



FACILITATED WORKSHOP REPORT

FOR

CHOOSING FUTURES WAIKATO

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
VISIONING # 4 - OTOROHANGA**

23 FEBRUARY 2005

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OVERVIEW SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The community workshop minuted in this report was the fourth 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 Wednesday 23 February 2005 in the Otorohanga Library Meeting Room, Ototrohanga.

2. FACILITATED WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

This workshop was the fourth 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 Dale Williams, Mayor of Otorohanga District Council.

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

Julie Meade Rose, Planning Manager, Otorohanga 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. Low population – infrastructure problems
2. Development pressures – waterways esp, (e.g. physical and construction) - coastal
3. Affordability of sewage and water for small communities
4. Compliance costs
5. Kawhia – vehicles on beach
6. Provision of range of health services
7. Our identity (what is it?)
8. Conservation issues / conjunction with tourism pressures

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:

- 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

- Agriculture
- Dairy
- Mixed Farming
- Tourism
- Main trunk line
- High Employment
- Farming Support Businesses
- Community size
- Coastline
- Diversity of resources

Regional Weaknesses

- Large farms – low numbers of owners
- Too big an area
- Small groups trying to do the same thing
- Lack of accommodation

Regional Opportunities

- Increased development
- Clean green image
- Tourism / conservation
- Councils / EW to work closer
- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Farming
- Ecotourism

Regional Threats

- Community size
- Loose unique identity
- Bio-security – conservation values
- Flooding
- Coastal issues – weather
- Unmanaged development
- Animal traceability

Sub Group B

Regional Strengths

- Great place to live!
- Central location
- Natural environment
- Economic strengths e.g. agriculture, tourism, mineral
- Rail
- Airport, ports
- Strong sense of community

Regional Weaknesses

- Public transport (lack of)
- Small spread population
- Infrastructure lack e.g. broadband

Regional Opportunities

- Coastal value
- Development / tourism – eco tourism

Regional Threats

- Cost of government compliance
- Natural environment (health of water / bush / sea etc)

Sub Group C

Regional Strengths

- Tourism
- Environment – diverse – mountains, Taupo, Ramsar sites, sea / rivers, caves, wetlands
- Education
- Ag-research
- Strong Maori cohesive
- History rich
- Farming – dairying – diverse
- Aquaculture / fishing
- Culture / arts
- Geothermal / coal / hydro

Regional Weaknesses

- Lost of roading in far farming areas
- Corridor region – people pass through
- Duplication of educational facilities
- Too many people too busy

Regional Opportunities

- Developing tourism - networks
- Building alliances
- International airports
- Small industries – national resource base e.g. harekeikei

Regional Threats

- Cost of resource allocation
- Small population centres – costs
- Natural disasters – coastal erosion, flooding, volcanic
- Pollution of waterways – intensive agriculture.
- Young peoples employment opportunities

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. Unite against compliance costs
2. The clean waterways issues (measuring what excess nitrogen is doing in society)
3. Balancing between peoples needs and environmental issues
4. Growing the port / airports
5. Connective transport – all – public
6. Cost of maintaining our natural resources
7. Pylons (regional disadvantage for national good)
8. Broadband issue?
9. Infrastructure issues / small communities
10. Retention of people (e.g. Whitianga e.g.)
11. Coastal development – ghost town Mon – Fri
12. Change in values in coastal areas
 - drives some out
 - people coming in have different values
 - urban effect in rural areas, same
13. Monetary gain before environment.

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 re-phrasing the most important ideas into vision statements.

Note: Sub-groups A and B combined while undertaking this process due a number of participants having to leave during proceedings. The items in bold under the heading 'Sub-group A' are those considered most important by the remainder of the A and B group combined.

