



Auckland Yacht & Boating Association INC
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SUBMISSION RE THE MANAGEMENT PLAN for the OKAHU BAY PARK.

INTRODUCTION:

In 2013 a **CONCEPT PLAN** was produced for the **OKAHU BAY**, including the **LANDING**, after much consultation and discussion and at some considerable expense. This 2013 **CONCEPT PLAN**, which seemingly considered and catered for the existing usage and future requirements was endorsed.

To Quote from this concept Plan:

“Operationally, The Landing haul-out area is Blue Flag accredited, with a detailed environmental management plan in place” at that time the only such operation accredited in Australasia. The Blue Flag is an international environmental accreditation programme.”

In 2013 the Orakei Local Board assessed and confirmed the on-going need for The Landing haul-out operation and associated hard stand use. It acknowledged the demand for haul-out and maintenance for all craft and the emergency operation service.

DEMAND HAS INCREASED, BOAT NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED & BACK YARD SPACE FOR HOME SERVICING IS VANISHING DAILY!!!

In 2017 “**AKTIVE – Auckland Sport and Recreation**” produced an “**Auckland Sports Facilities Priorities Plan 2017 -2027**” – **ASARSAP**. The aim of this plan was to identify the need for a regional plan and guide for the provision of sports facilities. The plan was to provide a coordinated & integrated set of strategic priorities and an understanding of community needs for sports facilities ongoing.

In the draft **ASARSAP Plan** the only mentions of aquatic and water-based activities and their needs were:

- **Flat Water** Rowing, Waka Ama, Canoeing & Paddling
- **Marine open water** – Yachting and windsurfing.

“Aquatic” Sports referred only to **Swimming, Diving, water polo, underwater hockey, Synchronised swimming and canoe polo** – All pool activities.

There was **no mention** of all the other on the water activities and sports, be they recreational or competitive, nor the need for the shore-based facilities, rigging areas, maintenance areas and access to the water for boats of all sizes from Stand-Up-Paddle Boards and Optimist sailing dinghies to the large waka and trailered launches!

In response to the document and on behalf of the **Auckland Yacht and Boating Association – AYBA** – we surveyed all boating clubs and aquatic related activities that use our shore and harbour for the recreation and sport and in consultation with YNZ, produced the document:



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AUCKLAND REGIONAL YACHT AND BOATING SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN AND FUTURE PROOFING.

- **This document shows that over 110 Clubs and Sports organisations use the Rivers and Estuaries, the Waitemata Harbour and the Hauraki gulf for sport and recreation.**
- **This document referred only to haul out areas where they were associated with clubs and we now the need to produce a facilities plan for all marine related businesses and activities.**
- **The demand is increasing daily and according to the 2022 NZ Marine Survey half of all NZ are involved in some form of boating & on the water activities. That is HALF A MILLION in the Auckland Region!**

Hundreds of thousand people of all ages and abilities across all the Auckland region are involved in the numerous marine related activities.

HUNDREDS MORE THAN EVER RIDE BIKES YET MILLIONS ARE SPENT ON CYCLE WAYS!!

This AYBA Future Proofing document, which demonstrates the importance of all these facilities, was tabled with Sports AKTive in association with the ASARSAP and with the Auckland Council in 2017

THE OKAHU BAY, MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT:

At Okahu Bay, the Marine and Coastal environment is an area that caters for all ages and abilities from learner kayakers and sailors to Olympic Dinghy sailors, the marina users, racing keelers, large luxury cruisers and the family cruising boats, surf Ski paddlers, Stand-up-Paddle boarders, Waka and all forms of wind-surfing, It includes the necessary on-shore rigging and storage for sailing dinghies and wind surfers, the trailer park for the many powered craft that use the all-tide ramp especially in the weekends and a haul out and maintenance area for launches and keelers. This haul-out area is one of the most environmentally approved haul out and maintenance areas in New Zealand and is responsible for the maintenance of the Clean Hulls of over 1000 vessels annually.

BIOSECURITY LAWS & THE AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL:

It is now a law that all vessels cruising beyond our harbour especially to the offshore islands and some of the areas up our northern coast, e.g. Tutukaka, show a **CLEAN HULL PASS** to prove they have been cleaned and anti-fouled in the past 6 months.

1000 boats are serviced at the Landing at Okahu Bay! For Boats to comply with the law this facility MUST BE RETAINED.

The Okahu Bay, Marine and Coastal environment is one of Auckland's major marine hubs which caters for the activities of many people from the greater Auckland Region.



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This is a major regional asset used by the people of the entire Auckland region and is not just an individual pockets appropriate to the local community. It must be considered for Regional use!

THE AYBA SUBMISSION:

The Haul out area at Okahu Bay is a major part of AUCKLAND'S MARITIME HISTORY! Boats have been stored and maintained on Okahu Bay's foreshore for over 100 years and it MUST remain so.

In making our submission towards the development of a Management Plan for the Park, the AYBA refers to the Trailer Parking Area and the hardstand, viz THE LANDING.

❖ THESE ARE A VALUABLE REGIONAL ASSETS.

There is the beach and ample park space beyond that can be developed for the general public for picnics and play.

❖ LOSS OF URBAN SPACE TO DEVELOPMENT:

With the development of infill housing and of multi-story apartments the back yards where boats were built and serviced are fast becoming a rarity. Boat owners need the Haul-out Yard!

❖ ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

Regular notices are issued from the Council and the Environmental overseers that boat owners must keep their hulls clean.

To venture along our coast and to our offshore islands boat owners must show a **Clean Hull Pass** dated within the last 6 months! Haul out areas which can cater for the great variety of racing and cruising boats, including the family boats, and the extra wide multi-hulls are a vital element for the protection of our marine environment and an essential part of our marine and coastal environment.

The Auckland Marine Environment is Auckland's largest Sport & Recreation facility used by all ages, abilities and ethnicities and of which the onshore facilities are an essential part and they must be preserved in perpetuity!

❖ AN ILLOGICAL DECISION: It would be totally illogical and an extreme waste of resources to remove an environmentally approved asset, upgraded at great expense and a necessity for the boating community just to provide green space for the general public.

❖ CONCLUSIONS:

With the increasing loss of urban space due to infill and apartment housing, the Future Proofing and planning of our foreshore and marine environment for the ongoing use of all of Aucklanders cannot be governed in isolated communities by the residents of those communities but must be done by a coordinated organisation whose aim is the best use of our valuable coastal area to ensure the continued ongoing access for all to Auckland's most valuable sport and recreation area.



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THE OKAHU BAY, MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

is a part of that recreation area.

The Haul-out area in its entirety must remain.

Janet Watkins,

For the AUCKLAND YACHT AND BOATING ASSOCIATION.