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Volume two

End of year performance measure reports.

Section one

Setting the scene



Chairman and Chief Executive's report

The 2006/07 year was very busy for Environment Waikato as issues of sustainability became even more prominent.

From clean air to climate change, renewable energy sources and water quality, your council was at the forefront of managing the way nature and people affect our region's precious resources. We also carried out our key responsibilities in such areas as regional transport, coastal management, navigation safety, and hazard and emergency management.

Examples of the diversity and importance of last year's work included:

- the launch of New Zealand's largest environmental project – the \$81.5 million project to protect Lake Taupo
- designing a draft River Flood Risk Management Strategy, which looked at the increased risk of river flooding, partly due to climate change
- drawing up a significant new draft Regional Passenger Transport Plan as part of our responsibility to manage passenger transport services in the Waikato.

Our financial surplus was \$5.2 million, some \$3 million more than forecast. That was largely the result of the delayed completion of some projects, due to a tight labour market, and lower than expected depreciation charges. We also had higher income than forecast due to more rateable properties in the region and better than expected investment returns. The surplus has been carried forward to the current financial year.



This year we look forward to working with central and local government partners, iwi, the business and agricultural sectors, and the community. It is crucial that we collectively make wise decisions about using and conserving natural resources. We also need to cooperate closely over services, such as transport, to ensure our growing region's needs are best met.

Here are some highlights of our key activities from 2006/07.

Air quality

We collaborated with partner agencies to raise awareness in Tokoroa that switching from using open fires and older wood burners in winter was necessary to cut health risks from air pollution.

And, since year's end, we have announced Environment Waikato funding to help people switch to cleaner forms of home heating.

Biodiversity

Work began on the Hamilton Halo project, aimed at encouraging a greater abundance of native birds back to Hamilton, starting with the tui.

We collaborated with partner agencies to build up our knowledge of regional ecosystems, including undertaking a project with the Department of Conservation to prioritise areas for restoration management.

Biosecurity

We completed our review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy and the decisions were adopted by council on 28 June. One appeal has been received which needs to be resolved before the strategy can be made operative.

We carried out extensive and very successful possum control operations around the region.

Coastal

We worked on a plan for managing Whangamata Harbour and the surrounding catchment, and looked at how to deal with the contentious issue of mangroves. The issues will be considered this year during consultation with the community and at hearings in early 2008.

Geothermal

Environment Waikato carried out five separate studies of the geological, geophysical and biological characteristics of geothermal features in development geothermal systems.

We established the Waikato Regional Energy Forum to drive development of a Regional Energy Strategy.

Governance and participation

Our 2007/08 Draft Annual Plan and amendments to the 2006-2016 Long-Term Council Community Plan were released for consultation in March.

Participation by Maori in council decision-making was enhanced with the drafting of memoranda of understanding with iwi.

Inland waters

We made progress towards establishing a nitrogen-trading system for the Lake Taupo catchment and started benchmarking work towards putting in place resource consents and associated nutrient management plans for the 100 largest pastoral farms in the catchment.

Land and soil

Environment Waikato contributed to four Sustainable Farming Fund projects developing nutrient and soil management tools for the cropping and horticulture sectors.

We published a guide to the six priority permitted activity rules and distributed it to all farmers.

Navigation safety

Following a review of the region's Navigation Safety Bylaw, a new bylaw became operational in June 2006.

We published pamphlets for the west coast, the Coromandel Peninsula and Lake Karapiro detailing the vessel operating rules specific to those areas, as well as general vessel operating rules. Pamphlets covering jetski and kayak use in the Waikato were also published.

Regional hazards and emergency management

A draft River Flood Risk Management Strategy was developed and approved for consultation.

We were involved in planning for and managing the Mt Ruapehu lahar event, and responded to three marine oil spills in Coromandel and Raglan harbours, and a major pollution incident at Te Kuiti.

Regional policy and regulatory services

We processed more than 1500 resource consent applications during the year, while monitoring of resource use compliance was undertaken at 90 per cent of the highest priority sites. There was improved compliance for all levels of priority.

River and catchment services

Our widespread work in this key area helped reduce negative environmental impacts, prevent the loss of productive land, lower flood risk and enhance water quality.

In the Lake Taupo zone, for example, most capital work was completed on the Tauranga Taupo River, as was all major capital work on the Tongariro River.

To help control erosion, extensive pest control work was carried out in the Coromandel and higher-than-targeted new planting was undertaken there, with 38,000 plants put in the ground.

Transport

The council's central role in regional transport management was evident in the development of a Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) and a Draft Regional Passenger Transport Plan (RPTP). The RLTS – which won a prestigious NZ Planning Institute award – guides how \$4 billion will be spent over 10 years.

