

Bay of Plenty Regional, Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District Councils are working together to address Tauranga Harbour concerns most raised by locals. These include pollution, sedimentation, sea lettuce and mangroves.

Here's what we're doing:



Sediment reduction

When earth is disturbed or steep land and stream banks erode, soil runs off the land and into nearby waterways. It becomes sediment that can muddy the water, smother shellfish, silt up harbour channels and encourage mangrove growth.

Your councils are:

- Trialling new methods for stopping sediment run-off.
- Taking a tougher stance on earthworks controls.
- Researching major sediment sources and control options.
- Changing land use and stabilising erosion-prone sites.



Sea lettuce control

Sea lettuce is natural but a nuisance. It feeds on nutrients from both natural sources and land run-off. Strong winds and heavy seas rip it from the seabed and wash it ashore where it rots and smells.

We can't stop it growing but we are:

- Regularly removing sea lettuce build-ups from busy beaches.
- Reducing nutrient run-off from land through consent monitoring, waterway protection and pollution audits.
- Leading scientific research into sea lettuce causes and control options.
- Replacing sand to smooth out sea lettuce 'traps' on city beaches.



Keeping water clean

Regulations are in place to prevent untreated discharges into the harbour. But heavy rain and illegal dumping can cause pollution in the harbour or its tributaries.

We're putting a stop to pollution through:

- Fencing and planting 50km+ of stream and harbour margins each year. 90 percent of local streams are now protected from stock.
- Educating locals about waste disposal and storm water protection.
- Removing litter from harbour margins with the help of local school kids.
- Maintaining a 24/7 pollution and oil spill response system. Call the Pollution Hotline on 0800 884 883 to report an oil spill or pollution incident.
- Maintaining and upgrading storm water networks and sewerage systems.
- Proactive audits of high risk industrial and agricultural sites to identify problems and promote improvements.
- Including stringent controls and enforcing compliance with resource consent conditions.
- Monitoring water quality, sediment contamination, shellfish safety and other environmental health indicators.

Caring for Te Awanui Tauranga Harbour



Find out more at www.boprc.govt.nz/taurangaharbour



Mangrove management

Mangroves are a native plant. Their expansion into open water areas is sediment and climate driven.

We're holding the line on mangrove expansion by:

- Reducing harbour sedimentation.
- Developing a new hovercraft mower for mangrove seedling control.
- Supporting 11 Estuary Care groups to restore estuary margins and maintain previous mangrove removal areas.