



Working for our region

Kevin Murphy and his family pick up riparian plants from the Council's plants depot in Opunake.

We're all very proud to call Taranaki home, and your Taranaki Regional Council plays an important role in making the region such a special place. This summary of our Annual Report for 2010/2011 is an opportunity to tell you about the work we do, much of it behind the scenes.

We're involved in the management of physical and natural resources, hazard management, and transport planning and public transport services. On behalf of the people of the region, we also own and manage three premier heritage properties, and we are the 100% owners of Port Taranaki Ltd.

Three areas of particular focus during the 2010/2011 year were:

- Completion of Stage One of the upgrade of the Lower Waiwhakaiho River Flood Protection Scheme. If you've been to The Valley Mega Centre over the past few months you'll know that this has involved raising the stopbanks by a 0.5 to 1.5 metres. This upgrade will be completed over the next two years, with work on the Mangaone Stream.
- Record sales of more than 328,000 plants in the ever-growing riparian (streamside) protection programme, taking the total to over 2 million. This shows how the community has embraced the programme, which recognises the need to protect and

enhance freshwater quality as dairying intensifies. The challenge for all is not to rest on our laurels, but to increase the speed at which the programme is implemented.

- Achieving 100% compliance with Resource Management Act consent processing timelines for the 11th straight year.

Other highlights for 2010/2011 included:

- The Council processed resource consents that resulted in economic investment estimated to exceed \$800m. The Council is proud of its role in facilitating this investment in a leading-edge manner.
- Monitoring continued to show that Taranaki has a relatively high quality environment - freshwater quality is generally stable or improving, coastal water quality is excellent, soils are healthy and managed sustainably, air quality is excellent, wetland and key native ecosystems protection efforts have improved, and landscape, amenity and heritage values are of a high quality.
- Pukeiti transitioned smoothly to public ownership following its transfer to the Council on 1 July 2010. Noticeably, visitor numbers increased when the Council opened up Pukeiti with free entry. The detailed planning to maintain and enhance Pukeiti as a world-class property has commenced.

- The Council continued its strong financial performance. Operating expenditure was 3.1% below budget. After the vesting of Pukeiti assets, the Council ended up with an operating surplus of \$2.9m. The Council continues to hold no public debt.
- Council continues its commitment to public ownership of a key strategic regional asset—Port Taranaki Ltd. The port company is now making good progress in responding to the changing trading environment, and the future is looking more positive.
- After the local body elections in October 2010 we farewellled and thanked Barry Marsh for his 18 years of service as a Councillor, and welcomed Craig Williamson as a new Councillor.

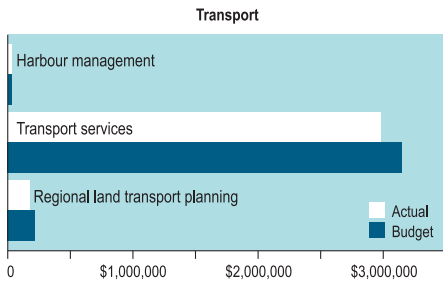
Please take the time to read this summary of our work over the past financial year.

You can also obtain the full report from the Council office, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, ph 06 765 7127, or online at www.trc.govt.nz.



David MacLeod
Taranaki Regional Council Chairman

More use Citylink bus service



The Council's most significant activity in the transport area during 2010/2011 was the adoption of the Regional Land Transport Strategy, which guides activity on a wide range of land transport planning and associated advocacy, liaison and collaboration.

The New Plymouth Citylink bus service, operated under contract to the Council since May 2010, was improved during the year and usage increased by 14%. The Council, through New Plymouth ratepayers and central government, has invested significantly in the new services and they require support from the travelling public if they are to be retained.

Patronage on once-a-week South Taranaki SouthLink services continued to increase and therefore met the Council's patronage targets with strong support from SuperGold card holders.

The Council continued to make improvements in the administration of the Total Mobility Scheme which provides discounted taxi travel for people with disabilities. At the conclusion of 2010/2011, the scheme had 1,870 clients.

More than 58,000 Total Mobility passenger trips were undertaken, a decrease of 9.2% from the previous year.

This can be attributed to the changes in travel patterns due to affordability, greater use of mobility scooters, decreasing dependence on taxis for transport and improvements in administration and auditing of trips.

The Council continued its wide ranging advocacy work on land transport matters with membership of the State Highway 3 Working Party, Stratford to Okahukura Line Working Party, Stock Truck Effluent Disposal Working Party and Taranaki Cycleways Group.