Our annual survey of passenger transport users showed higher levels of satisfaction, with 96 per cent customer satisfaction achieved.

Waste, contaminated land and pollution prevention

Unwanted agrichemicals were collected from drop-off points around the region and from farm visits within Waitomo and Otorohanga districts.

The Ministry for the Environment announced it would provide funds for site remediation at Te Aroha's Tui Mine.

Our work last year has laid a solid platform for the wide range of important projects we will be looking to make significant progress on in 2007/08.

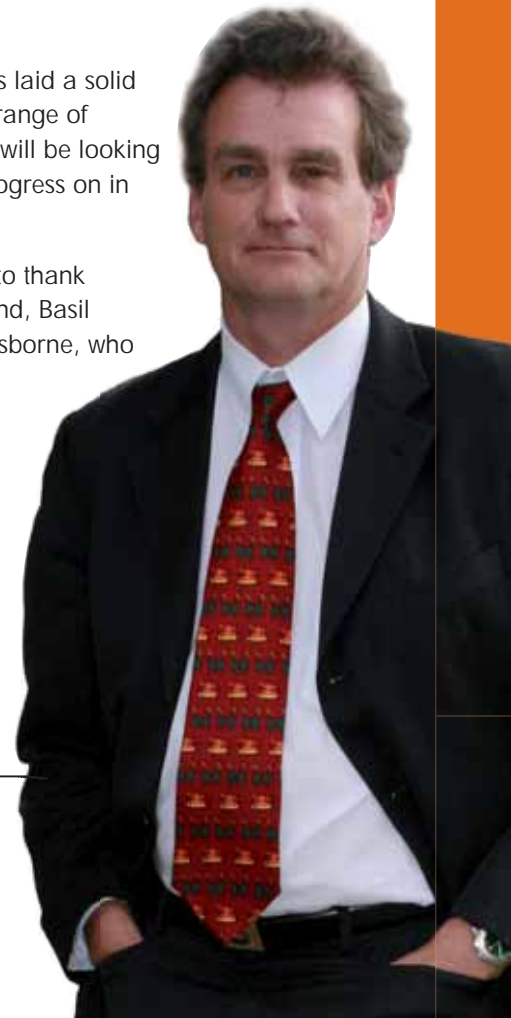
Finally, we would like to thank councillors Jim Howland, Basil Morrison and Steve Osborne, who are stepping down in October after having served the regional community with distinction.



Jenni Vernon
Chairman



Harry Wilson
Chief Executive



The Waikato region

The Waikato is the fourth largest region in New Zealand, covering most of the central North Island. It covers 25,000 square kilometres (2.5 million hectares), stretching from the Bombay Hills and Port Waikato in the north down to Mokau on the west coast, and across to the Coromandel Peninsula on the east coast. In the south it extends to the slopes of Mt Ruapehu and the Kaimai Range. The region has one city (Hamilton) and 11 district councils, four of which lie across the regional boundary.

Our people



Population	In 2006, the population of the Waikato region was just under 393,171 ¹ – around 9.5 per cent of New Zealand's total population. This represents growth of 22,500 people (seven per cent) since 2001. Within the region the concentration of the population in Hamilton is increasing faster than any other sub-region ² .
Ethnic mix	In 2006, 16 per cent of the Waikato population were born overseas compared to a national average of 22 per cent. By comparison, the region has a relatively high Maori population. Twenty per cent of people in the Waikato class themselves to be of Maori ethnicity compared to 14 per cent nationally ³ . Eight rohe or tribal areas lie within the region – Ngaati Tuwharetoa, Ngaati Tahu, Ngati Raukawa, Te Arawa, Ngaati Maniapoto, Waikato-Tainui, Hauraki and Ngaati Te Ata.
Education	In 2005 those leaving school in the Waikato had generally reached a lower level of academic attainment than the national average. This theme continues when looking at the working age population. However, this trend looks to be changing as the share of people with no qualifications declined and the share of those with higher qualifications grew in the period from 2001 to 2006 ⁴ .
Environmental priorities	Water quality is the environmental issue of most concern to Waikato residents. In a survey conducted in 2006, 61 per cent of respondents identified water pollution as being the most important environmental issue facing the region ⁵ .
Community participation	In a survey conducted in the Waikato region in 2006, 35 per cent of respondents identified themselves as members of sports clubs, 27 per cent as members of a church or spiritual group, 34 per cent as members of hobby or interest groups, and 26 per cent as members of community or voluntary groups such as Rotary, the RSA or Lions ⁶ .

¹ 2006 Census night population count.

² Department of Labour Annual in-depth regional report 2006.

³ Department of Labour Annual in-depth regional report 2006.

