

TE WAI O PAREIRA HENDERSON CREEK RIVERCARE GROUP

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021

INTRODUCTION

Te Wai O Pareira

Te Wai O Pareira/Henderson Creek which borders and defines Te Atatū Peninsula. The awa has influenced both the natural and human history of Te Atatū Peninsula.

Te Wai o Pareira is a natural treasure. It is a tidal river which includes a range of habitats supporting diverse and abundant life, including mature mangroves and saltmarsh at the mouth of the creek and sedges and eelgrass further inland.

Our human community swims, sails, rows, kayaks and fishes in the awa. The awa's wellbeing is linked to the health of our community. For some, cultural identity and sustenance is linked to / drawn from the awa.

The awa discharges into the Waitematā and therefore makes a contribution to the health of the harbour and wider Hauraki Gulf.

The problem

For the past 170 years the awa has suffered from the challenges of land clearance, industrial and agricultural pollution, sediment and road runoff, refuse dumping, leachate contamination in its catchment.

A large number of engineered overflow points from the sewage network (servicing Te Atatū Peninsula and the surrounding area, including Massey and Hobsonville) discharge to the awa. During rain events, the awa suffers from high levels of enterococci and e.coli contamination.

Despite its importance to the community, there is a lack of community awareness about the health of the awa, which poses a risk to the people who use it.

At the governance level there are significant knowledge gaps in terms of the nature and extent of pollution and an absence of active management of the problems. Monitoring of sewage discharges into the awa is very limited.

Te Wai O Pareira Rivercare Group

The Te Wai O Pareira Rivercare Group ("TWOPRG") was conceived in early 2019 from a growing sense of concern about the well-being of the awa.

A poorly managed and significant untreated sewage discharge into the Huruuru Creek in October 2018 was the impetus for action.

TWOPRG held its first public meeting in February 2019 and has steadily grown since then.

TWOPRG's purpose is to be an independent voice championing the protection and enhancement of Te Wai o Pareira. In undertaking that role, we aim to fill gaps in knowledge about the health of the awa and the causes of pollution, to raise

community awareness of the issues and to advocate for proper management of the awa, including in particular improvements to wastewater infrastructure.

Our focus is on the marine area (as identified in Map 26 of the Auckland Regional Coastal Plan). Nevertheless, we recognise the interconnectedness of the catchment and advocate for management solutions which treat Te Wai o Pareira and its catchment as a single entity.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to restore the wellbeing/mauri of the awa to a healthy and safe state that supports diverse and abundant life.

OUR VALUES

- To have the well-being of the awa as central to all our activities.
- To maintain respect, integrity, compassion and transparency in all our endeavours.
- To embody, and respect, Tikanga Māori in all our activities.
- To make decisions collectively and to be inclusive.
- To meaningfully engage with our community.
- To advocate passionately for the awa whilst always being respectful of others.
- To always seek to collaborate and, where possible, achieve consensus on decisions.

OUR PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES 2020 2021

1. TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROUP STRUCTURE

Objectives:

- Establish an effective and sustainable governance and operational structure.
- Complete all documentation necessary to support the group's operations.
- Obtain the funding necessary to achieve TWOPRG's objectives.
- Build strong relationships with other like-minded groups.

Actions:

The actions we will undertake to achieve these objectives are:

- Establish a Governance Team.
- Schedule regular, minuted governance meetings.
- Develop and finalise a Strategic Plan.

- Prepare a Health and Safety Plan.
- Create and identify pathways for volunteer participation and engagement.
- Working with mana whenua representatives, prepare an Iwi Engagement Plan.
- Identify a programme of activities for the period 2020-2021.
- Identify funding sources and lodge applications for funding to support TWoPRG activities.

Measures of success:

By December 2021 TWOPRG will:

- Have a well-established formal governance structure.
- Be delivering or working towards delivering an identified programme of activities.
- Have obtained or be seeking funding to support its programme of activities.
- Have developed a network of connections with other like-minded groups.

2. TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE POOR HEALTH OF THE AWA

Objectives:

- To increase the profile of the awa in Te Atatū Peninsula and further afield, to foster a sense of pride and ownership.
- To encourage the community of Te Atatū Peninsula and surrounding areas to better care for the awa.
- To raise community awareness of the water quality of the awa and the need for measures to improve it;
- To create a groundswell of support for change.

Actions:

- Develop and maintain an engaging and informative social media presence aimed at enhancing community pride in the awa and awareness of the threats to its health.
- Host or participate in public meetings and events aimed at celebrating the awa or raising awareness.
- Engage with the business community, and in particular businesses whose premises adjoin the awa, to promote the need to protect it.
- Encourage community reporting of pollution events and make available information about how to report pollution.
- Use other methods of communication where appropriate including for example, billboards, leaflets, school visits and website search engine optimisation.

Measures of success:

By December 2021 TWOPRG will:

- Have a well-established social media presence and an established system for producing content.
- Have hosted or participated in community events.
- Have developed a line of communication and constructive relationship with relevant business community members (e.g. business associations).
- Provide clearly accessible information to the community about how to report pollution events including for example via the TWOPRG website, social media, or leaflet drops.

3. TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE AWA**Objectives:**

- To gather information about the history of the awa for the benefit of the community.
- To monitor the biodiversity of the awa and its margins.
- To monitor water quality.
- To record evidence of pollution events, including sewage discharges and litter.
- To create a record of community interest and involvement in the health of the awa, in order to demonstrate community desire for change.

Actions:

- Obtain funding for and conduct a regular and robust water quality testing programme (whether via Auckland Council's SafeSwim programme or independently).
- Develop a simple and accessible database of pollution events that can be made available to the public and regulatory agencies.
- Undertake other data collection exercises, including for example pest and biodiversity audits of the awa.
- Build connections with other groups who hold information about the awa.
- Invite contributions from the community about any aspect of the awa via the TWOPRG website and social media.

