

# Recount



## Rising to challenge



It is my pleasure to present this summary of the Taranaki Regional Council's 2007/2008 Annual Report. The year was one of both change and continuity.

Changes included new faces at the Council table

following local body elections in October 2007 and the retirement of long-serving Chairman David Walter.

But as in previous years, the Council continued to focus on core functions and delivered high levels of outputs across its range of activities. Outcomes were again encouraging and in all but a few areas, our environment is generally healthy and improving.

To give readers an idea of the scope of our activities and the work volumes this can entail, samples of statistics from the Annual Report are presented throughout these pages.

The full Annual Report is available from the Council at 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, and online at [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

The Council's operating surplus was \$2.4 million over budget, although \$2 m of this relates to property revaluations.

Regionally-owned Port Taranaki Ltd is coping

well with changing times, with dividends ahead of budget by \$200,000. The Council is committed to the port's continued public ownership.

Councillor numbers rose from 10 to 11 after the local authority elections, at which David Walter retired and Cr Donald McIntyre was not returned. Four new Councillors were elected.

Donald made a significant contribution over nine years on Council and David, the Chairman from 2001 to 2007, has a long and distinguished record of dedication, hard work and leadership in local government.

My first year as Chairman has been challenging but rewarding. I am grateful for the support of fellow Councillors, and the management and staff astutely led by the Chief Executive, Basil Chamberlain.

The Council is in a very sound position, well placed to continue enhancing our region's future.

David MacLeod  
Taranaki Regional Council Chairman

### Your Council's year in numbers

**0**  
Appeals lodged against resource consent decisions. One appeal has subsequently been lodged relating to a decision reached during 2007/2008.

**1**  
Agroforestry plan prepared for a hillcountry farmer.

**2**  
Activations at the Taranaki Emergency Management Centre – for the tornado emergency in July 2007 and the Patea Freezing Works fire in February 2008.

**2**  
Prosecutions successfully concluded after being launched in 2006/2007.

**3**  
Resource consent hearings.

**3%**  
Re-inspection rate for minor industrial operations. Those that meet consent requirements are not re-inspected.

**3%**  
Proportion of pollution complaints relating to the marine environment.

**3.5**  
Kilometres of channel cleared in the Waitotora River, bringing the total to 16 km.

**4**  
Prosecutions launched. These will be resolved in 2008/2009.

#### Inside Recount

Pest management .....	P2	Land management .....	P5
Transport .....	P3	Investments .....	P6
Resource consents .....	P4	Financial statement .....	P7
Policy .....	P4	Resource monitoring .....	P8

## Your Council's year in numbers

### 4.1%

Re-inspection rate for farm waste disposal systems. Properly operating systems are not re-inspected.

### 5%

Proportion of pollution complaints relating to soil.

### 7

Conservation plans prepared for hillcountry farmers, bringing the total to 224.

### 12

Annual reports prepared and published summarising freshwater monitoring results for current and preceding years.

### 12

Research investigations and applied research investigations undertaken.

### 17

Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards made.

### 19

State-of-the-environment monitoring programmes completed.

### 21

Comprehensive farm plans prepared for hillcountry farmers.

### 21

Piggeries visited by Council officers to inspect waste treatment systems.

### 30

Infringement notices ("instant fines") for unauthorised environmental incidents.

### 30

Formal written submissions made by the Council on a wide range of policy documents and legislative proposals from the Government other organisations.

## Public helps in war on pests

The Council's pest control work is guided by its *Pest Plant Management Strategy* and its *Pest Animal Management Strategy*.

For pest animals, a major focus is the *Self-Help Possum Control Programme*. The map on this page shows how this programme's coverage has expanded across the region to more than 97% of privately owned land on the ring plain.

Compliance by property owners is exceptionally good. The only enforcement action required all year was to issue five notices directing occupiers to control possums on their land.

Across the whole area, the mean trap catch rate was 7.5%, against a target of 10% – indicating very low possum numbers.

The Council is working on ways to determine where maintenance may be waived while still protecting the integrity of the programme.

Last year we reported on the initial control programme at Toko, which was undertaken by Council officers after the contractor went into receivership at the last minute. Monitoring, which continued at Toko this year, showed this operation was highly successful and provided a reminder about the quality of our staff.

Joint monitoring and control operations around Egmont National Park were carried out with the Department of Conservation this year. Improvement was required and good progress has been made.