⁴ Department of Labour Annual in-depth regional report 2006.

⁵ Environment Waikato Technical Report 2007/06 – Environmental Awareness, Attitudes and Actions, 2006.

⁶ 2006 Quality of Life Survey.

Our economy



Economic activity	The Waikato economy accounted for 8.9 per cent of total economic activity in New Zealand in the year to March 2004. The regional GDP for the same year was \$12.2 billion. The region's economic growth from March 2000 to 2004 was 2.5 per cent, compared to 3.5 per cent nationally ⁷ .
Labour market	<p>As in the rest of the country, unemployment in the Waikato is at a historical low. By March 2007, unemployment in the Waikato region had fallen from six per cent in March 2001 to under four per cent⁸.</p> <p>From 1997 to 2006 the hourly wage of Waikato residents has been lower than the national average (\$16.25 per hour compared to \$17.00 per hour in 2006). The annual earnings are also less than the national average⁹.</p>
Industry	<p>The dominant industry in the Waikato is dairy farming and product manufacturing – \$1.365 billion of the gross regional product (GRP) in 2004. This represented 10.9 per cent of total GRP for the Waikato and over a third (34.4 per cent) of gross national produce for the industry.</p> <p>Other significant industries in terms of GRP for the region in 2004 were ownership of owner occupied dwellings (\$783 million), business services (\$777 million), retail trade (\$647 million) and wholesale trade (\$646 million)¹⁰.</p>
Economic initiatives	Since the major regional initiatives programme started, the Waikato region has received \$9,485,970 in funding, which is more than any other region. This money has been used for projects such as the Innovation Waikato business park, Taupo Motor Sport (it is estimated that over 80,000 people attended the A1GP in January 2007) and the NZ Clean Energy Centre ¹¹ .
Skills shortage	New Zealand is currently experiencing a nation wide skills shortage. In the Waikato, there is a shortage of professionals, technicians, associate professionals and trades workers, which is in line with national trends ¹² .

⁷ NZIER (2004). New Zealand's Regional Economic Performance. Report to MED.

⁸ Department of Labour Annual in-depth regional report 2006.

⁹ Department of Labour Annual in-depth regional report 2006.

¹⁰ Market Economics Ltd (2006). Waikato Region – Environment Futures Report. Report to Environment Waikato.

¹¹ Department of Labour Annual in-depth regional report 2006.

¹² Department of Labour Annual in-depth regional report 2006.

