

## Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2022

Progress update status: DELAYED/ ON HOLD IN PROGRESS ON TRACK/COMPLETE

Key: TDC = Tasman District Council, NCC = Nelson City Council, DOC = Department of Conservation, NMFG = Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game, WIF = Waimea Inlet Forum, WICG = Waimea Inlet Coordination Group, TET = Tasman Environmental Trust, Iwi = Te Tau Ihu/Tauihu iwi

Action	Target	Target Date	Lead & Support	NCC Progress Update 2022	TDC Progress Update 2022	DOC / TET / Iwi / NMFG / WIF Progress Update 2022
1.1.1. Investigate the potential feasibility and cost of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island to achieve flushing and therefore reduce sea-lettuce proliferation in the non-flushed pockets of estuary.	Complete feasibility study of altering the causeway to Moturoa/Rabbit Island by 2025.	2025	Lead: Yet to be confirmed, Support: TDC		ON HOLD  No action is proposed until another party decides to lead this action (TDC has a supporting role only). This is a big project requiring consents, iwi input etc.	ON HOLD  No party has decided to lead this action yet.
	Reduce the area of nuisance algal area (areas where macroalgae exceeds 20% cover) by 5% by 2030.	2030	Lead: Yet to be confirmed, Support: TDC		IN PROGRESS  Investigations into the potential causes of the nuisance macroalgae growth (particularly north of Nelson Pine Industries Ltd) is due to take place by Salt Ecology in 2022/2023.	
1.1.2. Ensure commitment to repeat broad-scale habitat monitoring and Estuary Vulnerability Assessment on a 5-yearly cycle to ensure ecological health of the estuary is sustained.	Repeat broad scale habitat monitoring and vulnerability assessments in 2018, 2023, and 2028.	2018, 2023, 2028	Lead: TDC/NCC	ON TRACK  NCC contributed to the 2020 broad scale mapping report. The priority over the next 3 years will be to work with TDC to address some of the issues identified in the report and undertake additional sediment and biomonitoring in other Nelson estuaries post-Aug flood.  The NCC vulnerability report 2017 will not be repeated in 2022/23. Development of a long-term programme and regional analysis on baseline state, issues and limits will be considered before 2024 as part of the Whakatu Plan review and implementation of recent changes in national policy.	ON TRACK  The 2020 broad-scale mapping report provided robust information about the health of the estuary. A StoryMap was published so people can more easily assimilate this information.  The frequency of this mapping has been pushed out to 8-10 yearly to free up resources to achieve several of the recommendations from this report. The next report will be in 2028 instead of 2023.  One of the recommendations in the 2020 report is impact monitoring, such as looking more closely at the causes of the issues raised in the Broad Scale mapping report.  The Council did a vulnerability assessment for the Inlet in 2010. Very little has changed and there is no intention to repeat it.	
1.2.1. Manage and restore key habitats managed on public and private land	Identify key sites, plus linking corridors and transition zones, to be managed to protect estuarine habitats by 1 July 2019. Also consider options for formal protection.	2020	Lead: WIF, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC		ON TRACK  The implementation of two Ministry for the Environment funded projects that focus on the enhancement of the Waimea Inlet are well underway. Much progress has been made over the first two years, with over 58,000 natives plants having been planted across a number of sites, both public and private; control of weed species underway; weed mapping of the entire Inlet completed and management plan produced; salt marsh restoration trials underway at Best Island and Orchard Stream; and a first phase of earthworks at the Waimea Delta for wetland enhancement.	WIF: COMPLETE  WIF has produced maps with all significant habitats marked. This map will be shared with the group soon.
1.2.2. Develop ecological corridors and transition zones linking habitats				ON TRACK  NCC still progressing with Bio-corridors work. Bio-corridors practice note has been completed and now working on developing the request-for-quote for a Bio-corridors Strategy.	ON TRACK  The work of the MfE-funded Waimea projects looks to further enhance and link existing restoration projects which create ecological corridors linking habitats. This is undertaken within TDC and externally with TET, DOC, NCC and private landowners.  Additionally, this action is being considered through the Tasman Environment Plan review. Stage 1 of the marine indigenous biodiversity project (commenced August 2022) will identify indigenous biodiversity in the catchment management area. Stage 2 (beginning	

