 1 January 2025, 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. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council for respective areas)



Sewage treatment at Bell Island

Objective 5 The Inlet can adapt in response to climate change effects without any net loss of its natural attributes.

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

Actions:

1. 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
2. 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, 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: Tasman Environmental Trust)
3. 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
4. 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
5. By 1 January 2025, acknowledge that changes to the morphology of the Inlet and to its interface with Tasman Bay 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)



<https://www.tet.org.nz/projects/blue-carbon-core-and-restore/>

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 1 January 2025, protect natural quiet and calm by controlling disruptive human activities including vessels, jet skis, hovercraft, drones, flight plane and shooting. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
2. By 1 April 2023 map areas where hunting occurs, and capture those areas where parties are agreed it is appropriate to restrict this activity. (Lead: Tasman District Council)



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 2023 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: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)
2. By 30 June 2025 measurably increase community involvement by informing and supporting people to manage threats and restoring natural ecosystems⁸. (Lead: Tasman Environment Trust)



⁸ This will begin with a communications plan for the inlet. Initiatives such as "Smart benches" or QR codes on signs along the cycleway.

Objective 8

Opportunities for people to access, appreciate and enjoy the Inlet's natural character are enhanced and maintained where this is compatible with protecting its intrinsic values.

Actions:

1. By 1 January 2026, identify and make available places for passive and, where appropriate, active recreation and enjoyment. (Lead: Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council)



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 future of Inlet.
3. Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.

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 the Tasman Environment Plan, Nelson Regional Management Plan, Richmond Catchment Management Plan) and objectives from related processes.

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 rongoa (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 pipelines that distribute or transmit natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, biofuel, or geothermal energy; a network for the purpose of telecommunication as defined in [section 5](#) of the Telecommunications Act 2001; a network for the purpose of radiocommunication as defined in [section 2\(1\)](#) of the Radiocommunications Act 1989; facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person uses them in connection with the generation of electricity for the person's use; and does not use them to generate any electricity for supply to any other person; a water supply distribution system, including a system for irrigation; a drainage or sewerage system; structures for transport on land by cycleways, rail, roads, walkways, or any other means; facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers transported on land by any means; an airport as defined in [section 2](#) of the Airport Authorities Act 1966; a navigation installation as defined in [section 2](#) of the Civil Aviation Act 1990; facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers carried by sea, including a port related commercial undertaking as defined in [section 2\(1\)](#) of the Port Companies Act 1988; anything described as a network utility operation in regulations made for the purposes of the definition of network utility operator in [section 166](#) of the Resource Management Act.

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.

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.

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.⁹

Mātaitai means food resources from the sea and **mahinga mātaitai** means the areas from which these resources are gathered.

Mauri means life principle, life force, vital essence.

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

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

Restoration and enhancement means 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, in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area.

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

Te Tau Ihu 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.

⁹ Source: [Mātauranga Māori | Tākai \(takai.nz\)](#).

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.

Terms of Reference: Coordination Group for Waimea Inlet

1 Purpose

The purpose of the Coordination Group for the Waimea Inlet¹⁰ 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 (as identified in Section 5 of the WIMS) is:

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

To achieve this vision we will need to:

- work together
- keep the inlet healthy
- share its opportunities
- make it better for the future
- maintain commitment to the inlet.”

2 Membership

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

- Te Tau Ihu 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 should be appointed as Co-chair of the Coordination Group by Te Tau Ihu 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;

¹⁰ Figure 2 on page 6 outlines the relationship between signatories to the Management Strategy, members of the Coordination Group and groups/individuals delivering actions on the ground.

- 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.

6 Powers to decide

None.

7 Powers to recommend

Each of the signatories of the WIMS¹¹ 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 co-ordinate 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 As at December 2022, the signatories to the Management Strategy comprised TDC, NCC, DOC and Fish & Game. Each of the eight Te Tau Ihu iwi has an open invitation to become signatories to the WIMS and to appoint representatives to the Coordination Group.

11 Conflicts of Interest

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

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.

Draft