Our environment



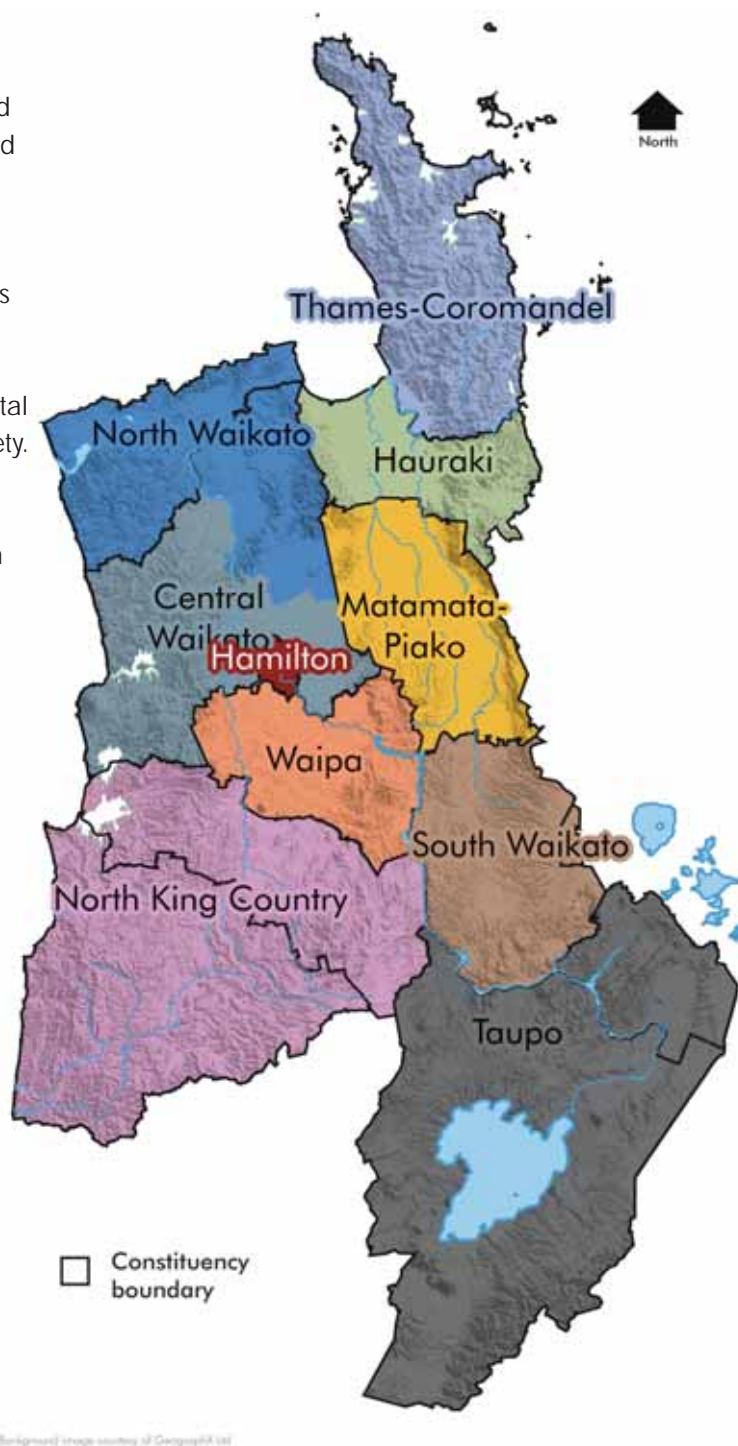
Inland waters	The Waikato region has more than 100 lakes, including Lake Taupo, the largest lake in Australasia. It has more than 20 rivers, including the Waikato (the longest river in New Zealand), Waipa, Piako, Waihou and Mokau, and about 1420 streams.
Wetlands	Over the last 150 years, 75 per cent of the region's wetlands have been lost. Large areas have been drained and converted for agriculture. This has led to fragmentation of these habitats and a decline in the numbers of many native plants and animals.
Coast	The region includes 1150 kilometres of coastline and our coasts are national treasures. Many people enjoy living near or visiting coastal areas. Others rely on coastal areas for their livelihood. Coastal areas are spiritually and culturally significant to Maori.
Natural resources	The Waikato is the most important mineral producing area in New Zealand. Coal, aggregate, irons and limestone are extracted along with gold and silver. The Waikato is also a large energy-producing region. Twelve hydro, one thermal (fired by coal and gas) and five geothermal power stations operate in the Waikato, along with smaller generators and co-generation plants.
Geothermal	The region contains almost 80 per cent of New Zealand's geothermal resources, which include geysers, hot springs, boiling mud pools, sinter terraces, and hot lakes and streams.

About Environment Waikato

Environment Waikato was established in 1989. We help communities, industry, farmers and other groups to live and work with natural resources – water, soil, air, geothermal areas and coasts – so we can all enjoy and use them for generations to come.

Our role includes

- Using a mix of rules, plans, education and information to manage the Waikato's natural and physical resources, as well as natural hazards and hazardous substances.
- Providing, managing and maintaining flood control, drainage and soil conservation schemes.
- Managing and controlling animal and plant pests such as possums, wild ginger and privet.
- Planning and coordinating the region's transport needs, including passenger transport services, Total Mobility for people with disabilities and road safety. We are also responsible for navigation safety within the region.
- Preparing and planning for managing the region in an emergency, such as a flood, volcanic eruption or earthquake.



Missions and goals

To manage the sustainable use of our region's resources, working with the community to benefit present and future generations.

Goals

1. To provide leadership within our legislative functions.
2. To take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
3. To provide excellent customer service.
4. To be a cost effective and consultative organisation operating in an open and accountable manner.
5. To be an employer of a motivated and skilled workforce.

Key statistics

Regional council employees	331.86 (full-time equivalents)
Rateable properties	184,564
Rateable hectares	1,980,158
Resource consents administered	8057
Resource consents processed annually	1516 (2006)
Annual resource consent hearing days	45 (average)
Stopbanks	616 km
Flood protection and drainage improvements	120,000 ha
Land covered by soil conservation schemes	12,000 ha
Data collection sites ¹³	1149 routine sites
Total hectares under Tb control	328,800 ha
Total hectares under community possum control	149,000 ha

Ko te uaratanga me nga whainganga

He hapai tahi me te hapori ke, te tautoko tonu i nga rawa o to tatou rohe, kia whaihua ai tenei whakatupuranga me nga uri.

Ko nga whainganga

1. He aratakinga ma roto o a matou herenga-a-ture.
2. He whai hoki i nga kaupapa o Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
3. He whakarato whakaritenga mahi ikeike ki a matou kiritaki.
4. Kia maia, kia akoako, kia marama tonu te whakahaere putea, whakarite mahi.
5. He kaitukumahi o te oho pumanawa, whai pukenga hoki.

