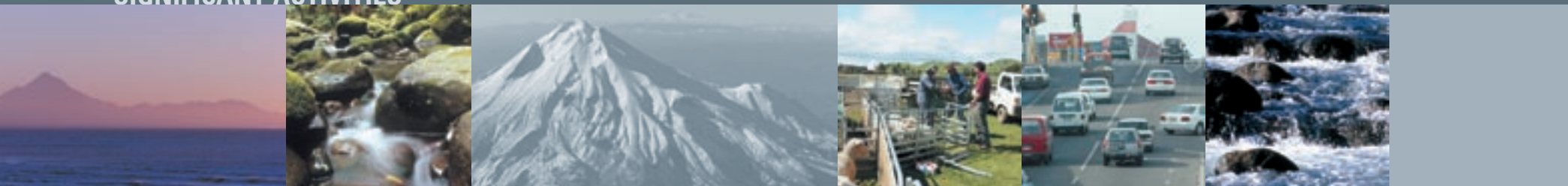


SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES



The following pages summarise the plans and programmes for each one of the Council's groups of activities for 2003/04. Unless otherwise noted, those programmes and plans are also the indicative outlines for the next two years.

The estimated levels of expenditure and how that expenditure is to be funded are also outlined. The funding has been developed in line with the Council's *Revenue and Financing Policy*.

For the purposes of this *Annual Plan*, general rates and investment revenue have been grouped together and, as a funding mechanism, are described as *General funds*. For 2003/04, and the next two years, this equates to:

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
General rates	\$3,190,653	\$3,190,653	\$3,190,653
Investment revenue	\$4,112,998	\$4,256,178	\$4,413,454
Total funding requirement	\$7,303,651	\$7,446,831	\$7,604,107

Performance measures, by which performance may be judged in relation to objectives, are included in the programme. These have been described in simple, but comprehensive, terms. The most important measure by which performance may be judged is that of whether defined tasks have been performed.

The Council also intends that its performance be measured in terms of:

- **Timeliness** – in all cases, unless stated otherwise, the target is to complete the tasks by 30 June 2004.
- **Cost** – in all cases the target is to complete the tasks defined within the budget set in the *Indicative costs and sources of funds*.
- **Quantity** – in all cases where a quantity measure is specified, the target is to meet that specified quantity.
- **Quality** – in all cases the target is to meet the quality expectations of the elected Councillors. The Council has extensive quality control procedures in place to ensure a high level of quality is present in the receipt of products or undertaking of activities.
- **Location** – in all cases where a location is specified, the target is to deliver the service in that location.



Description

This activity comprises the analysis, development and dissemination of policy associated with all Council functions, with particular emphasis on resource management and pest management. The activity includes responding to the policy initiatives of other agencies where there are implications for the Taranaki region. It also includes developing and implementing a programme of information transfer, responding to general information requests and providing information and advice on Council activities.

Principal legislation and policy references

Resource Management Act 1991
 Biosecurity Act 1993
 Local Government Act 2002
 Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 1994
 Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki 1997
 Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki 1997
 Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki 2001
 Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki 2001
 Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants 2001
 Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals 2001

Basis and background

Policy and planning is a core activity for the Council. A range of statutes require or enable the Council to engage in policy and planning activities. Public consultation and information are fundamental elements of this activity. Policies, plans and strategies that have statutory force must be developed in accordance with procedures provided in parent statutes. In general these procedures require the detailed analysis of options and provide extensive opportunities for formal and informal public input.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 the Council was required to prepare a regional policy statement. The *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* became operative in 1994. This instrument identifies the regionally significant resource management issues in Taranaki and the actions to be taken to address them. It prescribes the role of the Council in respect of a number of its other significant activities such as land management.

Regional plans are subservient instruments to the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*. They focus on presenting the regulatory framework to be applied to resource use activities by defining consent procedures and requirements. All four of the Council's regional plans are operative. These regional plans are the *Regional Air Quality Plan 1997*, *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki 1997*, *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki 2001* and the *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki 2001*.

Considerable resources have been applied to regional plan preparation. The Council has formed the view that in addition to preparing plans with the aim of promoting sustainable resource management, a key aim of plan preparation is to provide greater efficiency in resource management administration. The opportunity to categorise a wide range of resource use activities, with well-known and minor effects, as permitted or controlled, is being used to remove unnecessary time and cost associated with consent processing. Such rationalisation increasingly enables the resources of the Council to be more clearly focused on the more significant resource management issues. It also has significant cost benefits for a wide range of resource users.

Pest management strategies are prepared pursuant to the Biosecurity Act 1993. The Council has adopted two five-year term strategies for pest plants and pest animals respectively.

There is a requirement to review existing plans, the regional policy statement and the two regional pest management strategies during the next ten years. The Council has already undertaken an interim review of the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 1994*, the *Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki 1997* and the *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki 1997*.



The Local Government Act 2002 has imposed significant new accountability obligations upon the Council. Primary among these obligations includes the identification of community outcomes and the preparation of a *Long-Term Council Community Plan*. Both of these obligations will require proper research and consultation processes to be undertaken. The majority of the policy work associated with these new accountability requirements will be completed in 2003/2004.

The *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*, made operative in 1994, falls due for review in the latter part of 2004. There are public consultation and research requirements involved in the review process and formal procedures to follow in changing or replacing the regional policy statement. To ensure the timely completion of the review process, the review of the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* will commence in the 2003/2004 year.

Joint projects with the region's district councils are programmed in the areas of public access to significant coastal areas and an upgrade of archaeological site information for the region.

Another important element of policy and planning is that of responding to the policy initiatives of other agencies where there are implications for the Taranaki region. The Council has seldom adopted a wide regional advocacy role across economic and social issues, because it has limited specific mandate to do so. Responses are generally confined to issues related to the Council's functions and are proposed to remain at that level.

The Council's general public relations activities have tended to be relatively low key, focusing on responding to requests for information, distributing information and undertaking display and extension activities in schools and other forums. In recent years the Council has provided resources for a range of modest promotional and educational programmes particularly aimed at the young people in our community. Over the next decade the Council is also proposing to utilise the Puke Ariki facilities for information and education activities.

Statutory policies, plans and strategies

Objective

Prepare, adopt and maintain comprehensive and publicly considered policies, plans and strategies for the efficient and effective management of the Council's functions.

Programme

Implement a programme of policy, plan and strategy development and review, including:

- commencing a review of the *Regional Policy Statement Plan for Taranaki*
- undertaking the policy analysis, consultation and research associated with the accountability requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 including a process for identifying community outcomes.
- releasing a discussion document in conjunction with the New Plymouth and South Taranaki district councils on public access to significant coastal areas
- assisting, in conjunction with the region's district councils, the completion of an upgrade of the New Zealand Archaeological Association's site recording scheme for Taranaki.

Advocacy and response

Objective

Advocate and respond, on behalf of the Taranaki community, to initiatives proposed by other agencies, when those initiatives affect the statutory responsibilities of the Council or relate to matters of regional significance, which are of interest or concern to the people of Taranaki.

Programme

Assess the implications of the policy initiatives proposed by other agencies including discussion documents, proposed policies, strategies, plans and draft legislation, and respond within required timeframes.

Public information

Objective

Promote community awareness and understanding of sustainable resource management and of the Council's functions and activities, and make quality and timely information publicly available.

Programme

Implement a programme of information transfer, advice and education on the Council's activities including:

- the regular publication and distribution of *Recount* newsletters
- an on-going resource management programme for school children and the wider community
- ongoing use of display and presentation material at the Puke Ariki regional museum and library.

