

Intensification and the impact on the Manukau Harbour

Submission on the Unitary Plan: Intensification and the impact on the Manukau Harbour

Submitted by: The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society

Contact: Jim Jackson, Chair
Jackson Electrical Industries
18 Gloucester Park Rd
Onehunga
Ph:
Email: jim@jackson.co.nz

Date: 22 May, 2013

1. Introduction

The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Unitary Plan (UP).

The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society (MHRS) is a community, membership-based incorporated society. It was formed in 2011 by concerned residents from around the Manukau Harbour with the purpose of encouraging restoration of the harbour to the environmental and recreational quality it once had.

MHRS is concerned that the proposals in the Auckland Plan and draft Unitary Plan calling for significant intensification in the Auckland isthmus do not appear to be coordinated with infrastructure policies and planning particularly regarding storm and wastewater that are necessary to avoid impacts on the Manukau Harbour.

2. Submission

a. Waste water

Projected growth of an additional 1 million people in Auckland, whether they are housed through intensification on the isthmus or new growth in the greenfields areas to the south and north of the metro area, will require increased wastewater treatment capacity. Neither the Auckland Plan or the Unitary Plan clearly show how this wastewater treatment will be provided. There is no apparent link between land use policy and wastewater collection and treatment policy.

MHRS is concerned about any additional discharges into the Manukau Harbour whether it be from increased flows from the isthmus to the Mangere plant or new plants serving the southern growth area and then discharging into the Manukau. MHRS knows that Watercare has

Intensification and the impact on the Manukau Harbour

additional capacity for discharging into the harbour from Mangere under its current resource consent, but we oppose these additional discharges and any future increases through new or amended resource consents.

MHRS believes the suspended solids and nutrients discharged into the harbour from the Mangere Plant is contributing to the sedimentation and mangrove build up in the harbour which is threatening the ecological health of the harbour and negatively impacting recreational use.

MHRS requests that the Unitary Plan make it clear how this new growth will be served by wastewater treatment and show alternatives to discharging increased volumes of wastewater into the Manukau Harbour.

b. Storm water

In many areas in the isthmus, stormwater and wastewater pipes are combined. Council and WaterCare have stated it's too expensive to separate these pipes and instead have proposed the Central Interceptor project to take the combined flow to the Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant, discharging into the Manukau Harbour. It is the position of MHRS that this project threatens to degrade significantly the Manukau Harbour by discharging more suspended solids, nutrients and incompatible fresh water into a shallow, salt water harbour.

Intensification will require the rebuilding of wastewater pipes, storm drains and other infrastructure in the isthmus area. This provides Auckland with the opportunity to rebuild and separate wastewater and stormwater pipe systems in areas of redevelopment. This will reduce flows into the Mangere Treatment Plant and hence the harbour.

Neither the Auckland Plan or Unitary Plan provide plans showing how this separation could take place or policies requiring this separation by developers of intensification projects. These policies should be included.

Also the Unitary Plan should be amended to include policies requiring reduced flows of stormwater into pipes that therefore have to be taken somewhere and discharged. Other means of onsite detention and treatment should be required of development in the Unitary Plan.

c. Traffic

The Unitary Plan shows the minimum size of dwelling units and minimum requirements for vehicle parking. Given a significant increase in population these small units will accommodate, without parking spaces provided, one has to ask where these cars are going to be parked? The

Intensification and the impact on the Manukau Harbour

Unitary Plan is silent on this issue. Also, the Unitary Plan in many places gives priority on roads to public transport, trucks and bicycles. The second question then is how are the cars of another 1million people going to be moved around the city? The Unitary Plan (and Auckland Plan) do not provide adequate answers to these questions.

Additional roadways, widened roadways and new motorways will all be required, regardless of any improvements to public transportation. While MHRS supports increased use of public transportation including ferry service on the Manukau Harbour, we don't believe the current plans adequately incorporate the increased traffic volumes that will result from 1 million new residents.

Thank you for considering our requests.

We wish to be heard in support of submission

Name..... JIM JACKSON

Signature..... [Handwritten Signature]

Date..... 27-05-13

Phone..... 09-6343376

Email..... jim@jackson.co.nz