

Recount



TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

November 2005 No. 52

Council achieves successful year

The Taranaki Regional Council works with Taranaki's various groups and communities, farmers and industries to protect our natural environment and resources. We manage the region's natural resources to ensure that any activities and developments in our region are appropriate and sustainable, that is, in balance with the environment and the community both now and in the future.

With a skilled staff, we do this in many ways. We look after Taranaki's land, coast, fresh water and air through resource consents, environmental monitoring, education and initiatives. We keep a watchful eye out for potential hazards and we plan for emergencies. Where initiatives will help the region to prosper, or will enhance the environment, we provide support.

In consultation with our community, the Taranaki Regional Council develops

policies and plans. We undertake research, set programmes and goals, regularly monitor the results and carry out reviews.

When appropriate we work closely with the South Taranaki, Stratford and New Plymouth district councils in the best interests of the region. Whereas the district councils deliver services like rubbish collection to their individual communities, the Taranaki Regional Council is responsible for environmental management across the whole region.

In any year, this all amounts to a great deal of work that is recorded in detail in the Council's annual report. This year's recently released *Annual Report 2004/2005* describes an exceptional and productive year across our range of activities, and profiles a sound and strong Council.

This edition of *Recount* summarises how our work programmes are adding value to the Taranaki community and contributing

to the community outcomes that you have identified as being important. It demonstrates too that the Council is financially healthy and well resourced.

If you would like more detailed information, have a look on the Council's informative web site www.trc.govt.nz, look for a copy of the Annual Report in your local library, or request information through the Council's offices: phone 0-6-765 7127, fax 0-6-765 5097, email info@trc.govt.nz.

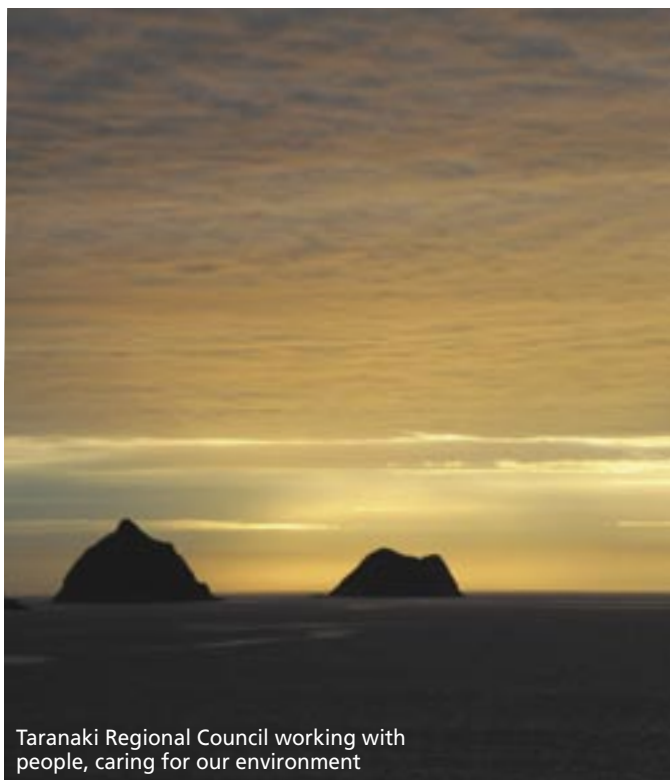
If you wish to comment on the Council's activities of the past year, please contact us. We welcome your interest and your input.

David Walter,
Taranaki Regional Council
Chairman



Key operational highlights for 2004/2005 include:

- Preparation and implementation of 381 riparian plans to protect an additional 1,363 kilometres of the region's waterways
- All 622 resource consents processed within statutory timeframes
- Compliance monitoring of significant resource uses demonstrating a generally high level of compliance with consent and plan requirements
- Response to 552 pollution incident notifications
- Supply of 219,000 plants at cost for riparian planting
- Extension of the Self-help Possum Control Programme to 205,202 hectares on 3,193 properties
- Progress on the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki review
- Preparation of *A guide to surface water availability and allocation in Taranaki*
- Implementation of changes to civil defence emergency management services
- Completion of four kilometres of channel clearing in the Waitotara River
- Progress on asset management plans for Tupare and Hollard Gardens
- Launching, with Stratford and South Taranaki district councils, the Taranaki Regional Xplorer geographic information system website
- Adoption of Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan
- Operating surplus \$0.38m ahead of budget.



