

# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

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# OUR DISTRICT

## OUR HISTORY

The Western Bay of Plenty has a long history of settlement by Māori. The western area of the District (Tauranga Moana) was occupied by the iwi of Ngati Ranginui, Ngaiterangi and Ngati Pukenga from the waka Takitumu and Mataatua. Te Arawa descendants from the waka Te Arawa inhabited much of the eastern area of the District and south to Rotorua.

Traders and missionaries were among the first European settlers who developed communities at Maketu and Tauranga. George Vesey Stewart founded Ulster settlements at both Katikati in 1875 and Te Puke in 1880. Tauranga, Te Puke and Katikati formed the nucleus for subsequent expansion of European pastoral farms. Te Puke and Katikati have grown steadily over the years and are the largest settlements in the District.



## OUR PEOPLE

Western Bay of Plenty District is one of the faster growing areas in New Zealand with its current 2018 estimated population of just over 49,000 people expected to reach around 58,300 by 2033. Between the 2006 and 2013 censuses, the population of the District grew by 4.5%; it is estimated that the population will grow by 6.8% in 2018. Most of this growth has come from migration from other parts of New Zealand.

### AT A GLANCE (2013 CENSUS)

- Of the District's population 18% identify themselves as Māori, which is a little lower than the national average of 19%.
- 19% of residents in the District are over 65 years old, higher than the national average of 14%.
- Unlike the rest of New Zealand the most common family type in the District is couples without children (50%), reflecting the older age structure of the population.
- The average household size in the District is slightly lower at 2.6 than the national average of 2.7.
- In 2013 there were 16,941 occupied dwellings in the Western Bay of Plenty District, an increase of 1,284 dwellings or 8% compared with the 2006 Census.
- Overall the District has a lower level of socio-economic deprivation than the country as a whole.
- District residents had a lower than the national average personal income of \$26,300, compared to the national average income of \$28,500 in 2013.
- 70% of the District's residents own their own home, compared with 65% nationally.
- Weekly average rent is considerably lower than nationally (\$250 compared to \$280 nationally, based on 2013 census data).

## OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Western Bay of Plenty District surrounds Tauranga, a fast-growing city of 115,000 people. The District covers 212,000 hectares of coastal, rural and urban areas. Almost half of the District is covered by forest, both planted (12.8%) and indigenous (35.4%) and a further 40% is pastoral land. Less than 1% of the total area of the District is urban and includes the townships of Waihi Beach, Katikati, Omokoroa, Te Puna, Te Puke and Maketu. Smaller rural settlements are at Paengaroa, Pongakawa and Pukehina in the east and at Kauri Point, Tanners Point, Ongare, Tuapiro and Athenree in the western part of the District.

The District has a warm, sunny climate with an average of 1,900 - 2,300 sunshine hours per year with moderate rainfall of 1,200 - 2,400 mm per year. This diverse landscape, combined with a favourable temperate climate, provides an area rich in resources such as indigenous flora and fauna, highly versatile soils, rivers and harbours.

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.

In the east, the Kaituna River drains the lakes of Rotorua and Rotoiti into the Maketu Estuary and out to sea, while smaller streams drain the eastern District into the Waihi Estuary.

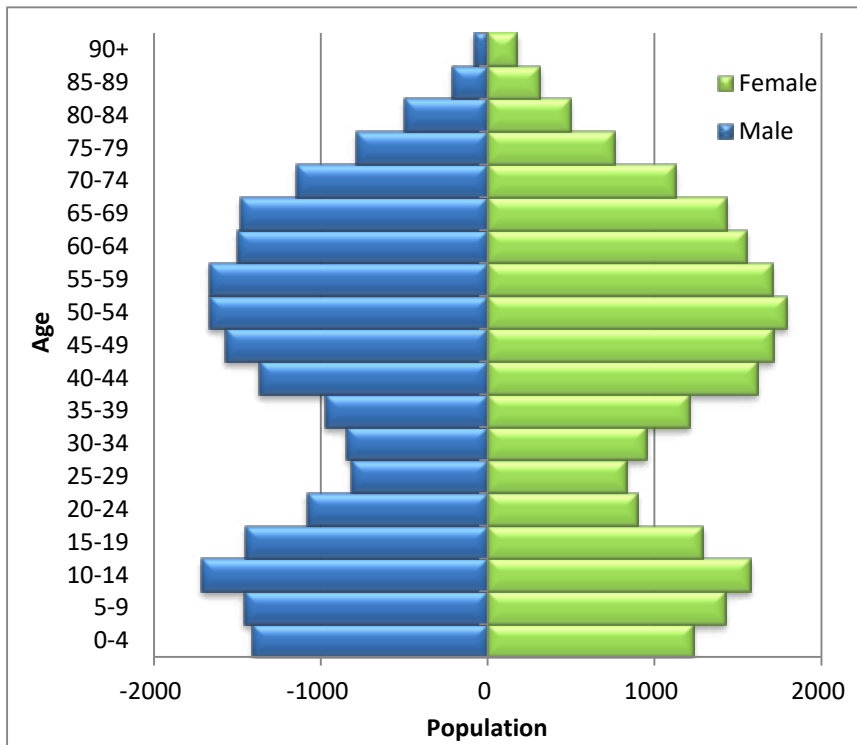
Matakana Island forms a natural barrier between Tauranga Harbour and the Pacific Ocean.

