

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Resource management comprises the following activities:

**Resource management planning** – preparing, adopting and maintaining comprehensive and publicly considered policies, plans and strategies that will deliver to the Taranaki community, efficient and effective management of the Council’s functions and Taranaki’s natural and physical resources.

**Consent processing and administration** – processing all applications for resource consents and administering resource consents in an efficient and effective manner.

**Compliance monitoring programmes** – undertaking effective and efficient monitoring of resource consents and, where necessary, undertaking successful enforcement action.

**Pollution incidents and response** – responding effectively to pollution incidents, reducing the occurrence and effects of pollution and other unauthorised incidents and, where necessary, undertaking successful enforcement action.

**State of the environment monitoring** – monitoring the state of the environment in Taranaki to enable periodic evaluation of trends in the state of the environment and of the effects of the implementation of the Council’s policies and plans.

**Resource investigations and projects** – providing relevant research information for resource management purposes.

**Waste minimisation** – encouraging and implementing waste management and cleaner production initiatives in Taranaki consistent with the Regional *Waste Strategy for Taranaki* and the waste management plans of the districts.

**Sustainable land management plans and plant supply programme** – promoting sustainable land and riparian management by providing land management advice and information on an individual property basis and through advocacy and facilitation.

**Biodiversity** – maintaining and enhancing the indigenous biodiversity of the Taranaki region, working alongside landowners and other groups and agencies in accordance with the Council’s policies and biodiversity strategy priorities.

**Enhancement grants** – promoting the protection of the environment through the provision of targeted enhancement grants.

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## KEY CHANGES FROM THE LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

There are no significant operational or financial changes from those outlined in the *Long-Term Council Community Plan*.

### LEVELS OF SERVICE

#### 1. Protecting the life-supporting capacity of water, in-stream uses and values

- **Measure:** Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) values (a measure of freshwater community richness and composition) at 50 regionally representative sites.

**Target:** The proportion of sites showing a trend (whether significant or indicative) of improvement in MCI against a base year of 1995 to exceed the proportion showing decline over the same period.

There is a continuing regional trend of improvement in the quality of freshwater ecology across the region. MCI values were determined for 57 regionally significant sites. Trend analysis to June 2009 shows 16 sites of 57 with statistically significant trends of improvement, and none with a significant decline

- **Measure:** Microbiological state of inland waters and coastal waters at bathing sites (11 freshwater and 9 marine sites).

**Target:** Maintenance or increase in number of sites from 2003 (6 freshwater and 10 coastal water bathing sites) compliant with 2003 Ministry of Health contact recreational guidelines.

In 2008/2010, 7 freshwater and 12 coastal bathing sites were compliant throughout the season

- **Measure:** Range of habitats available to native fish.

**Target:** 100% of resource consents for in-stream structures to be compliant with fish passage conditions; number of known barriers to fish movement and passage to reduce by comparison with 2001 survey.

In July 2008 there were 42 consents with requirements for fish passage structures; as of May 2001 there were 26 consented and 30 un-consented structures known to be acting as barriers to fish passage

- **Measure:** Ecological flows in catchments.

**Target:** Guideline ecological flows are identified for all significant catchments with no catchments allocated below ecological flows set by Council policy or by any National Policy Statement or National Environmental Standard.

As at 2009 guideline ecological flows have been identified for all significant catchments. Three catchments or sub-catchments (about 1%) do not meet the Council's general ecological flow guideline but all consented abstractions comply with specific Council policies regarding the taking and use of water.

#### 2. Allocating water for sustainable consumptive use

- **Measure:** Allocation of surface water for consumptive use in catchments.

**Target:** Guidelines identifying available surface water are prepared for all significant catchments and consents to take, use, dam or divert water granted in accordance with Council policy or any National Policy Statement or National Environmental Standard.

As at 2009 guidelines identifying surface water available for consumptive use have been prepared and consents to take, use, dam or divert water have been granted in accordance with Council policy.

- **Measure:** The number of significant water abstraction permits monitored each year, their environmental performance and the Council's response to non-compliance.

**Target:** 100% of significant water abstraction consents monitored; 85% of abstractors to attain a 'good' or 'high' level of compliance and performance; Council response to every unauthorised incident to be reported publicly; the Council to respond to all non-compliance events in accordance with its documented enforcement procedures.

