

Future Directions

Projected Population

- Over the past 20 years the Hauraki District has had a small, but steady increase in population.
- The 2001 census showed a decrease in population which goes against the trend of earlier years.
- Recent subdivisions and building consent numbers for new dwellings are both increasing.
- The Council believes that the small decline in population evident in the 2001 census figures has now been reversed and the population is now increasing slightly.
- It is evident is that there are variable growth patterns within the District.
- Ngatea is showing a strong growth trend of 8% which could see its resident population increase by 1200 by 2021.
- It is expected that the population in some rural areas will continue to decrease while other areas such as Turua will increase.
- A breakdown of the population projections shows an ageing population. There are likely to be fewer people aged less than 65 years (from 85% of the population in 2001 to 73% in 2021). There is projected to be a corresponding increase in the number of people aged 65 years or over (from 15% in 2001 to 27% in 2021).



Future Strategies

Population growth in the Hauraki District is projected to be static or increasing slightly over the next 20 years. While this will vary within the district the net effect is that:

- The Council is not facing demands for the supply of infrastructural services to service new growth areas, other than Ngatea,
- The Council is facing demands to maintain and in some cases improve aging infrastructure,

- The Council and community are placing a growing emphasis on community development and community promotion activities,
- The Council is becoming more involved in partnership approaches to the supply of services and activities such as:
 - Emergency Management,
 - District Promotion,
 - Rooding.

New legislative initiatives are requiring additional Council resourcing for:

- Strategic and community planning,
- Regulatory activities,
- Consultation and Communication,
- Increasing environmental standards through resource consent conditions and the imposition of national standards.

This transitional HCP reflects the issues listed above in terms of increasing cost of services and an emphasis on maintenance and renewal expenditure.

The Council will be developing and implementing a formal consultation process for the identification of community outcomes for the 2006 HCP. This process will commence in 2004.

This consultation will be wide ranging and Council will be attempting to interact with as many residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders as it can.

The consultation process will include government departments who contribute to the delivery of services within Hauraki District.

Consultation

The Local Government Act 2002 establishes principles and procedures that the Council must apply when undertaking consultation processes. However, it does not define what consultation is.

The Act makes a clear distinction between consultation and communication. Communication is a process of distributing information. It forms only one part of the consultation process.

The consultation requirements of the Act do not take anything away from the decision-making roles of elected members. Rather, they foster the opportunity for elected members to make informed decisions on behalf of their community.

Consultation is dialogue that precedes decision-making. Consultation is a genuine exchange of information, points of view and options for decision between affected and interested people and decision-makers before a decision is made.

Consultation is not:

- Solely providing information,
- Always about reaching agreement or consensus,
- Always about negotiation.

The Council has adopted a policy on consultation to provide guidance on future consultation initiatives.

This policy identifies:

- Council's commitment to consultation,
- Types of consultation,
- The Special Consultative Procedure,
- Statutory compliance,
- Consultation processes,
- Areas where Council may exercise its discretion,



How will Council work with Maori?

The Local Government Act, 2002 places additional responsibilities on Council to consult with Maori and to involve Maori in decision-making processes. It also encourages Council to assist Maori to take part in local government processes.

Council has identified seven Iwi groups as having tangata whenua status within the District. It also acknowledges some Maori in the District do not have tangata whenua status but as 'visitors' (taurahere) are included in these responsibilities.

Council is actively encouraging the development of additional Memoranda of Understanding with Iwi groups and will, during the course of this HCP, seek to work with Maori on fostering and developing Maori involvement in local government.

Council will be considering:

- Identifying matters and areas of interest to Hauraki Iwi,
- Consultation,
- Capacity building of Maori to take part in decision-making processes,
- Provision of information,
- Timetable for development of initiatives.

Iwi liaison has been identified as a separate activity on page 39.

Community Survey

The Council will undertake a survey of district residents and ratepayers every three years to assist it in its decision-making processes.

Without limiting the actual contents of any survey the purposes include:

- Identifying satisfaction levels with community outcomes,
- Measuring progress towards achievement of community outcomes,
- Measuring satisfaction with levels of services provided by the Council,
- Seeking public opinion on future projects or issues.

In a number of cases the same questions will be asked in each survey to enable the measurement of trends over a period of time, particularly in relation to satisfaction levels.

Assessment of Sanitary Services

The Local Government Act 2002 requires every council to undertake an assessment for the provision of water and other sanitary services within its district by 30 June, 2005. This assessment includes:

- All water and sanitary services in the District, not just those supplied by the Council,
- The risks to those areas of the District without access to water and wastewater networks.

Each assessment must give:

- A description of the service,
- A forecast for future demand,
- Options available to meet this demand and their suitability,
- How the Council will be involved,
- Details of any Council proposals,
- A statement of how public health will be adequately protected.