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					create management responses, including identifying areas for restoration.	
1.2.3. Increase the area of saltmarsh, naturally vegetated duneland and naturally-vegetated estuary margin in the Waimea Inlet.	Increase the area of naturally vegetated dune land on Moturoa/Rabbit and Rough Island by 10% compared with 2018 by 2026 and maintain Sand Island status of marram grass free.	2026	Lead: TDC/NCC, Support: WIF/DOC		ON TRACK  3.2 hectares have been planted across Rough Island, Moturoa and Manuka Island in winter 2022 as part of the Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees Phase 2 project. A further 1-hectare planting will be undertaken in 2023 at Moturoa.	
	Increase the area of saltmarsh in the Waimea Inlet by 5% by 2030.	2030	Lead: TDC/NCC	ON TRACK  NCC continues to progress Waimea Inlet edge restoration plantings. Last planting under the TET supported 1 Billion Trees project planted in June. This planting was of 1840 plants. Around 900 of these were saltmarsh ribbonwood.  A chenier ridge (sandy ridge separated by silty deposits) has been constructed at the Orchard Stream delta. This is to reduce the effects of wave action on the foreshore area with hope to establish rushes ( <i>Juncus kraussii</i> ).	ON TRACK  Saltmarsh restoration (i.e. planting areas below MHS with appropriate species) is ongoing in a number of locations.  A specific saltmarsh restoration trial is underway at Best Island, where an old road has been remediated (ripped), planted and propagules of glasswort spread. This will be monitored over time to measure natural regeneration.  A further project is planned at Borck Creek mouth. This is expected to take place in early 2023.	
	Increase the area of naturally-vegetated estuary margin by 10km (to an average width of 10m) by 2026, compared with 2018.	2026	Lead: WIF/TET, Support: TDC/NCC	ON TRACK  As mentioned above TET supported plantings have seen an additional 1840 native trees and shrubs planted in June 2022. Ecological Restoration Plans have been completed for Waimea Inlet Esplanade Reserves and are currently being developed for Airport Peninsula. These will guide restoration efforts at these locations, so restoration is locally authentic and extends vegetated margins.	ON TRACK  Through the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project and Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees (Phase 2) projects, over 58,000 natives have been planted thus far, covering a total area of approximately 11.5 hectares. Much of this has been on the Inlet margin areas.	WIF/TET: ON TRACK  WIF/TET have planted 46,665 plants through the Battle for the Banded Rail and 1 Billion Trees projects (this does not include co-funded plants from TDC and NCC) This is equivalent to approximately 3km.  DOC: ON TRACK  DOC have fully completed the Mataahua planting project. DOC will maintain the plantings via the One Billion Trees project 2022/2023.
1.2.4. Minimise further shoreline armoring and promote use of “soft engineering” techniques wherever possible for all infrastructure including replacement armoring, roads, and cycleways.	No increase in the net extent of shoreline armoring by 2030 and increase use of “soft engineering” techniques wherever possible.	2030	Lead: TDC/NCC		ON TRACK  There has not been any new rock armoring around the Waimea Inlet over the past year. Saltmarsh trials are underway. These may be an effective soft-engineering technique to help protect sections of Tasman’s Great Taste Trail.	

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1.2.5. Promote formal protection of natural areas (e.g. covenant, change in land tenure).	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	All		IN PROGRESS  Formal protection is being considered through the Tasman Environment Plan review.	WIF: IN PROGRESS  TDC has classified existing reserves in the Moutere-Waimea Ward and adopted the revised Management Plan for all of those reserves, but many areas are not fully protected yet.
2.1.1. Include consideration of the natural values of the inlet in all proposed changes to the Resource Management Plans.	Review the policies of the Nelson and Tasman Resource Management Plans to ensure that they require protection of Inlet values and meet the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) (as set out in the progressive implementation plans).	2025	Lead: TDC/NCC	IN PROGRESS  Preliminary drafting of the Whakatu Nelson Plan has been done for the National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management 2017. The Whakatu Plan Freshwater chapter is effectively on hold and will require notification by 2024.	IN PROGRESS  Natural values of the Inlet and appropriate activities in the coastal environment area are required to be considered in all Plan Changes under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS).  Work is underway to review the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP). The consideration of the natural values of the Waimea Inlet will be a part of this review.  There will be another public feedback round on a draft plan in 2023, and an intention to publicly notify a combined Tasman Environment Plan (TEP) in Dec 2024.  As part of the TEP development, a landscape study and natural character assessment has been undertaken, focusing on outstanding natural features, landscapes and characteristics, new rules, policies, and objectives.  In terms of biodiversity, there will be a focus on the coastal, riparian margins, estuaries, marine and land-based environments.	
2.1.2. Clean up pollution sources (both point and non-point pollution) and monitor progress	Complete review of water quality in contributing waterways and document required remedial action by 2025	2025	Lead: TDC/NCC	IN PROGRESS  NCC has a stormwater and wastewater improvement programme (3 year project) which assesses sources of pollution, prioritises at risk catchments, monitoring and stormwater treatment devices appropriate for contaminants. Existing resource management plan rules and land development manual guidelines need to be updated to meet requirements for managing stormwater contaminants at source.	IN PROGRESS  An issues and options report has been prepared that looks at the groundwater nitrate issue to identify options for an action plan to address nitrate levels over time. Public feedback will be sought on this report and the action plan in late 2022.  In late 2021, Council initiated the Waimea Nitrate Project together with industry groups and growers on the Waimea Plains. Workshops were held between Nov 2021 and March 2022. The project aims to ensure all growers have Freshwater Farm Plan equivalents by the end of 2022. The project addresses nutrient and irrigation management as a first step to addressing the nitrate levels in groundwater that feeds the spring-fed streams entering the estuary. The plan is to run a face-to-face workshop as soon as possible and to show those farm plans completed and then help develop farm plans with other growers. In the meanwhile, Fruiton has been contracted to gather data to re-run modelling. This data has been collected and modelling done with the final report published in June 2022.	