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate	Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure								
401,659	545,449	501,963	512,582	523,519	534,784	546,387	558,339	570,648
97,328	125,627	117,480	119,932	122,458	125,060	127,739	130,499	133,342
269,842	274,489	277,544	280,122	282,779	285,515	288,334	291,237	294,227
768,829	945,565	896,988	912,637	928,756	945,359	962,460	980,074	998,217
Revenue								
1,450	61,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450
1,450	61,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450
767,379	884,115	895,538	911,187	927,306	943,909	961,010	978,624	996,767
Funded by:								
767,379	884,115	895,538	911,187	927,306	943,909	961,010	978,624	996,767
767,379	884,115	895,538	911,187	927,306	943,909	961,010	978,624	996,767

CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Description

Civil defence emergency management involves the application of knowledge, measures and practices to ensure the safety and well-being of the public and the protection of property. It includes planning and preparation for emergencies and for response and recovery in the event of an emergency. The Council's Emergency Management Office is involved in the day-to-day administration, recruiting and training of staff, and maintenance of organisations capable of responding at short notice.

Principal legislation and policy references

Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
Civil Defence Act 1983
Taranaki Regional Civil Defence Plan 2002
New Plymouth District Civil Defence Plan 2002
Stratford District Civil Defence Plan 2002

Basis and background

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 came into force on 1 December 2002 and, with some transitional provisions, replaces the Civil Defence Act 1983. The legislation provides a fundamental change in the basis and accountability for disaster planning and management in New Zealand. The new Act provides for a comprehensive *all-hazards* approach to civil defence emergency management and requires agencies to focus on risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery. Traditional civil defence focused on the response to an event and did not fully incorporate non-natural hazards such as civil unrest, public health or an agricultural emergency.

The new Act:

- promotes sustainable management of hazards
- encourages and enables communities to achieve acceptable levels of risk
- provides for planning and preparation for emergencies and for response and recovery

- requires local authorities to co-ordinate Civil Defence Emergency Management planning and activities
- provides a basis for the integration of national and local civil defence emergency management
- encourages co-ordination across a wide range of agencies, recognising that emergencies are multi-agency events.

The Act requires the establishment of Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups to implement this new approach. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is formed as a joint standing committee comprising of the chair or mayor (or elected representative) from each local authority. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group for Taranaki incorporates the Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council. The Taranaki Regional Council is the administering authority of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

The functions of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group include the co-ordination of Civil Defence Emergency Management planning, programmes and activities across the region, carrying out risk management, planning for emergency management by developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing a civil defence emergency management group plan, and delivering emergency management. Under the Act, the responsibility of the Taranaki Regional Council for civil defence emergency management is the same as that for the district councils. The existing provisions and arrangements for emergency management in Taranaki in the Taranaki Regional Civil Defence Plan 2002 and district civil defence plans will remain in force until the new Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan is approved.

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group will also form a Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) consisting of the chief executive or senior officer of each local authority and the District Health Board, together with senior officers from Police and the Fire Service to implement decisions of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and oversee the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan.

For the 2003/04 year the Council proposes to maintain its existing programme as a transitional arrangement pending the determination of new arrangements by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Civil defence emergency management

Objective

Promote and enhance, within the Taranaki community, an integrated comprehensive emergency management system.

Programme

Provide and maintain a regional civil defence emergency management organisation capable of fulfilling its responsibilities in the event of an emergency declaration.

Provide contracted district civil defence and emergency management services to Stratford District Council and New Plymouth District Council.

Implement those changes required by the new Civil Defence Emergency Management legislation.

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03 \$ Estimate		2003/04 \$ Estimate	2004/05 \$ Indicative	2005/06 \$ Indicative	2006/07 \$ Forecast	2007/08 \$ Forecast	2008/09 \$ Forecast	2009/10 \$ Forecast	2010/11 \$ Forecast
Expenditure									
431,847	Civil defence emergency management	445,656	448,215	455,240	462,476	469,929	477,605	485,511	493,655
431,847	Total expenditure	445,656	448,215	455,240	462,476	469,929	477,605	485,511	493,655
Revenue									
165,400	Direct charges	247,158	247,158	247,158	247,158	247,158	247,158	247,158	247,158
33,000	Government grants	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
198,400	Total revenue	280,158	280,158	280,158	280,158	280,158	280,158	280,158	280,158
233,447	Net cost of service	165,498	168,057	175,082	182,318	189,771	197,447	205,353	213,497
Funded by:									
233,447	General funds	165,498	168,057	175,082	182,318	189,771	197,447	205,353	213,497
233,447	Total funding	165,498	168,057	175,082	182,318	189,771	197,447	205,353	213,497

RESOURCE CONSENTS



Description

This activity encompasses the processing of applications made under the Resource Management Act 1991 for water, coastal and discharge permits, and land use consents. It also comprises monitoring and reporting on compliance with the policies established by the Council as well as the conditions of specific resource consents issued. This activity includes response to pollution and unauthorised incidents and follow-up action and enforcement.

Principal legislation and policy references

Resource Management Act 1991
Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 1994
Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki 1997
Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki 1997
Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki 2001
Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki 2001
Resource Consent Procedures document
Resource Consents Monitoring Procedures document
Enforcement Provisions and Procedures, Resource Management Act 1991
Operational Delegations Register
Charging Policy under section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991
Taranaki Regional Marine Oil Spill Response Plan

Basis and background

Resource consents is a core activity for the Council. The Resource Management Act 1991 requires the Council to process, monitor and ensure compliance with water, discharge and coastal permits and certain types of land use consents.

Consents must be obtained for resource use activities unless those activities are *permitted* by regional plans or directly by the Resource Management Act 1991. The Act provides details procedures to be followed in processing resource consents.

In recent years, the Council has typically processed about 360 consent applications per annum. Few have involved formal hearings and no decisions of the Council have been successfully appealed. The Council has developed procedures that place a strong emphasis on early and effective consultation between the parties to consent applications.

Application numbers have recently declined from previous levels. The adoption of regional plans is the key factor influencing this reduction. Regional plans have provided the opportunity to permit activities that would otherwise require consents. Such activities are those with insignificant environmental effects. The decline in projected application numbers, however, has not translated into a significant reduction in the Council's workload. Some unnecessary bureaucracy has been removed, but the majority of consent processing activities has always been associated with the relatively few major applications received each year. Consent processing workloads are difficult to predict and are quite dependent on economic activity within the region.

The Council holds the view that compliance monitoring and enforcement is a critical element of resource management and one that underpins the integrity of the consents system. For major consents, individual and specific monitoring programmes are designed, implemented and publicly reported on. Approximately 160 of these individual programmes are completed each year. That level of activity is projected to continue. For less significant consents, such as for dairymed wastes, regional-wide inspection programmes are completed. Approximately 3,500 inspections are undertaken annually as a result of these programmes. That level of workload is projected to be ongoing.

The costs associated with consent processing and monitoring are largely recovered from consent applicants and holders in compliance with the Council's *Revenue and Financial Policy*. Costs have been projected to remain at about present levels.

The third element of the resource consents activity is the task of responding to pollution events and unauthorised incidents. As environmental awareness has grown in the community, the Council has experienced a steady growth in the number of pollution complaints from the public.

Each of these is responded to in a timely manner and addressed as appropriate. Enforcement actions are often involved occasionally resulting in prosecutions. The Council anticipates a continuation in this workload at around present levels.