## OUR ECONOMY

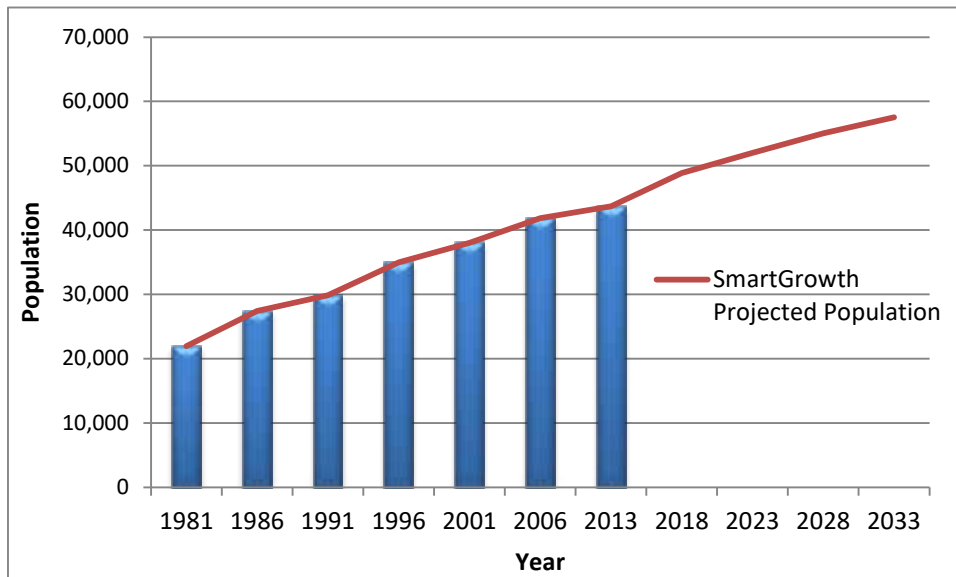
Agriculture and horticulture are the main economic drivers of the Western Bay of Plenty District and the greater Tauranga and Western Bay sub-region. These two primary sectors fuel a multitude of professional businesses and service industries, employing a diverse labour force. Our environment, soils and climate are not only attractive for agricultural production but are also a magnet for people wanting a relaxed outdoor lifestyle. We are close to the amenities of Tauranga, yet we retain a rural and small town atmosphere. Manufacturing, commerce and trades are also vital to the sub-region's economic growth.

Our District is three times more reliant on horticulture and agriculture for its economic output than New Zealand as a whole. This dependence presents challenges for the District, as well as opportunities. The outbreak of the kiwifruit vine disease Psa-V in November 2010 is an example of the risks associated with economic dependence on single crops.

**Age sex distribution (as at the 2013 Census)**



**Population projection as at the 2013 Census**



# STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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Western Bay of Plenty District Council hereby confirms that all statutory requirements in relation to the annual report, as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002, have been complied with.



**Garry Webber**  
**His Worship The Mayor**  
**Western Bay of Plenty District**



**Miriam Taris**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Western Bay of Plenty District Council**

# THE MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

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*2016/17 has been a year of sustained growth for the Western Bay of Plenty District.*

**We're where we thought we would be at this time last year - our level of debt has gone down, growth is continuing, and Council's financial contributions have gone up.**

These three factors mean that we can continue to manage our debt effectively, making sure we are financially sound and able to mitigate any short term setbacks.

The level of debt is a topic the community have told us they want Council to reduce and I'm pleased to say that we are doing this.

**In 2016/17 we reduced our net debt by \$10.6m.**

Population growth in the Western Bay is reflected in our rate payer base and our rateable income. In the last year rates income has grown by \$1.97m (3%) and based on the growth in subdivision consents and building activity this trend is expected to continue for the coming year.

