

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

A sustainable environment - natural and built - is essential for the economic, social and cultural well-being 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.

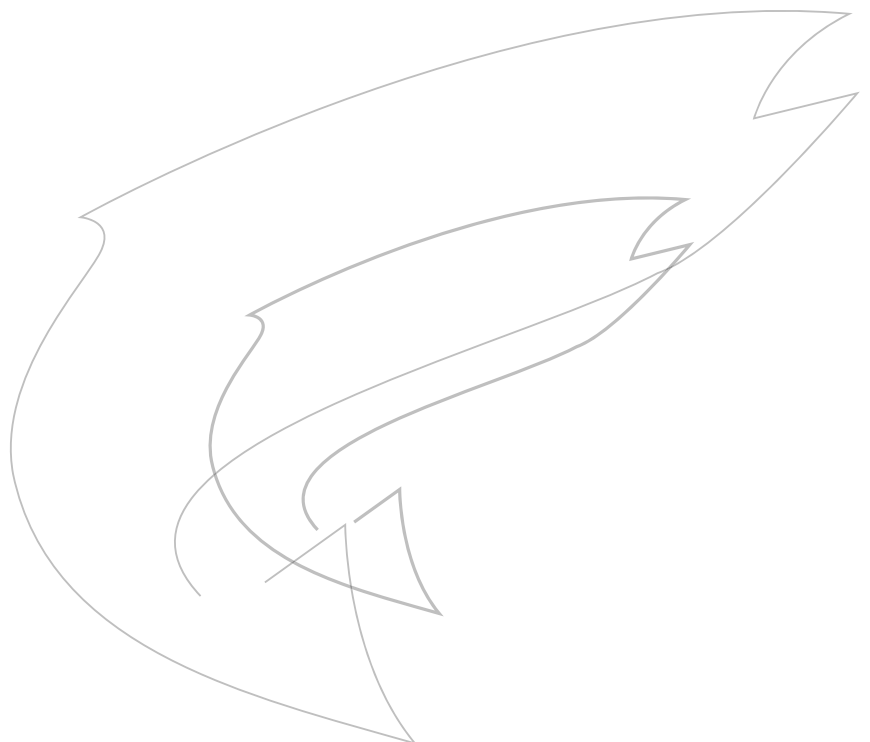
Council has various roles to play in relation to the environment.

- 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
- 2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia
- Protecting Lake Taupo
- Lakes and River Systems
- Stormwater and Land Drainage
- Waste Water
- Solid Waste.



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

What we do (current level of service)

Through its environmental planning activities, Council prepares and reviews the District Plan and other relevant environmental policies and plans for managing the District's environment. We will also monitor the District Plan to identify whether our policies are being effective.

We do this to regulate growth and development to ensure that the environmental needs of the community are met and that any adverse effects of the subdivision of land and development of land are avoided remedied or mitigated.

We will deliver (measuring level of service)

Service maintenance – ongoing levels of service targets

- District Plan development, public notification, submissions and hearings processes carried out in accordance with statutory processes as described in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991
- Variations and Plan Changes are completed within statutory timeframes of the Resource Management Act 1991
- Variations listed in Key Actions initiated and progressed.

Service maintenance – long term levels of service targets

- Monitoring and reporting, to help determine the effectiveness of the District Plan, carried out annually from 2007/08.

Key Actions

- Consultation on Natural Values Plan Change
- Consultation on Landscape Values Plan Change
- Consultation on Cultural Values Plan Change
- Hearings and decisions on Taupo District 2050 suite of Variations.



2020 TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA

What we do (current level of service)

2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia was initiated by the Lakes and Waterways Action Group, Ngati Tuwharetoa and the wider Taupo community in 2001. The original aim of the project was to produce an integrated catchment management plan for Lake Taupo. As part of the project, the Taupo community identified 12 key values to protect the future of Lake Taupo. Based on these values, a plan called the 2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia Action Plan was then developed setting out specific actions to be undertaken by key agencies with responsibility for the Lake. Actions for the Taupo District Council cover a range of areas including stormwater, waste water and recreation.

