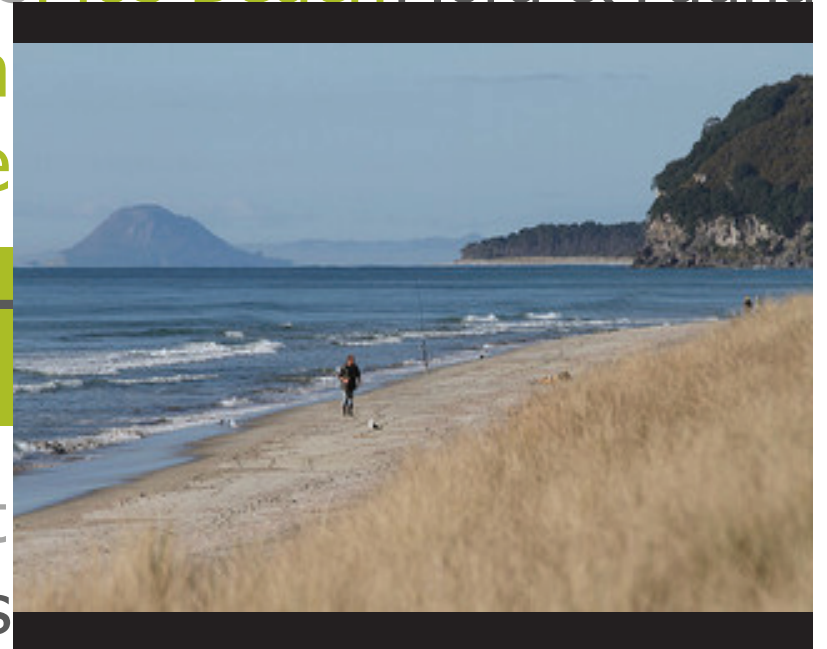


Katikati Solid waste  
 Ongare Point Community building  
 Te Kahika Paengaroa Urban areas  
 Pongakawa Regulatory services  
 Omokoroa Coastal Water supply  
 Care Rogers Road Representation  
 Protection Tuapiro Point  
 Libraries & service centres  
 Pios Beach Flora & Fauna  
 Tanners Point Estuaries  
 Waihi Beach Te Puna West  
 Transportation Athenree

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Civil defence & emergency management  
 Kaimai Ranges Aongatete Sand dunes  
 Island View Economic Te Puke  
 Stormwater Maketu Dotterels  
 Planning for the future Plummers Point  
 Education Minden Kiwis  
 Te Kauri Village Support services  
 Pukehina Beach Wastewater  
 Community facilities Pios Beach  
 Indigenous wildlife Paengaroa



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## 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 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 Waihi Estuary.

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 as important resources which should be protected and enhanced.

The quality of the natural environment is directly related to people's quality of life and the success of commercial activities 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 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 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.

The natural environment within our District has been impacted by both natural and man-made events during 2011. The rise in sea levels and coastal erosion are significant issues in our District and across the wider sub-region. Landslips around the harbour basin have affected many of our communities and there is a need for us to understand the longer term geotechnical situation within these areas.

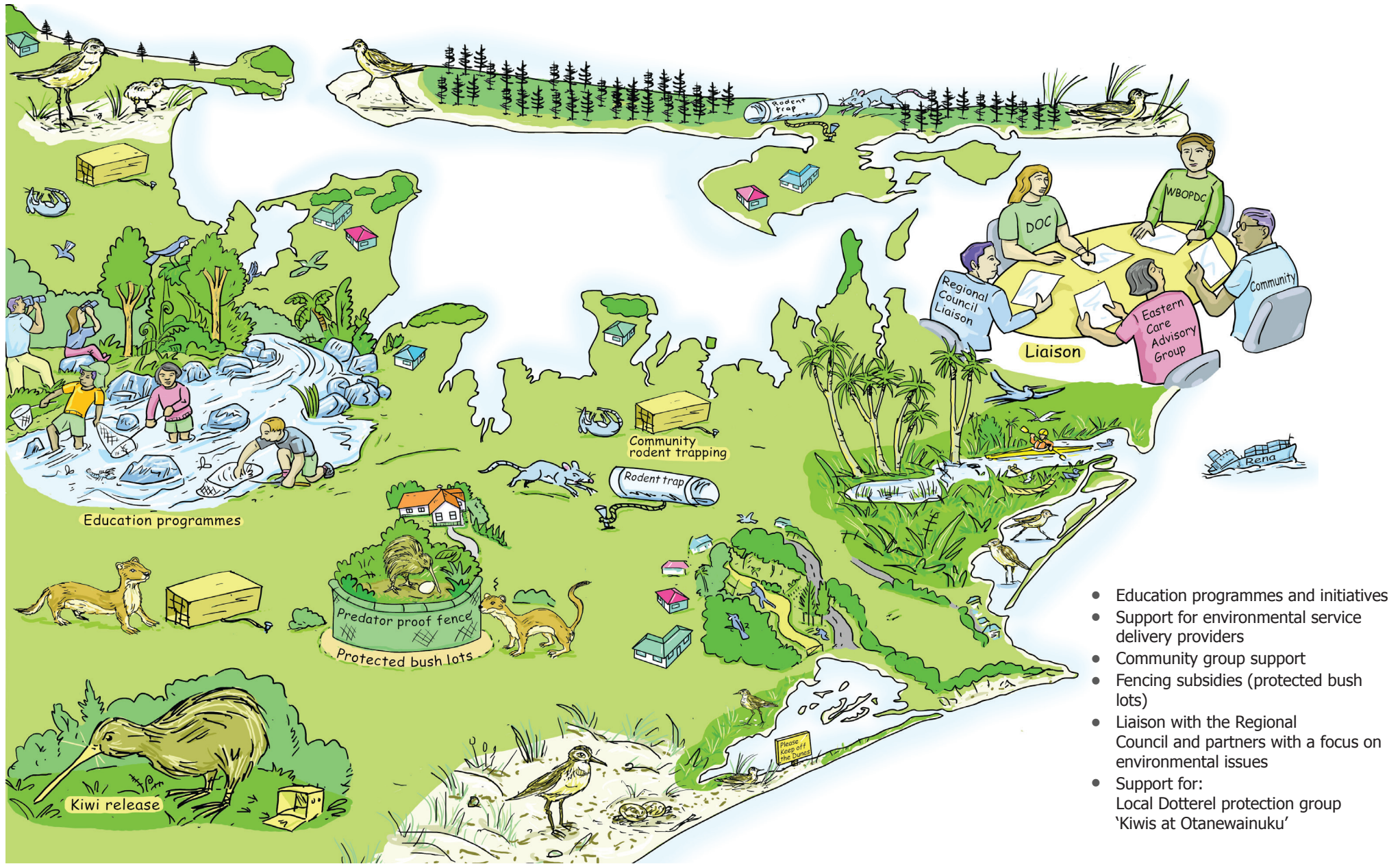
The grounding of the MV Rena cargo ship and oil spill has adversely impacted our natural environment. Together with our communities we have worked to support the natural environment but we are aware that environmental restoration takes time and ongoing support will be required into the future.

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, land, air and coastal water. We will continue to actively co-operate 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 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

## What we provide



- Education programmes and initiatives
- Support for environmental service delivery providers
- Community group support
- Fencing subsidies (protected bush lots)
- Liaison with the Regional Council and partners with a focus on environmental issues
- Support for:  
Local Dotterel protection group  
'Kiwis at Otawainuku'

## Why we provide it

### Our community outcome

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

### Our goals

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

## What we are planning to do

All information from 2014 – 2022 includes an adjustment for inflation.

