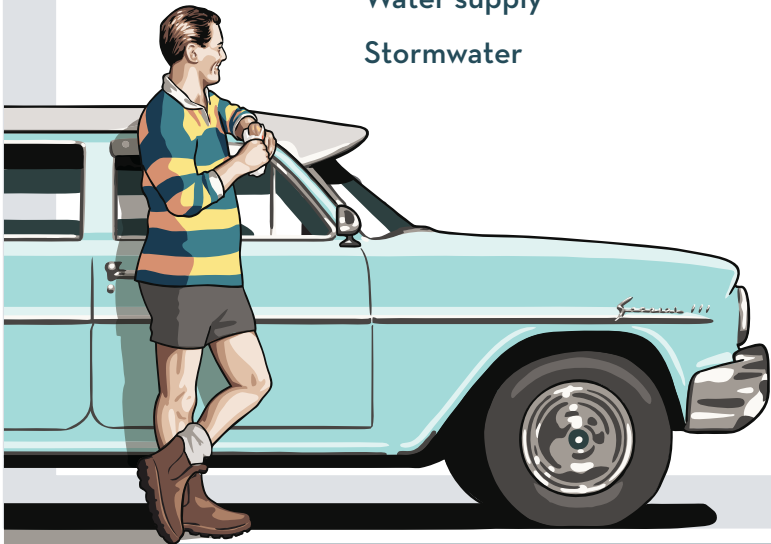


<i>Leadership</i>	
Representation	111
Planning for the future	121
<i>Building Communities</i>	
Communities strategy	134
• Community building	138
• Libraries and service centre	147
• Community facilities	154
• Civil defence and emergency management	164
Recreation and leisure	170
Regulatory services	186
Transportation	202
Water supply	222
Stormwater	233

<i>Protecting the environment</i>	
Natural Environment	248
Waste - wastewater	257
Waste - solid waste	270

<i>Supporting our economy</i>	
Economic	283
<i>Support services</i>	
Support Services	295



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW

Council has an important role in protecting the natural environment of the Western Bay. It 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 Kaimai range, flowing down through the hills and coastal lowlands into the swampy estuaries and mudflats of the Tauranga Harbour.

The Kaituna River drains the lakes of Rotorua and Rotoiti into the Maketu Estuary and out to sea, while smaller streams drain the western district into the Tauranga Harbour.

Matakana Island forms a natural barrier between Tauranga Harbour and the Pacific Ocean.

From our beaches and harbours to our wetlands and forests, all are recognised by our communities, Tangata Whenua and visitors. These important resources should be protected and enhanced.

The quality of the natural environment is directly related to people's quality of life and the success of many commercial activities is reliant on resources such as water and soils. Population growth and economic development put pressure on the sustainability of the natural environment. Pressure for the expansion of urban areas affects the natural ecosystems of both the land and sea. Issues such as environmental pollution, waste generation and management, heritage protection and preservation of indigenous wildlife all require consideration as our District grows and develops.

We acknowledge our responsibilities towards the environment and take a sustainable approach towards environmental protection and enhancement in order that future generations can continue to appreciate what we enjoy today.

Much of our work affects the natural environment. We have statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and Resource Management Act 1991 to control the effects of land use on the environment including natural hazards and indigenous biodiversity. We do this through planning and resource consents and our role in providing infrastructure; for example water, sewerage and roads, which potentially impact on many elements of the environment. It is essential therefore that we take a sustainable approach in order to recognise and, where necessary, minimise the impacts of projects on the environment.

While our work spans regulatory activities such as District Plan preparation, infrastructure development and recreation and leisure planning, it is important to recognise that our role is broader than regulation.

We understand the value of a wider commitment to the natural environment and continue to see the benefits of environmental education, provision of environmental information and support for environmental projects and groups within our communities. Where human activities affect the environment we are keen to support initiatives which seek to offset these negative impacts, understanding that the timeframe for environmental restoration projects is often long term.

In our role as one of a range of organisations we continue seeking to improve and enhance the natural environment, in particular through our close relationship with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which also focuses on environmental projects and managing the effects of people's use of freshwater, and biodiversity. We will continue to actively cooperate and support these organisations in order to ensure the sustainability of our natural environment into the future.

