

# Turning dreams into reality

This will be the third Long Term Council and Community Plan that Council has produced and I, for one, am just beginning to realise the real opportunity it provides. When you start thinking ten years out, it's so exciting to think of what we can create here in our little slice of paradise.

This year, my fellow councillors and I have taken the opportunity to lift our heads out of the day to day business of Council and seriously put our minds to creating a better, brighter future for the Taupo District.

Our initial vision was fleshed out by feedback provided from over 2,200 locals who talked to us out on the street and during the Our Neighbourhood, Our Future Expo. This feedback was vital to ensure we are in tune with our communities and their hopes and aspirations while we were composing the ten year plan.

I believe we have produced a superior plan which will inspire and guide our district towards 2019. There are some new and exciting projects in the plan that will dramatically change the look and feel of the district as the East Taupo Arterial redefines our natural boundaries and we begin to evolve and mature.

Over the next ten years, Council will put a lot of energy into developing our economic, social and environmental portfolios. We will work with our communities and partners to establish a real sense of identity for Taupo District which will enhance and preserve our reputation as the premier visitor, events and lifestyle destination.

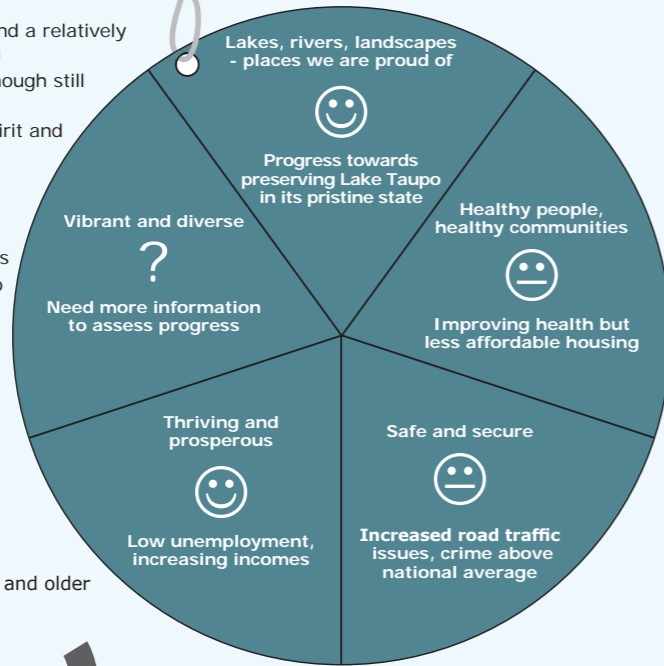
I believe this is a great place for individuals and families to work, live and play. There is just so much on offer here and very few drawbacks. We clearly possess so much talent and energy: let's work together to use these things to our advantage.

Let's protect our natural treasures and retain our provincial character and family values, but lets not use these things to prevent progress. Council's focus is for a positive future. Join us on this exciting journey to build our future together.

**Mayor Rick Cooper**

STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT NOVEMBER 2007

- Areas of good progress:**
- Low unemployment overall and a relatively high rate of economic growth
  - Improved health statistics, though still behind the national average
  - A high level of community spirit and perceived quality of life.
- Areas for improvement:**
- Reducing number of motor vehicle crashes and casualties
  - Reducing algae in Lake Taupo
  - Increasing the average socio-economic status
  - Affordable housing
  - Increasing average rates of student engagement and educational attainment
  - Reducing average rates of criminal offending
  - Reducing the number of notifications of child abuse and neglect
  - Reducing impact of open fires and older wood burners on air quality
  - Increasing voter turnout



CHALLENGES PAPER PUBLIC CONSULTATION MARCH 2008

**LAND USE**  
We have seen large parcels of land being converted from forestry to dairy. The environmental and economic impacts of this change in land use will need to be determined.  
*Councillor Keepe*

**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**  
Having opportunities to learn and grow as an individual creates a diverse and vibrant community. To make this happen we want to support education providers to offer a range of skills and qualifications.  
*Councillor Gathergood*