A co-ordinated approach is necessary to ensure that the values identified by the community in the Action Plan are protected. To this end a Joint Management Group with membership from Taupo District Council, Environment Waikato, Department of Internal Affairs, Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board, Department of Conservation Tuwharetoa Economic Authorities and the Lakes and Waterways Action Group has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan. This Management Group employs a Coordinator to monitor and report on progress.

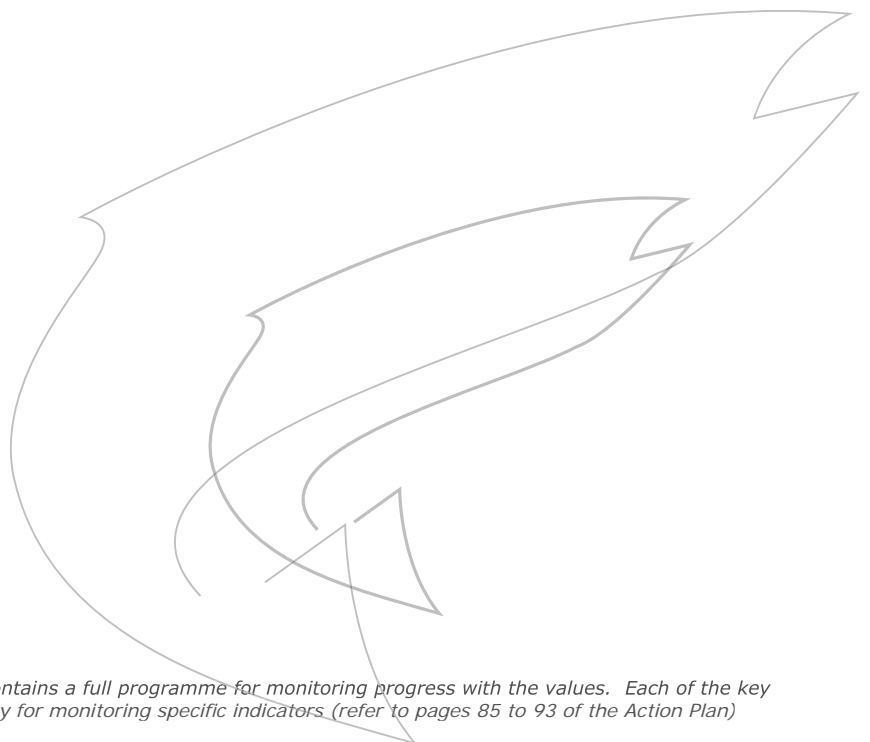
We will deliver (measuring level of service)

Service maintenance – ongoing levels of service targets

- Implementation of the actions assigned to Council in the 2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia Action Plan¹⁶
- Monitoring of key indicators, annually or triennially as appropriate (as assigned to Council in the Action Plan).

Key Actions

- Participate in 2020 Joint Management Group
- Coordinate Council's responses for annual reports
- Coordinate Council's input into the monitoring of the Action Plan.



¹⁶ The 2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia Action Plan contains a full programme for monitoring progress with the values. Each of the key agencies has been assigned responsibility for monitoring specific indicators (refer to pages 85 to 93 of the Action Plan)

PROTECTING LAKE TAUPO

What we do (current level of service)

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, urban sources and septic tank seepage.

We are working in partnership with government, Environment Waikato and Tuwharetoa to protect the Lake. Under the umbrella of the 2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia Project¹⁷, Environment Waikato developed the Protecting Lake Taupo Strategy containing a mix of regulatory and non regulatory methods for managing nitrogen inputs into the Lake. A key method of the Strategy is the establishment of a public fund of \$81.5 million to reduce nitrogen levels in the Lake by 20 percent by 2020. The public fund is to be collected over a period of 15 years with the cost being shared between Taupo District ratepayers (22 percent), ratepayers in the remainder of the Waikato Region (33 percent) and from all New Zealanders via central government (45 percent). Allocation of the fund is the responsibility of the Lake Taupo Protection Trust and will be used to help convert nitrogen leaching pastoral land to low nitrogen land uses.

Taupo District Council's specific responsibilities for protecting Lake Taupo are¹⁸:

- Collection of Taupo District Council's share of the rates for the Lake Taupo Protection Trust
- Membership of the Lake Taupo Protection Project Joint Committee which oversees the Lake Taupo Protection Trust
- Provision of technical support to the Trust as required
- Being an advocate for the Taupo community on matters relating to Lake water quality
- Fostering and encouraging integrated planning amongst all agencies for Lake water quality.

We will deliver (measuring level of service)

Service maintenance – ongoing levels of service targets

- Concentrations of domestic waste water nitrogen or pathogens in shallow near-shore waters of Lake Taupo in the vicinity of waste water treatment and disposal systems do not increase.

Service improvement- long term levels of service targets

- The manageable nitrogen load to Lake Taupo, from farming land use activities and waste water, reduced by 20% by 2020.

Key Actions

- Lake Taupo Protection Trust assisted to prepare:
 - statement of intents
 - half yearly reports
 - annual reports
- Participate in Environment Waikato planning processes, as necessary.

Departures from information in LTCCP

- Funding of \$5,500 per annum for three years will be provided to Lakes and Waterways Action Group. Council will enter into a contract with the Group that will specify the services to be delivered.

¹⁷ See page 34.

¹⁸ See also Waste Water page 38.

LAKES AND RIVER SYSTEMS

What we do (current level of service)

The management of lakes and river systems within the Taupo District from catchment use and flooding impacts has been a priority for Council for some years. Environmental initiatives undertaken by Council to protect lakes and river systems include, for example, being party to the '2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia Action Plan' and the 'Protecting Lake Taupo' project. Council also takes specific actions on activities such as flood and erosion investigations and control work. These actions will be determined in the Lake Taupo Foreshore Risk Management Strategy which is currently being developed. They could include activities such as building breakwaters or sea walls and carrying out beach replenishment. This flood and erosion control is in addition to the more traditional 'works-related' activities of Council such as stormwater control and waste water disposal.

Guiding what we do are:

- The wishes of the community, signalled over the last few years to this Council, that protection of lakes and rivers throughout the District, particularly Lake Taupo, is very important
- Council's statutory obligations.

We will deliver (measuring level of service)

Service improvement - short term levels of service targets

- Develop implementation strategies for Lake Taupo from the 'Lake Taupo Foreshore Risk Management Strategy'
- Policy and District Plan Variations prepared arising from the Foreshore Risk Management Strategy¹⁹.

Service improvement - long term levels of service targets

- Implementation of mitigation actions emerging from the Foreshore Risk Management Strategy.

LAKE TAUPO FORESHORE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Taupo District Council is currently working in a governance partnership with Environment Waikato with input from the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board in developing the Lake Taupo Foreshore Risk Management Strategy. The Strategy will identify the flooding and foreshore erosion hazards around Lake Taupo. Once complete it will provide Environment Waikato and Taupo District Council with direction for capital expenditure on flood and erosion protection works, the development of planning controls over how land is used and how the costs are shared.

Development of the Strategy will involve consultation with local interest groups, land owners, tangata whenua and power generators. Once drafted it will be taken through a formal consultation process by Environment Waikato and Taupo District Council.

KURATAU FORESHORE PROTECTION

Erosion of the Kuratau shoreline is known to be occurring, particularly adjacent to the mouth of the Kuratau River. The apparent increase in erosion has reduced the available reserve buffer strip in some locations. Council wishes to develop an effective erosion mitigation solution for the settlement and implement the works as soon as possible.

Further consultation will be undertaken with the community regarding the potential options and associated costs for addressing the erosion issues. Following the identification of a preferred option there will be further approval processes involving the Project Watershed Taupo Sub-committee, the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board and Environment Waikato before we will seek resource consents.

Key Actions

- Continuation of the development of the 'Lake Taupo Foreshore Risk Management Strategy'
- Development of objectives, policies, rules and/or other methods in the District Plan to control the use of land for the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards
- Kuratau foreshore protection works – consenting and design.

¹⁹ Policy development and District Plan Variations will be initiated as part of the stage four - implementation strategies

STORMWATER AND LAND DRAINAGE

What we do (current level of service)

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.

Council partners with Environment Waikato to work on improving land drainage in catchments that are undergoing development. This is done through Project Watershed²⁰.

We will deliver (measuring level of service)

Service maintenance – ongoing levels of service targets

- Customers within prescribed areas are provided with an adequate stormwater outlet. The level of service provided to all other customers varies and shall be in accordance with the District Plan and Asset Management Plan
 - Flood protection to homes and property:
 - * Fewer than 5% per year of properties within urban areas affected by flooding inside and fewer than 10% of per year affected by flooding outside the dwelling or business premises except where properties are in designated flood hazard areas
 - * No building consents issued for developments on sites without an effective outfall or protection from a 50 year storm event
 - Triennial residents' satisfaction survey shows the community's level of satisfaction with the stormwater network is at least 80%
 - Triennial residents' satisfaction survey shows the community's level of satisfaction with consultation on stormwater and land drainage issues is at least 80%
 - Less than five health nuisances reported per annum from facilities or assets (flooding, ponding, mosquitoes, etc)
- Property owners informed if they are within flood risk areas or designated flood hazard areas
- Ongoing community education programme undertaken to promote appropriate use of the stormwater system
- One hundred percent compliance with Stormwater Resource Consents.

Key Actions²¹

- Commence work on Taupo CBD pipe upgrade
- Complete comprehensive stormwater consents
- Centennial Drive Detention Dam construction completed.

²⁰ See Environment Waikato's website www.ew.govt.nz

²¹ Refer to the Schedule of Capital Expenditure on pages 67 to 69 for project cost



WASTE WATER

What we do (current level of service)

Council is responsible through this activity for the safe, effective collection, treatment and disposal of waste water from residential, commercial and industrial properties from designated drainage areas within the District.

We will deliver (measuring level of service)

Service maintenance – ongoing levels of service targets

- An efficient waste water collection and disposal system that treats and disposes at least 99% of waste water discharged to Council waste water treatment plants
- No more than 11 accidents involving overflows or discharges of sewage to the natural environment per year
- At least 98.5% compliance with Resource Consent conditions. This includes keeping any adverse environmental effects to less than minor²².

Service improvement - long term levels of service targets

- Reduction of the levels of nitrogen entering the Lake from community owned waste water treatment facilities by 20% by the year 2020.

TAUPO WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENTS

During the year Council will be working with our stakeholders to progress the development of the proposed new land disposal site in the vicinity of View Road. This will enable the current Pollution Control Plant (PCP) and reticulation systems to be progressively upgraded in response to growth to meet the additional loading associated with the expanding Taupo urban area.

- Council has determined that the planned capacity upgrade of the Taupo Land Disposal System (LDS) is a high priority. We plan to purchase additional land for the LDS and are progressing the preparatory work prior to construction. This will require the modification of the existing Rakanui Road site and the PCP.
- The Waste Water Treatment Plant at Mangakino will be upgraded during the year
- Council is progressing the proposed development of the Kinloch Waste Water Treatment Plant including a proposed LDS option on the existing Kinloch Public Golf Course which will be purchased by Council and converted to reserve.

Key Actions

- Asset renewal and maintenance
- Mangakino construction of treatment plant upgrades
- Ongoing Taupo PCP and LDS expansion
- Taupo main trunk sewer investigation and capacity improvement programme
- Waitahanui / Five Mile Bay resource consent application
- Whareroa pond rehabilitation
- Kinloch land purchase for land disposal of waste water.

