

Central Hawke's Bay District Council



2007/2008 Annual Report

Our mission statement:

“The Central Hawke's Bay District Council will be accountable to its citizens for the good management of the public assets of the District and provide open local government at minimum economic cost, with the least possible intervention in the private lives of residents.”

2007/2008 Annual Report

Every year the Council produces a document (The Annual Report), which records whether or not the Council has done what it said it would do in the Annual Plan. This Annual Report relates to the second year of the 2006 - 2016 Long Term Council Community Plan (from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2016).

How Does it Affect You?

The Annual Report records how money from ratepayers, financial institutions and other governmental agencies was spent. It provides information on projects that were completed, delayed, postponed or abandoned.

Get Involved!

If you want to have a say on what projects Council undertakes and how Council spends its money, then you can make a submission to the Long Term Council Community Plan or Annual Plan. The next opportunity will be the 2009/2019 Long Term Council Community Plan (from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2019). Keep a look out for it in April 2009. If you want further involvement, stand for Council at the next local government election in October 2010!

Contents

Contents	3
2007/2008 Highlights	4
Elected Council Members	5
Mayors Report	6
Chief Executive's Report	7
Management Structure	8
Community Outcomes	9
Activities	10
Community Leadership	11
Planning and Regulatory Group	15
Land Transport	25
Solid Waste Group	30
Water Services Group	33
Recreation and Community Facilities	39
Council Assets	49
Statement of Maori Contribution to Decision-Making	51
Statement of Compliance and Responsibility	52
Statement of Accounting Policies	53
Income Statement	67
Movements in Equity	68
Balance Sheet	69
Statement of Cash Flows	70
Notes to Financial Statements	71
Acknowledgements	82
Audit Report	83
Glossary	85

2007/2008 Highlights

Democracy

Elections for Council were successfully held in October 2007 with a new Council sworn in on 1 November 2007.

Waste Water Consents

As part of the ongoing planning towards meeting our new consent requirements, a stormwater infiltration study has been completed to reduce stormwater ingress into Council's systems.

Water

New boreholes have been added to the Waipukurau and Waipawa well fields. This forms part of the planned treatment upgrades. Renewed resource consents for town water takes from District rivers have been received.

Bylaws

Legislation required that Council review its existing suite of bylaws. This exercise has successfully been completed and several new bylaws — including a Liquor Control in Public Places Bylaw and revised Livestock Movement and Animals in Public Places Bylaw, have been added.

Parks/Reserves/Pools

An overdue refurbishment of A'deane Park in Waipukurau is nearing completion. Repairs to the Waipawa Memorial Pool has addressed water leaks — but unfortunately also delayed opening this last summer.

Retirement Flats

Council's ageing stock of Retirement Flats now need much delayed maintenance. This commenced in 2007/08 and will be completed in the current financial year. Council remains optimistic of receiving Central Government assistance for the work currently underway.

Elected Council Members

MAYOR

Trish Giddens
30B Gaisford Terrace
Waipukurau

Phone/fax: 858 6557
trish.giddens@chbdc.govt.nz

The Central Hawke's Bay District Council comprises of Her Worship the Mayor and eight elected members representing the district's two wards. Elections are held every three years. Why not get involved next time?

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For more information about the Council structure please refer to our Local Governance Statement, available from the Council on request or at our website: www.chbdc.govt.nz

Mayors Report

As a new Mayor with a new Council, there is a quiet confidence that our Council finished the 2007/08 financial year in an acceptable fashion.

Council delivers a broad range of services that make a difference in people's lives in the Central Hawke's Bay community. The challenges of the past few years with additional responsibilities and costs imposed by Central Government, as well as inflationary financial pressures has been difficult for a council of our size.

Our Council is facing the upcoming costs of an aging infrastructure without Central Government funding, this places still more pressure on our rate payers. Unfortunately the Independent Rating enquiry conducted by Central Government into Local Government Rates did not deliver any relief to ratepayers. The extra burden this places on our ratepayers signalled to this Council the need to review our rating system to find the most acceptable options for future rating for our community. Rooding is a major portion of our expenditure and it has been a disappointment that there was not a favourable outcome for Central Hawke's Bay from Central Government's review of the Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) for rooding.

Councillors and staff alike have worked actively in considering future expenditure and the affordability of projected Community needs in preparing the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) for 2009/19.

We look forward as a progressive council to taking advantage of positive opportunities whilst continuing to serve the community for a better quality of life, in a sustainable environment.



Trish Giddens
Mayor

Chief Executive's Report

The 2007/08 financial year has continued the consolidation of the previous year as Council works towards the updating of its 10 year 2006/16 LTCCP.

This has occurred with the support of a new Mayor and Council, elected in October 2007.

The focus during the year is covered in the highlights at the beginning of this Annual Report, and is the inevitable consequence of planning for the future renewal and ongoing maintenance of infrastructural assets which have useful lives covering decades. You might not be aware, but there are still earthenware sewer pipes in Waipawa which were laid in 1910 – and which remain in good condition today. In other areas there are underground pipes which have not stood the test of time and will need replacement sooner than their earlier predicted useful lives. Fortunately there are also technological changes occurring which in some cases allow for faulty pipes to be relined, rather than dug up and replaced.

Unfortunately we continue to incur unfunded costs passed down from central government such as Councils having to become Building consent authorities, new regulations resulting from the NZ Food Safety Authority domestic food review, and the new Drinking Water Standards. As a consequence plans are in place for the expensive construction in 2008/09 of ultra filtration plants for the Waipawa and Waipukurau water supplies.

Internally we have also continued to review our processes and procedures – in part because our extremely small staffing resource needs to be as efficient as possible, but also to ensure we minimize the huge number of risks Councils, as statutory bodies, are facing.

Things do not however always go smoothly. A mistake made by our service provider saw last quarter's rates statements included in separate envelopes where ratepayers owned multiple properties. This was the contractor's error and their cost – but quite a number of ratepayers pointed out to staff how savings could be made on 50c stamps. The irony was that staff had "saved" \$1,500 by updating the new postcodes internally to NZ post standards – thereby retaining our bulk mailing rates.

Going forward our focus is clearly on the 2009/19 LTCCP, our roading network service levels, the impact of the new NZ Transport Agency on future roading funding, a partial review of the District Plan and the long term viability of CHBDC and the District.

I would like to thank staff and Councillors for their efforts.



John Freeman
Chief Executive

Management Structure