Services to be assessed are:

- Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater,
- Cemeteries,
- Public toilets,
- Solid waste disposal.

The Council is currently gathering information through its asset management planning process and will begin the formal assessment process in July 2004. A summary of the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services will be included in the 2006/07 HCP.

Land Purchase, Development and Sale

The Council has ongoing roles in land purchase and development:

- To provide adequate land for the provision of infrastructural and community services now and into the future,
- To invest in land to allow the Council to subdivide this land for residential, industrial or commercial purposes,
- As part of achieving community outcomes it may be necessary to purchase land and buildings in order to contribute to achieving an outcome.

The Council cannot always signal its intention to buy or sell land through the HCP or Annual Plan process, as in many cases it must make decisions where the opportunity arises.

Examples of current involvement in land purchase and development include:

- Sections at Waihi Beach. The Council will sell sections where the existing lessees wish to freehold the title.
- The Council purchased 5.5 hectares of land in Ngatea with the purpose of subdividing this into residential sections to meet on-going

demand. At present it has 2.9 hectares left to subdivide which is being developed.

- An additional 14 hectares have been purchased for future subdivision in Ngatea.
- Council purchased 11 hectares of rural land at Kerepehi to allow for future water infrastructure development. Once the site required for this is identified, the remaining land is available for future industrial subdivision.
- Council owns 5 hectares at Abattoir Road for future extension of the Turua sewerage treatment ponds.
- 40 hectares has been purchased to allow for the construction of a new land drainage canal and flood pump station on Kaihere Road.

Sale of Reserve Land

In general terms the sale of reserve land requires a separate public consultation process.



Council is not planning to sell or otherwise dispose of any of its significant reserves.

HDC Community Safety Forum

Since 2000 a Safer Community Council has been operational in Hauraki District. This committee consisted of Council, government and local organisation representatives. The committee was established as part of a nation wide initiative directed and funded by the Crime Prevention Unit of the Prime Ministers Department.

During 2003 the Crime Prevention Unit, now part of the Justice Department, reassessed the Safer Community Council model and recommended that funding in future would be better used for specific community projects rather than administration of Community Safety Forum.

As a result of this review the Hauraki District Council has approved the establishment of a Council subcommittee to address community safety and crime prevention issues and will meet the administration costs.

Council will be appointing representatives from the community and government organisations to be a part of this committee to ensure a community wide focus is achieved.

The initial role of the subcommittee will be to consider possible crime prevention and community safety projects and initiatives for which funding could be applied for from the Crime Prevention Unit.

Council will be considering the parameters within which this committee will operate and it is hoped to progress this matter during 2004.

Projects that could be considered include:

- Assisting families at risk,
- Reducing theft from vehicles,
- Burglary reduction through community initiatives,
- Drug awareness.

Thames Valley Turf Trust

The Thames Valley Turf Trust is currently in the initial stages of considering the updating of the Astro turf Hockey Fields at Hugh Hayward Domain in Ngatea. As this proposal develops further, Council will be considering any approaches made by Thames Valley Turf Trust for Council input.

Waihi Community Pool

Interest has been expressed in the Waihi Community at the possible development of improved aquatic facilities in the town. Although there are currently no proposals being considered, the Council is aware that proposals may be developed.

Hauraki Coromandel Development Group

This group was originally established in 2001 as a steering group to produce a regional economic development strategy.

The strategy was completed in 2002 and the joint committee was established in 2003 to implement the strategy.

At present the Joint Committee:

- Is near completion of a project that links providers of English language training to undertake overseas marketing,
- Is seeking parties interested in regional projects,
- Is investigating the opportunities for the development of the aquaculture industry. Aquaculture is seen to have significant growth and employment potential for the Districts once current issues relating to managing the resource are finalised,
- Is considering the development of opportunities for Heritage and Cultural Tourism.

Asset Management Planning

The Council has commenced a programme to further develop its asset management plans for all its key infrastructural assets. It has done this as a best practice approach to ensure that planning for the maintenance, renewal and expansion of capital assets over their lifetime is undertaken and implemented.



This improvement to the asset management plans includes the definition of the levels of service to be provided by those assets, options on altering those service levels and how changes required by growth and demand will be provided for and funded.

In summary the asset management plans will set out how Council delivers its asset based services:

- To the standards expected by customers,
- At a cost to customers that represents best value for money,
- Through management of assets in a way that is sustainable in the long term,
- In compliance with legal requirements.

The Asset Management Plans comprise four key elements:

- Asset identification and description,
- The service standards which Council aims to achieve,

- Planning over the life of the assets (lifecycle),
- Lifecycle costs of assets.

Service standards set out the services to be delivered and the targets Council aims to achieve in their delivery. Service standards include:

- Customer service standards,
- Legislative standards,
- Technical standards,
- Environmental standards.