This is not a complete list of the projects/programmes we have planned for this group of activities. The full list is available on our website, [www.westernbay.govt.nz](http://www.westernbay.govt.nz)

Project number	Project name	\$'000									
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1515	District-wide fencing subsidies	65	71	73	76	103	108	113	127	132	139
244602	Coastcare service delivery contract	15	15	16	17	17	18	18	19	20	20
244606	Coastcare materials	15	15	16	17	17	18	18	19	20	20
252302	Wild About New Zealand ecology service delivery contract	37	38	47	48	50	52	54	55	57	60
306401	District-wide natural environment support	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	7	7
162401	District-wide compensation for esplanade strips	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	13	13	13
306902	District-wide environmental monitoring of protection lots	10	11	11	11	12	12	13	13	13	14

## Major projects planned for 2012 - 2022

- Care for Our Coast Fund – this has been set up following the grounding of the MV Rena cargo ship and the resulting oil spill adversely impacting on the natural environment in the Bay of Plenty. The Fund will be put towards Coast Care and Estuary Care work not covered by the official recovery response and will be organised through the Coast Care community partnership programme

## How we will track progress towards our goals



*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				
		2011	2013	2014	2015	2016 - 18	2019 - 22
Support the provision of environmental education and information across our District	Additional number of hectares physically and legally protected through various covenants	227	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
Support community-based environmental projects	Percentage of residents surveyed who perceive the environmental attributes monitored have improved  <i><b>Please note:</b> 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>	52%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%

## How we will track progress - levels of service

What we provide	We'll know we're meeting the service if	Actual	Target				
		2011	2013	2014	2015	2016 - 18	2019 - 22
Facilitate and support community involvement in protecting and enhancing the natural environment	Number of environmental groups that Council:						
	▶ has association with	40	35	35	35	35	35
	▶ actively supports	19	15	15	15	15	15
	Number of individual landowners actively supported	New	≥24	≥24	≥24	≥24	≥24

## Key assumptions

Assumption	Description	Risk
<b>Population growth impact</b>	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
<b>Fencing grants</b>	We will continue to contribute funds to ecological protection programmes facilitated by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council; these are Biodiversity Management Plans and Riparian 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
<b>Working in partnership</b>	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
<b>Rising sea levels/frequent severe weather events</b>	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

## Significant effects of providing this activity

Well-being	Positive	Negative	How we are addressing these effects
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 Provides environmental education which is recognised as one of the most valuable methods of supporting the natural environment</li> <li>😊 The natural environment is a highly valued community asset. Everyone benefits from an enhanced natural environment</li> <li>😊 Residents and visitors use the natural environment as a community resource and for opportunities to socialise</li> <li>😊 Engagement of community members to create environmental community groups provides both social and environmental enhancement outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😞 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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➡ 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</li> <li>➡ Using signage as a means of 'putting the message across'</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 Helps support habitats for native flora and fauna</li> <li>😊 Helps to ensure that our use of the natural environment for farming practices, etc is more sustainable into the future</li> <li>😊 Helps to sustain and enhance biodiversity within our District</li> <li>😊 Contributes to landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>😊 Can be used to manage or mitigate natural hazards and the predicted impact of climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😞 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➡ We work with communities, landowners and environmental groups to provide education and support regarding the work we are undertaking</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 A high quality natural environment is vital for continued commercial success across a range of businesses reliant on natural resources</li> <li>😊 Provision of funding support is a vital tool in ensuring the establishment and ongoing support for these environmental protection and enhancement projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😞 Environmental restoration and protection projects may be perceived as impeding economic progress, for example land development</li> <li>😞 Our work may initiate projects which will require financial support long term. Groups which are unable to manage themselves effectively in the future may request further financial support at a later date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➡ We work with commercial businesses to help educate them in terms of both regulatory provisions and environmental best practice</li> <li>➡ We support groups and provide long term advice about managing projects and sourcing long term funding</li> </ul>



## Significant effects of providing this activity

Well-being	Positive	Negative	How we are addressing these effects
<b>Cultural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 The natural environment is a valued and significant cultural asset</li> <li>😊 Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural sites supports local identity</li> <li>😊 Fosters respect for the cultural traditions and heritage of an area/environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😞 Risk of cultural sites being seen as less important</li> <li>😞 Risk of the mauri or spiritual significance of a cultural site being diminished</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➡ 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</li> </ul>