Taranaki Regional Council working with people, caring for our environment

Inside

- Pollution prevention
- Management of our water, land, air and coast
- Port ownership
- Emergency preparation and flood risk management
- Protecting our environment, health and economy from pests
- Transport planning
- Our regional gardens

Working with people, caring for our environment

www.trc.govt.nz

Community representation

Ten publicly elected Councillors have overall responsibility and accountability for the direction and control of the Council's functions. The Taranaki Regional Councillors are:

David Walter, Chairman, Stratford
Roger Maxwell, Deputy Chairman, North Taranaki
Donald McIntyre, North Taranaki
Bruce Cudby, South Taranaki
David MacLeod, South Taranaki
Neil Walker, South Taranaki
Tom Cloke, New Plymouth
Moira Irving, New Plymouth
David Lean, New Plymouth
Barry Marsh, New Plymouth.

After the October 2004 elections, the Council farewellled Councillor Ian Armstrong, and welcomed Councillors Moira Irving and Bruce Cudby.

The full Council and main Council committees meet on a six-weekly cycle with other meetings held when necessary. The focus is on setting policy and strategy



Councillors regularly visit sites of environmental importance. Here, Chief Executive Basil Chamberlain, Councillors and Council Directors discuss the Stony River in Okato.

and monitoring their implementation. It is the responsibility of the Council management to implement these policy and strategy decisions.

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is a joint committee established under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. The Council is a member of this Group along

with members from the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils. The Taranaki Regional Council is the Committee's administering authority.

Eighty-eight percent of responses to a referendum held at the same time as the 2004 election said that they would not support the Council moving to establish a separate Māori constituency.

Land management advice popular

The public demand for land management advice from the Council continues to grow, and the results contribute significantly to the sustainability of the region. This essentially non-regulatory programme involves the provision of farm plans to interested farmers on request and at no charge.

Forty-one comprehensive plans based on detailed land resource mapping and incorporating the total operation and business package were prepared during the year for predominantly sheep and beef farmers in eastern hill country.

Along with eight site-specific conservation plans, these brought a further 27,190 hectares of land under some form of sustainable land management plan, easily exceeding the year's 15,000-hectare target.

The preparation of 381 riparian management plans – about 25% more than for the previous year – means that

54% of Taranaki dairy farms now have riparian plans to manage their stream banks and water quality. The riparian plan programme is one of our biggest success stories. Huge progress has been made in protecting the region's water quality through the work and investment of landowners, making this one of the biggest conservation projects in New Zealand.

The Council's bulk plant purchasing scheme provided 623 landholders with 231,700 conservation and riparian plants – 86% higher than the

previous record of two years ago – equating to a major planting effort by Taranaki landholders.

Work has continued on the region's wetlands, and Council assistance for the Taranaki Tree Trust's work has included support for the Herekawe Stream Walkway project and the Rapanui petrel colony.



Project supporters get to work at a Taranaki Tree Trust planting day at the Herekawe Stream Walkway.

This was the first year for the regional action plan to implement the national dairying and clean streams accord. The regional plan is based around programmes already well established in Taranaki – in particular riparian planning. Taranaki has a substantial task ahead over the next decade but with the Council, Fonterra, Federated Farmers and the farming community working together to an agreed programme, the task is realistic and achievable. Good progress has already been made.

Possum fight expands

By the end of June this year, more than 205,000 hectares of land had been included in the Council's Self-help Possum Control Programme. This figure equates to 3,193 properties or about 90% of privately owned land on the Taranaki ring plain, and adds up to significant progress in reducing possum numbers.

