

Te Korowai Meeting Report

6 April 2021

2021 Priorities



- Long Term Plan 2021-2031
- Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury Region
- Shellfish and Seaweed Fisheries Reopening
- Fishing Accord
- Engaging Recreational Fishers via Kaikōura Boating Club
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
- Freshwater Mātaitai
- Climate Change
- Predator Control
- Wakatu Quay & South Bay Harbour Developments
- Community Engagement



Long Term Plan 2021-2031

Councillor Robby Roche presented to Te Korowai on the upcoming Long-Term Plan (LTP) review. Council is seeking to improve processes around consultation, including identifying key groups to present to on issues. Council is currently preempting public consultation by engaging with relevant stakeholders first. Public consultation will be undertaken in June 2021.

The Long Term Plan is Kaikōura District Council's most important planning tool, guiding the work Council plans to undertake over the next decade, and how this work will be supported financially.

Topics discussed included: Rates Affordability and Borrowing Projections, Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, Three Water Reforms, District Plan Review, Roothing, Tourism and Economic Funding, and Environmental Obligations.

Where are we now in regards to community outcomes? How can Te Korowai participate or partner in regulatory and non-regulatory aspects? What can Te Korowai do to foster responsibility in the community, ensuring the the community is aware of the implications of decisions, to overcome apathy and improve environmental outcomes?

Waste Management and Minimisation

- Waste management is going to tender this month. Waste reduction is crucial via behaviour change. Subsidise recycling and pay for waste, i.e. user pays. Kerbside collection costs an issue in the community.
- Are there considerations around minimising fish waste (frames etc) in landfill re blue cod outcomes (disposal at sea)?
- Pest control operations at Innovative Waste Kaikōura (IWK) need to be part of the operating plan. Waste attracts introduced pests, such as mice, rats, cats and stoats. IWK staff report 40+ feral cats at the landfill site at present. These breed and the population spills over onto adjacent peninsula habitat, impacting the survival of coastal wildlife.
- The landfill will be closed within a 3 year period and transitioning to a transfer station in the same location (estimated \$1.5 million change over). Trial to Blue Gums landfill in Blenheim.
- The community has suggested a dog park at the capped landfill site (effectively a contaminated site that cannot be utilised for much else), a fenced recreational area where dogs can be exercised safely off leash. At present most dog owners take their pets to the beach to exercise off leash, negatively impacting wildlife. A dog park would direct owners to a more suitable area for off-leash dogs, resulting in fewer roaming dogs on beaches.

Tourism and Economic Development Funding

- Mel Skinner notes that businesses report 'red tape' around economic development, and that a broader more diverse economy is needed beyond tourism. Kaikōura needs to be more strategic in regards to a development vision and focus on its largest growth areas. Focus on attracting the right type of development and investment for the long-term future.

Environmental Obligations

- The Long-Term Plan has to date poorly reflected the environment. Strategic environmental planning is critical, consider sustainability and environmentalism as a package, as well as focusing on advocacy and outreach. Council needs to integrate environmental outcomes into planning and re-establish a vision. Kaikōura has lost a lot in the environmental sector in recent years, including EarthCheck certification. The community is disconnected from the environment, and Council needs to lead on this. There are also few youth advocacy programmes, a significant gap in community education initiatives for the environment.
- Council will need to consider the environmental impacts of different industries/sectors, particularly around the repercussions of climate change. Increased natural hazard threats and biodiversity losses loom. Increasing droughts driven by global warming are forecast with a drying east coast environment. Consider water zone planning - with reduced rainfall, decreased river flow rates, adjust water takes (e.g. Marlborough district was 2/3 Water Use and 1/3 Environment, is now 1/3 Water Use and 2/3 Environment). Assess cumulative water take and undertake environmental impact assessments. Promote long-term water storage.
- The environment underpins the tourism industry, with Kaikōura's economy relying primarily on a thriving marine environment, and in particular the Kaikōura Canyon. According to NIWA the Kaikōura Canyon was the most prolific site of marine life below 500ft anywhere in the world, prior to the 2016 earthquake. The area is 105% times more prolific than any other site globally. Consider marine protection measures beyond what is in place (e.g. Kaikōura Te Tai o Marokura Marine Management Act 2014, Kaikōura Whale Sanctuary etc).



