



# Environmental Services

The Environmental Services group is primarily the regulatory arm of Council. It is closely linked to the community and the achievement of its three desired outcomes through activities like animal and building control, resource management and consents planning, environmental health and liquor licensing.

## Strategic Links

The key activities within this group, and the community and strategic outcomes they contribute to are:

### Community Outcomes

### Strategic Goals

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Building Control</b> Vibrant Local Communities Sustainable Living Environment	Facilitating Community Development Safeguarding Our Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Animal Control</b> Vibrant Local Communities Sustainable Living Environment	Facilitating Community Development Safeguarding Our Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Resource Management</b> Vibrant Local Communities Sustainable Living Environment	Facilitating Community Development Safeguarding Our Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Environmental Health</b> Vibrant Local Communities Thriving Economy Sustainable Living Environment	Facilitating Community Development Developing Our Economy Safeguarding Our Environment

## Key Projects

The key projects for the group over the life of this plan are:

- completing the review of the Waikato District Plan
- increased monitoring within the District on the effectiveness and the flow-on effects of the District Plan.

## Negative Effects

At this stage there are no known significant negative effects surrounding most of Council's proposed activities in this area. There could be some negative impact on an individual's freedom to use or develop resources in a manner that the community has described as being unsustainable.

## Key Assets

There are no key community assets associated with this activity group.

## How we know we are on track

Within the framework of applicable legislation we aim to provide consistent service levels in the following areas.

### Service level

**Building consents**  
To process all applications for building consent in accordance with statutory requirements and the provisions of the New Zealand Building Code.

**Building warrants of fitness**  
To annually monitor and audit buildings in the Waikato district that hold Compliance Schedules.

**Earthquake-prone buildings**  
To ensure that monitoring of earthquake-prone buildings is undertaken.

**Swimming pools**  
To inspect all swimming pools in the district for legislative compliance.

### Checking progress

To ensure all building consents required by statute are processed and issued within an average of five working days. (Note: the processing time allowed by the Building Act is 10 days).

To annually monitor and audit 50 of the 230 buildings on a rotating basis.

To annually inspect all accommodation buildings to confirm that property owners and their contractors are conducting regular maintenance on, and inspections of, their buildings.

To conduct a survey of the buildings in the Waikato District in order to identify those structures that fall into this category.

To ensure that the building condition survey is placed on a database to identify earthquake-prone buildings.

To check individual property records and advise building owners in writing if their building is at risk in an earthquake.

To annually check 50 of the swimming pools currently on the Council's Swimming Pool Register for compliance with the provisions of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987, and inspect new pools for compliance.

## What we plan to do

Projects	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	\$	\$	\$
Staff accreditation as required by legislation	10,000	20,000	
Waikato Region building consents project	20,000	20,000	20,000



# Building Control

This activity helps to achieve the community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Sustainable Living Environment. There are also several legislative requirements that are met by the provision of this activity.

The Building Control activity is responsible for the issuing of consents for people to undertake building work within the district, and conducting inspections to ensure that building consent conditions are met and relevant legislation complied with. This activity is also responsible for ensuring that swimming pools are effectively fenced, administering building warrants of fitness for public buildings, and ensuring that earthquake prone buildings are identified.

