

# COUNCILLORS

Your Councillors prepared this *Annual Plan* with the assistance of Council staff and many others. The Taranaki Regional Council has eleven representatives elected by the community through local body elections every three years.



# PURPOSE

Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council is required to produce a long-term council community plan every three years, covering the next 10-year period. The Council is also required to prepare an annual plan for each financial year it does not prepare a long-term council community plan. The annual plans prepared in the years after the long-term council community plan will mainly contain budget, funding and financial statements for that year in support of the long-term council community plan. The Council is required to prepare and adopt its next long-term council community plan by 30 June 2012.

This is the second *Annual Plan* produced by the Taranaki Regional Council under its *2009/2019 Long-Term Council Community Plan*. The purpose of the *Annual Plan* is to provide an update by exception against the *Long-Term Council Community Plan*, which remains the substantive reference document. Much of the material in the *Long-Term Council Community Plan*, e.g. explaining why we do what we do, remains current.

This *Annual Plan* concentrates on one year – in this case 2011/2012 – and includes such information as the performance measures for our programmes in this year. Other than noted in the *Foreword* the changes from what we had expected to happen in 2011/2012 are relatively minor. The one or two more significant changes are noted and explained within that group of activities.

The Taranaki Regional Council's *2009/2019 Long-Term Council Community Plan* is important as it presented the Council's strategic directions and programmes for the next decade. As the name suggests, the *Long-Term Council Community Plan* is a document put together by the Council and the community. In it you will find a description of the activities the Council will be engaged in over the next 10 years, the objectives of those activities and their costs – as accurately as can be forecast over this period. But the plan does more than this – it describes how the Council, through its various activities and programmes will contribute to achieving the long-term outcomes for the community that the community itself has identified. Many of these activities focus on ensuring that Taranaki's natural environment and physical resources are sustainably managed for the long-term benefit of the community.

The *Plan* also describes how the Council with the help of the community and other organisations will work together to achieve these community outcomes.

There are a number of other more specific documents, plans and strategies that the Council has in place to help it carry out its work. These are also prepared and reviewed in consultation with the community. What the *2009/2019 Long-Term Council Community Plan* does is provide a basis for integrating and coordinating the activities and resources of the Council over the long-term.

The relationship between the Council's legislative mandate, its various plans and strategies, its *Long-Term Council Community Plan* and annual plans is outlined in Figure 1.

The community outcomes contained within the Council's *Long-Term Council Community Plan* are reviewed every six years to ensure the Council is on track. Progress towards achieving these outcomes is reported on every 3 years.

The emphasis in preparing this *Annual Plan* has been to produce a straight-forward easy to read document. This has been aided by the Local Government Act 2002 which only requires the Council to present, in an *Annual Plan*, financial information and deviations from the adopted *Long-Term Council Community Plan*. That is what this *Annual Plan* presents.

Except where noted, the plans, strategies, programmes and targets established in the *Long-Term Council Community Plan* apply to this *Annual Plan* and the 2011/2012 operations of the Council. Therefore it is important that readers read the *Long-Term Council Community Plan* in conjunction with this *Annual Plan*.

Copies of the *Long-Term Council Community Plan* are available from the Council or from the Council's website ([www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)).

In terms of section 83(1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2002, this *Annual Plan* also constitutes the *Statement of Proposal*. That is, this *Annual Plan* includes all of the information required in a *Statement of Proposal*.

# PLANNING PROCESSES

Figure 1: The Taranaki Regional Council planning processes.