Sector & Agency Updates

a) Kaikōura District Council (Not Present)

- Matt Hoggard is currently working on the Long-Term Plan review, and planning public consultation.

b) Department of Conservation (Nicola Haisman)

- Jemima Rodden (Community Ranger) is currently on leave. She has been in the field, partaking in Hutton's shearwater/tītī work at the breeding colonies, as well as skink work in the Clarence River valley. Jemima has also been undertaking Hutton's Hub checks, as well as school visits. Jemima will be organising a World Oceans Day beach clean up, which will be advertised in the Kaikōura Star and online.
- Nicola Haisman (DOC) noted that the Kaikōura Night Sky Project was supported by an endorsement letter by Jemima Rodden, and has been endorsed by DOC at the South Marlborough level.
- Jodie Weir started in the new role as Senior Marine Ranger.
- A Biodiversity Ranger role has also been advertised and interviewed for, with a new staff member on board within two months.
- All DOC staff to undertake marine disentanglement team training with Project Jonah.
- Cetacean research will be underway for sperm whales and dusky dolphins, including DOC researcher Dave Lundquist.

c) Paua3 (David Rae)

- The fishery itself is good (100kg take an hour during recent dives), while the market situation is not (conditions are tough). The situation in Asia is still the same re Covid restrictions, e.g. table seating restrictions in Singapore etc.

- The paua industry is looking at size limits for the reopening discussion document, and how to spread that effort within the reopening area (re current population estimates at various sites, and comparing that historically as to how it was managed). Aim to fish the area broadly and not deep, by spreading the effort out so that whole areas can best utilised. There are five or six recreational hotspots ('funnels'), which commercial divers may avoid when possible. MPI public consultation to be advised.

d) CRAMAC5 (Larncé Wichman)

- We received the Minister's decision on 22 March 2021 on the status of NZ lobster stocks. There were four under assessment (CRA1, 3, 4, 5, and PHC (Packhorse)). CRAMAC5 remains status quo in regards to allowances. We will know more on Thursday on the rapid assessment process, based on electronic data records around effort (biomass, behavioural patterns and trends of the fishery). Catch per unit effort vs spawning biomass, currently many assumptions.
- The commercial lobster industry has also purchased three whale tracking devices from Western Australia, to assist in resolving cray pot interactions. These tracking devices can be deployed on sea buoys to track whales which cannot be disentanglement from cray pots immediately (e.g. nightfall approaching). Devices will be retrieved upon disentangling the whale.

e) Kaikōura Marine Guardians (Larncé Wichman)

- A virtual meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2021. Currently researching advice in regards to the Terms of Reference review of the KMG Act 2023. Little input has been requested from KMG - we must be engaged in this process, and at the moment we are very much in the dark. We have not been informed whether we are able to provide a draft before the Minister receives it. It must be a collaborative process, but we do not even know if Te Korowai can be part of the process.
- Considerations around the paua spawning period in relation to the reopening of the shellfish fishery, the feedback was that spawning periods are not a reason for closure. Spawning depends on currents and temperatures, and there can be two spawning periods per year. Size alterations to be planned in the reopening of the fishery, vs a closure. However, it should be noted that paua are vulnerable during spawning, as they form aggregations and can be easier to harvest en masse. The influencing factor may need to be when the season is opened, vs closed. For example, the opening could be delayed for a month. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries already has research committed to undertake a biomass survey, to assess fisheries impacts and undertake adaptive management.
- KMG Annual Plan to be collated for matters over the past 12 months.
- Letter to the MP from the Kaikōura Boating Club, implicating Te Korowai and undermining our position in regards to community engagement processes. The letter pushed agendas of the NZ Sports Fishing Council, and notes concerns about the way that KMG have advised the Minister, and not being consulted directly about the fisheries reopening scenarios.