With this increased demand on building services, Council has needed to increase the number of staff in the building consents area. While there is cost associated with increasing staff, this is offset by regulatory fee income which was \$687k (14%) ahead of forecast.

Ongoing growth means we can also continue with our capital works programme - recently we added the Ongare Point Wastewater scheme to this.

Over the coming year work will continue on other major projects such as Omokoroa Road, the building of the new Katikati Library, Service Centre and Community Hub, as well as the continuation of community development contracts with Waihi Beach Events and Promotions, Katch Katikati, Te Puke EDG and Epic Te Puke.

**While we're increasing our amenities and working with businesses that add value to the District, we are continuing to identify areas that will cater for population growth without putting strain on our infrastructure - such as Katikati and Te Puke.**

This focus will see the Western Bay of Plenty sustainably grow while continuing to be a fantastic place to live.



**Garry Webber**  
*His Worship the Mayor*

**In closing, Council's 2016/17 results show that we have made solid progress towards our goals and are in a strong position for the coming year.**

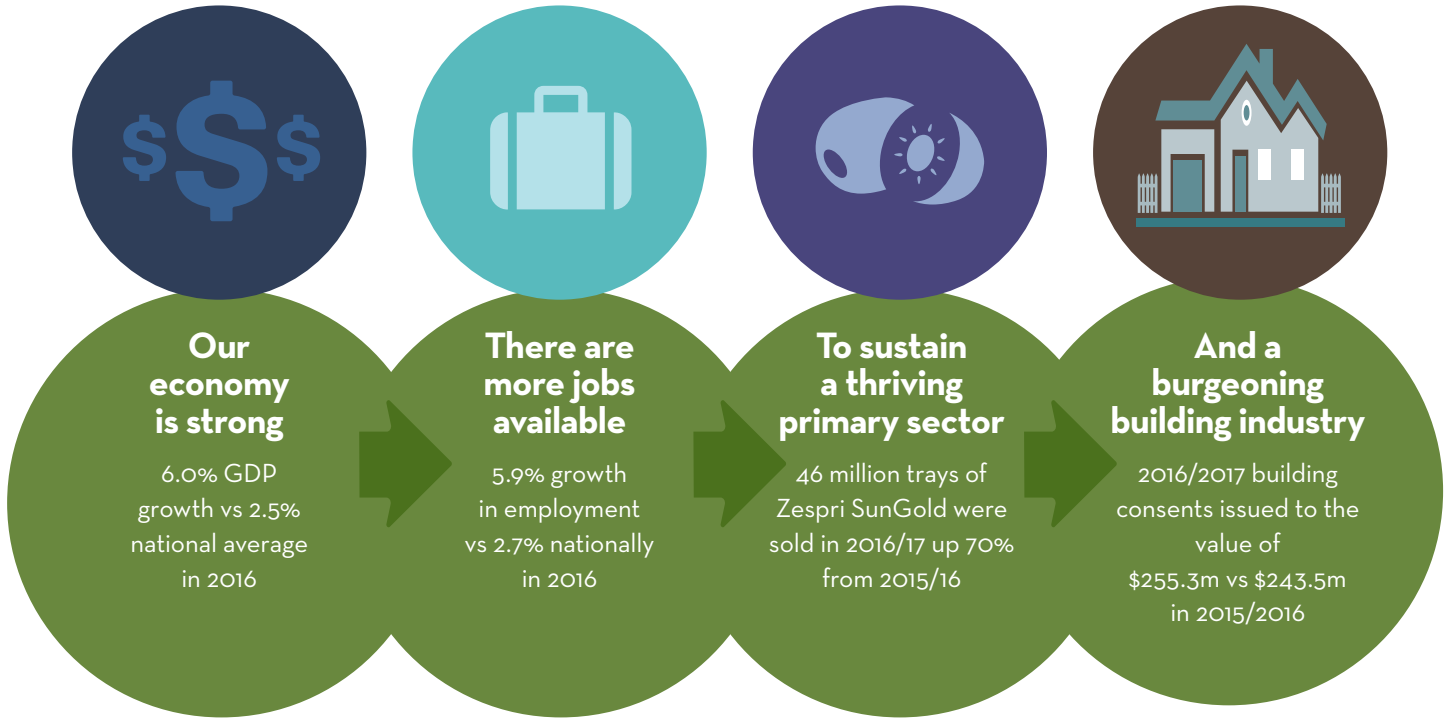
Thanks go to my fellow elected members for their direction, Chief Executive Miriam Taris for her leadership, and all Council staff for their expertise and willingness to work as a team for the benefit of Western Bay of Plenty residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry Webber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