Marine pollution responsibilities form the final element. The Council is responsible for administering the recently approved *Taranaki Regional Oil Spill Response Plan*, which provides for an oil spill response capability within the coastal waters of the region. The Maritime Safety Authority financially supports this activity. Provision has been made for this activity to continue into the future.

Consent processing and administration

Objective

Process all applications for resource consents and administer resource consents in an efficient effective manner.

Programme

Provide appropriate and timely information in response to all requests for assistance in undertaking or complying with the consents process under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Process and administer 98% of accepted resource consent applications in compliance with statutory timeframes prescribed in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Council's *Resource Consents Procedures document*.

Resolve, through the pre-hearing process, at least 50% of all submissions received on resource consent applications and to successfully defend all consent decisions appealed to the Environment Court.

Compliance monitoring programmes

Objective

Undertake effective and efficient monitoring of resource consents and, where necessary, undertake enforcement action.

Programme

Design and implement compliance monitoring programmes for major consents within the individual budgets negotiated with consent holders, and publicly report on all programmes by 31 March each year or within nine months of the end of the monitoring period.

Implement annual programmes for compliance inspections of agricultural discharges and minor industrial operations providing advice to resource users and, where necessary, enforcement actions to ensure compliance with resource consents and/or regional plans.

Pollution incidents and response

Objective

Respond effectively to pollution incidents, reduce the occurrence and effects of pollution and other unauthorised incidents and, where necessary, undertake enforcement action.

Programme

Maintain and publicly report the Council's *Unauthorised Incidents Register*.

Respond to all pollution and other complaints within four hours of receipt, instigating control, clean up and enforcement procedures where appropriate.

Administer and implement the *Taranaki Regional Oil Spill Response Plan* as agreed with the Maritime Safety Authority.

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RESOURCE CONSENTS

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate	Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure								
524,655	551,290	561,566	572,376	583,512	594,982	606,796	618,964	631,497
Consent processing and administration								
1,308,568	1,347,260	1,379,122	1,404,977	1,431,607	1,459,037	1,487,290	1,516,390	1,546,363
Compliance monitoring programmes								
436,627	463,906	474,918	483,808	492,964	502,396	512,110	522,115	532,421
Pollution incidents and response								
2,269,850	2,362,456	2,415,606	2,461,161	2,508,084	2,556,415	2,606,195	2,657,469	2,710,281
Total expenditure								
Revenue								
1,238,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885
Direct charges								
1,238,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885	1,371,885
Total revenue								
1,030,965	990,571	1,043,721	1,089,276	1,136,199	1,184,530	1,234,310	1,285,584	1,338,396
Net cost of service								
Funded by:								
1,030,965	990,571	1,043,721	1,089,276	1,136,199	1,184,530	1,234,310	1,285,584	1,338,396
General funds								
1,030,965	990,571	1,043,721	1,089,276	1,136,199	1,184,530	1,234,310	1,285,584	1,338,396
Total funding								



Description

This activity involves the promotion of sustainable land use, soil conservation and appropriate riparian management. Advisory and extension services are provided to landholders to promote voluntary change towards sustainable land use practices.

Principal legislation and policy references

Resource Management Act 1991
 Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
 Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 1994
 Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki 2001

Basis and background

The promotion of sustainable land management is a core function of the Council pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991. The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 also requires the Council, as a catchment authority, to promote wise land use and to prevent, control and mitigate damage by erosion and flooding. The two statutes have complementary objectives, which are appropriately covered by the Council's programmes.

The *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 1994* highlights the importance of sustainable land management in the region. It also identifies a range of land use issues that need to be addressed and the methods to be deployed. In accordance with the *Regional Policy Statement*, the Council has developed a series of responses to promote sustainable land management, ranging from regulatory to advisory.

The *Regional Soil Plan* became operative in 2001. This instrument provides a few rules to be applied in the future. However, the overwhelming emphasis of its approach to promoting wise land use will continue to be a focus on non-regulatory methods. This emphasis recognises that most land in Taranaki is privately owned in contrast to air and water resources where there is no private ownership.

The provision of property planning services is the main component of the Council's land management activity. Plans are prepared by the Council at the request of and in conjunction with property owners. Four types of plan may be prepared, namely, comprehensive farm plans, agroforestry plans, conservation plans and riparian plans. Approximately 800 of these plans have been prepared to date. There is a strong demand for the service and almost all are being actioned to varying degrees. The Council intends to continue to provide this service into the future. Significant productivity improvements are projected for the next year or two.

The Council has also initiated a programme of providing environmental enhancement grants to help in addressing environmental issues. Wetland protection is the present focus of this programme. Grants are presently available to assist the protection of privately owned wetlands that have been identified as regionally important. For the future, the Council has made provision for an on-going grants programme which will be applied in limited and specific circumstances for resource management purposes. The Government has recently taken the decisions that are likely to extend the role of the Council in promoting biodiversity on private land.

In addition to specific property planning and grant programmes, the Council has, to date, provided a range of other general sustainable land management services. These range from a response capability to general information requests, to the provision, at cost, of soil conservation and riparian plants to landowners. In respect of the latter activity, the Council facilitates the supply of relatively low cost, high quality plants through bulk ordering and supply contracts with nurseries. These types of activity provide practical supplements to property planning services. The Council intends to continue these types of service into the future.

As a minor part of its land management activity, the Council also provides servicing support to the Taranaki Tree Trust. Through its objective to preserve and develop Taranaki's natural ecosystems and landscapes, the Trust is involved in promoting wise land use in the region.



Property planning services

Objective

Promote sustainable land and riparian management by providing farm-planning services that identify actions for land use on individual properties.

Programme

Provide property planning services to land holders including:

- comprehensive, agroforestry and conservation farm plans covering not less than an additional 15,000 hectares from an estimated 45 properties
- riparian management plans covering not less than an additional 1,000 kilometres from an estimated 300 properties.

Liaise with and provide supplementary advice to the 800 landholders with existing plans.

Environmental enhancement grants

Objective

Promote the protection of the environment through a programme of enhancement grants.

Programme

Implement a programme using environmental enhancement grants for the protection of wetlands identified as significant in the Council's wetlands inventory and in the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*.

Implement a programme using environmental enhancement grants for the protection of aspects of the environment identified as regionally significant.

General advice and facilitation

Objective

Promote sustainable land and riparian management to the regional community through advocacy and facilitation.

Ensure quality conservation plant materials are available at reasonable cost to support sustainable land management, soil conservation and riparian management programmes.

Programme

Respond to all requests for general advice and assistance on sustainable land management, soil conservation and riparian management practices within ten working days.

Provide, on a cost-recovery basis, planting material for soil and water protection.

Provide servicing and support to the Taranaki Tree Trust and other organisations involved in promoting sustainable land management.

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate	Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure								
712,809	771,996	790,949	806,204	821,917	838,101	854,770	871,940	889,625
Property planning services								
119,008	150,587	151,092	151,489	151,918	152,349	152,794	153,252	153,723
Environmental enhancement grants								
475,595	543,746	549,558	554,236	559,236	564,018	569,130	574,395	579,818
General advice and facilitation								
1,307,412	1,466,328	1,491,598	1,511,938	1,532,889	1,554,468	1,576,694	1,599,587	1,623,167
Total expenditure								
Revenue								
253,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250
Direct charges								
253,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250	303,250
Total revenue								
1,054,162	1,163,078	1,188,348	1,208,688	1,229,639	1,251,218	1,273,444	1,296,337	1,319,917
Net cost of service								
Funded by:								
1,054,162	1,163,078	1,188,348	1,208,688	1,229,639	1,251,218	1,273,444	1,296,337	1,319,917
General funds								
1,054,162	1,163,078	1,188,348	1,208,688	1,229,639	1,251,218	1,273,444	1,296,337	1,319,917
Total funding								

RIVER CONTROL AND FLOOD PROTECTION



Description

This activity is undertaken by the Council, acting as a catchment authority in the exercise of its duties and functions under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941, which requires the Council to minimise and prevent damage by floods and erosion. Specifically, this involves providing advice and assistance to landholders on matters relating to the control of rivers and flooding. Flood protection schemes are constructed and maintained as necessary. These infrastructure assets are maintained according to the Council's policy, in *as new* condition. In addition, a regional flood event operating procedure is practised.

