



Prime Minister John Key (right) and Taranaki Regional Council Chairman David MacLeod at the launch of Transforming Taranaki in New Plymouth in November.

Transforming Taranaki

The scope of Taranaki's streamside fencing and planting programme was highlighted when the Prime Minister, John Key, launched a booklet chronicling its achievements and targets.

The booklet, called Transforming Taranaki, focuses on the achievements and rationale of Taranaki's Riparian (streamside) Management Programme, under which thousands of kilometres of streambanks are being fenced and planted.

The Council Chairman, David MacLeod, says the programme is one of New Zealand's foremost environmental enhancement projects. Fencing and planting plans have been prepared for almost 2,400 individual properties, covering 96% of Taranaki dairy farms.

So far these plans have resulted in 1900 km of new fencing and the planting of more than 2 million native plants. The latter are

supplied by the Council, which tenders for bulk supply to keep costs down for farmers.

"Science proves that fencing and planting streambanks pays big dividends in protecting and enhancing the quality of waterways," says Mr MacLeod. "Our streams and rivers are generally in good shape today, and this project will secure a healthy future for them as agriculture develops and land use intensifies."

"It's not just the large-scale vision and the environmental dividends that make this a unique project. The on-farm fencing and planting work is voluntary and unsubsidized, yet the uptake and support by our farmers far exceeds what we see in similar but state-funded projects overseas."

Transforming Taranaki sets out details of the scheme in a clear, easy-to-read format, and includes the scientific evidence that fencing and planting streambanks is one of the

most effective ways to protect and enhance freshwater quality.

But Mr MacLeod says publication of the booklet is not the end of the story. "The region has set itself ambitious targets under the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord, and the pace of fencing and planting needs to increase if they are to be met."

Leading the way are the 240 farmers who have completed all the work required on their properties, and at the launch of Transforming Taranaki in November, Mr Key presented Certificates of Completion to two of them – Wayne and Joy Peters, who farm near New Plymouth; and Alan and Barbara Harvey, of Shantilly Farms near Opunake.

"These certificates are certain to have increasing financial and legal value as years go by, forming part of what you might call a farmer's 'licence to operate'," says Mr MacLeod.

[Continued on page 2](#)

From the Chair

It's hard to believe another year has almost gone by, and soon the clock will tick over into 2012.

Among the highlights of 2011 has been the launch of Transforming Taranaki, a booklet that chronicles the rationale, scope, progress and targets of the Taranaki Riparian Management Programme.



It was fitting that Transforming Taranaki was launched by the Prime Minister, John Key, because this programme is one of the nation's foremost environmental enhancement projects. It's a community partnership on a grand scale.

One of the reasons we've published Transforming Taranaki is to remind everyone about the huge scope of this project. Even those many farmers involved in the programme are probably too busy doing their bit to step back and look at the impressive big picture.

We all know, however, that the new booklet is not the end of the story. There is much work to be done if we are to meet the region's riparian management targets under the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord.

One of our key partners in the Riparian Management Programme is Fonterra, and a personal highlight for me this year has been my election to the Co-op's Board of Directors.

I'm confident that the experience, perspectives and values that I have gained as a member and Chairman of the Taranaki Regional Council will be useful and welcome contributions at the Fonterra board table, particularly on matters relating to sustainable development.

Be assured that I remain committed to, and passionate about, the Taranaki Regional Council and my role as Chairman. I expect to face some challenging workloads at times but a top priority will be to ensure I give my Chairman's duties the energy and attention they deserve. I would not continue in the position if that was not possible.

It's important to note, too, that there are statutory procedures that all elected Councillors must follow to avoid "conflict of interest" situations. The Council has high professional and ethical standards.

I'm looking forward to the challenges that 2012 will bring, and I hope you are too. In the meantime, may I wish all Recount readers a safe and happy holiday.

David MacLeod – CHAIRMAN



Alan Harvey (second left) and Wayne Peters (right) with Prime Minister John Key and Council Chairman David MacLeod at the presentation of their riparian programme completion certificates.

Transforming Taranaki

Continued from page 1

The Peters have 7 km of streambank on their dairy property. They started fencing the streambank as early as 1975, and completed all the required fencing and planting in 2000.

The Harveys have 8.2 km of streambank on their blocks. All of this needed planting, and 3.4 km needed fencing. The work was completed during winter this year.

Transforming Taranaki can be accessed online by going to www.trc.govt.nz/transforming-taranaki/. Hard copies can be ordered by emailing publications@trc.govt.nz or calling 0800 736 222



A Riparian Management Programme Certificate of Completion.

Riparian verdict: Great work, keep it up

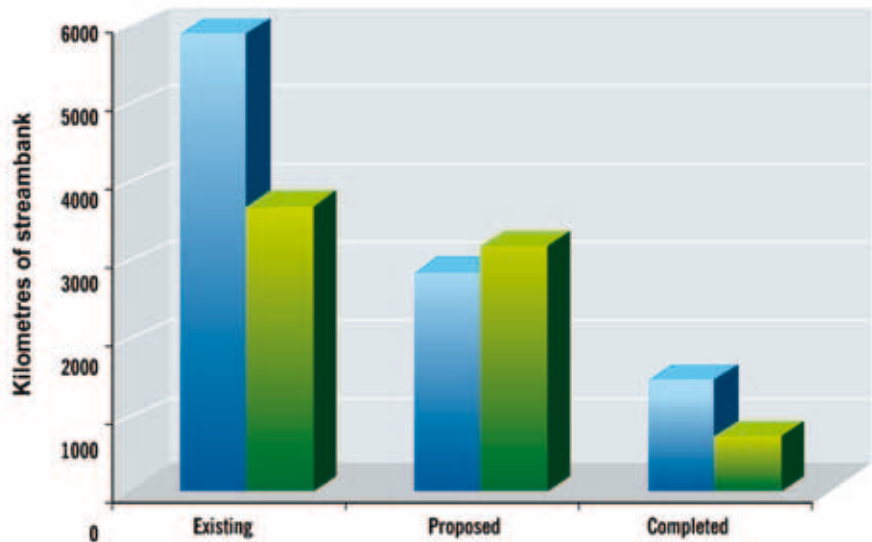
The growing pace of Taranaki's ambitious streamside fencing and planting scheme is highlighted in the latest progress report – with the emphasis firmly on the need to get even more posts and plants into the ground.

Riparian (streamside) management is an effective way to protect and enhance freshwater quality, and is a key objective in Taranaki's Regional Action Plan (RAP) under the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord. The RAP was adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council, Fonterra and Federated Farmers, with the Council reporting annually on progress.

A major RAP target is to have the region's 1,680-plus dairy-farm riparian management plans 90% implemented by 2015. The RAP annual report for 2010-2011 shows that :

- 345 km of fencing was completed in 2010-2011, which is 11% of the total fencing still required. A total of 1631 km of new fencing has been completed to date, with another 5727 km already in place before riparian plans were prepared. A total of 72% (7358 km) of streambank is protected by new and existing fencing.
- 159 km of new planting was completed in 2010-2011, which is 5% of total planting still required. A total of 790 km of new planting has been completed to date, with another 3727 km of vegetation already in place before riparian plans were prepared. A total of 58% (4517 km) of streambank is protected by new and existing vegetation.

The RAP annual report notes that implementation of recommended new



Status of fencing and planting in Taranaki 2010-2011.

fencing and planting will need to increase substantially if the ambitious 2015 targets are to be met.

“Whilst the target for 2010 has been met, this is largely due to existing fencing and planting carried out pre-Accord,” the report says. “The Taranaki Regional Council will continue to promote plan implementation through one-on-one contact with landholders to ensure 2015 targets are met. In addition, it is essential that the dairy farming community puts increased emphasis on fencing and planting of waterways to assist the Council's efforts.”

Other targets in the RAP have largely been met:

- 96% of Fonterra supplier dairy farms in Taranaki have a riparian property plan (target: 90% by 2010).

- 98% of on-farm stream crossing points are adequately bridged or culverted (target: 50% by 2007 and 90% by 2015).
- 100% of Taranaki dairy farms in Taranaki have a farm dairy effluent discharge consent (target: 100% by 2004).
- 91% of regionally significant wetlands are fenced (target: 60% by 2005, 90% by 2010).
- 99.4% of Fonterra dairy farms in Taranaki have a nutrient budget (target: 100% by 2007).

The report says that overall, the Accord partners and the Taranaki dairy farming community should be satisfied with the excellent progress on most of the targets.

Council gets big tick in RMA survey

The Taranaki Regional Council has again rated well in a national survey of local authority activities related to the Resource Management Act.

The latest two-yearly survey by the Ministry for the Environment showed that:

- As has been the case for more than a decade, the Taranaki Regional Council has processed all consent applications within statutory timeframes. It is one of two to achieve this in the latest survey period.
- Taranaki Regional Council's median charge for discharge consents is more than 50% lower than the national

median. Discharge consents make up 68% of those issued by this Council.

- Nationally, pre-hearing meetings were held for only 11% of notified consent applications. Taranaki Regional Council, however, has pre-hearing meetings for all applications which attract submissions – totalling 50% in 2010/2011.
- Nationally, 28% of pre-hearing meetings resolved issues. For Taranaki Regional Council, it was 60%, saving all parties time and costs.
- Taranaki Regional Council prosecutions and abatement notices in 2010/2011

accounted for 13% of the total for all 78 Councils in New Zealand.

- The total number of resource consent applications is decreasing, but regional councils' share is growing.

The Council's Director-Resource Management, Fred McLay, says the latest survey results are pleasing, and the Council is looking forward to the Government's new Environmental Protection Authority being subjected to the same benchmarking process.

The Environment Minister, Dr Nick Smith, has written to the Council congratulating it on its high level of performance in meeting RMA statutory timeframes.

Audit report welcomed

The Taranaki Regional Council has welcomed the findings of an audit of its freshwater management by the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG).

Taranaki was one of four councils audited by the OAG, which has presented the results to Parliament in a report called *Managing Freshwater Quality: Challenges for Regional Councils*.

The OAG's findings:

The Auditor-General, Lyn Provost, finds that "overall, Taranaki Regional Council is maintaining and, in some places, improving freshwater quality in its region".

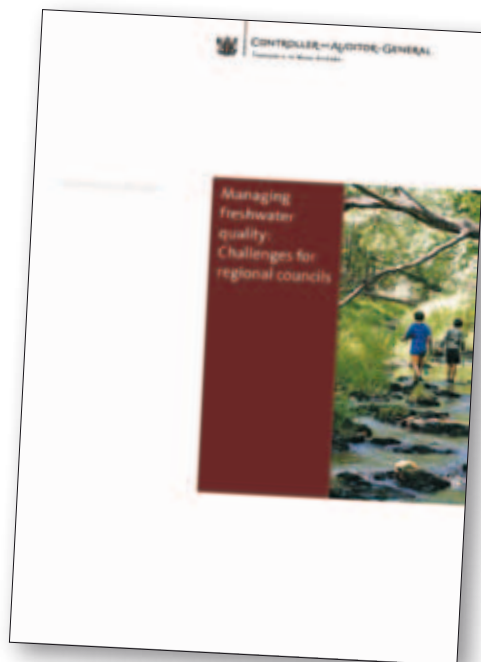
She notes that scientific monitoring of freshwater quality in low-elevation areas suggests some vulnerability. But she adds: "I consider the Taranaki Regional Council is well positioned to address these risks to freshwater quality by adapting its existing methods."

