

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

A sustainable environment - natural and built - is essential for the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the Taupo District. Currently we are faced with significant pressures that threaten the quality of the environment we and our visitors enjoy. These threats include:

- Impacts of urban development
- Declining Lake Taupo water quality
- Degraded Lake Taupo foreshores and eroded river margins
- Geothermal subsidence and its effects on the built environment

Council has various roles to play in relation to the environment.

- Under different Acts we make policies and rules for managing land and mitigating the effects of human activities on the environment
- We provide infrastructure and services to manage waste
- As a community leader we have a role as advocate

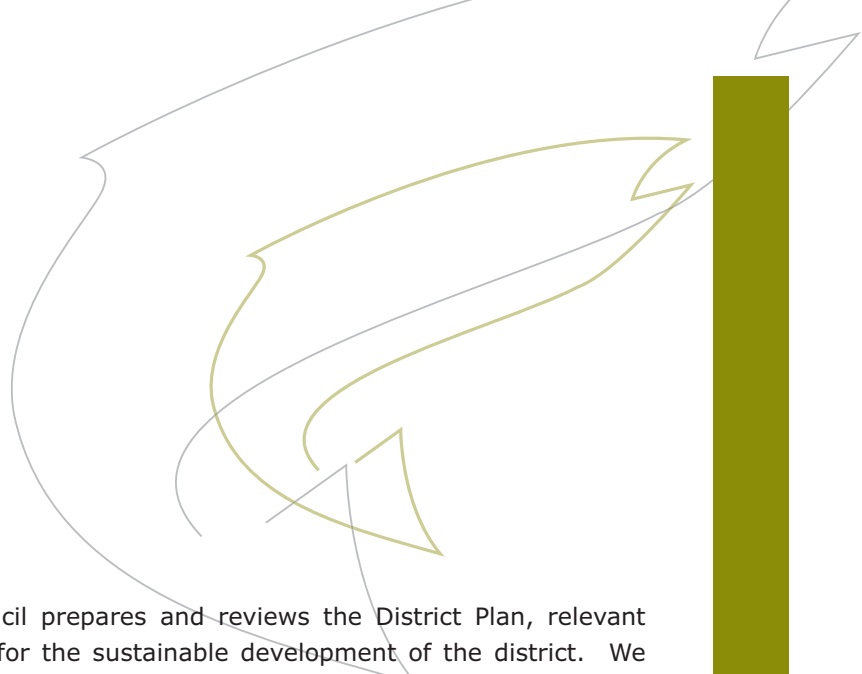
However, Council is not alone in managing these issues. Environment Waikato, government agencies such as the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment, Ngati Tuwharetoa and the community all have responsibility in caring for the Taupo District environment. We recognise that by working together we can develop better, integrated solutions.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Environmental Planning
- Protecting Lake Taupo
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Solid Waste



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING



WHAT WE DO

Through its environmental planning activities, Council prepares and reviews the District Plan, relevant bylaws and other environmental policies and plans for the sustainable development of the district. We also monitor and report on the state of the district's environment and monitor the District Plan to identify whether our policies are being effective.

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- The development of environmental policies and rules that reflect community views will encourage sustainable development
- Council will have information on the state of the environment and the effectiveness of its policies which will provide for better decision making



DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Hearings and decisions on Variation 8, dealing with the Rural Environment
- Notification of Variation 14 (Whareroa), Variation 16 (Wharewaka), Variation 16 (Kinloch), Variation 17 (Residential), and Variation 18 (Notable Trees)
- Resolution of outstanding appeals to the District Plan. This included a recreation environment appeal, along with flood hazard and tectonic appeals. Only one appeal is yet to be resolved as at the end of year. Substantial progress has been made on this appeal and a resolution is likely early in the new financial year
- Progression with the cultural values variation (desktop exercise completed)
- Preliminary research and monitoring has been undertaken as a first step in implementing a state of the environment monitoring regime

The resolution of the majority of appeals to the District Plan should enable the Plan to become operative in the first part of next financial year.

WE HAD ALSO INTENDED TO ACHIEVE:

- Notification of the following Variations to the District Plan - Natural Values, Landscape Values, Historic Values, Cultural Values

These variations have yet to be notified as consultation is ongoing with Tangata Whenua. As these variations will have an effect on a significant amount of Maori owned land, effective consultation with Tangata Whenua is vital for the positive advancement of this work. This factor has not prevented other aspects of these variations progressing in the meantime.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- Providing for the protection of natural, historic and cultural areas of significance through-out the district
- Developing policies and rules that encourage sustainable development of the district

SERVICE PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

TARGET	Statutory processes outlined in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991 adhered to.
ACHIEVED	All appeals have met statutory timeframes set by the Environment Court.

