



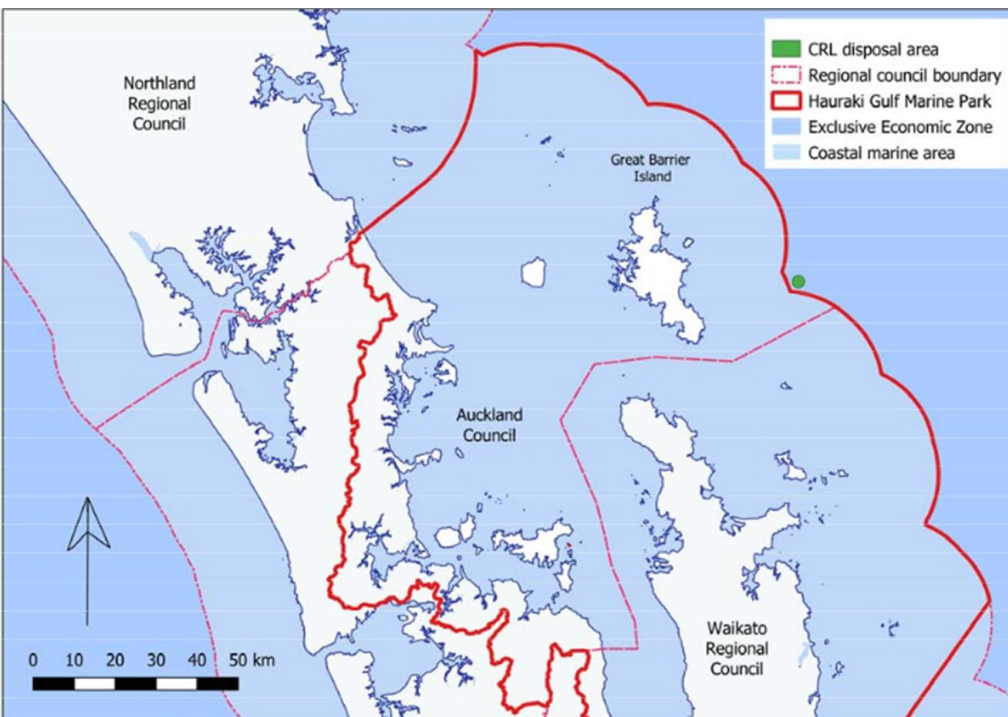
Great Barrier Island
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
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Marine dumping of dredge spoil

Hauraki Gulf Forum 20 May 2019

Why are we concerned?

Dump site is about same distance to Aotea Great Barrier Island (~25km) as Repanga Cuvier Island (~22km)



Is this appropriate “policy” for the disposal of dredge spoil?

- Impacts the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park
- CRL application alone - **19,660 barge trips over 35 years – 560/year**
- Routes cross the park to and from dump site by the tug-barge duo from dredge sites in Pine Harbour, Hobsonville, Sandspit, Half Moon Bay, Bayswater, Whitianga marinas and Ports of Auckland (CRL application)
 - biosecurity risks
 - risks for marine mammals
 - premature discharge of spoil from barges is permitted (including for ‘operational’ reasons)
 - cumulative effects
- True cost of operation of ports must include appropriate management of dredge spoil

Waiheke, Rakino and Noises people recall past silt damage



Silt plumes in the Motuihe Channel, May 2019

Obligations to avoid, re-use and minimise

- **The 1996 Protocol to the 1972 London Convention** demands all practicable steps are taken to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter.
- The aim of the 1996 Protocol is to:
Protect and preserve the marine environment from all sources of pollution and take effective measures (according to scientific, technical and economic capabilities), to prevent, reduce and where practicable eliminate pollution caused by dumping or incineration at sea of wastes or other matter.
- A key principle of the 1996 Protocol is avoidance, re-use and minimisation of waste sources to **minimise the amount of material required to be dumped at sea.**
- This principle is a well-established requirement of the New Zealand domestic legislation.

<https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/commercial/environment/marine-dumping>

Agencies need to take accountability and make an intentional policy

1. How can dredge spoil be managed without such high risks to and impacts on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, marine mammals and islands?
2. Are voters and ratepayers really happy for government and councils to perpetuate this historic practice in the blue back yard?
3. Is the current practice meeting NZ's obligations to "minimise the amount of material to be dumped at sea?"
4. How can the alternative options to marine disposal be explored and fast tracked?
5. How can more realistic disposal costs be built into the cost of operation of ports as the region grows?



Thank
you!