

# THE WEST COAST PLAN



A plan for the future management of the West Coast & Waitakere Ranges

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A West Coast community initiative supported by





# W h a t i s t h e W e s t C o a s t P l a n ?

The West Coast Plan is a strategic plan for the West Coast beaches and the Waitakere Ranges. It sets out what people want the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges to be like in the future and describes what needs to be done, and when, to achieve this future.

## HOW WAS THE PLAN PUT TOGETHER?

The project to develop a West Coast Plan was launched by the Waitakere City Council in 1996, as a response to issues that had arisen during consultation for the District Plan. During the summer of 1997/98, twelve visioning workshops were held around the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges where people from a range of communities and interest groups contributed their ideas on what their ideal West Coast and Waitakere Ranges would be like. The common ideas from these workshops were compiled and made into



a vision statement. This vision statement formed the basis for the development of the goals, targets and actions that make up the content of the Plan.

The content of the West Coast Plan has been put together by the West Coast Plan Liaison Group. This liaison group was formed from volunteers who were at the initial visioning workshops. They have been meeting every six weeks since March 1998 and during that time have been joined by many others who have also had an interest in the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges. Meetings of the West Coast Plan Liaison Group have been open to everyone and there have been over 70 people who have come along and contributed to the plan's development during this time. Organisations that have contributed to the West Coast Plan Liaison Group are listed at the end of the Plan.

*A plan for the future management of the West Coast & Waitakere Ranges*



# How was the Plan put together?

THE FOLLOWING IS A TIMELINE OF HOW THE WEST COAST PLAN WAS PRODUCED:

Dec 1997 – Feb 1998

12 visioning workshops were held around the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges.

March – June 1998

The West Coast Plan Liaison Group formed a vision from the ideas generated at the visioning workshops. This was then broken down into some specific goals and targets.

June – July 1998

The booklet a 'Vision for the Future of the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges' which contained the vision, goals, and targets, was sent out for feedback.

August 1998 – March 1999

The West Coast Plan Liaison Group considered all the feedback, and after a lot of debate, came up with the 'final' vision, goals and targets.

May 1999

An update was sent out to everyone who had been involved in the West Coast Plan, informing them of the outcome of the feedback, and inviting them to the June meeting of the West Coast Plan Liaison Group. A list was put together of what was needed to be done to achieve the vision, goals and targets.

June 1999

A list of 254 actions was generated at the June meeting of the Liaison Group.

July – November 1999

The list of actions was evaluated by the Liaison Group and reduced to 116 actions. During the evaluation a priority was assigned to each of the actions indicating their relative importance.

December 1999

The Liaison Group decided on the Plan's format and the feedback process for the draft West Coast Plan.

January – February 2000

The draft West Coast Plan was distributed and feedback was requested from the public. Over 200 submissions were received.

March – September 2000

The Liaison Group discussed the feedback from the public, and consequently, made many changes to the draft Plan.

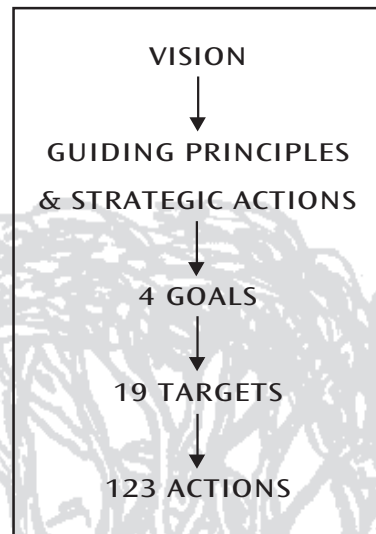
Dec 2000 – April 2001

The final content, design and format of the West Coast Plan was decided and it was printed and distributed.



# What is in the Plan?

The Plan provides information to help people make decisions about what needs to be done and when. The Plan has an overarching vision, which has been broken down into four 'goals' that cover the main themes (natural environment, built environment, communities and recreation). Each goal has then been broken down even further into specific targets, and under each of these there is a list of actions describing what needs to be done.