This ongoing programme includes vital maintenance, monitoring and inspection activities, and each year, new properties are introduced. In this past year, commissioned contractors have carried out initial possum control – the first step in the programme – on 267 Inglewood properties (over 12,000 hectares), reducing the possum numbers in the area by 90%.

The overall aims of the programme are to protect the region's biodiversity and to reduce the risk of bovine TB. The results of monitoring the possum numbers in the treated areas show that the programme is working well. We aim for trap catches of less than 5% as it is widely accepted that possums can not reasonably threaten biodiversity or animal health at this level. We encourage land occupiers to keep the

numbers low and require them to keep them below 10%. In this past year, the mean residual trap catch recorded on properties enlisted in the programme has been 4.7%.

At a glance:

- 267 Inglewood properties (over 12,000 hectares) added to the Self-help Possum Control Programme
- The programme now covers 205,202 hectares on 3,193 properties

The results are heartening. Once the initial control has been carried out on properties, the occupiers are successfully managing to keep possum numbers down. These results could not have been achieved by either the Council or the landowners working on their own. Commonly

agreed objectives, clarity of roles, sharing of tasks and goodwill have been the basis of this successful programme on privately owned land.

While possums pose the greatest threat to Taranaki's economy and environment, they are not the only pest animals targeted. The wanted list includes rooks, rabbits, feral cats, feral deer, feral goats, feral pigs, magpies, mustelids

(ferrets, stoats and weasels) and hares. The Council maintains a watching brief on numbers of these, and carries out control measures where required.



This map illustrates the progress of the Self-help Possum Control Programme in Taranaki

War waged on pest plants

The war against pest plants in Taranaki is vital for the protection of both agriculture and the environment and is waged with vigilance.

In the past year, Council officers regularly inspected 72 properties classed as having significant infestations of pest plants. There



Pest Plant Officer Craig Hornby offers advice on methods of pest plant control.

has been a decline in this type of property of almost 65% since 1996 - thanks to good management by land occupiers. However, inspection numbers are expected to increase with a greater emphasis in future on control in urban areas.

All 83 requests for land occupiers to control their pest plants last year were satisfactorily complied with and 74 pest plant complaints were dealt with. Council officers treated 38 properties, inspected 44 plant nurseries and retail outlets for pest plants, responded to 239 information requests and published a wide range of advice and information.

The biological control programme in the past year introduced to Taranaki 10 trial releases of the Giant Buttercup agent, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, one release of Portuguese gorse thrips and one release of Scotch thistle gall fly. Previous releases of biological controls for Old Man's Beard are showing good results.

For further information on pest plant management ring the Council offices or visit the website www.taranakiplants.net.nz.

At a glance:

- Compliance on all pest plant control notices
- Introduction of biological control programmes

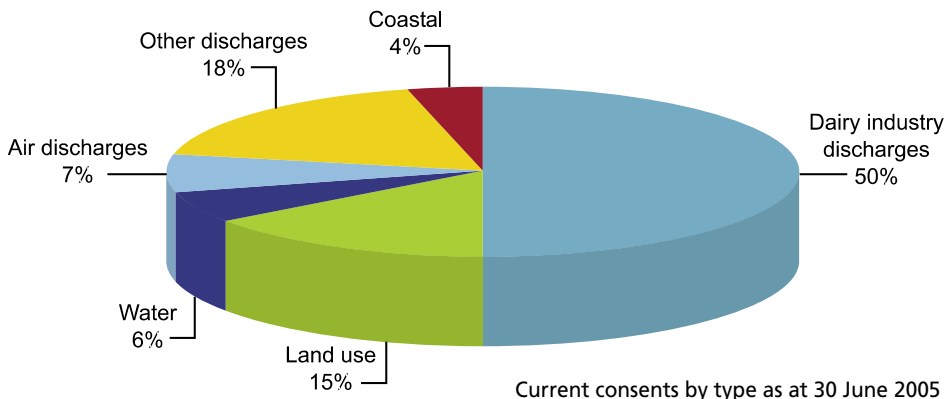
Consent processing in healthy shape

It has been a record year for resource consents. Not only did 2004/2005 achieve the highest number of resource consent applications processed – 622 – but also the largest number of non-notified consents (94% of the total processed). For the fifth year in a row, all consent applications were processed within the statutory timeframes (compared to 77% nationwide).

