



FACILITATED WORKSHOP REPORT

FOR

CHOOSING FUTURES WAIKATO

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
VISIONING # 5 - NGARUAWAHIA**

24 FEBRUARY 2005

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OVERVIEW SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The community workshop minuted in this report was the fifth in a series of nine community visioning workshops commissioned by Gavin Thomas, Regional Community Outcomes Co-ordinator, Choosing Futures Waikato.

The primary objective of the community workshop series was to:

“To gain regional visioning information from members of the communities of the Waikato Region.”

The primary objective was to be achieved by:

- Bringing together members of the various communities and representatives of key community stakeholder groups in joint dialogue to contribute to the identification of Waikato regional community outcomes.
- Providing participants with a basic understanding of the community outcomes concept and of the framework proposed for the Choosing Futures Waikato processes.
- Forming a group view on the qualities of the Waikato region and how a regional vision may benefit community outcomes.
- Gathering regional visioning information from participants, taking the form of a number of high-level regional visioning concepts, specific to the Waikato Region, which address the full spectrum of community well-being.
- Laying the foundations for ongoing and productive relationships with key community organisations and members of the communities which will contribute to the Choosing Futures Waikato processes.

Note: The overall objective of the workshops was not to make final decisions but was to collect information which will contribute to the overall stakeholder and community outcomes visioning processes and to assist in laying a foundation for on-going organisational relationships with key community stakeholders.

The above primary workshop objective was reviewed and accepted by all participants at the commencement of the workshop.

The consultation workshop was independently facilitated by Martin Thomas, of Martin Thomas & Associates, and was conducted between 6:00 pm and 9:15 pm on Thursday, 24 February 2005 in the Waikato District Council Meeting Rooms, Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia.

2. FACILITATED WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

This workshop was the fifth of nine community workshops, designed to be one element of the initial phase of a wider Choosing Futures Waikato process (outlined in Appendix D).

The workshop agenda was designed to lead participants through a structured process that began by providing participants with an understanding of the Choosing Futures process and how it fits with local community outcomes processes.

Participants then briefly identified key *local* issues and followed on to consider the wider Waikato region by discussing their perceptions of regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, distilling out the most significant items. From this a list of key *regional* issues was derived.

With the foregoing as background participants then identified a range of outcomes that they would like to see achieved in the Waikato Region in, say, 10 - 20 years time. Following the in-depth, broad-ranging discussions sub-groups identified those outcomes that they perceived, and agreed, would be *the* most important outcomes to work towards for the Waikato region.

The session concluded with a reiteration of the key aspects of the Choosing Futures process and an explanation of 'where to from here' by Gavin Thomas, Regional Community Outcomes Co-ordinator.

The experience of the workshop session was then evaluated by participants for potential process improvement suggestions.

FACILITATED WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

This section of the report minutes the information generated and captured within the workshop. It is not intended as an interpretative document.

All information from the workshop series is to be collated and analysed as a further step in this initial phase of the process.

3. WORKSHOP WELCOME & CFW PROCESS OVERVIEW

The workshop participants were welcomed by Angus Macdonald, Environment Waikato Representative, North Waikato.

A presentation was then made by Gavin Thomas, Regional Community Outcomes Co-ordinator, providing an overview of the Community Outcomes Process (refer Appendix D).

Sonia Hammond, Planner, Waikato District Council, then provided a brief outline of the current situation in regard to *local* community outcomes processes being undertaken.

4. KEY LOCAL ISSUES

As a plenary group participants identified the following items.

Local Key Issues

1. Public transport (esp. weekends / evenings)
2. Weekend medical services
3. Delay of motorways
4. Preservation of heritage and culture
5. Community arts infrastructure
6. Housing in poorer areas – health issues (lack of insulation etc)
7. Retirement villages need to be near facilities
8. Conservation of natural environment
9. Ngaruawahia (no information centre)
10. Rates should be more towards user pays – rural / urban balance for projects
11. Lack of river / waterway use development

Please note, the items are not listed in any order of priority.

5. SUB-GROUP SWOT ANALYSES OF WAIKATO REGION

Workshop participants were divided into three randomly selected sub-groups and were tasked with identifying their collective perceptions of the Waikato region based on:

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities, and
- Threats

These are recorded sub-group by sub-group on the following pages.