## FOR EACH ACTION THERE IS ALSO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

**PRIORITY** – each action has been assigned a priority. The different priorities are:

**URGENT** – needs to be done in the next 12 months.

**NECESSARY** – needs to be done in the next 1-5 years

**DESIRABLE** – would be good to do but doesn't need to be done yet.

**EASY** – easy enough to do in the next 12 months (i.e. requires few resources and no major policy change).

## WHO HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY?

We have indicated the groups who have the major responsibility for carrying out or initiating the actions. There are some actions where the primary responsibility doesn't lie with anyone in particular. In these cases a joint approach would be required and this is indicated by using the word 'All'. (Note that while a group might be indicated as being primarily responsible for carrying out the action, it still remains its decision about whether it will decide to do it and when).

## HOW MIGHT IT BE DONE?

We have indicated some of the possible ways an action might be achieved. There are likely to be ways other than those listed to carry out the action, and these will be explored as the Plan progresses.

## VISION

As guardians of the West Coast and the Waitakere Ranges, we acknowledge the interdependence of the people with this dramatic and inspiring place. The sea, the coast, and the ranges are envisioned as supporting a superb quality of life for people and locally appropriate plants and wildlife, which is sustained for all generations.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Protect the wild and remote qualities of the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges.
- Ensure everyone is able to experience and enjoy the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges.
- Promote public and community consultation, involvement and action.
- Provide opportunities for people to increase their knowledge of the Waitakere Ranges, the West Coast and its communities.
- Recognise and support the unique and diverse character of West Coast communities.
- Work co-operatively to protect the sea, the coast and the ranges.



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# STRATEGIC ACTIONS

These Strategic Actions are focused on achieving the Vision and supporting the Guiding Principles. They are more general than the actions associated with particular targets, and promote long-term solutions to fundamental issues.

Number	Strategic Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
1	Investigate ways to improve the co-ordinated management and protection of the Waitakere Ranges.	N	All	A regional plan, heritage park, unitary authority, marine reserve.
2	Continue to provide opportunities for debate on the different aspirations of stakeholders for both private and public land in the Waitakere Ranges and West Coast.	N	All	Consultation on future District Plans. Visioning workshops. Community planning processes.
3	Encourage the further identification of the Waitakere Ranges as an area of national significance.	U	ARC*, WCC*, local communities	Advocacy to Parliament.
4	Encourage all relevant local and national agencies and authorities to investigate strategies to limit local and regional population growth pressures on the West Coast.	U	ARC, West Coast Plan Liaison Group, Residents and Ratepayers' Groups	Advocacy for inclusion of effective policies in regional and local plans.

KEY Priorities are: U= Urgent N= Necessary D= Desirable E= Easy \*WCC= Waitakere City Council \*ARC= Auckland Regional Council

# GOAL ONE - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Clean healthy eco-systems supporting a diversity of locally appropriate plants and wildlife in the parklands, private land, and waterways of the sea.



## TARGET ONE

There is a continual reduction in pests and weeds in the forests, gardens, cliffs, parks, roadsides and streams.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
1.1	Maintain and distribute the existing inventory of pests and weeds.	N	WCC and ARC	Joint project.
1.2	Continue to educate people about pests and weeds, using methods such as well-illustrated leaflets and education seminars.	N	All	Send out leaflets in rates notices. Hold seminars.
1.3	Encourage increased use of traps (or any other humane method) to help eradicate feral cats, possums, rats and ferrets.	U	WCC and ARC	Provide free traps. Publicise the availability of traps.
1.4	Set up a free weed disposal system.	N	ARC and WCC	Provide jumbo bins. Part of rubbish collection. Weed composting depot.
1.5	Investigate additional effective ways to assist landowners who want to rid their properties of major weed infestations.	U	ARC and WCC	Undertake research. Provide support and advice. Implement and monitor pest management strategies.
1.6	Carry out projects to control the spread of weeds and pests where other agencies are not undertaking weed and pest control.	U	All landowners including WCC and ARC	Identify priorities and carry out control programmes.
	<i>Refer to Theme 5 "Biosecurity and Biodiversity" of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy</i>			