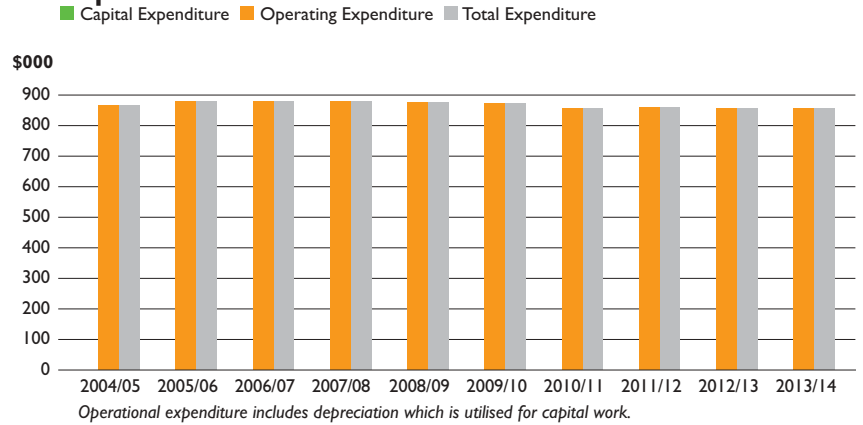
## Where we want to go

The focus for this activity over the next 10 years will be to ensure that the quality of new buildings within the district is at a level that meets the community's needs in regard to the provision of healthy and safe housing. Our aim is also to eliminate all accidental drowning of pre-school children in private swimming pools. We will aim to ensure that the users and occupants of all public and commercial buildings enjoy a suitable level of amenity, receive prompt warning in the event of fire or emergency and are able to exit buildings in a safe and orderly manner.

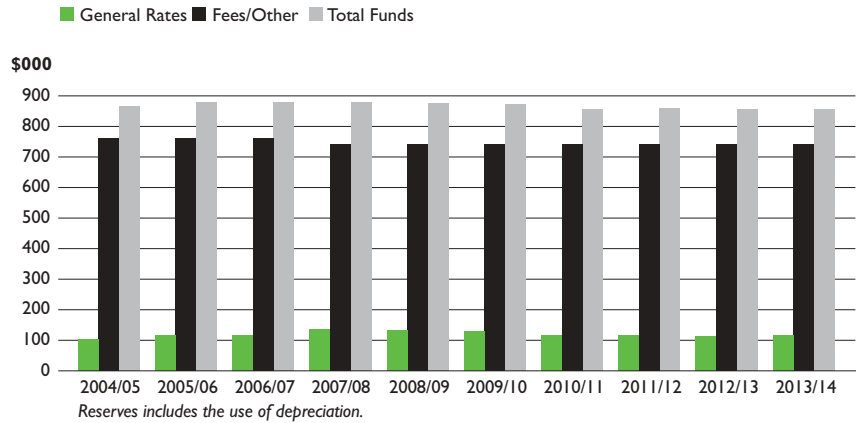
There are two key issues for Council in this activity during the life of this plan. They are the monitoring and improvement of services to the building community by gaining 'accredited' status as required by the Building Bill, and working co-operatively with neighbouring Councils in the Waikato to bring about consistency in service delivery.

## What we plan to spend

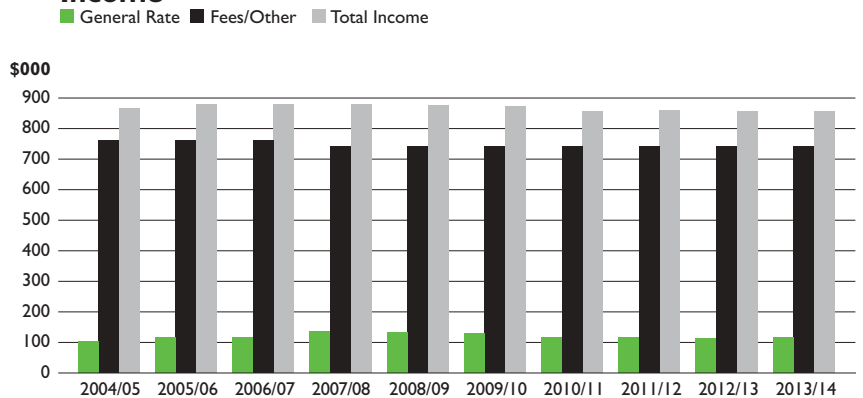
### Expenditure



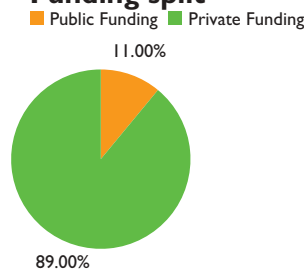
### Source of funds



### Income



### Funding split



## How we know we are on track

Within the framework of applicable legislation we aim to provide consistent service levels in the following areas.