In 2009/2010 100% of significant water abstraction consents were monitored with 94% attaining a "good" or "high" level of compliance and performance.

#### 3. Maintaining and enhancing water quality in our rivers and lakes, groundwater and coastal waters

- **Measure:** Parameters that characterise the physical, bacteriological, biological and chemical quality of surface water.

**Target:** Improvements in nutrient levels (ammonia, nitrate, total nitrogen, and dissolved reactive and total phosphorus), appearance (turbidity, clarity, absorbance, suspended solids), organic contamination (biochemical oxygen demand), bacterial levels (faecal coliform and enterococci bacteria), temperature, and algal cover, against a baseline of 1995 water quality, as



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applicable, at 10 representative sites.

Overall, surface water quality in Taranaki is improving and is better than in 1995. Trend analysis to June 2009 has been completed and reported to Council. Trend analysis at 10 regional representative sites demonstrates:

- MCI and periphyton indicators for ecological health: every site of the 10 representative site shows stability or improvement since 1995
- BOD: all sites stable against 1995 baseline, although some sites show a recent decline
- Bacteriological state stable since 1995
- Nutrients: the number of sites showing stability or improvement is increasing when compared with 1995.

Trend analysis for 5 nutrient species and water clarity (6 parameters) at 3 National River Water Quality Network sites shows water quality is now stable overall at these sites. Since 1995, 4 declines, 2 improvements, and 12 stable parameters. Since 2002 trend analysis shows 1 decline, 1 improvement, and 16 stable parameters.

- **Measure:** Nitrate levels in groundwater—improvement (decrease) in nitrate levels on a regional basis.

**Target:** No sites (out of approximately 65 tested every five years) consistently above NZ human drinking water standard.

Overall there has been a clear improvement (decrease) in nitrate levels in groundwater on a regional basis. Reported in February 2009 that for the period 2002-2007, 7 wells out of 65 had nitrate consistently (median concentration) above NZDWS. 90.5% of all samples met the NZDWS. Data showed the number of wells with decreasing nitrate outnumbered wells with increasing nitrate by 2:1

- **Measure:** Physicochemical and biological parameters for quality of Lake Rotorangi.

**Target:** The trophic state (an indication of the ecological condition as affected by nutrient enrichment) of Lake Rotorangi to remain as it was in 1988 (mesotrophic/mildly eutrophic).

The current life-supporting capacity of the lake is stable (as are 48% of monitored lakes nation-wide), and relatively healthy (better than almost 2/3 of lakes monitored nationally). State of lake shown to continue to be mesotrophic/mildly eutrophic

- **Measure:** The number of significant point sources discharging into water monitored each year, their environmental performance, and the Council response to non-compliance.

**Target:** 100% of significant point sources monitored; 85% of sources to attain a 'good' or 'high' level of compliance and performance; Council response to every unauthorised incident to be reported publicly; the Council to respond to all non-compliance events in accordance with its documented enforcement procedures.

In 2009/2010, 100% of significant point sources were monitored with 91% of significant industrial sources and 96% of significant agricultural sources attaining a 'good' or 'high' compliance and performance; Council response to every unauthorised incident was reported publicly; the Council responded to all non-compliance events in accordance with its documented enforcement procedures

## 4. Sustainably managing land use in accordance with the physical capabilities of the land and soil resources

- **Measure:** Changes in land use.

**Target:** Maintain a positive trend towards more sustainable land uses at monitored (representative SEM) hill country and sand country sites; area of hill country covered by land use plans to increase by 15% (100,000 ha) over next 10 years and number of plans implemented in whole or in part to increase to 80% of all plans.

As of June 2008, the percentage of hill country being managed sustainably increased by 2.4% from 2000 and the percentage of sand country being managed sustainably was being maintained. As of July 2009 the area of hill country covered by land use plans was 179,182 ha.

- **Measure:** Regional soil quality.

**Target:** No overall deterioration in soil quality at 20 SEM sites as shown by monitored soil structure parameters (density and macroporosity) maintenance of soil fertility at optimal (i.e. sustainable and productive) levels as shown by nutrient levels (total carbon and nitrogen, and Olsen phosphorus and mineralisable nitrogen) and no net increase in regional soil levels of cadmium and zinc to the extent that land use is compromised.