**AIR QUALITY**  
The latest monitoring has found that the air quality in Taupo is getting worse. We have to make sure that the quality of our air does not affect our health and our economy.  
*Councillor Hickling*

**WISE USE OF RESOURCES**  
We understand that resources like land and water are limited. We should only use what we need and we will be encouraging others to do the same.  
*Councillor Uvhagen*

**COST OF LIVING**  
Rising fuel prices and interest rates have an impact on our everyday life. We want to try and keep things affordable and accessible for people by continuing to provide quality services and facilities.  
*Councillor McElwee*

**WATER QUALITY**  
The health of Lake Taupo is declining due to the amount of nitrogen reaching the Lake from rural land, urban sources and septic tank seepage. We need to do what we can to keep the Lake clean for everyone to swim in and for safe drinking water.  
*Councillor Ormsby*

**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Recently there have been several extreme weather events which have had a severe impact on communities around NZ. We need to help the District plan for the effects from potential changes in our weather patterns.  
*Councillor Chrustowski*

**FEELING SAFE**  
Council and our community need to work together to make the District a safe and enjoyable place. We want residents and visitors to feel confident and secure when they are in our District.  
*Councillor Blyth*

**SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT**  
The number of accidents and deaths on our roads has increased and vehicle emissions are not good for the environment. We can change this by promoting safe driving techniques, a public transport system and alternative modes of transport.  
*Councillor Welch*

**SKILLED WORKFORCE**  
Taupo District needs greater economic diversity. One way to help achieve this is to develop attractive and diverse employment opportunities for people from Taupo District, New Zealand and overseas.  
*Mayor Cooper*

**TAUPO DISTRICT – A GREAT PLACE TO BE**  
We don't want to lose what makes Taupo District special. We need to capture our unique character by creating great places for business, recreation and living.  
*Councillor Downard*

**COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY EXPO**  
14 – 16 AUGUST 2008

- Over 1500 visitors
- Council and Community Exhibitors
- Opportunity to talk to the people in our community

our neighbourhood  
OUR FUTURE

**OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, OUR FUTURE SURVEY** 19 JULY – 22 AUGUST 08

REPRESENTATION OF WHAT PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TAUPO DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN FOR IN 2019  
(From over 500 responses)

- A clean safe place where people can live or holiday and be proud of
- A friendly place – not too large and a greater reduction in crime
- Treating locals fairly and providing an atmosphere that is both positive and forward-thinking for locals and visitors alike
- Affordable place to live
- Beautiful, green, friendly, events, lake, quality fishing and water activities, hospitality and wide variety of shops
- Pristine lake water, wide-open spaces in residential areas, well landscaped
- Well planned communities
- A good place to raise kids

**CHALLENGES WORKSHOP** 30 NOVEMBER 07

**Key themes**

- physical and community infrastructure
- environmental sustainability
- economic sustainability
- relationships
- quality of life
- affordability
- balance
- back to basics/core family values

**DREAMS WORKSHOP** 30 APRIL 2008

BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK HERE ARE SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT EMERGED

- Identify opportunities that ETA presents (prioritise and start doing them)
- Moving Council building, getting everyone together, TDC and EW
- Pride in Taupo, Visual Arts/Culture/Heritage centre, to include Council building, civic centre, emergency services
- Central Investment Vehicle
- District rating and capital value
- CBD, lakefront and harbour investigation
- Engagement strategy – relationships at a national level leading to real collaboration
- Partnerships with others (private/public)
- Strategic integrated vision for the Taupo and Turangi CBD, get the Council off the lakefront, look at strategic relationships
- Public transport - monorail, rapid rail, ferries?
- Safer communities, visible representation, development of enhanced land-use plans
- Enterprise Lake Taupo – go out and get businesses to come here, incentives
- Lakeshore Erosion
- Second bridge crossing
- Visual arts/Museum/Heritage centre
- Drinking water treatment
- Lake water quality

**TOWARDS 2019 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

WORKING TOGETHER  
GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
STRONG, SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES  
SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT