

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



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OVERVIEW

The natural environment of the Western Bay is one of our most valuable assets covering 212,000 hectares of coastal, rural and urban areas. The land of the Western Bay of Plenty faces north-east to the sea. To the West are the rugged bush-covered Kaimai ranges. Numerous streams drain the Kaimais, flowing down through the hills and coastal lowlands into the swampy estuaries and mudflats of the Tauranga Harbour.

The activities that are provided within the Natural Environment Strategy include:

- Environmental education programmes and initiatives delivered mostly through service delivery contracts with Wild About New Zealand and Coastcare
- Support for community based environmental projects provided by our Environmental Development Officer who helps communities to realise their capacity to drive and implement environmental projects
- Fencing subsidies to encourage the protection of important ecological areas on private land
- A small fund that can be used to support projects or initiatives that enhance the quality of the environment.

WHY WE PROVIDE IT

OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOME

Areas of our natural environment with important environmental, cultural and heritage values are protected.

OUR GOALS

- Support the provision of environmental education and information across our District.
- Support community based environmental projects.

WHAT WE PROVIDE - *NATURAL ENVIRONMENT*



EDUCATION PROGRAMMES & INITIATIVES

Support for
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICE DELIVERY
PROVIDERS**

FENCING SUBSIDIES
(protected bush lots)



**COMMUNITY
GROUP SUPPORT**

**LIAISON WITH THE
REGIONAL COUNCIL
AND PARTNERS**

with a focus on environmental issues

HOW WE WILL TRACK PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR GOALS

GOAL	WE'LL KNOW WE'RE MEETING OUR GOAL IF	TARGET 2016/17
Support the provision of environmental education and information across our District.	Number of protection lots monitored to ensure compliance with covenants.	≥40
Support community-based environmental projects.	Percentage of residents surveyed who perceive the environmental attributes monitored have improved or being maintained. <i>Please note: the environmental features monitored include the quality of streams and rivers, harbours and estuaries, air quality, the amount of noxious weeds, protection of historic places, general level of cleanliness and the amount and quality of native plants and animals.</i>	≥40%
	Annual number of training initiatives supported.	≥5

HOW WE WILL TRACK PROGRESS - LEVELS OF SERVICE

WHAT WE PROVIDE	WE'LL KNOW WE'RE MEETING THE SERVICE IF	TARGET 2016/17
Facilitate and support community involvement in protecting and enhancing the natural environment.	Percentage of environmental groups that Council actively supports.	≥50%
	Number of individual landowners actively supported to protect remnant bush and riparian zones.	≥50

HOW OUR PLANS HAVE CHANGED

The timing and costs of some of our projects have been updated since we adopted our 2015 - 2025 Long Term Plan (LTP).

To see how our plans have changed click [here](#) for the complete list of these projects/programmes that have been revised or alternatively visit our website www.westernbay.govt.nz.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL FORECAST

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

	LONG TERM PLAN ESTIMATE \$'000	ANNUAL PLAN ESTIMATE \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000
FOR THE YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE	2017	2017	
Analysis of expenditure by activity			
Environment protection grants	104	101	(3)
Natural environment support	240	233	(7)
Coastcare	56	55	(1)
Land drainage	307	311	4
Total operating expenditure	707	700	(7)
Analysis of expenditure by class			
Direct costs	654	655	1
Overhead costs	48	40	(8)
Depreciation	5	5	-
Total operating expenditure	707	700	(7)
Revenue			
Targeted rates	320	328	8
Financial contributions	184	180	(4)
Total revenue	505	508	3
Net cost of service - surplus/(deficit)	(202)	(192)	10
Capital expenditure	-		
Total other funding required	(202)	(192)	10
Other funding provided by			
General rate	132	119	(13)
Environmental protection rate	46	45	(1)
Reserves and future surpluses	24	29	5
Total other funding	202	192	(10)