### Service level

- Unregistered dogs**  
To conduct regular routine patrols to detect unregistered dogs and to identify their owners.
- Dog runs**  
To ensure dog owners are provided with sufficient public domain to meet their recreational needs.
- Community safety**  
To minimise the intimidation of the community by uncontrolled dogs.
- Stray stock**  
To herd and secure stock straying onto roads so that motor vehicle accidents are prevented.

### Checking progress

- To maintain a register of dogs.
- To ensure annual registration is undertaken.
- To ensure appropriate sanctions are imposed and Court proceedings are commenced whenever practicable and appropriate against the owners of unregistered dogs.
- To ensure fenced dog exercise areas are clearly marked and maintained.
- To monitor dog exercise areas on a daily basis.
- To patrol urban areas, parks, playgrounds and recreational areas are patrolled on a daily basis.
- To fully investigate at least 95% of complaints regarding dog control within 10 working days of notification.
- To control access by dogs to public places, particularly those frequented by children.
- To impound stray dogs.
- To respond to all complaints of straying stock immediately, and ensure stray animals are located and contained.

## What we plan to do

Projects	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	\$	\$	\$
Signage review and upgrade associated with policy and bylaw change as prescribed by new legislation	10,000		
Improvement of dog impounding facilities	3,000	10,000	10,000
Review, upgrade and develop promotional and public education material	4,000	5,000	5,000

# Animal Control

The provision of Animal Control services supports the community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Sustainable Living Environment by helping to ensure that residents are safe in their community. There are also legislative requirements that are met by the provision of this service.

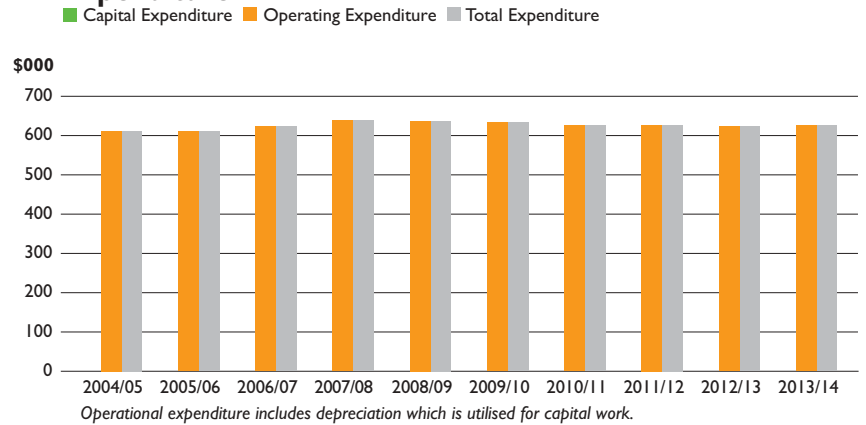
The Animal Control activity is a community safety service mainly focused on the control of dogs in the community, the registration of all dogs, and the enforcement of relevant legislation and bylaws. Council's Animal Control Officers also respond to reports of stray stock obstructing public roads.

