

Porirua Harbour Accord

Te Awarua o Porirua is a national treasure and an iconic feature of Porirua. The harbour is at the heart of the community and essential to the identity, heritage and values of Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

Kei te mahi tonu tātou hei
whakamaharatanga.

We continue this work
in remembrance of
Stephen Arana Kenny.



Tīmatanga

Introduction

This document sets out Te Wai Ora o Porirua – Porirua Harbour Accord (The Accord). It is an agreement to restore the health of Te Awarua o Porirua (Porirua Harbour).

Te Awarua o Porirua is a national treasure and an iconic feature of Porirua. The harbour is at the heart of the community and essential to the identity, heritage and values of Ngāti Toa Rangatira (Ngāti Toa).

For Ngāti Toa, there is no compromise. We wish our people to be able to harvest food from, swim in and enjoy the waters of Te Awarua o Porirua. We wish for the fish, birds, insects and plants of this ancient ecosystem to thrive once again.

The harbour is a nationally significant ecological area. It is the largest estuary in the Lower-North Island of New Zealand and has important cultural, economic and recreational values. The harbour is also an important source of kaimoana and the location of pā, tauranga waka, marae, urupā and papakainga.

However, the health of the harbour has been negatively impacted by human activity over many years, including reclamation of land and discharges of contaminants, to the point where environmental values have been severely degraded. Unacceptable levels of sediment and other contaminants continue to flow into the harbour, resulting in poor water quality and chronic environmental effects.

Restoring the health of Te Awarua o Porirua is a priority for the partner organisations Porirua City Council, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (acting on behalf of Ngāti Toa), Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council, Tiaki Wai and the many stakeholders, community groups and other organisations that wish to see the health of the harbour restored.

The desire to see harbour health restored is also signalled in the Porirua Whaitua Implementation Programme and Ngāti Toa Statement (to be read alongside it), and The Accord will assist with the implementation of these plans.

The intention of this document is to provide the partners, stakeholders, community groups and other organisations with a clear focus to help prioritise and drive actions which will improve harbour health. It also intends to assist and support the various organisations to work together to achieve the shared vision.

For the partner organisations, this document provides the foundation of what is an enduring relationship.

Te Wai Ora o Parirua Porirua Harbour Accord

Moemoeā Vision

The health and mauri of Te Awarua o Porirua is restored, its waters are healthy and sustainable for future generations and for those who live, work, play or connect with the harbour.

Ko te ora me te mauri o Te Awarua-o-Porirua ka whakahokia, ā, ko ōna wai ka noho hauora, ka toitū mō ngā reanga kei te heke mai, me te hunga e noho ana, e mahi ana, e tākaro ana, e hono ana rānei ki te whanga.

Whāinga Purpose

In order to achieve the vision and objectives, The Accord will:

1. Establish an agreed approach between the partner organisations to improve the health of Te Awarua o Porirua
2. Agree consistent, harmonised and collaborative actions which improve, restore and positively impact the harbour; and
3. Establish, implement and monitor well-resourced, accountable work programmes that deliver the improvements that will restore harbour health.

Ngā Huanga Objectives

1. The Accord seeks to achieve Te Mana o Te Wai and other relevant objectives of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater;
2. The role of tikanga is upheld and guided by mana whenua through the practice of kaitiakitanga;
3. Restoration of the harbour provides for the safe and sustainable gathering of mahinga kai; and
4. A water sensitive catchment is established, where natural water systems are integrated with the built environment to minimise environmental degradation and promote sustainable water outcomes;
5. The Harbour's terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecology and biodiversity is restored and protected;
6. Freshwater and coastal water quality in the catchment is restored and protected;
7. Current and future development and growth must contribute to the protection and restoration of harbour health;
8. Efforts to restore the health of the harbour must also support efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change; and
9. Creative and innovative infrastructure minimises degradation to, and protects the health of, the harbour.
10. Equitable partnership is developed and maintained through the life and application of The Accord.

Ngā Mātāpono Principles

Mana Whenua

1. The fundamental principles for Ngāti Toa are rangatiratanga, whakapapa, mana whenua, mahinga kai, manaakitanga, whānaungatanga, wairuatanga, kotahitanga and kaitiakitanga. These principles guide the relationship with Te Awarua o Porirua as a living and breathing entity.