It is worth noting that some items may be viewed from different perspectives and, depending on the context of that perspective, may appear under a number of headings. For example, 'diversity' within the region is acknowledged, and can be viewed as strength, a weakness, an opportunity or a threat. Therefore, it will be important for the Regional Outcomes process to provide a context that can realise the positive nature of diversity.

The items in **bold** were considered by each sub-group to be the most significant for the Waikato Region.

Sub Group A

Regional Strengths

- **Diversity**
- **Economic**
- **Tourism**
- **Scenery**
- **Access to sea**
- Waikato Economic Development
- Ease of access to the sea (central to everything)

Regional Weaknesses

- **Lack of publicity**
- **Public transport**
- **Roading**
- **Environment**
- **Urban sprawl**
- **Lack of youth facilities**
- **Pollution**
- **Rubbish**
- Lack of publicity i.e. tourism Waikato – translatable material
- Roothing systems
- Not enough focus on environment and consequences to it
- Polluted Waikato river / lakes
- Rubbish – all issues

Regional Opportunities

- **Economic**
- **Tourism**
- **Culture & heritage**
- **Waikato river**
- **Academic centres (higher education)**
- **Maori culture**
- **Auckland**
- **Airport (Titanium Park) - media**
- Tourism – heaps of potential
- Waikato river (if developed further)

- Develop academic centres for excellence for areas we have strengths in this area
- Tap into Maori culture (Te Ao Maori)

Regional Threats

- **Urban sprawl**
- **Auckland**
- **Future commodity / dairy prices**
- **Media**
- Development and the spreading of cities – on environment and social systems

Sub Group B

Regional Strengths

- **National resources – rivers, lakes**
- **Tourism potential**
- **Climate – National features**
- **Centre Maoridom**
- **Interesting historically**
- **Easy to travel abroad – international airport**
- **Everyone has to pass through**
- Good natural resources – location – no one can get past us
- Tourism potential
- Good community communication – all for each other (locally)
- Friendly?!
- Interesting historically
- Close to coast - central. Distinctive coast – lakes, mountains
- A lot of lakes
- Climate – no earthquakes – not extreme
- Centre of Maoridom
- International travel – airports ease

Regional Weaknesses

- **Tourism not well developed**
- **Climate (damp)**
- **Dangerous highway**
- **Education**
- **Environmental problems**
- **Regional website**
- **Drs not available weekends**
- **Poor statistics**
- Not as well developed for Tourism as it might be
- People killed on highways
- Doctors not available at weekends – Huntly, Thames and other places
- No regional website (Waikato) weakness in marketing
- Environmental problems – affect industries – heavy industries – dairy – pulp and paper – farming loss bio diversity

- Local education – basic common sense - education – not potential – not using local high school

Regional Opportunities

- **Website (regional)**
- **Young people**
- **Open and green**
- **Tourist opportunity**
- **Immigration – diversity**
- **Expand culture and history**
- Expand tourism
- Expand art, culture, heritage
- Immigration (would also be a threat)
- Diversity

Regional Threats

- **Environmental degrading**
- **Migrants not integrating (perception by some)**
- Urban sprawl
- Tainui holding region to ransom over some issues

Sub Group C

Regional Strengths

- **Geographical**
 - **central location**
 - **coast – beaches**
 - **river and waterways**
 - **lush green, diversity, recreational opportunities**
- **Climate – mild**
- **Tourism – historical sites**
- **Strong agricultural economic base**
- **Cultural**
 - **base of Kingitanga**
 - **multiple Iwi identity**
- Central location
- Waterways
- Coast
- Good climate
- Strong cultural ties particularly Maori
- Green lush images
- Recreational activities
- Beaches
- Diverse area

Regional Weaknesses

- **Tourism bypass us**
- **Lack of Waikato regional identity**
- **Pockets of poverty**
- **Inadequate housing**
- **Lack of arts infrastructure**
- **Inadequate bridges – roading**
- **Diversity of region – don't all identify with Waikato river**
- Tourism bypass Waikato region
- No Waikato regional marketable identity
- Geographic separation of areas in region
- Significant pockets of poverty

Regional Opportunities

- **Develop tourism**
 - **Maori**
 - **Historic sites**
- **Develop Arts infrastructure**
- **Completion of underway**
- **Use coastal features waterways**
- **Develop recreational opportunities**
- Explore equitable opportunities for poverty
- New motorway being completed

