

KĀPITI COAST

Community Outcomes Monitoring Report

December 2008

delivering on the community's plan



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*“Reaffirming the Kāpiti Coast lifestyle and culture
– with a sustainable emphasis”*

Every three years the Council is required to report on what progress has been made towards achieving the Community Outcomes and vision.

The Kāpiti Coast Community Outcomes Monitoring Report provides a preliminary snapshot of progress towards the Community Outcomes of *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – the Community Plan*.

The seven Community Outcomes developed through extensive community consultation are:

1. There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy
2. Local character is retained within a cohesive District
3. The nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals
4. The District’s resources are used wisely
5. There is increased choice to work locally
6. The District is a place that works for young people
7. The District has a strong healthy and involved community

A set of indicators has been developed to measure progress in each outcome. These have been supplemented by examples and key milestones that have been reached. The findings for each outcome are summarised below.

The Council is continuing to work on the development of a Genuine Progress Index – a way of measuring cumulative progress across the areas of environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing.

Outcome 1 – There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy

The community's intent

There is a very strong desire for major elements of the natural environment to fundamentally shape the future of the District. But that vision is more than just retaining what is left. It is about restoring bush, streams, rivers, and habitat for birds and other species with Kāpiti Island at the centre.

How we are doing

The community's vision for the Kāpiti Coast's natural environment as expressed in the 2003/2004 Community Plan consultation process is simple: maintain and build on valued natural qualities. While community-led environmental groups and other agencies working in partnership with Council have done much to achieve or promote this aim in recent years, there are still areas for concern. Most notably, there continues to be strong concern voiced about the environmental impacts of urban and commercial development in the District, about the loss of native forest and other ecologically valuable or recreational areas, as well as the very poor quality of some of the District's waterways.

Outcome 2 – Local character is retained within a cohesive District

The community's intent

This outcome expresses the view that Kāpiti Coast is a place of distinct communities. While wanting the character of each area protected, people also want their local communities to exist within a district-wide sense of community. The outcome also addresses issues of accessibility and connectivity as well as design and quality all of which contribute to local character and a sense of community.

How we are doing

The Local Outcome Statements provide specific lists of projects that will contribute to local character and the community's vision. Progress is still largely confined to the planning and design stages. Kāpiti Coast District Council used the Local Outcome Statements as the key ingredient in formulating plan changes, design guides, strategies and work programmes.

There are numerous examples of where plans for new development have attempted to enhance local character rather than simply modify it. Due to the relatively lengthy time-frames involved in development projects, this progress report has largely focused on presenting examples of planning mechanisms. Future progress reports will be able to assess the "on the ground" impact of these planning mechanisms in greater detail. However, already a number of Council initiated projects are achieving some Outcome Two goals – Paekākāriki's Main Street and Paraparaumu's Maclean Street upgrades are some early examples.

Improved physical cohesion throughout the District in the form of new roading infrastructure and transport mode integration is still largely confined to the design stage. The Council is limited in its ability to directly effect change, and progress is slow. Many

infrastructure initiatives require support, action and funding from other organisations. Council has also been involved in extensive consultation with key stakeholders in order to progress the District's priorities, such as public transport, walking and cycling, and connectivity issues. Negotiating and coordinating these issues is slow but progress is being made. The next few years will see work on significant projects such as the Western Link Road and double rail to Waikanae, with progress to be reported on in the next Community Plan review.

Outcome 3 – The nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals

The community's intent

Any settlement will have a history of actively seeking new population in order to pay for collective services and to achieve some thresholds for the community. New population growth must contribute to the development of a local economy, support better social services, be located to make efficient use of existing infrastructure and contribute to vibrant town centres. This is not a “no growth” vision, but is a vision of not being simply reactive to growth proposals.

How we are doing

Kāpiti Coast District Council is developing the framework to ensure that development is managed in a way that brings community benefits, is sustainable and makes efficient use of infrastructure.

It is a little too early to see the impact of this framework on the ground. However, development appears to be concentrating in the areas that are the focus of consolidation. As with Outcome 2, there are relatively lengthy time-frames involved in development projects. Future progress reports will be able to assess the “on the ground” impact of development management in greater detail.

Outcome 4 –The District's resources are used wisely

The community's intent

Efficient use of resources, conserving finite resources, and making sensible use of renewable resources is also part of the community's vision, focusing on five main areas: the coast, water, people, the use of rural lands and energy.

How we are doing

Are the District's resources being used wisely? ('wisely' in this context meaning using, conserving and renewing resources with an increasing focus on sustainability and minimisation of adverse environmental impact). This section has not addressed every one of the five key areas put forward by the community. However, the indications are that the community and Council are more aware and responsive to the need to reduce pollution and increase energy efficiency generally, as well as addressing the potential threats of climate change/peak oil scenarios. The imperative to adapt and respond to these impacts is taken into consideration in many of the Council's activities, from

roading, stormwater, through to recycling, subdivision design, and public transport. Nevertheless, there is much more that needs to be done in terms of shifting to renewable energy sources, reducing emission levels and encouraging the community to think and act sustainably. But the foundations have been put in place through key frameworks and strategies, both at a district wide level and regionally.

Outcome 5 – There is increased choice to work locally

The community's intent

Although employment opportunities in Wellington and elsewhere continue to be important, the community wants local people to have an increased choice to work locally, and to have that choice available to their children through a growing and sustainable local economy.

How we are doing

Over the last ten years there have been increasing opportunities for people to work locally. This is reflected in increases in numbers of local businesses and local jobs and increasing access to technology. Growth has also been evident across all industry sectors apart from the primary sector. This means that there is a range of employment opportunities for Kāpiti people, from business services through to construction. However the District is still reliant on the construction industry and retail sector and so is vulnerable in times of economic downturn. Increasing community concern and action around climate change and peak oil issues does show that there is a base of community strength and resilience to build on in difficult times.

Outcome 6 – The District is a place that works for young people

The community's intent

Many people voiced the desire for the Kāpiti Coast to be more responsive to the needs and aspirations of its young people. Young people of working age tend to leave the District. While there is benefit in people leaving and gaining experience and coming back, there are also issues with this loss of population. If young people feel more a part of the community they may actively seek to stay as they get older.

How we are doing

The community's vision is that the Kāpiti Coast provides a place that young people can enjoy and feel part of, where they can make the best of education and other opportunities and be encouraged to stay in the District as they grow older. There have been considerable improvements in the educational achievements of young people in the District and generally improved economic conditions are likely to have increased opportunities for young people to find employment locally. However there are also some aspects which continue to be of concern, in particular, the high level of teenage pregnancies, youth suicide and police apprehension for 14 to 16 year olds. Agencies working with young people in the District have recognised that they need to work together collaboratively to offer the most relevant and effective services for young people.

Other data indicates that young people are involved in a diverse variety of activities and are keen to participate in community life and decision-making.

Nevertheless, the key concern for the community is the tendency for young people not to remain in the District. One gap in information relating to the indicators is the feelings and perceptions of young people themselves. Planning for a survey of young people in 2009 is underway, the results of which will be used to target areas that are identified as important.

Outcome 7 – The District has a strong, healthy and involved community

The community's intent

This outcome is concerned with the health and wellbeing of each person. The other outcomes all contribute to people's enjoyment, engagement and confidence in the future of their local and District community. However, people also have a vision of individual physical health, accessibility and enjoyment. The vision also includes the idea of involvement and participation, not just as a contribution to community feeling, but because of an individual sense of value and control over their lives.

How we are doing

Are we a strong and involved community? Overall, with some qualifications, yes.

People on the Kāpiti Coast tend to live longer than most New Zealanders and in general are healthy and physically active. While we may earn less than our regional counterparts and an increasing number of us are retired people, we enjoy volunteering and getting involved in community activities and events.

Safety in the community is often a concern for people. The good news is that in the Kāpiti Coast District, criminal offence and family violence rates are below national rates. While road accidents are on the increase, fatalities and serious injuries from them are decreasing.

As is the case nationally, housing affordability is an issue in the District, and any gains in affordability from lower house prices are likely to be offset by increases in other costs of living. Most of our houses are likely to be inadequately insulated.

Kāpiti Coast residents have access to and use a wide range of places for recreation, leisure and social activities, although there is a need to keep these maintained and adapted to people's needs.

People are also involved in a wide range of groups and activities and there are high levels of volunteering. Voting rates indicate that we appear to be more interested in local elections than national elections but our participation in both is decreasing.

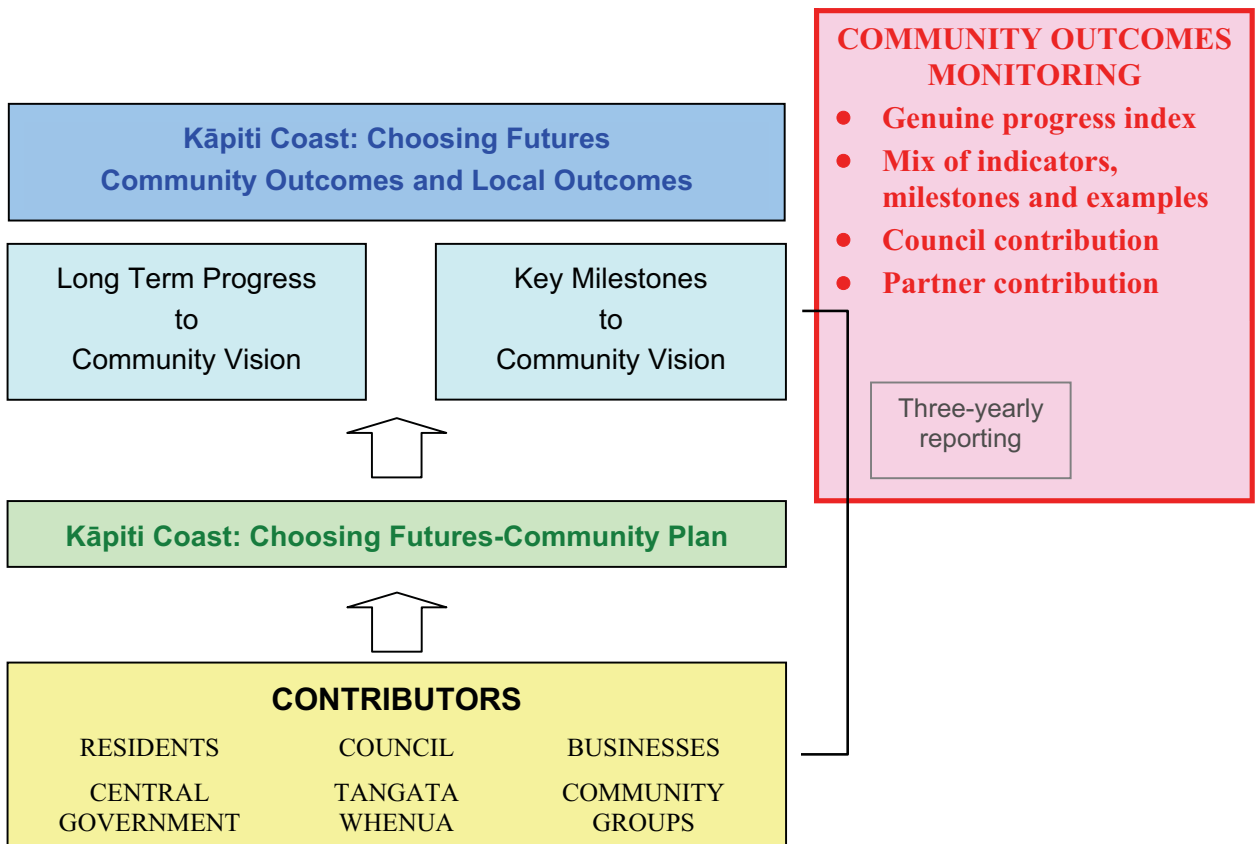
In general, we have a relatively good standard of living and quality of life. However this general picture tends to mask pockets of need across the District. This echoes concerns raised by social agencies operating in the District. The District does have a range of agencies that have demonstrated that they want to and will work together to directly address needs in the District and also advocate for improvements to services and facilities.

INTRODUCTION



The Kāpiti Coast Community Outcomes Monitoring Report provides a preliminary snapshot of progress towards the Community Outcomes of *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – the Community Plan*. The Local Government Act 2002 requires councils to report every three years on what progress has been made by either the Council or its community partners towards achieving the Community Outcomes and vision.

Achieving the Community Outcomes is no one person’s or organisation’s responsibility. A whole range of people, groups and agencies contribute to making the community vision a reality. Data in this report has come from a variety of sources. This reflects the fact that the work of many organizations contributes to achieving the community’s vision. This means many different things have been measured in different ways and over different time periods. It is not always possible to show results that can be easily compared with each other to show progress towards the vision over the period since the Community Outcomes were first developed in 2003/04.



Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures Community Outcomes...

*“Reaffirming the Kāpiti Coast lifestyle and culture
– with a sustainable emphasis”*

From June 2003 to September 2004 more than 4,500 people on the Kāpiti Coast District were involved in an extensive process of identifying the community’s vision for the future. The resulting themes and ideas were remarkably consistent, finding expression in seven Community Outcomes:

1. There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy
2. Local character is retained within a cohesive District
3. The nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals
4. The District’s resources are used wisely
5. There is increased choice to work locally
6. The District is a place that works for young people
7. The District has a strong healthy and involved community

Based on this extensive community consultation, the Council developed a programme designed to implement these outcomes. The result was *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – the Community Plan*. This was adopted by the Council in June 2004, subsequently reviewed and amended in 2006, and republished in 2007.

Identifying the indicators to measure progress...

The 2006 Community Plan identified that progress towards achieving the Community Outcomes would be measured in two ways:

- with a Genuine Progress Index made up of measures across all areas of well-beings – environmental, economic, social and cultural
- measuring achievement in each outcome area.

The Community Plan also presented a range of possible long term indicators of progress and key milestones.

At this stage the Genuine Progress Index has not been fully developed – it remains a work in progress. Producing this monitoring report has provided the opportunity to test the appropriateness of indicators and milestones and how they may be used to develop a Genuine Progress Index.

What is a Genuine Progress Index?

A Genuine Progress Index or GPI aims to give an holistic assessment of economic, social, cultural and environmental progress. Traditionally “progress” has been measured by changes in GDP or Gross Domestic Product. The development of Genuine Progress Index has grown out of concerns that GDP (or measuring the production of goods) does not accurately reflect how societies and communities were really doing. A GPI uses a broad base of indicators such as the state of the environment, health, safety and civic engagement to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of progress.

A GPI is also being developed for the Wellington Regional Strategy. This provides an opportunity to explore alignment of indicators at the local and regional levels.

The indicators proposed in the 2006 Community Plan have been reviewed to make sure that they are simple and easy to understand, reliable, repeatable and relevant.

The monitoring report uses the reviewed indicators, milestones and examples to describe how we are progressing towards each of the seven Community Outcomes.

Presentation of Outcomes

Progress is assessed and presented for each outcome. The indicators used are listed then discussed in detail including why they are important, what we looked at and what we found. Examples that show what progress has been made towards each outcome are included as boxed text throughout the document.

Limitations of information

For some areas there is no statistical information available or it is not available at this stage. For example, people's feelings and perceptions are important indicators of progress towards the Community Outcomes. Currently there is very little local information on people's perceptions of their community and their environment. This is an area that needs to be further examined for the next monitoring report.

OUTCOME 1: The district has healthy natural systems which people can enjoy



This outcome is concerned with the preservation and enhancement of natural areas, their native flora and fauna and ensuring that the community can access and enjoy these areas in a safe and sustainable way. But this vision is more than just retaining what is left, it is about restoring bush, streams, rivers, and habitat for birds. It is about creating natural 'green corridors' with Kāpiti Island at the centre, which flow across the coastal plain into the Tararua Ranges.

The key indicators used to measure how the community has progressed since 2003/2004 towards this Outcome include:

- The level of biodiversity is reflected in the abundance of native plants
- The increase in the area of wildlife habitat with reference to coastal and inland replanting and protection efforts
- The number of active environmental restoration groups
- The amount of native bush with legal protection
- Extent of cycleways, walkways and bridleways system
- Local people using and enjoying the cycleways, walkways and bridleways system
- Water quality
- Soil health

1. BIODIVERSITY

Why is this important?

Encouraging an abundance of native plants is essential to creating and sustaining healthy ecosystems. Native birds, reptiles, invertebrates and micro-organisms depend on plants for their survival, and the greater the range and abundance of native plant species the greater the abundance and diversity of other life forms.

The Kāpiti District has lost 90% of its native lowland forest and even higher percentages of its native coastal dune and wetland plant communities. Protecting and enhancing what is left is vital to:

- preserve what remains of the genetic diversity unique to the plants of the area
- sustain the life that depends on the plants, and
- create the potential to restore the healthy ecosystems that people want to enjoy.

Native plants have many positive environmental effects such as absorbing greenhouse gases, preventing erosion and improving water quality. They also carry considerable cultural value. Restoring native bush and other native plant communities is regarded as an important social good.

Supporting measures

No single agency is responsible for monitoring native plant abundance in any one area but there are individual agencies – for example, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Department of Conservation – that carry out monitoring of specific vegetation plots from time to time¹.

Kāpiti Coast District Council continues to support a range of measures that increase the abundance of native plant species:

- the identification of significant remnant native plant communities and their designation as Ecological Sites, giving them protection in the District Plan
- the covenanting of significant remnants on private land
- providing funds for protection and enhancement of significant remnants on private land through the Heritage Fund
- providing financial incentives for good management of significant remnants on private land through rates relief
- pest animal control in its reserves to prevent damage by browsing
- invasive weed control in its reserves to stop weeds competing with native species and preventing regeneration and succession
- development planning that includes native habitat restoration and the use of native plants for landscaping
- propagating, distributing and planting thousands of native plants annually

¹ Monitoring of vegetation plots is a scientifically rigorous method of assessing changes in plant populations in an area. There are such vegetation plots on Kapiti Island but they are monitored only irregularly and not recently.

- collaborating in Greater Wellington Regional Council's Key Native Ecosystem programme to maintain native plants (and animals) in special areas such as the Matai Huka Reserve.

Weed control programmes

Since 2004 Kāpiti Coast District Council has successfully controlled invasive weeds in its Waikanae bush reserves and in the Mataihuka Reserve on the Raumati escarpment. In partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council there have been weed control programmes initiated in the coastal dunelands, where boneseed, evergreen buckthorn and boxthorn are being targeted. Kāpiti Coast District Council funding comes mainly from the Parks and Reserves budget with some funding from central government through the Biodiversity Condition Fund.

There are also efforts by individual volunteers and environmental groups that carry out planting restoration projects or programmes in different areas of the District. Care groups, which receive Kāpiti Coast District Council funding, also do weed control work and planting. These groups are supported in a variety of ways by the Council, for instance, they receive advice and guidance from the Biodiversity Advisor, planting assistance from Council staff, support from staff when applying for central government funding, and, in the case of Nga Uruora, through contracting their members to carry out specific weed control and planting work.

2. WILDLIFE HABITAT

The loss of most of the District's native lowland and coastal wildlife habitat resulted in the local extinction of many species and significance decreases in the populations of many others. Protecting and enhancing what remains of the district's native biodiversity is reliant, in large part, on increasing the area of wildlife habitat.

The Council has supported this measure primarily through its Heritage Fund and Riparian Fund. Since 2004 the Council has provided:

- grants to 18 landowners through the Heritage Fund who have helped protect and enhance 71 hectares of wildlife habitat;
- \$70,500 in rates relief to rate payers with Ecological Sites on their land who have agreed to protect and enhance wildlife habitat by covenanting, fencing off, pest animal and weed control, and restoration planting;
- \$50,000 in grants from the Riparian Fund to 17 landowners for the fencing off and restoration planting of riparian margins. Long-term, this will result in significant habitat gains by helping to create new wildlife corridors and improving the water quality in rivers and streams.

In addition, the Council is collaborating with the Greater Wellington Regional Council in its Coastal Dune Restoration Strategy. The strategy aims to restore the severely degraded coastal dune habitat through invasive weed and pest animal control followed by the planting of native species such as spinifex and pingao.

The Council has supported the protection and enhancement of the nationally significant Te Hapua Wetlands. Through grants from the Heritage Fund for fencing, covenanting, weed control and restoration planting, and by assisting with applications to other funding agencies, the Council has helped landowners to improve the 58 hectare wetland as a wildlife habitat. The wetland now has the highest density of Queen Elizabeth II Trust covenants in the country.

Plan Change 55A (Ecological Sites Update) redefined the wetland's boundaries to better represent the extent and values of the area. In the plan change process it was agreed that the Council would purchase a network of hydrological monitoring stations to provide clear data on this key Ecological Site. Up to \$25,000 will be spent on this project.

The Ecological Sites Update identified new sites and more accurately defined many others, including the large area of the western Tararua Ranges managed by the Department of Conservation. These areas of wildlife habitat are now protected in the District Plan.

Waikanae Estuary Care Group

Founding and supporting community-based environmental care groups is a key part of the Coastal Dune Restoration Strategy. The Council helped found and secure funding for the Waikanae Estuary Care Group and, along with the Department of Conservation, commissioned a restoration plan developed by leading ecologist Dr Geoff Park. The plan describes the tidal area of the Waikanae Estuary as "one of the more significant unmodified areas for indigenous wildlife habitat in the lower North Island."

The group is two years into an ambitious plan to restore the entire 75 hectare estuary, greatly increasing the area of what is potentially the district's richest wildlife habitat.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION GROUPS

There is limited funding from central and local government for environmental work. Increasingly therefore, the efforts of individual volunteers and environmental groups are critical in maintaining, restoring and promoting healthy ecosystems through weed control, planting programmes and lobbying. The efforts of these groups have already significantly helped in shaping the natural areas of the District. Thousands of plants have been established over the past four years. As indicated in the previous section, the Council offers support to these groups in a number of ways.

Table 1: Regional distribution of environmental care groups

	2005-06 numbers	%	2006-07 numbers	%
Kāpiti Coast	13	40	12	39
Porirua	2	6	3	10
Hutt Valley	6	19	4	13
Wellington	5	16	6	19
Wairarapa	6	19	6	19
Total	32	100	31	100

There are currently 20 diversely funded groups active on the Kāpiti Coast (as at 2007-08). These include:

- Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park
- Nga Uruora
- Guardians of Whareroa Farm
- DUNE (Delivering and Understanding of the Natural Environment)
- Keep Paraparaumu Beautiful
- Keep Ōtaki Beautiful
- Keep Waikanae Beautiful
- Waikanae Estuary Care Group
- Waikanae Estuary Guardians
- Nga Manu Trust/Nature Reserve
- Waimeha Lagoon Restoration Group
- Friends of the Greendale Reserve
- Friends of the Waikanae River
- Friends of the Ōtaki River
- Friends of Te Hapua Dunes and Wetlands
- Te Horo Beach Care/Mangaone Restoration
- Mangapouri Stream Research and Restoration Project
- Waitohu Stream Care
- Kāpiti-Mana Branch of Forest and Bird
- Kāpiti Environmental Action Inc (active since 1990, disbanded 2008)

Ōtaki Friends of the River

The Friends of the Ōtaki River is made up of committed members of the community, riparian landowners and representatives from local bodies, iwi, environmental and recreational groups.