Measures of success:

By December 2021 TWOPRG will:

- Have a well-established regular water quality testing programme, consistent with Auckland Council monitoring requirements.
- Have a pollution event database that is updated as required.
- Have undertaken, or be considering undertaking other data collection exercises.

- Have identified any other groups with similar interests and be investigating ways to share information with them.

4. TO ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HEALTH OF THE AWA

Objectives:

- To advocate for action by all relevant agencies to improve the health of the awa and to influence decision making about the awa.
- To engage with local and national politicians to raise the profile of the awa and the need for action to improve its health.

Actions:

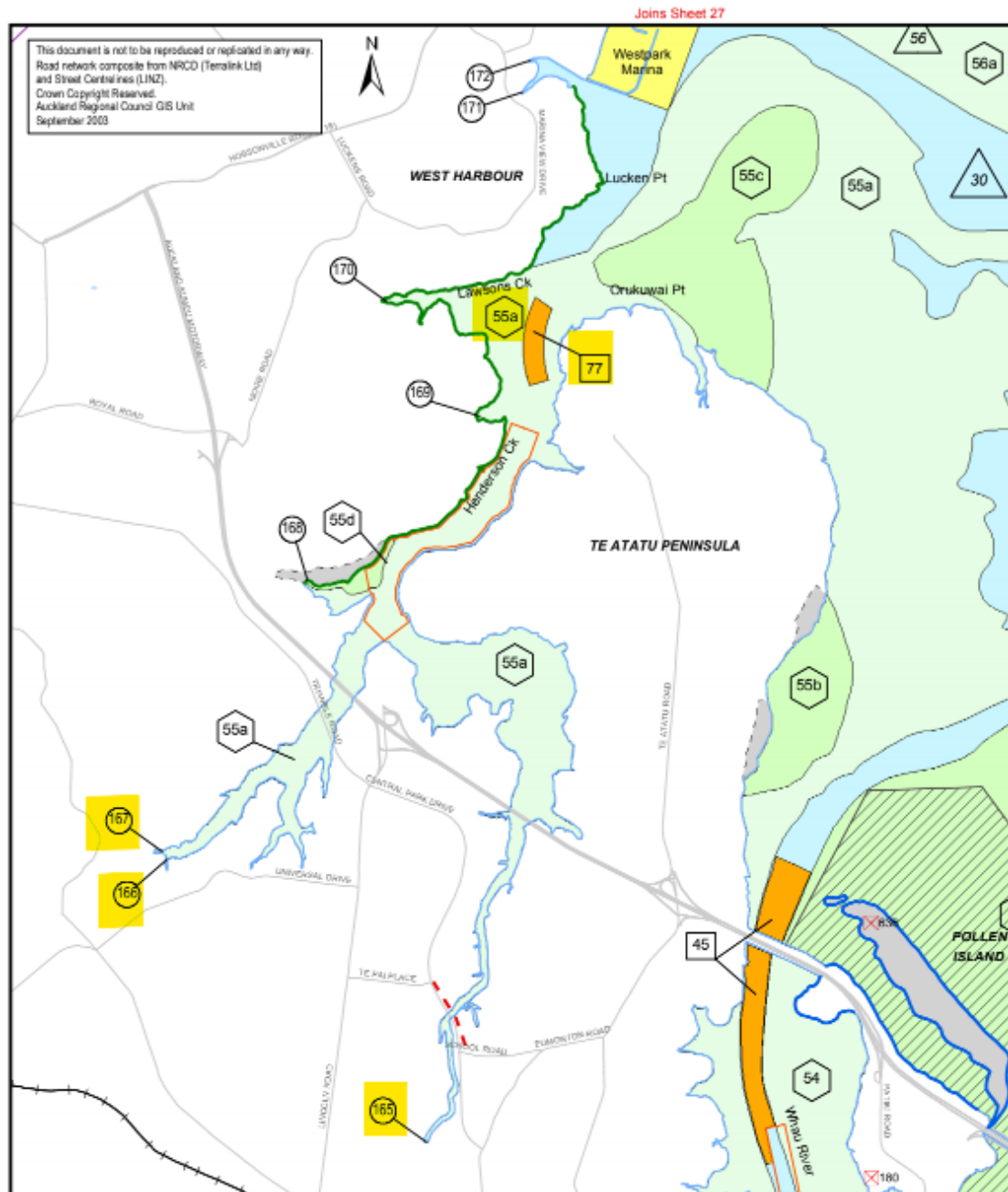
- To build relationships with Auckland Council (Healthy Waters) and Watercare and to encourage improved communication between agencies about the management of the awa.
- To advocate for swift responses to pollution events.
- To hold the regulatory agencies to account and to advocate for improvements to wastewater infrastructure.
- To build relationships with local politicians in order to seek to influence decision making about issues affecting the awa.
- To participate in central government consultation processes relevant to issues affecting the awa.

Measures of success:

By December 2021 TWOPRG will:

- Have undertaken measures aimed at facilitating improved communication between Healthy Waters and Watercare.
- Have sought information from Watercare about works required to address wastewater overflow issues and obtained a commitment from Watercare to address these issues.
- Have developed lines of communication with local politicians.

Te Wai o Pareira RiverCare Group - Geographic Boundaries



165	Henderson Creek	R11 562 800	36°52'38.9"S 174°38'02.1"E
166	Paremuka Stream	R11 546 816	36°51'20.2"S 174°37'00.2"E
167	Huruhuru/Swanon Stream	R11 545 817	36°51'18.8"S 174°36'58.5"E

Extracted from Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal Maps