The animal pest management team also contributed significantly to the Council's work in protecting significant biodiversity assets. Forty-nine of the region's identified key native ecosystems are included in the *Self-Help Possum Control Programme*. A dozen key native ecosystem site-led programmes were developed and otherwise facilitated by the Council during the year. These range from relatively small sites, such as preparing a pest control plan for the Rapanui petrel colony,



to working with Ngati Tama to undertake a large possum control operation in the White Cliffs forest.

Turning to pest plants, 274 notices of direction were issued during the year, a similar level to the previous year. The Council's increased focus on environmental pest plants such as pampas grass and wild ginger has seen a significant increase in inspections, and notices of direction in the last three years. All this year's notices were complied with and no further enforcement action was necessary.

There continued to be an emphasis on raising awareness and assisting people with the transition to managing some plants only recently controlled by rules, such as Chilean rhubarb, and common and purple pampas.

The Council directly treated 50 small infestations of pest plants targeted for eradication and contracted land occupiers to treat a further 23 infestations. This control has addressed all of the known eradication pest plant infestations.



Preparations during the year led to the launch of a new bus contract in New Plymouth.

## Bus business is bustling

It's been a busy and often challenging year as the Council implements the *Regional Land Transport Strategy* and the *Regional Passenger Transport Plan for Taranaki*.

After two years of trialling bus service options in New Plymouth, services were competitively tendered and Tranzit Group won the business for at least the next three years.

The transition from the previous providers, Okato Bus Lines, to Tranzit proceeded without significant issues and the new services are being provided within budget estimates.

During the year, a once-a-week bus service from Inglewood to New Plymouth was introduced on a trial basis. Similarly, two trials began for once-a-week services between Waverley-Patea-Hawera, Opunake-Hawera and Opunake-New Plymouth.

A total of 87,692 passenger trips were taken in total mobility services provided in New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara, Stratford and Hawera. Total mobility ID cards were introduced during the year to reduce fraud risk. For the first year since commencement, total mobility expenditure decreased over the previous period.

For the first time also, the Council made concession fares available to users of Ironside vehicles to aid the Society's income. This required the Society to charge fares for services.

The Council has also been involved in Government proposals to restructure the transport sector in New Zealand, and with other parties it has sought to enable Taranaki

to constructively address the future, which will involve some inevitable controversy and a need for new funding methods and strong leadership.

The Council continued to administer navigation bylaws for Port Taranaki through its harbourmasters and honorary enforcement officers. During the year, there were 2,097 vessel movements without any navigation and safety incidents.

*The Port and Harbour Safety Management System Manual* received full approval by Maritime New Zealand in July, the first such manual to be approved.

A major oil spill occurred in October 2007 with approximately 15 tonnes of crude oil washed up on the west coast near Okato from the Floating Production, Storage and Offtake vessel Umuroa in the Tui oil field. This was the biggest crude oil spill to ever occur in New Zealand and the second largest oil spill of any type to occur in New Zealand in recent history. Quick action and fortunate timing kept long-term effects to a minimum.

A feature of the response to this incident was close liaison among Council (operating as agent for Maritime New Zealand), residents, iwi and surfers. Coastal land owners were also very co-operative in providing access and making farm equipment available for the clean-up operation.

As the spill occurred outside of the Council's boundary, enforcement action became the responsibility of Maritime New Zealand, which has successfully prosecuted the company involved. Council costs were fully recovered.

## Your Council's year in numbers

### 32

Meetings of the Council and its key committees during the year.

### 33

Tonnes of oil spilled from the Tui oilfield in October 2007, much of it washing ashore along 15 km of coastline near Okato. It was the biggest crude oil spill in New Zealand history and prompted a full-scale clean-up response by the Council.

### 33

Number of spaces in the new car park built at Tupare during the year. At Hollard Gardens, the 25-space car park was sealed.

### 41%

Proportion of pollution complaints relating to air quality.

### 43%

Planting component of riparian management plans completed.

### 46

Plant nurseries and retail outlets inspected by Pest Plant Investigating Officers.

### 48

Poultry farms visited by Council officers to inspect waste treatment systems.

### 49

Marine biology surveys completed while implementing the year's 214 individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes.

### 50

Letters of explanation accepted after unauthorised environmental incidents.