Principal legislation and policy references

Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
Resource Management Act 1991
Land Drainage Act 1908
Waitara River Flood Control Protection Scheme
Lower Waiwhakaiho River Flood Control Protection Scheme
Flood Event Standard Operating Procedure
Asset Management Plan for the Waitara & Waiwhakaiho River Flood Control Schemes

Basis and background

River control and flood protection is a core activity for the Council. The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 and the Land Drainage Act 1908 provide the basis for this function.

Taranaki does not have large flood plains, as is the case in many regions of New Zealand. Flood control activities have accordingly been of relatively modest proportions. Three significant schemes exist. The first of these comprises flood detention and routing works on the Huatoki and Mangaotuku streams to provide protection in central New Plymouth. These scheme works are owned, administered and maintained by the New Plymouth District Council under delegation from the Council. They were substantially constructed during the last twenty years.

The two other significant schemes are managed and maintained by the Council. The Council also owns the flood control assets of these schemes.

The Lower Waitara River Flood Control Scheme comprises a series of channel training and stopbank structures, which provide a level of protection for the flood plain within the township of Waitara. These works were substantially upgraded during 1993/94. Annual routine maintenance costs are relatively minor.

The Lower Waiwhakaiho Scheme involves stopbanks through the Glen Avon-Fitzroy area of New Plymouth as the main component of the flood control assets. Routine annual maintenance costs are also relatively small. District-based rates are used to fund the maintenance requirements of both schemes.

In 2000 the Council adopted ten-year asset management plans for both these schemes, scheduling the necessary works to maintain the design capacity of them. The programme herein is based on those plans.

There are a number of other small rural flood control/drainage schemes in the region. The Council does not own any flood control assets associated with these schemes. However, it does facilitate maintenance activities in association with affected landowners. Only one of the schemes, at Makuri, has a rating system in place, which the Council administers to ensure channel clearance is maintained.

Although the majority of the region's watercourses are relatively small in size and length, high flows generated by floods cause channels to be quite active necessitating on-going surveillance and occasional maintenance.

Storms, particularly northerly cyclonic storms, periodically cause isolated flooding problems. These often result in the Council implementing emergency river and flood control works, such as small channel diversions, or debris clearance. The Council intends to continue to provide a reasonable capability to respond to contingency events in the future. The Council, based on its telemetered hydrometric network also maintains flood warning systems. These will continue to be maintained and enhanced in the future.

River control schemes

Objective

Manage and maintain river control scheme works to minimise and prevent damage by floods and river erosion.

Programme

Maintain the Waitara and Waiwhakaiho flood protection schemes to perform to design standards.

Manage other minor river schemes to standards as agreed with scheme participants.

Advice, minor works and flood response

Objective

Provide flood warnings, flood control advice and undertake minor works and associated actions to minimise and prevent damage by floods and river erosion.

Programme

Monitor rainfall and river levels and issue flood warnings when necessary in accordance with the *Flood Event Standard Operating Procedure*.

Undertake minor emergency river and flood control works when necessary.

Respond to requests for drainage, river and flood control advice and assistance within ten working days.

Facilitate river control projects for the environmental enhancement of the region's waterways.

RIVER CONTROL AND FLOOD PROTECTION



Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate		Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure									
143,500	River control schemes	143,500	128,500	78,500	78,500	78,500	78,500	78,500	78,500
181,925	Advice, minor works and flood response	179,159	182,027	184,414	186,871	189,403	192,010	194,696	197,462
325,425	Total expenditure	322,659	310,527	262,914	265,371	267,903	270,510	273,196	275,962
Revenue									
178,500	Targeted rates	178,500	178,500	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000
450	Direct charges	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450
178,950	Total revenue	178,950	178,950	96,450	96,450	96,450	96,450	96,450	96,450
146,475	Net cost of service	143,709	131,577	166,464	168,921	171,453	174,060	176,746	179,512
Funded by:									
19,443	Transfer from reserves	18,613	4,173	37,689	38,426	39,186	39,968	40,774	41,604
0	Transfer to reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
127,033	General funds	125,096	127,104	128,774	130,495	132,267	134,092	135,972	137,908
146,475	Total funding	143,709	131,577	166,464	168,921	171,453	174,060	176,746	179,512

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Description

This activity promotes the attainment of a safe, efficient and cost-effective land transport system for the region. This involves a range of activities including the registering of public transport operators, providing for the needs of the transport disadvantaged, and regional land transport planning. The promotion of safe navigation in Port Taranaki is a further component of this activity.

Principal legislation and policy references

Transit New Zealand Act 1989
 Land Transport Act 1998
 Transport Services Licensing Act 1989
 Regional Land Transport Strategy for Taranaki 2000
 Maritime Transport Act 1994
 Land Transport Management Bill

Basis and background

Land transport and harbour management is a core function of the Council. Various statutes oblige the Council to engage in a range of land transport planning, passenger transport, and harbour management activities.

A regional land transport strategy must be prepared and reviewed every two years. This strategic document provides an expression of regional needs and priorities in respect of land transport infrastructure and public passenger transport. The council is responsible for implementing the regional component of this strategy each year.

The Council is also required to prepare and regularly review the *Regional Passenger Transport*

Plan for Taranaki. This plan which forms part of the *Regional Land Transport Strategy*, promotes the provisions of acceptable levels of passenger transport services to meet the needs of the transport disadvantaged.

No funding provision has been made for subsidies to support general users of passenger transport services in New Plymouth, or elsewhere, in the future. However, the Council has made provision to provide funding for concessionary fares for certain transport disadvantaged people. The Council provides a concessionary fare scheme for taxi-based total mobility services in New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford and Hawera. In addition, provision has been made to subsidise the fares of disabled and elderly persons, who use bus services in New Plymouth. Council subsidies for these concessionary fares are supplemented by Transfund grants. More funding has been provided for next year in response to demand.

Although these services are recognised as needing and deserving of funding support, the Council believes that at some point in the future they should be supported directly from Government's health or social welfare votes as opposed to regional council rates.

The Council is required to promote safe navigation within the harbour waters associated with Port Taranaki. A contracted harbourmaster and volunteer wardens administer regulations and Council bylaws for this purpose. The Council reviewed its harbour bylaws in the 2002/03 year. As a result the Council adopted a new set of by-laws for Port Taranaki and its approaches on 5 February 2003. The by-laws came into effect on 1 April 2003. The Council continues to administer only those waters within Port Taranaki and its approaches, whilst the Maritime Safety Authority continues to manage all other waters in the region. Currently, the overall resource requirements are small and at this stage, no materially significant changes are projected for the future.



Regional land transport planning

Objective

Promote a safe, efficient and cost-effective land transport system within the region.

Programme

Report on the *Regional Land Transport Strategy for Taranaki* and implement the regional component of the strategy.