These figures bring the total number of current consents in Taranaki at June 2005 to 4,016, of which, 3,013 (74%) are discharge consents including 2,018 (50%) farm dairy discharges.

At a glance:

- All 622 consent applications processed within statutory timeframes
- 4,016 current consents



By using the pre-hearing provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Council avoided or reduced the length of costly hearings. One quarter of notified applications that attracted submissions were fully resolved by means of the pre-

hearing process. Four hearings were held relating to a dual fuel energy centre, a poultry farm, an artificial reef and a new Kupe gas field. One appeal was lodged with the Environment Court and was current at the end of the financial year.

Resources closely monitored

In order to measure progress made by the community and the Council to sustainably manage our natural and physical resources, regular state of the environment monitoring is carried out. This involves sampling of air, land, fresh water and coastal water, together with a range of analyses and surveys.

The comprehensive information gathered enables us to identify trends and changes, and to assess our own performance and that of resource users. A regional state of the environment report is compiled regularly. In 2004/2005, Council officers carried out 29 state of the environment monitoring programmes including 1,658 inspections, sampling runs and surveys at 374 monitoring sites.

Twelve one-off, applied research projects recorded additional information on particular parts of the environment often in association with other agencies including the Cawthron Institute, the Department of Conservation and the Taranaki Rural Sustainability Community Group.

Continuing the work of the Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki released in February last year, waste minimisation pilot studies were jointly funded with the district councils and conducted in seven priority sectors – publishing, boat making and joinery, electricity generation, sporting, retail and education – in each of the three districts. Council officers also reported on the rural waste survey conducted during the previous year, and sampled and analysed solid waste at the Colson Road landfill.

The results of a five-yearly survey in nitrate levels in the region's groundwaters showed a significant general decrease in groundwater nitrate concentrations during a time of dairying intensification. It is important that these results are considered in the context of other informed and accurate information the Council has gathered.

To view detailed information on these programmes visit www.trc.govt.nz.

At a glance:

- 29 state of the environment monitoring programmes carried out
- 12 applied research projects completed
- waste minimisation pilot studies conducted with the district councils
- results of five-yearly survey in nitrate levels in groundwaters published



Technical Officer Kate Giles measures water quality on a state of the environment monitoring run

Compliance monitoring continues apace

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, the Council is responsible for managing the coastal, air, freshwater and land resources of the region. Anyone wanting to use or carry out an activity in the natural environment where there is a likelihood of some environmental change may need a resource consent.

Monitoring how well resource users are meeting the conditions of the Taranaki region's 4,016 consents is important and rigorous work, and vital for us to properly maintain a healthy environment. It involves meticulous recording and amounts to some impressive and growing figures.

In 2004/2005, Council officers carried out 188 individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes involving 190 different resource consent holders. The programmes cover a wide range of activities. In the past year, they included 1,236 inspections, 1,640 water samples, 326 air samples, 72 freshwater biological surveys, 16 shellfish surveys, 21 marine ecological surveys and three soft shore surveys, and covered site management, abstraction and discharge quality, and receiving environment (impact) monitoring. A further 201 individual compliance monitoring programmes have been confirmed with consent holders in preparation for the 2005/2006 year.

The combined results of the 2004/2005 compliance monitoring programmes of 24% recording a high level of environmental performance and 63% with a good level of performance, were 1% lower than that achieved by consent holders in 2003/2004.

At a glance:

- 188 individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes carried out
- Monitoring of significant resource uses shows generally high levels of compliance
- Response to 552 pollution incident notifications



Scientific Officer Dan Govier dives in Port Taranaki as part of the Council's management of coastal resources.