The Friends' purpose is to represent the community in the management and development of the Ōtaki River and its environment. The group has been carrying out restoration work (planting and weed control) on the Ōtaki River and at the river mouth lagoon. The group obtained and now run their own nursery, and the quality of the plants put in along the river and lagoon is a testament to the success of this facility.

The Friends also monitor the management of the river for flood protection, working with Greater Wellington Regional Council. In May 2008 the Friends organised a public celebration of the opening of the eastern walkway along the Ōtaki River. This complemented the first section of the walkway (from the sea to SH1) which had been opened in 2007. The efforts of the Friends of the Ōtaki River were recognised by a conservation award (Habitat Restoration) in 2007 by Greater Wellington.

The Waikanae Headwaters Vegetation Framework

This project has worked with landowners to develop a catchment level vision of planting and vegetation management for the Waikanae River Headwaters. Setting out a "vegetation framework" would provide wide catchment and community benefits, such as improved water quality and soil protection, as well as direct benefits to individual landowners on their land. It has been undertaken by a group of independent consultants with support from Greater Wellington Regional Council, Porirua City Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council as well as the Ministry for the Environment.

The Council's Biodiversity Advisor

Since 2003, the Biodiversity Advisor has overseen the mapping of more than 200 ecological sites on public and private land in the District. These include wetlands, bush remnants, riparian margins and large tracts of regenerating bush bordering on the Tararua Ranges. Most of these sites are now protected under the District Plan, and the Biodiversity Advisor encourages their good management and enhancement by providing

advice and financial incentives through the Heritage and Rates Remission Funds. In the 2007/08 financial year, grants from the Heritage Fund resulted in the protection of 6.5ha of wetland, and 5.92ha of forest through covenant, and provided management assistance to 15.9ha of wetland and 137.2ha of native forest. Kāpiti now has the highest number of covenanted areas in the Greater Wellington region. The Biodiversity Advisor also supports the work of environmental care groups.

4. NATIVE BUSH WITH LEGAL PROTECTION

Unless native bush areas are legally protected through covenants or other means, they are liable to be developed in other ways. Covenanting an area establishes its value and status for the future, ensuring for example that vegetation won't be damaged through stock feeding. Covenanting includes a specific management plan (which varies according to the area) which not only prevents damage and development, but also provides for active restoration. There are various ways to obtain a covenant on an area, but there are specific criteria and the process is a formal and rigorous one. Some covenants, such as Queen Elizabeth II Trust covenants, are protected by statute and are included permanently on land titles.

While the following information has been included in this report, it should be noted that the regularity and consistency of monitoring changing land use needs to be improved. With this goal in mind, inter-agency discussions are underway with a view to establishing a comprehensive baseline for future Community Plans and other reporting purposes.

Reserve Land

According to the most recent data available (2004), the District comprises 73,040 hectares, of which 565 hectares or approximately 0.8% is reserve land. This doesn't include Department of Conservation land, which totals 39,731 hectares.

Eco sites

There has been a small increase in the amount of land designated as 'eco sites' (site of ecological significance) from 45,100 hectares in 2003 to 45,990 hectares in 2008.

Coastal plain with native bush

As at 2001 (which is the last available figure from NZ Land Cover database) the proportion of coastal plain covered in native bush totalled 300hectares out of 16,400 hectares or 1.8%.

5. CYCLEWAYS, WALKWAYS AND BRIDLEWAYS NETWORK

Origins of the network

The District extends north-south approximately 45km from Paekākāriki in the south to Ōtaki in the north. Within that area the natural environment is varied, from coastal dunes to forested ranges, with a number of connected yet distinct communities along its stretch. The Waikanae and Ōtaki Rivers provide natural corridors from the hills to the sea.

With increased development of the District came increased traffic and the need for cyclists, pedestrians and horse-riders to travel safely through the District's busier areas. In November 2002, a Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Working Group, formed by Council and comprising community and advocacy representatives, developed a Strategy to provide a consistent vision over 15 to 20 years for the provision and upgrading of facilities for cycling, walking and riding throughout the District.

Community feedback around the time of the Community Plan in 2004 also supported this initiative by indicating the lack of a comprehensive network of pathways and facilities to link the District's communities to provide for continuous access and the needs of different users.

Improvements and extensions

Table 2 identifies some key changes in the provision of this network between 2004 and 2008. As improvements and extensions are added this information is included in each annual update of the brochure *Walking and Cycling on the Kāpiti Coast* available at Council Service Centres and Visitor Information Centres.

Table 2: Key changes in the Cycleway, Walkway and Bridleway network 2004-2008

Facilities existing as at 2004	CWB improvements and extensions up to and including 2008
Kāpiti Coast District Walkway/Cycleway from Paekākāriki to Peka Peka	The Wharemauku Stream path
Queen Elizabeth Park	Otaihanga Road/Ratanui Road shared path
Pathway/tracks within reserves	Mataihuka Lookout track
Tramping/walking tracks within Tararua foothills	Rahui Road Ōtaki Railway Station
Wharemauku Stream walkway (Paraparaumu)	Old Coach Road to Ōtaki River bank (private property)
Guildford Drive off-road cycle path (Paraparaumu)	Campbell's Mill Road (Crown land)
Mazengarb Road cycle/pedestrian facilities	Rutherford Road to Pharazyn Reserve shared path
Tasman Road shared pedestrian/cycle	Kāpiti Road shared path, also upgrading

Facilities existing as at 2004	CWB improvements and extensions up to and including 2008
path (Ōtaki)	carried out
Marked cycle lane partway along Kāpiti Road	Upgrades/new Waikanae River track developments on north bank.
Waikanae and Ōtaki Rivers walkways	Waikanae River pedestrian links across private property
	Otaihanga footbridge
	Ōtaki River – opening of eastern walkway

6. PEOPLE

While it is not possible at this stage to comment on the number of people utilising and enjoying the walkways system it is possible to report more generally on physical activity in the community.

A survey of Kāpiti Coast residents in May 2006 found that more than 25% of all respondents engaged in outdoor fitness activity on a daily basis, with walking, swimming and cycling being among the most popular forms of physical activity. Eighty per cent said they engaged in brisk walking for an average of 4 hours and 27 minutes per week. However nearly 50% of them travel outside Kāpiti Coast for recreation on a regular basis.

The Physical Activity Plan presented to Council in April 2007 said that people who have access to the right physical environment are more likely to be physically active, and it identified a number of goals against the Community Plan's Community Outcome One. These were:

- linked walkways, cycle ways and bridleways
- beaches, rivers, parks, reserves, waterways and other natural areas are used every day by people for transport and recreation.

These goals support and align with the vision of the Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy. More generally, it is estimated that the average distance a person in the District travels to get to a park or reserve area is around 200 metres (ideally the routes would be restricted to roads and paths), and again this supports the Community Plan's call for easy access to recreation areas. Outcome Seven includes more information on access to recreation areas.

7. WATER QUALITY

*Kia pakari te tinana, kia oho te wairua,
Kia piki te kaha o te tāngata.*

Sustaining life is the most important aspects of all water-bodies. A healthy resource gives rise to diverse life forms and therefore increases the mana of that place.

The importance of maintaining the quality of the District's water sources and supply is self-evident. The following section looks at recreational water quality for freshwater and marine water. The quality of water in which recreational shellfish gathering takes place is also examined. Finally, the aquatic ecosystem health of Kāpiti Coast's freshwater sites is commented on.

Greater Wellington Regional Council, in partnership with its constituent councils, is responsible for managing water quality in lakes, rivers, streams and beaches in the Wellington region for public water supply, recreation and amenity, fish spawning and aquatic ecosystem health.

The quality of Kāpiti Coast water is also important to tāngata whenua in relation to kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

The quality of fresh and coastal waters is assessed through monitoring of water quality and ecosystem health. A healthy aquatic ecosystem will:

- be balanced in terms of water quality and biodiversity
- not pose risks to human health
- not impact adversely on the receiving waters.

The following information is drawn from a number of annual reports by Greater Wellington Regional Council ² and compares results from sites throughout the Wellington Region, which have been monitored regularly since 2006-2008).

Recreational water quality in freshwater

2006/07

Two of the four sites monitored on the Kāpiti Coast (one on the Waikanae River and the other on the Ōtaki River) exceeded the action guideline of the Ministry of Health/Ministry for the Environment (MfE/MOH) recreational water quality guidelines on one occasion in late January 2007. This event coincided with heavy rain. Thick

² Greater Wellington Regional Council publications 'On the Beaches 2006/07 Annual recreational water quality monitoring report for the Wellington region' J.R. Milne. 'On the Beaches 2007/08' by Alice Ryan and Summer Warr, and 'Annual freshwater quality monitoring report for the Wellington region 2006/07' by Alton Perrie.

growth of potentially toxic blue-green algae in the Ōtaki and Waikanae Rivers in February 2007 prompted the Council to issue a media release and erect health warning signs.

2007/08

None of the four sites monitored exceeded the action guideline over this period. However, some growth of potentially toxic cyanobacteria was observed in the Waikanae River at Jim Cooke Park from mid-December 2007 onwards, prompting the Council to erect health warning signs which remained in place for the rest of the summer bathing season.

Recreational water quality in marine waters

2006/07

Seven of 20 marine sites exceeded the guideline, a significant improvement on the 2005/06 season when 14 sites exceeded guideline provisions, with nine sites exceeding the guideline on two or more occasions. In 2006/07, one site – Ōtaki Beach at Rangiorua Road – exceeded the guideline more than once.

2007/08

Nine of the 20 marine sites monitored exceeded the action guidelines. Of these, three sites exceeded the guideline more than once. These instances coincided with significant rainfall prior to sampling; moderate winds and turbid water were also recorded at some sites, and these factors could have contributed to the results.

The Council collected additional samples following all breaches of the action guideline. The results of these follow-up samples complied with the surveillance guideline, indicating that no further management action was required.

Regional comparison

Forty-three of the 77 marine sites monitored over the 2007/08 bathing season exceeded the action guideline, although many of these (26 sites) exceeded it on only one occasion. The number of sites that yielded samples which measured below the action guideline threshold was less than for the preceding year. The majority of the 66 instances requiring follow-up action were associated with at least 10 mm of rainfall in the three days prior to sampling. Elevated bacterial counts in marine waters are often related to urban stormwater (including sewer overflows), diffuse-source runoff into rivers and streams and re-suspension of sediments during rainfall events.

Table 3: Summary of action guideline breaches from routine weekly monitoring at 77 marine sites over the 2007/08 summer bathing season

No of times site exceeded action level	No. of sites in each exceedance category						
	Kāpiti (20 sites)	Porirua (15 sites)	Hutt (15 sites)	Wgtn (22 sites)	W'rapa (5 sites)	Total sites	% of sites
0	11	7	1	11	4	34	44.1
1	6	7	6	6	1	26	33.8
2	3	0	5	3	0	11	14.3
3	0	1	3	2	0	6	7.8

Recreational shellfish gathering water quality

Tests carried out by Greater Wellington Regional Council at sites in the region tested the quality of the water around shellfish gathering areas using Ministry of Health/Ministry for the Environment guidelines. However the guidelines do not define a shellfish gathering season, nor can they be used to ascertain if the shellfish are actually safe to eat. Sites were sampled weekly during the season (defined by the Council as being the same as the bathing season, i.e., November to end of March) and at least monthly during the remainder of the year.

All sampling and evaluation of results were undertaken in accordance with the recreational water quality guidelines where possible. The approach taken was to align the gathering season with the summer bathing season even though it is acknowledged that shellfish gathering is likely to occur year-round at many sites.

2006/07

None of the three monitoring sites (Ōtaki Beach Surf Club, Peka Peka Beach at Road End, and Raumati Beach at Hydes Road) complied with the guidelines for this period. There are two criteria in the guidelines, both of which must be met for compliance. Ōtaki Beach and Peka Peka Beach exceeded both criteria.

2007/08

The results for this season were similar to the previous season, with none of the three monitoring sites complying.

Freshwater quality

The Greater Wellington Regional Council conducts a range of freshwater quality monitoring. Surface water quality has been routinely monitored in the western half of the Wellington region since 1987 and in the Wairarapa since 1991. In that time the programme has evolved to improve the range and quality of the information collected. Currently, 56 river and stream sites (including 11 Kāpiti Coast sites) are monitored.

River and stream water quality is assessed at monthly intervals by measuring a range of physical, chemical and microbiological variables. In addition, there are assessments of in-stream periphyton and macroinvertebrate communities during stable/low flows in summer/autumn, as these are both important indicators of water quality.

Water quality is summarised using the Water Quality Index which uses the median of six key variables to give an overall water quality grade for each site.

Table 4 shows the quality of water at Kāpiti Coast sites with a number of poor quality sites.

Table 4: Water Quality Index grades for sites monitored at monthly intervals over June 2006 to July 2007 inclusive³

Rank	Site Name	Guideline compliance (median values)					
		Dissolved oxygen	Clarity	E. coli	Nitrate nitrogen	Ammoniacal nitrogen	Dissolved reactive phosphorus
Excellent water quality							
14	Waitohu S at Forest Pk	√	√	√	√	√	√
16	Ōtaki R at Pukehinau	√	√	√	√	√	√
17	Ōtaki R at Mouth	√	√	√	√	√	√
Good water quality							
21	Waikanae R at Mangaone Walkway	√	√	√	√	√	x
23	Waikanae R at Greenaway Rd	√	√	√	√	x	√
Poor water quality							
46	Mangapouri S at Rahui Rd	√	x	x	x	x	√
50	Whareroa S at QE Park	√	x	x	√	x	x
53	Ngarara S at Field Way	x	x	x	√	x	x
54	Waitohu S at Norfolk Cres	√	x	x	x	x	x
55	Mangaone S at Sims Rd Br	√	x	x	x	x	x
56	Mangapouri S at Bennetts Rd	x	x	x	x	x	x

√ = complies, x = does not comply.

Periphyton assessments

³ Adapted from Table 3.2 on page 8 of the Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Freshwater monitoring report 2006/07.

Periphyton is the slime and algae found on the bed of streams and rivers. It serves as an important food source for most other forms of stream life including invertebrates and fish. It can also absorb contaminants.

Six Kāpiti Coast sites were assessed on a monthly basis against MfE periphyton guidelines. Two sites, Waikanae River at Greenaway Road and Whareroa Stream at Waterfall Road, exceeded the guidelines on one occasion.

Macroinvertebrates

Macroinvertebrates are aquatic animals without a spine which are visible to the naked eye, such as snails, insect larvae and crayfish. They are important because they form an integral part of the aquatic ecosystem and are widely used as indicators of pollution when testing for stream health. They are also an important part of the food chain, being an essential food source for fish, frogs, and birds.

Sampling was undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council at 56 sites throughout the Greater Wellington region during late summer/early autumn of 2007. The Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI – an index of sensitivity to a complex of environmental variables – was used to summarise their health. Kāpiti Coast results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: MCI index for Kāpiti Coast sites

Site name	MCI quality class
Mangapouri Stream at Rahui Road	Fair
Mangapouri Stream at Bennetts Road	Poor
Waitohu Stream at Forest Park	Excellent
Waitohu Stream at Norfolk Cres	Good
Ōtaki River at Pukehinau	Excellent
Ōtaki River at Mouth	Good
Mangaone Stream at Sims Rd Br	Poor
Ngarara Stream at Field Way	Poor
Waikanae River at Mangaone Walkway	Excellent
Waikanae River at Waterfall Rd	Good
Whareroa Stream at Waterfall Rd	Good
Whareroa Stream at QE Park	Poor

Regional comparison

Based on Macroinvertebrate Community Index scores, the majority of the 56 sites monitored throughout the region received quality classifications of “good” (21 sites) or “excellent” (14 sites). Fourteen sites were classified as “fair” and seven sites were classed as “poor” (and Kāpiti had four of these).

The findings suggest that water quality and macroinvertebrate health is strongly influenced by land cover. Water Quality Index and Macroinvertebrate Community Index scores are highest (i.e., best) at sites located on hill-fed river and stream reaches under predominantly indigenous forest cover (for example, Ōtaki and Waikanae Rivers). In contrast, sites with poor scores were all located on low elevation reaches – predominantly small streams – draining pastoral or urban catchments.

8. SOIL HEALTH

Why is this important?

The soils of the Wellington region provide a habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna and support a wide range of agricultural practices. Maintaining the health and stock of high quality soils is fundamental to the sustainability of the region. The Greater Wellington Regional Council carries out annual monitoring of soil health in the region, on a rotating set of variables.

The function of a soil is not only to support plant growth, soils also store, regulate and filter water and chemicals. These other soil functions have been given a lesser priority in the past, the main focus being on increasing soils productivity. However, research has shown that all the properties of soils need to be maintained to ensure the most efficient and sustainable use of soils and to protect the environment.

In 2008 the Greater Wellington Regional Council carried out (dry stock) soil sampling at a number of sites throughout the region, including two sites on the Kāpiti Coast (Ōtaki and Te Horo). However, no resampling of any sites has yet been undertaken and until the sites have been sampled three times, it will not be possible to determine any trends in soil quality with any confidence. However it is possible to comment that soil compaction (from stock) and fertility levels of soil are important issues. At the Ōtaki sites, for example, compaction issues, as well as high nutrient levels from horticultural and stock activities, were evident.

OUTCOME 1 – THE WORK OF KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Since the 2003/2004 Community Plan consultation process, Local Outcomes Statements have been published for Waikanae North, Raumati South, Raumati, Paraparaumu Beach, Paraparaumu Town, Paekākāriki, and Ōtaki. These Statements give local application and focus to the broader Community Outcomes.

As well as these more locally focused action plans, the Council has also developed other major policy framework documents. The ones that have particular relevance to Outcome One are:

- The *Coastal Strategy* aims to ensure that the community's vision to restore, protect and enhance the wild and natural feel of the coast is achieved. The Strategy will determine the management of coastal activities, access, recreation, harvesting, the natural and built environments and coastal hazards over the next twenty years.
- The *Development Management Strategy* aims to provide the Kāpiti Coast District with a framework for sustainable development, specifically for:
 - The management of location and intensity of growth pressures and change
 - Improvement to the quality of the built environment
 - The development management processes that Council will use over time.
- The Best Practice Subdivision Design Guide aims to provide planning and design advice to create liveable communities that are safe, sustainable and rich in amenities for users. Specifically, one of the design principles is that ecological and heritage features should be protected and enhanced.
- The Best Practice Rural Subdivision Design Guide, aimed at landowners, developers, planners, surveyors, architects and others, aims to encourage best practice subdivision design that helps ensure the qualities of the Kāpiti Coast rural areas are maintained and enhanced. The aim is to provide for win-win outcomes for the landowner, developer, community and the environment to provide for sustainable living in rural areas. The guide emphasises quality of design rather than strict adherence to the current District Plan rules and standards.

OUTCOME 1: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The community's vision for the Kāpiti Coast's natural environment, as expressed in the 2003/2004 Community Plan consultation process, is simple: maintain and build on valued natural qualities. While community-led environmental groups and other agencies working in partnership with the Council have done much to achieve or promote this aim in recent years, there are still areas for concern. Most notably, there continues to be strong concern voiced about the environmental impacts of urban and commercial development in the District, about the loss of native forest and other ecologically valuable or recreational areas, as well as the very poor quality of some of the District's streams.

OUTCOME 2: Local character is retained within a cohesive district



This outcome is concerned with recognising, protecting and preserving the unique character of various communities along the coast while also nurturing those things that create a sense of community as a whole. The concept of cohesion can be measured by improvements in social and physical interconnectivity (e.g. improved transport modes and social services across the District). There is more information relating to social cohesiveness under Outcome 7.

The key indicators used to measure how the community has progressed towards this Outcome include:

- the quality and effectiveness of planning mechanisms in relation to their impact on the character and cohesiveness of individual communities
- the range and quality of Council initiated development projects
- the level of improved interconnectivity achieved

1. PLANNING MECHANISMS

Why is this important

Planning for and managing land use is critical to protecting and enhancing what we value, while still enabling development to occur. Kāpiti Coast District Council plays a pivotal role in setting the framework for land use management in the District through the District Plan and other strategies. This framework includes:

- undertaking extensive community consultation
- developing a series of vision statements for each community
- developing topic based strategies to tackle the big issues
- developing design guides to communicate with developers and residents
- providing free ‘sustainability’ advice to residents
- lobbying other agencies for change or improvements to local infrastructure or services
- introducing new regulations into the District Plan to give greater guidance as to the form and shape of new development
- implementing the vision and strategies through the Community Plan funding process and initiating Council works programmes to make it happen on the ground.

What we looked at

- Local outcome statements
- District Plan changes and non-regulatory approaches

Local Outcome Statements

Critical to recognising, protecting and preserving the character of various communities has been the development of Local Outcomes Statements for the towns and villages in the District.

In 2003-2004, when the first consultation was undertaken to prepare the first Community Plan *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures*, among the actions was the commitment to work with local communities to give shape and form to their visions for their individual towns and villages. These localised outcome statements outline the local communities’ aspirations in relation to issues such as:

- the natural environment
- growth management
- protection of character and culture
- access
- efficient use of resources

Local Outcome Statements have been developed and adopted for:

- Paekākāriki
- Raumati Beach
- Raumati South

- Paraparaumu Town Centre
- Paraparaumu Beach
- Waikanae North
- The Greater Ōtaki Vision

Local Outcome Statements are underway for Otaihanga and Waikanae. Other local outcome statements will be produced in the future for smaller settlements such as Peka Peka and Te Horo.

Equipped with the Local Outcome Statements, the Council, private developers, community groups and other agencies have been given a vision for each community, so that they can retain and enhance their local character, but fit seamlessly within the rest of the District. Achieving the goals listed in the Local Outcome Statements can involve a range of programmes ranging from changes to the District Plan, submissions to other agencies, to physical works on the ground.

In terms of the indicator for this Outcome, it is the quality and effectiveness of these regulatory and non-regulatory strategies rather than the number produced that is being measured. There are some good examples of where Local Outcome Statements have had a considerable impact on the development of plan changes, non-regulatory design guides, strategies, and Council works programmes.

District Plan Changes

Since 2003, the Council has proposed a number of plan changes to the District Plan which are intended to retain or enhance individual character and shape future form and quality of the Districts settlements and surrounding areas. Some examples include:

- the Wharemauku Precinct Plan Change;
- the Paekākāriki and Raumati Beach Town Centre Plan Changes;
- the Waikanae north urban edge Plan Change; and
- the Ōtaki Subdivision Review

The advantages of using plan changes to steer the design of building and infrastructure development is that they are regulatory documents given legal weight by the Resource Management Act. However they require an extensive consultation process that can take a long time. They are also resource intensive to develop but, once in place, provide the Council with a solid basis to make decisions about development in specific areas. It is too early to ascertain the impact of these plan changes on the ground. In future progress reporting there will be greater opportunity to critique the effectiveness of these plan changes.