Passenger transport

Objective

Promote the provision of community passenger transport in Taranaki on a fully commercial basis and assist the special transport needs of people with permanent disabilities and the elderly by providing fare concessions.

Programme

Provide subsidy assistance, through the Transfund supported Total Mobility Scheme, for

people with permanent disabilities who are unable to use public bus services and who need taxi passenger transport services in New Plymouth, Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford and Hawera and for people with disabilities and the elderly using public bus services in the greater New Plymouth area.

Receive and register, within fourteen days, appropriate applications to operate a passenger transport service.

Maintain an overview of passenger transport requirements and facilitate the provision of appropriate services.

Harbour management

Objective

Promote safe navigation for all users of the waters of Port Taranaki.

Programme

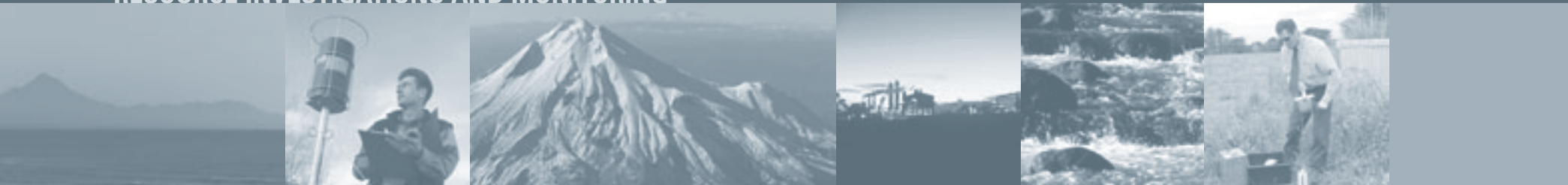
Provide harbourmaster and harbour warden services for Port Taranaki to implement relevant harbour bylaws and regulations.



Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate		Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure									
238,586	Regional land transport planning	47,540	16,100	16,441	16,793	17,155	17,528	17,912	18,308
318,335	Passenger transport	393,873	392,433	392,774	393,126	393,488	393,861	394,245	394,641
18,000	Harbour management	21,203	21,203	21,203	21,203	21,203	21,203	21,203	21,203
574,921	Total expenditure	462,616	429,736	430,418	431,121	431,846	432,592	433,360	434,151
Revenue									
50,000	Targeted rates	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
1,800	Direct charges	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
269,866	Government grants	150,500	150,500	150,500	150,500	150,500	150,500	150,500	150,500
321,666	Total revenue	202,300	202,300	202,300	202,300	202,300	202,300	202,300	202,300
253,255	Net cost of service	260,316	227,436	228,118	228,821	229,546	230,292	231,060	231,851
Funded by:									
253,255	General funds	260,316	227,436	228,118	228,821	229,546	230,292	231,060	231,851
253,255	Total funding	260,316	227,436	228,118	228,821	229,546	230,292	231,060	231,851

RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS AND MONITORING



Description

This activity encompasses investigations and analyses of physical resources to allow the Council to develop and review policy and to promote sustainable resource management. The activity also includes monitoring conducted to provide long-term information on the state of the region's environment. Such information is fundamental for assessing the effectiveness of resource management policies and plans within medium and long-term timeframes consistent with the Council's statutory duties.

Principal legislation and policy references

Resource Management Act 1991
Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 1994
Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki 1997
Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki 1997
Proposed Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki
Proposed Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki
State of the Environment Monitoring Procedures Document 1997

Basis and background

Resource investigations and monitoring is a core activity for the Council. The Resource Management Act 1991 requires the Council to make policy and decisions based on sound knowledge and information. It further requires the Council to monitor the state of the Taranaki environment and the results of the Council's policies and decisions.

Scientific knowledge is a fundamental prerequisite of effective resource management. Environmental science is complex and challenging. Precise and accurate understanding of cause and effect relationships and the cost-effectiveness of various methods of addressing environmental issues seldom exist, to a totally satisfactory level.

There are substantial gaps of knowledge in respect of the natural resources of Taranaki. By New Zealand standards, the knowledge base in Taranaki is relatively poor. The lack of the presence of a university or other significant research institutions is partly the reason for this situation. For a number of fields, such as water research, significant data has only been collected since the 1980s, in response to the demands of the petrochemical industry. Long-term trend information development is, therefore, in its infancy.

In 2003, the Council published the second *State of the Environment-Taranaki Region* report. It is intended to update and publish the information covered in this report at regular intervals. The Council also has an on-going state of the environment monitoring programme. This programme comprises a comprehensive approach to regularly collecting and releasing scientific and other indicative information for environmental trend reporting. The programme comprises monitoring of fresh water quantities, levels and flows, surface water quality, ground water quantity and quality, coastal water quality and ecology, air quality and land use sustainability. It provides fundamental feedback for the Council's development and review of policy and activities.

The Council acknowledges that there are gaps in its present programme. For some issues, there is an absence or paucity of cost-effective environmental indicators. Some indicators may take several years to develop. The Council is committed to contributing to development of useful indicators on a regional and national scale and to the ongoing review of its state of the environment monitoring programme to improve its effectiveness.

The Council holds the view that the government, through the administration of its substantial public good science fund, has a critical role in ensuring that competent, relevant and useable environmental science and research is provided to underpin resource management in New Zealand. For its part, the Council has recognised its responsibility to assist the government in prioritising and defining environmental research agendas and to resource supplementary, investigative projects of an applied nature, which are focused on the needs of Taranaki and the functions of the Council.



State of the environment monitoring

Objective

Monitor the state of the environment in Taranaki to enable periodic evaluation of trends in the state of the environment and of the effects of the implementation of the Council's policies and plans, in accordance with the Council's *State of the Environment Monitoring Procedures* document and *State of the Environment Monitoring Programme*.

Programme

Implement the Council's *State of the Environment Monitoring Programme* comprising monitoring of surface fresh water quantity, levels and flows, fresh water quality, groundwater quantity and quality, coastal waters, air quality and land use sustainability according to the documented individual programmes.

Monitor, review and where appropriate, further develop the programme for the 2004/05 year before 30 June 2004.

Maintain quality assurance programmes and information databases for hydrometric, air quality, physicochemical freshwater, freshwater biological and marine biological data.

Maintain public access to on-line live regional data on rainfall and bathing beach water quality.

Resource investigations and projects

Objective

Provide relevant and quality information for resource management purposes.

Programme

Undertake a range of resource investigations and applied research projects, normally in partnership with science providers, other councils or resource users, including:

- investigating the performance characteristics of farm dairy oxidation ponds and their effects on surface water quality
- implementing an investigation programme for assessing the water quality characteristics of the Maketawa Stream
- implementing a monitoring regime to assess the effectiveness of riparian planting programmes
- participating in studies on the effects and consequences of high density stocking rates in association with Dexcel and others
- supporting the dairying catchment water quality study being conducted by AgResearch and NIWA in the Waiokura Stream catchment

Waste minimisation

Objective

To encourage and implement waste minimisation and cleaner production initiatives within industry in Taranaki.