Sub-group A

- **Sustainable economy – controlled immigration – identity / values**
- **Less compliance costs**
- **Controlled development / nil pollution / keep clean green image / clean healthy water**
- **Cohesive infrastructure. Govt. to support rural volunteers e.g. ambulance, fire, health**
- **Healthy safer lifestyle. Vision for young – care of elderly. Holistic view**
- **Waikato Identity? Incorporating towns and settlements identities**
- A safe place where every individual can gain education, employment and live a lifestyle that takes into account enjoying the environment, enjoying each other and working together
- People having choices about where they live
- Immigration is controlled so it is not detrimental to NZers
- Small towns retaining and enhancing their identities
- Greater consultation – work, promote our local assets, parks, rivers, forests
- Continued recognition of values by all, cultural, environmental
- Cheaper rates!!

Sub-group B

- Healthy environment and people
- Reduced government interference
- Young people – positive view of future
- Well developed infrastructure and communications
- Strong sense of identity at community and regional level
- Aware and involved communities
- Waikato Identity? “River”, mooloo, rugby, beer, racing, cows, agri, university, We are Not Jaffa’s
- Healthy lifestyle for Elderly
- Safer roads
- Government support for volunteers e.g. ambulance, fire, health groups
- Waikato? Local identity – Hauraki, Hamilton, Thames, Whitianga, Ngatea, Paeroa, Bennydale, PioPio, Taupo, Waitomo, Tauranga, Mt. Maunganui, TeKuiti, Cambridge, TeAroha, TeAwamutu

Sub-group C

- **Connectivity between communities and a high degree of technological ‘literacy’**
- **Lake Taupo as a crystal clean, aqua jewel. Clean fresh flowing rivers with strong riparian margins**
- **More accessible specialist Health Services (Mobile? Reinstate small rural hospitals) locally managed?**
- **Affordable, effective (public?) transport between centres (rail & road)**
- **Safe communities from law and policing perspective. Strong communities sensible planning (responsive and accountable)**
- **A universally accepted regional flag that reflects our heritage and pride – A Republic? Branding! Identity!!**
- Bicultural – two strong cultures that have addressed issues, developed respect and marched on together. Not “swamped” by other inputs
- Older people seen and used as economic contributors
- Competent planning that assists and fosters vibrant communities (towns) as opposed to scattered lifestyle blocks (coastal and rural)
- Less of a National dependence on our regional energy resources, more positive return to region. Long term sustainable mindset + local control?
- Smaller sustainably managed landholdings (not lifestyles)
- Planning that fosters effective and efficient transport as well as green spaces
- Public access to beaches and waterways. Walkway system? Negotiated (designated, defined, negotiated)
- Young people will be able to afford their own home.
- Widespread zero waste policy and sustainable recycling centres
- Planned public recreation areas that buffer high density centres – green belts

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 vibrant, connected and sustainable economy

- Sustainable economy – controlled immigration – identity / values
- Less compliance costs
- Connectivity between communities and a high degree of technological 'literacy'

A region that treasures and protects its natural resources

- Lake Taupo as a crystal clean, aqua jewel. Clean fresh flowing rivers with strong riparian margins
- Controlled development / nil pollution / keep clean green image / clean healthy water

A region with a cohesive infrastructure

- Cohesive infrastructure. Govt. to support rural volunteers e.g. ambulance, fire, health
- Affordable, effective (public?) transport between centres (rail & road)

Healthy communities with access to health services

- Healthy safer lifestyle. Vision for young – care of elderly. Holistic view
- More accessible specialist Health Services (Mobile? Reinstate small rural hospitals) locally managed?

A region that celebrates its identity

- Waikato Identity? Incorporating towns and settlements identities
- A universally accepted regional flag that reflects our heritage and pride – A Republic? Branding! Identity!!