## Where we want to go

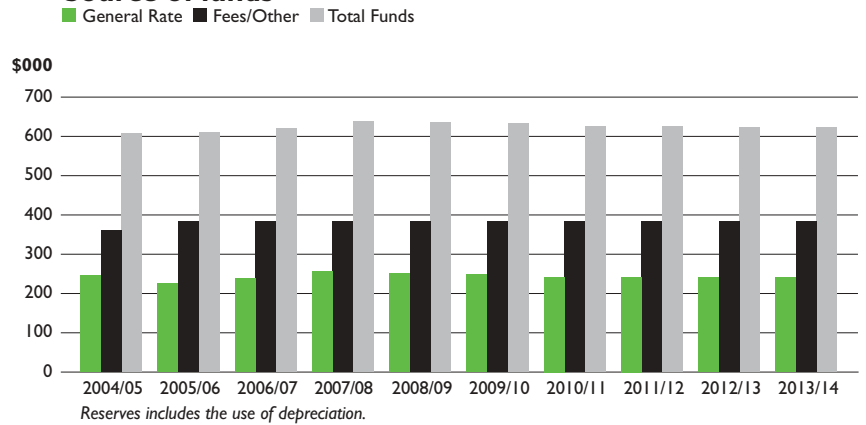
The long-term focus for this activity is to encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and to minimise the danger that is posed to the community from uncontrolled dogs. The registration of dogs is one tool used to achieve this.

## What we plan to spend

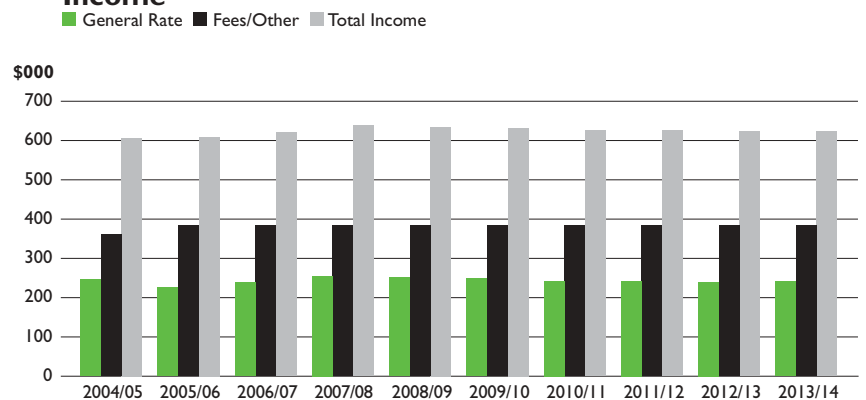
### Expenditure



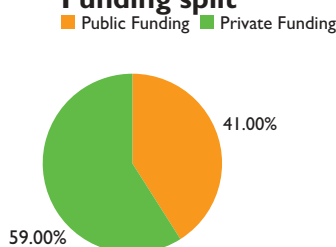
### Source of funds



### Income



### Funding split



## How we know we are on track

We aim to maintain an operative District Plan and process changes to that plan in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act.

### Service level

- **Review of the District Plan**  
The District Plan is being reviewed after a two year process of consultation and drafting.

- **Resource consents**  
To process resource consents in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991.

To grant robust resource consents.

- **District Plan**  
To undertake Plan Changes over the life of the Plan to address specific resource management issues as they arise.

- **State of the Environment**  
To audit the District Plan implementation and progress towards achievement of stated environmental outcomes.

### Checking progress

To notify the proposed District Plan in September 2004.

To provide the community with the opportunity of formal input into the review by way of:

- public hearing process
- opportunity to present their views
- written advice of Council's decisions on their submission.

To achieve 95% compliance with statutory timeframes for all consents is achieved.

To monitor the effectiveness of all consents issued.

To report on the effects of resource consents granted.

To ensure Plan Changes are undertaken when required.

To ensure improvement in the effectiveness of the Plan is achieved.

To report every three years on the results of state of the environment monitoring.

## What we plan to do

Projects	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	\$	\$	\$
District Plan Review	643,000	602,000	550,000

# Resource Management

By providing resource management services Council meets the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 to promote sustainable resource management while enabling the community to provide for its well-being. Resource Management contributes to the Vibrant Local Communities and Sustainable Living Environment community outcomes by providing sustainable development and contributing to community well-being.

