



FACILITATED WORKSHOP REPORT

FOR

CHOOSING FUTURES WAIKATO

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
VISIONING # 1 - NGATEA**

14 FEBRUARY 2005

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OVERVIEW SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The community workshop minuted in this report was the first 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 Monday, 14 February 2005 in the supper room of the Ngatea War Memorial Hall, Ngatea.

2. FACILITATED WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

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

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.

All information from the workshop series will be collated and analysed as a further step in this initial phase of the Choosing Futures Waikato regional community outcomes identification process. The information will also be provided to the host council(s) for use in local community outcomes processes to be used at the discretion of the host council.

3. WORKSHOP WELCOME AND PROCESS OVERVIEW

Workshop participants were welcomed by John Tregidga, Mayor of Hauraki District Council.

A presentation by Gavin Thomas, Regional Community Outcomes Co-ordinator, provided an overview of the Choosing Futures Waikato *regional* community outcomes process (refer Appendix C).

Mark Buttimore, Planning and Environmental Services Manager, Hauraki 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. The items are not listed in any order of priority.

Key Local Issues

1. Maintenance of quality of long-term water supply (Waihou River) – the sustainability of the supply.
2. The understanding of local sub-division and regional councils attitude to this (growth around rivers – getting into higher country) economic farming units.
3. Not to have rates bills exceeding inflation.
4. Long-term planning for economic growth (farming, mining, tourism) – encouraging other business into area.
5. Flooding – risk management of this.
6. Lack of alignment to local government boundaries – difficulty in dealing with these issues.
7. Health Services – good hospital – ambulance manning in rural areas.
8. An environment to attract health professionals (safety issues).

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 Waikato regional 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.

Sub Group A

Regional Strengths

- Farming – prime agriculture land
- Favourable climate
- Proximity to large population centre
- Coastal, tourism potential

Regional Weaknesses

- Roothing / safety / capacity
- Highway 25 / SH 2 intersection
- Loss of economic farming units to sub division (poorly planned)
- Lack of recycling facilities and planning

Regional Opportunities

- Tourism
- Mining
- Eco tourism
- Research and development education aimed at local strengths and development

Regional Threats

- Environment pollution from poor business practices
- Earthquake
- Population growth – without infra-structure
- Flooding
- Bio-security

Sub Group B

Regional Strengths

- Variety of geography and towns and climate (warm)
- Tourism, farming, fishing, other uses
- People are enthusiastic about area live in
- Reasonably safe area (not problem of big city)
- People more community minded

Regional Weaknesses

- Distances, geographic, isolation
- Lack of knowledge about region
- Transport, roading
- Lack of services, policy, telephones, requires reliance on volunteers
- Shrinking rural areas
- Limited resources
- Limited time
- Small community easier for issues that divide
- Job creation for young people (lack of jobs, training) kids have to leave to get jobs
- Infrastructure limited and tourists put pressure on these areas. Perception of community that this is having adverse impact

Regional Opportunities

- Increasing tourism take advantage of environment
- Tourism brings in money to support infrastructure
- Rural lifestyle will become increasingly desirable
- Waikato centrally based
- Safer than cities

Regional Threats

- Rivers / climatic change
- Maintenance on rivers
- Subdivision of viable farmland into lifestyle blocks and management of this
- Rural areas not hard enough for all services
- Rural areas spread out so harder to speak with one voice

Sub Group C

Regional Strengths

- Tourism potential
- ½ population within ½ hours drive
- Strong economic base – exporting farming
- Climate - temperature
- Community pride in region – mooloo
- Affordable living compared to Auckland
- Proximity to major centres e.g. Auckland, Hamilton etc
- Education – Te Wananga o Aotearoa – largest tertiary institution in New Zealand
- Tertiary education, University etc..
- High Maori population in South Waikato
- Drainage systems

Regional Weaknesses

- Strength in agriculture – need more diversity
- Leads to reliance on healthy environmental outcomes – vulnerable to climate change
- Size means difficulty servicing outlying areas – no med. School – no fine arts
- Roothing
- Duplication of facilities

Regional Opportunities

- Diversification of industries in agriculture and aquaculture
- Minerals
- Tourism

Regional Threats

- Environmental – to water ways
- Over population of coastal areas – absentee owner
- Spill from Auckland
- Sub divisions of rural land

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. Loss of population in rural areas
2. Not being heard by Central Government
3. Sustainability of (agriculture in general) environmental issues – limitations put on farmers
4. Infrastructure & maintenance especially with increasing tourism
5. Competition for resources

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

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

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

All discussion groups were asked to consider 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. The items considered to be *most significant* by each group are in **bold**. The Groups were asked to prioritise either through marking the outcomes they considered most important or by rephrasing the most important ideas into vision statements.

