File No: 03 04 02N
Document No: 34432076

Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

waikatoregion.govt.nz
0800 800 401

17 March 2026

Ian Holyoake and Rob Boston
Via email

Dear Ian and Rob,

Response REQ227682 - Moana Anu Anu

Council received your request for information on 20 January 2026.

Request Details:
The Michael Townsend report, along with references to a range of historic expert statements prepared by Waikato Regional Council, NIWA, and EW, reflect the information and judgements formed at the time, often through the lens of specific consent applications or interests.

*Our interest now is not to revisit those historic debates, but to understand **how the system has actually behaved over time**, and what the regional regulator currently holds and relies upon in its stewardship role.*

Specifically, we are trying to understand:

- *what monitoring reports, reviews, or synthesis documents WRC currently holds in relation to Moana Anu Anu, the upper harbour reaches, and associated receiving environments;*
- *whether WRC has undertaken, commissioned, or relied on any longitudinal assessments comparing expected versus observed outcomes since historical consents were granted; and*
- *what material WRC presently treats as its **governing evidential base** for management of these environments.*

*In short, we are looking for the **current regulatory picture**, rather than a re-argument of historic expert opinion.*

If there are existing consolidated reviews or internal summaries that address these matters, we would appreciate being pointed to them. If not, understanding what information WRC does and does not hold would still be very helpful.

Council Response:

what monitoring reports, reviews, or synthesis documents WRC currently holds in relation to Moana Anu Anu, the upper harbour reaches, and associated receiving environments;

Habitat: A draft technical report by Lam Gordillo et al. (2023) (Intertidal Habitat Mapping: Coromandel Estuaries 2023) outlines the changes observed in estuarine habitats over a ten-year period (Since Needham et. al. (2013)) and provides an overarching view on how estuaries have changed across the east coast of the Waikato region. This is still a draft report, and several changes will be made to the tables and figures following recent GIS QA/QC, prior to it going through a WRC's technical peer-review process. We do not anticipate significant changes in the information presented for Whangamata Harbour, inclusive of area mapped in the Moana Anu Anu.

Sedimentation: Hunt (2019) provides a summary and synthesis of information relating to sedimentation in Waikato estuaries. The findings are relevant to Coromandel estuaries generally. A sedimentation plate network has been established in Whangamata Harbour, including site in the Moana Anu Anu, working closely with the Harbour Care group.

Water quality: there is recent data and a long-term grade for water quality for contact recreation at a site within Whangamata harbour - Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) - Whangamata Harbour off end of Rutherford Road

From 2007, the Whangamata Harbour and Catchment Management Plan is a synthesis that is still relevant and provides useful context. Identified core issues for Whangamata harbour included water quality, sedimentation and habitats. There was a synthesis of information associated with Sea Change. "Water Quality and Catchments RT - Technical Report 2 - Synthesis of Information.pdf" 9689378.

There are a number of reports relating to Whangamata Harbour that may be of interest:

- 4Sight Consulting and Waikato Regional Council (2017) *Whangamata mangrove removal consent #122986: environmental monitoring management plan, 2017*. Waikato Regional Council internal series; 2017-01. Hamilton, NZ: Waikato Regional Council.
- Basheer, Ghassan and Waikato Regional Council (2007) *Whangamata mangrove management options report*. Environment Waikato internal series; 2007-15. Hamilton East, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].
- Beaufill, Julie and Waikato Regional Council (2006) *Draft Whangamata catchment management plan*. Environment Waikato internal series; 2007-13. Hamilton East, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].
- Coffey, Warren and Waikato Regional Council (2012a) *Whangamata catchment condition assessment*. Waikato Regional Council internal series; 2012-26. Hamilton East, NZ: Waikato Regional Council.
- Coffey, Warren and Waikato Regional Council (2012b) *Wharekawa catchment condition assessment*. Waikato Regional Council internal series; 2012-27. Hamilton East, NZ: Waikato Regional Council.
- Graeme, Megan, Waikato Regional Council and Natural Solutions Marine and Terrestrial Associates Ltd. (2007) *Estuarine vegetation survey: Whangamata Harbour and Otahu Estuary*. Environment Waikato technical report; 2007-25. [Hamilton East, NZ]: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].
- Greer D (2013) Whangamata Harbour Modelling: Estimating Bed Shear Stress for Sediment Transport Modelling. eCoast Client report.
- O'Donnell, Emily, Greenslade, Ingrid and Waikato Regional Council (2009) *Whangamata Harbour and catchment management plans: summary document*. Environment Waikato technical report; 2009-27. Hamilton East, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].

- Shaw, William, Dahm, Jim and Waikato Regional Council (2013) *Final environmental monitoring management plan: Whangamata mangrove consent*. Waikato Regional Council internal series; 2012-12. Hamilton East, N.Z.: Waikato Regional Council.
- Singleton, Peter and Waikato Regional Council (2007) *Draft Whangamata harbour plan: looking forward to a healthier harbour*. Environment Waikato internal series; 2007-14. Hamilton East, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].
- Smith, Carina Sim, Kelly, Shane, Faire, Stacey, Waikato Regional Council and Coast and Catchment Limited (2016) *Sewage discharges from boats in the Waikato region*. Waikato Regional Council internal series; 2016-30. Hamilton East, NZ: Waikato Regional Council.
- Spooner, Roger, O'Donnell, Emily and Waikato Regional Council (2012) *Operational and air discharge management plan: Whangamata mangrove consent*. Waikato Regional Council internal series; 2012-13. Hamilton East, NZ: Waikato Regional Council.
- Stokes, Debra and Waikato Regional Council (2009) *Assessment of physical changes after mangrove removal: Whangamata Harbour 2008*. Environment Waikato technical report; 2009-13. Hamilton East, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].
- Stokes, D. (2010), Erosion potential of surface sediments after mangrove removal. Prepared for Environment Waikato. *note this report is draft and was not completed. Draft material in this report can be found in the following scientific paper:
- Stokes, D.J. and Harris, R.J. 2015. Sediment properties and surface erodibility following a large-scale mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) removal. Continental Shelf Research 107, pp. 1-10.
- Townsend, Michael, Waikato Regional Council and National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd. (NIWA) (2017) *Ecosystem service maps of Coromandel estuaries*. Waikato Regional Council technical report; 2017-37. Hamilton East, NZ: Waikato Regional Council.
- Vant, Bill (2000) *Whangamata Harbour water quality investigations, 1999 - 2000*. Environment Waikato technical report; 2000-02. Hamilton, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].
- Vant, Bill (2001) *Whangamata Harbour: contaminant loads and estuarine and coastal water quality, summer 2001*. Environment Waikato technical report; 2001-04. Hamilton, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].
- Waikato Regional Council, & Brendan Morris Consulting. (2012). *Coromandel zone management plan*. Waikato Regional Council policy series; 2011-16. Hamilton East, NZ: Waikato Regional Council.
- Wood, Megan and Waikato Regional Council (2007) *Wentworth River flood hazard assessment*. Environment Waikato internal series; 2007-18. Hamilton East, NZ: [Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)].

whether WRC has undertaken, commissioned, or relied on any longitudinal assessments comparing expected versus observed outcomes since historical consents were granted; and

WRC does receive information via resource consent applications and as part of conditions on consents for various activities. One example is the consent issued to the Whangamata Marina Society, where annual monitoring reports related to the conditions of their consents are submitted. These could be provided if this was of interest.

what material WRC presently treats as its <u>governing evidential base</u> for management of these environments.

The primary 'regulatory picture' is the Resource Management Act 1991, and this is implemented through the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan (giving effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and the Waikato Regional Plan (giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management). These plans provide a framework for the consideration of activities. With respect to the Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan (adopted by Council on the 14th October 2025, currently under appeal), the Moana

Anu Anu is identified as a Significant Indigenous Biodiversity Area, where adverse effects from activities within the coastal marine area must be avoided.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,

Kendra Corey
Democracy Support