As part of the report, the OAG commissioned the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) to analyse the Council's freshwater monitoring data. NIWA has found that:

- The Council's ecological monitoring shows the biological health of surface water is being maintained, is improving in some places (primarily mid-catchment areas) and has not demonstrably deteriorated at any sites.
- Out of 18 physical and chemical (physicochemical) parameters, there are two deteriorating trends in low-elevation sites, while the quality of the remainder is being maintained.

The OAG has also found that:

- State of the Environment freshwater quality information is generally well communicated and is improving. However, there is potential for further improvement.
- The Council has effective systems to identify risks to freshwater quality. It has policies, procedures, protocols and systems to respond to known risks to freshwater quality in a timely manner.
- The Council has a strong focus on fine-tuning and improving implementation of the policies and methods it has chosen.
- The Council has a well-developed framework for preparing plans, implementing them and reviewing the effectiveness of the plans. The regulatory and non-regulatory frameworks are consistent and integrated.



- The overall framework uses non-regulatory methods to produce farm plans and promote riparian planting, the on-farm implementation of which has been slow. Despite this approach, "we have confidence that the TRC is actively managing and adapting the riparian programme to maximise its effectiveness".
- The Council has established and consistent processes for monitoring consents. It consistently takes enforcement action where necessary and reports a very high compliance rate.

The OAG makes no recommendations specifically aimed at the Taranaki Regional Council. Instead, it suggests that the Council is so well positioned "that it could be more ambitious", and suggests options for mitigating a potential risk that Council programmes may not deliver their targets – for example, by broadening the range of regulatory tools and modelling potential outcomes from programme implementation.

There are six recommendations aimed at all regional councils, most notably that they review their delegations and procedures for prosecuting, to ensure that any decision about prosecution is free from actual or perceived political bias. According to the OAG, elected councillors should not be involved either in decisions to prosecute or to investigate or hear grievances about cases.

In general terms, the OAG notes that New Zealand has water quality that rates well.

Where there is reason for concern, it relates to some parts of the country and is not a universal issue.

The Council's response:

The Council's Chief Executive, Basil Chamberlain, says that after a comprehensive and time-consuming audit, the OAG has essentially found that freshwater quality is managed effectively and efficiently in Taranaki.

"It's notable that there are no recommendations specifically aimed at this Council," he says. "The OAG is an organisation which focuses on finding flaws and faults. While it has expressed some concerns and made some suggestions in our case, it has not come back with concrete recommendations about how things should be done better. This speaks well of the way the Council fulfils its responsibilities in terms of freshwater management."

Mr Chamberlain says that while the OAG raised general concern about elected officials being involved in decisions about prosecutions, it is important to note that it found no evidence that this has been a problem in Taranaki, where staff make an initial decision that a prosecution is warranted, then bring a recommendation to the Council. "No staff recommendation for a prosecution arising from a dairy farming activity has ever been overturned in Taranaki, in the memory of staff," he says.

Mr Chamberlain also says that comparisons with central Government, where Cabinet Ministers do not get involved in prosecutions by the agencies in their portfolios, overlooks an important point.

"Heads of Government departments are employed by, and responsible to, the State Services Commission, not Cabinet Ministers. But Council Chief Executives are employed by the elected Council, to whom they are directly responsible and accountable for their actions."

However, he says the Council's procedures for initiating prosecutions will be reviewed in the light of the OAG report.

The AOG's audit mission was to "provide Parliament with assurance on whether regional councils are effectively maintaining and enhancing water quality". It also audited Waikato Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council and Environment Southland.

The full report is available on the OAG website at www.oag.govt.nz/2011/freshwater, and on the Taranaki Regional Council website at www.trc.govt.nz/auditor-general-s-report/.