### 50

Small infestations of eradication pest plants treated directly by Council officers. Land occupiers treated a further 23.

## Your Council's year in numbers

### 51%

Proportion of pollution complaints relating to freshwater quality.

### 55

Millimetres of rain recorded at the Council's Mangatete Bridge recording site in one hour during a storm on 29-30 April 2008 that resulted in the highest recorded peak flows in the Stony River and the highest observed flows in nearby catchments. Significant damage was caused.

### 60%

Fencing component of riparian management plans completed.

### 75

Freshwater biology surveys completed while implementing the year's 214 individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes.

### 92%

Pre-hearing resolution rate on submissions to resource consents, averting the need for formal and costly hearings.

### 93%

Consent holders for whom compliance monitoring programmes revealed either a high or a good level of environmental performance.

### 97%

Resource consent applications processed without public notification.

### 104

Abatement notices issued over unauthorised environmental incidents.

### 116

Complaints received about pest plants.

### 210

Class visits by the Council's Education Officer, involving 5,585 children.

## High benchmark in consent processing

On time, with formality and cost kept to a minimum.

That was again the Council's achievement in its processing of resource consent applications, an area where it sets a consistently high benchmark.

With numbers remaining high at just over 400, all were processed within statutory timeframes and all but a few without public notification.

Of those applications that do attract public submissions, 90%-plus were resolved through the pre-hearing process, averting the need to proceed to formal and more costly hearings.

The year's three formal hearings related to the extension of coastal protection work at Urenui Beach, an air discharge consent application for a poultry farm and the recommissioning of the Normanby hydro-electric power scheme. No appeals were lodged in the 2007/2008 year, although appeals were later lodged over the Normanby power station.

Of three Environment Court appeals

outstanding from the previous year, one was disallowed in favour of the Council.

The remaining two were relatively minor applications tied to a major land use application made to a district council for a quarry.

The 200-plus individually-tailored compliance monitoring programmes found some 93% of consent holders achieving either a high or good level of compliance performance.

All of the region's almost 2,000 dairy farms had their waste treatment systems inspected – only 4.1% needed re-inspection, in line with previous years. The re-inspection rate for the 775 minor industrial operations visited was 3%.

Council staff responded to 540 environmental incidents, most related to air or freshwater. Fifty explanations were accepted, 104 abatement notices issued and 30 instant fines imposed. Four prosecutions were launched, to be concluded in the 2008/2009 year.

Two prosecutions launched in the previous year were concluded successfully.

## Policy team busy with strategy, reviews

A major new operational document, the *Biodiversity Strategy for Taranaki*, was adopted during the year, following wide consultation.

The strategy provides a framework and point of focus for a range of long-running Council activities that have always promoted the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity.

Some internal restructuring has occurred to allow the Council to align and develop its capacity to deliver on the strategy.

The policy and planning area also saw continued progress on reviews of significant policy documents including the *Regional*

*Policy Statement* and the *Regional Coastal Plan*, although work on the latter was slowed while the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* is reviewed.

Constructive discussions have occurred with many submitters on the proposed *Regional Policy Statement*, which is expected to be adopted in the next year.

The Council has also made 30 formal written submissions on a wide range of policy documents and legislative proposals from other organisations, ranging from climate change policies to land transport functions.

## Xplorer website hits the right spot

A major effort has continued to get as much of the Council's database information as possible out to the public through the Council's Taranaki Regional Xplorer website.

This award-winning development, which contains a broad range of geographic and local government information, has continued to be very popular, with average visits at 70,029 a month up 20% on last year. Consistent use of the site to create map images has proved its usefulness to the public.

Interest in the Council's general website, [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz), also continues to grow, with average monthly visits being around 30,000.

Environmental awards were presented to 17 recipients during the year.

Continued emphasis was placed on

providing educational material and other forms of assistance to schools, especially on environmental matters. Four issues of the school-oriented *S.I.T.E.* newsletter were produced. Thirty-five units of work and 447 additional resources were sent out to teachers. There were 210 class visits involving 5,585 students and a further 669 visitors to the Council's display areas. Council staff also conducted five teacher workshops.

In addition to the above activities, five issues of the Council's newsletter *Recount* were published and widely distributed.

The Council's partnership with Puke Ariki continued, including sponsorship of the Whenua exhibition and associated publication and launch of the *60 Springs* environmental education programme.