TARGET	Variations and Plan Changes are completed within statutory timeframes as outlined in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.
ACHIEVED	Statutory timeframes have been adhered to. However, the 'Values' suite of variations has slowed due to the consultation process which may cause these projects to be delayed for public notification. Four variations to the District Plan were notified in April 2006.

TARGET	Consultation with key stakeholders is undertaken within the scope of both the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991.
ACHIEVED	Statutory timeframes have been adhered to.

PROTECTING LAKE TAUPO

WHAT WE DO

Lake Taupo is one of New Zealand's national treasures. However, scientific evidence shows that its health is declining due to the amount of nitrogen reaching the Lake from rural land, sewerage and septic tank seepage. We are working in partnership with Government, Environment Waikato and Tuwharetoa to protect Lake Taupo. Some of the specific responsibilities that TDC has in regards to the protection of the Lake are the collection of rates for the Lake Taupo Protection Trust, and the maintenance and upgrade of public wastewater and stormwater systems.

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Collection of the second year of the targeted rate for Protecting Lake Taupo.
- In conjunction with Environment Waikato and Central Government, interview and appointment of trustees for the Lake Taupo Protection Trust and establishment of the joint committee to oversee the Trust

WE HAD ALSO INTENDED TO ACHIEVE:

- Finalisation of the deed and other documentation associated with the establishment of the Trust.

Central Government has requested additions to the documentation and we are currently working through these additions along with Environment Waikato. The delays created by these requests have been of concern to both Taupo District Council and Environment Waikato and steps have been taken at both the political and staff levels to move this process forward as quickly as possible, so that the important work of the trust can begin

WHEN FULLY ESTABLISHED THE LAKE TAUPO PROTECTION TRUST WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- Funding land purchases and other activities that will reduce nitrogen from entering the Lake by 20%. This Trust will also have a positive impact on the community's social and economic well-being by easing the burden of change from existing land uses to activities that produce less nitrogen

WASTEWATER

WHAT WE DO

Council provides wastewater systems in all urban settlements (except Waihi, Hatepe and Tauranga-Taupo) to collect and treat household and commercial effluent in a way that meets public health and environmental standards.

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Removal and treatment of wastewater ensures public health and minimises environmental impact.

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Construction of a new wastewater treatment plant for Turangi which will lower nutrient inputs to the receiving environment dramatically.
- Re-consenting to allow for growth at Kinloch.
- Construction of wastewater falling mains to the Kinloch wastewater treatment plant.
- Advancement of the consenting process for Waitahanui.
- Advanced consenting of the expanded Taupo land disposal system.
- Application for re-consenting of the expanded Whareroa wastewater treatment plant.
- Expansion and upgrading of the Motuoapa wastewater treatment plant.
- Upgrading of the Atiamuri wastewater treatment plant to conform to the resource consent requirements.

WE HAD ALSO INTENDED TO ACHIEVE:

- Construction of a Mapara trunk sewer.

THE WASTEWATER ACTIVITY HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- Providing for the protection of public health and safety.
- Environmentally – reduction of nitrogen to the Lake Taupo catchment. This is the highest priority in terms of Lake Taupo Water Protection.
- Culturally – appropriate treatment and disposal of wastewater from urban areas. This is very important to Tangata Whenua.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

TARGET	Annual survey shows at least 75% of the community are satisfied with the disposal of wastewater in their community.
ACHIEVED	49% of those surveyed over the total District were 'very satisfied' and a further 36% were 'fairly satisfied' giving an overall satisfaction rating of 85%.

TARGET	Environment Waikato's Resource Consent conditions meet at least 95% of treated effluent quality tests.
SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED	Excluding the results of the new Turangi wastewater treatment plant upgrade, 95.4% compliance with consent conditions was achieved. However, testing was introduced for the Turangi plant before the upgrade commenced full operations which distorted the overall results. As a consequence only 74% of the required test results met the appropriate consent requirements. It is important to note that preliminary tests from the recently commissioned Turangi plant are very positive and met the appropriate requirements.



STORMWATER

WHAT WE DO

Council provides a stormwater drainage system to manage surface water run-off from the district's urban catchments in a way that seeks to achieve an optimum balance between the level of protection and the cost to the community. Some flood and erosion protection work is undertaken in partnership with Environment Waikato and others as previously agreed in historical or Project Watershed arrangements.