Little risk to aquifers – report

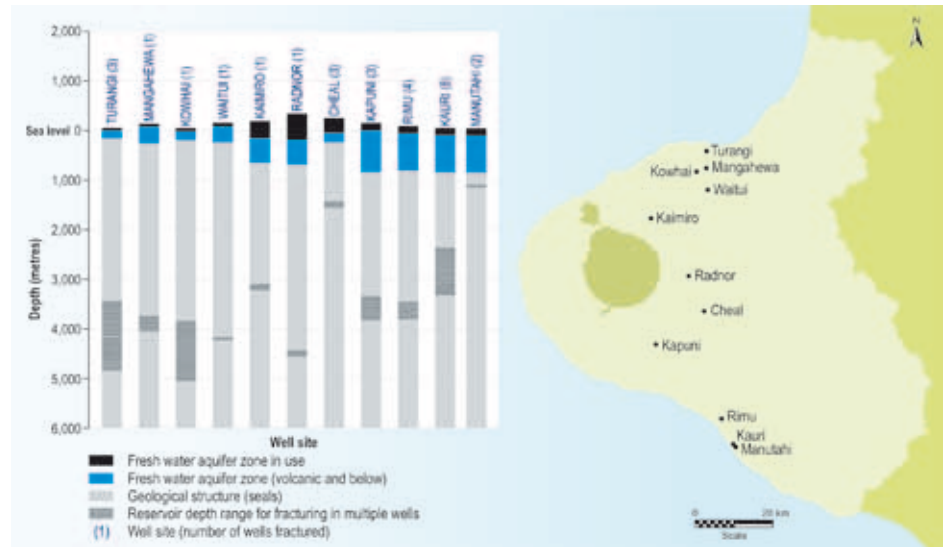
The oil and gas exploration industry's use of hydraulic fracturing poses little risk to underground aquifers in Taranaki, a new report says.

The report, prepared by the Taranaki Regional Council and peer-reviewed by GNS Science, assesses the use of hydraulic fracturing – also known as fracking or fracing – in the region over the past 11 years.

Its findings include:

- Most fracking has occurred in oil and gas reservoirs between 2.4 km and 4 km underground. In total, it has occurred 43 times in 28 wells.
- The shallowest fracturing that has occurred is at 1.15 km at the Manutahi well sites and at 1.75 km at the Cheal well sites. The report assesses these cases in more detail, but finds no evidence of adverse environmental impacts.
- Most of the ingredients in fracking are the same as those used in common household products. While toxic in concentrated form, they are heavily diluted with water and generally comprise around 2% of the fluids used. However, care is still needed to avoid any potential for impacts on the environment.

The review did not find any evidence of environmental problems arising from fracking in Taranaki, the most likely reason being the thickness of the natural geologic seals separating hydrocarbon deposits from freshwater aquifers.



Hydrogeological summary of hydraulic fracture activities in Taranaki.

The report concludes that there is little risk to freshwater aquifers from properly conducted hydraulic fracturing operations in the region, given natural geologic factors, the continued use of good practices by the industry, and regulation by the Council.

The Council's Director-Resource Management, Fred McLay, says it's important to note that the latest analysis takes Taranaki conditions into account, in particular the depths at which fracking occurs and the nature of the region's geology.

He also says that opinions vary on whether a resource consent should be required for fracking. "The Council obtained a legal opinion which noted that the situation is complex and

there is no clear answer. So the Council has adopted a conservative approach and decided a resource consent would be required for hydraulic fracturing from 1 August 2011."

Mr McLay says fracking at depth is likely to meet the Resource Management Act's "no more than minor adverse environmental effects" test. This means that legally, an application cannot be publicly notified.

Since August, three resource consents have been granted for fracking at depths below 3 km.

The report is available online at www.trc.govt.nz/fresh-water-2/

Council staff in Rena response



Equipment and staff from the Taranaki Regional Council have been sent to Tauranga to help with the response to the grounding of the MV Rena off Tauranga in October. Council officers have worked in the field training others in the use of equipment, and been involved with aerial reconnaissance and beach clean-up crews, as well as with the logistics, operations and communications teams in the Incident Command Centre.