Programme

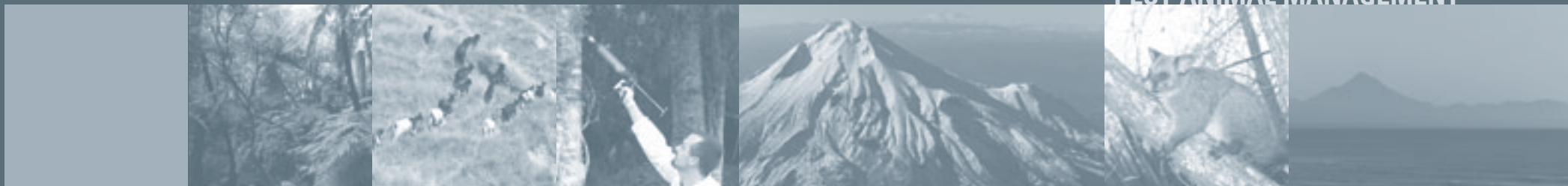
Arising from the *Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki* and in conjunction with the region's district councils, implement a programme promoting waste minimisation.

Work in conjunction with the dairy industry to conduct a survey of dairy farm wastes in Taranaki.



Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate	Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure								
725,844 State of the environment monitoring	738,970	756,140	770,128	784,537	799,377	814,662	830,407	846,623
301,113 Resource investigations and projects	303,203	308,216	312,299	316,505	320,836	325,298	329,893	334,626
0 Waste minimisation	103,645	106,342	108,551	110,827	113,171	115,585	118,072	120,633
1,026,957 Total expenditure	1,145,818	1,170,699	1,180,879	1,211,868	1,233,384	1,255,545	1,278,371	1,301,882
Revenue								
0 Direct charges	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
0 Total revenue	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
1,026,957 Net cost of service	1,095,818	1,120,699	1,140,979	1,161,868	1,183,384	1,205,545	1,228,371	1,251,882
Funded by:								
1,026,957 General funds	1,095,818	1,120,699	1,140,979	1,161,868	1,183,384	1,205,545	1,228,371	1,251,882
1,026,957 Total funding	1,095,818	1,120,699	1,140,979	1,161,868	1,183,384	1,205,545	1,228,371	1,251,882



Description

Pest animal management involves the implementation of the Council's *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals*, with its major focus on possum control. The key methodology for the control of possums is the Council's *self-help* possum control programme. Other components comprise the delivery of general functions under the Biosecurity Act 1993. These may include activities which focus on advice and education on unwanted organisms and, if necessary, the small-scale control of unwanted organisms (animals).

Principal legislation and policy references

Biosecurity Act 1993
Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals 2001.

Basis and background

Pest animal management is a core function of the Council as provided by the Biosecurity Act 1993. However, in contrast to the Resource Management Act 1991, the Biosecurity Act 1993 prescribes relatively few duties, as opposed to enabling powers, on the Council. The Council is required to undertake a range of essentially administrative, procedural tasks such as processing proposals for regional pest management strategies. It has discretion, however, as to its involvement in funding and/or implementing pest management strategies.

With the exception of monitoring and surveillance activities, or small-scale control activities associated with unwanted organisms, the Council may only become involved in pest management activities in accordance with pest management strategies, which have been adopted in compliance with the procedures of the Act.

The Council has adopted the *Pest Animal Management Strategy for Taranaki 2001*. The *Strategy* has a five-year term and binds the Council to provide funding and to act as the management agency for the *Strategy* over that term. Declared pests under the *Strategy* include rooks, hares, certain mustelids, deer, feral goats, feral cats, magpies and feral pigs. For these pests no

obligations have been imposed requiring land occupiers to undertake control measures. Release or liberation of these animals is, however, prohibited and the Council will monitor and, where necessary, engage control measures.

Rabbits are also a declared pest in Taranaki. However, the *Strategy* does impose landowner obligations to control rabbits to below defined infestation levels. The Council is required to monitor and enforce that regime, supplemented by the provision of advice and user-pays control services.

Possums are the most significant declared pest and the substantial focus of the *Pest Animal Management Strategy*. Under the provisions of the *Strategy*, the Council is required to provide a range of direct control, advisory and regulatory services. Facilitating the incremental establishment and maintenance of a *self-help* possum control scheme around the Taranaki ring plain is the major component. In brief, the *self-help* programme involves the Council largely funding and implementing initial control operations to reduce possum numbers, with land occupiers being trained to then continue with on-going maintenance work. Maintenance must be undertaken. The Council monitors and facilitates maintenance, and where necessary, enforces the requirement.

Approximately 12,000 ha per annum are added to the area under the programme. By 30 June 2003 approximately 185,000 ha will have entered the programme. With rare exception, there has been very strong land occupier support for the scheme.

Pest animal management

Objective

Control pest animals thereby minimising their actual or potential adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy.

PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Programme

Implement the Council's *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals* which, in brief, comprises:

- establishing and supporting a *self-help* possum control programme on the Taranaki ring plain by undertaking initial control operations on not less 12,000 hectares and ensuring that landholders maintain possum populations within acceptable limits on land already included (185,000 hectares).
- facilitating control of rabbit infestations.
- undertaking monitoring, surveillance and, where necessary, control of other pest animals
- undertaking control of rooks, hares and feral goats.

Undertake publicity and education to increase public awareness of the pest status of magpies and promote the voluntary control of these birds.

Monitor, provide advice on, and, if necessary, implement small-scale control of unwanted animal organisms.

Contribute to the implementation of the Animal Health Board's *National Pest Management Strategy for TB Bovine Tuberculosis*.

Respond to enquiries and information requests within ten working days.

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate		Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure									
1,266,524	Pest animal management	1,331,014	1,357,633	1,378,795	1,400,592	1,423,043	1,446,168	1,469,986	1,494,519
1,266,524	Total expenditure	1,331,014	1,357,633	1,378,795	1,400,592	1,423,043	1,446,168	1,469,986	1,494,519
Revenue									
37,200	Direct charges	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200
37,200	Total revenue	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200	52,200
1,229,324	Net cost of service	1,278,814	1,305,433	1,326,595	1,348,392	1,370,843	1,393,968	1,417,786	1,442,319
Funded by:									
1,229,324	General funds	1,278,814	1,305,433	1,326,595	1,348,392	1,370,843	1,393,968	1,417,786	1,442,319
1,229,324	Total funding	1,278,814	1,305,433	1,326,595	1,348,392	1,370,843	1,393,968	1,417,786	1,442,319

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Description

Pest plant management comprises the implementation of the Council's *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*. This involves the application of a range of methods for the effective management of pest plants. Other components comprise the delivery of general functions under the Biosecurity Act 1993. These components focus on advice and education and monitoring of other potentially harmful plants and, if necessary, the small-scale control of unwanted plant organisms.

Principal legislation and policy references

Biosecurity Act 1993
Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants 2001.

Basis and background

Pest plant management is a core function of the Council as provided for in the Biosecurity Act 1993. However, in contrast to the Resource Management Act 1991, the Biosecurity Act 1993 prescribes relatively few duties, as opposed to enabling powers, on the Council. The Council is required to undertake a range of essentially administrative, procedural tasks such as processing proposals for regional pest management strategies. It has discretion, however, as to its involvement in funding and/or implementing pest plant management strategies.

With the exception of monitoring and surveillance activities, or small-scale control activities associated with unwanted organisms, the Council may only become involved in pest management activities in accordance with pest management strategies that have been adopted in compliance with the procedures of the Act.

In 2001, the Council adopted a second *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*. Proposals for this *Strategy* were earlier initiated by the Council and progressed through the detailed procedural requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993. Extensive public consultation was involved. The *Strategy* has a five-year term and binds the Council to provide funding and act as the management agency for the *Strategy* over that term.

Under the *Strategy*, a number of plants are declared as pest plants but there are essentially two types of management regime applied, dependent on the risks posed by the plant species.