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 Community Development Team which helps communities to realise their capacity to drive and implement environmental projects
- Fencing subsidies to encourage protection of important ecological areas on private land
- Funding that can support projects or initiatives that enhance the quality of the environment.
- A Community Matching Fund which has an environmental portion of \$40,000 as a contestable fund
- Support for Environmental Management Plans.

This strategy is due to be substantively reviewed over the next three years.

WHAT WE PROVIDE



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

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.

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOME

GOAL	OUR APPROACH	OUR ROLE
Support the provision of environmental education and information across our District.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with environmental protection agencies to support the development of environmental education initiatives for community environment care groups • Work with other agencies, in particular the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to provide accessible, user-friendly environmental information. 	Partner/Facilitator
Support community based environmental projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the community to implement environmental projects recognised in Community Plans • Acknowledge and recognise outstanding contributions towards environmental enhancement through TrustPower awards • Liaise with other organisations to develop and manage environmental projects within our District • Offer financial support where possible to projects or initiatives which contribute towards environmental enhancement • Use incentives to encourage legal protection of important ecological areas, for example fencing subsidies. 	Facilitator

WHAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO

All information from 2020- 2028 includes an adjustment for inflation.

PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	\$'000									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
151501	Fencing Subsidies	52	53	54	56	57	58	60	61	63	65
151502	Fencing Subsidies	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	25	26	26
306902	Environmental Monitoring of Protection Lots	50	51	52	54	55	56	58	59	61	63
252302	Ecology Community Services Contract	49	50	51	52	53	55	56	58	59	61
252303	Materials - Volunteer Support	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
306401	Natural Environment Support	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
306403	Tahataharoa Longer Term Wetland Restoration	-	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	13
311801	Ecological Development Impact Fee's - Enhancement Planting	17	17	17	18	18	19	19	20	20	21
311802	Ecological Development Impact Fee's - Associated Works	10	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	13
311804	Ecological Development Impact Fee's - Education	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9
311805	Ecological Development Impact Fee's- Monitoring	27	28	28	29	30	30	31	-	-	-
311807	Ecological Development Impact Fee's- Maketu Bio Dev Plan	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
311808	Ecological Development Impact Fee's- Pukehina Bio Dev Plan	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
311809	Ecological Development Impact Fee's - Newdicks Bio Development Plan	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
162401	Compensation for Esplanade Strips	10	10	10	11	11	11	12	18	18	19
244602	Coastcare Community Services Contract	15	15	16	16	16	17	17	24	24	25
244606	Coastcare Materials	15	15	16	16	16	17	17	18	18	19
302302	Pukehina Beach Refurbishment	15	15	16	16	16	17	17	18	18	19

HOW WE WILL TRACK PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR GOALS

OUTCOME

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

GOAL	WE'LL KNOW WE'RE MEETING OUR GOAL IF	ACTUAL						TARGET	
		2017	2019	2020	2021	2022-24	2025-28		
Support the provision of environmental education and information across our District.	Key Performance Measure Amount of additional land included in protection lots in accordance with the District plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian (kilometres) • Wetland (hectares) • Tall forest, Regenerating Forest, Shrub land (hectares) 	New	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0		
		New	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		
		New	60	60	60	60	60		
Support community-based environmental projects.	Key Resident Measure Percentage of residents surveyed who perceive the environmental attributes monitored have improved or are being maintained. 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.	79%	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%		

HOW WE WILL TRACK PROGRESS - LEVELS OF SERVICE

WHAT WE PROVIDE	WE'LL KNOW WE'RE MEETING THE SERVICE IF	ACTUAL			TARGET		
		2017	2019	2020	2021	2022-24	2025-28
Facilitate and support community involvement in protecting and enhancing the natural environment.	Percentage of environmental groups that Council supports.	47.5%	≥50%	≥50%	≥50%	≥50%	≥50%
	Number of community environmental education initiatives.	New	≥6	≥6	≥6	≥6	≥6c
Ensure protection lots are compliant with terms of covenants.	Number of protection lots monitored to ensure compliance.	41	≥40	≥40	≥40	≥40	≥40