### DID YOU KNOW?



- ⇒ At the start of 2012 there were 39 environmental care groups working within our District. The Uretara Estuary Managers are a particularly successful local group, winning the National Green Ribbon Award in 2007. This group now draws down \$1,000s of central government funding annually which is used to improve estuary habitats across our District
- ⇒ The Kaituna, Ongatoro/Maketu Estuary Strategy hopes to yield at least 100 hectares of wetland in the lower Kaituna catchment by 2018

## Summary financial forecast

**Natural environment** All information from 2014-2022 includes an adjustment for inflation

For the years ended 30 June	Actual	Budget	Forecast									
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Analysis of expenditure by activity</b>												
Environment protection grants	93	104	77	83	86	89	116	122	128	142	149	156
Ecological impact fees	(43)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural environment support	200	217	184	195	208	214	253	264	273	294	306	318
Coastcare	16	55	55	57	59	61	63	65	67	69	72	74
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>548</b>
<b>Analysis of expenditure by class</b>												
Direct costs	264	338	282	298	314	326	393	409	427	463	482	504
Overhead costs	43	32	32	34	35	35	36	38	38	39	41	41
Interest	(44)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>548</b>
<b>Revenue</b>												
Targeted rates	16	15	15	15	16	17	17	18	18	19	20	20
Financial contributions	51	125	98	112	115	122	205	217	232	271	285	303
Interest	-	25	45	48	51	54	57	61	64	68	72	76
Other income	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>399</b>
<b>Net cost of service – surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(199)</b>	<b>(211)</b>	<b>(158)</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>(171)</b>	<b>(172)</b>	<b>(153)</b>	<b>(155)</b>	<b>(154)</b>	<b>(147)</b>	<b>(150)</b>	<b>(149)</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other funding required</b>	<b>(199)</b>	<b>(211)</b>	<b>(158)</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>(171)</b>	<b>(172)</b>	<b>(153)</b>	<b>(155)</b>	<b>(154)</b>	<b>(147)</b>	<b>(150)</b>	<b>(149)</b>
<b>Other funding provided by</b>												
General rate	162	133	91	94	95	94	96	98	97	97	100	99
Environmental protection rate	10	30	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	38	39	40
Reserves and future surpluses	27	48	37	35	44	44	23	22	21	12	12	10
<b>Total other funding</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>149</b>

## Where the money comes from

### Who benefits from this activity

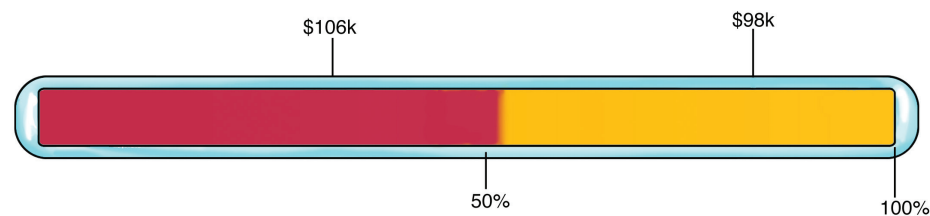
We take a sustainable development approach to our custodianship of the natural environment and the longer term protection and enhancement of our environment is essential. While specific individuals and landowners may be directly involved in community education and initiatives relating to the natural environment, the community as a whole benefits from a strong, supported natural environment and this includes residents and businesses, both today and in the future.

As with any improvement or renewal projects, those residing adjacent to the 'improved' area may be seen to gain the most benefit from the works. It is accepted that these people (land and/or property owners) may see an increase in their amenity and, in some cases, the financial value of their properties. These benefits are however incidental to the key, wider natural environment improvement objectives of any of our projects.

### Funding sources

Funding for natural environment projects comes from a number of sources. These include ecological and recreation and leisure financial contributions, general rates and the environmental protection rate. Targeted rates may also be used for initiatives in specific localities.

#### Funding sources - Natural environment 2012/13



	Rates Revenue	52%
	Financial Contributions	48%