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					<p>The resource consent for discharges from Council-controlled urban stormwater systems (RM191019) was granted in May 2021. As required by this consent a monitoring plan has been developed. Monitoring under this plan is likely to start in 2023. The consent also requires actions in relation to Catchment Management Plans that have been developed for all Richmond catchments.</p> <p>Investigations into elevated E.coli concentrations have been undertaken in Reservoir, Jimmy-Lee and Borck Creeks and into elevated nitrate in Saxton Creek. This has also involved investigations through the stormwater pipe network.</p>	
2.1.3. Restore freshwater ecosystems.	Establish a list of priority sites for restoration work on freshwater ecosystems by 2022.	2022	Lead: TDC/NCC	<p><b>COMPLETE</b></p> <p>NCC is continuing its work from 2020: restoration work to enhance inanga spawning habitat across streams around Stoke, ecological restoration for Poorman Valley Stream and the eDNA surveys to assess the success of habitat restoration.</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE/ IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>TDC and Salt Ecology have developed a list of priority sites for the south-east arm of the Waimea Inlet.</p> <p>Restoration of priority sites is progressing. Waimea Delta wetland enhancement project is well underway, with a further phase of earthworks planned for 2023. During 2022, large ponds were created, with the aim of creating suitable habitat for marsh birds. Saltmarsh restoration at Best Island SW foreshore (ripping the compacted ground and limited planting and seeding) and Borck-Sandeman (providing increased seawater inundation and limited planting) are both partially complete.</p>	<p><b>DOC: ON TRACK</b></p> <p>Wetland creation and planting underway at Eves Valley wetland.</p> <p><b>FISH &amp; GAME: ON TRACK</b></p> <p>Fish &amp; Game had high-level engagement with the Environmental Defence Society investigation into erosion risk.</p>
	Catchment nutrient, sediment, faecal and other contaminants concentrations to the tributaries going into the Inlet are reduced by 10% by 2026.	2026	Lead: TDC/NCC	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Met through the stormwater and wastewater improvement programme and implementation of National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in the Whakatu Plan.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>The Council's focus is on meeting requirements set in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management .</p> <p>The Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) project is ongoing. The Council is seeking funding in conjunction with industry for flocculation (separation of solids from liquids to produce soft flakes) research and a project to establish national guidance for ESC.</p> <p>The land disturbance rule review has been postponed.</p> <p>The Land Development Manual for Nelson-Tasman became operative in 2019.</p> <p>The Waimea Nitrate Project has been initiated with industry groups and growers on the Waimea Plains (detailed earlier).</p> <p>Increasing (degrading) E.coli concentrations in Richmond streams are being investigated (as discussed above). Resource consent for discharges to streams from urban stormwater networks (RM191019) requires action in this regard. E.coli concentrations in the Waimea River are also increasing (degrading the environment). More resources under the Catchment Enhancement Fund</p>	

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					concentrations in Neimann Creek are thought to be from Pukeko – however, no genetic markers are available for Pukeko.	
2.1.4. Promote riparian fencing and planting programs.	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	Lead: TDC/NCC		ON TRACK  Utilising funding from the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees Phase 2 project, we have continued to plant a number of riparian margins on public and private land around the Inlet.  400 linear metres of fencing was established through the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, with MfE and TDC funding. This was on private land that was previously being grazed. This area (1ha) will now be retired and planted in primarily saltmarsh species.  A further 125m of fencing was undertaken at Manuka Island by the landowner.	
2.1.5. Monitor toxin levels, identify problems, establish clean-up programmes and monitor progress.	All urban and industrial storm water and effluent discharges to streams in the catchment meet ANZECC (2000) ISQG low sediment toxicity criteria within 50m of the discharge outfall by 2030.	2030	Lead: TDC/NCC	IN PROGRESS  A Coastal and Marine monitoring programme is underway. Fine scale monitoring for sediment quality. No additional monitoring of point discharges planned.	IN PROGRESS  Work is underway to review the Regional Policy Statement and Tasman Resource Management Plan and develop a Tasman Environment Plan.  The resource consent for discharges from Council-controlled urban stormwater systems (RM191019) was granted in May 2021. A monitoring plan was developed in 2022 and sediment and toxic chemical monitoring is included.	
	Commence remediation of old dumps on the estuary margins as they are discovered.	All years	Lead: Not yet assigned, Support: TDC/NCC		ON TRACK  No new sites have been discovered since the last report.	
2.2.1. Undertake biosecurity surveillance and response.	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	Lead: TDC/NCC	ON TRACK  The Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Management Strategy is being delivered upon currently, with a contractor engaged to target class 2 and 3 pest plants around the entirety of the Inlet margins and islands.	ON TRACK  The Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Management Strategy is being delivered upon currently, with a contractor engaged to target class 2 and 3 pest plants around the entirety of the Inlet margins and islands.	
2.2.2. Manage and reduce weed populations and exclude new weeds	Develop a unified strategic weed management control plan with appropriate agencies/stakeholders that identifies species and sites, establishes the most appropriate management approach by 2021.	2021	Lead: TDC/NCC, Support: DOC		COMPLETE  The weed mapping exercise started in 2020 was completed and used to inform development of a Waimea Inlet Pest Plant Strategy. This Strategy will guide future action in parallel with ongoing work to control known pest plants in the Inlet. The Plan was presented to the Coordination Group by the authors (Kaitiaki o Ngahere) at the November 2021 Coordination Group hui and feedback invited. This Strategy will be used inform further weed control in the Waimea Inlet for the next four years.	DOC: COMPLETE  DOC have passed on comments and observations to TDC  WIF/TET: ON TRACK  Battle for Banded Rail (B4BR) has a regular group of volunteers maintaining restoration sites (with support of contractors where needed)  B4BR organises around 25 weeding mornings over the year. There have been 17 weeding mornings held so far this year (up to Oct 22).
	Secure funding for control of Jellybean ice-plant by 2020.	2020	Lead: DOC, Support: TDC/NCC		IN PROGRESS	DOC: COMPLETE