Measurements of soil quality structure, composition and health at 20 sites were undertaken in 2007/2008 as the baseline for further trend analysis.

## 5. Promoting opportunities for sustainable development and best use of hill country

- **Measure:** Proportion of landowners informed of specific opportunities for sustainable land use on their properties.



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**Target:** 80% of hill country in private ownership (306,000 ha) with comprehensive farm plans.

As of July 2010, 337 of 840 hill country farms had comprehensive farm plans

## 6. Maintaining a high standard of ambient air quality

- **Measure:** Monitor regional air quality for Ministry for the Environment air quality NES pollutants (sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxides, inhalable particulate, and carbon monoxide).

**Target:** Regional air quality to be maintained (i.e. at 2008 levels) within categories as defined by the Ministry for the Environment.

As of 2008-2010, air in the region matched the Ministry's 'good' or 'excellent' categories.

- **Measure:** The number of significant point sources discharging to air monitored each year, their environmental performance, and the Council response to non-compliance.

**Target:** 100% of significant discharge point sources monitored; 85% of sources to attain a 'good' or 'high' level of compliance and performance; the Council to respond to all non-compliance events in accordance with its documented enforcement procedures.

In 2009/2010, 100% of significant point source emissions were monitored with 93% of sources attaining a 'good' or 'high' level of compliance and performance. Council responded to all non-compliance events in accordance with its documented enforcement procedures.

## 7. Maintaining and enhancing indigenous biodiversity

- **Measure:** Implementation of the Council's *Biodiversity Strategy*.

**Target:** 100% of the action points initiated as set out and scheduled in the *Strategy*, over 2008-2013.

Action points will be initiated from 2008 onwards.

- **Measure:** Inventory of sites that contain regionally significant biodiversity (KNEs) in the region.

**Target:** Maintain and regularly update current inventory of Key Native Ecosystems (KNEs).

*The inventory was first prepared in 2008. As of June 2010, the inventory contained 160 sites.*

- **Measure:** KNEs showing an improvement in biodiversity.

**Target:** Improvement in biodiversity index (under development) for KNEs compared with a base year (which will be the first year of application of the index).

## 8. Maintaining publicly considered policies, plans and strategies that deliver efficient and effective management of the natural and physical resources of the region and are acceptable to the community

- **Measure:** Operative plans policies and strategies.

**Target:** Full compliance with statutory requirements and



timetables for the preparation review and implementation of policies, plans and strategies.

As of June 2010, the Council has a full suite of operative *Regional Policy Statement* and Regional Plans (Water, Air, Soil and Coastal). Reviews of the Coastal and Air Plans are underway in accordance with statutory requirements.

## 9. Processing, administering and compliance monitoring of resource consents efficiently and effectively

- **Measure:** Compliance with Resource Management Act 1991 requirements.

**Target:** 100% compliance.

As of June 2010, processing, administering and compliance monitoring of resource consents was 100% compliant with Resource Management Act requirements.

- **Measure:** Monitoring and enforcement programmes.

**Target:** All consents appropriately monitored with necessary compliance enforcement undertaken.

In 2009/2010, Council officers implemented 216 individual monitoring programmes of significant consents, monitored 1,834 dairy farms, and undertook 1,076 other inspections of minor industrial operations. All other consents were appropriately monitored. Necessary enforcement was undertaken.

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## ACTIVITIES – WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

### 1. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

Complete preparation/full reviews and interim reviews of resource management policies, plans and strategies:

- *Regional Coastal Plan*: Continue review
- *Regional Fresh Water Plan*: Commence review
- *Regional Soil Plan*: Commence review.

### 2. CONSENT PROCESSING AND ADMINISTRATION

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Provide appropriate and timely information in response to 100% of requests for assistance in undertaking or complying with the consents process under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Process, issue and report upon 100% of accepted resource consent applications (approximately 400 consents per annum), in compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Council's *Resource Consents Procedures* document.
- Successfully defend 100% of consent decisions appealed to the Environment Court.
- Process and administer 100% of accepted resource consent applications in compliance with statutory timeframes prescribed in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Council's *Resource Consents Procedures* document.
- Minimising the number and duration of resource consent hearings by resolving, through the pre-hearing process, at least 50% of submissions received on resource consent applications.