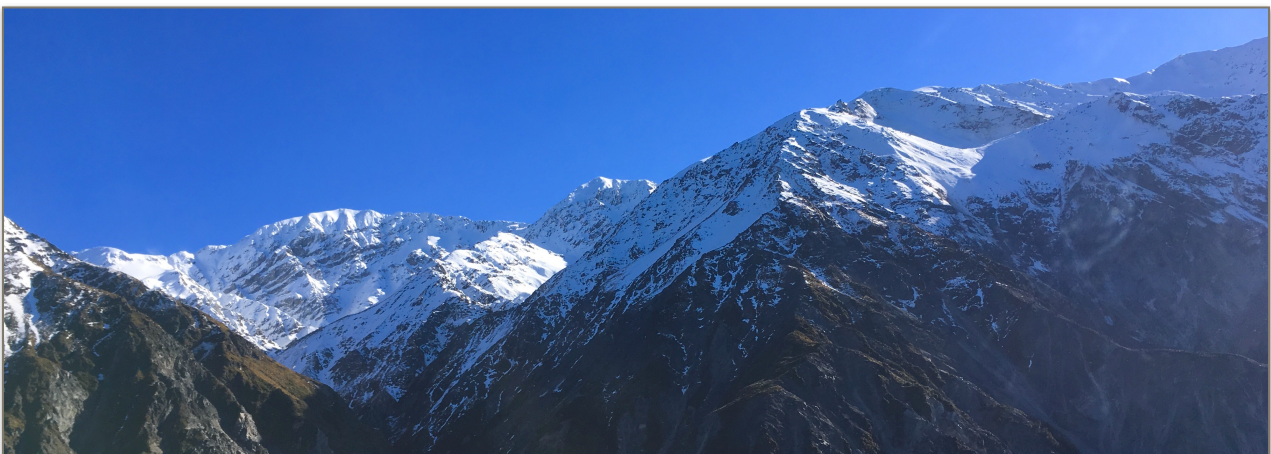


f) Forest & Bird (Sabrina Luecht)

- **Kaikōura Wildlife Hospital:** For the past five years I have voluntarily operated Kaikōura Wildlife Rescue as a non-profit at my own expense, treating hundreds of unwell native birds every year. As a wildlife biologist with extensive animal husbandry skills (particularly for threatened species), I have proven the needs for taonga species during this time. The time to create a long-term community vision has come, and I am currently progressing the Kaikōura Wildlife Hospital concept. The next phase is to initiate a Board of Trustees to progress strategic planning, and funding bids. The vision is a world-class facility in New Zealand's seabird capital, operated from a purpose built wildlife hospital (cost \$5 million), with behind-the-scenes treatment and rehabilitation areas, public display aviaries for recovering patients nearing release, and an education centre. The centre will employ a wildlife/avian vet, vet nurse/rehabilitation technician, husbandry manager, support officer, and education officer. This long-term project will improve biodiversity outcomes, involve the community and provide environmental education programmes. To date we have been promoting the concept to gain public support, and will be consulting with relevant parties in coming months.
- **Kaikōura Night Sky Project:** International Dark Sky Week events are underway this week. 'Discover The Night' event scheduled at the Kaikōura Museum for today 6 April 2021 at 6pm. Kaikōura Library activities will be on offer from 5-12 April. A star gazing event at Fyffe House is to be held on 9 April from 5.30pm.
- **Kaikōura Marine Mammal Foundation:** Dr Krista Hupman (NIWA) is a Kaikōura based marine mammal scientist investigating the possibility of establishing a Marine Mammal Foundation centre.

g) Community (Ted Howard & Mel Skinner)

