



Choosing Futures Waikato

Whiriwhiria Te Waa Heke o Waikato

Working Together for a Better Waikato

November 2005

Regional Community Outcomes –

goals and aspirations for Waikato communities to work towards.

Over the past 12 months, your local district, city and regional councils have been asking people in the Waikato region what they want for their future. A set of community outcomes or goals has been identified for

councils, government agencies, community organisations and the community as a whole to work towards. We are pleased to present these regional community outcomes to you.

What's in this booklet?

This booklet summarises the community outcomes that have been identified and confirmed through a consultative process that began in November 2004.

Look inside to find out what people of the Waikato region want for their communities.

Waikato Region's Community Outcomes

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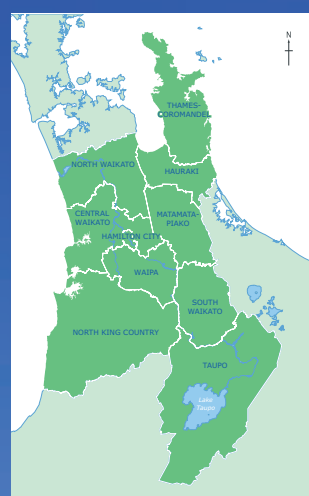


What is Choosing Futures Waikato?

Choosing Futures Waikato is a process put together by the 13 councils in the greater Waikato region.

Under the Local Government Act 2002, all councils must work with their communities to identify what people want for the future.

The aim of the Choosing Futures Waikato process has been to identify a set of regional community goals, called community outcomes. The next step is for councils, government agencies, and business and community organisations to start looking at ways to work towards achieving these outcomes. We'll also be regularly reporting back to you – the Waikato community – on progress.



How were the community outcomes put together?

Community outcomes help describe what sort of region people want in the future.

They have been identified by talking to and gaining the views of people right across our region.

Nine regional visioning workshops were held in communities throughout the Waikato region. Iwi in the region have contributed, local councils have consulted with their communities; and we have worked closely with

key organisations including central and local government, businesses, industry groups and community organisations.

All of these people and organisations were asked what they wanted the region to be like in the future. This information has been drawn together by a representative group of people for the Waikato region – the Community Outcomes Working Group.

Acknowledgements

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1. Sustainable Environment

The Waikato region values and protects its diverse, interconnected natural environments.

- a The iconic landscapes and natural features of our environment define and sustain us. We respect and celebrate them as Taonga.
- b Our natural environment is protected and respected. Its ecological balance is restored, its air, soil and water quality is improved, and its native biodiversity is enhanced.
- c We are aware of what we need to do to look after our environment. Our region is renowned for linking environmental awareness with community action.
- d The traditional role of Iwi and Hapu as Kaitiaki is acknowledged, respected and enabled.
- e Our coastal and waterway environments are restored and preserved, and access to them is maintained.
- f Our region's waterways have consistently high water quality.
- g We use land management practices that protect and sustain our soil and land.
- h We reduce our reliance on non-renewable energy.
- i Waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and energy efficiency are promoted and are part of how we all live.



2. Quality of Life

The Waikato region is a great place to live, providing the services and opportunities we need to live well.

- a We are healthy with active lifestyles and we enjoy a total sense of well-being. Everyone has access to affordable quality health services throughout the Waikato region.
- b Education provides opportunities so we can reach our full potential as individuals and contribute to the well-being of the whole region.
- c Maori enjoy the same quality of health, education, housing, employment and economic outcomes as non-Maori.
- d We have a choice of healthy and affordable housing that we are happy to live in and that is close to places for work, study and recreation.
- e Maori have the ability to live on ancestral land in quality, affordable housing.
- f Our communities and government work together so that we are safe, feel safe and crime is reduced.
- g We can work and participate in the communities where we live, and there are quality work opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels.
- h We can participate in recreation and leisure activities that meet our diverse needs and we have opportunities to enjoy the Waikato region's natural places and open spaces in responsible ways.
- i Families are strong and our communities are supportive of them.
- j Older people are valued and children are valued and protected. Young people have work, education and leisure opportunities and are included in making decisions that will affect their future.



3. Sustainable Economy

The Waikato region balances a thriving economy with looking after its people, places and environment.

- a Our region has economic growth and development that is well-planned and balanced with environmental, cultural and social needs and values.
- b Our regional and local economies are robust and diverse, providing opportunities throughout the Waikato region.
- c We have reliable, efficient and well-planned infrastructure and services, including transport that is safe, interconnected and easy to get to and use.
- d We take a practical and coordinated approach to planning and providing services, which works effectively across boundaries and sectors and responds to our communities' needs.
- e The growth, wealth and uniqueness of the Maori economy is acknowledged and supported.
- f Our economy is built on land-based industries, and we encourage planning and practices that protect and sustain our productive resources.
- g We have a tourism industry that recognises the region's cultural and environmental heritage and values, and supports economic growth.
- h Our region has a reputation for entrepreneurship, innovation, research and education; attracting investment and people to work, study and visit.



4. Culture and Identity

The Waikato region identifies with - and values - its land, air rivers and waterways, mountains, flora, fauna and its people.

- a We are proud of our region's distinctive identity, its strong Maoritanga, and its rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage.
- b Heritage sites and landscapes of significance to Whanau, Hapu and Iwi are preserved and valued.
- c Our historic buildings and places are retained and cared for. New developments are designed to be sensitive to people, places and the environment.
- d All our communities have cultural and recreational events and facilities. We identify with and take part in our communities, building good community spirit.
- e Art, culture and creativity can be a part of everyone's life. We all have opportunities for creative expression and our creative industries are supported and promoted.



5. Participation and Equity

The Waikato region builds strong informed communities and has a culture that encourages people and communities to play their part.

- a All our people and communities can participate in decision-making. We are educated, informed and have the resources we need to take responsibility for our own futures.
- b Iwi, Hapu and Maori work together with central government, local government and community organisations in mutually beneficial partnerships.
- c Our communities understand partnerships under the Treaty of Waitangi and representation and processes for these partnerships have integrity.
- d The unique status of Tangata Whenua is respected and reflected in community processes.
- e Maori have the opportunity to participate in community development and decision-making at Marae, Hapu and Iwi levels.
- f We are knowledgeable about and show respect for the many and diverse cultures of the people who live here.



What happens next?

Now that these community outcomes have been identified we can find the best ways for us, as a community, to work together to achieve these goals.

Government agencies and community organisations will also use the community outcomes for guidance on the sort of services that they deliver to the Waikato region and how they do this.

Councils will use community outcomes to develop their long-term council community plans.

Progress made towards achieving these community outcomes will be measured regularly and reported back to the community. This is an important way of checking the progress we are making together and identifying areas where we could do better.

We will be working together to make the Waikato region the best it can be, now and in the future.

How can I be involved?

All councils in the Waikato region are presenting the community outcomes for their area in their long-term council community plans. You might like to make submissions on these plans, or get involved in a local group or organisation that is working towards achieving the community outcomes.

Contact your local council or Environment Waikato for more information.

Find out about the Choosing Futures Waikato process by visiting the website www.choosingfutures.co.nz.

Choosing Futures Waikato is a joint initiative of the districts of Franklin, Hauraki, Matamata-Piako, Otorohanga, Rotorua, South Waikato, Taupo, Thames-Coromandel, Waikato, Waipa and Waitomo, Environment Waikato and Hamilton City.

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