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GOAL ONE CONTINUED

TARGET TWO

Water quality in streams, lakes, lagoons and the sea is good enough to support the local ecosystems.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
2.1	Seek continuation of existing water quality monitoring by WCC.	U	ARC	Set up a water quality monitoring programme.
2.2	Establish Wai Care groups as recommended by ARC.	N	ARC	Initiation by the ARC within local communities.
2.3	Encourage residents to recycle grey water (i.e. water from the kitchen, laundry and bath).	N	WCC	Provide information to people seeking a building consent.
2.4	As new and alternative methods of sewage disposal are proven to be successful, ensure they are endorsed by WCC and included in their engineering standards.	N	WCC	Incorporate into WCC's engineering standards.
2.5	Ensure the effective auditing of sewage disposal systems every 3 years to protect waterways from pollution.	N	WCC	Inspect septic tanks on a regular basis.
2.6	Develop guidelines and controls for minimising the detrimental effects of stormwater run-off from roads and driveways. e.g. promote permeable surfaces, swales instead of kerb and channelling.	N	WCC	Incorporate into WCC's engineering standards.
2.7	Prepare a catchment management plan for each community to address water quality issues.	N	WCC	Prepare a catchment management plan.
2.8	Promote use of environmentally friendly household products e.g. biodegradable washing powder.	N	WCC and All	Provide information when people apply for consent for their septic tank.
	<i>Refer to Theme 2 "Freshwater Biodiversity" of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.</i>			

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GOAL ONE CONTINUED

TARGET THREE

Diverse native flora and fauna are supported by healthy ecosystems.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
3.1	Educate contractors working in the Waitakere Ranges on how to minimise the effects of their activities on the natural environment.	U	WCC and ARC	Education officers to run seminars for contractors. Provide on-site advice for contractors.
3.2	Continue the development and publicising of a long-term research programme to survey the ecological health of the Waitakere Ranges that involves local people in the gathering of background information.	N	ARC and All	Joint project with research agency and local communities.
3.3	Continue to improve the effectiveness of spraying and mowing regime along roadsides to prevent the destruction of native plants and the invasion of weeds. e.g. mow /spray only where necessary to ensure road safety, only trim back native plants.	N	WCC	Specify how vegetation is to be mown or sprayed in contracts.
3.4	Set up a joint project between the community and government agencies to re-introduce native wildlife that has become rare or extinct in the Waitakere Ranges.	D	All	Joint project. Seek approval from Department of Conservation to obtain and release rare native wildlife.
3.5	Carry out research on the health of the shoreline (e.g. shellfish numbers) and publish the information so people know what the situation is.	U	All	Research project. Articles in community newsletters.
3.6	Ensure that people don't take more shellfish than what they are legally allowed to take.	U	All	Increase enforcement. Advocate for more honorary fisheries officers in problem areas.
3.7	Minimise the detrimental impacts of sprays by encouraging the use of alternative methods of killing weeds and education on the correct and safe use of sprays.	U	All landowners including WCC and ARC	Make this a condition of weed control contracts.

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GOAL ONE CONTINUED

TARGET THREE CONT

Diverse native flora and fauna are supported by healthy ecosystems.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
3.8	Continue to advocate for research agencies to carry out research on the ecology of weeds and pests so that the information can be used to help kill weeds and pests more effectively.	N	WCC and ARC	Joint research project. Thesis topic for a biology student.
3.9	Encourage residents to remove large non-native trees that are preventing regeneration of native bush, by providing subsidised tree-felling services.	N	WCC	Develop policy and provide funding in Annual Plan.
3.10	Increase the number of honorary fishery officers.	N	West Coast Plan Liaison Group	Advocacy to Parliament and Ministry of Fisheries.
3.11	Advocate for instant fines and heavier penalties for people who do not comply with fisheries regulations.	U	West Coast Plan Liaison Group	Advocacy to Parliament and Ministry of Fisheries.
3.12	Advocate that monitoring and enforcement of commercial fishing regulations off the West Coast be intensified.	U	West Coast Plan Liaison Group	Advocacy to Parliament and Ministry of Fisheries.
3.13	Promote responsible pet ownership in the Waitakere Ranges.	U	WCC	Education.
3.14	Prohibit the keeping of mustelids (e.g. ferrets).	U	WCC and Department of Conservation	Adopt a by-law or District Plan rule. Advocate to Parliament through Department of Conservation.
3.15	Encourage programmes to monitor, promote and restore bird populations (e.g. little blue penguins).	U	West Coast Plan Liaison Group	Advocacy to Department of Conservation and ARC, and also encourage societies such as Royal Forest & Bird to assist.
	<i>Refer to Theme 1 “Biodiversity on Land” of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.</i>			

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GOAL ONE CONTINUED

TARGET FOUR

People understand and care for the natural environment.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
4.1	Continue to provide and expand financial incentives to encourage landowners to protect the environment.	N	WCC and ARC	Rates rebates. Other kinds of compensation for conservation rights. Grants for fencing, planting, weed & pest control. Waiver of covenanting costs.
4.2	Hold an annual 'Care for the Waitakere Ranges' day to encourage visitors to participate in activities that will benefit the environment. e.g. removing weeds, planting, picking up rubbish.	E	All	Organise and promote the event.
4.3	Establish composting and recycling schemes in each community and actively encourage local support for these activities.	D	Local communities and WCC	Provide information to encourage composting and recycling.
4.4	Establish a website where people can learn about the Waitakere Ranges and West Coast and how to care for the area.	D	All	Design website. Include up-to-date monitoring information (e.g. water quality) and information from community groups.
4.5	Establish a community environmental education programme and support existing school programmes.	N	All	Seminars and events.
4.6	Develop information that can be used by schools to educate children about the environment.	N	WCC and ARC	Council education officer. Have information more readily available.
4.7	Continue to provide information at events or at appropriate places about key environmental issues facing the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges.	D	All	Create mobile displays.
4.8	Distribute leaflets in the first rates demand of new owners to give them some information about living in the Ranges.	E	WCC and local communities	Produce information leaflets and distribute.
4.9	Educate visitors about the ecosystems and heritage values of the Ranges generally and local features with a view to encouraging better protective behaviour.	U	All	Signs. Interpretation programmes. Visitor centres.

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GOAL ONE CONTINUED

TARGET FIVE

Restore native ecosystems.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
5.1	Seek an immediate review of shellfish bag limits.	U	All	Through local MP. Letters to the Minister.
5.2	Investigate sites on parkland to determine areas for restoration to native forests of parts of the Waitakere Parklands that were once farms.	D	ARC and All	Policy in Waitakere Parklands Management Plan. Volunteer planting days.
5.3	Encourage and support the development of nurseries that can supply a large range of eco-sourced plants.	U	All	Contract between WCC and a grower. Promote the idea among local nurseries.
5.4	Ensure that when actions are undertaken to achieve the West Coast Plan that they are consistent with the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.	N	All	Provide guidance on how to ensure consistency.
	<i>Refer to Theme 5 "Biosecurity and Biodiversity" of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy</i>			

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## GOAL TWO - BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Human activities and structures are in keeping with the local character of each community and the parkland. (Human structures include anything built by humans such as facilities, houses, roads, carparks, powerlines and drains).



### TARGET SIX

The West Coast keeps its small clustered communities.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
6.1	Ensure policies and rules in the District Plan specifically recognise and protect against the adverse cumulative effects of development on the nature and character of small clustered communities.	N	WCC  WCC, West Coast Plan Liaison Group & Residents & Ratepayers' Groups	Monitor effectiveness of current District Plan policies and rules.  Promote plan changes where necessary.
6.2	Encourage communities to develop and update plans that identify their unique characteristics.	U	WCC, West Coast Plan Liaison Group & Residents & Ratepayers' Groups	Facilitate the preparation of local plans by each community.
6.3	Ensure that the regulatory framework recognises and promotes the special features of each community.	N	WCC, West Coast Plan Liaison Group & Residents & Ratepayers' Groups	Promote plan changes recognising and implementing local plans.
6.4	Create buffer zones between village and wilderness areas by encouraging green belts, land areas being held in covenant, and extending the parks estate.	U	WCC	Co-ordinate District Plan objectives, reserve management plans, land acquisition and other actions.
6.5	Expand the parks estate by acquiring further important and sensitive land as it becomes available.	U	ARC, WCC, Department of Conservation	Develop policy for providing funding.

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GOAL TWO CONTINUED

TARGET SEVEN

New structures do not overwhelm the natural landscape.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
7.1	Encourage innovative designs that ensure buildings fit in with the surrounding environment.	N	WCC	Education and guidelines.
7.2	Continue to restrict heights of buildings on the waterfront.	N	WCC	Retain existing District Plan objectives and rules.
7.3	Continue to prevent large-scale commercial developments such as hotels and shopping centres that do not fit in with the character of the area.	N	WCC	Retain existing District Plan objectives and rules.
7.4	Ensure that signs are located in a more co-ordinated way and that the signs are designed with minimal environmental impact and to best reflect the character of each community.	E	WCC and ARC  All	Agree on design guidelines and share signage where possible.  Local community and Council project to develop ideas for signs.

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GOAL TWO CONTINUED

TARGET EIGHT

Replace and maintain infrastructure (e.g. powerlines, roads, carparks, toilets, drains) in a way that has the lowest impact on the surrounding environments.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
8.1	Ensure that the District Plan specifies the circumstances in which utility services (e.g. powerlines) are required to be replaced underground, and the manner in which this is to be done.	N	WCC	Variation to the District Plan.
8.2	Put streetlights only where they are needed for safety reasons.	N	WCC	Adopt as a WCC roading policy. Consultation between local residents and WCC before installing lights.
8.3	Ensure roads, carparks, pipes and drains are well maintained.	N	WCC	Monitoring of maintenance contracts.
8.4	Install solar panels to provide power for public buildings and lighting, in cases where it makes good environmental and economic sense.	D	WCC and ARC	Incorporate into engineering standards.
8.5	Encourage the provision of public toilets that use sewage disposal systems proven to have the least effect on the environment.	U	WCC and ARC	Identify and adopt “best practice” for construction of public toilets. Ongoing research into “best practice”. Change management guidelines as necessary.

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# GOAL THREE - COMMUNITIES

Communities that are strongly connected to their natural environment and are unique and diverse.



## TARGET NINE

Pedestrian movement is encouraged.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
9.1	Provide means for people to walk safely beside roads where there is a need.	U	WCC	Incorporate into engineering standards.
9.2	Develop a plan to identify areas where there is demand for walkways.	N	ARC and WCC	Walkway plan.
9.3	Support private landowners who want to provide public access to their land.	N	ARC and WCC	Walkway support plan. Financial incentives.
9.4	Monitor the use of the walking tracks so that funding goes towards the maintenance of tracks that are used most.	U	ARC and WCC	Install track counters. Allocate maintenance funds to high-use walkways.
9.5	Investigate the best ways to reduce traffic speed in areas where there is a lot of foot traffic.	N	WCC and ARC	Traffic management research and planning.

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GOAL THREE CONTINUED

TARGET TEN

Transport options are available that limit impact on the surrounding environments.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
10.1	Investigate ways to manage visitor vehicle access including notifying the public of traffic congestion through the media.	N	WCC and ARC	Limit car parking. Temporary road closures. Charge for car parking.
10.2	Establish what would make a public transport system feasible.	D	ARC	ARC Passenger Transport Plan (allocates routes and subsidies).
10.3	Investigate the feasibility and environmental impacts of 'park and ride' facilities.	D	ARC and WCC	Joint project.
10.4	Investigate what would make bicycle lanes and walkways feasible along major roads to the West Coast beaches and in the settlements.	D	ARC and WCC	Research.

TARGET ELEVEN

Communities have a place to gather.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who would be primarily responsible?	How might it be done?
11.1	Ensure that communities have public facilities for community activities (e.g. halls, community centres, libraries).	D	WCC and local communities	Adopted by WCC as part of the Community Facilities Policy. Local communities provide their own facilities.
11.2	Encourage public buildings to be used for a range of activities.	D	WCC and local communities	Include in Community Facilities Policy. Approach surf clubs and fire stations to see whether they could be used by the community.
11.3	Maintain the open spaces where people gather.	N	WCC and ARC	Maintenance contracts.
11.4	Establish subsidies /funding for community facilities that are provided by the community.	U	WCC	Adopt as part of the WCC Community Facilities Policy.

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GOAL THREE CONTINUED

TARGET TWELVE

Foster community spirit through community events and activities.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
12.1	Make resources available for use at community events e.g. signboards, port-a-loos, publicity, parking wardens & other set-up costs for events.	E	WCC	Adopt as policy. Set up booking system.
12.2	Assist teenagers to establish activities for themselves.	U	Local communities.	Hold youth forums to get young people's ideas, and devise action plans.
12.3	Continue and extend the existing mobile library service to ensure that the service caters for all of the population.	D	WCC	Provide funding in the Long Term Financial Strategy.

TARGET THIRTEEN

Enable people to work in their communities, provided that the environmental effects are minimised.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
13.1	Encourage low environmental impact access to high-tech communications.	D	Local communities	Establish project.
13.2	Facilitate the employment of locals to do park/local work.	N	WCC and ARC	Employment policy.
13.3	Allow and encourage people to carry out small scale and low environmental impact businesses at home.	D	WCC, local communities and Enterprise Waitakere	Provide information on opportunities for home-based businesses and provide help to those wanting to set up a business.
13.4	Regularly update and distribute a list of locally available tradespeople, businesses and services.	D	Local communities	Project for local community groups / business groups.

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GOAL THREE CONTINUED

TARGET FOURTEEN

Communities are safe and supportive.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
14.1	Establish workable options for surveillance of car parks in problem areas.	N	WCC and ARC	Establish best method for surveillance at each problem site.
14.2	Increase reporting, monitoring and investigation of crimes.	N	Local communities	Disseminate information on who to contact about crimes and encourage reporting of crimes.
14.3	Increase knowledge, awareness and support for civil defence of the coast, and link with the ranger programme.	N	WCC and ARC	Disseminate appropriate information.
14.4	Establish and support neighbourhood care programmes e.g. neighbourhood watch, elder care programme.	N	Local communities	Seek interest within neighbourhoods to set up a programme.
14.5	Encourage people to use street numbers on letterboxes to assist emergency services.	N	WCC	Promotion & education.

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GOAL THREE CONTINUED

TARGET FIFTEEN

Communities are empowered, resourced and supported to participate in local decision-making.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
15.1	Ensure that community management plans are taken into account when Councils and public agencies are undertaking their policy, planning and operational activities.	N	WCC	Adopt as Council policy.
15.2	Ensure that organisers of events and temporary activities work with local people and provide safety measures, including fire prevention.	N	WCC	Establish guidelines for events on parks and beaches.
15.3	Ensure all ratepayers and residents receive news about Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council activities.	U	WCC and local communities	Send Waitakere City News to all ratepayers activities.
15.4	Ensure that local communities set their own priorities and are consulted by public agencies on decision-making within their own communities.	D	All  WCC and ARC  WCC and local communities	Investigate options for community involvement in decision-making.  Hold Community Board meetings and consultation workshops at different locations within the Waitakere Ward.  Investigate possible community processes. Extend power of Community Boards.
15.5	Encourage a partnership relationship between communities and public agencies to share decision-making and allocate funding within local communities.	U	All	Continue support for, and implementation of, the West Coast Plan. Advocacy of the West Coast Plan Vision by members of the West Coast Plan Liaison Group.

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GOAL THREE CONTINUED

TARGET SIXTEEN

Lifeguarding, ranger and emergency services meet the needs of the community and are effective and adequately resourced.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
16.1	Encourage co-operation among emergency and social services.	N	All	Facilitate more co-ordinated actions or create new agencies.
16.2	Establish first response units within each community, which are supported by the relevant organisations.	U	Local communities	Via community care groups / neighbourhood watch.
16.3	Maintain adequate resources for fire fighting.	E	All	Advocate for continued resourcing for fire fighting.
16.4	Provide a local resident paid ranger in each community.	U	WCC and ARC	Provide funding in the Annual Plan & ensure a condition of the contract is that the ranger must live in the local area.
16.5	Seek free surf lifesaving training at the Henderson Pool.	U	WCC	Adopt as a WCC policy.
16.6	Ensure the needs of the surf lifesaving clubs are being met to the extent where they are always able to provide the level of service needed to run effective patrols, e.g. adequate funding and meeting places.	U	All	Identify needs and reach agreement on how to best meet them.
16.7	Increase recognition of surf lifesaving as an emergency service and resource it accordingly.	U	WCC and ARC and central Government	Each agency to ensure lifesaving services are adequately resourced.

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GOAL THREE CONTINUED

TARGET SEVENTEEN

The history and cultures of the area are recognised and valued.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
17.1	Carry out historic research and the publication of information.	U	Community and local history societies and WCC	Initiate and obtain funding for projects.
17.2	Establish a project to record and publish oral histories of local people recounting their experiences of living on the West Coast /Waitakere Ranges.	U	Local communities and local history societies	Research project.
17.3	Develop a process to resolve conflicts between preserving historic sites and protecting biodiversity.	N	WCC and ARC	District Plan policies and rules.
17.4	Keep and make available to the public a photographic and written record of history and make resources available to support local people carrying out this role.	N	Community and local history societies and WCC	Establish an appropriate place to hold material. Seek funding – Annual Plan / Lotteries Commission.
17.5	Provide low-key signage /information available in carpark areas explaining historic nature of the area.	D	ARC and WCC	Design signs with local input and erect.
17.6	Record, recognise and maintain memorial and historic sites, where appropriate.	D	Local communities	Establish project.

KEY Priorities are: U= Urgent N= Necessary D= Desirable E= Easy WCC= Waitakere City Council ARC= Auckland Regional Council



# GOAL FOUR - RECREATION

The West Coast is a place where everyone can experience and enjoy the wildness.



## TARGET EIGHTEEN

People appreciate, respect and have the opportunity to enjoy the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
18.1	Lobby central government to amend the Marine Reserves Act to allow marine reserves to be created for a wide range of purposes (such as recreation, recreational fishing, historic, etc.) – not just for scientific and educational purposes as at present.	U	All	Private Member's bill.
18.2	Develop and extend environmental education and safety programmes for school /camp visits.	U	ARC and WCC	Target interpretation programmes to different age groups.
18.3	Maintain right of access over public land.	N	ARC and WCC	Establish as a Council policy.
18.4	Provide a range of levels of access for people of differing capabilities.	N	WCC and ARC	Reserve Management Plans. Incorporate into WCC's engineering standards.

KEY Priorities are: U= Urgent N= Necessary D= Desirable E= Easy WCC= Waitakere City Council ARC= Auckland Regional Council

GOAL FOUR CONTINUED

TARGET NINETEEN

Ensure that adverse recreational and visitor impacts on the environment are minimal.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
19.1	Develop a co-ordinated visitor management plan, in consultation with local communities, which would cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limits to tour bus activities;</li> <li>• Mechanisms to ensure co-ordination between local bodies on issues relating to tourism and visitor management;</li> <li>• Development of concrete measures/indicators of tourism impact;</li> <li>• Compulsory registration for tourism operators;</li> <li>• Investigating ways to manage visitor numbers;</li> <li>• Impacts on local communities;</li> <li>• Encourage tour operators to be responsible towards the environment.</li> </ul>	N	WCC and ARC	WCC and ARC jointly fund a project to develop a tourism management plan.
19.2	Where appropriate, allow a variety of recreational activities in specified areas, but only where impacts are absent or minimal e.g. mountain biking, horse riding directed at suitable open space areas.	D	WCC and ARC	Reserve Management Plans.
19.3	Keep some places wild by managing access.	U	WCC and ARC	Reserve Management Plans.
19.4	Restrict the use of motorised recreational equipment and vehicles in some areas.	U	ARC and WCC	Regional Coastal Plan. Bylaws. District Plan rules relating to activities on the surfaces of water.
19.5	Work with the Civil Aviation Authority and aviation user groups to regulate or otherwise minimise the impact of low-level flights.	N	All	Work with aviation user groups to develop guidelines /regulations.
19.6	Discourage the use of helicopters for private, recreational and non-essential use.	U	WCC	Variation to the District Plan.
19.7	Establish a programme, in consultation with landowners, to buy alternative areas for recreation to take pressure off sensitive areas.	U	WCC and ARC	Land acquisition plan.
19.8	Monitor condition of sand dunes, provide and maintain walkways through dunes.	U	ARC and WCC	Environmental monitoring programme.

KEY Priorities are: U= Urgent N= Necessary D= Desirable E= Easy WCC= Waitakere City Council ARC= Auckland Regional Council