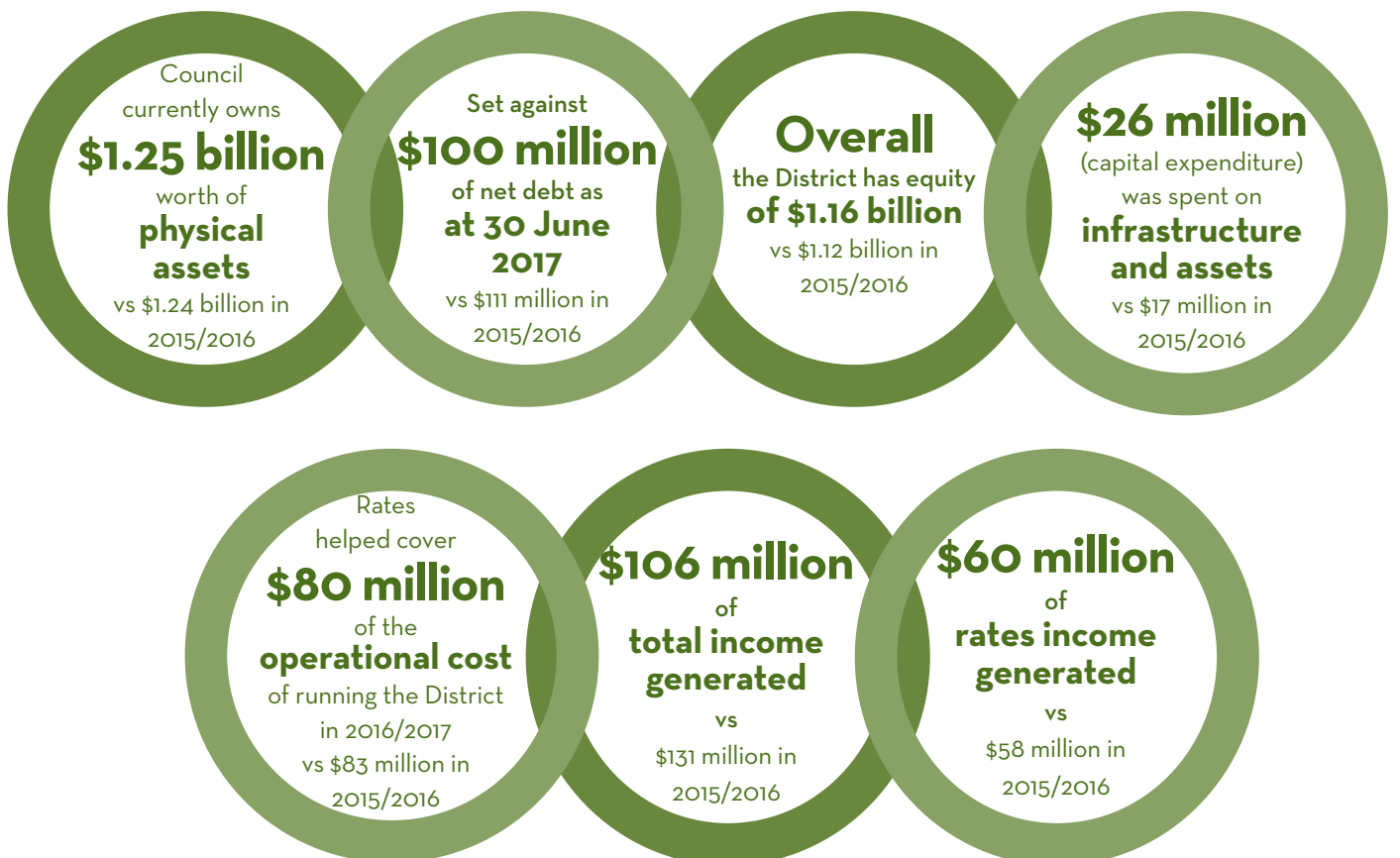
**Garry Webber**  
*His Worship the Mayor*  
Western Bay of Plenty District Council