# Progress good but more needed

The Council's land management services are generally provided through individual property plans: riparian (streamside fencing and planting) for ring plain dairy farms and a range of hillcountry plans essentially aimed at matching land use with land capability, and how susceptible it is to erosion.

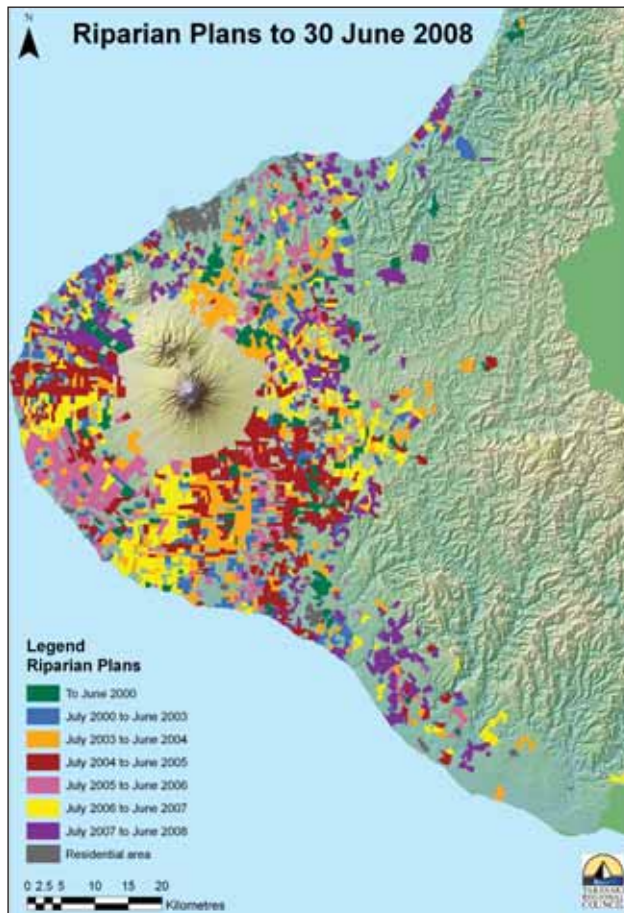
The map on this page and statistics throughout this publication show the growing number of properties covered by these plans.

But while the majority of Taranaki dairy farms now have riparian plans, implementation is moving quite slowly. Fencing and planting targets are set in the *Regional Action Plan* of the national *Dairying and Clean Streams Accord* and while those for 2010 are well within grasp or already surpassed, fencing and planting rates will have to increase substantially to meet the 2015 targets.

It is important for farmers to get on with implementation rather than wait to be led by regulation, as advocated by many critics of their environmental performance.

Riparian fencing and planting protects and enhances waterway quality by keeping stock out of streams and by filtering sediment and run-off.

Still, many have already made a significant effort – the Council supplies riparian plants and poplar/willow material for soil stability to farmers at cost, and in the past decade,



1.4 million plants have moved through the purchasing system. This year's distribution of 256,000 plants was 25% up on the previous year.

The Council continued to administer, service and provide funds for the Taranaki Tree Trust.

Wetlands protection was also a continued focus, with grants to enhance 12 of the 48 regionally significant wetlands.

During the year, the Council purchased land near Lepperton for the establishment of a poplar nursery for soil conservation. The site will also serve as a demonstration area and distribution point for riparian plants.

## Emergency management put to the test

The Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) responded well after a swarm of tornadoes caused extensive damage across the region, especially at Oakura.

A state of emergency was declared and although property damage was severe, miraculously there was no loss of life.

The CDEM was again called to assist when the former Patea Freezing Works site was engulfed in fire in February 2008. Potential asbestos smoke hazard resulted in an evacuation until risks had abated.

Outside of these extraordinary events, the key focus during the year was the implementation of the *Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan* that was completed and approved in 2004, and the 2007/2008 *Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Business Plan*.

The work of the CDEM Group was greatly assisted by the co-ordinating executive group which comprises professional representatives from a wide range of organisations and emergency service providers. Their contributions have been greatly appreciated.

## Your Council's year in numbers

### 213

Air samples taken while implementing the year's 214 individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes.

### 214

Individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes implemented, involving 345 consent holders and 1,020 consents.

### 285

Requests received for information about weeds and other plants.

### 301

Riparian management plans completed for farmers.

### 401

Resource consents processed, up from 399 in 2006/2007. All completed within Resource Management Act timeframes.

### 540

Pollution incidents investigated, down from 578 in 2006/2007.

### 669

Students in class visits to the display area at the Council office at Stratford.

### 775

Minor industrial operations inspected by Council officers, including road works, exploration wells, sand blasters and production stations.

### 1,584

Additional kilometres of streambank covered in the year's 301 new riparian plans.

### 1,629

Water and soil samples taken for the 214 individually tailored compliance monitoring programmes.

### 1,901

Dairy farms visited by Council officers to inspect waste treatment systems. That is, 100% of the region's dairy farms.

## Your Council's year in numbers

### 2,009

Total number of riparian management plans now prepared for farmers.

### 2,097

Vessel movements at the Council-owned Port Taranaki. There were no navigation or safety incidents.

### 3,757

Properties covered by the self-help possum control programme, up from 3,723 in 2006/2007.

### 5,660

Property inspections for pest plants, carried out by Council officers.

### 15,355

Additional hectares in the eastern Taranaki hillcountry covered by comprehensive sustainable land management plans, bringing the total to 178,580 ha.

## New faces on Council team

The number of Councillors increased from 10 to 11 after the local body elections in October 2007, with an extra seat in the New Plymouth constituency to reflect population growth.

The election saw the retirement of long-serving Council Chairman, David Walter, while Cr Donald McIntyre did not return.

The 2007-2010 Councillors are:

**South Taranaki Constituency (three seats):**  
David MacLeod (Chair), Neil Walker, Michael Joyce.

**New Plymouth Constituency (five seats):**  
David Lean (Deputy Chair), Barry Marsh, Moira Irving, Tom Cloke, Peter Horton.

**North Taranaki Constituency (two seats):**  
Roger Maxwell, Mike Davey.

**Stratford Constituency (one seat):**  
Brian Jeffares.

The Council's focus is on setting strategy and policy together with monitoring its

implementation. Management is responsible for the implementation of the Council's policy and strategy decisions.

The full Council and main Council committees meet on a six-weekly cycle, with other meetings convened as necessary. Agendas and minutes are publicly available.

With the exception of the Executive and the Consents and Regulatory Committees, the Council has decided to appoint non-Council representatives to its various committees as a means to increase the breadth of input to the decisions made by the Council.

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is a Joint Committee established under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. The Taranaki Regional Council is a member of this Group along with members from the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils. The Taranaki Regional Council is the administering authority for the Joint Committee.

## Financial position remains strong

The Council finished the year with a surplus of \$2.62 million, which was \$2.43m above budget. Land revaluations accounted for \$2.08m of the surplus. Expenditure was \$13.61m, \$0.13m less than programmed.

The Council worked especially hard on cost control in the face of cost pressures, a tight labour market, the imposition of KiwiSaver,

and rising fuel, energy, materials and contracting costs.

The Council's financial position remains strong with no public debt. Total public equity increased to \$68.8m.

The Council-owned Port Taranaki Ltd enjoyed an upturn in trade and revenue. Operational revenue rose 16% to \$42.8m associated with an increase in total trade to 3.38m tonnes.

After tax profit at \$4.8m, however, was essentially the same as for the previous period due to comparatively higher operating expenditure and expenditure write-offs associated with the Pike River Coal Project. Under this deal, a transport consortium would have provided an export chain for the Pike River coal mine on the West Coast. The proposal did not proceed after the mining company arranged to railfreight its coal to Lyttleton, aided by a substantial taxpayer injection to upgrade the West Coast-Canterbury railway line.

Independent research has clearly demonstrated the value of Port Taranaki Ltd as a strategic asset for the Taranaki economy and community. The port deepening project provided an opportunity to grow business like that associated with the Pike River coal mine. The Board is exploring other opportunities.

The Council acknowledges the public's support for its ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd and is committed to supporting the Company in its commercial aspirations.

### Audit report to the readers of Taranaki Regional Council's summary annual report for the year ended 30 June 2008

We have audited the summary annual report.

#### Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the information reported in the summary financial statements complies with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements and is consistent with the full financial statements from which it is derived.

We expressed an unqualified audit opinion, in our report dated 23 September 2008, on:

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

#### Basis of Opinion

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards. Other than in our capacity as auditor, provision of taxation assurance and in conducting the audit of the Long Term Council Community Plan, we have no relationship with or interests in the Regional Council or any of its subsidiaries.

#### Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

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

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

# Taranaki Regional Council Summary Annual Report 2007/2008

## Taranaki Regional Council and Group: Statement of financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2008

Group			2007/2008	Council	2006/2007
2007/2008	2006/2007		Actual \$	2007/2008	Actual \$
Actual \$	Actual \$			Budget \$	
629,037	493,292	<b>Cost of services</b>	629,037	665,402	493,292
438,043	433,153	Policy and planning	438,043	430,275	433,153
3,095,476	2,792,638	Civil defence emergency management	3,095,476	3,032,228	2,792,638
1,989,742	1,753,639	Resource consents	1,989,742	2,156,120	1,753,639
498,096	452,276	Land management	498,096	518,096	452,276
1,413,250	1,035,985	River control and flood protection	1,453,453	1,404,470	1,071,415
1,604,243	1,374,126	Land transport and harbour management	1,604,243	1,562,939	1,374,126
1,965,994	1,849,347	Resource investigations, monitoring and enhancement	1,965,994	2,009,298	1,849,347
807,705	773,694	Pest management	807,705	897,467	773,694
1,129,362	1,097,816	Recreation, culture and heritage	1,129,362	1,068,428	1,097,816
31,422,472	27,895,882	Regional representation, information and investments	-	-	-
3,312,010	1,549,239	Port operations	-	-	-
<b>48,305,430</b>	<b>41,501,087</b>	Finance costs	-	-	-
		<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>13,611,150</b>	<b>13,744,731</b>	<b>12,091,396</b>
		<b>Income</b>			
5,405,824	5,273,975	General rates revenue	5,405,824	5,405,824	5,273,975
772,514	747,800	Targeted rates revenue	772,514	773,229	747,800
3,040,917	2,687,003	Direct charges revenue	3,065,070	3,164,859	2,722,469
698,852	542,925	Government grants	698,852	648,750	542,925
132	126	Dividends	1,800,132	1,600,000	1,000,126
1,667,018	1,576,265	Other investment income	1,688,319	1,626,026	1,597,565
2,795,000	1,955,000	Investment property: unrealised gain	2,795,000	714,262	1,955,000
42,748,621	36,915,467	Port operations	-	-	-
<b>57,128,878</b>	<b>49,698,561</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>16,225,711</b>	<b>13,932,950</b>	<b>13,839,860</b>
<b>8,823,448</b>	<b>8,197,474</b>	<b>Operating surplus before tax</b>	<b>2,614,560</b>	<b>188,219</b>	<b>1,748,464</b>
		Share of associate surplus/(deficit)	-	-	-
<b>8,823,448</b>	<b>8,197,474</b>	<b>Surplus/(deficit) before tax</b>	<b>2,614,560</b>	<b>188,219</b>	<b>1,748,464</b>
3,246,220	2,672,342	Taxation	-	-	-
<b>5,577,228</b>	<b>5,525,132</b>	<b>Surplus/(deficit) after tax</b>	<b>2,614,560</b>	<b>188,219</b>	<b>1,748,464</b>

## Taranaki Regional Council and Group: Statement of recognised income and expense for the year ended 30 June 2008

Group			2007/2008	Council	2006/2007
2007/2008	2006/2007		Actual \$	2007/2008	Actual \$
Actual \$	Actual \$			Budget \$	
<b>111,604,644</b>	<b>105,995,511</b>	<b>Public equity as at 1 July</b>	<b>66,041,406</b>	<b>64,907,424</b>	<b>64,208,941</b>
5,577,228	5,525,132	Surplus/(deficit) after tax	2,614,560	188,219	1,748,464
14,931,396	84,000	Increase in asset revaluation reserves	200,500	-	84,000
<b>20,508,624</b>	<b>5,609,132</b>	Total recognised revenue and expenses	<b>2,815,060</b>	<b>188,219</b>	<b>1,832,464</b>
<b>132,113,268</b>	<b>111,604,644</b>	<b>Public equity as at 30 June</b>	<b>68,856,466</b>	<b>65,095,643</b>	<b>66,041,406</b>

