



## What do Auckland surf breaks mean to you?

### Have Your Say on the Auckland Plan.

The new Auckland Council is inviting you to comment on '**Auckland Unleashed**', a discussion document that will underpin the draft Auckland Plan. The Auckland Plan will embody a 30 year vision and strategy for the Auckland region. Amongst other things, the Auckland Plan needs to determine **"the social, economic, environmental, and cultural objectives for Auckland and its communities"**. The Auckland Plan will be the most important document shaping Auckland's future.

The Auckland Unleashed discussion document prioritises a number of marine recreations in paragraph 330, which states:

*"...plan for the extensive marine environment including more integrated thinking about how land and sea issues are linked. Some of the many activities in coastal and maritime areas are:*

- *Shipping;*
- *Recreational activities such as boating, swimming and diving;..."*

Missing from the recreational activities is **SURFING**. Surfing has been prioritised by the NZ government in national level policy under the New Zealand Coastal Policy statement (NZCPS). Therefore the Auckland Plan needs to follow this direction and provide for surfing by recognising the region's unique breaks. While Auckland does not have any surf breaks protected in the NZCPS, Policy 13 of the NZCPS includes surf breaks as part of the natural character of the coastal environment. This allows documents like the Auckland Plan to recognise the diversity of breaks we have, including 'nursery' breaks that cater for a range of surfing abilities and more rare breaks that are popular when they break, like the inner city beaches.

In paragraph 2 the discussion document states that the Auckland Plan intends to identify nationally and regionally significant recreation areas and natural features:

*"...dentification of nationally and regionally significant:*

- *ecological areas that should be protected from development*
- *recreation and open space areas*
- *environmental constraints on development (such as unstable land)*
- *landscapes, areas of heritage, and natural features.*

Surf breaks are natural features used for the recreation of surfing that need to be identified in the Auckland Plan. The Auckland region includes breaks on the north east coast up to Te Arai, the offshore islands such as Great Barrier, inner city beaches on the North Shore, to the many breaks out west. Auckland has the largest population of surfers in the country and coastal activity has threatened Auckland breaks before. Therefore mechanisms for protection of the Auckland region surf breaks **MUST** be provided for in the Auckland Plan.

### **We need your help to make this happen!**

Let Auckland Council know what surfing as a recreational activity means to you and what breaks you value in the Auckland region. Where did you learn to surf? Where do you go surfing? How important is surfing in your life? Do you have an economic interest in surfing? Anything else that justifies why our surf breaks need to be protected for future generations to enjoy.

### **How can you let Auckland Council know?**

- 1) You can email your views to [theaucklandplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:theaucklandplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)
- 2) You can use the Auckland Council online form-  
<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/PlansPoliciesPublications/theaucklandplan/Pages/aucklandplanfeedback.aspx>
- 3) You can post your comments to: Freepost Authority 237170, Auckland Council, The Auckland Plan, Private Bag 92300, Auckland 1142.

The deadline for feedback is **4pm, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011**