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Control and disposal of stormwater protects the environment and helps ensure public safety.
- Maintenance of lake shore and river margins erosion control systems protects property and public safety via Project Watershed.

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Significant progression of the District wide Comprehensive Stormwater Resource Consents through the consenting process with the expectation that these will be granted before the end of 2006
- Further progression on the Lake Taupo Foreshore Protection and Risk Management Strategy alongside Environment Waikato
- Norman Smith Street catchment improvements which have significantly alleviated the flooding problems to the property owners on Mohi Street

WE HAD ALSO INTENDED TO ACHIEVE:

- Stages 2 – 3 of the Taupo industrial area improvements. These are subject to final design and reserve re-designation
- Construction of the Centennial Drive retention pond. This project had progressed to the consenting phase. However, as a result of a proposed road widening exercise the project has been on hold. It is now due to be completed in the 2006/07 year
- Programmed network improvements. Network performance analysis is carried out in instances of flooding and further work on prioritised sections of the network has been deferred to the 2006/07 programme

THE STORMWATER WORK HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- Socially – increasing safety and raising amenity values of near shore surface water
- Economically – protecting surface water quality and thereby enhancing tourism opportunities
- Environmentally – reducing potential environmental damage from peak flows from storm events and from polluted stormwater
- Culturally – protecting Taonga

SERVICE PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

TARGET	Annual survey shows at least 75% of customers are satisfied that the stormwater discharges are of an appropriate quality.
NOT ACHIEVED	NRB survey shows that 71% of the community are satisfied with the disposal of stormwater in their community. Reasons for dissatisfaction include: flooding; blocked drains; stormwater being drained into the lake; run-off from subdivisions.

TARGET	Compliance with stormwater discharge resource consent conditions 100% of the time.
ACHIEVED	New stormwater discharge consents are pending. Environment Waikato has advertised and there is one outstanding submission. Approval is expected before the end of the year. We have had no non-compliance with stormwater discharges.



SOLID WASTE

WHAT WE DO

Through its Solid Waste Management Plan, Council promotes sustainable waste management practices based on the waste management hierarchy – reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat, dispose.

While the collection of the district's refuse and recycling is contracted out, Council owns and operates a landfill to provide for the disposal of residual waste. An annual waste minimisation programme is run to promote the concepts of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' to businesses and residents.

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES:

The provision of a safe, efficient and sustainable refuse collection service within urban areas coupled with a district wide refuse disposal service promotes waste minimisation and environmental sustainability.

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Continuation of waste minimisation initiatives such as the waste education for businesses initiative and the production of a waste education resource for schools

WE HAD ALSO INTENDED TO ACHIEVE:

- Provision of refuse disposal or waste transfer station sites within 15km of urban settlements – this project was deferred
- Achievement of guidelines set out in the NZ Waste Management Strategy – some progress has been made, but work is still on-going

THE SOLID WASTE ACTIVITY HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- Socially – increasing awareness and public health gains
- Economically – reducing costs in terms of the hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle
- Environmentally – reducing threat of inappropriate disposal, and managing the waste stream to achieve the best possible environmental outcomes

SERVICE PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

TARGET	Annual survey shows at least 75% of customers are satisfied with the effectiveness of the kerbside refuse and recycling collection service.
ACHIEVED	80% of customers are satisfied with refuse and recycling collection services, which is an increase on previous measurements, up from 72% in 2005.

TARGET	Annual survey shows at least 75% of customers are satisfied with the efficiency of the landfill and transfer stations.
ACHIEVED	78% of customers were satisfied with the landfill and transfer stations which was an increase from previous measurements, up from 71% in 2005.

TARGET	Annual survey shows that at least 50% of customers are aware of at least five actions they can take to reduce waste.
ACHIEVED	90% of customers were aware of actions they can take to reduce waste, up from 85% in 2005.