On the maritime front, there were 1,550 vessel movements in Port Taranaki, an increase of 156 on the previous year, without any navigation or safety incidents.



Communicating our messages

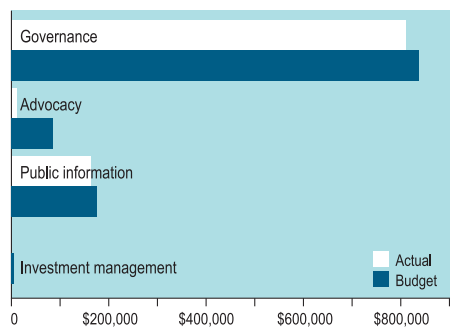
During the year the Council's external website www.trc.govt.nz experienced significant traffic growth, largely as a result of the online Civil Defence awareness campaign, Taranaki Blowout.

Taranaki Blowout was among a number of public information campaigns during the year. Others promoted Tupare and Hollar Gardens, public transport and riparian management. Five issues of the Council's newsletter *Recount* were also published and widely distributed.

The Council made nine environmental awards and continued its emphasis on providing educational material and other forms of assistance to schools, especially on environmental matters.

Four issues of the school-oriented S.I.T.E. newsletter were produced. There were 150 visits to classes involving 4,454 students and 63 class field trips. There were a further 834 visitors to the Council's display areas. Council staff also facilitated three teacher training workshops and provided assistance

Regional Representation, Advocacy and Investment Management



and support for teachers undertaking learning experiences both within and outside the classroom.

Councillor Barry Marsh did not return after the local body elections held in October 2010. Councillor Marsh made a significant contribution to the success of the Council over an 18-year period. At the same elections, Councillor Craig Williamson was elected for the first time in the New Plymouth ward.

Port Taranaki performs better

The 100% Council-owned Port Taranaki Ltd performed relatively well in bouncing back from the impacts of trade decisions made in the 2009/2010 year.

Pre-tax profits were up by \$1.1 million to \$4.6 million. This resulted in dividends of

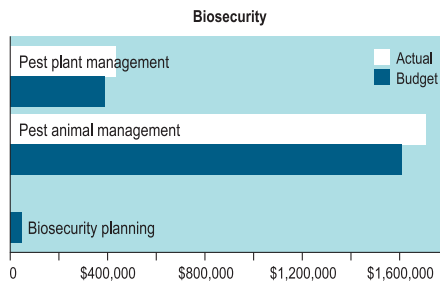
\$1.85 million, which while right on budget for the year, remain lower than the forecast for 2010/2011 in the 2009/2019 Long-Term Council Community Plan.

United front against possums

The Council's major pest animal focus, the Self-Help Possum Control Programme, now covers almost all privately owned land on the ring plain and significant parts of the coastal terraces and frontal hill country.

Unlike previous years, no major expansion of the programme took place in 2010/2011. Instead, the Council supported possum control on privately owned land around Egmont National Park, in conjunction with a major control operation carried out by the Department of Conservation within the Park. The Council engaged contractors to undertake control on 136 properties covering approximately 11,500 ha, with an additional 38 properties (approximately 2,000 ha) treated by Council staff.

Across the broader ring plain, monitoring and follow-up work continued. A total of 1,181 inspections were carried out in 2010/2011 to ensure that land occupiers were complying with the Council's Pest Animal Management Strategy. Excessive possum numbers were found on only a few properties and in most cases occupiers followed Council advice to address the



issue. Only nine Notices of Direction were required, and these were complied with.

The year saw continued use of the wax tag technique for assessing possum numbers. This technique is regarded as more cost-effective than the traditional residual trap catch (RTC) method, and was adopted in 2009/2010. In 2010/2011, the Council laid 754 wax tag lines.

Council officers also responded to more than 3,800 requests for advice and assistance in pest animal control.

Overall, the Council's programme has successfully reduced and maintained possum infestation to a level that protects agricultural production values and animal health on the

ring plain, and protects indigenous biodiversity.

Under the Council's Pest Plant Management Strategy, officers undertook more than 9,000 property inspection and responded to 69 complaints and 199 requests for information during the 2010/2011 year.

During the year the Council issued 195 Notices of Direction directing land occupiers to control pest plants, down from 342 last year. The Notices related primarily to the control of pampas, gorse, ragwort and wild ginger.

The Council inspected 52 plant nurseries and retail outlets in Taranaki to ensure that they were not selling, propagating or distributing pest plants.