## Taranaki Regional Council and Group: Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2008

Group			2007/2008	Council	2006/2007
2007/2008	2006/2007		Actual \$	2007/2008	Actual \$
Actual \$	Actual \$			Budget \$	
<b>177,233,111</b>	<b>158,230,189</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>71,915,136</b>	<b>67,245,643</b>	<b>69,366,282</b>
11,969,850	12,829,528	Total current assets	5,694,247	1,457,963	7,725,555
165,263,261	145,400,661	Total non current assets	66,220,889	65,787,679	61,640,727
43,234,721	41,767,751	Total current liabilities	2,627,548	1,700,000	2,935,082
1,885,122	4,857,794	Total non current liabilities	431,122	450,000	389,794
<b>45,119,843</b>	<b>46,625,545</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,058,670</b>	<b>2,150,000</b>	<b>3,324,876</b>
85,064,874	78,347,652	<b>Public equity</b>	58,419,905	54,577,997	54,665,351
9,529,256	10,669,249	Retained earnings	9,529,256	8,475,845	10,669,249
37,519,139	22,587,743	Reserves	907,306	2,041,801	706,806
<b>132,113,268</b>	<b>111,604,644</b>	Asset revaluation reserves	<b>68,856,466</b>	<b>65,095,643</b>	<b>66,041,406</b>
<b>177,233,111</b>	<b>158,230,189</b>	<b>Total public equity</b>	<b>71,915,136</b>	<b>67,245,643</b>	<b>69,366,282</b>
		<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>			

## Taranaki Regional Council and Group: Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2008

Group			2007/2008	Council	2006/2007
2007/2008	2006/2007		Actual \$	2007/2008	Actual \$
Actual \$	Actual \$			Budget \$	
7,322,585	11,081,099	Net cash flow from operating activities	(92,159)	513,391	1,515,898
(6,881,739)	(22,943,715)	Net cash flow outflow from investing activities	(1,505,718)	(989,385)	(2,162,637)
(2,000,000)	11,300,000	Net cash outflow from financing activities	-	-	-
(1,559,154)	(562,616)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,597,877)	(475,994)	(646,739)
3,940,979	4,503,595	Opening cash and cash equivalents	3,724,182	633,957	4,370,921
<b>2,381,825</b>	<b>3,940,979</b>	<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,126,305</b>	<b>157,963</b>	<b>3,724,182</b>

### Basis of preparation

These summary financial statements have been prepared in compliance with "Financial Reporting Standard No.43 Summary Financial Statements" issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Board of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (May 2007). The summary report can not provide as complete an understanding as the full Annual Report which is available at any of the region's libraries. Request a free copy from the Council offices (ph 06 765 7127) or email publications@trc.govt.nz or visit the Council's website www.trc.govt.nz.

This summary financial report has been extracted from the Taranaki Regional Council 2007/2008 Annual Report dated 23 September 2008. The Annual Report received an unqualified audit opinion dated 23 September 2008. This summary annual report has been audited and an unqualified opinion dated 23 September 2008 has been received. The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars. The Summary Annual Report was adopted and authorised by the Taranaki Regional Council on 23 September 2008.

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

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

### Explanation of major variances against budget

The Council made a net operating surplus/(deficit) of \$2,614,560 (2006/2007—\$1,748,464) compared to a budgeted surplus, before transfers to and from reserves, of \$188,221 (2006/2007—\$100,731). The major reasons for this variance between the actual net operating surplus and the budgeted net operating deficit are:

	2007/2008	2006/2007
	Budget \$	Actual \$
Operating expenditure was less than budgeted	133,581	682,291
<i>Due to programmes costing less than budgeted (e.g., implementation of the regional garden asset management plans) and riparian plant purchases costing less than planned for.</i>		
Targeted rates were less than budgeted	(715)	1,640
Direct charges were less than budgeted	(99,789)	(333,615)
<i>Due mainly to lower riparian plant sales revenue (see lower costs above).</i>		
Government grants were more than anticipated	50,102	86,125
Dividends were more than forecast	200,132	200,126
<i>Better operational performance from Port Taranaki Ltd resulted in higher dividends.</i>		
Other investment revenue was more than budgeted	62,293	(62,122)
Unrealised gains on investment properties were more than budgeted	2,080,738	1,274,750
<i>Property valuations in New Plymouth grew by much more than the 5% budgeted for in the 2006/2016 Long-Term Council Community Plan.</i>		

### Other notes

The Taranaki regional Council has no known contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2008.