- **Ted Howard:** A reasonably successful Hutton's shearwater/tītī breeding season this year, with 23 chicks fledged from the Te Rae o Atiu colony on the Kaikōura Peninsula. All chicks had fledged by the morning of 3 April 2021. The heaviest chicks on record this year, with the heaviest individual weighing 680g before decreasing to the fledgling flight weight. Juveniles do not return to the colonies until they are immature birds around 3 years of age. Some adults begin breeding at 4 years of age, the average being 5 or 6 years, and some only at 8 or 9 years. Very few imports from the two remaining natural colonies (Kowhai River and Shearwater Stream), with only two new birds arriving at Te Rae o Atiu since its inception. Fewer crash landing numbers this season, due to better weather conditions, largely a lack of rain and mist, as well as a new moon period. The Hutton's shearwater Farewell event is scheduled for 9am on 11 April 2021.
- **Mel Skinner:** Businesses looking forward to the Tasman bubble reopening in regards to Covid restrictions. Currently 30% down on business, with various industries affected differently. Domestic marketing campaigns are moving ahead. Kaikōura has had some busy periods with long weekends and school holidays. The Business Association has secured regional event funding for legacy events, e.g. CrayFest.



h) ECan (Heath Melville)

- ECan have been undertaking freshwater surveys of short-jaw kōkopu.
- South Bay Beach Action Plan consultation is underway, led by ECan and Shane Orchard from the University of Canterbury. Seeking education and responsibility around recreational beach usage to improve biodiversity outcomes. Three community workshops have been scheduled, with 25 residents attended the second workshop. The date for the third workshop to be confirmed. The third workshop will be presenting a number of options, such as large educational signage at the entry to South Bay, and Po as markers at key parts of the beach to direct users to access areas. Heath Melville expressed disappointment in regards to the lack of community support. Community division has been noted at the meetings. Some residents want to see no restrictions in regards to beach access, with a minor number (4 residents) very against restrictions. Ted Howard noted that ECan has jurisdiction in regards to coastal management, while Kaikōura District Council has jurisdiction over beach access. District councils can address this via a bylaw re a clear avenue to manage access.
- ECan Long-Term Plan consultation is underway at present, with submissions closing on Sunday. The consultation meeting was not well advertised, with low community turn out. Rate increases were the most topical aspect at the meeting.

i) Kaikoura Charter Fishers (Peter Cleall via email)

- The charter sector is still awaiting news on filleting blue cod at sea and being able to return frames back into the ocean - hopefully this can be achievable with not too much delay. There are currently fewer charter tours during the week, with primarily weekend trips if the weather permits.



General Business

• Te Korowai Support

Rachel Vaughan (Chair) noted via email: "If Te Korowai support for research projects or community engagement initiatives is required beyond verbal approval, then the type of support required needs to be clearly communicated. Te Korowai is a collaborative group, not a tick box group to ensure consultation has occurred."

• Wakatu Quay Development

Concerns over lack of environmental consultation in regards to the proposed development. The development team needs to engage an environmental consultant to ensure potential threats are mitigated, working with engineers and architects. The area is an ecologically sensitive site and it is important for Te Korowai to provide input.

- **Te Korowai Member Application - Glen Carbines (Kaikōura Boating Club)**

Glen Carbines submitted a Te Korowai membership application. The application was discussed and approved, subject to the following: Provide a full written vision and objectives of Te Korowai, highlighting the rules and achieving united outcomes. By accepting the invitation to be a member, Glen Carbines would be agreeing to the terms and conditions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 10 May 2021.

Contact Us

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OUR TE KOROWAI O TE TAI O MAROKURA

VISION

By perpetuating the mauri and wairua of Te Tai o Marokura our community as kaitiaki of Tangaroa's taonga are sustaining a flourishing rich and healthy environment where opportunities abound to sustain the needs of present and future generations.

Ka ora te mauri me te wairua o "Te Tai o Marokura" i a tātou ngā kaitiaki nō te hapori tonu, ka ora hoki ko ngā wai, ko ngā uri, ko ngā taonga a Tangaroa, hei painga mō tātou, ā, mō ngā uri ā muri ake nei.