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

ASSUMPTION	DESCRIPTION	RISK
Population growth impact	Population growth and development occurs at a rate and is managed in a way that our natural environment can adapt to change and absorb the impact of human activities.	If we inaccurately forecast the rates of growth and development in our District our natural environment will be unable to cope and will be adversely affected.
Fencing grants	We will continue to contribute funds to ecological protection programmes facilitated by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council; these are Environmental Management Plans.	If fencing grants are no longer offered remaining stream, wetland and bush areas may be compromised. Costs of restoration are likely to be high.
Working in partnership	It is assumed that our partnerships with other agencies in the region to co-operate with and provide programmes will continue as at present.	If partnership arrangements are varied, costs of programme provision may increase or services may no longer be able to be provided.
Rising sea levels/frequent severe weather events	An integrated, multi-agency response to the effects of rising sea levels will be implemented to address land stability and coastal erosion issues across our District.	If an integrated, multi-agency approach is not taken, land instability and coastal erosion issues may remain unresolved and the costs of land remediation may increase.

DID YOU KNOW...

- At the start of 2018 there were 39 environmental care groups working within our District
- One of these groups, the Uretara Estuary Managers, have won a national Green Ribbon Award for their work and are the only group to actively and successfully work with landowners to restore ecological values in 4 entire catchments under their Catchment Guardianship Scheme.
- The more successful groups are turning over a minimum of approximately \$60,000-70,000 each year

- In the last decade, Kiwi and Kokako have been translocated back into the District by the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust and more are in progress. The Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust have reintroduced Weka as well as having discovered a small population of Riflemen.
- The Predator Free NZ movement is starting up in several places throughout the sub-region, including Te Puke.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF PROVIDING THIS ACTIVITY

WELL-BEING	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	HOW WE ARE ADDRESSING THESE EFFECTS
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provides environmental education which is recognised as one of the most valuable methods of supporting the natural environment ✓ The natural environment is a highly valued community asset. Everyone benefits from an enhanced natural environment ✓ Residents and visitors use the natural environment as a community resource and for opportunities to socialise ✓ Engagement of community members to create environmental community groups provides both social and environmental enhancement outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ There may be some community environmental groups who consider our work with the natural environment to be inappropriate (possibly by location or by method of remediation/enhancement). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We focus on education as a means of helping communities understand why we do this work, for example by targeting schools. Research indicates that developing an awareness of environmental sustainability early in life means that practices/understanding are embedded and often practiced in later years • Using signage as a means of 'getting the message across'.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Helps support habitats for native flora and fauna ✓ Helps to ensure that our use of the natural environment for farming practices, etc is more sustainable into the future ✓ Helps to sustain and enhance biodiversity within our District ✓ Contributes to landscape character and visual amenity ✓ Can be used to manage or mitigate natural hazards and the predicted impact of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ There may be some members of the community who hold differing views on the methods by which we seek to improve our natural environment, for example clearing mangroves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work with communities, landowners and environmental groups to provide education and support regarding the work we are undertaking.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A high quality natural environment is vital for continued commercial success across a range of businesses reliant on natural resources ✓ Provision of funding support is a vital tool in ensuring the establishment and ongoing support for these environmental protection and enhancement projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Environmental restoration and protection projects may be perceived as impeding economic progress, for example land development ✗ Our work may initiate projects which will require financial support long term. Groups unable to manage themselves effectively in the future may request further financial support at a later date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work with commercial businesses to help educate them in terms of both regulatory provisions and environmental best practice • We support groups and provide long term advice about managing projects and sourcing long term funding.
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The natural environment is a valued and significant cultural asset ✓ Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural sites supports local identity ✓ Fosters respect for the cultural traditions and heritage of an area/environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Risk of cultural sites being seen as less important ✗ Risk of the mauri or spiritual significance of a cultural site being diminished. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that staff have access to relevant information and are appropriately equipped with the knowledge and skills to share information relating to the cultural significance of our natural environment.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Please refer to Chapter 5 'Policies, Summaries & Statements' for the Revenue and Financing Policy for natural environment.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT 2018/19