The Council treated 22 properties found to have eradication pest plants, and directed landowners to treat a further three infestations.

The number of inspected "Category C" properties (those with pest plant management problems) decreased from 192 last year to 186, during the year, continuing a decline since 2006/2007. Further reduction is expected.

Gardens venue for many events

Thirty-five events were hosted at Tupare, 13 at Hollard Gardens, and 18 at Pukeiti during the 2010/2011 year.

Visitors numbers at Tupare and Hollard Gardens decreased slightly compared with the previous year, and growth in public use of these properties is the focus for 2011/2012.

Pukeiti was transferred from its founding Trust to the Taranaki Regional Council on 1 July 2010 and the focus during the year was the transition to public ownership.

Work has started on an asset management plan to develop and enhance the property and its plant collection, similar to the planning processes which resulted in very successful redevelopment of Tupare and Hollard Gardens.

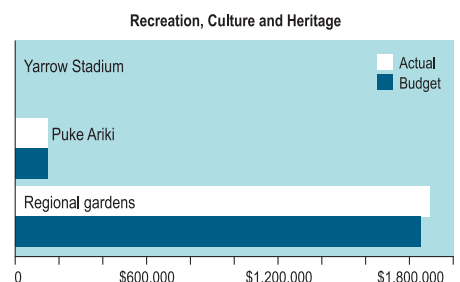
Pukeiti has traditionally attracted up to 10,000 visitors annually. But reflecting its new status as a public garden with free admission, 15,000 visitors enjoyed its tranquillity, stunning vistas and world-class botanical collection in 2010/2011.

The year under review was the ninth of a 10-year targeted Council rate covering some of the costs of the redevelopment of Yarrow Stadium, the venue for three Rugby World Cup games in September 2011.



Pukeiti had 15,000 visitors during 2010/2011.

The Council's ongoing partnership relationship with Puke Ariki continued during 2010/2011, with five projects funded under the Foundation Partnering Agreement. These included the 60 Springs environmental education programme, the development and presentation of material at the Museum of South Taranaki and the 'What if? The future of Taranaki' exhibition at Puke Ariki.



Milestone in riparian programme

A major highlight in land management activities during the year was hitting the 2 million mark for plants in the ground through the Council's world-scale riparian (streamside) protection scheme to fence and plant all waterways on the ring plain.

For the first time, the Council supplied more than 300,000 riparian plants in a financial year, and continued growth is anticipated.

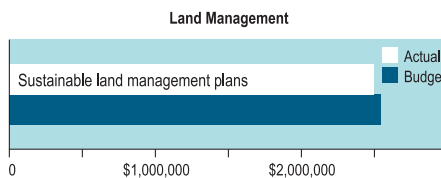
Adding riparian plants to plants supplied for sand and soil stabilisation, the Council distributed a total of 346,609 plants at cost. This number of plants going into the ground last winter is a major effort, noting that a significant number of farmers also use plants from other sources.

The riparian programme is well into implementation phase, with the Council having prepared individual riparian plans for 96% of dairy farms.

In 2010/2011 land holders fenced 405 km of streambank and planted 188 km of streambank. Council monitoring shows that 71% of streambanks covered by riparian plans are now fenced and 58% are planted. Most of this however, is pre-existing fencing or planting. Rates of fencing and planting will have to increase substantially to meet the Dairy and Clean Streams Accord regional target of 90% of riparian plans implemented by 2015.

The Council has substantially increased its one-on-one liaison with landowners, monitoring 94% of active riparian plans and providing supplementary advice on over 6,300 occasions during the year. It is important that Taranaki farmers now get on with the job of implementation.

Streamside fencing prevents stock fouling waterways while vegetation provides shade



and shelter, and enhances water quality by filtering agricultural run-off, cooling the water and promoting biodiversity. The riparian programme represents a significant investment in the future of Taranaki.

Other land management activities during the year included:

- Preparation of five comprehensive hillcountry farm plans and four agroforestry plans, bringing an additional 3,229 ha under sustainable land management plans. More than 189,998 ha of the hill country now has such coverage.
- Preparation of one conservation plan (site-specific advice on streambank protection and planting), bringing the total number of these plans to 239.

