



AUCKLAND YACHTING & BOATING ASSOCIATION.

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Submission to Auckland Council: SHORELINE ADAPTATION PLAN – (SAP) Weiti to Devonport

Lodged on behalf of:

The Auckland Yacht & Boating Association Inc. (AYBA)

Introduction:

The area **Weiti to Devonport** – covered by this SAP is an extensive area included in several Local Board areas.

This submission is lodged by the AYBA on behalf of the many users of our aquatic environment for their sport and recreation, health and mental well-being.

It is an area which must at all times, consider these usages and protect and ensure access for people of all ages and abilities who enjoy the foreshore or come with their various water craft be it SUPs, kayaks, canoes, sailing dinghies, or power boats.

The protection of the natural environment 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 especially down the estuaries – Weiti, Long bay, Mairangi Bay, Waiake and Milford – that flow into the coastal waters swum in by numerous people of all ages. The crews of the numerous small boats sailing and paddling in the area also need clean water

AS A BRIEF SUMMARY:

There are, within this areas of concern to the AYBA and the coast users:

- Mooring zones – in the Weiti estuary and from Devonport to Bayswater there are numerous moorings.
- There are the two Marinas, at Milford and Bayswater.
- Haul out areas are available at Stillwater and for Members only at Weiti and Devonport but for the hull cleaning and maintenance necessary to comply with the Auckland Council Biosecurity rules the public have few options.
- There are about 25 ramps shown but most of these are for small craft across the sand or club patrol boats using tractors.
- **There are only two sealed public ramps for launching the larger power boats – Takapuna & Bayswater – only one of which are usable at all tides, sea and weather states and both appear threatened on the SAP Draft!**

Of the **Takapuna Ramp** the **SAP 10.2** states:

“Maintaining boat access across the Promenade is anticipated.”

At **Bayswater – SAP 14.9** there is no indication of the ongoing public usage of the existing two laned all weather ramp.

- On the foreshore at Devonport **SAP 13.4 makes no mention of the Historic Devonport Yacht Club and its haul out area.**

THE MANY USERS OF THESE WATERS ARE:

- Of all ages, sexes, ethnicities and abilities - beach goers and swimmers, paddlers and rowers, kayakers, stand-up paddle boarders, wind surfers, wing foilers, kite foilers All can access the water via the beaches and lesser ramps but they all need appropriate on shore access and facilities - space adjacent for preparing and rigging before going to sea and toilets and changing rooms.
- Dinghy sailors, surf ski paddlers, the waka groups, the wind surfers who sail and race from the beaches and yacht clubs along the foreshore need boat storage or vehicle access for their boats.
- The many launch & keelboat owners, some with their vessels moored in one of the mooring zones require a small tender to access their vessels, for some there are storage racks or dinghy lockers while others need the vehicle access for their trailered tender.
- The visitors from greater Auckland and elsewhere who visit the Shore for the fabulous beaches and foreshore walks.

In response to the questionnaire attached to the Document:

Many of the questions are not applicable to the average aquatic user and there is often no appropriate answer from the options given.

Therefore, in all 14 Units requiring separate but similar answers an overall summary was deemed 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 area of its extensive range which may not be always be in the same Unit. The answer to this question can be very seasonal.

PLACE SPECIFIC FEEDBACK:

Adaption strategies –

Our Comments – From experience! And in response to suggested time periods:

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 prior to the Super City, as Marine Precincts for Marine businesses and appropriately, adjacent to deep water, are now zoned by the Unitary Plan for Intensive Housing & hotels.
- ❖ **The Little Shoal Bay Haulout**, a long time service area 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 have been overturned by the next elected members or their policy change.

The RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT was set up to protect the environment and was policed by the Auckland Regional Council is shortly to be abolished by the Government “To encourage development”!

When the **Auckland Council Parks, Reserves & Environment Committee** states that **“Coastal Land is better suited to other development”**
we are warned!

On Which areas would you like to provide feedback?

There are 14 units and all are used for aquatic activities etc.

All require comments as appropriate..

Future aspirations;

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

- Foreshore access to the water for all aquatic craft, large & small, as appropriate.
- Safe, all-weather access for trailered boats up to 8 metres which include club patrol vessels and emergency craft.
- Safe long term tenure for all the yachting and boating clubs that serve not only their members but a host of other organisations and events as valuable community assets maintained by the clubs at no cost to the Council.

20. Do you have any aspirations for access, facilities or uses in the Weiti Estuary to Devonport Peninsula Shoreline Adaptation Plan:

- Storage racks for small boats & boards would reduce traffic congestion – cycles would suffice.
- Ramp Access for larger trailered boats – only two ramps in this area are suitable for larger boats and both appear threatened on the **Weiti Estuary to Devonport Peninsula Shoreline Adaptation Plan:**

21. Do you have any other feedback on the Weiti Estuary to Devonport Peninsula Shoreline Adaptation Plan?

- ❖ Moored boats and boats on Marinas need maintenance facilities. **A Publicly available haul-out facility capable of catering for the demand, for cleaning & general**

maintenance, is necessary to ensure compliance with Auckland Council biosecurity rules.

- ❖ **Launching ramps for larger vessels** are essential not just for the general Public but for the Club and other Safety boats, service vessels, emergency rescue craft, Doc, Ambulance... Just some of the craft that use Bayswater & Takapuna ramps!
- ❖ The North Shore beaches and their associated marine environment are **Regional Assets** used by all Aucklanders and must always be recognised as such.

This is but a brief summary re the Weiti Estuary to Devonport Peninsula Shoreline Adaptation Plan. 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.

Signed:

Janet Watkins

For the Auckland Yachting & Boating Association Inc..

Life Member of:

AYBA, Yachting New Zealand, Takapuna Boating Club Inc, Ponsonby Cruising Club Inc.

26 September, 2024