Customer service standards look at services from a customer's perspective. Legislative, technical and environmental service standards are determined by legislation, industry and environmental best practice and in consultation with local community special interest groups, Iwi and central government agencies.

Financial programmes associated with the asset management plans are incorporated into Council's HCP.

How Council communicates with the community?

Council communicates regularly with its residents, ratepayers and the public in a number of ways. The internet, weekly newspaper publications, and a weekly report to the local radio station by the Mayor are all examples of direct communication the Council offers.

The Hauraki District Council website – www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz contains regularly updated information on the council's activities such as swimming pool opening hours, plans, policies and strategies, explanations on how to read water meters, situations vacant, upcoming information, and the dates for refuse collection. Generic information is provided on the Hauraki District, such as key visitor attractions, District statistics, and maps of the District. There is also specific rating information for properties and an online library service amongst other online services.

A full news page is published weekly in the Hauraki Herald. This page contains public notices, notification of upcoming Council meetings, notification of plans, policies and strategies that are to be consulted on, articles of current happenings within the District and discussions and information on events and projects Council is involved in.

The Local Government Act 2002, states Councils must consult on any decision or other matter that is considered to be significant. A summary of, and a full version of the proposed project or plan must be made available to the public and be publicly notified. A minimum of 30 days is to be allowed for submissions to be received on the proposal, and hearings must be set to allow submitters to present their submissions in person.

The Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 provides the basis on which the public can require Council to provide information it holds on any matter. While there are a limited number of restrictions relating to personal privacy, commercial sensitivity, legal privilege and similar matters, generally most information held by the Council is available to the public. Council can recover any cost that occurs in making information available

Council will also be producing a newsletter to be distributed with the first instalment of the rate demand.

Hauraki District Council has published a Local Governance Statement. The Local Governance Statement is a document that is a collection of information about the processes through which Council engages with its community, how Council makes decisions and how the community can influence those processes. A Local Governance Statement supports the purpose of local government by promoting local democracy and by providing the community with information on ways to influence local democratic process and decision-making.

Golden Legacy

Newmont Waihi Operations is developing proposals with the Waihi community and the Council on the proposed rehabilitation of the Martha mine site when the mine closes.

The company and the community are considering options to ensure that an environmentally and socially positive legacy is left for the current and future Waihi community.



When the existing mine pit is transformed into a lake it is hoped that other work associated with the rehabilitation of the pit, process plant and tailing areas

will see the establishment of recreation, leisure and economic development opportunities.

Alliances and Partnerships

The Council is currently investigating a number of partnership or alliance approaches for the delivery of some services. It is considering such approaches with government agencies, neighbouring local authorities and private enterprise and is seeking to achieve economies of scale and improved service levels.

At present Council is working in partnership on:

- Emergency Management with Thames-Coromandel and Matamata Piako District Councils,
- Economic Development with Thames-Coromandel District Council,
- Tourism Development with Thames-Coromandel District Council,
- Jointly negotiated contract for disposal of refuse with Thames-Coromandel and Matamata Piako District Councils at Tirohia,
- An energy supply contract jointly tendered with local authorities in the former Power New Zealand area, including Matamata Piako, South Waikato, Kapiti, Rodney District Councils as well as Landcorp.

Currently proposals being considered include:

- Shared Valuation Database Service - Council is working with the other Councils in the Waikato to develop a shared Rating Valuation Database Service. The aims of this initiative are to ensure competition in the Rating Valuation industry and maximise revenue opportunities.
- Community Outcomes – all local authorities in the Waikato Region are presently working together to develop a common process for consultation and identification of wider regional community outcomes.

This work will include involving national, regional and local organisations and Iwi.

Council will investigate and implement other opportunities as they arise and these could include but not be limited to:

- Rooding service delivery,
- Solid waste collection.

Road Safety

Council is working with the Land Transport Safety Authority and the NZ Police to reduce the number of and the severity of accidents in the Hauraki District as part of the Land Transport Safety Authority's Safety and Administration Programme. This programme focuses on community education programmes, the encouragement of community safety initiatives and the provision of resources to assist improving the safety of roads.

Council is in the process of developing a Road Safety Strategy. Annual resources will be agreed jointly by the Land Transport Safety Authority, NZ Police and Hauraki District Council. This Road Safety Strategy will identify the key road safety issues facing the Hauraki District, the action plan for addressing these issues, and the methods of monitoring and reporting to show these actions are being progressed and achieved.

Fees and Charges

All fees and charges made by the Hauraki District Council are subject to ongoing review. Any amendments to the fees and charges will be proposed with public notification over the next 12 months. In future all fees and charges will be listed in the HCP. Particular fees that will be subject to review over the next 12 months include refuse disposal and cemeteries.