- Continued promotion of the Government's Forestry Emissions Trading Scheme, Permanent Forest Sink Initiative and Afforestation Grants Scheme. Under the latter, the Council, on behalf of land holders, obtained approval to fund 382 ha of new planting in the 2011/2012 year, with 159 ha approved for the 2012/2013 year.
- Continued work with farmers under the Council's South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS), for which it has secured more than \$1 million of Government funding over four years. During the year, 15 STRESS plan holders committed to implementing 19 km of retirement fencing, 69 ha of forestry planting and the planting of 3,695 poplar and willow poles to stabilise soil.
- Continued administration and support of the Taranaki Tree Trust, which received \$30,000 from the Council's Environmental Enhancement Grant scheme, in addition to donations from other sources. The Trust supported 30 planting projects in the region.

Broad biodiversity focus in region

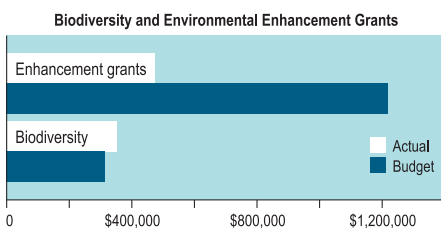
Council officers prepared a further 10 biodiversity plans in consultation with landowners during the year, bringing the total number of plans to 34 covering 934 ha of significant native bush and wetland areas.

Three sites were added to the database of Key Native Ecosystems (KNEs), bringing the total number to 163 covering 117,773 ha.

Council officers worked with landowners and volunteers to implement biodiversity plans. This included invasive animal control on 31 sites and invasive weed control on 20 sites. More than 10,000 native plants were supplied for ecological restoration or enhancement work at sites such as Rapanui Petrel Colony,

Sandy Bay dune restoration, and Waikirikiri (Komene Lagoon).

Biodiversity was also promoted through the programme of free public workshops at the Council's three Regional Gardens, Pukeiti, Tupare and Hollard Gardens, covering river ecology, pest animals and garden biodiversity.



The Council hosted the fourth Taranaki Biodiversity Forum in December 2010, bringing together a range of organisations and people working in the field. The positive and collaborative relationships in this area were also reflected in the preparation of a draft Regional Biodiversity Accord setting out a common a vision, desired outcomes, priorities, and a plan of action.

The Council and the community are committed to protecting and enhancing the region's indigenous biodiversity - the variability among all our native plants and animals and the ecological complexes of which they are a part.

Good record in consents processing

A total of 376 resource consents were processed during the year. This was a small increase on the 342 consents granted in 2009/2010.

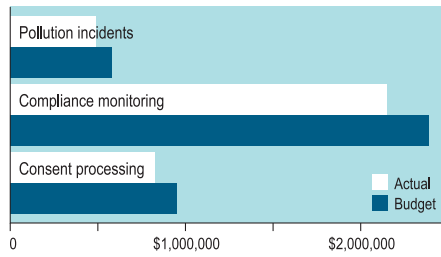
Most (97%) applications were processed without public notification, consistent with previous years and the pattern for most councils in New Zealand. For the 11th year in a row, all consent applications were fully processed within statutory timeframes.

“Non-notified” processing does not mean that few or no people are involved. Processing 2010/2011’s 204 non-dairy discharge consents involved consultation with and/or written approvals from 470 affected parties including iwi and hapu.

The Council’s charges for resource consent processing are among the lowest in New Zealand. The importance of an efficient consenting business is highlighted by the estimated \$800-million-plus capital value of activities licensed through the consents process during the year. The Council’s consenting role is economically significant both regionally and nationally.

Six Environment Court appeals were outstanding at the beginning of the 2010/2011 year but were resolved by

Resource Consents, Compliance Monitoring and Pollution Incidents



mediation. The Council implemented 226 individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes involving 292 different resource consent holders with 1,030 resource consents during the year. This included 984 inspections, 2,084 water and soil samples, 185 air samples, 62 freshwater biological surveys, 30 shellfish surveys and 11 marine bio-surveys.

Overall, some 87% of consent holders achieved either a high or good level of compliance performance while only 2% had a poor level of environmental performance.

Council officers visited all 1,809 dairy farms in the region as well as 25 piggeries and 46 poultry farms to inspect waste treatment systems and, where necessary, take samples for analysis. Of these, 4.6% needed reinspection because of failure to

satisfy consent conditions or regional plan requirements. This reinspection level is on a par with previous years.

Council officers also inspected 453 minor industrial operations. These included earth works, exploration wells, production stations and sandblasters, of which 4% required reinspection.

The total capital value of the sites monitored by the Council is \$1.5 billion.