Regional Threats

- **Environmental**
 - **agricultural pollution**
 - **loss of native bush**
- **Prison**
- **Landfill and rubbish in general (waste disposal)**
- **Highway going through**
- Agricultural pollution of waterways / lakes
- Roading used as S.Highway by passes

6. KEY REGIONAL ISSUES

Following presentation of the sub-group SWOT summaries the plenary group identified the following items as being the key issues for the Waikato region:

1. Environment (protections and appreciation and understudy) (agri vs. env) - wetlands
2. Roothing and transport
3. Social issues – housing / poverty / health / education / unemployment
4. Tourism
5. Arts
6. Preservation of our culture (refer Michael King) / heritage (past & present – feeling of identity)
7. Kiwi-tanga – strong here (but for all NZ)
8. Acknowledgement of Maori culture (and value)
9. Identity of this region
10. Economy – wealth creation
11. Urban sprawl

Please note, the items are not listed in any order of priority.

7. SUB-GROUP 'DESIRED FUTURE REGIONAL OUTCOMES' VISIONING

Following the preparatory discussions, raising group awareness of regional issues and characteristics, participants were again divided into three sub-groups to consider and discuss their desired outcomes for the Waikato region.

All discussion groups were asked to cover the full range of social, economic, environmental and cultural considerations. The sub-groups proposed the following as being desirable outcomes.

The notes on the following pages are transcripts of the outputs of the various sub-groups. Those items considered to be *most significant* by each group are in **bold**.

Sub-group A

- **Increased participation in the democratic process**
- **Roading projects completed, biking lanes in cities, superior public transport network**
- **Vibrant tourism industry, including arts, culture, heritage: clean green pure, distinctive identity**
- **Healthy educated happy population enjoying a superior quality of life in a true multicultural society**
- **Ecological wonderland with organic growing cluster**
- **Creative city / town planning, with centres of excellence in attractive vibrant cities with superior recreational facilities (walkways)**
- **Mighty river power consent withdrawn**
- Greater use of waterways
- Acceptance as a multicultural society
- Our own district identity
- Ecological wonderland
- Quality of life
- Biking roads / lanes – main Highways / city

Sub-group B

- **Regional commitment to children and young people encompassing education, health and recreation**
- **Improvement of Health services – lower waiting lists, lower/removal student loans, incentives to practice in rural areas, availability to medical services**
- **Encouragement / incentives for small businesses to start, grow thereby creating employment**
- **Sustainable management of all resources – natural environment, recycling, protecting landscape (no pylons) (natural and aesthetic)**
- **Acknowledging the need for successful identity / partnerships across the region i.e. council – council, iwi – iwi, iwi - council**
- **Public Transport i.e. Rail. Safer roads, less crime and chiefs winning Super 12. too hard to choose which is a priority**
- Better community communication – personal face to face
- Build social capital
- All children can read and write education
- Strong creative art and cultural knowledge regionally
- Sustainable use of all resources
 - natural environment
 - recycling
- Lower crime
- Public facilities
 - youth
 - recreational
- Safer roads
- Protect aesthetic landscape e.g. No Pylons
- Access to cheaper / healthier food
- Improvement of Health services
 - waiting lists
 - availability of doctors
- More incentives to encourage health professionals
 - student loan lower
 - to practice in rural areas
- Accepting and acknowledging diversity but owning the regional brand

- All iwi vibrant successful contributor to the regions economy and well-being
- Retaining urban / agricultural boundary's – build up not out – better standard of housing

Sub-group C

- **Identity**
 - **community tolerant of diversity**
 - **region that considers itself positively**
 - **common understanding within and between communities of Te Tiriti o Waitangi**
- **Social**
 - **safe secure communities**
 - **region defined by communities of interest**
 - **active in its governance**
 - **strong child and family policies – supportive**
 - **recognition of value of voluntary contributors**
- **Environment**
 - **recognition of distinctive character of biodiversity in community (indigenous)**
 - **care and respect for Waikato River**
 - **natural features of this region**
 - **community actively involved in environment**
- **Transport**
 - **completed motorway**
 - **equitable access to transport options that are sustainable**
- Completed motorway / expressway system through region
- Safe secure communities
- Region defined by community and interests (not by catchment)
- A community active in governance of its community – leadership that is inclusive – healthy participation
- Equitable access to transport options
- Recognition in infrastructure of social determinants (housing, transport, poverty, employment etc) that affect this community
- Community that is tolerant of difference (especially ethnicity) – Maori and Immigration
- Common understanding within and between communities of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Appreciation of distinctive character of indigenous biodiversity within community and a community working towards its restoration