Surveillance pest plants are banned from sale, propagation or distribution. However, the *Strategy* does not impose land occupier obligations to destroy or control these plants where they are found on properties. The Council provides promotional and advisory services for these surveillance pest plants. It also inspects nurseries and retail outlets to enforce the ban on sale, propagation and distribution.

More significant pest plants have been declared as either eradication or containment control pest plants. In addition to a ban on the sale, propagation and distribution of plants, the *Strategy* places obligations on land occupiers to destroy or control these pests. For eradication pest plants, such as *Darwin's Barberry*, the Council's goal is the eradication of the plant. For containment pest plants the Council's goal is to prevent the spread of the plant to new areas or to neighbouring properties and, if practicable, reduce the area affected. Control regimes may vary in different parts of the region, with generally tighter control being applied on the ring plain and coastal terraces as opposed to the hill country.

The Council principally implements controls on eradication and containment pest plants through an advisory and enforcement-based inspection programme. Inspections may occur up to three times per annum for properties with problem infestations.

Services are also provided to the public, providing general advice and assistance on the control of plants, that, at the present time, are not declared pest plants but are undesirable or unwanted organisms. In conjunction with research organisations, the Council also assists in the development, breeding and release of biological pest plant control programmes with the aim of providing effective alternatives to chemical control. These programmes have met with mixed success but are recognised as an important investment in sustainable future pest control methods.

PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT

The *Pest Management Strategy: Plants* must be reviewed every five years. It is possible that plants may be added to, or deleted from declared pest status during these reviews. No major changes in terms of the Council's resource requirements are projected.

Pest plant management

Objective

Control and/or eradicate pest plants thereby minimising their actual or potential adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy.

Programme

Implement the Council's *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants* which, in brief, comprises:

- implementing direct control programmes for the eradication of remaining infestations of *Climbing Spindleberry*, 80% of all known infestations of, *Giant Reed* and 33% of all known infestations of *Darwin's Barberry*, *Mignonette Vine* and *Senegal Tea*.
- controlling and containing pest plants through a programme of inspections and, where necessary, enforcement on all Category C properties at least three times per year, on all Category B properties at least once per year, and on Category A properties as time permits
- responding to and taking necessary actions on all pest plants complaints within five days of receipt
- inspecting all plant nurseries and retail outlets to promote and, where necessary, enforce the prohibition from propagation, sale or distribution, of all pest plants
- facilitating the development of effective biological control programmes for pest plants particularly *Old Man's Beard* and *Giant Buttercup*
- undertaking a publicity and education programme in relation to the control of *Mignonette Vine*, *Darwin's Barberry* and *Chilean Rhubarb*.

Monitor, provide advice on and, if necessary, implement small-scale control of unwanted plant organisms.

Implement the *National Pest Plant Accord*, inspecting all plant nurseries and retail outlets to promote and, where necessary, enforce the prohibition from propagation, sale or distribution of specified unwanted plant organisms.

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate		Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure									
362,020	Pest plant management	374,877	383,561	390,629	397,908	405,406	413,129	421,084	429,277
362,020	Total expenditure	374,877	380,289	390,629	397,908	401,712	413,129	421,084	429,277
Revenue									
1,000	Direct charges	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
8,564	Government grants	8,564	8,564	8,564	8,564	8,564	8,564	8,564	8,564
9,564	Total revenue	9,564	9,564	9,564	9,564	9,564	9,564	9,564	9,564
352,456	Net cost of service	365,313	373,997	381,065	388,344	395,842	403,565	411,520	419,713
Funded by:									
352,456	General funds	365,313	373,997	381,065	388,344	395,842	403,565	411,520	419,713
352,456	Total Funding	365,313	373,997	381,065	388,344	395,842	403,565	411,520	419,713

INVESTMENTS



Description

This activity encompasses responsibilities associated with the Council's ownership of the region's port company (Westgate Transport Ltd), investment properties and treasury investments.

The Taranaki Regional Council is the 100% owner of the Taranaki port company, Westgate Transport Ltd. Pursuant to the Port Companies Act 1988, the aim of the company is to operate as a successful business. The responsibility for operation of the port company rests with the appointed directors, two of whom are members of the Taranaki Regional Council. The Council also owns 1,000 shares in the Local Government Insurance Corporation Ltd. The Council owns a number of leasehold properties in New Plymouth. The Council also has a number of treasury investments with approved banks. These are mainly short-term investments for cash management purposes.

Principal legislation and policy references

Port Companies Act 1988
Westgate Transport Ltd's statement of corporate intent
Local Government Act 1974
Treasury Management Policy.

Basis and background

The Council's investments comprise equities, properties and cash.

The Council currently owns 100% of Westgate Transport Ltd (Westgate). Shares are carried at their book value of \$26 million. Westgate is a significant asset held by the Council on behalf of the regional community. The port is widely recognised as a core component of the transport infrastructure of the region.

The investment in Westgate carries a degree of risk. The level of profitability that Westgate can continue to generate drives returns to the shareholder. The level of revenue it can generate is the prime driver of profitability. Both the returns the Council can expect to receive from the

investment and the ultimate value of its investment are, therefore, very dependent on the ability of Westgate to protect and enhance its revenue base.

On-going risk management procedures include:

- appointing two Councillors to the Board of Westgate Transport Ltd;
- appointing external directors with appropriate expertise to the Board of Westgate Transport Ltd;
- receiving, on an annual basis, Westgate Transport Ltd's statement of corporate intent;
- receiving informal briefings, and a half-year report from Westgate Transport Ltd on the results achieved and future outlook; and
- reviewing the year-end audited annual report.

The Council is also committed to regularly reviewing ownership and governance policies.

The Council owns properties in New Plymouth, which were transferred at the time the Council assumed the role of the previous Taranaki Harbours Board. All properties are currently leased on a long-term basis to parties' external to the Council. It is the intention of the Council to retain the interest in these properties in the long-term, unless there is a conflict of interest between the Council's role as regulator and its role as a landlord.

The treasury function involves managing the Council's cash surpluses and/or deficits. The Council maintains daily, monthly and annual cash flow projections that form the basis of its cash management activity. Working capital balances are managed by matching expenditure closely to revenue streams, and managing cash flow timing differences to the favour of Council. Daily bank balances are extracted, cash requirements are determined, and appropriate adjustments are made to money market balances.

The Council's investment activity is a risk management function. The Council's approach is to manage investments to optimise returns in the long-term while balancing risk and return considerations. The Council recognises that as a responsible public authority any investments that it holds should be managed prudently. It also recognises that lower risk generally means lower returns. The Council will continue to utilise investments to produce a revenue stream that reduces the reliance on general rate revenue.



Westgate Transport Ltd

Objective

Ensure that the Council-owned port company, Westgate Transport Ltd, is efficiently managed as a successful business.

Programme

Receive and consider Westgate Transport Ltd's statement of corporate intent and monitor performance against established targets on an annual basis.

Appoint Westgate Transport Ltd's directors as required.

Liaise with the port company directorate and management in accordance with formal and informal reporting procedures.

Land and treasury investments

Objective

Ensure that property and treasury investments owned by the Council are efficiently managed.

Programme

Manage and, where appropriate, divest leasehold land in accordance with the Council's leasehold land policies.

Manage and maximise the returns from treasury investments in accordance with the Council's *Treasury Management Policy*.



Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate		Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure									
15,000	Investment management	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
15,000	Total expenditure	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Revenue									
2,650,000	Dividends	2,750,000	2,850,000	2,950,000	3,050,000	3,150,000	3,250,000	3,350,000	3,450,000
932,544	Interest	1,020,811	1,117,120	1,169,680	1,222,240	1,274,800	1,327,360	1,379,920	1,432,480
364,650	Property rental	374,350	374,350	374,350	374,350	374,350	374,350	374,350	374,350
3,947,194	Total revenue	4,145,161	4,341,470	4,494,030	4,646,590	4,799,150	4,951,710	5,104,270	5,256,830
3,932,194	Surplus on investments	4,132,661	4,328,970	4,481,530	4,634,090	4,786,650	4,939,210	5,091,770	5,244,330
Allocated to:									
19,000	Interest transferred to reserve funds	19,662	20,403	21,359	20,380	19,297	18,103	16,791	15,353
3,913,659	Transfer to significant activities	4,121,998	4,256,178	4,413,454	4,575,452	4,742,310	4,914,173	5,091,193	5,273,523
(465)	Retained earnings	0	52,389	46,717	38,259	25,044	6,933	(16,214)	(44,545)
3,932,194	Total allocations	4,132,661	4,328,970	4,481,530	4,634,090	4,786,650	4,939,210	5,091,770	5,244,330



Description

This activity encompasses projects which are supported by the Council because the recreational, cultural and heritage benefits are regionally significant. Two projects are encompassed within this significant activity. The first is regional assistance for the redevelopment of Rugby Park into a modern multi-events stadium (Yarrow Stadium). The second is assistance in maintaining and enhancing three of Taranaki's regionally significant and nationally recognised garden amenities.

These projects are undertaken pursuant to the Taranaki Regional Council Empowering Act 2001.

Principal legislation and policy references

Taranaki Regional Council Empowering Act 2001

Basis and background

The Taranaki Regional Council Empowering Act 2001 adds to the Council's existing powers an ability to undertake, implement, encourage or maintain any services, works or facilities that are for the recreational or cultural well-being of Taranaki, or that are for preserving or encouraging the reasonable enjoyment of the physical and cultural heritage of the Taranaki region.

Many of the activities possible under the Act are, in general, allied to the Council's existing functions and mission. The Act does not alter the Council's obligations to fully comply with the accountability requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, but it does provide for the opportunity to apply those provisions in ways more appropriate to community needs and expectations. It also provides the opportunity for the local authorities and residents of Taranaki to work more coherently with the Council, on a range of matters when they are regionally significant.

At present there are two specific projects which fall under this significant activity. The two projects are:

- Yarrow Stadium (multi-events stadium)
- the regionally significant gardens at Pukeiti, the Tupare gardens and Hollard Gardens.

The Council provided \$9.6m of funding for the development of Yarrow Stadium. No further funding is going to be provided for Yarrow Stadium. This *Annual Plan* provides for repayment of \$6.4m of that funding by way of a targeted rate over the whole region.

Taranaki has a few outstanding gardens that assist in attracting a significant number of visitors to the region. They are also treasured community amenities. Three of these are the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust gardens, the Tupare gardens and Hollard Gardens. Over the past few years these gardens have generally struggled with financial constraints. There are risks to the long-term quality of these amenities in the absence of a strategic professional approach to their future maintenance and development. There are also opportunities to enhance their value through better co-ordination of resources. In 2002 the Council assumed ownership of Tupare and Hollard Gardens. It is the Council's intention to ensure these amenities are appropriately maintained and enhanced.

The Council is in the process of developing asset management plans for the three regional gardens. It is expected that these will be finalised in mid-2003 at which time capital and operating budgets will be adopted. In this *Annual Plan* no provision for any extra expenditure has been made. Any additional expenditure and associated funding will be addressed in the adoption of the asset management plans.

Multi-events stadium

Objective

To facilitate the redevelopment of Rugby Park into a modern multi-events stadium appropriate for the needs of Taranaki.

Programme

A one-off grant of \$9.6m was provided to the Taranaki Events Centre Trust in 2001/2002 for the purposes of developing a multi-events stadium at Rugby Park. The only activity in this area for 2003/04 is the repayment of the grant from targeted rates.



Regional gardens

Objective

To ensure that the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust gardens, Hollard Gardens and Tupare are maintained and enhanced as regionally significant recreational and heritage amenities.

Programme

Complete and commence the implementation of the asset management plans for the Council's regional gardens.

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate	Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Expenditure								
0 Multi-events stadium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
389,316 Regional gardens	392,922	398,838	403,510	408,322	413,278	418,383	423,641	429,057
389,316 Total expenditure	392,922	398,838	403,510	408,322	413,278	418,383	423,641	429,057
Revenue								
31,060 Direct charges	31,060	31,060	31,060	31,060	31,060	31,060	31,060	31,060
876,000 Targeted rates	876,000	876,000	876,000	876,000	876,000	876,000	876,000	876,000
907,060 Total revenue	907,060	907,060	907,060	907,060	907,060	907,060	907,060	907,060
(517,744) Net cost of service	(514,138)	(508,222)	(503,550)	(498,738)	(493,782)	(488,677)	(483,419)	(478,003)
Funded by:								
(876,000) Transfer (to)/from retained earnings	(876,000)	(876,000)	(876,000)	(876,000)	(876,000)	(876,000)	(876,000)	(876,000)
358,256 General funds	361,862	367,778	372,450	377,262	382,218	387,323	392,581	397,997
(517,744) Total funding	(514,138)	(508,222)	(503,550)	(498,738)	(493,782)	(488,677)	(483,419)	(478,003)

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Description

Representation encompasses public representation by the Council and its committees in accordance with statutory requirements. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Council conducts six-weekly meetings of the full Council and main Council committees and convenes other meetings as appropriate.

The full costs of operating the representation function of the Council include Councillor and appointed members' remuneration and travel costs, administrative costs in servicing the Council and its committees and processing requests for official information. Triennial election costs are also included.

The Council's membership and committee structure is outlined in the *Governance report*.

Indicative costs and sources of funds

2002/03		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Estimate		Estimate	Indicative	Indicative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	Expenditure								
600,237	Representation	613,170	628,720	641,893	655,461	669,436	683,831	698,657	713,928
600,237	Net cost of service	613,170	628,720	641,893	655,461	669,436	683,831	698,657	713,928
	Funded by:								
600,237	General funds	613,170	628,720	641,893	655,461	669,436	683,831	698,657	713,928
600,237	Total funding	613,170	628,720	641,893	655,461	669,436	683,831	698,657	713,928

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



The following pages present the financial projections of the Council for 2003/2004. Indicative financial projections for the next two years are provided together with forecast financial projection for the following five years. In particular, the following information is presented:

- the practices and assumptions used in preparing the financial information;
- the sources of income and where it is planned to be spent;
- the effect of the planned income and expenditure on the overall net worth of the Council;
- what the Council owes and owns;
- the forecast cash payments and receipts during the year; and
- additional supporting information.

The allocation of costs between groups of activities and activities has been refined for this *Annual Plan*. The 2002/2003 estimates have been restated to allow consistency of comparison. As required by section 223D(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1974, the *Statement of Financial Position* includes the estimated financial position as at 1 July 2003. These figures differ from the estimated financial position as at 30 June 2003 included in the *2002/2003 Annual Plan*.

The indicative and forecast prospective financial information presented is based upon best-estimate assumptions. Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of the indicative and forecast prospective financial information, the actual results are likely to differ. These differences may be material.

The forecasts are based upon assumptions and information available to the Taranaki Regional Council as at June 2003. Actual financial results have been incorporated to the extent that they affect the opening forecast prospective financial position as at 1 July 2003. There is no intention to update the forecast prospective financial information prior to the preparation of the *2003/2004 Annual Report*.

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