During the year, 555 environmental incidents were registered and investigated by Council officers during the year. These resulted in:

- The Council requiring 41 letters of explanation from consent holders and others.
- 146 abatement notices.
- 31 infringement notices (“instant fines”).

During the year six prosecutions from 2009/2010 were concluded successfully, and the Council resolved to undertake seven new prosecutions. Four of these will be before the courts in 2011/2012.

Comforting news in environmental monitoring

The Council continued its extensive state of the environment monitoring activities during the year, involving 22 separate programmes and hundreds of monitoring sites and samples across the region.

Five annual reports summarising monitoring results were prepared.

Analysis of the Council’s biological data from its state of the environment monitoring programme has found that over the 15 years of the surveys, macroinvertebrate community index values have improved at 76% of sites, with declines at the remaining sites. However, when statistical significance tests are applied to the survey data, 35% of sites show improvement with no sites showing a statistically significant decline.

Monitoring of freshwater contact recreation water quality was carried out at 16 popular freshwater bathing spots. Taranaki continued to have overall good quality and only irregular samples in ‘alert’ or ‘action’ levels.

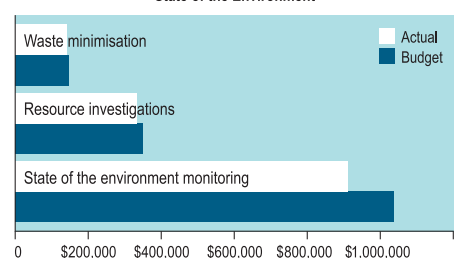
While challenges remain with managing freshwater quality, Taranaki people can take comfort in the fact that most gauges from our state of the environment work show that we as



a community are maintaining and enhancing overall water quality.

Thirteen research investigations and applied research projects during the year included investigations into farm nutrient and environmental efficiency modelling, the relationship between dairy stocking rates and soil ecosystem health, and investigating the consequences of stream modification.

State of the Environment



Summary financial information



Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Taranaki Regional Council and Group's Summary Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2011

We have audited the summary of the annual report (the summary) as set out on pages 1 to 8, which was derived from the audited statements in the annual report of the Taranaki Regional Council (the Regional Council) and group for the year ended 30 June 2011 on which we expressed an unmodified audit opinion in our report dated 20 September 2011.

The summary comprises:

- the summary financial position as at 30 June 2011, and summaries of the comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended and the notes to the summary financial statements that include other explanatory information; and
- the summary of the Regional Council non-financial performance information and summaries of other information contained in its annual report.

Opinion

In our opinion, the information reported in the summary complies with FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements* and represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report.

Basis of opinion

The audit was conducted in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand).

The summary and the audited statements from which they were derived, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to our report dated 20 September 2011 on the audited statements.

The summary does not contain all the disclosures required for audited statements under generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited statements in the annual report of the Regional Council and group.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

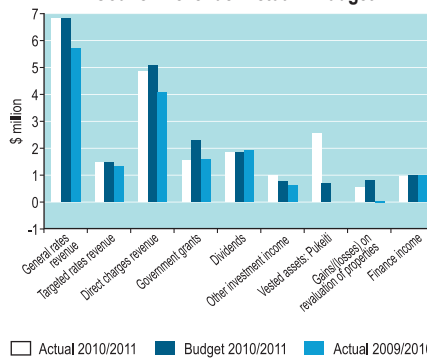
The Council is responsible for preparing the summary in accordance with FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*. We are responsible for expressing an opinion on the summary, based on the procedures required by the Auditor-General's auditing standards and the International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) 810: *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interest in, the Regional Council or any of its subsidiaries.

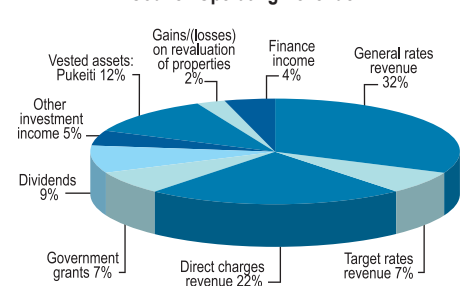
Graham Naylor

Graham Naylor, Deloitte
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Hamilton, New Zealand
20 September 2011