A region that is safe and orderly

- Safe communities from law and policing perspective. Strong communities sensible planning (responsive and accountable)

APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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

Community Participants

Julie Meade Rose	Otorohanga
Dale Williams	Otorohanga
Andra Neeley	EW Hamilton
Liz LaFranchie	Kawhia
Angela Pope	Waitomo
Kevan Wilde	Waitomo
Rangi Tiepa Huriwaka	Otorohanga
Awa Heti	Otorohanga
May TeKanawa	Otorohanga
Chris TeWhare	TeKuiti
John Ash	Waitomo
David Pearks	Hamilton
Colin Murphy	Otorohanga
Lex Soeprel	Otorohanga
R Stafford	Otorohanga
Sue Tarry	Otorohanga
Carol Fagan	TeKuiti
Mervyn Williamson	TeKuiti
Jennifer Murray	TeKuiti
Lynne Stafford	Otorohanga

Total Participants 20

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?

- Some neat people here
- It was a low-key process
- It was an enjoyable process – excellent!
- Good to be forced to look at the overview

What didn't go well?

- Conflict of time demands (with other meetings)
- Didn't capture enough people

Any other comments?

- Need more youth input – they are the future!
- As Maori – we are not able to speak for other areas
- Some comments that may come back to haunt us in the future (Maori concern) down to our mokopuna
- Need to concentrate on our image (Pat's Republic).

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

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

Community Outcomes Are...

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

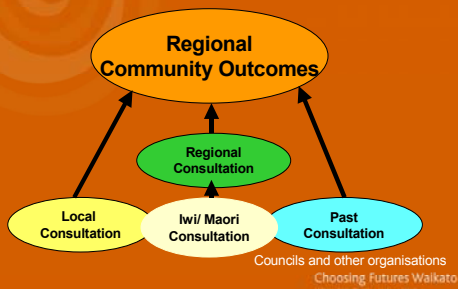
Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato

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

How Waikato Regional Community Outcomes are Identified



Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato

Identifying Community Outcomes

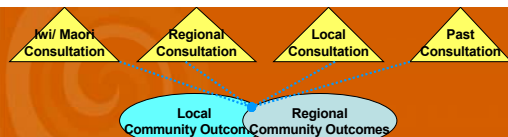
- Step 1- Community consultation undertaken
- Step 2 – Draft Community Outcomes developed
- Step 3 – Review – key stakeholders
- Step 4 – Community Review – every household in the region

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato

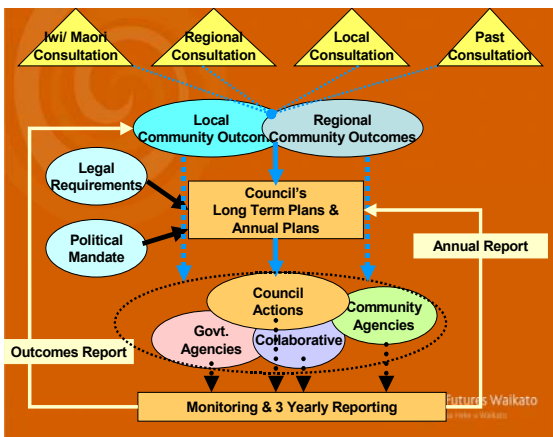
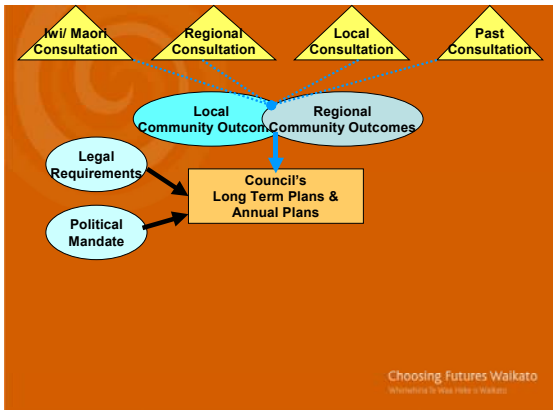
Working To Achieve Community Outcomes

- 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



Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te 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
Whāwhāinga ki te Ora Hou o Waikato