



Sustaining Taranaki

Everyone depends on the environment to meet their most basic needs. Whether it's water to drink or clean air to breathe, we all rely on the environment, essentially to support our lives. Looking after the environment not only ensures we sustain the essentials of life, it also means the resources we depend on for our economy and the jobs and incomes that help build healthy, secure and vibrant communities, are also sustained.

In managing the region's resources, the Taranaki Regional Council must understand the factors that influence the region and the potential pressures on the region's resources. We work with the many

communities in the region, responding to the environmental issues the region may face. We care for the environment in a way that builds a healthy and economically vibrant region—in a way recognised internationally as *sustainable development*.

This sustainable development approach is embedded in the principles of the Local Government Act 2002. Many of the policies and programmes described in this report represent major steps toward sustainable development in Taranaki. They demonstrate an attitude of 'doing'—of taking action on practical initiatives for the environment.

The Council must apply the rules and regulations of resource management to provide certainty and clarity in maintaining environmental standards. However, the Taranaki community continues to embrace environmental stewardship of the region's resources and successive councils have worked successfully with the community to achieve long-term sustainable outcomes that benefit our communities.

We invite you to read more about the many ways that businesses, farmers, landowners and ordinary people are taking action towards sustainable development in the region in our *State of the Environment Report 2015*.