Council Revenue: Actual v Budget



Council Operating Revenue

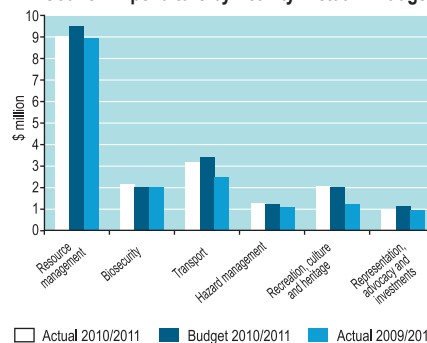


Revenue

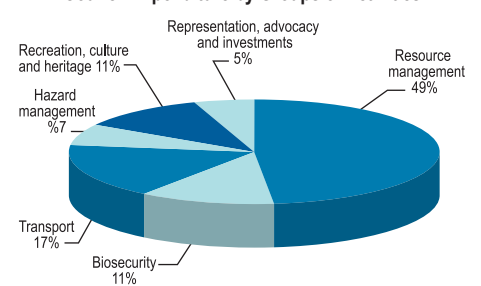
Revenue exceeded budget by \$728,000. This was due to the Pukeiti assets being vested at a higher value than was forecast (\$1,852,868). This was offset by reduced income from government grants being lower than budgeted due to a change in the way that the Government administered the Afforestation Grant Scheme (\$759,152). Direct charges were also lower than budgeted (\$229,797). Other significant variances include investment revenue which was more than budgeted (\$200,426), unrealised gains on investment properties which were less than budgeted (\$282,250), and unrealised gains on the revaluation of flood control scheme assets which were higher than budgeted (\$596,539).

General rates provides 32% of the Council's revenue with a further 22% coming from direct charges for services provided by the Council.

Council Expenditure by Activity: Actual v Budget



Council Expenditure by Groups of Activities



Expenditure

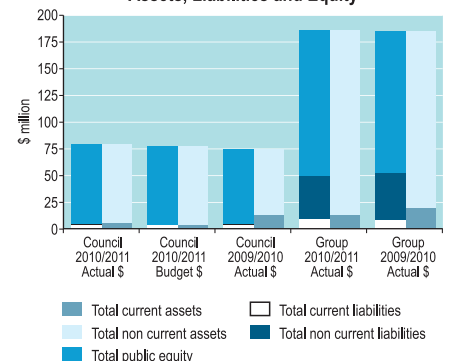
Operating expenditure was less than budgeted for the year by \$606,102. There were many small ups and downs across the Council's budgets, but the two main significant variances against budget was in land management where changes in government policy in relation to the operation of the Afforestation Grant Scheme resulted in reduced expenditure and in public transport (especially planning services) where there was also lower than anticipated expenditure.

Approximately 50% of the Council's expenditure is on its core resource management functions and responsibilities.

Financial position

The Council's assets and liabilities remained relatively stable during the year. Assets grew by \$4.2m largely on the back of the acquisition of Pukeiti. Liabilities were slightly higher than last year. The Group grew from total assets of \$184.3m to total assets of \$185.9m.

Assets, Liabilities and Equity



	Council 2010/2011 Actual \$	Council 2010/2011 Budget \$	Council 2009/2010 Actual \$	Group 2010/2011 Actual \$	Group 2009/2010 Actual \$
Total operating expenditure	18,620,350	19,226,452	16,680,850	50,138,867	47,711,065
Total income	20,612,782	19,830,687	15,130,931	57,911,646	50,969,998
Operating surplus/(deficit) before finance income and expenses and taxation	1,992,432	604,235	(1,549,919)	7,772,779	3,258,933
Finance income	945,895	1,000,000	1,002,980	1,006,642	1,021,883
Finance expense	-	-	-	2,931,218	3,082,666
Net finance expense	945,895	1,000,000	1,002,980	(1,924,576)	(2,060,783)
Operating surplus before taxation	2,938,327	1,604,235	(546,939)	5,848,203	1,198,150
Income tax expense	-	-	-	1,636,038	4,911,230
Surplus/(deficit) from continuing activities and surplus/(deficit) for the period	2,938,327	1,604,235	(546,939)	4,212,165	(3,713,080)
Other comprehensive income					
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment	596,539	-	18,000	596,539	18,000
Total comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	3,534,866	1,604,235	(528,939)	4,808,704	(3,695,080)

Comprehensive income

The Council made a net operating surplus/(deficit) of \$2,938,327 (2009/2010 – (\$546,939)) compared to a budgeted surplus, before transfers to and from reserves, of \$1,604,235 (2009/2010 – \$1,777,406). The entire operating surplus is from continuing activities.