- Waikato River valued and respected – cared for inclusive of pollution, care of use etc.
- Land usage that reflects sustainability and is reflective of economic base of region
- Secure economic base for region that ensures opportunity and justice
- Environment
 - community that is involved and participates in the health of our environment
 - increasing development / redevelopment of native flora and fauna
 - lakes and waterways that are healthy and vibrant
- Identity – a region that considers itself positively and is valued by its residents – “we feel proud of our region.”
- Strong child and family policies that are reflected in all aspects of our communities
- Recognition of the value of voluntary contribution within our communities – efficient use and support

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF DESIRED VISION STATEMENTS

The most significant vision statements ('bolded' in the previous section) have been grouped into key themes to enable an overall snapshot of the workshop to be generated. These themes have not been carried through to further stages of the Choosing Futures Waikato process and are designed purely to enable the workshop to stand alone if required.

(The process used to produce the information in this appendix was undertaken post-workshop by Gavin Thomas, Regional Community Outcomes Coordinator, Choosing Futures Waikato.)

A region with a strong and positive identity that values the contributions of all

- Increased participation in the democratic process
- Acknowledging the need for successful identity / partnerships across the region i.e. council – council, iwi – iwi, iwi – council
- Identity
 - community tolerant of diversity
 - region that considers itself positively
 - common understanding within and between communities of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

A healthy, happy and safe community that values learning and the role of young people will play in our future

- Healthy educated happy population enjoying a superior quality of life in a true multicultural society
- Social
 - safe secure communities
 - region defined by communities of interest
 - active in its governance
 - strong child and family policies – supportive
 - recognition of value of voluntary contributors
- Regional commitment to children and young people encompassing education, health and recreation
- Improvement of Health services – lower waiting lists, lower/removal student loans, incentives to practice in rural areas, availability to medical services

An accessible region with safe and sustainable transport systems

- Rooding projects completed, biking lanes in cities, superior public transport network
- Public Transport i.e. Rail. Safer roads, less crime
- Transport
 - completed motorway
 - equitable access to transport options that are sustainable

A region that encourages a vibrant and sustainable economy based on the skills and uniqueness of our people and that respects our natural resources

- Vibrant tourism industry, including arts, culture, heritage: clean green pure, distinctive identity
- Encouragement / incentives for small businesses to start, grow thereby creating employment
- Ecological wonderland with organic growing cluster

A region that respects its natural resources and encourages the community to protect our natural treasures

- Mighty river power consent withdrawn
- Sustainable management of all resources – natural environment, recycling, protecting landscape (no pylons) (natural and aesthetic)
- Environment
 - recognition of distinctive character of biodiversity in community (indigenous)
 - care and respect for Waikato River
 - natural features of this region
 - community actively involved in environment

A region with attractive and vibrant living spaces enhanced through creative planning

- Creative city / town planning, with centres of excellence in attractive vibrant cities with superior recreational facilities (walkways)

APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

The following list records the workshop community participants and the facilitation team:

Community Participants

Anna Read	Huntly
Dianne Yates	Hamilton East
John Rasmussen	Hamilton
John Charteris	Taupiri
Wendy Hinkley-Smith	Huntly
Bruce Ward	Ohinewai
Paul Gower	Taupiri
Wayne Bennett	Ngaruawahia
Jenni Vernon	(EW) Raglan
Linda Wigley	Huntly
Judy Cole	Pokeno
Jane Kerr-Bell	Ngaruawahia
Shelley Lynch	Huntly
Lianne van den Bemd	Ngaruawahia
Donna Wilson	Ngaruawahia
Moera Solomon	Ngaruawahia
Jo Cottrell	Hamilton
Rob Muller	Huntly
Kim Bredenbeck	Huntly
Yvonne Read	Huntly
Saskia Schuitemaker	Hamilton
Clair Gregson	Huntly
David Pearks	(EW) Hamilton
Terry Tukere	Ngaruawahia
Angus Macdonald	(EW) Ngaruawahia

Total Participants 25

Regional Outcomes Facilitation Team

Choosing Futures Waikato *Ph 07 838-6672*

Gavin Thomas Regional Community Outcomes Co-ordinator
gavin.thomas@choosingfutures.co.nz

Martin Thomas & Associates

Martin Thomas

Ph 027 275-7177
Strategic Facilitator

APPENDIX C: PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

At the conclusion of the workshop participants provided feedback on their experience of the workshop, as follows:

What went well?