More than a dozen Council staff have been rotated to Tauranga. They include the Council's Compliance Manager, Bruce Pope, who assumes the role of Regional On-Scene Commander for any Taranaki marine oil spill whose response is managed at regional level.

Mr Pope says Taranaki has a well-trained team of oil spill responders, made up of Council officers, oil and gas sector workers and others. "We exercise regularly and we also have specialized equipment available to us. Some of this was on its way to Tauranga within hours of the grounding of the Rena."

He says being involved in the Rena operation is a valuable experience for the Taranaki team members.

Staff remain on standby should they be required at Tauranga in the coming months.



Stadium shuttle buses line up for the Ireland-USA Rugby World Cup 2011 pool game in New Plymouth on 11 September.

RWC buses popular

More than 13,000 people used special bus services laid on for the three Rugby World Cup 2011 games in New Plymouth in September.

An estimated 12,000 fans used shuttle buses to travel between the New Plymouth CBD and Stadium Taranaki (Yarrow Stadium) before and after the games, while more than 1,000 people took advantage of special regional bus services from towns throughout Taranaki.

The Taranaki Regional Council, which provides the region's Citylink and SouthLink bus services, agreed to organise and fund extra public transport for the Rugby World Cup 2011 events, working closely with the New Plymouth District Council.

"It was great to see a large number of people embrace public transport to get to and

from these special events," says the Taranaki Regional Council's Director-Operations, Rob Phillips. "It helped to ease congestion and enhanced the wonderful mood of celebration at each of the three games."

Special buses were laid on from Urenui, Waitara, Bell Block, Oakura, Inglewood, Stratford, Opunake and Hawera and Mr Phillips says arrangements ran smoothly, with good feedback.

"For the first game, between Ireland and USA, we had 180-plus bookings from Oakura and laid on five buses. There were also good loadings from other centres."

Up to 27 buses were used in the CBD-Stadium shuttle service, which also ran smoothly.

Shuttle for the shoppers

Central New Plymouth shoppers have a new option for getting around – a one-way shuttle linking "supermarket alley" with the Ariki St Bus Centre.

Five times daily on weekdays, the Route 7 Welbourn-Highlands Park service stops to pick up passengers at the New Plymouth City New World car park (near the fuel pumps) on its return trip to the Bus Centre.

Passengers can ask for a transfer ticket that allows them to continue their journey on any Citylink service within the hour, at no extra cost.

The service began in early November for a six-month trial period.

"We expect this will be a useful option for shoppers, and we've been pleased to work with New World to offer this extra service," says the Taranaki Regional Council's Director-Operations, Rob Phillips.

Buses depart New World at 9.50am, 11am, 12.10pm, 1.20pm and 2.30pm, Monday to Friday. For information on all Citylink services, go to www.taranakibus.info.

Manaia bus continues

Manaia's once-a-week SouthLink bus service to and from Hawera has been made permanent after a two-year trial.

The Taranaki Regional Council began the trial service in December 2009, replacing an informal shuttle that had been operated by the Manaia Community Service Committee for 20 years.

The committee had faced a shortage of younger volunteer drivers, costly vehicle replacement and stricter regulatory requirements, and it asked the Council to include Manaia in the SouthLink network.

The Council's Director-Operations, Rob Phillips, says there was an average of 16 passengers a trip during the two-year trial.

"Most of these have been SuperGold Card holders, and the service is obviously an important link for them to access services and amenities in Hawera," he says.

The Tuesday service is operated under contract by Hawera Taxis, using an 18-seater bus with wheelchair hoist.

The bus travels via Ohawe Beach on demand - residents there must book by calling 0800 278 7171.

For information about all SouthLink services, go to www.taranakibus.info.



Some of the Total Mobility users at the New Plymouth forum.

Total mobility on the agenda

Almost 40 people attended Total Mobility forums in New Plymouth and Hawera in October.

The annual forums are an opportunity for users of the Total Mobility Scheme to be updated on new developments, and to air their feedback and suggestions.