Council officers also inspected effluent treatment systems at all 2,037 dairy farms in the region, 24 piggeries and 48 poultry farms, and returned for re-inspections of 90 farms. Of the 922 minor industrial operations including exploration wells, production stations, earthworks, sandblasters and selected land use sites. Of these only 27 were reinspected for poor environmental performance.

More than 550 environmental incidents were registered and investigated. Advice and information were provided, abatement and infringement notices were served and one prosecution is currently being pursued.

Policies take shape

The current review of the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* has led to the preparation of a biodiversity (variety of plant life, animal life and ecosystems) policy for the region and a working paper highlighting issues, suggesting roles and actions and prompting thorough and helpful submissions. As a result, an inventory will be prepared of regionally significant biodiversity sites in addition to the existing wetlands inventory. It is likely that the Council will assist landowners with incentives and services, such as pest control, in order to form partnerships that will protect these important assets.

During the year, the Council released *A guide to surface water availability and allocation in Taranaki*, a document to help those planning to take or use water, to interpret consent requirements and also to indicate where water might, or probably might not, be available.

At a glance:

- Progress made on the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* review
- Biodiversity policy prepared
- *A guide to surface water availability and allocation in Taranaki* published

Investment reports

The Taranaki Regional Council is the 100% owner of Westgate Transport Ltd (Port Taranaki) on behalf of the region.

As expected, following the Maui gas field decline and before new fields such as Pohokura come on stream, Westgate Transport Ltd has experienced reduced trade, revenue and profit. On the other hand, however, container trade rose by 7.5% and other trades helped offset the methanol losses. Total revenue for the period was \$27.96m against \$28.08m for last year. Tax paid profit for the year was \$1.45m, down from the previous year's \$2.52m. These figures represent a return of 2.4% on average shareholders' funds employed during the period. Total shareholders' equity increased significantly to \$67.3m largely associated with land revaluations.

The Westgate Board continues to face future challenges with a range of initiatives including diversification of the trade base. We expect at least two more difficult years as Maui declines further. Steps have been taken to mitigate the impacts of temporarily reduced dividend returns on other Council revenue streams.

At a glance

- Gas field decline brings expected reduction in Port trade
- Container trade up 7.5%

Recreation, culture and heritage developments

The Taranaki Regional Council Empowering Act 2001 has enabled us to take a more active part in fostering recreation, culture and heritage in our region during recent years.

- At a glance:
- Progress in asset management plans for Tupare and Hollard Gardens
 - Yarrow Stadium popular

As a result, the Council owns Hollard Gardens and Tupare, and has embarked on a planning exercise for the management and development of both regional gardens, and given support to Pukeiti. After full public consultation, detailed asset management plans have been prepared for these valuable amenities and are due

for adoption in early 2005/2006.

In 2001 we provided one-off funding and support for the development of Yarrow Stadium and continue to rate to cover some

of the development costs. The stadium has proved to be an excellent regional facility. It regularly attracts a wide range of events and audiences.

Future development of Tupare, along with Hollard Gardens, has been the subject of a comprehensive regional gardens planning exercise



Transport issues addressed

Total mobility services for people with disabilities provided almost 93,000 passenger trips in the urban centres of New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford and Hawera during the year. The demand for these taxi-based services continues to grow. Approximately 1,800 people are assisted by the scheme through 30 agencies affiliated with the Disabled Persons Assembly. A concessionary fare scheme for urban buses in New Plymouth subsidised almost 50,000 further passenger trips.

- At a glance
- Financial assistance provided for almost 93,000 passenger trips for people with disabilities
 - Review of the *Regional Land Transport Strategy* under way
 - Passing lanes added between Awakino and Piopio
 - Clean safety record for Port Taranaki

A comprehensive review of the *Regional Land Transport Strategy* has begun and involves both professional analysis and public input.

As advocated by the State Highway 3 Working Party, with the support of Environment Waikato, additional passing lanes between Awakino and Piopio were included in the highway's works programme. A rural roads strategy was completed during the year.