¹³ Environmental Monitoring data collection sites for 2006/07 include 1150 routine sites. These range from recorders collecting continuous data to bi-annually sampled sites. It does not include any non-routine work such as algae sampling, low flow gaugings or sediment snapshots, which are also part of our annual workload.

The 1150 routine sites include:

- 7 air quality monitoring sites
- 6 automated sediment sampling sites
- 101 automatic surface water recorders, including 51 water level and flow sites, 38 water level and 25 rainfall (16 of the sites also have water temperature recorders)
- 20 coastal erosion profile sites
- 10 estuary monitoring sites
- 156 ecological monitoring sites
- 349 groundwater level sites
- 346 groundwater quality sites
- 140 surface water quality sites (including 15 bathing beach sites)
- 15 soil monitoring sites.

Community outcomes



Choosing Futures Waikato

Whiriwhiria Te Waa Heke o Waikato

What is Choosing Futures Waikato?

Choosing Futures Waikato represents the regional collaborative framework for coordinated action to progress the achievement of Waikato community goals and aspirations.

Under the Local Government Act 2002, all councils must work with their communities to identify what people want for the future. Two years on from the identification of community outcomes, Choosing Futures Waikato is now working with councils, government agencies, business and community organisations to progress these outcomes.

Where to from here?

The focus in the coming year will be on producing a strategic framework and on developing new tools for effective ways of working together. We will also be reporting back to you for the first time on what progress has been made towards achieving community outcomes.

1 Sustainable environment

The Waikato region values and protects its diverse, interconnected natural environments.

- A The iconic landscapes and natural features of our environment define and sustain us. We respect and celebrate them as taonga.
- B Our natural environment is protected and respected. Its ecological balance is restored, its air, soil and water quality is improved, and its native biodiversity is enhanced.
- C We are aware of what we need to do to look after our environment. Our region is renowned for linking environmental awareness with community action.
- D The traditional role of iwi and hapu as kaitiaki is acknowledged, respected and enabled.
- E Our coastal and waterway environments are restored and preserved, and access to them is maintained.
- F Our region's waterways have consistently high water quality.
- G We use land management practices that protect and sustain our soil and land.
- H We reduce our reliance on non-renewable energy.
- I Waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and energy efficiency are promoted and are part of how we all live.



2 Quality of life

The Waikato region is a great place to live, providing the services and opportunities we need to live well.

- A We are healthy with active lifestyles and we enjoy a total sense of well-being. Everyone has access to affordable quality health services throughout the Waikato region.
- B Education provides opportunities so we can reach our full potential as individuals and contribute to the well-being of the whole region.
- C Maori enjoy the same quality of health, education, housing, employment and economic outcomes as non-Maori.
- D We have a choice of healthy and affordable housing that we are happy to live in and that is close to places for work, study and recreation.
- E Maori have the ability to live on ancestral land in quality, affordable housing.
- F Our communities and government work together so that we are safe, feel safe and crime is reduced.
- G We can work and participate in the communities where we live, and there are quality work opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels.
- H We can participate in recreation and leisure activities that meet our diverse needs and we have opportunities to enjoy the Waikato region's natural places and open spaces in responsible ways.
- I Families are strong and our communities are supportive of them.
- J Older people are valued and children are valued and protected. Young people have work, education and leisure opportunities and are included in making decisions that will affect their future.

3 Sustainable economy

The Waikato region balances a thriving economy with looking after its people, places and environment.

- A Our region has economic growth and development that is well-planned and balanced with environmental, cultural and social needs and values.
- B Our regional and local economies are robust and diverse, providing opportunities throughout the Waikato region.
- C We have reliable, efficient and well-planned infrastructure and services, including transport that is safe, interconnected and easy to get to and use.
- D We take a practical and coordinated approach to planning and providing services, which works effectively across boundaries and sectors and responds to our communities' needs.
- E The growth, wealth and uniqueness of the Maori economy is acknowledged and supported.
- F Our economy is built on land-based industries, and we encourage planning and practices that protect and sustain our productive resources.
- G We have a tourism industry that recognises the region's cultural and environmental heritage and values, and supports economic growth.
- H Our region has a reputation for entrepreneurship, innovation, research and education; attracting investment and people to work, study and visit.



4 Culture and identity

The Waikato region identifies with – and values – its land, air, rivers and waterways, mountains, flora, fauna and its people.

- A We are proud of our region's distinctive identity, its strong Maoritanga, and its rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage.
- B Heritage sites and landscapes of significance to whanau, hapu and iwi are preserved and valued.
- C Our historic buildings and places are retained and cared for. New developments are designed to be sensitive to people, places and the environment.
- D All our communities have cultural and recreational events and facilities. We identify with and take part in our communities, building good community spirit.
- E Art, culture and creativity can be a part of everyone's life. We all have opportunities for creative expression and our creative industries are supported and promoted.