Non-regulatory mechanisms

In addition to regulatory controls there have also been a number of non-regulatory approaches to encourage the design of buildings and infrastructure in keeping with local

character. These provide a set of principles or a ‘how to’ guide for the Council and developers. Some that have been developed for the District are:

- the Best Practise Subdivision Guide;
- the Streetscape Strategy and Guideline;
- the Development Management Strategy;
- the Heritage Strategy;
- the Coastal Management Strategy;
- the Sustainable Transport Strategy; and
- Cycleway Walkway Bridleway Strategy

Generally these guides and strategies have been developed in collaboration with specialist designers (e.g. landscape architects or urban designers), with feedback from elected members, the public and key stakeholders.

Non-regulatory design guides and strategies are great education tools and can assist in the assessment of consent applications. They also help to send a clear message to new developers about the community’s vision and how it can be achieved. However they cannot be legally enforced and can be ineffective if they are not used by the intended audience. They can also set community expectations higher than what eventuates in reality. As with District Plan changes, it is a little too early to measure the effectiveness of these non-regulatory approaches.

Plan changes, non-regulatory policy guides or strategies will probably take many years to significantly affect the shape and form of future development, but already they are having an influence. They provide a level of reassurance that growth will be carefully managed so that it fits with local outcomes and those of the wider District. This is a significant milestone towards achieving Outcome Two and an indication that clear progress has been made towards translating the Kāpiti Coast community’s vision into reality.

2. COUNCIL PROJECTS

Council initiated work programmes can provide a more tangible and immediate picture of how local character is being retained and how effective planning mechanisms can be. There have been a number of Council staff positions and work programmes that are directly affecting local character, encouraging sustainable design, protecting heritage sites and improving local amenity and public places. Examples include:

- appointments of an Eco Design Advisor and Biodiversity Advisor
- Kāpiti Road-Maclean Street upgrade
- Ōtaki Railway Station upgrade
- Crystals Bend flood management work
- Paekākāriki Main Street improvements.

SHOWING WHAT CAN BE DONE

The following examples of Kāpiti District Coast Council initiated design guides, strategies and work programmes show what can be done to achieve Outcome Two. These projects also contribute to achieving many of the other Outcomes.

The Paekākāriki and Raumati Beach Town Centre Plan Changes

These plan changes set building and design standards to retain and enhance the character of these village settings. They also incorporate many of the principles of the Medium Density Plan Change and the Streetscape Guide, and are influenced by the Sustainable Transport Strategy.

A clear focus has been on planning for these locations in such a way that they retain their local feel and enhance those characteristics that make them special. For example, the design plan for Paekākāriki focuses on limiting the height of shop buildings, improving traffic and parking issues along the Main Street, and ensuring that the shopping area retains its beach-side quaintness and quirkiness by encouraging imaginative street furniture and signage design.

The Ōtaki Beach Subdivision Review

A key focus of this review involves limiting the subdivision of existing lots in order to retain the large section character of beach-side settlements.

Best Practise Subdivision Guide

This design guide encourages good design practices in new subdivisions so that they enhance local character and have a negligible impact on the environment and existing utilities.

The initial Kāpiti Road - Maclean Street Upgrade

This upgrade is the first of a range of physical works planned for the Paraparaumu Beach Town Centre, aimed at creating an entrance statement. It has involved making a new central island and a plinth for a public artwork (the 'Tui' sculpture). Other improvements included a footpath upgrade, kerb build-out and pedestrian crossing, cycle lanes, line marking and signage changes on Kāpiti Road. Specifically designed signage and street furniture, such as a chaise lounge seat and bollards, and small gardens put the finishing touches to upgrade.

3. ACCESS WITHIN AND BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

Since 2004 the Council has made significant gains toward improving access within and between communities. Many of the plan changes, design guides, strategies and public works discussed above have also covered streetscapes and pedestrian access. However there have been a number of key strategies and specific works programmes that have played an important role in either guiding or implementing an improved level of access within and between the Kāpiti Coast's communities. These include:

- Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy (as outlined in Outcome 1 page 10)
- Streetscape Strategy
- Ōtaki Railway Station and car park upgrade
- Sustainable Transport Strategy
- Western Link Road (discussed further in Outcome 4 page 48)

Streetscape Strategy

Its aim of this Strategy is to ensure streets are safe, high quality and appealing public spaces that have a major role in determining the character of an area and creating a link between communities. The Strategy has influenced public place upgrades by encouraging planners to give greater consideration to other transport modes (particularly walking), traffic calming infrastructure, improved aesthetics, and reducing the opportunity for crime to occur. Examples include Ihakara Street Paraparaumu and Main Street Ōtaki street upgrades.

The Ōtaki Railway Station and car park upgrade

This involves upgrading the railway building and adjacent car park to preserve the station's heritage building, develop capacity to cater for an extended inter-city rail network and increasing numbers of shoppers visiting the State Highway 1 shopping precinct. The upgrade involves increasing the number of car parks, putting in a new walkway that links with local roads, improving streetscape design, tree and garden planting, and enhancements to the train platform itself. To date, the following has been completed or is near completion:

- An extra 111 car parks, making a total of 156
- Planting a mixture of fruit trees and natives
- Cycleway and walkway from Arthur street through to Rahui road
- Standing area in front of the station building, which functions as an entrance-way as well as a pick-up and drop-off point
- Asphalt surface in the northern car park
- Seats for front of the Railway Station

Further parking, pedestrian and cycle-way facilities are also planned to coincide with the Waikanae Railway Station upgrade to ensure that sustainable transport choices are easier to make.

The Sustainable Transport Strategy

As part of the Sustainable Transport Strategy, the Council has adopted the new network hierarchy, in which provision for walking and cycling is required wherever possible. Trying to retrofit and allocate road corridor space on busy urban streets or through private or public property to expand the Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Network is also subject to considerable consultation and negotiation with landowners, the general public and special interest groups (such as the Horses Around Kapiti Group). This process is slow but ongoing with some significant achievements already made.

OUTCOME 2: THE WORK OF KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

The development of Local Outcome Statements, planning mechanisms and public works are the key Council activities that support this outcome.

The Council is about to begin a review of the District Plan. This will include full monitoring of the effectiveness of the current Plan. Some of this information has been included here where it is available. Further information will be available for the next progress report.

OUTCOME 2: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The Local Outcome Statements provide specific lists of projects that will contribute to local character and the community's vision. Progress is still largely confined to the planning and design stages. Kāpiti Coast District Council used the Local Outcome Statements as the key ingredient in formulating plan changes, design guides, strategies and work programmes.

There are numerous examples of where plans for new development have attempted to enhance local character rather than simply modify it. Due to the relatively lengthy time-frames involved in development projects, this progress report has largely focused on presenting examples of planning mechanisms. Future progress reports will be able to assess the "on the ground" impact of these planning mechanisms in greater detail. However, already a number of Council initiated projects are achieving some Outcome Two goals – Paekākāriki's Main Street and Paraparaumu's Maclean Street upgrades are some early examples.

Improved physical cohesion throughout the District in the form of new roading infrastructure and transport mode integration is still largely confined to the design stage. The Council is limited in its ability to directly effect change, and progress is slow. Many infrastructure initiatives require support, action and funding from other organisations. Council has also been involved in extensive consultation with key stakeholders in order to progress the District's priorities, such as public transport, walking and cycling, and connectivity issues. Negotiating and coordinating these issues is slow but progress is being made. The next few years will see work on significant projects such as the Western Link Road and double rail to Waikanae, with progress to be reported on in the next Community Plan review.

OUTCOME 3: The nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals



This outcome is concerned with the management of population changes and development. The community has clearly indicated that population growth needs to be managed in a way that brings benefits, not problems. This means making efficient use of existing infrastructure and services and contributing to the development of the local economy.

The key indicators used to measure how the community has progressed towards this Outcome are:

- Development management
- Level and distribution of population growth
- Level, type and location of new development

1. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Why this is important

The community needs to be confident that the framework is in place to make sure that development occurs in a way that is sustainable.

How have the Community Outcomes been translated into development management?
The Kāpiti Coast District Council has developed the Development Management Strategy and made changes to the District Plan to support the Strategy.

The Development Management Strategy supports the community outcomes by providing a more detailed framework for:

- management of location and intensity of growth pressures and change
- improvement to the quality of the built environment
- a development management process that the Council will use over time

Much of this has been covered in Outcome 2. This chapter will concentrate on those parts that relate to managing urban densities and large scale growth pressures.

The Development Management Strategy explicitly states that development will occur within a consolidation framework and that low density urban areas of the Coast will be maintained. This means that:

- Urban consolidation will focus on existing residential, industrial and commercial zones
- Intensification/medium density⁴ will be concentrated initially in Paraparaumu Town Centre and Paraparaumu Beach.
- Intensification in the future may focus on Waikanae Town Centre, Raumati South, Raumati Beach and Lindale, once transport investment issues around railway stations have been resolved
- An “urban edge” will be maintained at Waikanae, limiting urban-type development north of that edge, and removing development of a “new town” at Te Horo from future plans
- New urban development will focus on Waikanae North within the “urban edge”
- Further expansion of the coastal villages of Peka Peka and Te Horo Beach will be restricted.

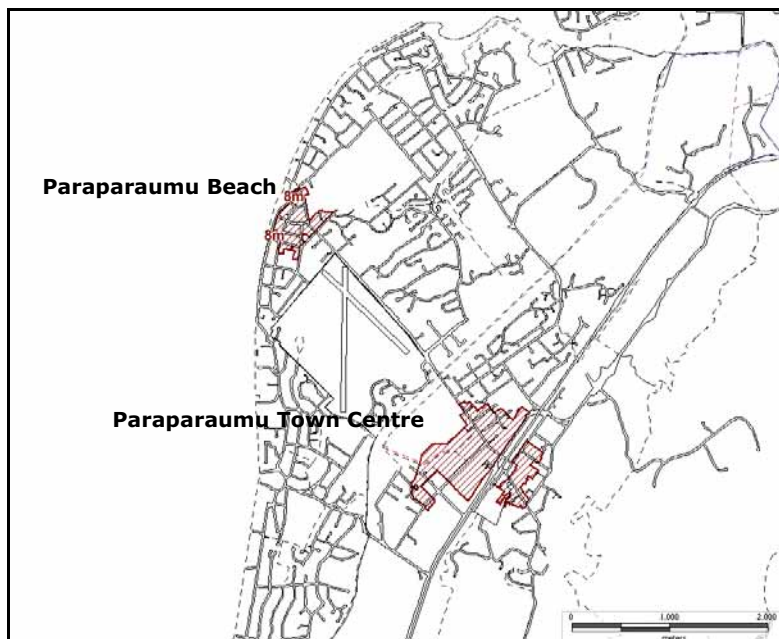
⁴ Intensification means accommodating more people within the existing urban area.

Medium density housing under the District Plan refers to any housing typology (detached, semi-detached, or terraced) falling within a GROSS average density range of 350m² – 250m² per unit with a minimum site area of 200m² and capable of containing an 8m diameter circle, involving four or more units. It does not include conventional ‘infill’ where a single house is placed on a single lot with an existing dwelling.

The key District Plan changes that support this are:

Plan Change 62 (operative 6/4/07) Medium Density Housing: that provides for medium density housing zones at Paraparaumu Town Centre and Paraparaumu Beach. It is supported by a medium density design guide.

Figure 1: Medium Density Zones



Plan Change 79 Waikanae North Urban Edge (notified – not operative): manages the expansion of residential development in an area north of Waikanae. It sets limits on the extent of urban expansion north of Waikanae, and seeks to minimise the impact of additional development on the natural environment. This plan change will ensure areas such as north Waikanae and Peka Peka retain their rural feel and new development fits with existing housing, the natural topography, and provides increased public amenity and housing choice.

2. POPULATION GROWTH

Why is this important

Tracking the rate of population growth and/or change and where it is occurring is an important way of seeing if the management of development is happening as planned.

What we looked at

- Population changes by area
- Population densities by area

Population changes by area

In 2006 Kāpiti had a population of 46,200 – an increase of 3,753 people or 8.8% percent since 2001. The strongest growth was in Paraparaumu and Waikanae (Table 6). Populations in Ōtaki and Paekākāriki have declined.

Table 6: Population by area for Kāpiti Coast District, 1996 to 2006

Township Area	Usually Resident Population - 1996 to 2006 Census					
	1996 Population	2001 Population	2006 Population	% change 1996 to 01	% change 2001 to 06	Actual change 2001 to 06
Ōtaki	5,580	5,643	5,466	1.1%	-3.1%	-177
Waikanae	8,511	9,372	10,230	10.1%	9.2%	858
Paraparaumu/Raumati	19,965	22,377	25,263	12.0%	12.9%	2,886
<i>Paraparaumu</i>	12,981	14,898	17,247	14.8%	15.8%	2,349
<i>Raumati</i>	6,984	7,479	8,016	7.1%	7.2%	537
Paekākāriki	1,671	1,731	1,602	3.6	-7.5%	-129
Rural Areas	2,856	3,333	3,639	16.8	9.2%	306
Total	38,583	42,456	46,200	10.0%	8.8%	3,744

Source: Statistics New Zealand Community Profile Census 2006 Kāpiti Coast District Council

Detailed population changes are measured every five years through the national census. As the last census was undertaken in 2006, it is likely to be too early to see marked population changes as a result of development management. A more detailed breakdown (Table 7) of the population changes does show that the largest growth (in terms of numbers) between 2001 and 2006 occurred in Paraparaumu Central and Paraparaumu Beach South – both areas targeted for medium density development.

Table 7: Population change by census area unit, 2001 to 2006

Township/area	Area Unit	Change 2001-2006	
		Numbers	%
Ōtaki		-177	-3.1%
	<i>Waikanae Beach</i>	444	18.1%
	<i>Waikanae East</i>	192	10.7%
	<i>Waikanae Park</i>	75	4.1%
	<i>Waikanae West</i>	144	4.4%
Waikanae		855	9.1%
	<i>Paraparaumu Beach North</i>	87	2.7%
	<i>Otaihanga</i>	117	11.8%
	<i>Paraparaumu Beach South</i>	753	19.2%
	<i>Paraparaumu Central</i>	1,392	20.4%
Paraparaumu		2,349	15.8%
	<i>Raumati Beach</i>	309	7.4%
	<i>Raumati South</i>	222	6.7%
Raumati		531	7.1%
Paekākāriki		-132	-7.6%
	<i>Peka Peka</i>	57	29.2%
	<i>Kaitawa</i>	84	21.5%
	<i>Ōtaki Forks</i>	-69	-4.7%
	<i>Te Horo</i>	33	5.1%
	<i>Kāpiti Island</i>	0	0.0%
	<i>Maungakotukutuku</i>	198	32.0%
Rural areas		303	9.1%
Total		3729	8.8%

Source: Statistics New Zealand Community Profile Census 2006 Kāpiti Coast District Council

Population densities by area

Population density, the number of people living per square kilometre, is measured every five years through the census. In 2006 the areas with the highest population densities were Paraparaumu Beach North and South and Raumati Beach. Between 2001 and 2006 there was a small increase in the population density for the District but there were significant changes at the local level. Paraparaumu South and Central had the largest increases in density – as noted, both these areas are targeted for medium density development.

While there has been some growth in population in the rural areas, the population densities have not changed significantly.

Table 8: Number of people per square kilometre by census area unit, 2001 and 2006

Township/area	Area Unit	population density 2001	population density 2006	Change 2001 to 2006
Ōtaki		352.5	341.4	-11.1
	<i>Waikanae Beach</i>	562.2	664.0	101.8
	<i>Waikanae East</i>	379.0	419.5	40.6
	<i>Waikanae Park</i>	249.2	259.5	10.2
	<i>Waikanae West</i>	783.0	817.1	34.1
Waikanae		454.4	495.8	41.4
	<i>Paraparaumu Beach North</i>	1,576.1	1,619.4	43.3
	<i>Otaihanga</i>	200.0	223.6	23.6
	<i>Paraparaumu Beach South</i>	1,449.6	1,727.7	278.2
	<i>Paraparaumu Central</i>	677.9	816.4	138.5
Paraparaumu		755.1	874.1	119.1
	<i>Raumati Beach</i>	1,312.1	1,409.6	97.5
	<i>Raumati South</i>	589.5	628.8	39.4
Raumati		849.5	909.7	60.3
Paekākāriki		298.1	275.4	-22.7
	<i>Peka Peka</i>	37.7	48.8	11.0
	<i>Kaitawa</i>	5.0	6.1	1.1
	<i>Ōtaki Forks</i>	3.5	3.3	-0.2
	<i>Te Horo</i>	51.9	54.5	2.7
	<i>Kāpiti Island</i>	0.5	0.5	0.0
	<i>Maungakotukutuku</i>	5.3	7.0	1.7
Rural areas		5.1	5.5	0.5
Total		58.1	63.2	5.1

Source: Statistics New Zealand Community Profile Census 2006 Kāpiti Coast District Council

3. NEW DEVELOPMENT

Why this is important

As well as tracking where population changes are occurring it is important to look at what is happening in new development, particularly since the last census. This section focuses on new residential development as an indicator of where population changes are likely to occur. Outcome 4 (page 44) contains more detail on overall land use management, including residential, commercial, industrial and rural.

What we looked at

- Changes in dwelling numbers
- Extent and location of new residential development including subdivisions, infill, and medium density and apartment development

Dwellings

Changes in the number of dwellings between census periods reflect the changes in population. Paraparaumu South and Central have seen the biggest increases in dwelling numbers.

Table 9: Private occupied dwellings by census area unit, 2006

Township/area	Area unit	Private occupied dwellings 2006	Change 2001 - 2006	
			Number	%
Ōtaki		2,349	9	0.4%
	<i>Waikanae Beach</i>	1,221	195	19.0%
	<i>Waikanae East</i>	828	84	11.3%
	<i>Waikanae Park</i>	846	51	6.4%
	<i>Waikanae West</i>	1,683	96	6.0%
Waikanae		4,578	426	10.3%
	<i>Paraparaumu Beach North</i>	1,266	75	6.3%
	<i>Otaihanga</i>	408	42	11.5%
	<i>Paraparaumu Beach South</i>	2,052	321	18.5%
	<i>Paraparaumu Central</i>	3,315	621	23.1%
Paraparaumu		7,041	1,059	17.7%
	<i>Raumati Beach</i>	1,872	105	5.9%
	<i>Raumati South</i>	1,377	123	9.8%
Raumati		3,249	228	7.5%
Paekākāriki		663	-3	-0.5%
	<i>Peka Peka</i>	111	27	32.1%
	<i>Kaitawa</i>	177	27	18.0%
	<i>Ōtaki Forks</i>	555	33	6.3%
	<i>Te Horo</i>	291	33	12.8%
	<i>Kāpiti Island</i>	3	0	0.0%
	<i>Maungakotukutuku</i>	297	84	39.4%
Rural areas		1434	204	16.6%
Total		19,314	1,923	11.1%

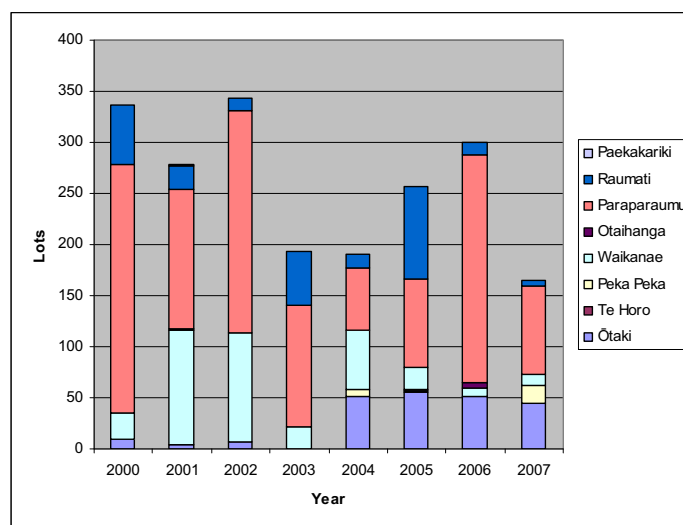
Source: Statistics New Zealand Community Profile Census 2006 Kāpiti Coast District Council

Type and location of residential subdivisions

New residential lots

Figure 2 shows the number of additional lots created in the residential zone for the period 2000 to 2007. It shows that while there has been a general downward trend in the development of new residential lots in the District, the greatest number of new lots has been created in the Paraparaumu area. The number of new lots in Waikanae has decreased in recent years, while the number of new lots in Ōtaki has shown a marked increase in the last four years. This has yet to be reflected in population growth through the census.

Figure 2: Residential lots created 2000 to 2007

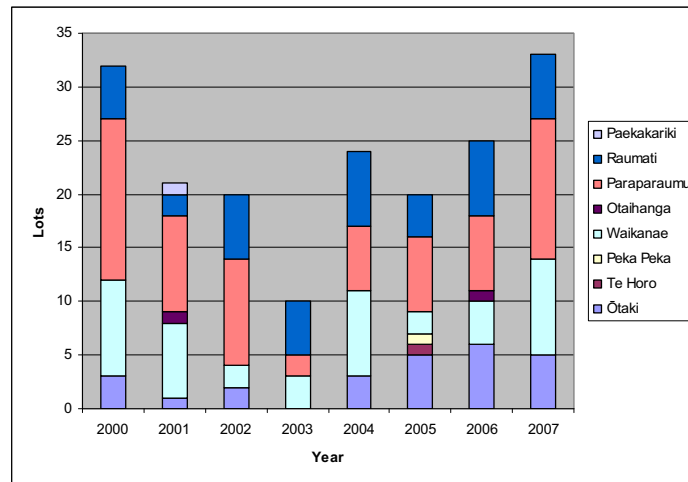


Residential infill

Infill is the establishment of new dwellings within an existing suburb, usually by the division of residential properties into smaller lots.

Figure 3 shows the number of two lot subdivisions created in existing residential areas between 2004 and 2007. The number of two lot subdivisions created since 2003 has not been great – an average of 25 per year since 2003. There has been a small increase since 2003 in the number of two lot subdivisions created particularly in Paraparaumu and Waikanae Raumati and Waikanae. The proportion of residential infill lots compared with other new lots is also growing. In 2003 five percent of new lots created were infill compared with 20% in 2007.

Figure 3: Number of infill lots 2000 to 2007



Medium density and apartment development

From 2004 to 2008 there have been 170 dwelling units constructed in the District as part of apartment/townhouse developments. This represents around 10 percent of the new housing stock constructed over that time. Of these, the majority have been in Paraparaumu Central and Paraparaumu Beach.

OUTCOME 3: THE WORK OF KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Development Management Strategy and associated District Plan changes such as those relating to Medium Density Housing are the key Council documents that support this outcome.

Development in the District does not happen in isolation and the impacts of what occurs in the region as a whole cannot be disregarded. The Wellington Regional Strategy provides the framework for sustainable regional economic development and also a forum to investigate pressures and stresses between local areas in the Region. The Strategy was developed by the nine local authorities in the region (including Kāpiti Coast District Council), working in tandem with central government and business, education, research and voluntary sector interests. It was fully adopted in May 2007.

Projects that are particularly relevant to urban management issues in the Kāpiti Coast are:

Intensification/Infill Development - led by Wellington City Council

Successful cities place a strong emphasis on good urban design and achieving a balance in housing choice. Wellington City Council is working with other councils to undertake a regional stocktake of housing supply, intensification and infill for each of the districts/cities.