## Your Council's year in numbers

### 30,000

Average monthly visits to the Council's website, [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz). The website's live weather data is its most popular feature.

### 70,029

Average monthly visits to the Taranaki Regional Explorer website, up 20% on 2006/2007. This website provides maps and GIS information.

### 87,692

Total Mobility passenger trips. The Council provides Total Mobility transport assistance for people with permanent disabilities by providing discounted taxi fares.

### 227,000

Hectares covered by the self-help possum control programme, up from 224,700 in 2006/2007.

### 243,000

Plants supplied at cost for planting on stream banks to protect and enhance water quality, up from 200,000 in 2006/2007.

### 343,686

Number of passenger trips on New Plymouth urban bus services. A Council trial of expanded bus services for New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara and Oakura finished at the end of the financial year, with a new contract taking effect on 1 July 2008.

### 1.4 million

Number of plants distributed by the Council at cost over the past decade.

### \$2.62 million

The Council's operating surplus at year's end. Land revaluation accounted for more than \$2 million.

### \$13.61 million

Council expenditure for the financial year.

## Flood control: eyes to the future

Upgrades and maintenance at the Council's flood protection scheme at Waitara continued through the year, with substantially improved rock bank protection now complete on the left bank between the town bridge and the river mouth.

There was less need for maintenance work on the newer Waiwhakaiho flood protection scheme, but a scheme review has been launched in the light of significant questions about the scheme's ability to protect the greater level of development occurring in the valley. The review will identify options for improved protection levels, including costs and benefits.

Work also continued on a clearance and maintenance programme on the Waitotara

River. An additional 3.5 km of channel was cleared, bringing the total to 16 km.

The Council also continued to work with communities in central Taranaki to maintain the small flood protection schemes in that part of the region.

Late in the financial year, extreme storm and rainfall events resulted in record flood flows in a number of rivers and streams, especially in coastal Taranaki and in particular in the Stony and Kaihihi catchments.

There, lahar-type events essentially filleted the river channels. Extensive erosion on the slopes of Mount Taranaki moved very large quantities of gravel into the channels and these will progressively cause issues as they move downstream over the next few years.

## Good progress at heritage properties

Much progress was made this year in implementing asset plans for the Council-owned heritage properties Tupare and Hollard Gardens.

Developments at Tupare include a new car park and gatehouse and a new replica glasshouse. The cottage has been fully renovated to become an information centre and the house has been restored with careful attention to detail.

With additional staff resources, the gardens themselves have also received considerable expert attention and the difference is obvious as you now walk through the property.

At Hollard Gardens, the car park has been refreshed and improved, a new gatehouse constructed and more resources applied to

garden care. On the main lawn, a pavilion/utility block has been constructed.

New signage, interpretation and way-finding markers have also been designed for installation on both properties. The Council is looking forward to re-launching both Tupare and Hollard Gardens as regional garden amenities during the Garden Festival season in the present year.

Hollard Gardens has retained its National Gardens of Significance rating. Funding arrangements between the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and the Council have continued.

There are four years still to go for the Council's 10-year targeted rate to cover some of Yarrow Stadium's development costs.

## The big picture and the fine detail

Much time and effort has gone into preparing the Council's major five-yearly *State of the Environment Report*, due for publication early in the 2009 calendar year. Information gathered so far indicates the report will generally provide a welcome overview.

In the meantime, the Council's extensive environment monitoring has continued, with some 19 separate programmes scheduled and completed during the year. Twelve annual reports summarising monitoring results relating to freshwater resources in the preceding years and current year were prepared and published.

The summer drought resulted in extra field work to measure low flow and water quality parameters.

The Council is also involved in 12 investigations and research programmes, several of them jointly with organisations

such as Crown research institutes. These included further investigation of the water quality effects of dairy effluent discharges, examining biodiversity changes from the planting of riparian margins and the performance of nitrification inhibitors in Taranaki.

One major investigation centred on contamination at the former Patea Freezing Works. This study was complicated and became a point of public focus because of a major fire in February.

The Council continued to work with the region's district councils on waste minimisation. Activities ranged from promotional work related to incinerators and recycling in schools through to assisting with the delivery of a national farm agricultural container recovery programme and promoting the Agpac scheme to recycle bale wrap.