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					This control work is ongoing, with NLR Nelson being the lead contractor. Known infestations have been mapped and will be controlled in the next two years.	DOC is still sharing information. Sightings of <i>Carex divisa</i> and <i>Juncus gerardii</i> have also been reported.
	Management plan for <i>Gambusia</i> written by March December 2019, and implementation of the fully funded plan commenced by 2021.	2021	Lead: DOC, Support: TDC/NCC			DOC: IN PROGRESS  <i>Gambusia</i> eradication from all known locations within the Nelson-Tasman area has been assessed as being unfeasible. It is not possible to ensure that the risk of re-invasion is virtually nil (either through deliberate re-introductions or by natural means during the couple of years it would take to conduct all the individual/separate eradication operations needed across the known distribution from Riwaka to Nelson). Eradication from creeks draining into the Waimea Inlet is unlikely to occur. Now that we understand that full eradication is not possible, development of a management/ containment plan is needed. DOC will work on this new plan during 2023.
	Spartina eradication programme fully funded and implementation commenced (5-year control and 5-year monitoring) by 2022.	2022	Lead: DOC, Support: TDC		ON TRACK  Additional resources are being put into Spartina eradication through the Jobs for Nature funded landscape-scale weed control project.	DOC – ON TRACK  Jobs for Nature work is ongoing for next two years.
3.1.1. Plan for managed retreat of natural ecosystems as sea level rises and climate effects intensify.	Integrate consideration of the likely impact of sea level rise and other climate change effects on the viability of estuary margins and on threatened species and wildlife, into Council-led climate change planning, by April 2026.	2026	Lead: TDC/NCC	IN PROGRESS  NCC and TDC are undertaking a joint regional climate change risk assessment in 2023 that will include an assessment of risks to the natural environment. This will help inform our long-term climate adaptation strategy.	IN PROGRESS  This target has been included in TDC's 'Tasman Climate Action Plan' (TCAP) and is also a consideration for the development of the Tasman Environment Plan (TEP), our second-generation resource management plan. Staff have been drafting issues and options for the TEP and working on a review of TCAP. The joint regional climate change risk assessment will inform the TCAP review.	
	Identify key opportunities to enhance ecological sequences and support landowners/stakeholders to implement to enable managed retreat by 1 July 2020.	2020	Lead: TDC/NCC, Support: WIF		ON TRACK  Some of the MfE (Jobs for Nature) funding has been used for restoration trials around the Waimea Inlet (as described in 2.1.3 above).	WIF/TET: ON TRACK  The Battle for the Banded Rail project continues to work with participating landowners (including Councils) to ensure habitat will respond to sea level rise.
	Create a managed retreat and climate change response action plan by 1 July 2026.	2026	Lead: TDC/NCC	ON TRACK  In June – August 2022, NCC engaged with the community on the projected impacts of coastal and Maitai River flooding, different types of adaptation options, and what the community values most about living in Nelson. The next step is to use the community's values to develop objectives (early 2023) that will guide our adaptation response. Following the regional climate change risk assessment, we will start developing specific adaptation options.	ON TRACK  The TDC Coastal Management Project (CMP) is working towards developing our long-term adaptive plan for sea level rise and coastal hazards. This information will inform the development of the TEP as well as wider Council work programmes (e.g. infrastructure and asset management).  Following community engagement in 2021 looking at high level coastal management options, the Council released a summary of feedback report in April 2022.	

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				introduction of the Climate Adaptation Bill which will include a managed retreat framework), and by 2026 develop an adaptive planning strategy.	Next steps will be to consider options at the local level, recognising that the Resource Management Act reform and the National Adaptation Plan are likely to significantly influence next steps in this project.	
	Create a priority list of sites to be managed, including key habitats/seed source by 2024.	2024	Lead: WIF, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC		ON TRACK  The Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan is currently being reviewed and updated. A process which will assist with setting of priorities.	WIF: ON TRACK  Mapping of significant natural areas complete. There is still a need to highlight the gaps, especially to work with private landowners to identify and secure those areas that will be needed for saltmarsh migration in response to sea level rise.
3.1.2. Prevent new infrastructure on sites where managed retreat for biodiversity is required and analyse the social and economic effects on the community.	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	Lead: TDC/NCC		IN PROGRESS  Work on the catchment management plan and associated community engagement is ongoing (see Action 3.1.1.c)	
4.1.1. Restore fish habitat and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways.	Complete programmes to restore fish habitat, including spawning sites, and identify and remove targeted fish passage barriers in contributing waterways by 1 July 2026	2026	Lead: TDC/NCC		ON TRACK  Opportunities for enhancing stream habitat in Richmond streams were identified in 2017, but little progress has been made. Reservoir Creek downstream of Hill St is suffering a degrading bed and limited gravel supply for in-stream habitat. More meander in this waterway is needed to be provided to slow gravel movement downstream, as well as improve freshwater ecology values. An assessment of potential improvement of this situation is due to take place in late 2022.  A district-wide inanga spawning site enhancement plan is underway. Enhancement of the inanga spawning site on Reservoir Creek was completed in autumn 2022. Erosion has removed some of this site. A recent piece of stormwater infrastructure has removed some spawning habitat in Borck Creek.  Stream habitat enhancement at Neimann Creek is ongoing – considerable riparian planting has been completed following the sediment removal and willow removal. Tidegates are being considered on this creek to improve freshwater ecosystems without compromising fish passage.  While fish passage was provided throughout Reservoir Creek erosion at the spillway at Templemore Pond has created a significant new fish passage barrier. No progress has been made on providing fish passage at in-stream structures in the area from Washbourne Gardens to Bill Wilkes reserve. Planning for fish passage improvements at the Pearl Creek tidegate is underway. Gravel from the Easby Park gravel trap is being stockpiled in the Borck Creek corridor for use on saltmarsh restoration projects (it has too greater fines content for use in streams).	