Rural/Residential - led by Kāpiti Coast District Council

Kāpiti Coast District Council is working with other councils in the region to develop regional principles to guide the development and release of sustainable residential development opportunities and develop regional tools to facilitate and guide rural residential developments. Kāpiti Coast District Council's major focus is on the retention of productive rural land.

Affordable Housing - led by Wellington City Council

Affordable homes tend to be located away from the Central Business District and other places of work. Wellington City Council is working with other councils in the region to undertake a regional analysis of housing affordability, workforce and housing needs.

Quality Subdivision Design - led by Kāpiti Coast District Council

Living in rural areas and yet being close to work places is a competitive advantage of the Wellington region. However, impacts on the environment have to be taken into account when developing new rural blocks. Kāpiti Coast District Council is working with other councils in the region to develop a template of best practice principles to guide rural residential developments.

OUTCOME 3: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Kāpiti Coast District Council is developing the framework to ensure that development is managed in a way that brings community benefits, is sustainable and makes efficient use of infrastructure.

It is a little too early to see the impact of this framework on the ground. However, development appears to be concentrating in the areas that are the focus of consolidation. Like Outcome 2, there are relatively lengthy time-frames involved in development projects. Future progress reports will be able to assess the “on the ground” impact of development management in greater detail.

OUTCOME 4: The District's resources are used wisely



This outcome is concerned with the efficient use and conservation of finite resources and making sensible use of renewable resources in five main areas: the coast, water, people⁵, land and energy.

The key indicators used to measure how the community has progressed towards this Outcome are:

- Energy use
- Land use, including land identified as hazardous
- Proper insulation of housing within the District
- Infrastructure and new growth including water demand management
- Management of solid waste
- Level of public transport usage

During the 2003/2004 community consultations, the Kāpiti Coast community clearly set out its path for the future:

*Reaffirming the Kāpiti Coast lifestyle and culture
– with a sustainable emphasis.*

In December 2003, the Council adopted 14 sustainable development principles to guide future analysis and action. These principles were developed from the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, central government policy directives, and a review of current thinking and trends around sustainable development. These principles are listed on page seven of *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures Community Plan 2006*.

⁵ A discussion of the value of community engagement and participation can be found under Outcome 7.

1. ENERGY USE

There is little information about the energy use of the general community including the development of renewable energy sources. The following section focuses on the Council, its energy use and plans to reduce energy consumption as examples of what can be done.

Between 2001 and 2007 the Council's energy use rose by 70% and calculated greenhouse gas emissions generated by Council activities rose by 90%. Increased Council services have contributed to these increases.

In early 2005 a retrospective inventory was completed of the Council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions during 2001 to serve as a baseline for tracking emissions as part of the Communities for Climate Protection Programme.

The 2001 inventory showed that Council emissions were 2633 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e)⁶. Electricity use for the water and wastewater systems was the largest component, followed by natural gas use for swimming pool heating.

The 2001 data may have unknown errors or omissions. It was compiled from hard copies of bills retrieved from Council archives, and despite best efforts, some data may have been omitted, resulting in an under-estimation of 2001 energy use. In particular, the inventory noted that data for gas usage was difficult to obtain.

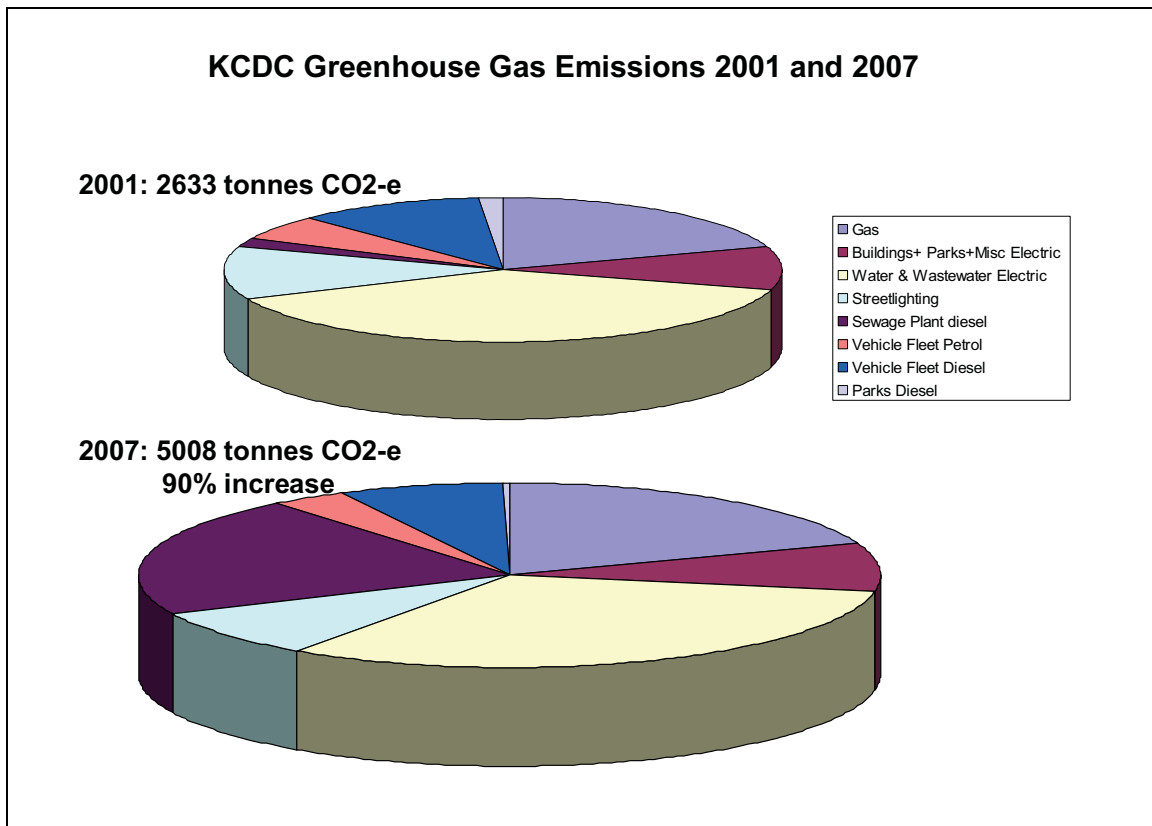
To provide a snapshot of current emissions, energy bills for 2007 have been analysed and compared to the 2001 inventory figures. As this analysis is only for a single year, any one-off issues in 2007 could lead to the overall trend being over or under-stated, so data representing these changes and trends should be viewed with caution.

Increased Council services over the period, included:

- Buildings and Parks: the opening of a new library and Civil Defence centre in Paraparaumu; upgrades of Ōtaki pool, longer opening hours at libraries and pools; and more work being carried out by Council staff rather than contractors
- Water and Wastewater: new centralised sewage treatment system involving more pumping, significantly increased service levels for treatment and the increase utilisation of bore fields.
- Street lighting: Upgrade of lighting levels and an increase in the number of lights
- Vehicle Fleet: Increased Council service levels requiring more travel.

⁶ Because methane and nitrous oxide have different potencies than carbon dioxide (CO₂) for atmospheric warming, quantities of these gases are generally expressed as an equivalent quantity of carbon-dioxide (CO₂-e) to allow for easy comparison. Total greenhouse gas quantities are then also expressed in this way.

Figure 4: Kāpiti Coast District Council greenhouse gas emissions 2001 and 2007



The cost of energy has also increased. Much of the cost rise is directly attributable to rising energy prices. While energy use has increased significantly the Council has experienced a more than threefold rise in costs between 2001 and 2007 to \$2.3 million excluding GST.

Using renewable energy

The Council currently uses negligible renewable energy in its operations and is therefore significantly exposed to future fossil fuel price rises as a result of climate change policies and market conditions.

As the Council moves to renewable energy options, it should be noted that energy use and greenhouse gas emissions are no longer interchangeable concepts: energy use could still be high and growing, but if provided from a renewable source, emissions will be lower. Our focus needs to be on **both** decreasing energy use and energy costs (by improving energy efficiency) **and** reducing emissions (by improving energy efficiency and switching to renewable energy sources).

Switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources can also deliver further benefits in terms of cost savings (removing the price risk associated with climate change policy), improved security of supply, and reduced environmental impacts.

In 2008, the Council approved the further investigation of a number of renewable energy schemes (some involving partial or complete funding by external agencies).

The following details specific areas of Council/community consumption and associated energy saving initiatives; partial funding of two of the projects will be sought through grants from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority and/or loans from central government.

Diesel to biomass conversion of sewage drying plant

The Council's sewage drying plant consumed 438,000 litres of diesel in 2007, producing 1,161 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is the Council's largest single source of emissions. A feasibility study was undertaken into converting the boiler from diesel to woody biomass (native plantings would be harvested to fuel the boiler) and a request for tender for this conversion project is expected to be released in 2009.

Water and waste water

The Council's water and wastewater infrastructure and service level have been significantly improved since 2001. However, since 2001, energy use and emissions have increased by 57%. The sewage treatment plant, the Waikanae water treatment works and the Ōtaki bore systems are the three largest users of electricity in this system.

Work is progressing on commissioning an in-depth energy audit of the system to identify ways of optimising energy use and reducing costs in a way that does not affect service levels and performance.

Gas use in swimming pool heating

The Council's three swimming pools account for 97.5% of Council's total gas use. The objective is to reduce gas use as much as possible at the pools to cut overall energy costs, reduce emissions and reduce dependence on gas for operation of the pools in anticipation of higher gas and emissions prices.

A tender has been issued to undertake energy audits of all three pools, which will also include audit of electricity use. It is anticipated that cost effective measures will be identified for all three pools.

Vehicle fleet

The Council's vehicle fleet consumed 76,332 litres of petrol and 144,699 litres of diesel in 2007 and produced 558 tonnes of emissions. There has been a 28% increase in emissions generated by the vehicle fleet since 2001. As a consequence of the increase in Council services since 2001, there has been an increase in fleet size, frequency of vehicle use and mileage of the fleet.

Good progress has already been made on vehicle procurement based on fuel efficiency. However, a review is to be undertaken to see where further improvements could be made in light of recent technological developments.

Street lighting

The Council has around 4,400 street lights, which in 2007 consumed 1,834,635 units of electricity, producing 422 tonnes of emissions. Emissions have grown by around one third since 2001 and can be accounted for by a lamp upgrade, and an increase in the total number of street lights of around 3-4% each year, or around 25% over the period between 2001 and 2007. Although the current system is performing well in terms of service level, energy efficiency and energy costs, the next generation of street lights is expected to use light emitting diodes (LEDs), using less power with much longer lamp life.

Other Buildings

In 2007, Council buildings such as swimming pools, libraries, offices and community halls consumed 1,858,733 units of electricity, costing around \$260,000 excluding GST, and accounting for 428 tonnes of emissions. This represents a 67% increase in energy use and emissions from 2001.

In addition to the pools, three Council buildings consume a significant quantity of electricity: Waikanae Library, Paraparaumu Library and the Rimu Road Council Offices. Energy audits have either been undertaken or are imminent, and the recommendations of these audits will be considered in due course.

Energy Management System

While the Council has a good system for managing the payment of energy accounts, it does not have a system for tracking energy use and costs over its 200 plus accounts. The trial of such a system is currently being considered. The trial would be carried out over a period of three years, and have an approximate cost of \$32,000 per annum.

The work of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority works in partnership with organisations (including district, city and regional councils) to raise community awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy issues and provides businesses and individuals with the tools to make changes in the way they use energy.

The Authority recognised an opportunity to help councils identify what renewable energy resources they had in their area, and how to integrate this potential into their planning and strategy processes. A Renewable Energy Assessment for the Greater Wellington Region identified renewable energy opportunities for the region and the ways in which the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority could work with councils to make use of these potential energy resources using both regulatory (e.g. changes to the District Plan) and non-

Energy efficiency light bulbs in the District

In October 2008, the Council approved a community energy saving project involving the bulk purchase of energy-saving light bulbs for distribution to households. Contact Energy contributed \$25,000 to the project. The benefits of the project are clear: for a cost of \$76,500, the benefit to ratepayers (in the form of electricity savings) will collectively be around \$5.8 million over the life of the bulbs. Safety issues around the light bulbs were investigated before agreeing to proceed with the project. Recycling options for the bulbs will be provided. This project will be funded through savings achieved from other Council energy efficiency projects.

regulatory approaches.

In addition, the Authority offers loans to assist agencies, including councils, to implement energy efficiency projects. The scheme offers full or partial funding of projects designed to achieve energy cost savings.

Wellington Regional Climate Change Strategy and Inventory

The Greater Wellington Regional Council is coordinating work to set regional climate change goals and develop a regional action plan. This collaboration has arisen from the realisation that local authorities do not have the ability to control some key sources of greenhouse gas emissions (particularly transport) without regional involvement, and vice-versa. The work on goals and an action plan is at an early stage, led by a small group of staff from the Regional Council, Wellington City, Hutt City and Kāpiti Coast District Council. Through Grow Wellington (the regional economic development agency), there is also work underway to develop sustainability as a business development opportunity for the region.

The principal work so far has been the development of a detailed regional inventory of greenhouse gas emissions by Landcare Research, which unlike previous inventories includes agricultural and forestry emissions and a wider range of greenhouse gases. It is also broken down by territorial authority area. The inventory has been provided as a spreadsheet tool, which will make it readily updatable in future years. It is proposed that all local authorities adopt this more detailed inventory as their main data source, to enable regional consistency of emissions tracking over the long term.

2. LAND USE, INCLUDING LAND IDENTIFIED AS HAZARDOUS

Why this is important

The community has signalled that the rate and type of (land) development needs to occur in a managed and sustainable way.⁷ The Development Management Strategy, published in 2007 after a consultation process, is the key framework used by Council to manage development.

Land is categorised according to its use or purpose. This is often referred to as ‘zoning’. In the Kāpiti Coast District, there are nine different zones; these include the Residential zone, the Rural zone, and the Commercial/Retail zone. Within each of these zones, a number of activities can be undertaken without the need for a resource consent. For example, shops are generally considered a Permitted Activity within the Commercial/Retail zone as long as they comply with the relevant standards such as the height of buildings.

However, if a person wishes to do something within a zone which is not permitted by the District Plan, they have to apply for a resource consent, which may be granted or declined

⁷ *Outcome 3: The nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals* also examines the issue of land use, but from the perspective of managing urban density in the District.

by the Council. In addition to this, a person can also apply for a private plan change (which is simply a proposal to alter the District Plan to make it easier for their proposed activity to go ahead). Private plan changes are usually proposed in relation to larger developments, which have not been anticipated in the area they are proposed. Examples of these are the Paraparaumu Airport plan change and the Lupin Road plan change. The Council may approve or refuse the plan change, or amend the proposal. Zoning is a useful indicator of where future development could potentially occur.

Between 2004 and 2008 there have been some changes in the zoning of the District.

The Residential Zone

There has been an increase in the area of residentially zoned land. These changes have predominantly come about through privately initiated plan changes, for example:

- Lupin Road, Ōtaki – 6 hectares
- Pekawy Developments Ltd, Peka Peka – 2 hectares
- Waikanae Golf Residential Area 1000m²
- Ferndale, Ngarara Road – 11ha (+3.9 hectares of Open Space)

In the case of all of these plan changes, site-specific rules and standards have been applied which limit the density of development on the site (beyond what is required elsewhere in the Residential zone).

It should be noted that the Tasman Lakes plan change, which affects approximately 39 hectares of land, is not included in these figures, as the Rural zoning was retained.

There are a number of changes proposed to the District Plan which would allow increased residential development within the District. These include the Waikanae North Developments Ltd plan change which, as proposed, allows for approximately 700 new houses (69 hectares), and the Ngarara plan change which proposes approximately 1800 new homes (280 hectares).

Within the Residential zone a number of precincts have been created which affect the potential residential density of housing within defined areas. This includes:

- Medium density overlay at Paraparaumu Central, Paraparaumu Beach (note two other medium density overlays are proposed, one at Raumati Beach, and another small area on the corner of Realm Drive and Mazengarb Road); and
- Low Density areas at Lupin Road, South of Ventnor Drive, and Country Ridge Close/Panorama Drive).

The Industrial Zone

The amount of industrially zoned land within the District has increased by just under 1ha as a result of the rezoning of the Paraparaumu Quarry. Two plan changes are also being considered:

- one in Raumati Beach, which would rezone 0.7 hectare of land from Industrial/Service to Commercial/Retail

- one along Riverbank Road in Ōtaki which would rezone 19 hectares of land from Rural to Industrial/Service (this is a private plan change).

The Paraparaumu Airport plan change would also allow for industrial uses on the land (but only within the Airport zone).

Commercial/Retail zones

A number of plan changes are currently proposed which could increase the amount of commercially zoned land in the District, these include:

- Raumati Beach – 8.5 hectares
- Paraparaumu central (the Wharemauku Precinct) – 12.5 hectares
- The Airport plan change also allows for commercial/retail uses (but only within the Airport zone).

Site-specific standards are proposed within these areas beyond those of the Commercial/Retail zone.

The Open Space Zone

The increase in the Open Space zone is mainly the result of subdivisions and plan changes where parks or open space areas have been created as part of developments. These open space areas vary from small parks in residential subdivisions, to quite large areas of open space, such as in the Ferndale Development on Ngarara Road, Waikanae.

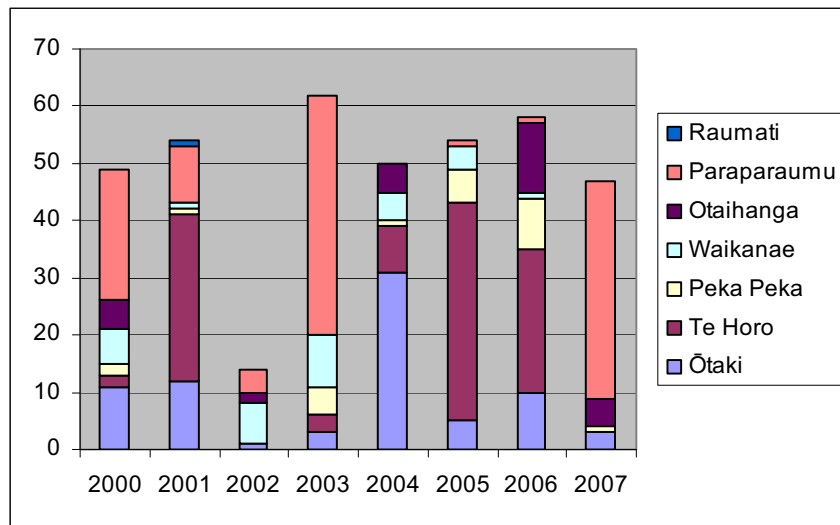
The Rural Zone

The amount of rurally zoned land has decreased. As noted above, much of this land has been rezoned to either Residential or Open Space.

A Tourist Activity Precinct was also created within the Rural zone in the Lindale area in 2005.

Figure 5 shows the number of additional lots created in the Rural zone. The graph shows a large amount of variation between different parts of the District from year to year. This reflects certain large-scale developments, such as 41 lots created in the Nikau Valley (part of the Paraparaumu area) in 2003 and a further 35 lots in the same area in 2007. Large-scale subdivisions occurred in the Te Horo area in 2001 (21 lots in one development), in 2005 (35 lots) and in 2006 (24 lots). Ōtaki experienced two 14-lot subdivisions in 2004. Overall, with the exception of 2002, the number of rural lots created is fairly consistent, illustrating a steady level of rural development in the District.

Figure 5: Rural lots created 2000 to 2007



Land identified as hazardous

Work is continuing by both the Kāpiti Coast District Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council to minimise the risks to people and property from natural or land-based hazards such as flooding and earthquakes. This minimisation work has included:

- Physical works such as the stopbank work undertaken by the Regional Council at Crystals Bend in Ōtaki;
- Ongoing investigations undertaken in relation to flooding, coastal erosion and earthquake fault trace hazards; and
- Plan changes aimed at minimising risk: updated information on both flood risks and earthquake fault traces is currently being incorporated into the District Plan, along with amended rules and standards to help the Council minimise the risk from these hazards.

The Green Gardener

The Green Gardener is a Council service to provide homeowners or tenants with advice about good gardening practices. The Green Gardener will visit people's homes and covers a wide range of topics such as micro-climates, plants suited to particular locations, how to make the most of the water available, how to grow food for the family, organic pest and weed management and composting.

Community land use

There is a growing interest within the community in developing community gardens – allotments or areas of land that can be utilised for growing fruit and vegetables by community groups or individuals. This movement back to growing your own is proving increasingly popular and is being supported not just by the Council but also by community groups such as Transition Towns.

3. PROPER INSULATION OF HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT

Why this is important

A properly insulated house is healthier for its occupants and more energy-efficient, leading to lower energy costs. Around 35% of the energy used by an average New Zealand household is for heating the home. Where insulation is inadequate, much of this heat is lost. According to recent calculations, for every dollar spent on insulating old, cold houses, there is two dollars worth of energy and health benefits.⁸

What we found

Information on insulation levels in Kāpiti Coast District homes is not currently available. However, national figures show that 20% of New Zealand homes have no insulation and 80% have inadequate ceiling insulation.

As of 1977, basic insulation was a requirement in new housing. The most recent changes to the Building Code require the insulation of ceilings, floors and walls and the double-glazing of windows.

The Council acknowledges that there is a direct relationship between warm dry comfortable homes and the occupant's health and well-being (this is also covered in Outcome Seven). The Council has been taking an active role in home owner education by offering free visits from the "Eco Design Advisor", organising the annual "Sustainable Home and Garden Show", offering free visits from the "Green Gardener" and "Green Plumber" and subsidised insulation grants for homes.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE AND NEW GROWTH

Public infrastructure includes roads, bridges, water supplies, sewerage and stormwater systems, river control and land drainage schemes, airports and harbour facilities. The following section outlines Kāpiti Coast District water supplies, stormwater systems, roading, and solid waste management. Maintaining levels of service, and managing these assets and systems while at the same time planning ahead for climate change impacts are some of the challenges facing the Council. There is also a requirement in new plan changes to take account of thresholds for certain infrastructure aspects (e.g. water and traffic management).

Water demand management

The Kāpiti Coast Sustainable Water Use Strategy, published in 2003, signalled a shift in thinking from unconstrained to responsible water use, including adoption of water use targets. Agreed water consumption targets set the framework for the quantum of storage/supply needed. Since 2003, the issue of water management has gained higher priority, particularly in the context of the wider issue of climate change.

⁸ EECA Energywise Action Sheet 2

Table 10: Highest daily water use through the year for residential, non residential and leaks (litres per person per day)

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08
Ōtaki	1,160	1,070	1,478	1,144	1,106	1,300	1,012	1,019
Waikanae	921*	808	803	736	762	745	811	767
Paraparaumu & Raumati	632	621	565	540	613	606	506	662
Paekākāriki	844	603	580	564	593	640	643	669

**Leaks higher than expected this year due to leaks being identified in Waikanae reticulation network

Using water more efficiently

In early 2008 a District Plan Change proposing mandatory water-saving devices for new dwellings was released for consultation. Currently only 16% of properties have some form of efficient on-site water use systems such as bores or tanks. The Plan Change proposed that all new dwellings constructed within the District would be required to have either a 10,000 litre rainwater collection tank for toilet flushing and outdoor uses or a 4,500 litre water tank for toilet and outdoor use plus a greywater collection system for subsurface garden irrigation. The period of public consultation has closed and a hearing is being scheduled.

