

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Report from Mayor and Chief Executive

Thank you for taking the time to read the Hauraki District Council 2003/04 Annual Report.

2003/04 has proved to be yet another eventful year that has seen significant changes made to the way local authorities must operate with a much stronger emphasis on policy making and public consultation. The change, although challenging is proving favourable with an increasing community awareness of the new provisions and a greater number of interested parties wanting to participate in consultation processes.

The past year has also seen Council take a number of significant steps forward particularly in relation to developing its first Long Term Council Community Plan – The Hauraki Community Plan – and further developing its Asset Management Plans.

It is pleasing to be able to say that the Hauraki District Council is very well placed to meet the future infrastructural needs of its population through the use of Asset Management Plans to ensure all assets are maintained, that growth is provided for and that the assets can be replaced when required.

During the year a number of key projects were progressed with the highlights being:

- 5.7 kms of seal extension was undertaken and a 10 year seal extension programme has been confirmed.
- The Resource Management Consent processes were completed for the Favona Decline and the Favona Mine Projects. The one Appeal has subsequently been dealt with and the Decline project was commenced in September 2004.
- Council's involvement in developing sections for sale in Ngatea has been vindicated by the buoyant property market and the consequent high number of sales during 2003/04.
- The Waihi Community Consultative Committee has been working well with the Company and the Council in preparing its vision for future development in Waihi to offset the effects of the planned Martha Mine closure.
- Council continued its support for emergency services with the new Rural Fire Tanker Shed in Willoughby Street, Paeroa being completed.
- The Waitakaruru Sewerage Scheme has been progressed through its consenting and approval procedures and construction has commenced.
- Improvements to the discharge quality at the Ngatea Sewerage Treatment Plant will allow further residential development to occur in Ngatea.
- The Post Office building in Paeroa has been purchased by Council. This not only ensures the preservation of a historic building but gives Council options for how it may best be utilised by the community.
- Councils programme of developing Memoranda of Understanding with Iwi authorities continues to progress well with 2003/04 seeing the development of a Memorandum with Ngati Hako.
- A number of new policy developments have been completed after public consultation processes including Gambling, Prostitution, and a Liquor Ban Bylaw.



John Tregidga
Mayor



Langley Cavers
Chief Executive