



AUCKLAND YACHTING & BOATING ASSOCIATION

Submission to Auckland Council: SHORELINE ADAPTATION PLAN – (SAP) WAITEMATA HARBOUR WEST.

Lodged on behalf of:

The Auckland Yacht & Boating Association Inc. (AYBA)

Introduction:

The area **WAITEMATA HARBOUR WEST** – covered by this SAP is an extensive area and concerns a number of the Local Board areas.

This submission is lodged by the Auckland Yachting & Boating Association – (AYBA) on behalf of the many users of our aquatic environment for their sport and recreation and, most importantly, their physical and mental well-being.

It is an area which must at all times, consider these usages and protect and improve access for both people and their water craft be it SUPs, kayaks, canoes, sailing dinghies or the tenders for accessing the numerous moored boats on the Waitemata West Harbour and its estuaries.

The protection of the natural environment and the future use as alternate public transport routes in the Auckland City area must also be a major consideration.

Because of the value of the area as a major sport and recreation arena every endeavour must be made to avoid any pollution from stormwater overflows or industrial wastes. These waterways and the estuaries are swum in by numerous people of all ages especially during the summer months.

AS A BRIEF SUMMARY:

There are, within this area:

- 18 mooring zones –
- 2 marinas – including Bayswater -
- And only 2 Haulout areas are available to the public for hull cleaning and maintenance - WestPark now Hobsonville Marina and the Goldhole. TeAtatu is for club members only.
- 18 ramps are shown but most of these are tidal and cater for small craft and foot traffic only. The list is impressive, the practicalities do not meet the demand.
- Only 2 ramps are suitable for larger trailer boats i.e. at Birkenhead Wharf where there is minimal parking and at Hobsonville where demand already forms queues but which is already enabled for future apartment development.
- Of about 44 ramps listed in the Auckland Harbour - only 4 are sealed and appropriate for the launching and retrieval of larger trailer boats.

THE MANY USERS OF THESE WATERS ARE:

- Swimmers, paddlers and rowers, kayakers, stand-up paddle boarders, wind surfers, wing foilers, kite foilers All of whom can access the water via the lesser ramps but they all need appropriate the shore access and a space adjacent for rigging.
- Dinghy sailors who sail and race from the four yacht club venues in the area.
- The many launch & keelboat owners with their vessels moored in one of the many mooring zones who all require a small tender to access their vessels, for some of which there are storage racks or dinghy lockers while others need the vehicle access for their trailered tender.
- Vessels berthed at the Hobsonville Marina (Previously West Park) who like the moored launches & keel boats will cruise further afield.

In response to the questionnaire attached to the Document:

Many of the questions are not applicable to the average aquatic user.

There was often no appropriate answer from the options given.

Therefore, in all 16 Units requiring separate but similar answers an overall summary was considered more appropriate.

1. VALUES THAT MATTER:

Uses & Access:

2. **How do you get to the coast?** – Walk or by car depending on the proximity, intent and equipment needed.

3. **How often do you visit the coast?** – Frequently – to some part of its extensive range and not always in the same Unit..

PLACE SPECIFIC FEEDBACK:

Adaption strategies –

Comments – From experience! And in response to the suggested times of 20 to 100 years.

Any **LONG TERM PLAN** (LTP) is only guaranteed to be operative until the next election be it **Local Body or General** e.g.

- ❖ **The Landing** – 12 years ago commended by Council as the best such facility in the Southern hemisphere and a Regional Asset, is now closed by the Local Community Board.
- ❖ **Bayswater** - Preserved as a **Marine Precinct by the Environment Court** – now approved for Intensive Housing by **the Unitary Plan**.
- ❖ **Hobsonville & Wynyard Quarters** – both zoned as Marine Precincts for Marine businesses adjacent to deep water prior to the Super City, now zoned for Intensive Housing & hotels by the Unitary Plan.
- ❖ **The Little Shoal Bay Haulout**, a long time service are for small family boats from across the Region, **now closed** - a Local Community Board decision.

Plans, consultants, surveys, including the expenses out layed and spent only to be overturned by the next elected members.

The RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT was set up to protect the environment – It is shortly to be abolished by the Government “to encourage development”!
And when the Auckland Council Parks, Reserves & Environment Committee states that “Coastal Land is better suited to other development” we are alerted!

On Which areas would you like to provide feedback?

There are 16 units and all but 2 are used for aquatic activities etc.
All require similar comments.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS;

20. What type of values you would like to see maintained, enhanced or restored.

- Harbour access to the water for all aquatic craft, large & small, as appropriate.
- Access for Local usage for foreshore activities including swimming.
- Clearing of once navigable waterways by removing the encroaching mangroves.

21. Do you have any aspirations for access, facilities or uses at the coast in the Waitemata Harbour SAP

Local access for kayaks dinghies etc

Local access moored boat tenders - loading jetties for moored boats. There appears to be a number privately owned jetties and ramps but few available for public access.

Ramp Access for larger trailered boats with parking nearby – only two ramps in this area are suitable for larger boats.

22. Other feedback:

The serious and urgent need for service facilities including small family DIY areas like Little Shoal Bay which has now been closed.

Moored boats need maintenance facilities & shore-based dinghy storage.

A Public owned haul-out facility for cleaning & general maintenance is necessary to ensure compliance with Auckland Council biosecurity rules

Keep navigable waterways free of Mangroves

Keep pollution to a minimum.

This is but a brief summary re the SAP for Waitemata West Harbour The AYBA is very aware of other SAPs requiring comment and that each will have different priorities. We therefore ask that the AYBA be included in any further discussions involving the SAPs for the protection of our aquatic environment and our shoreline used by so many for their sport and recreation and, most importantly, their physical and mental well-being.

Janet Watkins
For the AYBA.
25 Sept 2024