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4.1.2. Identify and protect areas of native vegetation within the Waimea Inlet and surrounds.	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	Lead: TDC/NCC		<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>Ongoing work as part of implementation of the Tasman BioStrategy, the review of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and activity under the Waimea Inlet Enhancement project will help identify and protect areas of native vegetation in the Waimea Inlet.</p> <p>The Moturoa/Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan includes policies that provide protection to significant native habitat remnants on these islands and the Moutere-Waimea Ward RMP includes policies to protect and restore reserves bordering the Waimea Inlet.</p> <p>This is also being considered through the Tasman Environment Plan review. Stage 1 of the marine indigenous biodiversity project (commenced August 2022) will identify areas of native vegetation in the catchment management area and on the foreshore. Stage 2 (beginning Jan+ 2023) will identify habitats of significance, and stage 3 will create management responses, including protection. The terrestrial part of the Waimea Inlet will also be assessed through a separate project.</p>	
4.1.3. Identify areas subject to tidal influence and work with landowner to exclude stock.	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	Lead: TDC		<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>400 linear metres of fencing was undertaken through the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, with MfE and TDC funding. This was on private land that was previously being grazed. This area (1ha) will now be retired and planted in primarily saltmarsh species.</p> <p>A further 125m of fencing was undertaken at Manuka Island by the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, this is being considered through the Tasman Environment Plan review.</p>	
4.1.4. Enhance ecological sequences and support landowners/stakeholders to implement (e.g. embayment margins).	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	Lead: TDC/NCC Support: TET	<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>Council has developed an Ecological Restoration Plan (ERP) for the Waimea Inlet edge within Nelson and also is in the process of developing an ERP for Airport Peninsula. These documents will guide Councils restoration activities and operational management practices.</p>	<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>Consultation between TDC and landowners is ongoing, as planting areas expand out from key sites (generally embayment).</p> <p>The MfE Funded Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees Phase 2 project is working on private land as well as public. Over the past year, restoration projects have been undertaken on the Hoddy Peninsula, Stringer wetland and Neimann Creek.</p>	<p>TET: ON TRACK</p> <p>Battle for the Banded Rail is a key organisation for engaging with neighbours and participating landowners, with an ongoing maintenance programme, and working bees to assist landowners.</p>
5.1.1 Protect the Back Beach Beetle from extinction.	Develop a strategic approach to the current and future management of the Back Beach Beetle by 31 December 2020.	2020	Lead: DOC Support: NCC	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>NCC assisted by preparing a management plan in 2019 to protect the Back Beach Beetle for DOC to implement.</p>		<p>DOC: IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Priority sites list to be developed for further survey scheduled March 2023.</p>
5.1.2. Actively manage	Pursue a full programme	2025	Lead: DOC,			<p>DOC: IN PROGRESS</p>