Guest speakers at this year's forums included representatives of Work and Income, and the Taranaki Disabilities Information Centre.

Total Mobility is a nation-wide scheme aimed at assisting people with impairments

to become more mobile and active in the community. This help is given in the form of subsidised door-to-door transport services, including subsidies for taxi trips.

In Taranaki, the scheme is funded and administered through the Taranaki Regional Council.

One of the discussion points at this year's forums was wheelchair-hoist taxi services in New Plymouth. The Council is investigating alternative options following the operator's withdrawal of these services.



Fun for all seasons

A full programme of free events at Taranaki's three Regional Gardens over summer will culminate in a Harvest Festival at Hollard Gardens early in autumn.

The summer programme will include market days, guided walks and other events at Hollards, as well as Pukeiti and Tupare.

"The Harvest Festival at Hollards will be held on Taranaki Anniversary Day, 12 March, and there'll be great prizes for the weirdest and most wonderful veggies grown from the seed we distributed at events during spring," says the Taranaki Regional Council's Regional Gardens Manager, Greg Rine.

"The Festival will also feature stallholders from Taranaki Farmers Market and other local growers and craftspeople, workshops on seed saving and edible ornamental plants, music and dance, and traditional kids' games. It will be a great day out."

The seed for the Harvest Festival competition has been donated by Egmont Seeds.

The programme of summer events includes:

Sunday 11 December, 2pm-4pm, Hollard Gardens: Free workshop – beneficial weeds. Find out how to turn the nature of some weeds to your advantage.

Sunday 7 January, Tupare: Walk and talk (8am-9.30am) and New Year Market Day

(9am-noon). Let Tupare gardener Richelle show you around this stunning property, then enjoy coffee and brunch at the Market Day incorporating stalls from the Taranaki Farmers Market with local growers and Taranaki craftspeople.

Thursday 26 January, 6.30pm-9pm, Hollard Gardens: Twilight walk and picnic.

Let Senior Gardener Sandy Powell show you around, and take advantage of the barbecue and kitchen facilities.

Sunday February 5, 10.30am-2pm, Pukeiti: Conservation walk and picnic. Bring the family and take part in an Explorer day at Pukeiti. Meet at the Gatehouse at 10.30am for a guided walk (3 ½ hours, moderate to hard). Bring picnic lunch, good walking boots, drinks and sunblock.

Monday February 6, Tupare: Walk and talk (8am-9.30am) and Market Day (9am-noon). Join Tupare Garden Manager Mitch Graham as he points out some of Tupare's star performing plants and success stories. Afterwards, have coffee and brunch at the Market Day incorporating stalls from the Taranaki Farmers Market with local growers and Taranaki craftspeople.

The guided walks at all three properties are part of the New Plymouth District Council summer walks programme.



Market days at Tupare are always popular.

Taranaki Regional Council Facts File

Address:	Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352
Street Address:	47 Cloten Road, Stratford 4332
Telephone:	0-6-765 7127
Facsimile:	0-6-765 5097
Email:	info@trc.govt.nz
Websites:	www.trc.govt.nz www.taranakibus.info www.tupare.info www.hollardgardens.info www.pukeiti.org.nz www.taranakiplants.net.nz
Twitter:	@TaranakiRC @TaranakiEM @TaranakiRG
Facebook:	TaranakiRegionalGardens
Environmental hotline:	0800 736 222
Civil Defence freephone	0800 900 049
NP bus information	0800 827 287

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

New Plymouth Constituency:

Tom Cloke	0-6-753 5586
Peter Horton	0-6-758 8011
Moiria Irving	021 944 809
David Lean	0-6-753 3325
Craig Williamson	0-6-757 9718

North Taranaki Constituency:

Mike Davey	0-6-756 7126
Roger Maxwell	0-6-752 3622

South Taranaki Constituency:

Michael Joyce	0-6-274 5800
David MacLeod (Chairman)	0-6-278 5577
Neil Walker	0-6-278 7541

Stratford Constituency:

Brian Jeffares	0-6-765 7773
----------------	--------------

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Meetings are held at the Council chamber, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 13 December, 10.30am:

Ordinary Council meeting

Please note the meeting dates for 2012 were provisional only at time of printing. Please check meeting dates at www.trc.govt.nz/meetings-calendar/.