Departures from information in LTCCP

- The design and construction of the upgrades for the Mangakino Waste Water Plant was originally scheduled in the LTCCP for 2006/07. Construction is now planned for 2007/08
- Taupo main trunk sewer investigation was begun during 2006/07 but is expected to be completed in the 2007/08 year
- The LTCCP anticipated that consenting and implementation of the Waitahanui / Five Mile Bay waste water system upgrade would be complete in 2006/07. While progress was made during 2006/07 on the Waitahanui / Five Mile Bay resource consent it may not be received until after the beginning of the 2007/08 year. Implementation will then commence
- The LTCCP indicated that construction work for the rehabilitation of the wastewater ponds at Whareroa would be completed during 2006/07. The resource consent for the Whareroa pond rehabilitation has taken longer than expected so construction is not expected until 2007/08.

²² For more details (e.g. Resource Consent conditions) see the Wastewater Treatment Asset Management Plan.

SOLID WASTE

What we do (current level of service)

Council provides for the collection and disposal of refuse and recyclable items from throughout the District by way of a District landfill for residual refuse disposal, five transfer stations for waste drop off, and the opportunity to recycle at all facilities.

Council provides kerbside refuse and recycling collection in urban areas and waste haulage from transfer stations to the Broadlands Road landfill. Council also monitors three closed landfills situated around the District.

We will deliver (measuring level of service)

Service maintenance – ongoing levels of service targets:

- All sites 100% compliance with relevant consent conditions
- Public is not involved in any accidents at the landfill or transfer stations
- Triennial residents' satisfaction survey shows at least 75% of customers are satisfied with the efficiency of the landfill and transfer stations
- Triennial residents' satisfaction survey shows at least 75% of customers are satisfied with the effectiveness of the kerbside refuse and recycling collection service.

Service improvement - long term levels of service targets

- Reduce the volume of waste disposed to landfill by 40% by 2010 compared to volumes disposed in 1999/00.

For further information see the Solid Waste Asset Management Plan.

KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

Central and local government policy on solid waste is currently geared toward reduction, recycling and reuse to minimise waste, however the cost of recycling is increasing. Council has a new contract for kerbside refuse and recycling. The new contract price is higher than originally estimated. In order to maintain the kerbside refuse and recycling collection services at the present levels there has been an increase in the District Refuse Disposal Rate from \$63.11 to \$72.03 per year and an increase in the per bag charge for refuse collection from \$1 to \$1.50 per bag.

TRANSFER STATION FEES

A new weighbridge will be installed at the Broadlands Road resource recovery centre. The weighbridge will allow measurement of the amount of refuse taken to the station and will allow charging based on weight. At other transfer stations around the District the fees will continue to be determined based on the size of the load as they have in the past.

At Broadlands Road, refuse will be charged at \$67.50 per tonne. At other transfer stations the cost for loads greater than 400kg has increased from \$60 to \$67.50 per tonne.

Key Actions

- Asset renewal and maintenance
- Resource recovery transfer station (recycling centre) at Broadlands Road construction completed
- Cell 2C Broadlands Road Landfill constructed
- Stage 1 Landfill subdivision
- A trial battery recycling service will be carried out at the new resource recovery centre on Broadlands Road.

Departures from information in LTCCP

- Both the District Refuse Rate and the per bag charge for refuse collection have been increased as a result of significant contract cost increase

- The tonnage charge for refuse loads over 400kg at all transfer stations and landfills has increased from \$60 to \$67.50 per tonne. At Broadlands Road general refuse loads will be weighed and will be charged at \$67.50 per tonne
- The sale price of crushed concrete has increased from \$9.57 to \$11.30. The resource recovery centre at Broadlands Road was scheduled to be completed in 2006/07. This will now be completed in 2007/08.