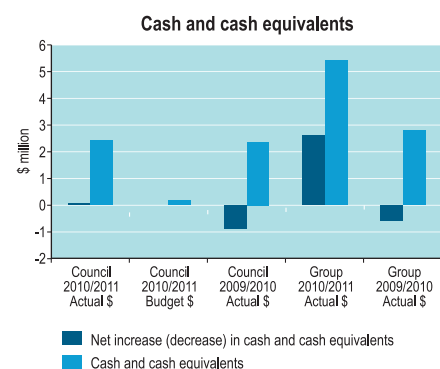
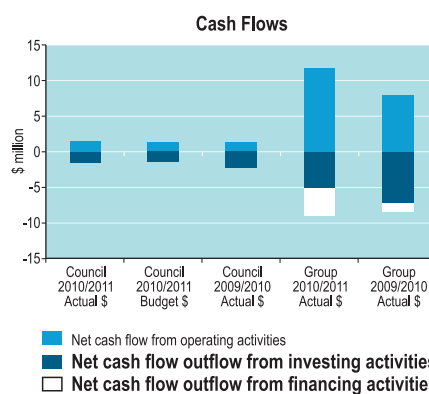
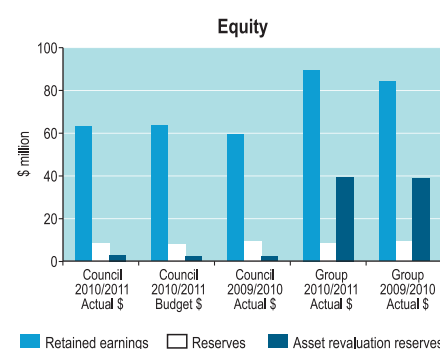
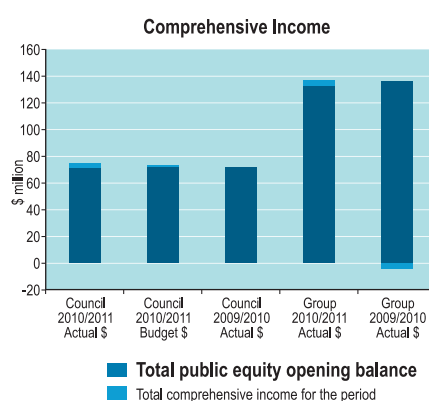
Changes in equity

The Council's equity grew by \$3.5m in 2010/2011 to \$74.5m. At a Group level, the total community ownership of the Council and the Port grew by \$4.8m to \$137.4m.

Of the Council's total equity of \$74.5m, \$63.2m of it is represented by retained earnings. At a Group level, retained earnings represents \$89.5m of \$137.4m. The majority of the remaining balance is represented by asset revaluation reserves.

Cashflows

The Council's cash and cash equivalents held steady during the year. Net cash flows from operating was nearly equivalent to net cash out flows from investing activities at \$1.5m each. However at a Group level cash balances increased by \$2.6m to \$5.4m in total.



Notes

These summary financial statements and summary of non-financial performance information (the Summary Report) have been prepared in compliance with "Financial Reporting Standard No.43 Summary Financial Statements" issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Board of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (May 2007). The summary report cannot 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.

This Summary Report has been extracted from the Taranaki Regional Council 2010/2011 Annual Report dated 20 September 2011. The corresponding contents in the Annual Report received an unmodified audit opinion dated 20 September 2011. This Summary Report has been audited and an unmodified opinion dated 20 September 2011 has been received. The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars. The Summary Report was adopted and authorised by the Taranaki Regional Council on 20 September 2011.

Taranaki Regional Council is the ultimate parent of the Group and controls one entity being Port Taranaki Ltd. There have been a number of transactions between Port Taranaki Ltd and the Taranaki Regional Council during the year in the normal course of business. These transactions are of an immaterial amount both individually and collectively.

The primary objective of Taranaki Regional Council is to provide goods or services for the community or social benefit rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, Taranaki Regional Council has designated itself and the Group as public benefit entities for the purposes of New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS). The full set of financial statements included in the Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP. The full set complies with NZ IFRS, and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities. These summary financial statements are in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of NZ IFRS but do not comply with the

presentation and disclosure requirements of NZ IFRS. The summary financial statements are in respect of the Council and Group's NZ IFRS full financial statements.