GOAL FOUR CONTINUED

TARGET NINETEEN CONT

Ensure that adverse recreational and visitor impacts on the environment are minimal.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
19.9	Keep fire risks down by managing access to some areas and/or removing weeds and/or planting fire resistant plants.	N	ARC and WCC	Maintenance contracts. Reserve management planning.
19.10	Ensure that publicity/recreational structures are approved by local communities before they are erected.	N	WCC, ARC and local communities	Supply WCC and ARC with local community plans that clearly state what structures are appropriate for the area.
19.11	Use methods such as litter counts and track damage incidents as the basis for deciding how to control the use of tracks.	D	ARC and WCC	Joint research project.
19.12	Ensure film groups and events' organisers negotiate with a designated local community group before consents are applied for. The activities should comply with District Plan rules and local Codes of Practice. Activities should not limit public access to public land and should be monitored by Council Officers, and/or the designated local community group.	N	WCC	Conditions on resource consents. Employ person to liaise with film companies.
19.13	Ensure that fees received from commercial activities or events on public land are directed back into the localities and communities where the impacts occur.	N	WCC	Council policy. Establish a system for tracking funds received from film companies.
19.14	Ensure the track network is properly maintained and is planned to protect sensitive features.	N	WCC and ARC	Reserve Management Plans. Monitor contract performance for maintenance.
19.15	Provide sufficient resources to effectively enforce animal regulations.	U	ARC and WCC	Review enforcement procedures.
19.16	Ensure that park management plans provide for adequate basic facilities (i.e. tables, chairs, toilets and car parks) to meet the needs of visitors and the local community and that these facilities are appropriately designed and sited.	N	WCC and ARC	Include as an objective in park management plans.

KEY Priorities are: U= Urgent N= Necessary D= Desirable E= Easy WCC= Waitakere City Council ARC= Auckland Regional Council

GOAL FOUR CONTINUED

TARGET NINETEEN CONT

Ensure that adverse recreational and visitor impacts on the environment are minimal.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Who has primary responsibility?	How might it be done?
19.17	Prepare botanical and archaeological impact assessments before new track routes are finalised.	N	ARC and WCC	Commission assessments when planning new tracks.
19.18	Establish low-impact footpaths to enhance pedestrian movements.	D	WCC and ARC	Incorporate into engineering standards.
19.19	Investigate ways to manage rubbish to minimise the environmental impacts. Rubbish disposal should be done in an appropriate way for each area.	U	WCC and ARC	Park furniture standards.
19.20	Establish good communication between local people and the ARC to ensure consultation before the granting of any permits for tourism activities in the Ranges or parks.	U	ARC, West Coast Plan Liaison Group, Residents and Ratepayers' Groups & Waitakere Community Board	Advocate for representatives of each local community to have a role in policy development & decision-making with regard to the use of parks and reserves, including making submissions to to ARC Draft Parks Network Management Plan.

KEY Priorities are: U= Urgent N= Necessary D= Desirable E= Easy WCC= Waitakere City Council ARC= Auckland Regional Council



## W h e r e t o f r o m h e r e ?

The West Coast Plan has been developed by a wide group of people to provide a guiding document for the responsible authorities in their policy making and planning. It does not have any legally enforceable status. However there is a strong expectation that the Plan will be used in an ongoing way to influence the long-term management of the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges. The West Coast Plan provides a framework that other plans and policies can refer to as they are developed. To assist this process, the West Coast Plan Liaison Group will undertake the following roles:

- **ADVOCACY**

The West Coast Plan Liaison Group will advocate to ensure that the actions in this plan are adopted in the Strategic Plans and Annual Plans of the relevant public agencies, particularly Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council.

- **MONITORING**

The West Coast Plan Liaison Group will monitor the decisions and actions of public agencies with responsibilities in the area.

In order to carry out these roles it is expected that the Liaison Group will continue.



## THE WEST COAST PLAN LIAISON GROUP

### ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE WEST COAST PLAN LIAISON GROUP ARE:

Anawhata Ratepayers and Residents	Piha Ratepayers and Residents' Association Inc.
Auckland Regional Council	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc.
Auckland Regional Recreational Fishers' Association	Save Piha Shellfish
Bethells/Te Henga Community Group	Te Kawerau a Maki Trust
Huia/Cornwallis Ratepayers and Residents' Association Inc.	Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers' Association
Karekare Resident and Ratepayers' Trust	United Surf Lifesaving Club
Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club	Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents' Association
North Piha Camping Club	Waitakere City Council (and associated Community Boards and Youth Council)
Surf Life Saving Northern Region Association Inc.	Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.
Piha Environmental Group	

In addition many individuals have participated in the Liaison Group as residents, ratepayers, business owners, and other interested parties. Waitakere City Council, as initiator of the project, expresses its appreciation of the effort that all participants have contributed to the development of the West Coast Plan, including those who made comments on the draft Plan.