An oil spill response exercise gets under way at Port Taranaki

Port Taranaki recorded a clean bill of health during the past year with its total 1,121 vessel movements free of navigation or safety incidents. The Council is responsible for navigation safety and harbour management at the Port and for the response to any marine oil spills. As part of a continuing programme to ensure the harbour remains safe and

well managed, specific oil spill response activities and exercises, training, equipment audits and maintenance were carried out during the year, and an assessment and safety management manual was compiled. The five marine oil spills that occurred within the port area were responded to successfully and costs were recovered.

Finances remain strong

We finished this year with an operating surplus of \$0.84m, which was \$0.38m ahead of budget. The budgeted surplus recognised that the Council has targeted rates in place that will continue for the next several years to recover approximately two-thirds of the funding provided for the redevelopment of Rugby Park into Yarrow Stadium.

Total expenditure was \$10.5m, 3% less than budget. Most activities ran according to budget. Where over-expenditure occurred, it was normally at least matched by recoveries, for

At a glance

- operating surplus \$0.38m ahead of budget
- Total expenditure 3% less than budget

example, in consent processing where activity was higher than expected.

Our financial position remains very strong with no public debt. Total public equity rose \$6.4m to \$64.5m, mainly due to property value increases. The Council achieved or exceeded all of the financial targets for the year in the Long-Term Council Community Plan, and complied in full with the Revenue and Financing Policy and Investment Policy.

Summary Financial Report of the Taranaki Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2005

Financial performance and financial position	2004/2005 Actual \$	2004/2005 Budget \$	2003/2004 Actual \$
Total revenue received including general rates of \$3.3m, dividends of \$2.2m and direct charges of \$2.8m	11,319,026	11,239,730	10,963,312
Total expenditure	10,474,723	10,782,836	9,650,528
Operating surplus	844,303	456,894	1,312,784
Total non current assets at 30 June (including investment in Port Taranaki Ltd, \$26m)	63,176,479	58,221,488	57,206,901
Total current assets at 30 June	3,343,924	354,190	2,574,698
Total non-current liabilities at 30 June	402,604	450,000	398,793
Total current liabilities at 30 June	1,554,417	1,400,000	1,226,727
<i>Movements in community ownership were:</i>			
Opening balance	58,156,079	56,263,779	55,998,295
Plus operating surplus	844,303	456,894	1,312,784
Plus asset revaluations	5,563,000	5,005	845,000
Closing balance	64,563,382	56,725,678	58,156,079
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	473,128	(939,027)	(2,155,452)
<i>The net cash flows were from:</i>			
• Operating activities	1,580,380	1,292,902	1,487,253
• Investing activities	(1,107,252)	(2,231,929)	(3,642,705)

This summary financial report is from the *Taranaki Regional Council 2004/2005 Annual Report* dated 3 October 2005. The Annual Report received an unqualified audit opinion dated 3 October 2005. This summary annual report has been audited and an unqualified opinion dated 18 October 2005 has been received. The summary report can not provide as complete an understanding as the full Annual Report which is available at any of the region's libraries. Request a free copy from the Council offices (ph 06 765 7127) or email publications@trc.govt.nz or visit the Council's website www.trc.govt.nz.

Taranaki Regional Council Facts File

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Web site: www.trc.govt.nz

AFTER HOURS CONTACT NUMBERS

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Environmental Hotline: 0800 736 222
Civil Defence Emergency Management
0800 736 222

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

New Plymouth Constituency:

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Moiria Irving 0-6-753 3063
David Lean 0-6-753 3325
Barry Marsh 0-6-758 2252

North Taranaki Constituency:

Roger Maxwell 0-6-752 3622
Donald McIntyre 0-6-762 4701

South Taranaki Constituency:

Bruce Cudby 0-6-278 5573
David MacLeod 0-6-278 5577
Neil Walker 0-6-278 7541

Stratford Constituency:

David Walter (Chairman) 0-6-762 7822

Audit report to the readers of Taranaki Regional Council's summary financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2005



We have audited the summary annual report.

