

## Executive Summary

The Waikato District Council State of the Environment (SoE) report examines the current state of the environment within our district and compares it with information collected over time. This allows us to identify trends and associated environmental pressures that may undermine the sustainable management of our district's resources.

Council can then use this information to determine possible responses for improving environmental management within the district. Identifying positive trends also gives Council the opportunity to see where environmental management is working well. Undertaking this type of analysis enables local authorities to effectively carry out their functions under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act).

This SoE report differs from those previously developed by Council, in that it focuses on the anticipated environmental outcomes highlighted within each section of the district plan to determine whether we are achieving our objectives under the plan. To carry out this analysis each chapter has become an indicator within the report and each indicator has been assessed in terms of:

- Pressure
- State
- Response

Under Part II of the Act councils are required to sustainably manage natural and physical resources and this is largely achieved through mechanisms such as regional and district plans. These plans incorporate policies that have been developed to achieve particular anticipated environmental outcomes which are developed in accordance with Part II of the Act.

It is therefore essential that the Waikato District Council understands how effective the provisions of the Waikato District Plan are in achieving those anticipated environmental outcomes. State of the environment monitoring helps to highlight the consequences of environmental policies and helps to inform future policy development through a 'plan – do – monitor – review' cycle.