5 Participation and equity

The Waikato region builds strong informed communities and has a culture that encourages people and communities to play their part.

- A All our people and communities can participate in decision-making. We are educated, informed and have the resources we need to take responsibility for our own futures.
- B Iwi, hapu and Maori work together with central government, local government and community organisations in mutually beneficial partnerships.
- C Our communities understand partnerships under the Treaty of Waitangi and representation and processes for these partnerships have integrity.
- D The unique status of tangata whenua is respected and reflected in community processes.
- E Maori have the opportunity to participate in community development and decision-making at marae, hapu and iwi levels.
- F We are knowledgeable about and show respect for the many and diverse cultures of the people who live here.



Performance at a glance

Key reporting area	Air	Biodiversity
<p>Summary</p>	 <p>Environment Waikato is involved in air quality due to legislative requirements. We are responsible for promoting community well-being and poor quality air can have a significant impact on the health of the community.</p>	 <p>Legislative changes over the past few years mean Environment Waikato now has a leadership role in biodiversity. Public concern is also growing, increasing expectations over what the council should be doing to address the issue.</p>
<p>Highlights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing community awareness of air issues through the Warm Homes Clean Air project. • The installation of a new air monitoring station at Ngaruawahia. • Benzene concentrations in Hamilton were lower than results from previous years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial work began on the Hamilton Halo project, aiming to help bring native birds back into Hamilton urban areas. • A collaborative project with the Department of Conservation began which will prioritise ecosystems for restoration management.
<p>Looking ahead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving compliance with national environmental standards in the Waikato region by September 2013. • A greater emphasis on education and promotion programmes to raise public awareness. • Continuing our advocacy role and responding to complaints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more coordinated approach to biodiversity work programmes to achieve better outcomes. • Continuing development of new indicators to assess effectiveness of work programmes and demonstrate successes. • Working to improve biodiversity policy.

Biosecurity

Coastal

Geothermal



Environment Waikato is responsible for managing the control of plant and animal pests within the Waikato region, in partnership with the Department of Conservation. The Regional Pest Management Strategy, developed in consultation with the community, gives us the mandate to pursue pest management objectives.

Several pieces of legislation govern Environment Waikato's coastal work. The main one is the Resource Management Act 1991, which gives regional councils responsibility in the coastal marine area.

The Resource Management Act 1991 gives regional councils specific functions, powers and duties in relation to taking and using geothermal heat, energy, material and water. Additionally, Environment Waikato is required to prepare objectives and policies about actual or potential adverse effects from the use, development or protection of various geothermal resources.

- We completed our review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy and the decisions were adopted by council on 28 June. One appeal has been received which needs to be resolved before the strategy can be made operative.
- New possum control proposals were developed as part of the RPMS review for Port Waikato, Oparau/Te Kauri, Whitehall extension and Whangamarino.



- A draft harbour plan for the Whangamata harbour was finalised, including the identification of issues surrounding the harbour's values.
- The Shore Futures project commenced. This project is about protecting the landscapes and lifestyles that are important to the Kawhia and Aotea communities.
- A pilot study was carried out in Coromandel Harbour to determine the potential effects of sea level rise on estuarine vegetation.

- Regional Plan Variation No. 7 was proposed to correct and update some maps of geothermal features.
- Council submitted on the Draft National Energy Strategy for geothermal energy.

- Emphasis on the prevention of potentially invasive plant and animal pests becoming established to the extent they could adversely affect land under production.
- Continuing to maintain capacity to assume greater possum control responsibilities if required.
- An enhanced ability to control other animal pests and pest plants.

- Review of the Regional Coastal Plan based on coastal plans for the Coromandel Peninsula, Kaiaua coast and west coast.
- Consulting and actioning projects identified in the Coromandel Peninsula, Kaiaua coast and west coast coastal plans.
- Continuing to research and monitor the coastal environment.

- Continued implementation of Environment Waikato's geothermal policy.
- Better access to more comprehensive data about large-scale use of geothermal resources.
- Identification and protection of the region's significant geothermal surface features.