Sub-group A

- **“Quality, not Quantity for Life”**
- **Restoration of waterways, wetlands, harbours, coastal waters and tributaries e.g. phyto remediation**
- **Greater understanding, appreciation and execution of the quadruple bottom-line effect regarding the eco-system**
- **A knowledge based economy for future generations driven by and supported by the primary agricultural sector, via farming and business**
- **Regionally targeted education system that sustains the labour force, skills and expertise to sustain the regional economy**
- **Promotion of healthy lifestyles on a integrated basis via:**
 - rural lifestyle
 - market focused
 - maximise satellite hospitals
- **An effective, efficient, accountable i.e. simplified local body, regional authority and central government**
- **4 lane highway from Bombay to Tatuani**
- **Greater use of alternative energy sources – reduce use of power lines - pylons**
- **Increase in number of stock – truck station, caravans, mobile homes and boats**
- **Overseas investment to be balanced out by a region to region income related based rates system**
- **Fully funded civic services**
- **Strengthened rural lifestyle communities**

Sub-group B

- **Enhanced environment – plantings, reduced traffic**
- **Eco developments and sustainability i.e. areas protected for future and suitable eco. development areas**
- **Beach safety services as appropriate provided on each beach**
- **Thriving communities, small business, a safe happy environment. Not overcrowded and pressured**
- **Health and education. More of; therefore better access and shared services**
- Keep what we have got i.e. limited access
- Retain rural lifestyle. Become economically and environmentally sustainable. Grow, but in a sustainable way
- Communities to have more control in their destiny e.g. police, health, environment, education, ‘local solutions to local problems’. Smaller communities have the identity to do this.
- Access to coastal land. Regional land banks / parks. Public ownership to protect it, especially the Coromandel.
- Mix of volunteers and paid staff, to keep community spirit and to provide adequate services
- People to have the time and energy to contribute to the community e.g. voluntary groups, participation etc.
- Smarter communities with regards to how people can contribute (i.e. open to change) to volunteer groups.
- Early health problem detection and faster care.
- Health services accessible and affordable – especially for those who cant drive etc.
- Transport – able to get to places and services easily
- Local services, provided locally
- Health and vitality. People going out and enjoying the environment and facilities they have
- More jobs for young people (school leavers) in local areas, e.g. Apprenticeships, on the job training
- Local education services
- Boundaries to enhance ability for co-ordination of sustainability (eco. Devel. & environment).
- More courses for young parents in parenthood, how to budget, garden etc
- All required services to be provided within the regional boundary

- Improved transport systems e.g. bus, rail, boat. For passengers and goods. More efficient transport – less trucks passing through towns / main streets
- Industry – locally based. Needs to be from private sector. Specialist products. To encourage /attract this, need good rural lifestyle i.e. good health, education etc.
- Valuing art and cottage industry. Value products that are ‘one-offs’.
- Appreciation of all beliefs and that we are all part of the community
- Embrace cultures and individuality but treat everyone the same. Tolerance, acceptance, celebrate the cultures
- Knowledge of other cultures and ‘ways of life’ to help acceptance
- One rule for all

Sub-group C

- **“Main Theme” “Better Education in all levels of life.”**
- Strong base as now – sustainable planned growth, all ages – education for all
- Clean – green – image
- Free accessible health. (healthy people). Debt free – less tax – (country & individual)
- Employment (wages)
- Services (health etc more accessible). Treatment when needed (time wise)
- Better parental education on all levels of life (availability)
- Clean air – clean water
- Recycling
- Pollution – minimising and controlling
- Power – sustained ability to maintain growth in all sectors, i.e. coal / wind generation / nuclear powered

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 that preserves and enhances its natural environment

- Restoration of waterways, wetlands, harbours, coastal waters and tributaries e.g. phyto-remediation
- Greater understanding, appreciation and execution of the quadruple bottom-line effect regarding the eco-system
- Enhanced environment – plantings, reduced traffic
- Eco developments and sustainability i.e. areas protected for future and suitable eco. development areas
- Clean air – clean water

A region that pursues sustainable and effective economic development

- A knowledge based economy for future generations driven by and supported by the primary agricultural sector, via farming and business
- An effective, efficient, accountable i.e. simplified local body, regional authority and central government
- Strong base as now – sustainable planned growth, all ages – education for all
- Employment (wages)
- Clean – green – image
- Recycling
- Pollution – minimising and controlling
- Power – sustained ability to maintain growth in all sectors, i.e. coal / wind generation / nuclear powered

