



Tēnā koe

During June and July, we sought feedback from Waikato communities on key topic areas as part of the Regional Coastal Plan review. We received a great response with feedback received from residents and users, tangata whenua, agencies, and industry.

Communities told us that while they recognise the need to protect our unique marine biodiversity, a high percentage of the feedback opposed any further restrictions be placed on fishing and other activities. Feedback also highlighted a need for the coastal plan to provide for a wider variety of aquaculture opportunities and to ensure public access within the coastal marine is not restricted.

This feedback is now being used to inform the preparation of a new *Waikato Regional Coastal Plan*.

In the meantime, information on the council's coastal plan review, including details on topic areas within the coastal plan, can be found on our website [here](#). An analysis report on the feedback we've received will also be made publicly available on our website soon.

About the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan review

Over the last five years, we've been carrying out a review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan which is the rulebook for activities in the coastal marine area – the wet area below high tide extending out to the 12 nautical mile limit (approximately 20km).

The coastal plan manages and regulates activities like the use of resources, occupation of space, extraction of sand and other materials, aquaculture, the protection of biodiversity, and natural features and landscapes (seascapes) as well as the discharge of contaminants.

The current coastal plan became operative in 2005 and requires significant updates to ensure it meets statutory requirements as well as the needs of our communities.

We anticipate a *Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan* will be notified for public submission in the first half of 2023, providing communities with the opportunity to share their views and feedback on our approach to sustainably manage our region's coastal marine area.

If you have any questions, please email healthyenvironments@waikatoregion.govt.nz