Partnership

1. Efforts to restore harbour health are based on a partnership model that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Toa Rangatira relationships with responsible councils and communities, and a recognition of the relationship of mana whenua with the environment;
2. The partners demonstrate kotahitanga (solidarity and collective action) and manaaki tangata through a commitment to partnership which involves acting in good faith and respecting one another, and the sharing and gathering of knowledge and resources which benefit the health of the harbour; and
3. Effective and efficient ways of working together are fostered in addition to business-as-usual practices.

Governance

1. The chief executives of each partner organisation are accountable for implementing The Accord and formalising an agreed governance structure; and
2. The chief executives will set the terms of reference for how their organisations will implement The Accord.

Community

1. The Accord supports the participation of the community and community groups dedicated to restoring the health of the harbour; and
2. Community groups are encouraged to participate to help achieve the vision and objectives, however they are not subject to the same level of accountability as the partner organisations.

Resourcing, implementation and monitoring

1. Resourcing and funding of actions and work programmes should be prioritised through each partner organisation's strategic planning activities, wānanga, long-term plans and other planning processes and funding mechanisms;
2. Agreed actions should include a combination of capital investment, regulatory and non-regulatory actions;
3. Decisions relating to the resourcing of actions and work programmes of the partner organisations are joined-up and aligned;
4. To share, in a timely fashion, progress on meeting obligations under The Accord by monitoring and reporting using a Performance Monitoring Framework which will be supported by an iwi-led mauri ora approach for the restoration of Te Awarua o Porirua. The mauri ora approach is to be developed before the Local Government Acts next long-term planning cycle for 2027 and a matured approach to monitoring agreed by the governing parties; and
5. To give effect to The Accord, the governance parties agree the timeframes and priorities for implementation within six-months of the document's signing.

Regulation and evidence

1. Use all available regulatory and evidence-based practices and/or mechanisms to prevent further degradation and restore harbour health; and
2. To share information relating to the state of the harbour environment as outlined in the Performance Monitoring Framework.

This Accord does not override or limit:

1. The legislative rights, powers or obligations of the partner organisations;
2. The ability of the parties to interact or consult with any other person or government agency, iwi, hapū, marae, whānau or their representative; and
3. The development of regulatory mechanisms such as Joint Management Agreements or Transfers of Powers under environmental legislation.

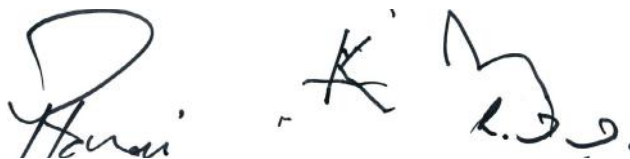
Reviewing The Accord

1. The partner organisations agree that The Accord is a living document which should be updated every three years (aligned with the Local Government Act long-term planning process);
2. The first review of The Accord will take place no later than three years from the document's signing;
3. Work programmes will be established and aligned annually and agreed by the parties' chief executives within six-months of their adoption; and
4. Annual reports setting out the progress of work programmes, as captured by the Performance Monitoring Framework and/or any future mauri ora approach will be presented to the governance body.



SIGNED by,

Agreeing parties to Te Wai Ora
o Parirua - Porirua Harbour Accord



Dr Te Taku Parai, Chairperson

**NGĀTI TOA RANGATIRA
KAUNIHERA KAUMĀTUA**



Callum Katene, Chairperson



Helmut Modlik, CE

 **TE RŪNANGA O
TOA RANGATIRA**



Daran Ponter, Chairperson



Nigel Corry, CE

 **Greater
Wellington**
Te Pane Matua Taiao



Anita Baker, Mayor



Wendy Walker, CE

poriruacity



Tory Whanau, Mayor



Andrea Reeves, Acting CE

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



Will Peet, Chairperson



Michael Brewster, CE

TIAKI WAI
Care in every drop | He wai whakauka

Ngāti Toa Rangatira Kaunihera Kaumatua, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council and Wellington Water signed the Porirua Harbour Accord on 6 February 2025.

Tiaki Wai became the Wellington water services organisation on 1 July 2026 and signed the Porirua Harbour Accord on 15 July 2026.

Original version: 6 February 2025. This version: 15 July 2026. Contact: porirua.harbouraccord@ngatittoa.iwi.nz

