

09 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Significant Ecological Areas in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan on Kawau Island

In March 2013 Auckland Council released a draft version of the Unitary Plan for public comment. The draft included a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) overlay for Kawau Island, part of which affected your property. However, this overlay was not carried through into the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan (PAUP). Instead, the council has made a submission to the PAUP seeking to add an SEA overlay to appropriately identified areas of Kawau Island, after further work has been completed.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you about:

- The PAUP submission and further submission process;
- Opportunities for you to meet with council staff to discuss the issues and process around the identification of appropriate areas which should be included as SEAs on Kawau;
- To seek permission from you to access your land for the purpose of ecological survey. If you prefer, there will also be the opportunity to provide this permission at the meeting(s) referred to, below.

Submissions and Further Submissions

Submissions to the PAUP closed on 28 February 2014. The submissions received are currently in the process of being summarised in order to release a summary of submissions in early June 2014. On notification of the summary of submissions, further submissions can be made. A further submission can either support or oppose (in full or part) submissions made to the PAUP. If you did not lodge a submission to the PAUP, you can still become involved in the process by lodging a further submission. A further submission can be made on the Auckland Council submission which seeks to include an SEA on areas of Kawau Island, or any other submissions made on the specific provisions for Kawau Island (the Kawau Island Precinct).

Information on the further submission process can be found at:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/planspoliciesprojects/plansstrategies/unitaryplan/Pages/further submissions.aspx>

Identifying a SEA for Kawau Island

The council recognises that the draft SEA released in March 2013 was inaccurate. It is considered that the identification of a suitable SEA for areas of Kawau requires more detailed ecological survey to support the existing information held on the ecological values of the Island. We envisage that this further ecological survey work will be carried out by council ecologists utilising a combination of existing information and standard survey techniques. An initial survey of a small group of sites where we have been given permission to access properties is currently underway. The results from this will be used to inform the scope for the island survey.

Please find enclosed some information on the process we have followed to date in identifying SEAs in Auckland ("Identifying Auckland's Significant Ecological Areas."). This includes information on the criteria we will be using to assess whether sites qualify as SEAs.

It is extremely important that Kawau landowners are fully consulted on this work. To this end it is proposed to hold two public meetings/drop in sessions, to be hosted by the Kawau Island Advisory Committee (KIAC), at which the council will outline the issues and process associated with identifying an SEA on Kawau. This would include a discussion of what regulatory provisions would apply to any SEAs, and the possible relationship of these to non-regulatory provisions (e.g. incentives etc.). Further detail about the ecological survey work proposed could also be discussed.

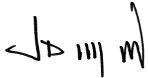
The first of these two meetings will be held on Kawau Island on the 24th of May, from 9:30am to 11:30am, at the Mansion House Café. The second meeting will be held in the City on the 27th of May from 5:30-7pm in the Town Hall (Council Chamber).

Whilst we will be presenting more information at these meetings, if at this stage you are happy for the Council to access your property for the purpose of ecological survey we would appreciate your signing and returning the attached consent form in the prepaid envelope, enclosed. Alternatively, you can ring the Unitary Plan customer response team to advise your permission for the ecologists to access your land.

If you would like further information about the SEA overlay, associated provisions, or the further submissions process please contact the Unitary Plan customer response team. The team can be reached on (09)365 3786 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday or by email on unitaryplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Duguid', written in a cursive style.

John Duguid
Unitary Plan Manager

Permissions Slip for Kawau Island Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Survey

The Council wishes to conduct ecological survey work on Kawau Island to enable the accurate identification of a SEA on the Island. We are seeking landowner permission to access property in order to undertake this work. The work will be undertaken by Council staff and/or consultants working with the Council. No properties will be accessed without landowner permission.

Please note that we may not need to visit all properties for the purpose of survey, but until we understand which parts of the island we are able to access we won't be able to finalise our survey plan. If you agree to your property being accessed, we will let you know if this is required.

You can call us on (09)365 3786 or email us at unitaryplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz to advise if you do or don't give permission for access to your property.

Alternatively, you can return this permission slip in the prepaid envelope (enclosed).

I _____ agree to my property being
(Please write your name)

accessed for the purpose of ecological survey.

Signature: _____

My property is located at

(please indicate your address and legal description .If possible, attach a map so we know where you are. Maps can be printed from the Council's GIS viewer: <http://intermaps.arc.govt/AucklandCouncilViewer/>)

My contact details are:

Phone number(s) _____

Email _____

Other _____

I wish to be in attendance when any survey is undertaken:

Yes **No**

I have made a submission to the draft Auckland Unitary Plan:

Yes **No**

I would like further information on improving the ecological values of my land:

Yes (Please indicate – one of our biodiversity advisers will contact you)