Resource Management encompasses two areas of activity. The Policy Planning section includes community consultation, preparation and maintenance of the Waikato District Plan, and related policies and strategies. The Consents Planning section is primarily concerned with the administration of the District Plan through processing and enforcing resource consents, educating people about land use, and other related activities.

The emphasis of this activity is on environmental protection and resource sustainability. Resource Management enables communities and individuals to use resources for their social, cultural and economic well-being while ensuring there are no long-term adverse effects on future opportunities for use of those same resources.

The significant assets in this area are the staff involved in policy development and consent planning and the connections between the Council and the community.

## Where we want to go

To meet the community's aspirations our focus over the next 10 years will be:

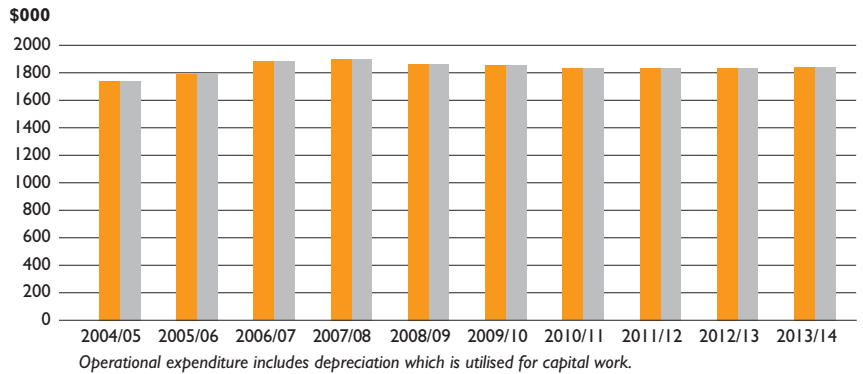
- to complete the review of the District Plan, and to ensure that it reflects and remains responsive to the community's needs
- to provide easy access to, and understanding of, information (including rules), and assistance with resources needed by people to undertake various activities
- to retain a planning regime that encourages and attracts businesses to the district
- to protect local environmental interests and priorities.

The long-term focus for Resource Management is maintenance and administration of the District Plan so that it enables the community to go about its business, while protecting the resource base and environment of the district.

