



FACILITATED WORKSHOP REPORT

FOR

CHOOSING FUTURES WAIKATO

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
VISIONING # 2 - TATUANUI**

17 FEBRUARY 2005

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OVERVIEW SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The community workshop minuted in this report was the second 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 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 17 February 2005, in the Tatuani Hall, Tatuani.

2. FACILITATED WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

This workshop was the second 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.

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 CFW PROCESS OVERVIEW

Workshop participants were welcomed by Hugh Vercoe, Mayor of Matamata-Piako 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 D).

Paula Rolfe, Community Development Manager, Matamata-Piako 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. Conflict between wanting TeAroha unspoiled and the commercial development
2. Development of the town – but preserving what we have that we value TeAroha and all others
3. Size of trucks through the area vs. rail (all towns in the area)
4. Proposed expansion of compost site Taukoro Road
5. Commuting into Hamilton – alternative transport to cars
6. Saleyards in Morrinsville near supermarket
7. By-pass for Matamata (road)
8. The effects of development on the environment
9. Town and District planning re fuel crisis, pending (industrial areas along rail corridor)
10. Water quality – intensive land use and water allocation
11. Pylons
12. Rural depopulation – downstream effect on schools, etc.
13. Future industrial planning so that does not affect growth of towns – needs planning (effects on neighbouring property)
14. Conservation of lowland bush remnants
15. Rates from rural subsidise urban
16. Auckland / Rotorua rail reinstated
17. Parking building at Waikato Hospital

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.

Sub Group A

Regional Strengths

Greater:

- Fertile heartland (agri / hort / equine)
- Diverse attractions and qualities
- Strong industries / processing
- Strong sense of region
- Contribute hugely to NZ's economy

Lesser:

- Tourism potential
- Fieldays e.g. – Tourist
- ATTRACTIONS – e.g. Waitomo caves, lakes and kiwi house
- Industries & processing
 - dairy factories
 - chicken factories
 - mushroom factories
 - meal works
 - horticulture
 - coal (Huntly)
- Identity as a region – “Chiefs County” – Moolooland
- Self sufficient and contribute disproportionately to the national economy

Regional Weaknesses

Greater

- Roads are poor / dangerous / overused
- Rail underutilised
- Wages low cause drift of skilled workers
- Rural depopulation an issue
- Understanding

Lesser

- Dangerous road spots
- Roads are overused by large trucks, drivers moving through
- Roads are difficult to maintain
- Wages are lower than the national level – employees underpaid – drift to Auckland – shortage of skilled workers
- Rural depopulation resulting from changes in the dairy industry

- Vastness of the region – difficult to relate to the problems of other areas
- Under policing – Police too thin on the ground particularly traffic enforcement
- Drivers – irresponsible behaviour
- Poor parking in towns

Regional Opportunities

Greater

- Diversification (ag)
- Tourism
- Enhanced communities and services

Lesser

- Diverse cropping / farming
- Improved transportation would improve lifestyles e.g. railcars
- Services are easily accessible e.g. hospitals, sports stadiums
- Need to return to entertainments e.g. movie theatres to towns
- Community facilities – halls, gymnasiums etc.

Regional Threats

Greater

- Over dependency on dairy industry
- Vulnerability of that industry

Lesser

- Foot and Mouth disease
- Collapse of dairying culture
- Environmental degradation from bacterial disease, bee mites etc.
- Waste disposal

Sub Group B

Regional Strengths

Greater

- Fertile soils
- Attractive scenery
- Resourceful, inventive people
- Central to main populous, ports
- Strong rural base
- Good recreation and vocational education opp's
- Growing population and economy

Lesser

- Good climate / rainfall
- Fertile soils
- Growing population
- Alternative transport
- Strong economic region
- Top sports people
- Attractive landscape / mountains, beaches

Regional Weaknesses

Greater

- Public transport system (road, rail)
- Environmental degradation
- Loss of youth (education, careers)
- Apathy (lack of community involvement)
- Labour supply

Lesser

- Vulnerable / prone to natural disasters
- Intensive farming – environmental degradation
- Not looking after or enhancing natural environment
- Apathy (lack of community involvement)
- Loss of youth (education, careers)

Regional Opportunities

Greater

- Tourism
- Education
- Homestays
- Value adding to product
- Arts and culture
- Biotechnology / health – sell medical services overseas
- Land uses untapped
- Wind power

Lesser

- Better transport network
- Health related industries
- Varied land use still untapped

Regional Threats

Greater

- Natural disasters
- Pests and diseases
- Erosion
- Industrial waste waterway contamination
- No protection of people's amenity values with no zoning

Lesser

- Soil erosion

Sub Group C

Regional Strengths

Greater

- A rural environment
- A good position
- Natural beauty
- Climate
- Recreation
- Waikato River energy
- Coastline

Lesser

- