



## AUCKLAND YACHTING & BOATING ASSOCIATION

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### ***Submission to Auckland Council:***

### **PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT!**

**protectourenvironment@auckland council.govt.nz**

#### ***Lodged on behalf of:***

#### ***The Auckland Yacht & Boating Association Inc. (AYBA)***

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.

**Auckland City is an aquatic city – Over half the area administered by Auckland City are estuarine, harbours and the inner Hauraki Gulf. They are the sports fields and the recreation areas for an estimated 64% of Auckland’s population. Over 1 million people use Auckland’s aquatic environment and its foreshore and coastal reserves for their recreation, health and mental well-being be it a picnic on the foreshore, paddling up a creek, a day’s fishing, swimming, racing on dinghies or keelboats or just cruising on the Gulf!**

**Our Marine Environment, the Coastline and the Waterways, are Auckland’s most Valuable Assets yet there is NO Regional Plan for it’s ongoing protection.**

- Once again Council is calling for submissions on separate topics and locations.
- Individual Local Boards and organisations determine the actions in their “Patch”!

**There MUST be one over-riding REGIONAL PLAN that sets the rules for the entire Coastal & Marine Environment, to ensure the on-going public access and usage of our coastal space and the UNIFORM PROTECTION of our MARINE ENVIRONMENT.**

**The Auckland Yacht and Boating Association (AYBA)** was established C.1901 to coordinate and oversee the management of all boating activities and events on the Auckland Harbour. It monitored the safety and class rules and in association with other regional organisations coordinated national sailing events and their administration.

**The AYBA has been monitoring our Coastal & Marine Environment for over 120 years – the changing shoreline and aquatic traffic.**

**C. 1954 the NZ Yachting Federation** was formed (Later to become YNZ) to manage yachting nationally including the Racing Rules, Safety and National events and represent New Zealand’s participation in Olympic and International Classes and events while AYBA has focused on yachting and boating in the Auckland Region since then. It has continued to monitor some class rules and

regional events and co-ordinates the Calendar of events on the Auckland Harbour to best share our very busy waterways.

To ensure access and the usage of our Marine Environment the AYBA has constantly monitored fish farming, coastal structures and moorings. It has supported YNZ and the Northland Regional Council protecting our coastal waters. It led the challenge against the establish of the Dolphin and the extensions to the Fergusson Wharf. (Fergusson & Bledisloe Wharves are now has being extended!)

The AYBA worked with the Harbour Master to establish the racing buoys, submitted on the wearing life Jackets and the Harbour Bylaws and has continually worked towards protecting our Coastal Environment for the benefit of ALL marine users.

The AYBA fought for the retention of the haul-out area at the Landing and the Marine Precinct at Bayswater for the benefit of many of those who use our Marine Environment and were told by the Chairman of the Auckland Council Parks, Reserves & Environment Committee:

**“Our coastal lands are better suited to other development!”**

**Now there are new challenges – Biosecurity, Permitted fishing in the High Protected areas of the Gulf, proposed changes to the Resource Management Act and FAST TRACKING!**

Before the establishment of the **Super City** the **AYBA** worked with the **Auckland Regional Council** (ARC) & Local Councils in support of the **Regional Coastal Plan** overseen by the ARC who monitored coastal structures & harbour developments. The **AYBA** was notified by the Councils and the ARC of applications lodged & asked for comments. Matters were often resolved following the requirements and restrictions of the Coastal Plan and discussions with the affected parties without the need for expensive & time-consuming hearings.

**Since the advent of the Super City & the Unitary Plan the overall protection of “Auckland’s Extensive Regional Aquatic Park” and its foreshore has been lost. Auckland City needs ONE UNIFIED OVERALL PLAN to protectourenvironment for future generations.**

There are a number of organisations now focusing on the various aspects of Auckland’s most valuable asset including: The Hauraki Gulf Forum, Legasea, The Mussell Reef Restoration Trust, Live Oceans, Biosecurity, Forest & Bird, the AYBA, the Tangata Whenua, and others - all with the same intent.

- **In July 2024 Govt gave the “green light” for more protection, then proposed “To permit commercial Fishing in High Protected Areas!”** (*Forest & Bird.*)
- **“They are prioritising fishing over Conservation”** (*LegaSea.*)

### **THE CREATION OF THE SUPER CITY CHANGED ALL THE RULES –**

**No Regional Authority, No Coastal Plan and 22 Local Boards which manage their “patch” and the decisions of whom the Council is averse to over-ruling.** These local boards have replaced the 8 cities and the Auckland Regional Council and the **Resource Management Act** is now under review.

There is no coordinated Regional Coastal Plan to protect the coastal foreshore, the estuaries, the harbours and the Gulf - The coastal and aquatic environment that is Auckland's greatest asset.

**THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED A REGIONAL PRIORITY.**

### **A. FACILITIES LOST SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE SUPER CITY:**

Since the Development of the Super City and the Unitary Plan and the loss of a unified Regional Plan for the protection of the coastal and aquatic environment for all users the following facilities have been lost:

- **Wynyard Quarter** set aside as a Marine Precinct for Marine Businesses and aquatic related activities – Now hotels and residential apartments.
- **Hobsonville – “YARD 37 – 2011”** - an ideal site adjacent to deep water, set aside for Marine Industries and boat building - now residential. The Hobsonville Boating Club is still awaiting new premises and Ramp access is no longer accessible
- **Pine Harbour and Hobsonville (Westpark) Marinas** – are approved for further residential development.
- **Bayswater Marina** set aside by the **Environment Court** as a **Marine Precinct** with haul-out facilities – now approved for **“Intensive Housing”** despite the overwhelming support of the Environment Court's Decision.
- **The Landing at Okahu Bay** – a haul-out area for over 80 years, applauded by Council as the only Blue Ribbon Haul-out facility in the Southern Hemisphere now severely reduced despite Bio-Security urgent needs.
- **Pier 21** - The Haul-out area at Westhaven and Biosecurity servicing - lost to apartments.
- **Little Shoal Bay** – an ideal Haul-out & hard stand for small family boats & multi-hulls.

**The closure or reduction of these haul-out facilities severely restricts the “Clean Hulls” requirements as set out by the Auckland Council's Bio-security team - surely this is conflict of Council's intent!**

### **B. EXISTING FACILITIES THAT MUST BE RETAINED:**

There are Haul-out areas on coastal land maintained and operated by Boating Clubs. **THESE MUST BE PROTECTED FROM ANY FUTURE REDUCTION IN SIZE OR ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT. Coastal inundation of haul outs and slipway areas can be managed.**

Reading the **Draft Coastal Adaption Plans** for **Auckland Harbour West** and the **East Coast Bays**, although ostensibly focusing on the sea level rise and coastal inundation of Council land, major concerns and seeming misconceptions have become apparent.

**(The AYBA has lodged submissions on both these plans)**

**On these Coastal Adaption Plans we noted:**

- **The lack or removal of appropriate facilities and threatened loss of access to our shoreline.**
- Although there are numerous ramps shown on the plans they are suitable for foot traffic, small dinghies and canoes only. On these extensive parts of Auckland city's coastline There

are currently only four concrete public ramps suitable for all tide vehicle access, two of which are threatened on the **Coastal Adaption Plans!**

- **The lack of access and loading areas for the thousands of boats on moorings.** These require dinghy access and/or on-shore storage facilities. Access is very limited, restrictive and at times, dangerously difficult especially for families.
- It is stated on the Coastal Adaptation Plan that **Public Access via the Takapuna Ramp may continue. IT MUST CONTINUE!**
- **The Bayswater ramp on the Coastal Adaptation Plan – the only all-tide all-weather ramp on the North Shore no longer exists. The ongoing existence at Bayswater, of this concrete ramp and the trailer parking, are a condition of the Resource Consent for the development of the “Intensive Housing”. THE RAMP & PARKING IT MUST REMAIN. The public walkway on the breakwater around the Bayswater Marina, currently closed, is also a requirement of the consent. It must be repaired!**
- **Devonport Yacht Club no longer exists on the Coastal Adaptation Plan.**

## **THESE COASTAL ASSETS MUST BE PRESERVED – THEY ENABLE SAFE INGRESS AND EGRESS and BIOSECURITY APPROVED CLEAN HULLS!**

(The Tamaki Boat Park is not an option for many of the residents of Auckland – an hour’s travelling time by car – an hour to motor down the estuary to the sea – 4 hours minimum both ways for a day at the beach!! For launches and yachts seeking haul-out facilities, the height of the bridges is a major restriction.)