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Action	Target	Target Date	Lead & Support	NCC Progress Update 2022	TDC Progress Update 2022	DOC / TET / Iwi / NMFG / WIF Progress Update 2022
the Inlet and its surrounds.	<i>Lepidium banksii</i> - coastal peppergrass including with community and botanic gardens for ex-situ populations and seed banking including annual weed and pest control, monitoring in situ and ex-situ of peppergrass and its threats and identifying, and if required, restoring sites suitable for the introduction of <i>Lepidium banksii</i> by 2025.					Three planter box sites containing <i>Lepidium banksii</i> are still being monitored.  Proposed Plant and Food Research project (undertake genome sequencing to look at genetic diversity of the population) has not been confirmed.
	Update the DOC Ecological Management Unit (EMU) assessment including comprehensive listing of threatened species and locally significant species and their requirements.	Ongoing	Lead: DOC, Support: TDC/NCC		IN PROGRESS  This work will be a requirement under the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, and is a priority action in the Tasman Biodiversity Strategy.	DOC: IN PROGRESS  DOC priorities are the back beach beetle and <i>Lepidium banksii</i>
5.1.3. Manage the effects of domestic and feral animals on native animals and plants including effects of cats and dogs.	Complete a unified strategic animal pest control plan to “control” all predators and herbivores where these are a threat to threatened species and habitats by 30 June 2022.	2022	Lead: TET, Support: All	IN PROGRESS  Battle for Banded Rail trapping occurs along the Waimea Inlet edge in Nelson. Additional trapping efforts of Oyster Island and Airport Peninsula continues to be discussed.	IN PROGRESS  TDC continues to support the TET’s trapping work.  Feral cats are a declared pest in the Waimea Inlet Site Lead Programme under the Regional Pest Management Plan.  The TDC Dog Bylaw will go under a full review in 2024. Currently, the Bylaw allows dogs to be off leash (but under control) on Rough Island, but are prohibited from Sand Island, Moturoa/Rabbit Island, and parts of Bell Island.	Fish & Game: IN PROGRESS  NMFG continue to manage the predator line at the eastern end of Moturoa.  WIF: IN PROGRESS  The Regional Predator Control Strategy has been developed. A total of 1,070 traps and 78 monitoring stations are maintained through the Battle for the Banded Rail project. Māpua Dawn Chorus has 319 traps (registered on trapnz). Feral cat control continues to take place at selected sites around the Inlet. A monthly trap library is available in Māpua for residents to get advice and borrow traps as required. Battle for the Banded Rail facilitates education opportunities, helping to raise awareness of managing predator species and domestic pets around the Inlet with schools and talks.
5.1.4. Develop and implement baseline distribution surveys and/or monitoring programmes for banded rail, fern bird, marsh crake, spotless crake, and Australasian bittern	Prepare a unified plan for bird surveys, including site conditions (roosting, nesting, feeding), conducted by different groups by 31 December 2022. Note, also applies to Action 5.	2022	Lead: WIF/TET, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC	ON TRACK  Rob Schuckard and David Melville prepared the following report for NCC and TDC: <a href="#">Nelson-Nature-Coast-Coastal-birds-of-NelsonTasman-BirdsNZ-Feb19.pdf</a> , which includes recommendations for future monitoring and research.  OSNZ/Birds New Zealand currently have an active fernbird research project at the Wakapuaka sandflats. Research findings from that study will help inform Waimea Inlet restoration practices so they are more suited to fernbird.	ON TRACK  Two detailed scientific reports commissioned by TDC about coastal birds were completed in 2022: (i) “A baseline survey of the indigenous bird values of the Tasman District coastline of the Tasman/Nelson Region” (McArthur et al, February, 2022) and (ii) “A Review of the Management Issues and Options for Coastal Birds in the Tasman District” (McArthur et al, September, 2022).  The baseline survey report describes the findings from the first comprehensive survey of a large proportion of the coastline for coastal birds ever done in Tasman. In Waimea Inlet, particularly high	WIF: ON TRACK  A wader survey was completed, and a banded rail survey undertaken in September 2022. The bi-annual banded rail survey included 17 volunteers and surveyed 9 transects. The next fernbird survey will take place in 2024.

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				NCC is also in the process of commissioning a consultant to produce a report that will outline NCC obligations in relation to coastal bird management and monitoring.	along the Richmond foreshore, along the western and southern shorelines of Moturoa/Rabbit Island, at the Bell Island Shellbank, the Waimea River mouth, and along the Māpua foreshore.	
5.2.1. Manage human disturbance of wildlife.	Identify activities that disturb wildlife and develop actions to reduce them by 1 July 2022	2022	Lead: WIF/TET, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC	<p>IN PROGRESS:</p> <p>NCC Science and Environment staff continue to raise awareness around the role of disturbance on wildlife. Most recently this was with the Waka Kotahi proposal for widening the shared pathway along Whakatu Drive.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS:</p> <p>In Feb 2020, Nikki McArthur was commissioned to undertake a comprehensive review of threats to all coastal birds, and opportunities for restoring populations. This report was completed in September 2022 (see Action 5.1.4 above).</p> <p>A report on 'Coastal Birds of Tasman – Areas of importance, threats, options and recommendations for management' was presented to the TDC Operations Committee in September. In response, Councillors have instructed staff instructed to develop a 'Coastal Bird Monitoring and Management Action Plan'.</p> <p>The results of this review will allow TDC and its partner agencies and stakeholders to prioritise the future delivery of coastal management actions towards those sites that support the most important populations of coastal birds in the Tasman District, and those sites that are being most severely impacted by one or more threats. The delivery of these management actions will in turn contribute towards the implementation of a number of policies in the Tasman Environment Plan, and a number of the actions outlined in both the Tasman Biodiversity Strategy - Te Mana o te Taiao ki te Tai o Aorere and the Waimea Inlet Action Plan.</p>	<p>WIF: IN PROGRESS</p> <p>WIF have continued to raise several issues in submissions, including proposals on cat and dog control.</p> <p>The question of jet skis remains thorny. WIF suggests 5kt speed limit over the entire Inlet, but there is no way of policing this. WIF advocate for registration of mechanised craft that travel over 5kt speed, recognising that implementation is beyond the scope of WIF's control.</p>
5.2.2. Reduce the impacts of cats and dogs around the estuary as populations pressures increase.	Identify important wildlife areas (including related areas outside Waimea) and actions required to manage human activities that disturb wildlife by 1 July 2022	2022	Lead: WIF/TET, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC		<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Feral cats are declared pests in the Waimea Inlet Site Lead Programme under the Regional Pest Management Plan.</p> <p>TDC continues to implement and enforce the dog control by-law, which provides some protection to wildlife at key sites (e.g., dogs are prohibited on Moturoa/Rabbit Island).</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>WIF have continued to raise several issues in submissions (e.g. microchipping or restricting domestic cats adjacent to the Inlet).</p> <p>Cat trapping is taking place at selected sites around the inlet.</p>
5.2.3. Give formal protection to, and manage human activities in, important wildlife areas	Identify important wildlife areas (including related areas outside Waimea) and actions required to manage human activities that disturb wildlife by 1 July 2022	2022	Lead: WIF/TET, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC		<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>See Action 5.2.1 above.</p> <p>Work is underway to review the Regional Policy Statement and Tasman Resource Management Plan.</p> <p>As part of the TEP development, there will be a focus on coastal, riparian margins, estuaries, marine and land-based biodiversity. The NZCPS will help to identify appropriate activities in the coastal environment area.</p> <p>TDC continues to implement and enforce the dog control by-law, which provides some protection to wildlife at key sites (e.g., dogs are prohibited on Moturoa/Rabbit Island, Sand Island, and parts of Bell</p>	<p>WIF: IN PROGRESS</p> <p>See Action 1.2.5 above.</p>

