

## Summary of Water and Sanitary Services Assessment

Please note that the Water and Sanitary Services Assessment has been adopted by Council. The full version of the document is available from Council offices.

### Draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment

Part 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires all territorial authorities to carry out assessments of water and sanitary services. The legislative requirement reflects concerns expressed by government agencies in recent years that in some parts of New Zealand little thought has been given to the ability to provide water and sanitary services of an acceptable standard sustainably into the future. The primary purpose of these assessments is to ensure that public health is adequately protected.

The Local Government Act 2002 required that all Councils consult on the Water and Sanitary Services Assessments for the district by 30 June 2005. The Local Government Act is somewhat ambiguous about whether or not the consultation had to be commenced or completed. Whilst Council completed the draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessments prior to 30 June 2005, the consultation was not complete at that time.

After discussions with the Office of the Auditor General, Waikato District Council (along with a number of other Councils) undertook the public consultation after 30 June 2005. It was agreed that this approach would be acceptable as long as the entire process was completed prior to, or as part of, the draft LTCCP process. Council completed the process on 21 March 2006 and the information contained within the LTCCP reflects the adoption of the Water and Sanitary Services Assessment.

Assessments have been prepared for water supply, wastewater, stormwater services, cemeteries and public toilets. Solid waste is covered in Council's Waste Management Plan.

Communities that have been assessed are categorised as fully serviced, semi-serviced or unserviced:

**Fully Serviced** – These communities are serviced by reticulated wastewater and water supplies. These are the main centres such as Huntly, Ngaruawahia, Te Kauwhata, Raglan and the smaller townships of Meremere, Hopuhopu, Horotiu and Matangi.

**Semi Serviced** – These communities have either a reticulated water or wastewater service. These communities are at urban fringe areas such as Te Kowhai, Te Akau, Maramarua, Gordonton, Newstead, Eureka and Tamahere. These communities are not separately assessed, because within serviced areas there are unserviced blocks. They are either assessed under fully serviced areas or unserviced areas.

**Unserviced (roof water, bore and septic tank)** This type of community is not provided with Council services but provide their own individual service via roof water and septic tank. Glen Afton, Te Kowhai, Rotokauri, Tauwhare Pa, Whale Bay, Rangiriri, Horsham Downs, Te Akau South, Glen Massey, Pukemiro, Renown, Waikokowai and Whatawhata, are classified under this category.

Council has adopted the approach of doing a broad-brush assessment of small communities and has made a full assessment of the balance of the district. Marae and camping grounds where the population is not permanently resident but where large crowds could gather, have been left out of this assessment. These will be earmarked for looking at in more detail in the next round of assessments in late 2007. Council has considered growth in the district, and future service levels and financial impacts, in achieving these. The assessment includes risks to public health by water and sanitary services and options for dealing with failure events. The assessment also describes the Council's role in handling risk issues and options for future. The Waste Management Plan has been adopted by Council. The full version of the document is available from Council offices.

## Summary of Waste Management Plan

Council has a responsibility under the Local Government Act 1974 to have a Waste Management Plan.

The Waste Management Plan contains Council's key waste policies for the next three to five years.

The objectives of the Waste Management Plan are:

- Reduce the wastage of resources in the district.
- Increase options for diversion of waste from landfill.
- Help create Sustainable Communities.
- Make waste reduction options readily accessible to the public.
- Minimise the environmental effects of waste-related activities.
- Ensure that public health and safety is not compromised.

A key component of the Waste Management Plan is to adopt a target of zero waste to landfill by 2020. This is a major commitment to reducing the causes of waste in our community. Rather than simply accommodating more and more waste in our lifestyles, we need to radically re-think our concepts of waste and resource use. The Zero Waste target will be reviewed again by 2010.

The NZ Waste Strategy 2002 has proposed some targets for local government which are also addressed in the new Waste Management Plan.

The Waste Management Plan contains specific provisions to address the following waste issues:

- Education for sustainability.
- Waste services, including extension of recycling collections.
- Business waste and farm waste.
- Organic waste.
- Construction and demolition waste.
- Water and sewage sludge.
- Energy conservation.
- Provision for future waste bylaws and levies.

Council will set an example to the community by implementing waste reduction in its own operations.

### Education for sustainability

It is Council's role to engage the community and provide information that will help the community waste less. It is important that people be encouraged to talk freely about consumption and waste issues. The Waste Management Plan contains a range of messages and methods of delivery to help resolve unsustainable practices and to develop more sustainable ways of living that contribute to a good quality of life.