A region that values education at all stages of life

- Regionally targeted education system that sustains the labour force, skills and expertise to sustain the regional economy
- “Main Theme” “Better Education in all levels of life.”
- Better parental education on all levels of life (availability)

A region with healthy and safe lifestyles

- Thriving communities, small business, a safe happy environment. Not overcrowded and pressured
- “Quality, not Quantity, of Life”
- Health and education. More of; therefore better access and shared services
- Free accessible health. (healthy people). Debt free – less tax – (country & individual)
- Services (health etc more accessible). Treatment when needed (time wise)
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles on a integrated basis via:
 - rural lifestyle
 - market focused
 - maximise satellite hospitals
- Beach safety services as appropriate provided on each beach

APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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

Community Participants

Glen Wilson	Paeroa
Val Wilson	Paeroa
Fiona Tilsley	Paeroa
Mary Carmine	Waihi
Carl McLaughlan	Mt. Maunganui
George Gracy	Thames
Bruce Gordon	Ngatea
Bev Sanford	Thames
Stuart Davey	Paeroa
Ray Jolliffe	Kerepehi
Dawn Sinclair	Karangahake
Ray Ridings	Kerepehi
Gray Townshend	Ngatea
Lyn Staples	Thames
Hemi TeWano	Hamilton
Haydn Solomon	Tainui
Eileen Leonard	Ngatea
David Pearks	(EW) Hamilton
Kate McKeowen	TCDC
Mark Buttimore	Waihi Beach
John Tregidga	Paeroa

Total Participants 21

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 *Ph 027 275-7177*
Martin Thomas 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?

- The workshop was a good format
- There was good discussion

What didn't go well?

- The lack of people in attendance – showing no interest

Any other comments?

- Can there be submissions after the workshop?
- The information document to be down loaded from the Web took 20 minutes – that's too long

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

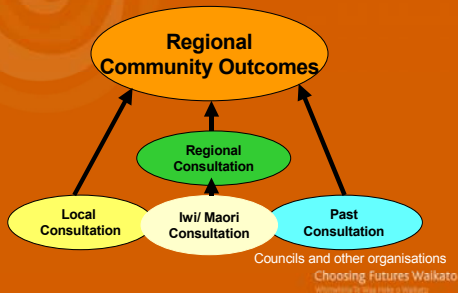
Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

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



Identifying Community Outcomes

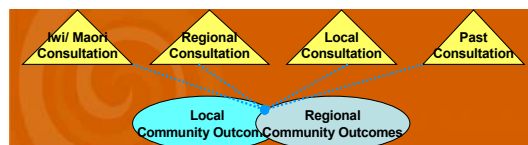
- Step 1- Community consultation undertaken
- Step 2 – Draft Community Outcomes developed
- Step 3 – Review – key stakeholders
- Step 4 – Community Review – every household in the region

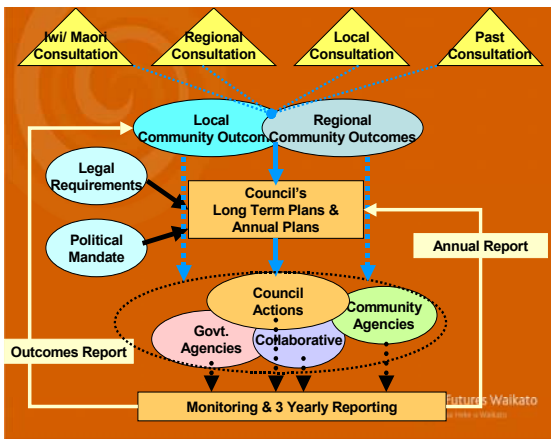
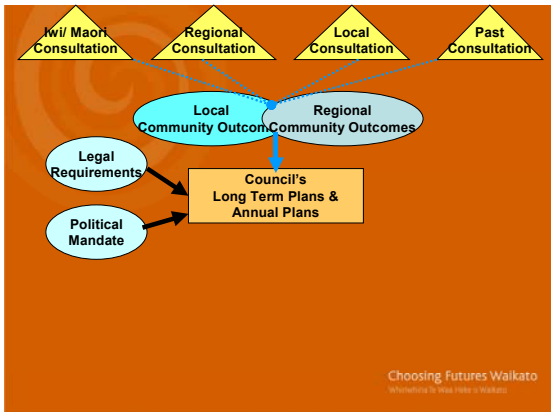
Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

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





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
Whānau ki te Ora Heke ki Waikato