**Implementing targets from the Waimea Inlet Action Plan – progress during 2022**

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Action	Target	Target Date	Lead & Support	NCC Progress Update 2022	TDC Progress Update 2022	DOC / TET / Iwi / NMFG / WIF Progress Update 2022
5.2.4 Follow recommended actions from 'Effects of selected activities on shorebirds in Tasman District - Management issues and options for site of International Importance' David S. Melville and Rob Schuckard November 2013.					IN PROGRESS  See Action 5.2.1 above.	WIF: IN PROGRESS  See Action 5.1.4 above.
5.2.5. Continue monitoring of populations and site conditions (roosting, nesting, feeding) as part of State of the Environment monitoring to determine the effectiveness of coastal management actions and RMA compliance.	Prepare a unified plan for bird surveys, including site conditions (roosting, nesting, feeding), conducted by different groups by 31 December 2022.	2022	Lead: WIF/TET, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC	ON TRACK  Council is also in the process of commissioning a consultant to produce a report that will help to outline NCC obligations in relation to coastal bird management and monitoring	ON TRACK  See Action 5.1.4 above.	Fish & Game: ON TRACK  NMFG monitor grey teal and Australasian Shoveler annually within Waimea Inlet, as well as paradise shelduck, Australasian swan, and Canada geese.  WIF: IN PROGRESS  See Action 5.1.4 above.
6.1.1. Review plans and actions with tangata whenua to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupūna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho.	Dialogue established with all iwi with statutory acknowledgements	Ongoing	Lead: Chair of WIC Group, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC		IN PROGRESS  Iwi were extensively involved with development of the Tasman Biostrategy (adopted in mid-2022). This helped to ensure that principles of te ao Māori were embedded in the Biostrategy.  TDC has worked together with iwi to review the Moutere-Waimea Ward Reserve Management Plan (adopted in mid-2022), taking these principles into consideration.  TDC continues to have dialogue with iwi as part of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (the Alliance includes TDC and iwi).  TDC Environmental Policy staff are working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi on development of a freshwater planning framework that gives effect to Te Mana O Te Wai (2021-2024+).  Iwi have been invited to engage in the work to review the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan (a draft version of this document has recently been shared with iwi).	WIF: IN PROGRESS  This is now being progressed as part of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan review.
6.1.1. Review plans and actions with tangata whenua to ensure rangatiratanga and take tupūna are recognised in the management of nga taonga tuku iho.	Waimea Inlet Management Strategy updated by mid-2022 and Action Plan updated by mid-2023 .	mid-2023	Lead: WIF/TET, Support: TDC/NCC/DOC		ON TRACK  Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan is on track to be updated by mid-2023.	
6.1.2. Support the Moturoa Wananga pilot project.	No target	2019	Lead: TDC		COMPLETE  The pilot was successful with all students completing the course in 2020. In conjunction with DOC, the NMFG now offer this 12-month NZ Certificate in Conversation (Operations) Level 4 qualification on an	