Roading

A roading system which is well planned, maintained and extended contributes to a more efficient transport network and public safety. The Council has responsibility for maintaining and upgrading all roads in the District, with the exception of State Highway 1, which is Transit New Zealand's responsibility. The Wellington Regional Strategy is a key policy document referenced by the Council in its own roading policies. This is a sustainable economic growth strategy addressing such issues as transport, housing, urban design and open spaces.

Since the 2003/2004 Community Plan, a major transport project on the Kāpiti Coast, which has been long in planning, has now gained momentum. This is the construction of the Western Link Road, a two-lane road intended to provide a more efficient transport route between Poplar Avenue in Raumati to Peka Peka.

The Council has developed an alternative concept for the design of the Western Link Road. This takes the approach of incorporating the road within the landscape rather than re-constructing the landscape around the road. The result is a suggested alignment which aims to traverse around dune forms using curves and slopes rather than cut through them.

Consistent with earlier work, a high standard of landscaping and provision of cycleways, walkways and bridleways is included in the project. Substantial progress has been made in completing the final design of the Western Link Road, including facilities for all

transport modes. Design features which aim to reduce impact on the environment include:

- Raingardens for stormwater disposal
- Reduction of earthworks (design reduced from 4 lanes to 2 lanes)
- Using natural contours of the landform – less disturbance to dunes and natural habitats

In addition to the Western Link Road project, the Council has also completed major intersection upgrades, advocated public transport improvements with external authorities (including electrification to Waikanae and the trialling of integrated ticketing⁹), and a number of cycle-paths installed. Improvements for users of public transport included extension of the bus shelter network, newly designed bus bays and enlargement of footpaths.

Major intersection work included the Aotaki Street Ōtaki roundabout, extension of the roundabout at SH1/Mill Road Ōtaki, and traffic calming measures using islands and road marking throughout the District.

The Council's advocacy role in relation to public transport policy throughout the Greater Wellington Region was increased and strengthened, with input into the Sustainable Regional Transport Strategy. The Council advocated a greater emphasis on the provision of connectivity between public transport nodes as well as improved public transport efficiency, reliability and affordability.

Stormwater

There are two forms of stormwater which are of concern in stormwater management: rainwater which is not absorbed into the ground, and flood-water from waterways that overflows into surrounding areas.

Kāpiti District's stormwater network is made up of nearly 7,000 stormwater pipelines, with a total length of more than 180km. Each year, the Council carries out 300 open-drain inspections and 360 culvert inspections.

Climate change implications for stormwater reticulation and stopbanks are potentially significant and include an increased frequency and/or volume of system flooding; increased peak flows in streams and related erosion; groundwater level changes; saltwater intrusion in coastal zones; changing floodplains and greater likelihood of damage to properties and infrastructure. The assessment and analysis work culminated in part in the release of a Stormwater Management Strategy in 2007.

The Stormwater Management Strategy is concerned with:

⁹ Integrated ticketing allows a customer to make a journey that involves transfers (within or between different transport modes) with a single ticket that is valid for the complete journey.

- identifying acceptable levels of risk to people, property and environment from stormwater
- managing the nature, location and scale of development in relation to stormwater risks and the effects of development on stormwater management
- the nature, scale and timing of investment in stormwater infrastructure
- long-term community discussion about adaptation to the uncertainties and changing stormwater risks arising from climate change.

The strategy discusses the main techniques for managing stormwater impacts:

- having information systems which enable people to make informed decisions
- regulating the location and design of populated areas
- investing in on-site systems for managing stormwater run-off and re-use
- investing in infrastructure for the transportation and treatment of stormwater.

Along with the stormwater system, all new and asset upgrades take into consideration potential climate change impacts, with a risk management model being considered by the Council.

A neutral discharge policy is adopted for all new developments and subdivision design, which means that any water runoff should be maintained within that development and dispersed naturally over time (also referred to as ‘hydraulic neutrality’).

The work of the Stormwater Action Group

Significant storms and raised groundwater levels occurred in 2003/04 period and in 2004 a community group, the Stormwater Action Group was founded. The group raised specific concerns about particular sites – largely focused around Wharemauku Stream and Mazengarb Road. The group also raised some important issues about overall links between urban growth management and stormwater.

The Council responded by:

- Bringing forward the stormwater review focusing on high level issues
- Analysis of long-term climate change impacts and implications for various levels of service
- Assessing the implications for existing stormwater infrastructure capacity standards
- Assessing the implications for, and relationship with, development management
- Reviewing the prioritisation methodology to give greater emphasis to groundwater issues
- Reviewing site-specific concerns.

The consequence of this was that some local sites about which concerns had been raised by the Stormwater Action Group were included in the 2005/06 and 2006/07 work programmes. Immediate maintenance work was undertaken on some sites and some were identified as needing further analysis. This was carried out. The issue of groundwater ponding was given more priority in the works programme.

5. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid waste management is an important activity managed by the Council. There is a zero-waste goal for 2015¹⁰.

In 2008, the Otaihanga landfill closed due to the expiry of its resource consent and the Council's decision not to pursue development of a further landfill site – a position consistent with its zero-waste target. A new waste transfer station has commenced operation, in addition to existing recycling stations at Ōtaki and Otaihanga and a greenwaste transfer station at the old Waikanae landfill site. A major initiative in 2008 has been the introduction of kerbside recycling. This service is not funded through rates but through the sale of rubbish bags for non-recyclable waste. The recycling service is run by Manawatu Waste Ltd in partnership with the Council, Clean Green, Waste Management, and Skip-E Bins.

Waste reduction - the way to go
www.recyclekapiti.co.nz

Welcome to Recycling Kapiti – the place where you can find out almost everything you need to know to reduce daily waste where you live and work. Recycling is one of our most important contributions we can make to a clean, strong and sustainable Kāpiti Coast.

Up until now we've been sending 43,000 tonnes of waste to the Otaihanga landfill every year – that's a tonne of rubbish for every man, woman and child in the District!

Now, with our new recycling scheme, and a new \$2.4 million waste recovery centre on its way, the Council estimates we can reduce our current waste by 50 per cent over the next seven years by recycling. That's about 20,000 tons less annually. By recycling we're preserving Kāpiti for generations to come, we're working together to do something really good for our district, we're saving money, and we're using our resources more wisely.

How much waste are we producing? Table 11 shows the amount of general waste from 2004 to 2007.

Table 11: Amount of general waste 2004-2007*

Year	Amount (tonnes)
2004	36,000
2005	43,000
2006	44,000
2007	44,000

*Excluding green waste and clean fill

From April 2007 to April 2008 5,000 tonnes of green waste was collected. A similar reading is expected for 2008/09. From 2004 to 2008 there was an average of 100 tonnes per annum of paper/cardboard and 900-1,000 tonnes per annum of glass.

¹⁰ The goal is that by 2015 all waste will be recycled in some way.

6. LEVELS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT USAGE

Transport issues are covered in a number of the Community Outcomes from various perspectives. Overall, the community vision for transport is to create a physical transport system that is attractive, affordable, connected, responsive, and safe and offers a variety of modes so that people are able to make sustainable choices.

With regard to Outcome Four, the emphasis is on achieving a sustainable transport system, one that reduces environmental effects such as air and water pollution and climate change. For example, transport is currently responsible for about 40% of carbon dioxide emissions in New Zealand. Run-off from roads and to some extent from rail corridors also affects waterways and contributes significantly to the presence of heavy metals in urban water systems.

Increasing public transport usage is important from the point of view of achieving cost efficiencies, but more importantly, decreasing vehicle emissions and other environmental impacts.

The demand for better public transport choices will result in double-tracking and electrification through to Waikanae by 2010. This will improve both the frequency and reliability of commuter services. There are also plans to upgrade rail network facilities in Wellington, particularly the upgrade of old and unreliable signalling infrastructure, which will directly benefit the service to the Kāpiti Coast. There are also plans to buy new commuter units, and improve park and ride facilities. Most of these projects will attract external funding.

Travel modes

As well as improving transport infrastructure, there is also a need to encourage travel choices which are sustainable. The main data available about travel behaviour on the Kāpiti Coast is about the modes of transport used by people travelling to work.

The majority of Kāpiti residents who work, work locally (10,488 or 63%) but there is a substantial number who work in Wellington (3,788 or 23%). There is also a small movement of people from outside the District into Kāpiti Coast on a daily basis.

Most available information on how people travel to work is drawn from the 2006 Census. From the census data, it is clear that there is an increasing amount of rail travel from the Kāpiti Coast to the Wellington. Other relevant data indicates nearly 26,000 more rail journeys were made in May 2007 compared with May 2005. However, more recently rail travel growth has slowed reflecting limits in rail capacity and frustrations with service levels. There is undoubtedly a high level of latent demand but until the capacity and extent of the physical system is substantially improved current growth levels are unlikely to increase.

In contrast, there is a high level of private vehicles use for travel to work within the Kāpiti Coast area. This reflects in part the limitations of the bus and rail transport

system, particularly rail, which means that Ōtaki and Waikanae residents have fewer mode choices.

There is no data on length of trips within the District and it may be that, in the absence of significant public transport services between communities, the focus should be on moving people from vehicles to cycling and walking for shorter trips to work. Ōtaki residents have a higher level of walking to work and rural residents have a higher level of working from home.

OUTCOME 4: THE WORK OF KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Much of the discussion in this chapter has focused on the work of the Council, as the major agency involved in land use management and local infrastructure such as water and waste management and local roading. The range of projects the Council is undertaking reflects not just a response to the community's interest in sustainability, but to demonstrate leadership in this area. Some relevant strategy documents developed by Council in partnership with the community since 2003/2004 have included;

- The *Sustainable Transport Strategy* is a framework which maps out a clear path to achieving the vision and provides a clear basis for engagement with all 'transport players'. The vision is about achieving a sustainable transport system. Sustainable transport is defined in this strategy as a system which provides access and mobility to an acceptable level for the community while decoupling such improvements from harm to global and local ecosystems now and in the future.
- The *Development Management Strategy* aims to provide the Kāpiti Coast District with a framework for sustainable development, specifically for:
 - The management of location and intensity of growth pressures and change
 - Improvement to the quality of the built environment
 - The development management processes that Council will use over time.
- The *Coastal Strategy* is a high level guiding document to guide management of the Kāpiti Coast for the next 20 years, to ensure that the community's vision to restore and enhance the wild and natural feel of the coast is achieved.

OUTCOME 4: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Are the District's resources being used wisely? ('wisely' in this context meaning using, conserving and renewing resources with an increasing focus on sustainability and minimisation of adverse environmental impact). This section has not addressed every one of the five key areas put forward by the community. However, the indications are that the community and Council are more aware and responsive to the need to reduce pollution and increase energy efficiency generally, as well as addressing the potential threats of climate change/peak oil scenarios. The imperative to adapt and respond to these impacts is taken into consideration in many of the Council's activities, from roading, stormwater, through to recycling, subdivision design, and public transport. Nevertheless, there is much more that needs to be done in terms of shifting to renewable energy sources, reducing emission levels and encouraging the community to think and act sustainably. But the foundations have been put in place through key frameworks and strategies, both at a district wide level and regionally.

OUTCOME 5: There is increased choice to work locally



This Outcome is not simply concerned with ensuring people have jobs, but about capturing how and to what extent the local economy grows and gives residents greater employment choice and job security. The community has signaled that it wants a greater range of employment opportunities, preferably involving skilled work and locally based. People also want their children to have more of a choice as to whether to work close to home or commute elsewhere.

The key indicators used to measure how the community has progressed towards this Outcome are:

- Employment opportunities on the Kāpiti Coast
- Access to telecommunications
- Business growth
- GDP
- Rural productivity potential
- Building consents

1. KĀPITI COAST EMPLOYMENT

The Kāpiti Coast population has grown steadily from 2001 to 2006. As at 2007 the District was home to 48,000 people, with a projected population of 55,000 expected by 2031. Within this population context the Kāpiti Coast has also experienced strong employment growth.¹¹

The table below shows employment numbers for the six sectors in the Kāpiti Coast for the last three years, in addition to the percentage change over the ten years from 1997 to 2007. It also shows the total employment change over the same period for the Wellington region and nationally.

Table 12: Employment summary by sector, Kāpiti Coast District, 2005 to 2007

	Employment numbers FTEs*			% per annum change		
	2005	2006	2007	2006	2007	1997 to 2007
Primary	650	666	599	2.6	-10.1	-1.6
Manufacturing and Building	2,748	2,935	2,960	6.8	0.8	3.3
Retail and Distribution	3,050	3,326	3,449	9.0	3.7	2.1
Business Services	1,910	1,912	1,912	0.1	0.0	4.5
Recreation Services	684	715	774	4.5	8.2	4.9
Social Services	1,984	1,922	2,146	-3.1	11.6	3.4
Kāpiti Coast	11,026	11,478	11,840	4.1	3.2	2.9
Wellington region	206,446	215,477	220,312	4.4	2.2	1.9
New Zealand	1,751,699	1,809,041	1,845,434	3.3	2.0	2.4

* FTE = full time equivalent

Employment increased in the Kāpiti Coast by 3.2% over the previous year in 2007 and by 4.1% in 2006. In terms of the ten year growth rate, the District had an annual rate of 2.9%, a half a percent above the national rate. The primary sector is the only sector to record a contraction over the last ten years.

The Kāpiti Coast had an increase of 362 FTEs in 2007, following a 452 FTE increase a year earlier. Among the sectors showing the biggest gains, the social services sector increased by 224 FTEs; the manufacturing and building sector by 123 FTEs; and the

¹¹ Business and Economic Research Ltd 2008 *Economic Profile of the Nature Coast: Kapiti and Horowhenua in 2007* by Jiani Wu and Dr Ganesh Nana

recreation services sector by 59 FTEs. The only decline was seen in the primary sector, where 67 FTEs were shed over a year.

Reflecting the strong increase in employment, the unemployment rate has fallen to the low level of 4.8%, a 32% reduction since 2001. It is now lower than for the Wellington region and New Zealand as a whole.

2. ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Why is this important?

The use of the Internet for personal and business use has increased dramatically since 2003/04, with growth in the use of email, personal banking, online bookings, media streaming, news feeds, weather information, and general information research. Broadband access helps facilitate opportunities to work from home.

Access to telecommunications systems

Household access to telecommunication systems in the Kāpiti Coast has kept pace with national and regional trends, with only 1% of households having no access. Compared to the Wellington Region and New Zealand as a whole, households in the Kāpiti Coast District have:

- A higher proportion of the population with access to a landline phone
- A slightly lower proportion with access to a mobile phone
- A higher proportion than nationally with access to Internet.

Internet access for households in the Kāpiti Coast District has leapt from 38% of households in 2001 to 63% of households in 2006. This is comparable to the national increase over the same period: 36% in 2001 to 61% in 2006.

Ōtaki households consistently have the lowest proportion of access to telecommunication services, whether it is mobiles, telephones, faxes or Internet access – the latter is significantly below the other towns in the District. Interestingly, rural areas have the highest household proportion of access, and around twice the District average for access to a fax machine.

Access to the internet differs by age, with those under 65 having much higher levels of access than those over 65. However, the proportion of older people with internet access more than doubled between 2001 and 2006

Table 13: Proportion of population with internet access at home by age, Kāpiti Coast, 2001 and 2006

	Age group					Total
	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
2001	52.4	50.5	51.7	50.8	22.3	45.3
2006	76.6	70.4	74.4	76.2	47.9	69.0

Source: Ministry of Social Development: Social Report 2008

Broadband takeup

The national average for broadband take-up is estimated at approximately 35.4% of occupied dwellings. The take-up in the Kāpiti Coast District is at 65%.

3. BUSINESS GROWTH

This section looks at the number of businesses by sector in the Kāpiti Coast.¹² Typically, Kāpiti Coast businesses are small to medium enterprises, collectively employing 6,740 workers in 2007 - an increase from 5,180 employees in the year 2000.

Businesses in the Kāpiti Coast increased by 146 in 2007 (an increase of 3.2% compared to the previous year) following a 3.7% increase in 2006, bringing the total number of businesses as at 2007 to 4,734. The growth in 2007 was substantially above the national average (1.9%) and that of the Wellington region (2.1%).

Growth in the number of businesses averaged 4.3% per annum over the ten year period between 1997 and 2007), higher than the regional average of 3.4% per annum and the national average of 3.5% per annum.

The business services sector, the largest sector in terms of number of businesses in the District, has seen the biggest increases in the last few years. Also growing strongly was the manufacturing and building sector, which has expanded at an annual rate of 3.5% over the last ten years. The only declining sector was the primary sector. The total number of business units in this sector fell by 3% in 2007 and by 4.2% in 2006.

The business and property services sector experienced an increase of 69 new businesses in 2007. General construction was another fast growing sector, gaining 29 new businesses in 2007, an increase of 9.5% over a year, despite a slight drop in its employment. Within the retail and distribution sector, the accommodation, cafes and restaurants businesses in the District increased by 11, bring the total number to 21.

¹² Business and Economic Research Ltd 2008

Table 14: Business growth, Kāpiti Coast District, 2005 to 2007

	Business units (summary)			% per annum change		
	2005	2006	2007	2006	2007	1997 to 2007
Primary	424	406	394	-4.2	-3.0	-1.6
Manufacturing and Building	994	1,021	1,048	2.7	2.6	3.5
Retail and Distribution	860	887	908	3.1	2.4	1.9
Business Services	1,527	1,661	1,745	8.8	5.1	7.2
Recreation Services	340	337	353	-0.9	4.7	3.4
Social Services	278	276	286	-0.7	3.6	1.9
Kāpiti Coast	4,423	4,588	4,734	3.7	3.2	4.3
Wellington region	47,742	49,614	50,678	3.9	2.1	3.4
New Zealand	474,007	490,474	499,940	3.5	1.9	3.5

4. GDP

Why is this important?

GDP stands for Gross Domestic Product which is a national measure of the total flow of goods and services produced over a specified time period, usually a year. It is a commonly-used broad measure of economic activity and the principal indicator of economic performance.

What we found

In 2007 GDP¹³ in the Kāpiti Coast maintained around the same level as in 2006, with only a 0.1% increase. This followed strong growth of 3% the previous year. In 2007 GDP grew at the rate of 2.3% both regionally and nationally.

When viewed by sector, GDP growth occurred across all sectors apart from manufacturing and building, and business services sectors.

¹³ Business and Economic Research Ltd 2008 pp12-13

Table 15: GDP per sector, Kāpiti Coast District, 2005 to 2007

	Value added or GDP ('07, \$m)			% per annum change		
	2005	2006	2007	2006	2007	1997 to 2007
Primary	48	52	52	8.7	0.5	1.5
Manufacturing and Building	194	204	195	5.3	-4.3	2.3
Retail and Distribution	183	192	198	5.2	2.7	3.2
Business Services	336	342	334	1.6	-2.3	4.0
Recreation Services	35	37	40	4.8	8.8	5.4
Social Services	114	110	119	-3.5	7.8	4.0
Kāpiti Coast	910	937	937	3.0	0.1	3.4
Wellington Region	20,162	20,856	21,342	3.4	2.3	2.5
New Zealand	158,567	162,826	165,379	2.7	1.6	3.0

Looking at growth over the ten year period from 1997 to 2007, the Kāpiti Coast has achieved on average 3.4% growth per annum, as compared to 2.5% per annum for the Wellington region and 3.0% per annum nationally. All six sectors experienced growth over this period, ranging from 1.5% to 5.4% per annum.

Table 16: Performance over the decade, Kāpiti Coast District, 1997-2007

	% change pa for 1997-2007 years		
	Kāpiti Coast	Wellington Region	New Zealand
Resident population growth	1.9	1.0	1.2
GDP growth	3.4	2.5	3.0
GDP per capita growth	1.4	1.5	1.8
Employment growth	2.9	1.9	2.4
Productivity growth	0.6	0.8	0.8
Business units growth	4.3	3.4	3.5
Business size growth	-1.3	-1.5	-1.0

5. RURAL PRODUCTIVITY POTENTIAL

Why is this important?

The community's vision for local economic growth also focused on the horticultural or food production potential of the District, particularly the potential for producing specialised local food products.

What we found

A study relating to this Outcome, *A Study of the Rural Productive Potential in the Northern Part of Kāpiti Coast District*, was commissioned by the Council in 2005.

The study identified that there is significant opportunity for economic growth of the primary sector within the northern part of the District. Within the primary sector, horticulture shows the largest potential for growth. However, there is also considerable growth potential in the existing land-use mix, which includes dairying and other pastoral activities.

According to the study, the increased value of horticultural output if the land applied to horticulture was increased by approximately 50 percent to 1,010 ha is estimated at \$9.3 million, with an estimated 135 jobs created.

Table 17: Area, labour and value of the primary sector in the northern region of the Kāpiti Coast District¹⁴

Sector	Land (ha)	Labour (FTE)	Value of output (\$)	Output/ha \$	Output value /FTE	Ha/FTE
Dairying	2,956	75	11,313,232	3,827	\$150,843	39.4
Non dairying pastoral	6,110	80	3,495,183	572	\$43,689	76.4
Horticulture	672	270	21,218,553	31,575	\$78,587	2.5
Forestry	1,703	21	729,788	428	\$34,751	81.1
Total	11,441	446	\$36,756,756	\$3,213	\$82,414	25.65

¹⁴ A Study of the Rural Productive Potential in the Northern Part of the Kapiti Coast District, Sept 2005, page 13

6. BUILDING CONSENTS

Why is this important?

The number and type of building consents mapped over a given period (in this case between 2004 and 2008) gives an indication of trends in commercial and residential development activity within the District.

What we found

Since 2006/07, building activity has been more stable and moved away from the high numbers of residential new dwellings. Commercial activity has been consistent since 2006. There has been a significant drop in new dwelling applications for the first three months of 2008/09, down by 70% but given the current financial climate this is not unexpected.

Table 18: Non-residential building consents 2004/05 to 2007/08

Total consents		Non-residential consents	% of total consents
2004/05	1,617	140	8.65
2005/06	1,496	149	9.96
2006/07	1,378	155	11.24
2007/08	1,185	132	11.13

OUTCOME 5: THE WORK OF KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Direct investment in commercial activity is not generally a role taken up by councils. However, in the case of economic development, the climate within which business decisions are made, the visibility of the local economy and the quality of local business and workforce skills can contribute significantly to improved business confidence in the local economy. It is often these more intangible aspects which contribute to improved economic performance. Information development and exchange, skills development, analysis, supporting networks and marketing are all important areas where the Council can make a contribution.