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FINANCIAL RESULTS

COST OF SERVICE STATEMENT:

	2006 Actual \$000	2006 Budget \$000	2005 Actual \$000
OPERATING INCOME			
Targeted Rates	6,520	6,429	5,368
Development Contributions	163	1,966	256
Other Income	4,948	2,278	3,271
Total Income	11,631	10,673	8,895
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Environmental Planning	1,873	1,524	1,680
Protecting Lake Taupo	1,300	1,300	0
Wastewater	5,485	4,782	4,193
Stormwater	1,123	810	758
Solid Waste	2,828	2,637	2,804
Total Expenditure	12,609	11,053	9,435
NET COST (SURPLUS) OF OPERATIONS	978	380	540
Funded By:			
General Rates	2,359	2,338	2,154
Loan Repayments	0	(606)	0
Funding to Reserves	(163)	(1,361)	(3,325)
General Funds	(1,218)	0	1,711
Opening Balance	0	9	0
Total Funding	978	380	540
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	320	9,332	1,314
Funded by:			
Loans Raised	0	1,846	129
Transfers from Reserves	133	7,487	986
Contributions	23	0	0
General Funds	164	0	199
Total Funding	320	9,332	1,314

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	REASON FOR AQUISITION	PROJECT STATUS (REFER KEY)	ACTUAL \$000'S	BUDGET \$000'S	NOTES
Kinloch Land Treatment	Manage growth	x	0	3,178	13
Taupo Spray Irrigation Land Purchase (40ha)	Accommodate ETA land requirements and growth	x	7	2,087	14
Kinloch Plant Upgrade	Manage growth	x	6	1,000	15
Waihi Sewerage Scheme	Connect to Turangi/Tokaanu sewerage scheme	x	0	500	5
Taupo - Duplicate Main Trunk	Manage growth	x	51	420	1
Motuoapa 50% New Land Disposal System (Wastewater)	Manage growth	s	0	250	2
Stormwater & Land - Centennial Drive Detention Area	Upgrade stormwater system by increasing soakage area	x	7	220	8
Stormwater - Taupo Industrial Area	Manage growth	s	112	190	7
Waihi Sewerage Scheme	Connect to Turangi/Tokaanu sewerage scheme	x	0	180	5
Solid Waste Disposal Taupo	Level of Service	x	5	150	6

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	REASON FOR AQUISITION	PROJECT STATUS (REFER KEY)	ACTUAL \$000'S	BUDGET \$000'S	NOTES
Stormwater & Land - Norman Smith St Catchment	Flood mitigation and improve stormwater outlet	✓	0	120	
Stormwater & Land - CBD Pipe Renewals	Renewal / Manage growth	*	0	110	9
Lake & River - Council Share of LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)	Foreshore risk management strategy	*	0	103	10
Stormwater & Land - Stormwater Treatment Taupo	Improve treatment for the protection of Lake Taupo	*	0	100	11
Stormwater Treatment	Improve treatment for the protection of Lake Taupo	*	0	100	11
Acacia Bay 2nd Sludge Holding Tank	Manage growth	s	6	94	3
Litter Control Vehicle Replacement	Renewals	✓	54	70	
Whareroa Renewals (Wastewater)	Renewals	*	25	70	4
Various Projects less than \$70,000 Budget		s	47	390	12
			320	9,332	

Key

- ✓ Achieved
 - s Slippage (minor) into future years – small carryover with completion expected by 31 August 2006
 - m Deliberate move into future years
 - *
- Not achieved – major slippage (project will not be complete by 31 August 2006) or project has been dropped

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – VARIANCES BETWEEN ACTUAL AND BUDGET:

1. Currently modelling the Duplicate Main Trunk network (expected to complete by February 2007); physical works commencing thereafter.
2. Continuing upgrade into 2006/07, commissioning now.
3. Currently designing. Design expected to be complete in September 2006, construction thereafter.
4. New Resource Consent application – Joint approach with developer, anticipate lodging this in September 2006.
5. Discontinuing as no local commitment to scheme.
6. Now programmed for 2006/07, completion expected by March 2007.
7. In initial design phase – some delay being experienced; completion in 2006/07.
8. Delayed due to redesign work necessary for Resource Consent application.
9. Work commenced Taniwha St. Balance subject to CBD review currently underway.
10. Foreshore Risk Management Strategy underway. Will be worked on through to 2008.
11. Delays experienced; subject to Resource Consent.
12. Gully Planting -\$10,000 plants purchased and contract arranged.
Main Arterial Inlet Improvements - \$20,000 now part of treatment programme, subject to resource consent.
Mangakino Upgrades /Renewals - \$50,000 some works currently underway.
Shredder Shed - \$20,000 for part of Taupo Transfer Station programmed 2006/07.
Whareroa Refuse Transfer Station - \$50,000 withdrawn beyond 10 years.
13. Land purchase issues have created slippage.
14. Subject to negotiations with other parties.
15. Awaiting resource consent.