## What we plan to spend

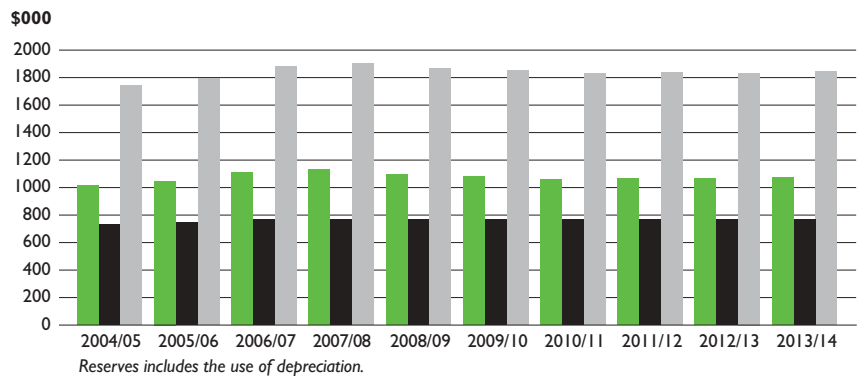
### Expenditure

■ Capital Expenditure ■ Operating Expenditure ■ Total Expenditure



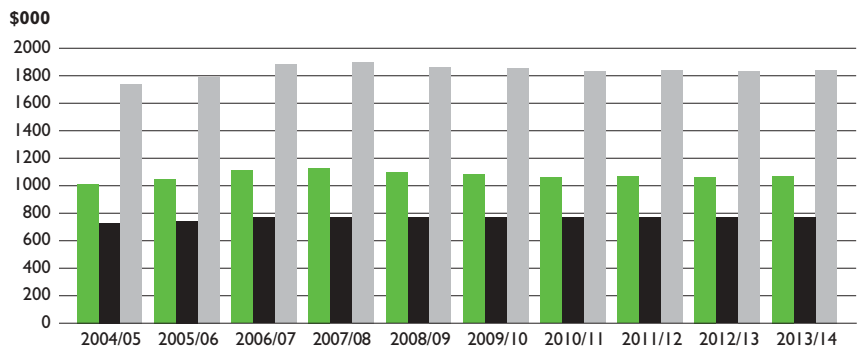
### Source of funds

■ General Rate ■ Fees/Other ■ Total Funds



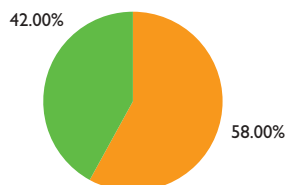
### Income

■ General Rate ■ Fees/Other ■ Total Income



### Funding split

■ Public Funding ■ Private Funding



## How we know we are on track

Within the framework of applicable legislation we aim to provide consistent service levels in the following areas.

### Service level

- Registered premises**  
To inspect registered food premises within the district to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Nuisances**  
To ensure any nuisance, or condition likely to be injurious to health or offensive, is investigated by Environmental Health Officers.
- Infectious diseases**  
To investigate notified infectious diseases.
- Liquor licensing**  
To process all applications in accordance with the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.
- Contaminated sites**  
To develop a land use database of potentially contaminated sites.

### Checking progress

To inspect all food premises annually.

To ensure that the appropriate number of inspections for each premises is carried out in accordance with Council's risk rating for those premises.

To take all proper steps to secure the abatement of the nuisance or the removal of the condition.

To respond to all nuisance conditions and complaints within one working day.

To respond to all notifications of infectious diseases within one day.

To maintain a register of infectious diseases.

To ensure reports are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health within five days of investigation completion.

To maintain a register of all liquor licence applications and associated information.

To, after receipt of all reports and required information, issue liquor licences and certificates within 10 working days unless subject to objection.

To complete a preliminary site investigation in accordance with Ministry for the Environment "Guidelines for Reporting on Contaminated Sites" by 30 June 2005.

## What we plan to do

Projects	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	\$	\$	\$
Water Testing	3,600	4,000	4,400

# Environmental Health

All activities and functions carried out by Environmental Health Officers are fundamental to Council achieving and maintaining a clean and healthy environment, and the achieving of the community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment.

There are numerous legislative reasons for the provision of this activity. Environmental Health Officers are also appointed as Licensing Inspectors (under the Sale of Liquor Act) and those with specialist training are designated as Hazardous Substances Officers.

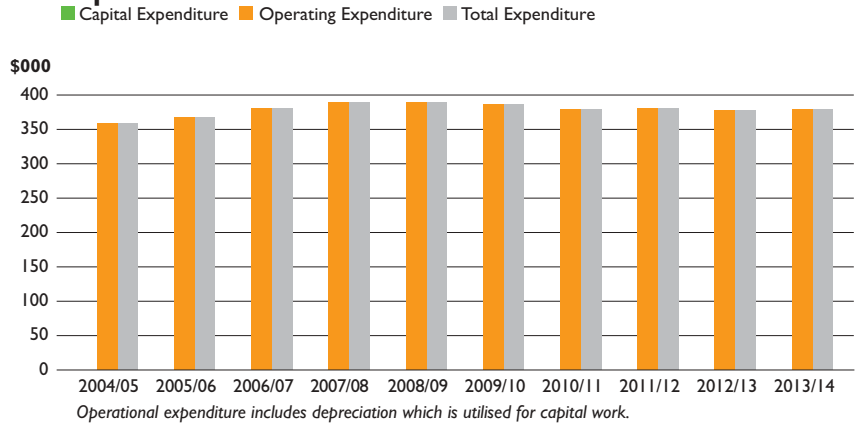
The Environmental Health activity is responsible for improving, promoting and protecting the public health of the district, along with the provision and monitoring of all liquor licences and hazardous substances.