In September 2001 Kāpiti Coast District Council adopted an economic development strategy as part of the Regional Partnership Programme, in conjunction with Industry New Zealand and Horowhenua District Council. This Strategy was reviewed and updated in 2007 within the contexts of the community outcomes developed by both communities (i.e. Kāpiti Coast and Horowhenua) since 2003 and the Wellington Regional Strategy. The Strategy describes the proposed framework for shaping economic growth in the Kāpiti/Horowhenua region. The strategic priorities identified are:

- value added manufacturing especially apparel and textiles, and food production and processing
- tourism and events including the arts
- Māori enterprise

In the 2003/2004 *Choosing Futures – Community Plan* the Council recognised that Kāpiti Coast had distinct northern and southern spheres of economic activity. Economic activity in the north of the District is centred on tourism, the rural sector and some manufacturing areas, and, increasingly, Māori business initiatives, particularly tāngata whenua based initiatives. Economic activity in the south is centred on being part of an extended urban system, with Wellington as its focal point, and a large commuter workforce traveling south to work. In support of this recognition, the Council has set aside funding for Nature Coast Enterprise and supported the development of the Wellington Regional Strategy. In reviewing its economic development strategy, the Council also agreed to the provision of the following services and support for economic development:

- Marketing
- Advocacy
- Business support
- Creation and maintenance of business networks
- Investigation, monitoring and analysis of opportunities
- Investment in quality town centres.

OUTCOME 5: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Over the last ten years there have been increasing opportunities for people to work locally. This is reflected in increases in numbers of local businesses and local jobs and increasing access to technology. Growth has also been evident across all industry sectors apart from the primary sector. This means that there is a range of employment opportunities for Kāpiti people, from business services through to construction. However the recent downturn in the housing and building industry and deteriorating global economic conditions make for an uncertain future. Increasing community concern and action around climate change and peak oil issues does show that there is a base of community strength and resilience to build on in difficult times.

OUTCOME 6: The district is a place that works for young people



Young people are an important part of the Kāpiti Coast community. This outcome is about having the sort of District where young people want to stay as they get older; where young people feel safe; where they can have fun; and where there can make the best of their education and other opportunities.

Young people are commonly defined as those aged 12 to 24 years. This represents a very diverse group, not just in terms of backgrounds and stages of their lives but also in interests, views and values.

The key indicators used to see how the community has progressed towards this outcome are in the following areas:

- Changes in the number of young people
- Educational achievement
- Health, welfare and safety
- Engagement and participation

1 CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Are young people staying in Kāpiti as they get older? Although the number of young people¹⁵ has increased over the last 10 years, their proportion of the population has remained much the same (Table 19).

In 2006 there were 4,386 young people aged between ten and 24 living on the Kāpiti Coast, representing 16.6% of the population. With the number of children under nine remaining fairly static over the last 10 years, the current growth in numbers of ten to 24 year olds is unlikely to continue. However the number and proportion of residents between 25 and 29 years has decreased markedly over the last 10 years. This means that young people are not staying in the District as they get older.

Table 19: Young people and young adults, 1996 to 2006

Year	0-9 years		10-24 years		25-29 years	
	Number	% total pop	Number	% total pop	Number	% total pop
1996	5661	14.7%	6405	16.6%	1941	5.0%
2001	5667	13.4%	6921	16.3%	1755	4.1%
2006	5655	12.2%	7674	16.6%	1464	3.2%

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2006

Across the District, Waikanae is the area with the lowest proportion of young people. All other areas are fairly similar (Table 20).

Table 20: Number and proportion of young people by area, 2006

	10-14 Years		15-19 Years		20-24 Years	
	Number	% pop	Number	% pop	Number	% pop
Ōtaki	405	7.4%	333	6.1%	213	3.9%
Waikanae	558	5.5%	435	4.3%	252	2.5%
Paraparaumu/ Raumati	1911	7.6%	1680	6.7%	1002	4.0%
Paekākāriki	117	7.3%	111	6.9%	51	3.2%
Rural Areas	294	8.1%	219	6.0%	93	2.6%
Total	3285	7.1%	2778	6.0%	1611	3.5%

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2006

¹⁵ “Young people” are usually defined as those aged 12 to 24. Census data is not available for this specific group so information is provided for ten to 24 year olds.

2 EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Why this is important

Educational achievement for young people is important for participation in society and job readiness in the future. Non-attendance at school can put young people at risk of poor achievement.

What we looked at

- School leavers with higher qualifications
- School leavers with no qualifications
- Truancy, stand-downs, suspensions and exclusions

School leavers with higher qualifications

The proportion of school leavers in the District who had attained a qualification at National Certificate of Educational Attainment (NCEA) level two/bursary or above, increased significantly over the three years from 2005 to 2007 (Table 21), particularly for females.

Access to local schools

The Kāpiti Coast District has 14 full primary schools, three contributing schools (up to intermediate level), three composite schools (primary, intermediate, secondary) and three secondary schools.

The location and number of schools in the District has not changed over recent years. By and large, local children are able to access local schools. However, access to schools remains an issue for Waikanae children and Kāpiti Coast District Council continues to discuss this with the Ministry of Education.

Table 21: School leavers with higher qualification by gender, 2005 to 2007

Year	NCEA level 2 or higher				Bursary or higher			
	Gender (%)		Total		Gender (%)		Total	
	Male	Female	No.	%	Male	Female	No.	%
2005	48.5	58.0	326	53.4	21.3	27.0	148	24.3
2006	50.2	64.2	353	56.9	22.1	37.1	182	29.4
2007	56.7	67.4	344	62.1	22.9	41.2	178	32.1

Source: Ministry of Social Development – Social Report 2008

School leavers with no qualifications

In the five years from 2002 to 2006 the proportion of students leaving school rose from 10.9% to 13.9% - above the national level of 11.1%. This dropped significantly in 2007 to 5.1% - slightly above the national level of 4.9%. The drop has been seen across the nation. The Ministry of Education attributes this to the bedding in of NCEA and initiatives in place to reduce early leaving exemptions.

Truancy, stand-downs, suspensions and exclusions

In 2006 the overall truancy rate for the District was 3.3% - below the national rate of 4.1%.¹⁶ However, the District's secondary schools recorded more than twice the national rate of truancy (12%, as compared to 5%). Local colleges have been targeting truancy over recent years.

RAAYS

The RAAYS programme (Raising Achievement Across our Youth Sector) was implemented in Kāpiti in May 2008 by the Safer Community Trust. Its aims are to increase engagement in education, reduce truancy and youth offending and increase communication between schools and supporting agencies. It is based on an inter-agency approach. Agencies meet monthly to discuss how to best get truant or non-enrolled youth back into education.

The rate of stand-downs and suspensions has been decreasing since 2000, and in 2007 was either at (for stand-downs) or below (for suspensions) national levels (Table 22).

Table 22: Rates per 1,000 students for standdowns and suspensions, 2003 to 2007

	Standdowns					Suspensions				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
District number	259	271	254	290	224	45	37	36	38	39
District rate	34	36	33	36	29	6	5	5	5	5
National rate	27	28	30	31	29	7	7	7	7	7

Source: Ministry of Education/Ministry of Social Development

3 HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

What we looked at

- Access to employment
- Income support
- Physical activity
- Suicide rates
- Teen parenting
- Crime and safety
- Access to affordable housing
- Service collaboration

Employment and income support

Finding jobs and secure incomes are important for young people, and sometimes they may need additional support.

As at the end of August 2008, around 220 Kāpiti Coast young people aged under 20 were receiving some form of income support, including supplementary benefits. This is an

¹⁶ Ministry of Education survey undertaken in 2006.

increase of around 40 from 2006. The biggest increases have been in Domestic Purposes Benefit and the Unemployment Benefit (in training) recipients.

Kāpiti Coast has been experiencing employment growth in recent years, which should also be benefiting young people. Employment grew by 3.2% in 2007 and 4.1% in 2006. Most growth was in the retail, recreation and social services sectors.

Physical activity

Physical activity is important for young people's health, well being, physical and emotional development and community participation.

The only information available about the level of physical activity for young people in the District is the results of a survey of Ōtaki, Kāpiti and Paraparaumu Colleges undertaken by Sport Wellington Region in 2005. Note that these findings relate to high school students only.

The main findings were:

- Young males and females participate more in winter sports than in summer sports
- Young males are more active in organised sport than females, who tend to be more active in physical recreation. Girls place a strong emphasis on enjoying social sports and physical activities with their friends
- Around 85% of boys and 80% of girls say they are doing 30 minutes of physical activity per day
- Participation in sport and physical recreation tends to drop off around 15 and 16

Local youth services with an active component include:

- Kapiti Youth Support
- House of Hope Trust
- Youth 2 Excel
- Kapiti Skills
- Youth Focus Trust
- Innovative Educators
- Horowhenua Learning Centre
- Project K
- various church-run youth groups,
- events and activities provided by the Council and other organisations.

Source: Kāpiti Coast Physical Activity Strategy – Current Situation 2007

Club membership

A Sport Kapiti survey undertaken in 2006 identified that junior membership of sports clubs is generally increasing, and some clubs (Paraparaumu Beach Tennis Club and Waikanae Gym Club) are having difficulty coping with the increased numbers of junior members. Some clubs have predominantly junior membership or are structured entirely around their junior members.

Suicide

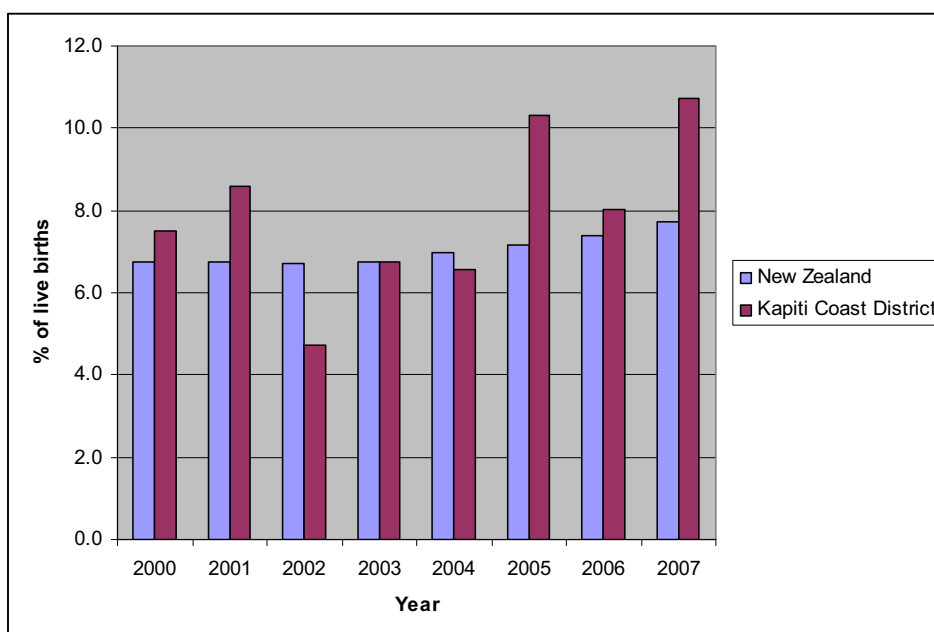
Suicide is a serious health and social issue and a key indicator of the mental health of young people. From 1992 to 2004, 16 young people aged between 15 and 24 took their own lives – 13% of all suicides on the Coast. A recent meeting of social agencies in the District expressed concern at the current rate of youth suicide.

Teen parenting

Teen parenting can mean a general loss of opportunity for continued education, employment and income.

Over the three years to 2007, Kāpiti Coast had higher rates of live births to teenage mother than the national average (Figure 6). In 2007, 10.7% of all live births were to teenage mothers. This is the highest level for at least 10 years.

Figure 6: Proportion of live births to teenage mothers, Kāpiti Coast District and New Zealand, 2000 to 2007



Crime and Safety

Young people feeling safe

Currently there is little information about how safe young people feel in their homes, neighbourhoods and in public places. However it is an issue often raised at meetings and other forums.

Safety at Paraparaumu Railway station

After the community, including young people, raised concerns about safety at the Paraparaumu railway station, there have been significant improvements, in particular, increased security and physical improvements around the station have been implemented.

*Young people involved in crime*¹⁷

From 2006 to 2007 the proportion of police apprehensions¹⁸ by Kāpiti Coast police stations¹⁹ of 14 to 16 year olds has decreased from 25% to 20%. However this is still significantly higher than the national level of 14%.

In 2007 apprehension rates for young people under 14 years (4%) and those aged 17-20 (25%) were the same as national rates. The rate for 21 to 30 years (24%) was less than their peers nationwide (28%).

Access to affordable housing

Housing affordability is a growing issue in the District for all households, not just young people. However some things that make it more difficult for young people to access affordable housing are:

- the type and range of housing available. In particular, the proportion of smaller dwellings (by number of bedrooms) is falling. In 1996 32.6% of the District's dwellings were two or one bedroom. In 2006 this had fallen to 28.7%.
- the cost of renting - current house rentals range from an average of \$182 for a one bedroom flat in Paraparaumu/Raumati or \$142 for the same in Waikanae/Ōtaki, through to \$325 for a three bedroom house in Paraparaumu/Raumati and \$286 for one in Waikanae/Ōtaki.
- the lack of emergency housing - this was identified in the Local Services Mapping project in 2006. Kāpiti Coast District Council is working with other relevant agencies to find solutions for the emergency housing issue.

Service collaboration and coordination

There has been a focus on collaboration amongst agencies to address key issues for young people in the District issues.

Agencies have worked together to manage after-ball parties, making sure they are fun and safe, including producing the Kāpiti Safe Party Pack. Recently, agencies came together to consider joint actions in response to concerns about the level of youth suicide.

Kāpiti Safe Party Pack

Free CD holder filled with information about partying safely in Kāpiti, looking after mates and getting home safely at the end of the night. A resource produced by local agencies, it comes with a Parent Sheet with tips for parents whose teens hold or go to parties.

¹⁷ Care needs to be taken with interpreting crime statistics as changes in crime rates may result from changes in reporting by the public, in recording practices by the police, as well as by changes in actual levels.

¹⁸ An apprehension means that a person has been dealt with by police in some manner to resolve an offence. The number of apprehensions is not the same as the number of offenders. Apprehensions do not count individuals, as a person apprehended for multiple offences will be counted multiple times in the data.

¹⁹ Police administrative boundaries do not necessarily match to territorial boundaries. The coverage of Kapiti and Ōtaki police stations may not match exactly to the Kapiti Coast District but is the best fit available.

4 ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Young people are involved in a vast array of activities, both organised and informal, across the District – music, arts, sports, theatre, as volunteers and activists. They need and want to be involved in decisions about their lives and their environment.

Kāpiti Youth Council

The Youth Council continues to provide a way for Kāpiti Coast's young people to identify their needs, develop responses to them, and have representation and a legitimate voice in the community. The Council runs the \$300ship scholarship scheme and one-off projects such as the successful youth rave held in 2008.

Participation in local activities

Some examples of the range of activities young people are involved in are:

An active Students Against Driving Drunk network in the District. This is a peer education programme run in secondary schools by students, independently of the school curriculum.

The development of school travel plans that are student led and run. Travel plans have already been undertaken by students at Paraparaumu College, and Paraparaumu Beach and Kena Kena primary schools.

College Community Awards. Each year the Kāpiti Coast District Council honours the community service and achievements of students attending Kapiti, Ōtaki and Paraparaumu Colleges. Students are nominated by fellow students, staff or group leaders.

"Have you got talent" was the opening line of the **\$300ships** application form, and the answer is Kāpiti youth sure do!

\$300ships is a scholarship up to the value of \$300 for young people aged 12 to 19 who live in the District. The scheme is run by Kāpiti Youth Council. The aim is to assist in the personal development of young people who have shown dedication to their chosen topic and demonstrated a commitment to raising their own funds.

In 2008 the Youth Council awarded \$300ships to 16 of the 50 applicants. Successful applicants came from Paekākāriki through to Ōtaki and covered a range of interest from music, arts and sports.

Project K...

...is a programme designed to inspire 14-15-year-olds to maximise their full potential. Through the programme students learn self-reliance, team building, self-confidence, perseverance, goal setting and good health and life skills. The programme is run by the Youth Development Trust in the three colleges in the District. In March 2008, ten students from Paraparaumu College attended their Project K Graduation.

"In front of an appreciative audience of family, friends, Mentors, teachers and the new Mayor the students spoke of their journey, the highlights, successes, goals and the other hard stuff.

"Each student showed great confidence and self awareness as they highlighted the impact Project K and their Mentors had on them. They were able to list a formidable array of goals they had set and achieved, with a focus on academic success, health and fitness, career prospects and other personal goals."

www.projectk.org.nz

Te Huarahi Pau o Te Hunga Rangatahi
a good pathway for our young people

As part of the Greater Ōtaki Project, young people have been involved in a range of youth-based and other community initiatives

Young people have talked about living in Ōtaki and what they would like to see for the future through the Ngā Wawata project. Their views and ideas have fed into the planning and design process for Ōtaki Main Street.

School children joined in the "Symbol Search" – one being one of the three eventual winners. The search was a way for the community, including school children, to express what Ōtaki means for them. It is envisioned that the symbol will be used in the town centre upgrades, for example on seating and other street furniture, footpaths, and signage.

Over the last 12 months, the House of Hope has supported the Graffiti Project. Young people help remove graffiti and network with their peers about the impact of graffiti and community pride issues.

2008 saw the start of the calendar for Youth Events – which aims to have one local event a month organised for Ōtaki young people. Two events have kicked off the calendar – Youth Radio Day on ReoFM on 20 September and the Youth Arts Exhibition in October.

OUTCOME 6: THE WORK OF KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Since the 2003/2004 Community Plan consultation process took place, Local Outcomes Statements have been published for Waikanae North, Raumati South, Raumati, Paraparaumu Beach, Paraparaumu Town, Paekākāriki, and Ōtaki. These Statements give local application and focus to the broader Community Outcomes.

In addition to these more locally focused action plans, the Council has also published (or collaborated in the development of) other major policy documents. The ones that have particular relevance for young people are:

Sustainable Transport Strategy 2008

The Strategy's *Focus Area 1: the transport system* is particularly important for young people as it is concerned with ensuring that:

- all communities have access to alternative travel modes (other than reliance on private vehicles) to get to work, schools and essential services.
- there are safe efficient linkages to the main places of work within the District, to schools and essential services.

Physical Activity Plan 2007 (in conjunction with SPARC (Sport and Recreation New Zealand))

The Plan was developed by regional and local groups involved in health and recreation. The Strategy's vision is that "the Kāpiti Coast is a place where people of all backgrounds and abilities enjoy participating in a wide and exciting range of activities which contribute to their health, wellbeing and sense of connection to their community". Within the Plan, there are specific actions targeting young people.

Local Service Mapping Action Plan 2007 (a multi-agency plan)

Local Services Mapping was a process initiated by the Ministry of Social Development and overseen by a local cross-sectoral steering group. The focus was on improving the development, planning, delivery and funding of social services to families in communities. Local Services Mapping highlighted five priorities for immediate attention:

- Emergency housing
- Access to mental health and alcohol and other drug services
- Support services that strengthen parent and child relationships
- Transport to support services
- Additional Kaupapa Māori services

While not specifically focused on young people, actions being undertaken in these areas will have benefits for them. Work is continuing on the actions but the current challenge is how to keep the process alive.

OUTCOME 6: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The community's vision is that the Kāpiti Coast provides a place that young people can enjoy and feel part of, where they can make the best of education and other opportunities and be encouraged to stay in the District as they grow older. There have been considerable improvements in the educational achievements of young people in the District and generally improved economic conditions are likely to have increased opportunities for young people to find employment locally. However there are also some aspects which continue to be of concern, in particular, the high level of teenage pregnancies, youth suicide and police apprehension for 14 to 16 year olds. Agencies working with young people in the District have recognised that they need to work together collaboratively to offer the most relevant and effective services for young people.

Other data indicates that young people are involved in a diverse variety of activities and are keen to participate in community life and decision-making.

Nevertheless, the key concern for the community is the tendency for young people not to remain in the District. One gap in information relating to the indicators is the feelings and perceptions of young people themselves. Planning for a survey of young people in 2009 is underway, the results of which will be used to target areas that are identified as important.

OUTCOME 7: The district has a strong healthy and involved community



This outcome is concerned with the health and wellbeing of each person in the District. It is also concerned with how people come together as a community. It is particularly focused on:

- access – to health and other essential services, to recreation and entertainment opportunities and to key public places (beaches, civic and local centres)
- housing choices
- the needs and aspirations of older people
- involvement and participation in community and civic life

The key indicators used to see how the community has progressed towards this outcome are in the following areas:

- Health
- Economic standard of living
- Safety
- Housing choice
- Participation in community and civic life
- Access to services, facilities and information

1. HEALTH

Why this is important

The physical, mental and emotional health of the District's people is associated with a whole range of factors including, age, ethnicity, employment, education, housing, socio-economic status and the environment. The important consideration for Kāpiti Coast is ensuring there is adequate access to health services. This is complicated by the District being served by three District Health Boards – Mid-Central DHB (Ōtaki), Capital & Coast DHB (the rest of the District) and Hutt Valley DHB for regional public health.

What we looked at:

- Life expectancy
- Mental and emotional health - suicide and self-harm rates
- Modifiable health risks - cigarette smoking, level of physical activity
- Access to GPs

Life expectancy

This is a key indicator of general population health. Improvements in life expectancy are a reflection of improvements in social and economic conditions, access to health services and medical advances. Life expectancy “at birth” indicates the number of years a person could live to, based on the mortality rates of the population at each age in a given year or period. Between 1995-1997 and 2000-2002, the life expectancy of Kāpiti Coast District males increased by 2.8 years and for females by 0.7 years. Kāpiti Coast residents have a longer life expectancy than the national average (Table 23).

Table 23: Estimated life expectancy at birth (in years)

	1995 – 1997		2000-2002	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Kāpiti Coast	74.8	81.6	77.6	82.3
New Zealand	74.4	79.8	76.5	81.4

Source: Ministry of Social Development 2008 Social Report

Mental and emotional health

Suicide

Information about suicides is available up to 2005²⁰. There were 41 suicides in the District between 2000 and 2005. Males accounted for 75% of these. The suicide rate for the District for this period was 15.2 suicides per 100,000 people, slightly higher than the national rate of 12.3 suicides per 100,000 people. In particular, as noted in Outcome 6, a recent meeting of social agencies in the District expressed concern at the current rate of youth suicide.

²⁰ Data about suicides and hospitalisations for self-harm is from the Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago.