Contingencies

The Taranaki Regional Council has no known contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2011 (Nil—2009/2010). Pursuant to the Waitara Harbours Act 1940, the Council has an interest in 180ha of New Plymouth District Council owned Waitara Harbour endowment lands. In the event of the sale of part or all of these lands by the New Plymouth District Council, the Council has a contingent asset. At this stage, the value is uncertain. Port Taranaki Limited is a participating employer in the NPF DBP Contributors scheme ("the Scheme") which is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. If the other employers ceased to participate in the Scheme, the employer could be responsible for the entire deficit of the Scheme. Similarly, if a number of employers ceased to participate in the Scheme, the Company could be responsible for an increased share of the deficit.

Good progress in review of plans

Good progress was made during 2010/2011 in the Council's phased review of its core Resource Management Act policies and plans.

The review of the Council's Regional Air Quality Plan was completed and it became operative in July 2011. The Plan identifies issues for managing air quality in Taranaki, sets objectives to be achieved and establishes a framework of policies, methods and rules.

One of the more significant changes was a new rule banning backyard burning of domestic waste and green waste on residential properties in urban areas. The Council received a number of submissions, the large majority of which supported a ban.

A review of the Council's Regional Coastal Plan is continuing, having been delayed pending the release of the Government's New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement in November 2010. This contains a number of policy directives that will need to be reflected in the review of the Coastal Plan.

The Council is also cranking into a full review of the Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki which is the largest and most influential of the Council's RMA regulatory instruments, and the Regional Soil Plan. Both are to be combined into one plan.



Freshwater Management in May 2011 will have a significant bearing on these reviews. The NPS requires regional councils to establish water quality limits and targets, flows and/or levels, and allocation limits and minimum flows, for all freshwater bodies in their regions.

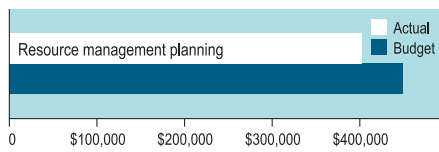
The Council has sought seek legal clarification on a number of provisions in the NPS and has told resource users, in particular dairy farmers, to expect greater requirements for wastewater treatment systems.

The Council was again active in advocacy and response, making 19 formal written submissions on a wide range of policy documents and legislative proposals by others.

During the year the Council commissioned an independent survey survey of those who had made submissions to the Council's Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki and the Proposed Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki.

The results were very positive, with a strong endorsement of both the quality of the Council's documents and review processes. In particular, those surveyed strongly supported the Council's use of the pre-hearing process to avoid costly hearings and appeals.

Resource Management Planning



These reviews need to take into account changes in best practices in environmental management over the past 10 years or so, changes in community and business expectations and developments in statutory frameworks. The release of the Government's National Policy Statement (NPS) on

Waiwhakaiho protection boosted

Some 8,500 cubic metres of fill was used to raise stopbanks along 1.3 km of the Lower Waiwhakaiho River, a major part of the Council's hazard management activities during the year.

More than 500 cubic metres of cobbles went into gabion baskets that were also used in this work, Stage 1 of a scheme to raise the level of flood protection in an area that has seen significant development in recent years.

Work on stages 2 and 3, involving the upper and lower Mangaone Stream, is continuing.

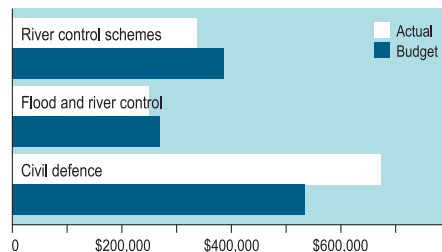
The upgrade project gives an appropriate level of protection to the investment and development that has gone into the lower Waiwhakaiho River in recent years.

The Council also continued a programme of upgrading its Waitara Flood Control Scheme, including the placement of 2,000 tonnes of rock upstream of the town bridge to provide a more manageable river edge.

A total 800m of channel clearance work was undertaken in the Waitotara River, with a further 12.85 km of ground-based spraying of regrowth undertaken. A total of 24.435 km of physical clearance has now been completed.



Hazard Management



The review of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan continued throughout the year.

During the year the CDEM Group convened an exercise, Exercise Tangaroa, based on a tsunami created by subsea earthquakes off the coast of South America,

and participated in Disaster Awareness week with the Taranaki Blowout campaign. Staff delivered 23 group presentations, and facilitated a further 11 workshops. The What's the Plan Stan teaching resource was utilised in schools, with the Council delivering 66 classroom sessions based on this material.

There are now more than 3,800 subscribers to the Taranaki CDEM text warning service. This was utilised when a tsunami warning was issued as a result of the Japanese earthquake. The CDEM Group also responded to the Christchurch earthquakes, providing assistance in the form of personnel, welfare and resources.