Key reporting area	Governance and participation	Inland waters
		
<h3>Highlights</h3>	<p>The governance and participation group of activities provides the framework for Environment Waikato to carry out its function as a regional local authority. It also provides the framework for democratic, local decision making and the promotion of community well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninety Waikato schools participated in the EnviroSchools education programme, exceeding the target of at least 50 schools. • The three yearly survey on the community's values and concerns was completed in April 2007. 	<p>Under the Resource Management Act 1991, Environment Waikato controls the taking, use, damming and diversion of water, as well as the quantity, level and flow of water into any water body. We also control discharges into water and discharges of contaminants onto land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A water allocation variation to the Waikato Regional Plan was publicly notified in October 2006 with 145 submissions received and hearings scheduled for December 2007. • Work towards establishing an effective nitrogen trading system for the Lake Taupo catchment progressed with the contracting of a Landcare economist. • Development of indicators for ecological health in shallow lakes progressed with a pilot study identifying several methods for future development.
<h3>Looking ahead</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work with local authorities and other agencies in the Waikato to achieve regional community outcomes. • Continuing to balance increased community well-being expectations and services with the region's limited financial resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formation of new strategic partnerships to maximise the effectiveness of Environment Waikato work programmes. • The capturing of local and national information about how land use is changing to ensure work programmes are effective.

Land and soil

Navigation safety

Regional hazards and emergency management



The Resource Management Act 1991 and the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 give regional councils responsibilities to control land use to maintain and enhance soil resources.

The Resource Management Act also gives regional councils responsibilities to control land use in order to maintain and enhance water quality and quantity.

- Work progressed towards a network of 10 sites for long-term sediment monitoring.
- A stakeholder liaison group was established to ensure Environment Waikato maintains and enhances relationships with the agricultural industry sector.
- Work on riparian management through the fencing of waterways to prevent stock access made significant progress.

- Controlling the adverse effects of agriculture on soil and water quality.
- Ensuring there is no significant long-term increase in erosion on land and sedimentation in water.



Environment Waikato manages the navigational safety of waterways through the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2006. Council is also required through government legislation to enforce rules and regulations, and has responsibilities to manage navigation safety and access to coastal areas under the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Coastal Plan.

- Ongoing education and information on waterway and navigation safety was provided to users during the year.
- Routine harbour patrols were undertaken to enforce the Navigation Safety Bylaw and where necessary to issue warnings and infringement notices for breeches.
- Three contracts for delivering navigation safety services were negotiated in partnership with the Coastguard, a district council and Maritime NZ.

- Continued management of the increasing numbers of people using the region's waterways.
- Accommodating the growing demands on Environment Waikato's navigation safety services from water users, whilst ensuring the public remains safe.



The majority of Environment Waikato's involvement in regional hazards and emergency management comes from legislation, including the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

An integral part of the activities is involvement in the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, which is responsible for all civil defence emergency management activities in the region.

- Environment Waikato was involved with other key regional stakeholders for the planning and management of the Mt Ruapehu lahar event.
- Considerable work was undertaken to improve flood hazard modelling, mapping and interpretation with Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki district councils.
- Environment Waikato responded to three marine oil spill events in Coromandel and Raglan Harbours and one major pollution incident in Te Kuiti.

- Better understandings of hazard risk areas across the region.
- Improvements in regional hazard emergency management information and how we deliver emergency response services.
- Improvements in flood warning technology to reduce response time and improve flood prediction capability.

Key reporting area	Regional policy and regulatory services	River and catchment systems
		
Highlights	<p>Regional Policy Statement The purpose of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is to enable integrated management of the region's natural and physical resources in order to achieve the outcomes the community wants. The Resource Management Act requires the council to regularly review and update it.</p> <p>Regulatory services Regulatory services projects are regulatory activities primarily required under legislation, and which assist in meeting outcomes contained in Environment Waikato's policy documents. Examples include consent processing, monitoring for compliance and responding to complaints and enquiries.</p>	<p>Environment Waikato has responsibilities for river and catchment systems under various pieces of legislation. This is then put into practice in the Regional Policy Statement, the Waikato Regional Plan and the Regional Coastal Plan.</p>
Looking ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the Regional Policy Statement operative by 2013. • Considering the impact climate change may have on how the council manages the region's resources. • Increasing resource users' understanding of the standards they must meet and providing assistance where it is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment management plans for the Tauranga Taupo and Tongariro rivers were adopted and are being implemented. • A number of initiatives were commenced within the Upper Waikato zone, directed at a sustainable agriculture strategy. • A target of approximately 28,000 new plants in the Coromandel zone was exceeded with approximately 38,000 plants planted. • Implications of climate change will be incorporated into river and catchment activities as they become known. • Continuing to integrate the different areas of our work that affect rivers and catchments, for example biodiversity, biosecurity, land and soil activities.

Transport

Waste



Government legislation requires regional councils to strategically plan for land transport and integrate this planning with land use. Environment Waikato is also responsible for managing and delivering passenger transport and Total Mobility services across the region.

With public knowledge and concern about transport growing, much of Environment Waikato's involvement is in response to this.