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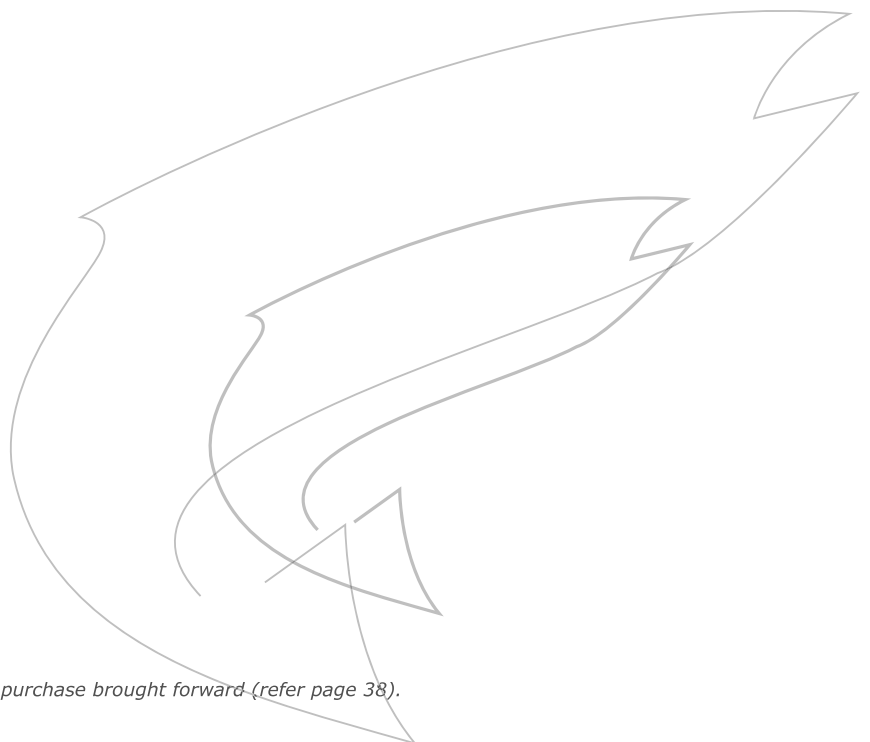
FORECAST COST OF SERVICE STATEMENT

Operating Funding Requirements	LTCCP 2007/08 (\$,000)	A/Plan 2007/08 (\$,000)
Operating Income		
Targeted Rates	8,359	8,704
Dev Contribution Recognition	2,405	2,400
Other Income		
Environmental Planning	557	732
Lake Water Quality		
Solid Waste Management	1,030	1,476
Waste Water	402	398
Stormwater	144	174
Total Income	12,897	13,884
Operating Expenditure		
Environmental Planning	2,763	2,710
Lake Water Quality	1,392	1,356
Solid Waste Management	3,166	²³ 3,920
Waste Water	6,225	6,358
Stormwater	1,365	1,439
Total Operating Expenditure	14,911	15,783
Net deficit (surplus) of operations	2,014	1,899
Funded by:		
General Rates	4,219	4,060
Other general Investment sources		
Operating deficit (surplus) to/from reserves	(2,205)	(2,161)
Opening Balances		
Total Funding applied	2,014	1,899

²³ Increased costs of solid waste activity (refer page 39).

FORECAST COST OF SERVICE STATEMENT CONT.

Capital and Reserves Funding Requirements	LTCCP 2007/08 (\$,000)	A/Plan 2007/08 (\$,000)
Capital Expenditure		
Lakes and Rivers	108	108
Solid Waste Management	997	1,429
Waste Water	8,978	²⁵ 14,132
Stormwater	1,080	765
Total Capital Expenditure	11,163	16,434
Loan Repayments	1,196	1,621
Transfer to reserves		
Total net Cost	12,359	18,055
Funded by:		
General Rates		
Property Sales		
Loans Raised	2,884	11,016
Development Contributions	2,405	2,400
Other	4,266	882
Transfer from Reserve(s)	2,804	3,757
Total Funding applied	12,359	18,055
Split of Capital Expenditure		
Renewals	1,457	1,733
Growth	8,306	13,140
Increase in level of service	1,400	1,561
Total Capital Expenditure	11,163	16,434



²⁴ View Road waste water land disposal site purchase brought forward (refer page 38).