

MAYOR'S FOREWORD

This Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan is one of a number of Plans being produced by the Gisborne District Council under the Resource Management Act to sustainably manage the District's natural and physical resources. Over the past five years, many people in the Gisborne District and beyond have participated in its development, by way of response to the Gisborne District Council's discussion paper, submissions on drafts, hui and discussions with Council staff.

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan forms part of a hierarchy of policy statements and plans required to be prepared under the Resource Management Act. It fits directly below the Regional Policy Statement for the Gisborne District and must not be in conflict with the Department of Conservation's New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. Its emphasis is on minimising and avoiding the damaging effects of human activity in the Coastal Environment and particularly in the coastal marine area: the area between mean high water springs and the 12 mile limit of New Zealand's territorial sea. It's intention wherever possible is to allow the maximum use of the Coastal Environment by people in the Gisborne District in a manner which will ensure ongoing enjoyment of the natural qualities that our coastline provides.

The Plan establishes three management areas that have different management requirements taking into account the environmental qualities that exist in each management area. Within each area rules are set out for the coastal marine area and policies for the entire area to give certainty to the users of the Coastal Environment. These management areas and other provisions of the Plan give recognition to the unique character of the Gisborne District's coast including Port Gisborne, areas of spiritual significance to Maori, sparsely used areas of solitude and isolation and popular bathing beaches. Fundamentally it acknowledges the coastal nature of the Gisborne District and the special place that the District's coastline has in the lives of the people and communities of the Gisborne District.

This Plan completes five years effort of consultation, discussion and drafting. It is a Plan written and developed for the people of the Gisborne District and our visitors and requires your continued input to ensure that, once approved by the Gisborne District Council and the Minister of Conservation it will encompass the vision of the whole District.

John Clarke
MAYOR