- Structured the evening well to achieve the object
- The sub-group guidelines
- It was good the way our thinking was lifted from the local to the regional level (structured approach)
- Didn't get high-jacked
- Good clear explanation at front end

What didn't go well?

- Hard to hear in some sub-groups

Any other comments?

- More publicity?
- Maybe go to the people? Through networks
- Want to hear the voices of those who weren't here
- Not enough young people here (school debate activity)

APPENDIX D: CHOOSING FUTURES PROCESS (PPT)

Choosing Futures Waikato Is...

- A partnership between the councils of the Waikato region to
 - Identify community outcomes for the Waikato region
 - Develop ways of achieving community outcomes
 - Monitor and report back to the community on progress made

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

Community Outcomes Are...

- Statements of what the community wants to achieve in terms of sustainable social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being
- “Owned” by the community
 - Identified by community consultation
- A guide to councils, central government agencies and community organisations – presented in each council's LTCCP

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

Community Outcomes Are...

- A way of developing whole of community approaches
- To become the heart of council and community planning

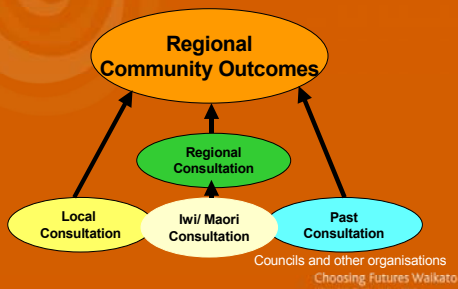
Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

Why are Councils Doing This?

- Organisation with best community reach
- Accountable to their community
- Have established relationships with other organisations
- Therefore.....
 - Mandated under the Local Government Act 2002

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

How Waikato Regional Community Outcomes are Identified



Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

Identifying Community Outcomes

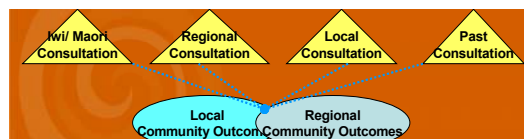
- Step 1- Community consultation undertaken
- Step 2 – Draft Community Outcomes developed
- Step 3 – Review – key stakeholders
- Step 4 – Community Review – every household in the region

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

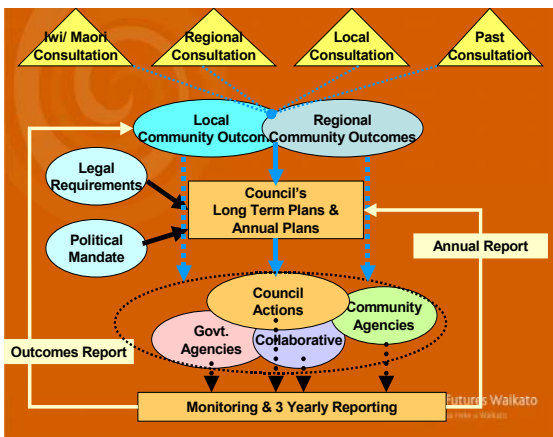
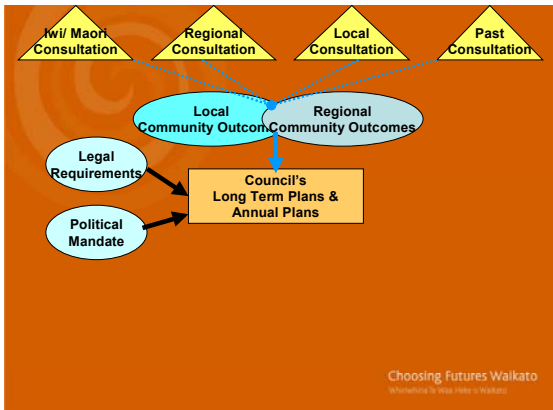
Working To Achieve Community Outcomes

- Action plan and steering group developed
- Councils, government agencies and community organisations include work to achieve outcomes in annual work plans
- Collaborative projects identified

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato



Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato



Community Outcomes are About.....

- Working to achieve what our community wants
- Whole of community approaches
- Using our community's resources efficiently
- Creating effective relationships
- Achieving our community vision

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whāwhāia te huarua o Waikato