### 3. COMPLIANCE MONITORING PROGRAMMES

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- 100% of individual compliance monitoring programmes for all major consents designed, implemented and publicly reported upon (approximately 200 individual compliance monitoring programmes per annum) within the negotiated budgets and completed by 31 March each year or within nine months of the end of the monitoring period. In particular, demonstrate water abstraction compliance monitoring that is consistent with the 'Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations'.
- Implement 100% of recommendations arising from prior year's monitoring of resource consents subject to an individual compliance monitoring programme, to be reported in the

following year's report.

- Implement annual programmes for 100% of resource consents for agricultural discharges and minor industries not otherwise subject to an individual compliance monitoring programme (approximately 3,300 inspections per annum).
- Where necessary, implement appropriate advisory and enforcement actions to require 100% compliance with resource consents and/or regional plans.

### 4. POLLUTION INCIDENTS AND RESPONSE

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Respond to 100% of pollution and other complaints and where appropriate instigating control, clean up and enforcement procedures within four hours of receipt.
- Maintain and publicly report on 100% of pollution incidents in the Council's Unauthorised Incidents Register.
- Administer and implement the Taranaki Regional Oil Spill Response Plan as agreed with Maritime New Zealand including responding to 100% of oil spills.

### 5. STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Implement and report on 100% of the Council's state of the environment monitoring programmes comprising monitoring of surface fresh water quantity, levels and flows, fresh water quality, groundwater quantity and quality, coastal waters, biodiversity, air quality and land use sustainability using recognized and reputable methods of data collection, analysis and reporting in accordance with the Council's *State of the Environment Monitoring Procedures* document and *State of the Environment Monitoring Programmes*. In particular, in



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2011-2012 conclude the independent reviews of the Council's programmes.

- Monitor, review and where appropriate, further develop existing programmes by 30 June of each year.
- Maintain all quality assurance programmes and information databases for hydrometric, air quality, physicochemical freshwater, terrestrial biodiversity, fresh water biological and marine biological data. Programmes and databases maintained, including maintaining a terrestrial biodiversity database in the 2011/2012 year. IANZ registration for chemical analysis maintained.
- Prepare for the five-yearly comprehensive report to the Taranaki community on the state of the Taranaki environment focusing on all resource management issues of significance in the region. State of the Environment Report to be published in 2014 and 2019, providing information on the current state of the environment including trends and the effectiveness of the Council's policies and programmes.
- Maintain public access to on-line live regional data on hydrology, meteorology, soil moisture and bathing beach water quality. Live data reported on the Taranaki Regional Council's website.

## 6. RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS AND PROJECTS

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Over the period of the *Long-Term Council Community Plan* the Council intends to undertake a range of resource investigations and applied research projects, normally in partnership with science providers, other councils or resource users. Such projects evolve over time. Those identified for the first 3 years (to June 2012) of the *Long-Term Council Community Plan* are as follows:-



- Access Taranaki-specific data on the performance of nitrification inhibitors. Funding provided for Dexcel/ DairyNZ inhibitor performance trial at Whareroa, and environmental performance results provided to Council annually.
- Farm nutrient models calibrated for Taranaki conditions. Taranaki input data and modelling outputs verified as reliable and appropriate for Taranaki farming conditions and practice, by 2011.
- Engagement in "EnviroLink" and other science research project development opportunities and strategies for regional councils, to enhance knowledge base for policy development and implementation. Projects with clear relevance and benefit to Taranaki to be adopted by "EnviroLink" and other funding opportunities (advocacy to be reported through Council's annual report processes).

## 7. WASTE MINIMISATION

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Assist sector leaders in six activity areas in exploring and implementing energy efficiency and waste minimisation.
- Maintain an in-house waste minimisation programme.
- Work with the agricultural sector to identify, implement and/or promote waste minimisation opportunities.
- Participate in developing sustainability practices for 2011 Rugby World Cup games in Taranaki.
- Facilitate a regional approach to waste management initiatives and programmes at policy, management, and implementation levels, in particular servicing the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee, implementing a revision of the *Regional Waste Strategy*, and partnering in revising waste plans for the three districts of Taranaki.

