

Memo

5 May 2026

To: Phill Reid, Auckland-wide Manager
From: Alison Pye – Senior Policy Planner; Dean Thompson, Team Leader Geospatial

Subject: Plan Modification: Section 58I update to the Auckland Council District Plan - Hauraki Gulf Islands Section - Operative 2018 to reference New Zealand Vertical Datum 2016 And New Zealand Transverse Meractor 2000 (NZTM2000).

This plan modification requires decision-making pursuant to section 58I(2)(a) and (b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), as amendments are required to the Hauraki Gulf Islands Plan (HGI Plan) as directed by a national planning standard.

Tier 4 managers are delegated authority by Schedule 2A of the Auckland Council Combined Chief Executives Delegation Register (November 2025 V2.2) in relation to all powers, functions, and duties under RMA's first schedule (except clause 17 which cannot be delegated).

<p>Rule or Section of HGI Plan</p>	<p>Auckland Council GIS Viewer – contours</p> <p>HGI Plan text :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rule 10a 9.7.3 Height <p>Heritage Appendices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appendix 1(a): Schedule of archaeological sites – Inner islands - Appendix 1(b): Schedule of buildings, objects, properties and places of special value – Inner islands - Appendix 1(e): Schedule of sites of geological significance – Inner islands - Appendix 1(g): Schedule of trees – Inner Islands
<p>Subject Site (if applicable)</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Legal Description (if applicable)</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Nature of change</p>	<p>The national planning standards data standards direct council to amend the HGI Plan to ensure it is compliant with New Zealand Vertical Datum 2016 (NZVD2016) and all coordinates are in terms of New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 (NZTM2000).</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Why does the HGI Plan need to be updated? With the release of the National Planning Standards (NPS) in 2019, a set of data standards were released which determine how any spatial data is captured moving forward.</p> <p>It states any plan review, change or variation which uses a vertical datum must be compliant</p>

with New Zealand Vertical Datum 2016 (NZVD2016), among other standards:

Data standards

- i. Publicly accessible digital datasets used in the preparation of a policy statement or plan, available under Creative Commons attribution CC BY 4.0 licensing, must be listed or uploaded to data.govt.nz in machine readable, non-proprietary format.
- ii. Any amended planning map digital dataset must be uploaded to, or listed on, data.govt.nz in machine readable non-proprietary format, once they become operative or treated as operative.
- iii. Datums and projections must be compliant with the New Zealand Geodetic Datum (NZGD2000) and New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 (NZTM2000).
- iv. New policy statement or plan information incorporated through a policy statement or plan review, change or variation using a vertical datum must be compliant with New Zealand Vertical Datum 2016 (NZVD2016).

How does the new Datum differ:

The current Auckland 1946 (AHD 1946) uses a traditional tide gauge method as the basis for its height system. However, these heights are misleading as they do not represent local sea level; the sea varies around the country and the height is not updated over time; therefore these are historic reference points. Height datums such as this are becoming less economic to use and maintain and are susceptible to movement, such as caused by earthquakes and geothermal activity. Each local authority has determined their own sea level height reference, which means that heights are difficult to share with others. This can result in duplicated effort and errors.

In comparison, the New Zealand Geoid 2016 (NZGeoid2016) is the reference surface for the New Zealand Vertical Datum 2016 (NZVD2016). The geoid is an undulating equipotential surface that is related to the Earth's gravitational field that approximates level of the seas over the entire Earth. Because it is related to gravity (and therefore reflects the flow of water), it is a more intuitive reference surface than the mathematical ellipsoid. NZVD 2016 has the benefit of being a standardised datum used throughout New Zealand in contrast to AHD 1946 which is specific to the Auckland Region.

New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 projection:

NZTM 2000 is based on the NZGD2000 Datum and is the standard coordinate datum used throughout New Zealand. It has been chosen due to its low distortion at its east west extents. The majority of coordinates within the Unitary Plan are based on the NZTM2000 projection which includes the Unitary Plan Maps. However there are some legacy references to other projections which need updating to be compliant with the National Planning Standards.

Effect of change

The changes are minor in nature. The amendments do not change the application or intent of the provisions.




There is no effect nor impact upon either the environment or persons.

It's important to note that as we are dealing with relative heights there is no effect on property rights. If the plan is referring to an above ground building height, this will not have to be changed as it is in relation to ground level rather than relative to a height datum.

Changing the horizontal datum of map coordinates from New Zealand Map Grid (NZMG) to NZTM2000 will not alter the physical position of any feature.

<p>Changes required to be made</p>	<p>If an NPS so directs, a local authority must amend its plan to be consistent with the specific provisions in the NPS documents (as set out in Section 58I(2) and (3) of the RMA). Any required updates must be made without using a Schedule 1 notification process (Section 58I(3)(a)).</p> <p>The NPS data standards require amendments to out of date datum references to NZVD2016 and coordinates to NZTM2000 in the following sections of the HGI Plan:</p> <p><u>1.Changes to Auckland Council GIS Viewer</u> - contours</p> <p><u>2. Changes to HGI Plan text :</u> - Rule 10a 9.7.3 Height . Amend Rule 10a9.7.3 as follows:</p> <p>At Page 31, there is a reference to the old vertical datum (Auckland 1946). This needs to be updated to the new vertical datum, NZVD 2016. Using LINZ online conversion tool, the figure for RL13.5 is now RL 13.2 in NZVD 2016.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>10a.9.7.3 Height</p> <p>1. Within Area A only (as shown on figure 10a.00), buildings of more than 8m and no greater than 10m (<u>maximum RL 13.5 - vertical datum: Auckland 1946</u>) shall be considered as a restricted discretionary activity.</p> </div> <p>Text to replace: Replace underlined sentence with the following below sentence (<i>maximum RL 13.2 - New Zealand Vertical Datum 2016 (NZVD2016)</i>)</p> <p><u>3. Changes to HGI Plan Heritage Appendices:</u> The following Appendices are to be replaced with updated schedules (access to updated material is via links provided)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appendix 1(a): Schedule of archaeological sites – Inner islands Replace current schedule with Updated Appendix 1(a) - Appendix 1(b): Schedule of buildings, objects, properties and places of special value – Inner islands Replace current schedule with Updated Appendix 1(b) - Appendix 1(e): Schedule of sites of geological significance – Inner islands Replace current schedule with Updated Appendix 1(e) - Appendix 1(g): Schedule of trees – Inner Islands Replace current schedule with Updated Appendix 1(g)
<p>Attachments</p>	<p>Attachment 1: Updated text (strikethrough and underline) Attachment 2: Updated text (clean)</p>

<p>Prepared by: Aching Konyak Principal Geospatial Specialist</p> <p>Signed on behalf by: Dean Thompson Team Leader Geospatial</p>	<p>Prepared by: Alison Pye Senior Policy Planner</p>
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