Tuesday 31 January 2012, 10.30am:

Consents and Regulatory Committee

Thursday 2 February 2012, 10.30am:

Policy and Planning Committee

Thursday 9 February 2012, 10.30am:

Regional Transport Committee

Monday 13 February 2012, 10am:

Executive Committee

Tuesday 21 February 2012, 10.30am:

Ordinary Council meeting

For up-to-date information on meeting dates and times, and access to agendas and minutes, go to www.trc.govt.nz/meetings-calendar/

Updates for mission, slogan and logo

The Taranaki Regional Council's Mission Statement and slogan have been updated to reflect the breadth of the Council's activities.

The Council's 20-year-old logo has also been tweaked, getting a more modern look but retaining the elements of the old logo to make it instantly recognisable.

The Council's new slogan is "Working with people – caring for Taranaki". The Chief Executive, Basil Chamberlain, says this reflects the fact that while environmental and resource management remains a core Council responsibility, it also has broader roles in hazard management and Civil Defence, transport, recreation, culture and amenity, and in advocating for the region's interests.

"We continue to care for the environment, very much so – it's part of our responsibilities under the Resource Management Act," says Mr Chamberlain. "The RMA interprets 'environment' widely, to include amenity values and the built environment, but most people give it a narrower meaning. So we're saying we're 'caring for Taranaki' – which includes the environment in its widest sense."

These broad responsibilities are also reflected in the new Mission Statement:

'To work for a thriving and prosperous Taranaki by:

- Promoting the sustainable use, development and protection of Taranaki's natural and physical resources;
- Safeguarding Taranaki's people and resources from natural and other hazards;



- Promoting and providing for Taranaki's regionally significant services, amenities and infrastructure; and
- Representing Taranaki's interests and contributions to the regional, national and international community.

We will do this by leading with responsibility, working co-operatively, encouraging community participation, and taking into account the Treaty of Waitangi.'

Mr Chamberlain says the new logo and slogan will be phased in gradually as stationery and other material is replaced. The refreshed logo was developed in-house.

The season for annual reports

The Taranaki Regional Council publishes not one but 15 annual reports.

Besides the formal Annual Report that focuses largely on financial matters, the Council publishes 14 "Significant Activity Reports" giving a great deal of operational detail about its various activities and programmes.

All the reports for the 2010/2011 have now been published. A summary of the formal Annual Report was also distributed with community newspapers during October.

The Annual Report highlights three areas of particular focus during 2010/2011:

- Completion of Stage One of the upgrade of the Lower Waiwhakaiho River Flood Protection Scheme.
- Record sales of more than 328,000 plants in the ever-growing riparian (streamside) protection programme, taking the total to over 2 million.
- Achieving 100% compliance with Resource Management Act consent processing timelines for the 11th straight year.



The report also notes that the Council continued its strong financial performance. Operating expenditure was 3.1% below budget, and 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.

The 14 Significant Activity Reports cover these areas:

- Biodiversity and enhancement grants.
- Compliance monitoring and pollution incidents and response.
- Consent processing and administration.
- Flood management and river control.
- Harbour management.
- Hazard management.
- Pest animal management.
- Pest plant management.
- Public information.
- Recreation, culture and heritage.
- Regional land transport planning and passenger transport.
- Resource investigations, state of environment monitoring and waste minimisation.
- Resource management planning, advocacy and response.
- Sustainable land management and plant supply.

The Annual Report can be accessed online at www.trc.govt.nz/Annual-reports/.

The Significant Activity Reports can be accessed at www.trc.govt.nz/annual-reports-on-significant-activities/