Unqualified opinion:

In our opinion:

- the summary annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the information reported in the summary financial statements complies with FRS-39: Summary Financial Reports and is consistent with the full financial statements from which it is derived.

We expressed an unqualified audit opinion, in our report dated 3 October 2005, on:

- the full financial statements; and
- the Council's compliance with the other requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report.

Basis of Opinion

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which include New Zealand Auditing Standards. Other than in our capacity as auditor and the provision of taxation advice, we have no relationship with or interests in Taranaki Regional Council or its subsidiary.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary annual report and we are responsible for expressing an opinion on that report. These responsibilities arise from the Local Government Act 2002.

Bruce Taylor, Deloitte
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Hamilton, New Zealand
18 October 2005

Flood control work and emergency management progress

The Council has responsibility for river control and flood protection in the region, carrying out construction and maintenance of flood protection schemes as necessary, and administers the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group which is a joint committee of the four Taranaki local authorities.

During the past year, river control and flood protection work was carried out on three main rivers – Waitotara, Waitara and Waiwhakaiho – to manage the risks of damage and to keep potential costs to acceptable levels.

Trial channel clearing has been carried out in the Waitotara catchment in response to the 2004 floods, and the results will be discussed with a local liaison group and the

South Taranaki District Council to assist future river control programme planning.

Lining of the left bank of the Waitara River was extended 150 metres upstream of the town bridge and heavy benched bank lining downstream from the wharf was added to the 350 metres put in place last year. Three snub groynes were added upstream of the State Highway 3 bridge to improve channel alignment.

Successful maintenance has been carried out on the Waiwhakaiho flood protection scheme, and a review of the standard of protection, in consultation with the

community, will follow as a result of the extensive development and changed, intensive land use in the lower Waiwhakaiho/Glen Avon area.

The key focus of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group was the completion and approval of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan. The work

was achieved with the valuable assistance of a co-ordinating executive group of professional representatives from groups such as local councils, the Fire Service, the District Health Board and the Police.

At a glance:

- Completion of four kilometres of channel clearing in the Waitotara River
- Extension of Waitara River bank lining
- Completion of the CDEM Group Plan

Community kept in touch

The Council works hard to promote sustainable use of Taranaki's resources and to keep the region informed on progress – this newsletter is an example. One important focus is Taranaki's schools, where teachers and students take part in an ongoing resource management programme. In 2004/2005, our Education Officer worked with 3,833 students and provided teachers with regular newsletters and more than 100 units of work on wide-ranging topics including weather, rivers, coast, recycling, sustainable land management, civil defence and trees.

The Council regularly publishes its *Recount* newsletter and a number of booklets that included in 2004/2005 *Cleaning up the leftovers – hazardous waste collections in Taranaki*, in association with the Ministry for the Environment, and *Treescaping Taranaki* with the Taranaki Tree Trust. This year, we presented 11 awards for local environmental excellence and funded the refreshment of the Taranaki Naturally gallery as part of our partnership with Puke Ariki.



Education Officer Kevin Archer assists St Joseph's School, New Plymouth at the Kawaroa rock pools.

Having received feedback on desirable community outcomes for Taranaki, the Council and the three district councils have been working on ways to monitor and report on their progress.

Interest in our very informative website continues to grow. The groundbreaking free public enquiry portal Taranaki Regional Xplorer, launched in partnership with Stratford and South Taranaki district councils, has recorded a monthly visitor average of 53,000, and earned an

'Excellence in Innovation' award at last year's Association of Local Government Information Management conference. To see Taranaki Regional Xplorer or to check out live regional data on rainfall, bathing water quality, river levels, temperatures and flows, or wind speed and direction data or a raft of Council news on the web site, visit www.trc.govt.nz.

At a glance:

- 3,833 students in resource management programmes
- environmental booklets published
- 11 awards for environmental excellence
- Work on monitoring and reporting for community outcomes with the three district councils on monitoring and reporting of processes for community outcomes
- Taranaki Regional Xplorer geographic information system website launched