

## Connected

Region has accessible and integrated infrastructure, transport and communications systems that meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors):

- 91.3% of Taranaki households had telephones in March 2006, down 5.1% from 2001. National figure 91.6%, down 4.4%.
- 72% of Taranaki households had access to a cellphone in March 2006. National rate 74.2%
- 54.5% of Taranaki households had internet access in March 2006, up 16.7% from 2001. Nationally, the rate was 60.5% in March 2006, up 22.1% from 2001.
- The Taranaki road toll was 12 in 2006, compared with 13 in 2005. The 2006 rate equates to 11.5 deaths per 100,000 population. The national rate is 13.8.

## Skilled

Region values and supports learning so all can play a full and active role in social, cultural and economic life:

- The number of Taranaki secondary students leaving school with no qualifications dropped to 14.4% in 2005 from 15% in 2004. National rate 13% in 2004, 12.9% in 2005.
- 74% of Taranaki adults had at least an upper secondary school qualification in 2005, up 0.5% from 2004. National rate 76%, unchanged.
- ✓ Taranaki early childhood education participation rate 106.5% in 2006 (taking into account children enrolled at more than one centre).
- 7,220 students were enrolled in full-time or equivalent continuing education in Taranaki in 2006.
- ✓ 61.7% of Taranaki Year 11 students obtained NCEA qualification in 2006, up 1.4% from 2005. National rate 59.3%, up 2.8%.



Future Taranaki documents can be found at:  
[www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

# Future Taranaki

## progress report

### The journey so far

The Community Outcomes Process attempts to identify and measure what is important to local communities through a process of consultation, planning and reporting.

The process is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 which stipulates that Local Authorities have a responsibility to promote the social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing of their communities. The Act also requires central government and other organisations to work more closely with local government to support the achievement of those community outcomes.

The three Taranaki district councils and regional council began the work towards achieving community outcomes for Taranaki in 2004 when consultation with the community resulted in the Community Outcomes report for Taranaki which was aptly named 'Future Taranaki'.

Through the dedication and focused work of a number of people from councils, government departments, professional groups and businesses and community organisations, the 'Future Taranaki Group' has continued to work together to form networks and to provide vital

information on our progress towards Taranaki's community outcomes.

The group has recognised the strengths and achievements of our region as well as identified and highlighted issues that we, as a community, need to work on. As we continue the process we are reviewing the structure and processes of 'Future Taranaki' and welcome your suggestions and feedback.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this process for their input and support. We are proud of the work achieved so far and we look forward to continuing to work together towards achieving Taranaki's community outcomes.

The agreed community outcomes are: Secure and Healthy, Sustainable, Prosperous, Together, Vibrant, Connected and Skilled.

This report marks the end of my term as Chair of the Future Taranaki Facilitation Group, a duty that now passes to Taranaki District Health Board Chief Executive Officer Tony Foulkes.

Gloria Campbell  
Chair, Future Taranaki Facilitation Group



The Future Taranaki Facilitation Group is made up of representatives from the Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Taranaki District Health Board, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kōkiri and Venture Taranaki Trust.



# Summary of three *future Taranaki projects*

## Project 1

### *Regional skills strategy*

Surveys of employers reveal that skill shortages are the foremost impediment to business growth. The Taranaki economy has experienced very positive growth over the past six years but there are still pockets of real poverty and indications of a widening gap between those who are benefiting from growth and those who are not.

Large employers in Taranaki indicate that job applicants frequently do not have the social or communication skills to succeed even in entry level positions, while there is a continuous need to upskill staff in the workplace.

Project objectives: To ensure that the region's supply of labour meets its potential demand.

Action will include research on long-term skill requirements, establishing effective partnerships with relevant agencies and tertiary providers and supporting business and industry to improve staff retention and capability.

Lead agency: New Plymouth District Council.

## Project 2

### *Working together for a Smokefree Taranaki*

According to Statistics NZ figures, 22.4% of Taranaki people are smokers. The objective of this project is for Taranaki to become the first Smokefree province in New Zealand by Smokefree Day 2009.

The strategy involves helping adults to quit smoking by developing and promoting a smoking cessation service, promoting workplace smokefree policies and reducing exposure to smoking in public places including major sports stadiums.

Lead agency: Taranaki District Health Board

## Project 3

### *Safe families, safer communities - eliminating family violence in Taranaki*

Between January and July 2005, police attended 494 domestic incidents in Taranaki. In 2004, 131 applications were made to the Family Court for Protection Orders. Also in 2004, 357 women registered as clients at Taranaki Women's Refuge.

This project aims to provide intervention and education on family violence by developing awareness, education and support in workplaces.

This will include introducing family violence resource/support officers in most Taranaki workplaces, along with efforts to encourage a workplace culture of non-tolerance of family violence.

Lead agency: Ministry of Social Development

# Indicators *update*

## *Secure and Healthy*

*Region is a safe, healthy and friendly place to live, work or visit:*

- Taranaki Housing NZ waiting lists up 1.5% in 2006, against national trend of smaller waiting lists.
- Taranaki houses less affordable in 2007 with affordability index at 25.13, or 10.6% less affordable than in previous year. National affordability index at 32.44, or 11.9% less affordable.
- Reported crime in Taranaki up 4.9% in 2006, up 4.1% nationally.
- Youth offending in Taranaki up 34% in 2006, down 4.2% nationally.
- Rates for alcohol consumption and diabetes in Taranaki mirror national levels.

## *Sustainable*

*Region appreciates its natural environment and its physical and human resources in planning, delivery and protection:*

- ✓ Taranaki's rivers and streams show good to excellent water quality on most measures.

## *Prosperous*

*Regional economy sustainable, resilient and innovative, prospering with the natural and social environment:*

- Taranaki median annual household income in 2006 \$44,700; national median \$51,400.
- ✓ The majority of Taranaki businesses remain confident about the economy.
- Taranaki had 2.3% of New Zealand's businesses in 2006. The number of businesses grew 14.7% in the three years from 2003, slightly below the NZ growth rate.
- Taranaki unemployment rate 3.5% in year to June 2007, unchanged from last year. National rate 3.7%, also unchanged.
- ✓ Average Taranaki pay rate \$22.31 an hour in March 2007, up 8.6% on previous year. National average \$22.63, up 4.6%.
- ✓ Average Taranaki weekly income \$602 in June 2006, up 6.5% from previous year. National average \$610, up 4.1%.

## *Together*

*Region is caring and inclusive, works together and enables people to have a strong and distinctive sense of identity:*

- A survey among community and social agency staff reveals a belief that Taranaki is improving in inclusiveness, care and tolerance. However, it is also perceived as difficult to break into.

## *Vibrant*

*Region provides high quality and diverse cultural and recreational experiences, and encourages independence and creativity:*

- ✓ Voter turnout in the 2004 local body elections was 55% in Taranaki, compared with 45% nationally.