Attempted suicide

Hospitalisation for intentional self-harm is an internationally recognised proxy measure for attempted suicide.²¹ Information on public hospital discharges gives an indication of the level of injury through self-harm. This information is available up to 2007. From 2000 to 2007 there were 162 cases of public hospital discharges for intentional self-harm giving a rate of 49.5 per 100,000 people. This is below the national rate for the same period of 65.2 per 100,000 people. Females accounted for 70% of all public hospital discharges for intentional self-harm for the District

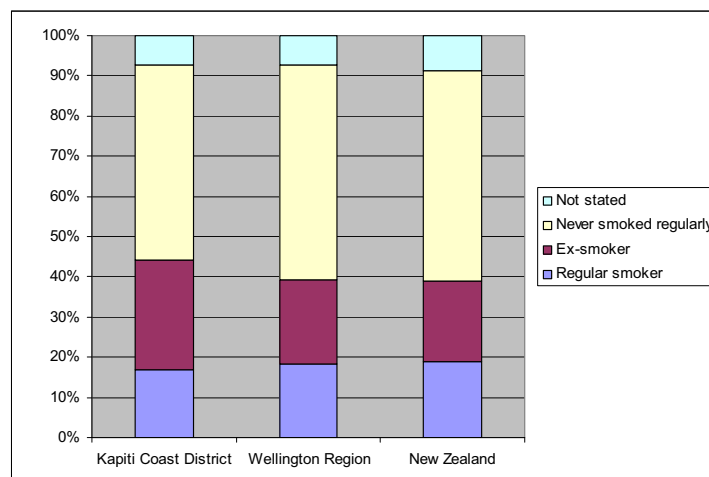
Modifiable risk factors

The Ministry of Health notes that smoking and lack of physical exercise are the two most significant modifiable risk factors contributing to poor health. Smoking is the single biggest cause of preventable morbidity and mortality in New Zealand. About 5,000 deaths each year in New Zealand are attributable to direct smoking or second-hand smoke. Physical inactivity is associated with eight percent of all deaths and accounts for over 2,000 deaths per year across the country.

Cigarette smoking

Cigarette smoking in the District has decreased over the last ten years. In 1996, 20.2% of the population was regular smokers compared with 16.8% in 2006. Kāpiti Coast has a slightly lower rate of regular smokers than the Region and the national average, but a higher proportion of ex smokers, possibly as a result of an older population (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Cigarette smoking behaviour, residents 15 years and over, 2006



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2006

Level of physical activity

The only information available about the level of physical activity in the Kāpiti Coast District is a survey of residents taken in 2006. This was conducted as part of the development of the Physical Activity Plan published in April 2007.

²¹ New Zealand Health Information Service www.nzhis.govt.nz

Self-reported levels of physical activity were as follows:

- 80% of respondents engaged in brisk walking for an average of 4 hours 27 minutes per week
- 82% of respondents undertook moderate activity for an average of 5 hours and 35 minutes per week
- 52% of respondents engaged in vigorous activity, with the average time of participation of 3 hours 30 minutes for the week.

Kāpiti Coast residents appear to be less active than people in New Zealand as a whole. Around 31% reported being active every day compared with the 40% reported nationally. This may be related to the age of the population.

Outcome One (page 11) provides more information about physical activity in relation to people using and enjoying the walkway system.

Access to GPs

Information from the Medical Council of New Zealand indicates that in 2007 for the District there were 91 (full time equivalent) GPs per 100,000 people. This compares with 74 GPs per 100,000 people estimated for the Capital and Coast District Health Board area (that includes for this purpose all of the Kāpiti Coast District). However, local services report that the actual level of GPs per head of population is much lower than this. Kāpiti Primary Health Organisation estimates that currently there are 21 to 23 (full time equivalent) GPs working in their area (which includes from Paekākāriki through to Peka Peka). This equates to approximately 60 GPs per 100,000 people. This much lower rate of coverage is also reflected in the extent of the waiting list for primary health services in the District.

Health Services

One of the key drivers of changes to health services in the District has been the Kapiti Health and Disability Plan and Report, by the Kapiti Community Health Group – first published in 2000 and reviewed in 2008. Since the Plan was published in 2000, the following highlights have been achieved:

- establishment of Kapiti and Ōtaki Primary Health Organisations
- opening of the Kapiti Health Centre
- a cross-boundary agreement between Capital & Coast District Health Board and MidCentral District Health Board
- increased access to affordable primary health services through lowering of medical charges at Kenepuru Accident and Medical Clinic
- health promotion activities including the annual Healthfests
- establishment and coordination of the GP waiting list
- increased Māori health services
- improved public transport to health services, including bus services to Kapiti Health Centre

In 2008 a transport coordination and shuttle bus service from Kapiti to Kenepuru, Wellington and Hutt hospitals has been established through a partnership between the Red Cross and Kapiti Community Transport Steering Group. A similar service is being considered for Ōtaki to hospital services north.

ECONOMIC STANDARD OF LIVING

Why is this important

Income levels and access to employment opportunities are important contributing factors to individual and family well-being.

What we looked at

- Access to employment opportunities
- Income and income support
- Deprivation index

Access to employment opportunities

The growth in local employment has been covered in detail in Outcome Five (page58). There has been an increase in the numbers of local businesses and jobs over a range of industry sectors. However the recent downturn in the housing and building industry and deteriorating global conditions will have an impact on employment opportunities.

Income

Kāpiti Coast District employees earned an average of \$19.80 per hour in March 2008. This is considerably lower than for the average for the region and nationally. The gap is even wider in the case of women (Table 24).

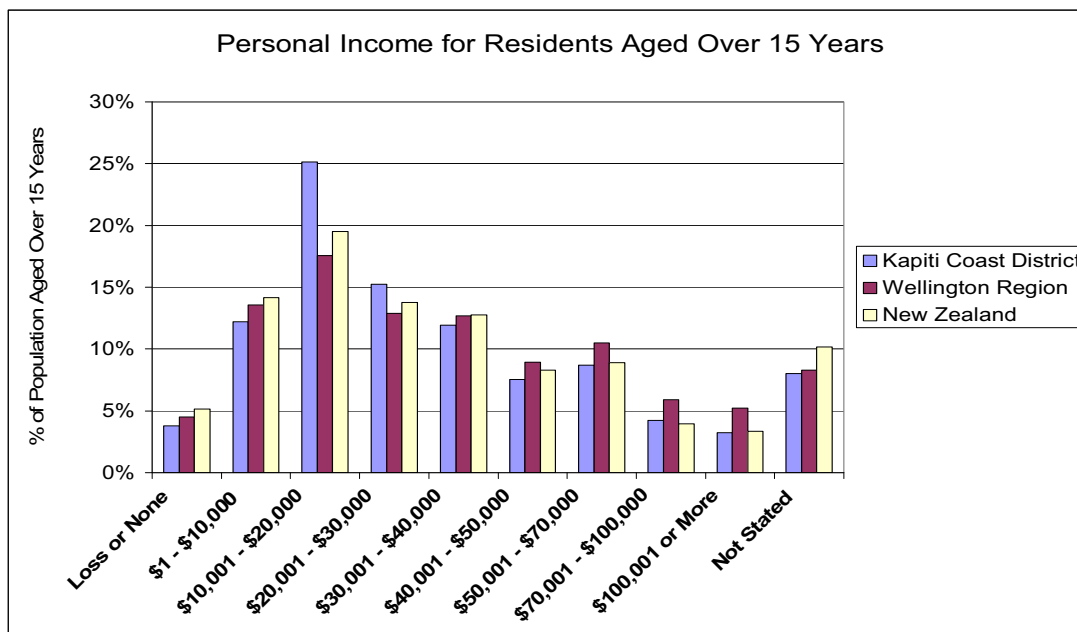
Table 24: Average hourly earnings (\$) by gender, Kāpiti Coast District, Wellington Region and New Zealand, March 2008

	Male	Female	Total
Kāpiti Coast District	22.39	16.95	19.80
Wellington Region	28.19	24.17	26.40
New Zealand	25.04	21.91	23.66

Source: Statistics New Zealand Kāpiti Coast District Quarterly Report March 2008

The average annual personal income is lower in the Kāpiti Coast District than in the Region but is similar to the New Zealand average. The median personal income in 2006 was \$23,000 for the District and \$24,400 nationally. In 2006 a significant proportion (40%) of residents over the age of 15 had a personal income between \$10,000 and \$30,000. This reflects the higher than average numbers of residents on superannuation incomes. Residents in the District are less likely than those in the Region or New Zealand as a whole to have a very low income or a loss (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Annual personal income for residents over 15 years old, Kāpiti Coast District, Wellington Region and New Zealand, 2006



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census 2006

The highest median personal incomes were recorded in the census areas units of Kaitawa, Maungakotukutuku and Otaihanga and the lowest in Ōtaki, Waikanae West and Paraparaumu Central.

In 2006 the median household income was \$42,500 – markedly lower than the national median of \$51,400 and the regional median of \$59,700. This reflects the large number of single older person households in the District.

Income support

Overall, excluding those receiving New Zealand Superannuation, the number of people living on the Kāpiti Coast receiving income support has decreased over the last three years.²² For those aged between 20 and 64 years the biggest decreases has been in the number receiving unemployment benefits and to a lesser extent the Domestic Purposes Benefit. There have small increases in the number of people receiving the Sickness Benefit.

There has been growth in the number of people over 65 receiving New Zealand Superannuation. This has grown by 3.5% since 2006. There are now 10,549 older people on the Coast receiving this.

Information on income support for those under 20 is covered in Outcome 6 (page 70).

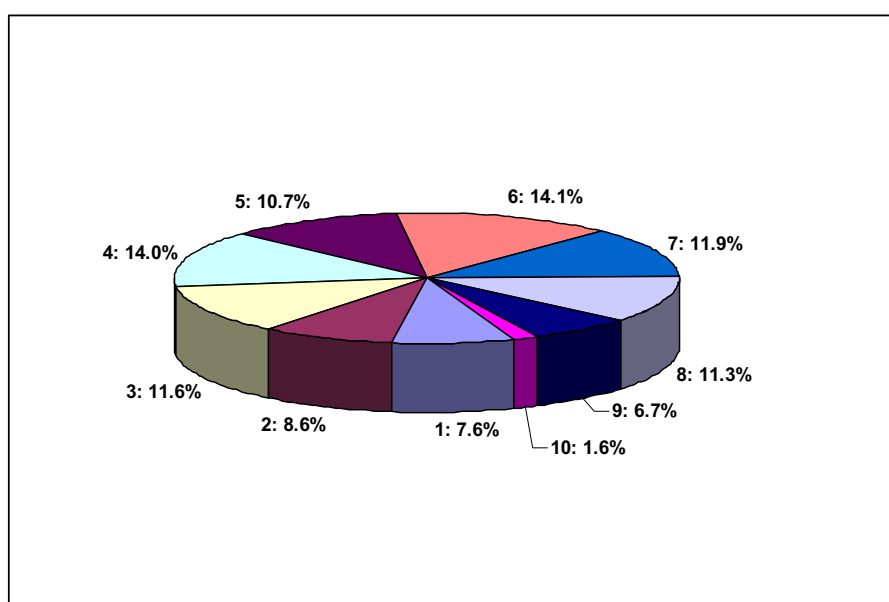
²² Information from the Ministry of Social Development

Deprivation index

The New Zealand Deprivation Index combines nine variables from the 2006 census with the aim of providing small area indexes of socio-economic deprivation in New Zealand.²³ The scale of the index ranges from one to ten, where one represents the areas with the least deprived scores and ten the areas with the most deprived scores.

In general, the District has a higher proportion of people living in areas with moderate level deprivation scores. Under 10% of the population live in areas with high deprivation index scores (one or two) (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Proportion of population by Index of Deprivation, Kāpiti Coast, 2006

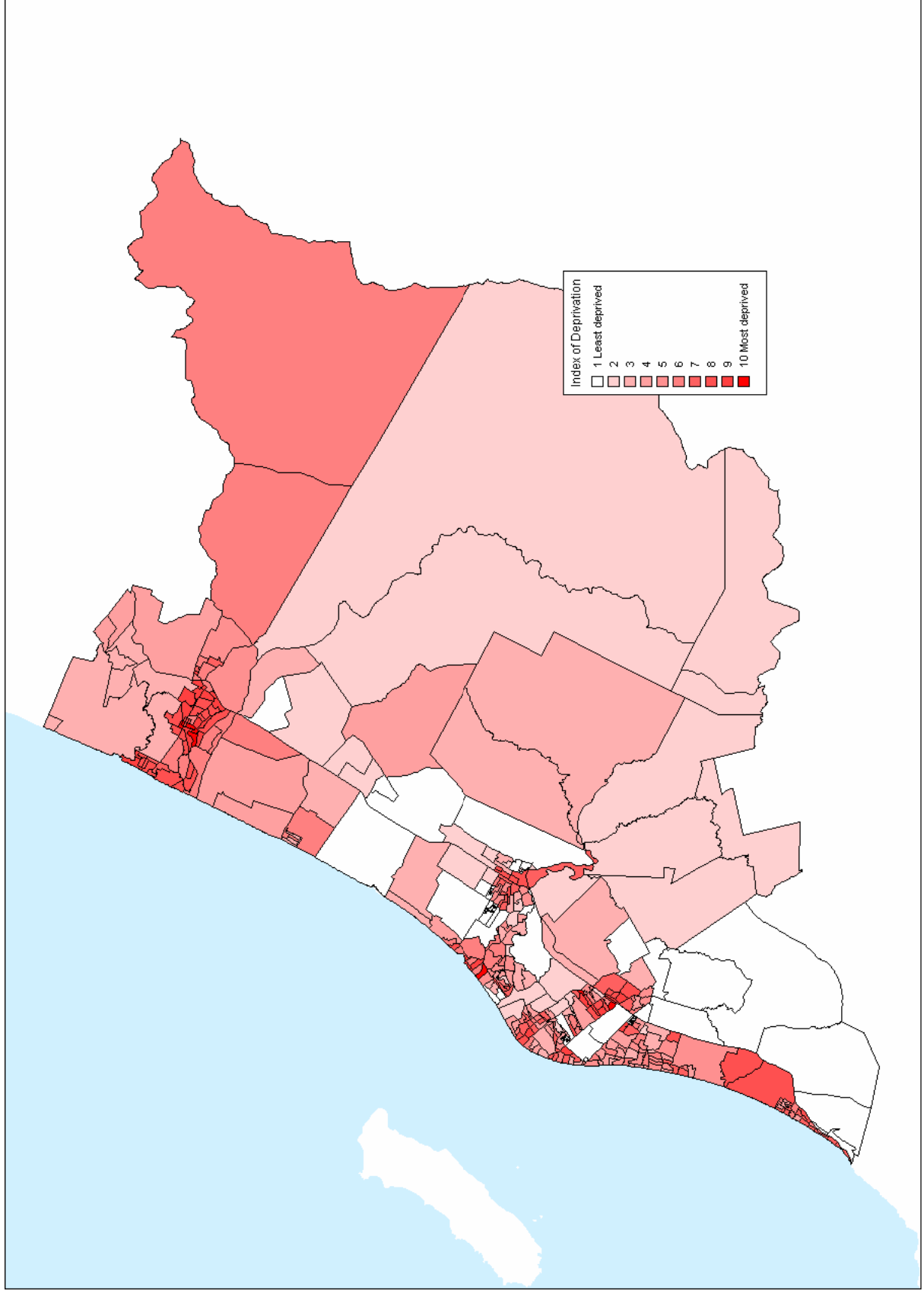


There are pockets of areas that have higher deprivation scores – in Ōtaki, Paraparaumu Central and Waikanae Beach (Figure 10). It is important to note that the deprivation score relates to areas and not to individual people. The existence of pockets with high deprivation correlates with concerns raised by social agencies operating in the District that the general picture tends to mask acute pockets of need in the District.

²³ The NZDep2006 was produced by Salmond C, Crampton P, Atkinson J for the Department of Public Health, University of Otago Wellington. NZDep2006 combines the following data from the 2006 Census:

- Income: People aged 18-64 receiving a means tested benefit; people living in households with income below an income threshold
- Owned home: People not living in own home
- Support: People aged <65 living in a single parent family
- Employment: People aged 18-64 unemployed
- Qualifications: People aged 18-64 without any qualifications
- Living space: People living in households below a bedroom occupancy threshold
- Communication: People with no access to a telephone
- Transport: People with no access to a car

Figure 10: Index of Deprivation Kāpiti Coast District, 2006



3. SAFETY

Why is this important?

Feeling safe in our homes and public places is important for individuals as well as the overall health of our community. Providing safe and attractive environments encourages people to be more active in their communities.

What we looked at

- Perceptions of safety in public places
- Crime levels
- Injuries
- Vehicle, pedestrian and cycling accidents
- Family violence

Perceptions of safety in public places

Unfortunately we have little data on how safe people feel in their homes and public places. However, we know that this is an area of concern within the community because the issue is often raised at public forums. Information from the Quality of Life Survey²⁴ undertaken in 2008 may provide some information. This is due out in early 2009.

Crime levels²⁵

Recorded offence rate

Kāpiti Coast District is served by Kāpiti and Ōtaki Police Stations.²⁶ These police stations have recorded an average of 3,737 offences per year over the five years to 2007. The offence rate has fluctuated over the last five years but has declined overall from 859 recorded offences per 10,000 people in 2003, to 767 per 10,000 people in 2007. In 2007, the District's offence rate was well below the national average (1,008 per 10,000 people).

Types of offences

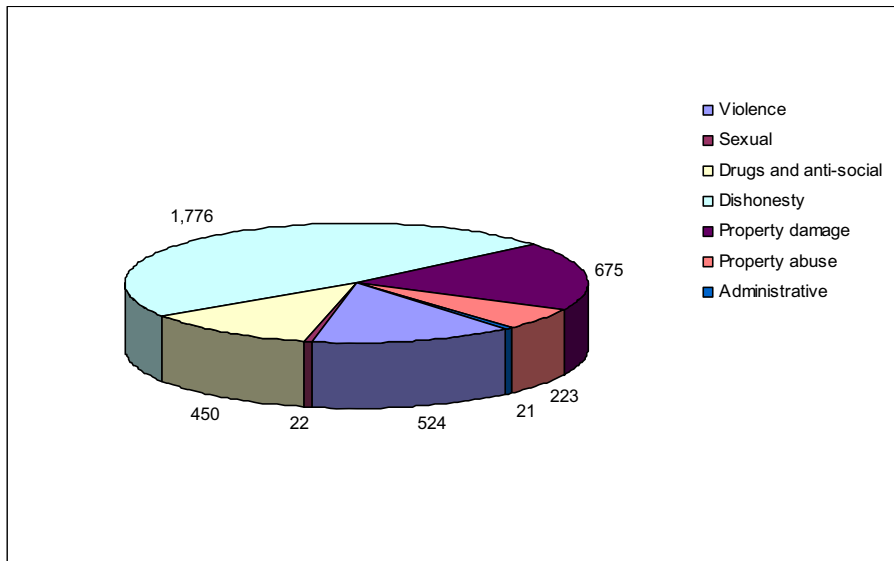
In 2007, almost half the recorded offences (48%) were for dishonesty (including theft and burglary), followed by property damage (18%) and violence (14%) – (Figure 11)

²⁴ The Quality of Life Survey is undertaken every 2 years as part of the Quality of Life project that provides information on life and wellbeing in 12 New Zealand cities. In 2008 Greater Wellington Regional Council provided for an extension of the Quality of Life Survey to cover local council areas in the region not in the 12 cities project. This includes Kapiti Coast District.

²⁵ Care needs to be taken with interpreting crime statistics, as changes in crime rates may result from changes in reporting by the public, in recording practices by the police, as well as by changes in actual levels.

²⁶ Police administrative boundaries do not necessarily correspond with territorial boundaries. The coverage of Kapiti and Ōtaki Police Stations may not correspond exactly to the Kapiti Coast District but is the best fit available.

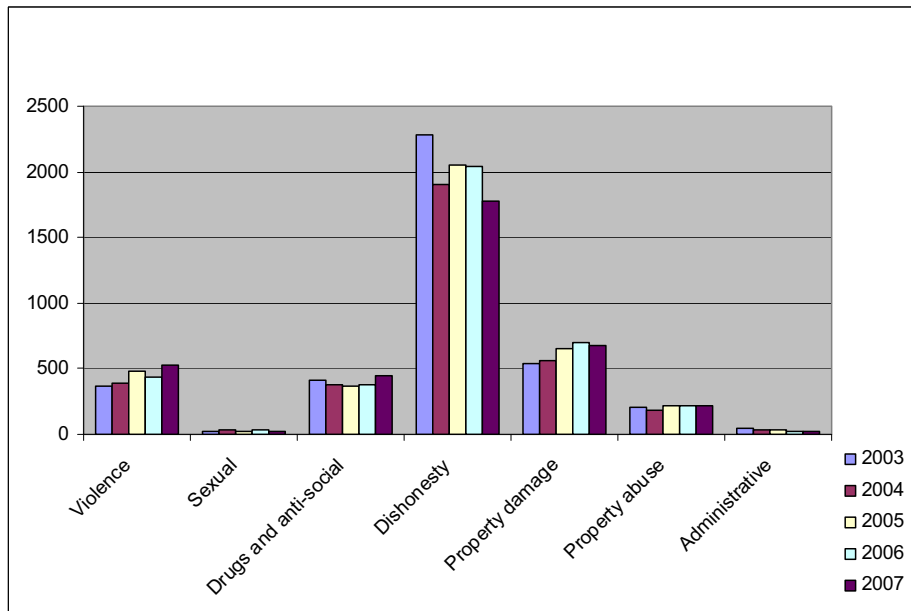
Figure 11: Recorded offences by type, Kāpiti and Ōtaki, 2007



Source: New Zealand Police

In the last five years there have been changes in the types of offences recorded. Dishonesty has decreased, while violence and property damage have increased.

Figure 12: Changes in recorded offences by type, Kāpiti and Ōtaki, 2003 to 2007

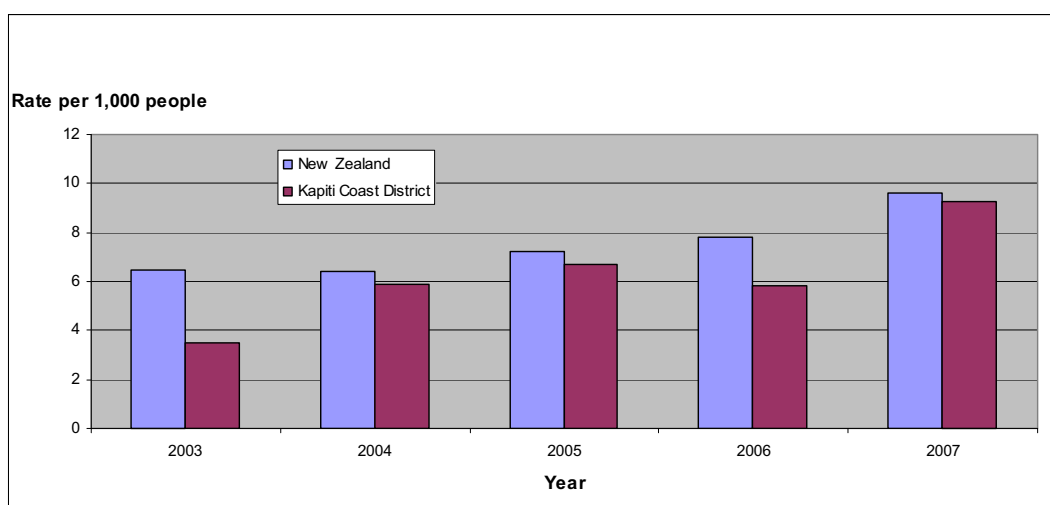


Source: New Zealand Police

Family violence

Consistent with the trend nationally, the rate of recorded family violence offences in the District has increased over the last five years. Family violence rates in the District remain consistently below national rates (Figure 13). It should be noted that increases in the level of recording offences may not necessarily reflect an increase in the incidence of family violence – it could reflect an increase in the reporting of incidences and changes to way offences are recorded.