Environment Waikato has specific functions it is required to carry out under the Resource Management Act 1991, such as managing discharges of waste from waste disposal facilities and managing the effects from on-site sewage facilities. The Regional Waste Strategy sets out why we are involved in managing solid waste and puts in place region wide waste minimisation programmes.

- Environment Waikato continued to provide strategic direction through the development of the Regional Land Transport Strategy, the Regional Passenger Transport Plan, membership on technical working groups and through the Regional Land Transport Committee.
- New bus services were introduced through the year.
- The target of 85 per cent passenger satisfaction with Total Mobility services was exceeded.

- A region wide solid waste infrastructure review and strategic assessment was undertaken.
- Financial support was provided to Matamata Piako and Hauraki district councils to partially fund waste volume and composition surveys.
- Funding provided by the Ministry for the Environment for full site remediation of the Tui Mine.

- Regular reviews of key policy documents to ensure continual development and improvement of regional land transport policy.
- Increasing public use of alternative modes of transport to the private motor vehicle.
- Continue a collaborative approach to road safety issues.

- No new contaminated sites created by industrial and commercial activities.
- No increase in waste generation across the region despite economic and population growth.
- Pollution prevention programmes for all high risk industrial sites in urban areas.

Financial summary

What we planned

Revenue

The revenue projection for the year was \$82.409 million, of which \$52.496 million (64 per cent) was to come from rates, \$11.243 million (14 per cent) from government grants, \$12.743 million (15 per cent) from fees and charges, and the remainder from investment income earned on council's investment fund.

Cost of services

Environment Waikato's 2006/07 Annual Plan projected total expenditure of \$80.154 million.

Net operating position

A net operating surplus of \$2.255 million was projected. Of this, \$2.107 million was to be transferred to reserves to meet the future operational and capital funding needs of activities, in particular our catchment management schemes.

Capital expenditure

Operational capital expenditure was projected to be \$5.580 million.

Infrastructural capital expenditure was projected to be \$4.834 million.

What we delivered

Actual revenue is \$88.311 million, reflecting additional government funding for transport operations, increased rate revenue due to regional growth, and higher than budgeted returns from the investment fund. Additional revenue of \$3.644 million is recognised in relation to council controlled organisations. This recognises the settlement of funding with Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (offset by additional expenditure).

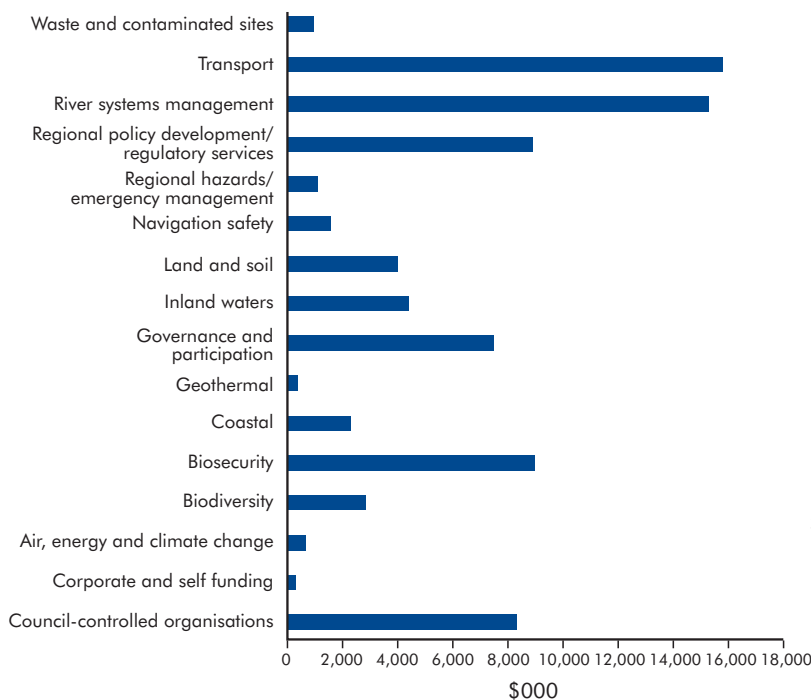
Actual expenditure for the year is \$83.046 million. The key areas of variance are transport and regulatory services. Council-controlled organisations' expenditure reflects the transfer of funding to the Lake Taupo Protection Trust on its establishment in February 2007, as well as recognising a settlement of funding required with Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (offset by additional revenue).

The actual operating surplus is \$5.265 million, with \$2.571 million of this being transferred to reserves.

Operational capital expenditure was \$3.586 million. Provision had been made for the purchase of an integrated computer software package. This project did not go ahead this year.

Infrastructural capital expenditure was \$4.454 million.

Cost of services



Total revenue