### **C. THE CLUBS ARE IMPORTANT COMMUNITY ASSETS:**

Over 120 sports bodies and organisation use our coastal environment for their sport, recreation, health and well-being. Many share space with the yachting & boating clubs who maintain these premises at their expense not only for their own members but as Community Centres for the benefit of the public. Their Hall hire fees help to pay the Auckland Council Rental fees for the ground they occupy. Some fees appear exorbitant.

The Clubs are the venues for a wide variety of hobbies and leisure craft, fitness groups and education classes as well as training their own members in all aspects of water safety.

**These are valuable community assets on the shores of our Coastal and Marine Environment.**

### **D. The PROTECTION OF OUR COASTAL & MARINE ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING THE COASTLINE, THE WATERWAYS AND THE GULF:**

To the ensure the protection of our coastal & marine environment, Auckland City’s most valuable Regional Park that is enjoyed by over half the population, there must be a REGIONAL PLAN. Our foreshore, the coastal reserves and all our waterways are shared by people from Auckland’s entirety. Their patronage comes from beyond the local community! They are NOT the reserves of local communities alone.

## **THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL PLAN MUST INCLUDE:**

- 1. All existing facilities appropriate to the Marine environment and their on-going protection.**
- 2. Management Plan for Bio-security:**
  - a. Hull Cleaning and Maintenance facilities – ensure capacity. **It seems hypocritical that Council closed maintenance yards & while demanding clean hulls.**
  - b. Hull inspection – Incoming boats.
  - c. Publicity and Education.
  - d. Pest Free Islands – In Association with DoC.
  - e. Noxious pests & animals.
- 3. Marinas – with hull cleaning facilities.** Ensure “clean” pontoons will not re-infest boats!
- 4. Ban Commercial fishing in protected and endangered areas.**
- 5. Ban dredging** – commercial & public, in areas necessary to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- 6. Public All tide Launching ramps** for all trailerable sized vessels. Sealed all-weather ramps with parking facilities.
- 7. On shore boat storage – dry stacks.** Reduce traffic flow and residential roadside parking.
- 8. Moorings – shore access for dinghies, dinghy lockers, safe loading facilities for gear and families.**
- 9. Climate Change** - the increase in severe weather conditions will increase the demand for sheltered estuarine mooring locations and associated facilities.
- 10. The Harbour Racing Buoys** – must be maintained. Installed by the Harbour Master in association with the AYBA and serviced by the Harbour Master.

### **Be aware of opportunities and act as most appropriate for the location!**

#### **One such opportunity awaits in the heart of the city –**

**Harbour Bridge Park at Westhaven could provide access to an extensive aquatic arena in the heart of the city clear of commercial shipping lanes – swimmers, paddlers, wind surfers.**

#### **NOTES – For Consideration when planning.**

- These areas are valuable PUBLIC ASSETS and will diminish or disappear UNLESS protected.
- Bio-security laws may make it necessary to ensure a haul-out / washdown area at every marina!
- To ensure a 6-month clean-hull time, a winter haul-out may not be appropriate for summer cruising. Some areas now require a 6 monthly antifoul & a 1 month clean!!
- Winter Conditions will require covered service areas to ensure short shore time.
- Most Club Haul-out areas require Club membership.

**THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR A COORDINATED PLAN FOR AUCKLAND’S AQUATIC ARENA, THE FORESHORE & FACILITIES, THE COASTAL LINE & THE TOTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT – OVER HALF THE AREA ADMINISTERED BY AUCKLAND CITY & USED**

**BY OVER HALF THE POPULATION FOR THEIR SPORT, RECREATION, HEALTH & WELL BEING BE IT A PICNIC & SANDCASTLES ON THE FORESHORE, SWIMMING, PADDLING UP A CREEK, A DAY'S FISHING, RACING DINGHIES OR KEELBOATS OR JUST CRUISING ON THE GULF!**

**PROTECTING AUCKLAND CITY'S AQUATIC ARENA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments for the protection of this valuable asset.

On the Questionnaire: although the subjects referred to are important considerations they are but a minor part of the protection of our environment.

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