## A DISTRICT FORGING AHEAD



## PLAYING OUR PART



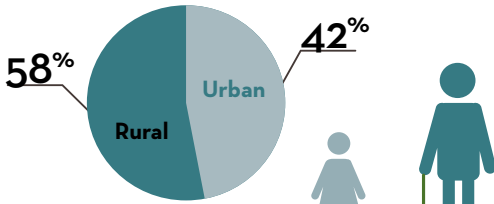


# COUNCIL AT A GLANCE - KEY FACTS

## OUR PEOPLE



Population 43,695



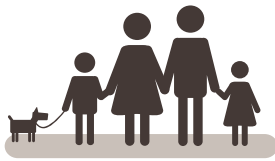
- 18% Māori
- Median age - 44.8 years



0-14 yrs  
20%



65+ yrs  
19%



## OUR COMMUNITIES

- Rich tapestry of small thriving communities.
- Three wards - Katikati/Waihi Beach, Kaimai, Maketu/Te Puke.
- An incredibly strong sense of place, resilience and ability to adapt.
- An expectation to engage at a community level - grass roots, town hall, road side.



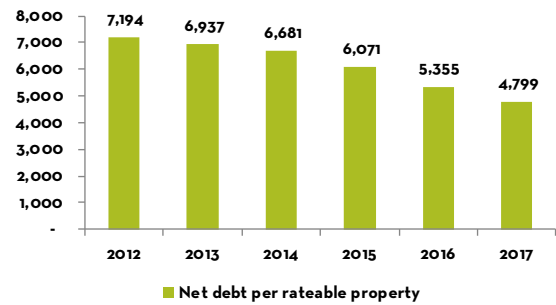
## OUR LAND

- 212,000 hectares
- 202 kilometres of harbour
- 55 kilometres of ocean beach
- Outstanding soil conditions that grow a basket of 'super foods' - from Kiwifruit to some of the world's highest grade dairy, beef and lamb products



## OUR DEBT

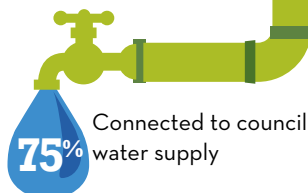
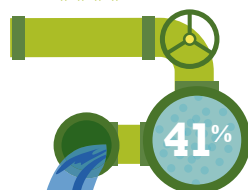
Net debt per rateable property



## OUR CUSTOMERS



Ratepayers  
20,884



Connected to council water supply

Connected to council wastewater treatment and disposal

- Travel on 122 kilometres of state highway and 1,057 kilometres of local roads

# ROLE OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT

*This Annual Report is provided to compare Western Bay of Plenty Council's actual performance for the year against what was forecast in the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan*

## PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

Under the Local Government Act 2002, a Local Authority must prepare and adopt the following documents:

### LONG TERM PLAN (LTP)

**(Section 93)** identifies Western Bay Council's plans for the Western Bay over a 10 year period. It is reviewed every three years. Western Bay Council's latest LTP was agreed in 2015.

### ANNUAL PLAN

**(Section 95)** is produced in the two intervening years between each LTP. It outlines any significant changes Council has made to the LTP and contains the annual budget.

### ANNUAL REPORT

**(Section 98)** provides details of Council's actual performance for all activities against the plans for a specific year of the LTP or Annual Plan.

### SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

**(Section 98(4)(b))** provides a summary of information contained in Council's Annual Report.

## BRINGING THE PLANNING PROCESS TOGETHER

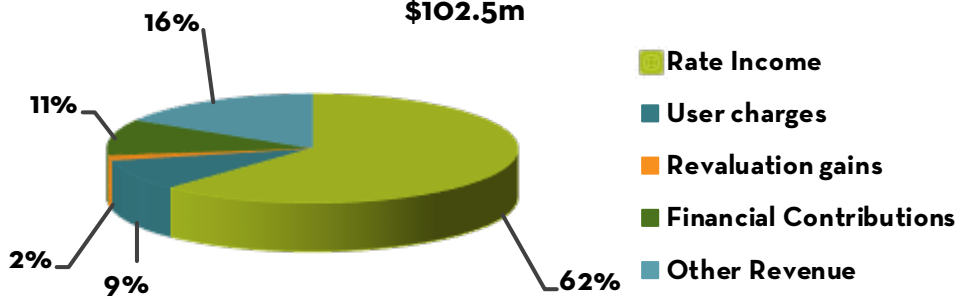


# FINANCE SUMMARY OVERVIEW

Council has reported a net surplus of \$25.59million compared with a budgeted operating surplus of \$11.94 million. The major contributor to this increased surplus was financial contributions, vested assets and unrealised hedging movements.

**Council Revenue 2016/17  
(excluding vested assets)**

**\$102.5m**



**Council Capital and Operating Expenditure 2016/17**

**\$80.4m**