Figure 13: Recorded family violence rate, Kāpiti Coast District and New Zealand, 2003-2007



Turn the Tide of Violence Together

Kapiti Voices Against Violence Action Group works to raise community and social service awareness of issues relating to violence and encourage collaborative action around violence prevention. The group has been instrumental in organising local events for White Ribbon Day. This is marked internationally each year on 25 November, when people wear a white ribbon to show that they do not condone violence towards women.

In 2008 Kāpiti Coast District Council became the first White Ribbon Council in New Zealand.

Injuries and accidents

Hospital discharge information²⁷ provides an indicator of the injury rates of the general population. There has been a steady increase for the District in the number and rate of hospital discharges related to unintentional injuries. The average annual rate for the last seven years is 910.3 discharges per 100,000 population. This compares with a national discharge rate of 947.4 per 100,000 population for the same period.

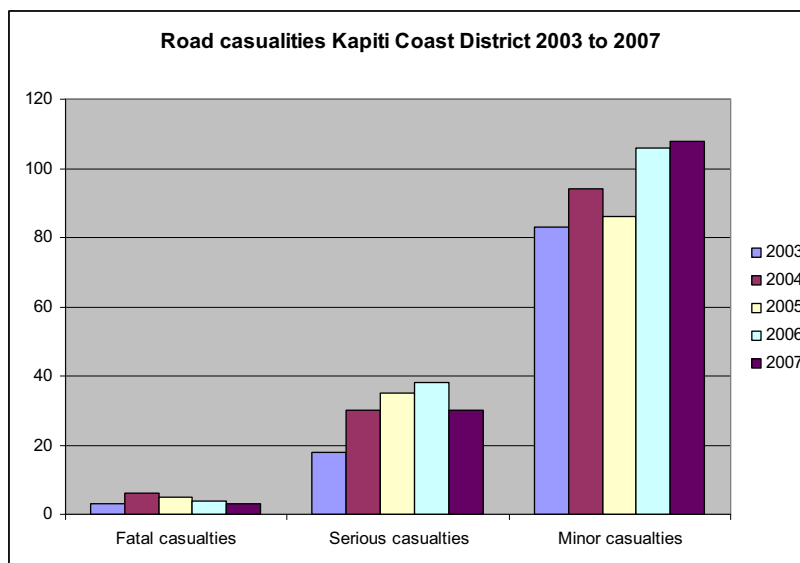
²⁷ This data is drawn from the Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago

In relation to accidents that result in fatalities, the average rate per year for the period 2000 to 2005 was 37.9 deaths per 100,000 people. This is higher than the national annual average of 27.4 deaths per 100,000 population for the same period.

Road safety

Road casualties (including for pedestrians and cyclists) have increased over the last five years, although there was a drop in fatalities and serious casualties from 2006 to 2007.

Figure 14: Road casualties, Kāpiti Coast District, 2003-2007



Supporting safe and healthy choices for getting to and from school

A geographic cluster of Kāpiti Coast schools has developed travel plans over the last couple of years – Paraparaumu College, Paraparaumu Beach Primary School and Kena Kena Primary School.

The travel plans involve planning, surveying, analysis and reporting – all done by the students. Some of the results from the travel plans are:

Very successful active transport days at both Paraparaumu Beach and Kena Kena schools. These served as a trial launch for walking school buses that were very well attended. Kena Kena School also ran a well-supported cycle train running from Otaihanga. This cycle train is the first in the region and one of very few that have operated in the country. The active transport day was the catalyst for an ongoing walking school buses from Eatwell Ave to Paraparaumu Beach School.

Another student-led initiative was the “Arnold Grove Car Free Day” at Kena Kena School. Year 8 students took a lead role in organising the day, including creating, printing and distributing notices to car drivers on the preceding days and then helping out on the morning to ensure that cars didn’t use the street. On that morning Arnold Grove was a very safe and pleasant place for the many walking and cycling children and parents.

4. HOUSING CHOICE

Why this is important

As is the case nationally, the availability of suitable and affordable housing has become a concern in the Kāpiti Coast District. Access to secure and affordable housing²⁸ is important in achieving outcomes in quality of life, education, health, employment, and building stronger communities.

What we looked at

- Housing tenure
- Housing costs and affordability
- Household crowding
- Housing development – diversity of housing type
- Healthy housing

Housing Tenure

The District has a high level of home ownership but, as is the case nationally, this is decreasing. In 2006, 63% of households owned their dwelling with or without a mortgage compared with 55% for the Wellington Region and for New Zealand as a whole.

The Kāpiti Coast has always had a substantial number of holiday homes and the number continues to grow. These are usually unavailable for permanent occupancy. In 2006 there were 3,048 unoccupied dwellings in the District, comprising 6.3% of the housing stock. This represents an increase in numbers of 168 as compared to 2001, but given the overall increase in housing in the District, as a proportion this represents a slight decrease from 6.4% in 2001.

The District has a relatively low proportion of social housing (homes owned by Housing New Zealand, Kāpiti Coast District Council or other government or community organisation). In 2006, 8% of all rental properties were social housing compared with over 19% for the region and 15% nationally.

Housing costs and affordability

As is the case nationally, housing and land costs have risen considerably in Kāpiti over the last five to ten years, as shown by Table 25. While real estate values have dropped nationally, they appear from the data to be holding in the District, though there was some

²⁸ Suitable and adequate housing covers such factors as:

- Costs, including to secure housing (deposit, rental bond); to maintain possession (mortgage, rates, insurance, rents etc); to ensure ongoing quality (maintenance) and to 'run' the house (electricity and other services);
- Design and construction, including what it looks like, sustainability, privacy, quality of materials, safety, neighbourhood integration etc;
- Suitability to the specific needs of the household, such as size, age range, life cycle stage, physical and social support needs and cultural requirements
- Access to passenger transport, work, shops, schools, community facilities, family and friends and other support networks.

fluctuation evident in the six months from April to October 2008 (Table 25). Increases in other living costs are likely to offset any affordability gains in home ownership.

Table 25: Median sale prices for sections and dwellings Kāpiti Coast District, 1998 to 2008

	April 1998	April 2003	April 2008	Aug 2008	Oct 2008
Section	\$44,500	\$75,500	\$145,000	\$140,000	\$285,000*
Dwelling	\$138,000	\$176,250	\$340,000	\$287,000	\$346,000

* Based on two sales only

Source: Real Estate Institute of New Zealand Market Facts Graphs www.reinz.org.nz

House rentals have remained fairly stable over the last 12 months (Table 26). For Paraparaumu/Raumati, they range from an average of \$179 for a one bedroom flat through to \$324 for a three bedroom house. For Waikanae/Ōtaki, the average rent for a one bedroom flat is \$135 and \$215 for a three bedroom house.²⁹

Table 26: Market rents for Kāpiti Coast properties November 07 to October 08

Average rent	Paraparaumu/Raumati		Waikanae/Ōtaki	
	Nov07-Apr08	May-Oct08	Nov07-Apr08	May-Oct08
1 bedroom flat	178	179	176	135
2 bedroom flat	245	244	215	249
2 bedroom apartment	359	353	-	-
2 bedroom house	258	260	228	215
3 bedroom house	319	324	285	284

Source: Department of Building and Housing, Market Rent Lookup www.dbh.govt.nz/market-rent

People receiving accommodation supplement

At the end of September 2007 around 2,980 residents (about 6.2% of the population) were receiving the accommodation supplement³⁰ – almost 210 fewer than two years earlier. This is slightly higher than the national proportion (6%) and reflects the high number of superannuitants receiving the supplement.

²⁹ Department of Building and Housing, Market Rent Lookup www.dbh.govt.nz/market-rent

³⁰ The Accommodation Supplement is a means tested benefit paid weekly through Work and Income that helps people with their rent, board or the cost of owning a home.

Household crowding

There has been a decrease in the proportion of people living in crowded households in the ten years from 1996 to 2006. In 1996 5.2% of people lived in crowded households. This had fallen to 4.5% in 2006.

Housing development - diversity of housing type

While most housing on the Kāpiti Coast is separate housing, there has been some growth in attached housing. From 1996 to 2006 much of this growth has occurred in Paraparaumu Central, Ōtaki and Raumati Beach (totalling 105 dwelling units). Growth in the number of dwellings overall has been concentrated in Paraparaumu Central, with 1,296 new dwelling units, and Waikanae Beach, with 1,209 new dwelling units.

The houses on the Kāpiti Coast are getting larger and there are more large dwellings being built. Between 1996 and 2006 the largest increases between 1996 and 2006 have been in three bedroom houses (an additional 1,797) and four bedroom houses (an additional 1,302).

Healthy housing

Insulation is a key determinant of health, comfort and energy use in homes in New Zealand. Unfortunately, there is little information about the level of insulation in houses specific to the District. However, national estimates³¹ indicate that many existing homes are inadequately insulated including:

- 18% (250,000) of houses have no ceiling insulation at all, or insulation in less than 50% of the roof area
- 60% of houses (900,000) have ceiling insulation of inadequate thickness
- 700,000 houses have negligible or no wall insulation
- 740,000 houses with suspended floors have no under-floor insulation, but 650,000 could be insulated

Prior to 1978, there were no insulation standards for housing and until 2008, mandated insulation requirements have been minimal. Given that the majority of the District's homes were built pre-1978, there are likely to be significant numbers that are inadequately insulated.

5. PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LIFE

Why this is important

Involvement and participation in community life is important, not just because it contributes to a sense of being part of the community, but also because it generates a sense of value and control in one's own life.

What we looked at:

- Treaty relationships
- Te reo language retention and development

³¹ http://www.beaconpathway.co.nz/Portals/5/Final_Dispatch_Insulation_single.pdf

- Voter turnout at elections
- Level of volunteering

Treaty relationships

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Local Government to foster the capacity of, and provide opportunities for, Māori to contribute to decision making processes.

In September 2004 the tāngata whenua of the District, Āti Awa Ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, and the Kāpiti Coast District Council celebrated ten years of partnership through Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti. This is a forum where the tāngata whenua and the Council come together to discuss matters of mutual interest and importance in relation to iwi-specific issues and wider District matters. A measure of the quality of the relationship is the development and progress on Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti's work programme (Table 27).

Table 27: Progress on the Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti 2007/08 work programme

Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti Initiative and/or Project		Progress Comment
Iwi / Council capacity building	Council liaison / Māori Staff support	Completed. Full time employment commenced 14th July 2008
	Increasing efficiency of iwi response to joint work	Ongoing. Iwi Liaison Officer has become a full time position. Work Force Development and Cultural Advisor position has become a permanent position.
	Iwi Management Plans	Ongoing. Staged approach agreed. Focus remains on Ngāti Toa
	Potential cadetship programme	Deferred. To be progressed in 2008/09
State of the Environment	Coastal Strategy (identifying the fundamental requirements of iwi in a customary sense)	Completed. Consultation now underway through a series of community workshops. Information obtained through these workshops will be fed back to the community through an Annual Forum as outlined through the Coastal Strategy.
	Waahi tapu management plans (key sites)	Ongoing. Work progressing to research sites for inclusion into the District Plan
	Environmental monitoring	Ongoing.
Economic Development	Cultural tourism and Wellington Regional Strategy (building on the work from the Wellington Regional Strategy on Māori development potential, with a focus on local issues and	Completed. Te Arahanga O Nga Iwi commissioned to deliver baseline data and indicators (completed May 2008) and Regional Māori Economic Development Strategy (final presented to Horowhenua Kāpiti Joint Economic

Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti Initiative and/or Project		Progress Comment
	opportunity)	Development Forum in August 2008.) 2008/09 Annual Plan allocated funding for implementation activity.
History, Naming and Symbols	Design Initiatives / Historical resource (a project aimed at bringing the historical and contemporary features of the tāngata whenua into an appropriate showcase)	Work in progress in Ōtaki rohe (area) under the Greater Ōtaki Project including “The Pipi Trail” Brochure which is scheduled to be completed by September 2008.
Māori representation	Review of Memorandum of Partnership	Completed. Memorandum of Partnership signed by iwi and Council on the 28th March 2008 at Raukawa Marae
	Local Government Act (identification of a preferred option in terms of a potential Māori ward(s) and consultation)	Investigating. Discussions underway for the preferred options pertaining to Māori Ward
	Involvement of Taurahere (development of Taurahere representation framework as part of Te Whakaminenga).	Completed. Through the Memorandum of Partnership signed on 28th March 2008

Source: Kāpiti Coast District Annual Report 2007/08

Te reo language retention and development

Māori language retention is a measure of the preservation and protection of culture or Te Ao Māori. Table 28 shows changes over time of speakers of Māori. As can be seen, the number of Kāpiti Coast residents (including Māori) who can hold a conversation about everyday matters in Māori increased by 42.5% in the ten years from 1996 to 2006. The rate of increase for Māori residents only for the same period was 47%.

Table 28: Speakers of Māori in the Kāpiti Coast District, 1996, 2001 and 2006

	1996		2001		2006		% change 1996-2006
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Māori residents	957	22.6	1,287	26.5	1,407	25.7	47.0
Total population	1,221	3.2	1,320	3.8	1,740	3.8	42.5

Source: Ministry of Social Development 2008 Social Report

Voter turnout at elections

Local authority elections

The proportion of all enrolled electors (both resident and ratepayer) who voted in territorial local authority elections is shown in the following table. Voter turn-out has been decreasing over the last two elections, following a peak in 2001. Voter turn-out does remain above national levels for local and regional elections. In 2007 nationally the average turn-out rate for district council elections was 49% and 43% for regional council elections.

Table 29: Kāpiti Coast District elections, % voter turn-out, 1989 to 2007

Election year	1989	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
Voter turnout (%)	59.0	61.0	57.8	61.0	63.0	51.0	53.0

Source: Department of Internal Affairs

General elections

In the case of general (national) elections, voter participation has been above the average national rate. In 2005 voter turn-out increased from the 2002 but did not reach levels from 1999. Information for the 2008 election is not yet available.

Older People's Forums

Participation isn't just about voting. In 2008 Kāpiti Coast District Council held two older person's forums – where the Kapiti community could talk about issues that are important to them and come up with practical projects around these. Already this has resulted in the establishment of a Council of Elders for the District and projects on volunteering, safety and housing.

Table 30: General elections, % voter turnout for Ōtaki and Mana electorates, 1999 to 2005

	1999	2002	2005
Ōtaki	88.5	82.4	84.8
Mana	89.1	81.1	83.3
New Zealand	84.8	77.0	80.9

Source: Department of Internal Affairs

Level of volunteering

Kāpiti has a higher level of volunteering than the region or nationally. In 2006, 16.4% of Kāpiti Coast residents over 15 did voluntary work for or through an organisation, group or marae, compared with 14.8% for the region and 13.8% nationally.

The Council supports several local groups to identify needs in the community, develop responses to them, and provide representation and a voice in the community. This includes the Youth Council (discussed in Outcome Six, page 74) and Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti (discussed above).

Recently, as a result of the Older Person's forums (see inset box above), the Council of Elders has been established. This Council will be “an independent voice for older people

in the community and will advise the Council and community on issues that concern and affect older people”.

The Ethnic Forum, in partnership with the Council, recently held a meeting to look at issues for new and existing migrants in the community. The Council and the Ethnic Forum also work together to support the Regional Settlement Strategy (a joint central and local government initiative).

The Disability Reference Group was established to make sure that the council is aware of and responds to the needs of people with disabilities when considering policies, project or programmes.

6. ACCESS TO SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFORMATION

Why this is important

People want venues and activities for recreation, entertainment and socialising. Any facilities need to be easily accessible and they should support local activities, while maximising the opportunity to bring people together for larger events.

What we looked at

- Recreation facilities
- Community facilities
- Events
- Access to information – e.g. communications, use of libraries

Recreation facilities

In 2006, as part of the development of the Kāpiti Coast Physical Activity Strategy, a study of current recreation facilities was undertaken. The study found that park development has occurred on a village, township and district basis, in response to community demand. The Council has been engaged with developers at the planning stages of subdivision and other development projects to ensure that the network of parks expands to keep up with the demand of a growing population.

The Council is also planning the construction of a combined aquatic and recreation centre in the Paraparaumu town centre. This facility is currently at the design stage. The start date for its construction will be dependent on funding availability.

Kāpiti District – Recreation Facilities

Town	Park	Main uses
Paekākāriki	Campbell Park	Rugby, cricket, playground
Raumati	Tennis Court Road Reserve Matthews Park Weka Park Marine Gardens	Tennis court, playground Rugby league, playground Soccer, cricket, playground Swimming pool, playground, family amenities, boat ramp
Paraparaumu	Wesley Knight Park Macleay Park Kena Kena Park Te Atiawa Park Mazengarb Reserve Manawa Avenue Reserve Paraparaumu Domain Atarua Grove Reserve Kaitawa Reserve Paraparaumu Beach Kapiti College Paraparaumu College	Scenic reserve Playground, skateboard ramp, family amenities, boat ramp Cricket Junior rugby, netball, softball, cricket, tennis, BMX track, playground Soccer, hockey, touch football, gymnastics, croquet, playground Playground Rugby, soccer, athletics, cricket, petanque, playground Playground Playground Golf club Gymnasium, sports fields, netball/tennis courts Sports fields, artificial hockey turf (netball, tennis and hockey practice)
Otaihanga	Otaihanga Domain	Passive reserve, family amenities
Waikanae	Waimanu Lagoons Queens Rd Reserve Waimeha Lagoon Jim Cooke Memorial Park Edgewater Park Reikorangi Reserve He Awa Crescent Reserve Waikanae Memorial Park Waikanae Park Tutere Street Reserve Waikane Beach	Passive reserve Playground Playground Soccer Passive reserve Tennis Playground Netball, tennis courts, playground, family amenities Rugby, soccer, equestrian, skateboard rink, cricket, croquet, squash courts, swimming pool, playground Tennis, petanque, playground, family amenities Golf club
Ōtaki	Ōtaki Beach Reserve Tasman Road Reserve Matai Street Reserve Aotaki Street Ōtaki Domain Haruatai Park Greenwood Boulevard Reserve Race Course Golf club Ōtaki College	Family amenities, boat ramp Playground Playground Skateboard rink Rugby, rugby league, cricket, netball Soccer, tennis, swimming pool, family amenities, playground Tennis, picnic area Horse racing Golf Sportsfields, gymnasium
Regional parks	Queen Elizabeth Park Akatarawa Forest	

Community facilities

There are a number of church, school and Council halls throughout the District which provide venues for groups and individuals for recreational, leisure and social activities.

The use of the Council halls increased substantially from 2006 to 2007 across the whole District. This included increases in the number of groups using the halls for social, sporting, recreational and leisure activities and for private functions.

Events

Community events are an important way of celebrating and bringing people together. The District has a number of major annual events such as the Sustainable Home and Garden Show, the Waikanae Show and the Arts Trail. Each of these events reflects important aspects of the District that people value.

Nature Coast, the District's tourism development organisation, runs the Nature Coast website (www.naturecoast.co.nz), which has an events calendar and information about local attractions, accommodation, activities and places to eat.

The Council has available \$30,000 of contestable funding per year for events that bring economic benefits to the District and/or raise the profile of the District as a vibrant and interesting place to live and visit.

The events fund received 12 applications for 2007, doubling to 24 in 2008. The events funded in 2007 were:

- 2007 New Zealand Cross Country Championships
- Rotary's Summerfest 2008
- 2008 National Māori Golf Tournament

Access to information

Libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux

Citizens Advice Bureaux provide information, advice, advocacy and support to individuals. The District has two Bureaux – one in Paraparaumu and one in Ōtaki.

Libraries are an important information portal for recreation, lifelong learning, learning new skills and finding out about your community. They also offer a place where the community can get together.

The usage of Kāpiti Coast libraries has been steadily increasing over the last three years (Table 31).

Kāpiti Coast District has three "bricks and mortar" branch libraries in Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Ōtaki and a virtual branch www.kapiticoastlibraries.govt.nz. As well as traditional library services, these branches offer an increasing range of activities such as school holiday programmes, preschool storytimes, and a place for community get-togethers and events including:

- Summer Reading programmes
- "Off The Page" Literary Festival
- Author visits and talks
- "Arty August" - local artists displaying their work and skills at each library
- Council Forums and discussion groups

The libraries have continual displays of local artists work at each branch in their "Arts space" areas, and exhibits of community information.

Table 31: Number of people using Kāpiti Coast District libraries (2005-2008)

	Paraparaumu	Waikanae	Ōtaki	District totals
2005/06	255,009	153,484	94,943	503,436
2006/07	264,297	156,534	95,667	516,498
2007/08	266,915	166,324	98,924	532,163

Access to telecommunications systems

Access to phones, mobiles, fax machines and the internet are covered in detail in Outcome Five (page 59). As discussed in Outcome Five, Kāpiti Coast residents have kept abreast of changes in technology but the District does have a slightly lower proportion of households that have access to cell phones and the Internet as compared to the Region.

OUTCOME 7: THE WORK OF KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Since the 2003/2004 Community Plan consultation process, Local Outcomes Statements have been published for Waikanae North, Raumati South, Raumati, Paraparaumu Beach, Paraparaumu Town, Paekākāriki, and Ōtaki. These Statements give local application and focus to the broader Community Outcomes.

As well as these more locally focused action plans, the Council has also developed, or collaborated in the development of, other major policy work. The ones that have relevance for Outcome Seven are the same as those discussed in Outcome Six (page 76). These are:

Sustainable Transport Strategy 2008

Physical Activity Plan 2007 (in conjunction with SPARC (Sport & Recreation New Zealand))

Local Service Mapping Action Plan 2007 (a multi-agency plan)

In addition, council staff work with agencies across the District on a range of projects and issues that impact on individual and community well-being. Examples of these include:

- Access to health services
- Use of land at Kapiti Health Centre
- Housing, including access to emergency housing
- Community safety, including road safety
- Regional settlement planning

OUTCOME 7: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Are we a strong and involved community? Overall, with some qualifications, yes.

People on the Kāpiti Coast tend to live longer than most New Zealanders and in general are healthy and physically active. While we may earn less than our regional counterparts and an increasing number of us are retired people, we enjoy volunteering and getting involved in community activities and events.

Safety in the community is often a concern for people. The good news is that in the Kāpiti Coast District, criminal offence and family violence rates are below national rates. While road accidents are on the increase, fatalities and serious injuries from them are decreasing.

As is the case nationally, housing affordability is an issue in the District, and any gains in affordability from lower house prices are likely to be offset by increases in other costs of living. Most of our houses are likely to be inadequately insulated.

Kāpiti Coast residents have access to and use a wide range of places for recreation, leisure and social activities, although there is a need to keep these maintained and adapted to people's needs.

People are also involved in a wide range of groups and activities and there are high levels of volunteering. Voting rates indicate that we appear to be more interested in local elections than national elections but our participation in both is decreasing.

In general, we have a relatively good standard of living and quality of life. However this general picture tends to mask pockets of need across the District. This echoes concerns raised by social agencies operating in the District. The District does have a range of agencies that have demonstrated that they want to and will work together to directly address needs in the District and also advocate for improvements to services and facilities.

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