## 8. SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS AND PLANT SUPPLY PROGRAMME

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Provide property planning services to landholders, comprising comprehensive farm plans, agroforestry plans and conservation plans. Plans covering not less than 3,000 hectares from an estimated 8 properties per annum.
- Provide riparian management plans to landholders. Plans covering not less than 100 kilometres from an estimated 20 properties in 2011/2012.
- The focus is on plan implementation, liaise with and provide advice to approximately 2,600 property owners for whom plans have been prepared.

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- Monitor and report on implementation of riparian management plans with the aim of implementing not less than 10% of the remaining recommended fencing and 5% of the remaining recommended planting.
- Respond to 100% of requests for general advice and assistance (approximately 350 per annum) on sustainable land management, soil conservation and riparian management practices within ten working days.
- Provide servicing and support to the Taranaki Tree Trust and assistance to other organizations involved in promoting sustainable land management.
- Provide, on a cost-recovery basis 380,000 suitable plants for land stabilisation, soil conservation and riparian planting programmes.
- Submit applications covering 100 ha to the Afforestation Grants Scheme (AGS) subject to the Scheme continuing.
- As part of the South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS) complete farm plans to cover 500 ha of erosion prone land.

## 9. BIODIVERSITY

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Prepare at least 10 biodiversity plans per annum for properties containing key native ecosystems.
- Initiate implementation of 90% of Council's KNE biodiversity plans in respect of designated priority KNEs within 1 year of each plan's preparation.
- Monitor and report on progress on the implementation of 100% of biodiversity plans.
- Facilitate the preparation of the Taranaki Inc Biodiversity Strategy to ensure the integration of all stakeholder programmes.



## 10. ENHANCEMENTS GRANTS

*What we plan to do in 2011/2012*

- Implement a programme using environmental enhancement grants for the protection of the 48 wetlands classed as regionally significant in the Council's adopted wetlands inventory and in the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki.
- Use environmental enhancement grants for the protection of aspects of the environment identified as regionally significant.
- Implement the South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support (STRESS) Soil Conservation Programme to protect 500 ha of land including an estimated 5,000 poplar poles, 50 ha of protection forestry and construction of 20 km of retirement fencing.
- Subject to approval and central government funding, establish 65 ha of forestry on erosion-prone land under the Afforestation Grant Scheme.

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## INDICATIVE COSTS AND SOURCES OF FUNDS

2009/2010 Estimate \$	2010/2011 Estimate \$		2011/2012 Estimate \$	2011/2012 LTCCP \$
<b>Expenditure</b>				
467,748	449,000	Resource management planning	548,357	547,063
828,098	821,743	Consent processing and administration	854,106	869,398
2,143,955	2,143,208	Compliance monitoring programmes	2,284,931	2,258,527
489,907	486,510	Pollution incidents and response	518,226	512,830
1,012,571	1,035,194	State of the environment monitoring	1,092,271	1,075,122
346,239	347,262	Resource investigations and projects	363,336	361,031
140,173	144,866	Waste minimisation	159,130	131,165
2,403,455	2,536,923	Sustainable land management plans and plant supply programme	2,577,233	2,753,389
417,240	313,284	Biodiversity	374,668	442,425
238,985	1,217,537	Enhancement grants	575,358	230,374
<b>8,488,372</b>	<b>9,495,527</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>9,347,616</b>	<b>9,181,324</b>
<b>Income</b>				
2,751,936	3,092,228	General rates	3,237,705	2,996,116
3,527,775	3,784,412	Direct charges	4,097,140	4,007,089
0	879,250	Government grants	240,900	0
2,208,662	1,739,637	Investment funds	1,771,871	2,178,119
<b>8,488,372</b>	<b>9,495,527</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>9,347,616</b>	<b>9,181,324</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>				
0	3,000	Land	0	0
0	0	Buildings	0	0
251,000	332,000	Motor vehicles	428,500	146,500
289,200	82,400	Plant and equipment	253,602	111,000
0	0	Office furniture	0	0
0	0	Computer equipment	0	0
0	0	Flood and river control assets	0	0
0	0	Computer software	0	0
<b>540,200</b>	<b>417,400</b>	<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>682,102</b>	<b>257,500</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>				
540,200	417,400	Transfer from retained earnings	682,102	257,500
<b>540,200</b>	<b>417,400</b>	<b>Total funding</b>	<b>682,102</b>	<b>257,000</b>