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Action	Target	Target Date	Lead & Support	NCC Progress Update 2022	TDC Progress Update 2022	DOC / TET / Iwi / NMFG / WIF Progress Update 2022
6.2.1. Identify what is negatively impacting the wairua and mauri of the Inlet	Baseline assessments of issues, barriers and remedial actions completed by 1 July 2023.	2023	Lead: Iwi Support: TDC/NCC/DOC		IN PROGRESS  Iwi identified to lead, TDC will provide support as required. These matters may be considered by iwi as part of the review of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy and Action Plan.  Some of these barriers are identified in the Moturoa/Rabbit Island reserve management plan (2016) and draft Moutere-Waimea Ward reserve management plan (2021).  TDC Environmental Policy staff are working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi on development of a freshwater planning framework that gives effect to Te Mana O Te Wai (2021-2024+) which will feed into this work.	
6.2.2. Identify barriers to capacity to exercise customary practices, tikanga, and mātauranga processes including association with waahi tapu.					IN PROGRESS  See Action 6.2.1 above.	
7.1.1. Sustain the Waimea Inlet Forum as the primary approach to whole of community collaboration.	Reporting by all participating organisations every three years at Waimea Inlet Forums with progress reports annually.	Annual	All		ON TRACK  TDC continue to coordinate annual progress reports. This is our fourth progress report.	WIF: ON TRACK  This is our fourth annual progress report, with TET providing administration support to WIF.  WIF continues to hold at least six meetings per year and make submissions where needed.
7.1.2. Coordinate with Waimea FLAG group and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao group on planning for the future of the Inlet.	Invite representatives from Waimea FLAG group and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao group to provide regular updates to the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group (WICG) (e.g. twice yearly).	Six monthly	Lead: TDC/NCC, Support: All		IN PROGRESS  The Waimea Nitrate Project has been initiated with industry groups and growers on the Waimea Plains.	
7.2.1. Create, and keep current, an evidence-based information and research strategy that identifies the information required, how that can best be organised and maintained, and gaps that need to be filled by further research.	Complete information and research and education and social marketing strategies in an integrated process by 1 July 2022.	2022	Lead: TET, Support: All		DELAYED  Discussions about environmental education opportunities have been had with Great Taste Trail staff.	TET: DELAYED due to lack of resources  Cawthron, SALT Ecology and others have provided further research and information about the state of the Inlet.
7.2.2. Inform people and help them value the Inlet.	Include reporting of selected themes for the Inlet in state of the environment reporting by 1 July 2024.	2024	Lead: TDC/NCC		ON TRACK  A StoryMap report on broad scale habitat mapping of the Waimea Inlet was produced and is available on the TDC website.  This 2022 annual report on progress will be uploaded to our website.	

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7.2.3. Increase citizen involvement in caring for the Inlet including managing threats and restoring natural ecosystems	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	All		IN PROGRESS  Five community planting days were held through the Waimea Inlet 1 Billion Trees project. This included three with Keep Richmond Beautiful at Moturoa, one with Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō rangatahi and one with Whenua iti outdoors aimed at tamariki.	WIF: ON TRACK  Volunteer hours since Jan 2022 total 4,200 hours over 52 events. At \$30/hr this is \$123,000 worth of volunteer effort.  Multiple community groups (eg WINZ, Rotary, NMIT, Whenua Iti, schools, scouts, Project Moturoa, ANZ) are involved in planting and maintenance.
8.1.1. Include natural and cultural values of the inlet in all strategic and infrastructure planning	Ongoing action – reported annually	No target date	Lead: TDC/NCC		IN PROGRESS  TDC continue to account for values of the Inlet in a range of planning processes.	
8.1.2. Protect and restore fisheries habitat within the Inlet.	Survey quality of fisheries habitat and fish stocks by 31 December 2021.	2021	Lead: TDC/NCC/NMFG		IN PROGRESS  An estuarine fish survey in the Waimea Inlet was undertaken during Feb-Mar 2021 and a report by NIWA now very over-due.  Work is underway to review the Regional Policy Statement and Tasman Resource Management Plan.  The Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) workstream is ongoing.	
8.1.3. Improve opportunities for recreation and public access where these are in harmony with caring for other values of the Inlet.	Identify at risk areas to vehicle access and create a remediation plan by 1 July 2023.	2023	Lead: TDC/NCC, Support: WIF		ON TRACK  Work is underway to review the Regional Policy Statement and Tasman Resource Management Plan.  The final Moutere-Waimea Ward Reserve Management Plan includes policies relating to management of several reserves bordering the Inlet.	DOC: COMPLETE/ONGOING  DOC maintain public access for gamebird hunting in the Waimea Inlet.
8.1.4. Implement the Moturoa/Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan to ensure no adverse environmental effects on the Inlet, restoration of natural values of inlet margins.	Ongoing action – reported annually	All years	Lead: TDC		ON TRACK  5795 plants were planted at the back perimeter of the island west of Ken Beck Drive. In 2022 around 40,000 plants were planted as part of the 1 Billion Trees project.	
8.1.5. Promote ecologically sustainable uses of the Inlet and its environs	Support major infrastructure owners and operators to review the impacts of their activities on the inlet and develop plans to remediate past damage and avoid or mitigate future impacts by 1 July 2022.	2022	Lead: WIF, Support: TDC/NCC	IN PROGRESS  NCC staff continued to provide ongoing advice for resource consents that would impact on the Waimea Inlet. This included resource consents for Quail Rise subdivision, Nelson Airport and Quarantine Road industrial subdivision	IN PROGRESS  Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit (NRSBU) are developing a regional wastewater philosophy for the future of wastewater around the Waimea. The philosophy will eventually aim to avoid overflows in the estuary. The is also involved with the Best Island remediation planting (5000 plants).	WIF: IN PROGRESS  WIF have continued to work with Waka Kotahi and Cycle Trails Trust, with little discernible success to date. There has been no dialogue with Nelson Airport Ltd over the past year.
	Develop plans to avoid or mitigate future impacts from major infrastructure on the inlet by 1 July 2022		Lead: TDC/NCC	IN PROGRESS  Work is underway to review the Regional Policy Statement and Tasman Resource Management Plan which will give effect to the NZ Coastal Policy Statement.		