## Where we want to go

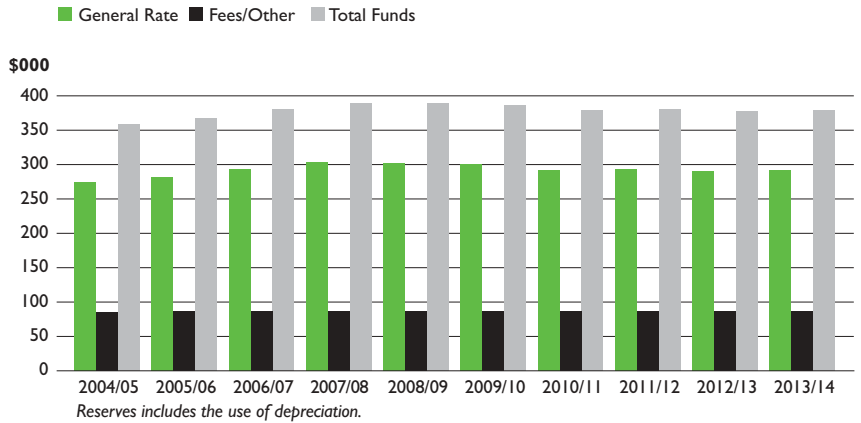
It is envisaged that in the future more use of the Environmental Health Officers' technical knowledge and expertise will be made as advisers to Council, auditors in matters pertaining to health of other departments of Council i.e. water and wastewater, and to providing technical expertise in planning and building consent applications including the monitoring of consents and the environment.

## What we plan to spend

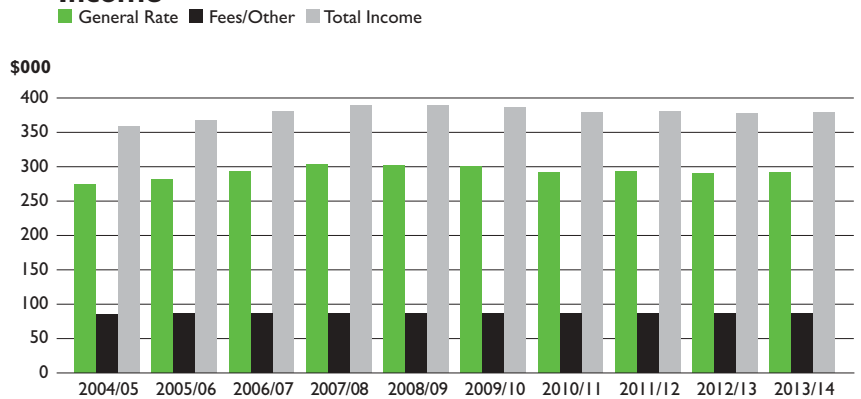
### Expenditure



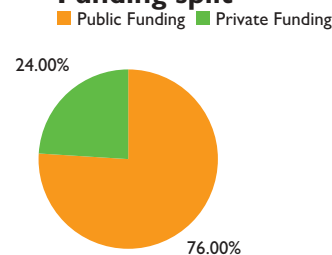
### Source of funds



### Income



### Funding split



# Environmental Health Cost of Service Statement

<b>Environmental Services</b> COST OF SERVICE STATEMENT Year Ending 30 June	<b>2003/04</b> Budget \$000	<b>2004/05</b> Budget \$000	<b>2005/06</b> Budget \$000	<b>2006/07</b> Budget \$000
Animal Control	566	612	610	624
Building Control	694	865	879	879
Environmental Health	339	358	368	381
Resource Management	1,764	1,792	1,841	1,932
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>3,363</b>	<b>3,627</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>3,816</b>
Animal Control	333	361	383	384
Building Control	598	763	763	763
Environmental Health	100	85	87	87
Resource Management	784	793	803	824
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>2,058</b>
<b>Net Cost of Service</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>1,758</b>