

Local Board 3 Year Plan: Environmental Projects

The key question the GBIC Trustees have asked the Local Board is: *"How do we, as a community, best protect the ecology and biodiversity of Great Barrier now and into the future?"* Our full submission is available on our website: www.gbict.co.nz under LOCAL BOARD SUBMISSION. You can also find our submission to DOC's Conservation Management Strategy there.

We seek your support in making submissions to the 3 Year Plan by 8 August, to ensure that the Board includes environmental programmes in that plan.

Please support the Trust's priority – options 1 and 2 – and others of your choice:

1. Community Consultation – on how we value the ecology of the island and how to manage and protect it, from doing nothing, to pest management, to full island wide eradication. Views differ on how this might be achieved, but the community deserves to be consulted in order to find a viable way forward.

2. Kokako Feasibility Study - a Local Board initiated study sought from the *Kokako Recovery Group* within DOC www.kokakorecovery.org.nz resulting in a thorough report on the requirements for kokako return to Great Barrier.

3. Water quality monitoring – enhanced programme of testing in fresh-water streams and reporting, especially close to campsites and key beaches (swimming/food gathering) e.g. Awana, Whangapoua, Tryphena.

4. Community based pest management –initiate community based rat and feral cat control following successful trial at Mulberry Grove (96 properties) in more communities on the island.

5. Visitor survey – commission research to measure visitor levels and population on the island: why people come, when, their needs, what they value about the island/the experience, specifically the influence of the environment.

6. Improved conservation information/education – to reflect visitor needs and seasonal visitor flows e.g Aotea birds, trees, reptiles and where to see them; improve visitor access to information on environment/ecology at peak times.

7. Schools and education – work with schools to fund and support ecology education, community planting and pest management initiatives.

8. Dotterel and shore bird protection – work with Auckland Council Animal Control to keep dogs off NZ dotterel nesting beaches during spring and summer.

Please submit by Monday 8 August at 4pm. To submit online go to www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and search for Great Barrier Island.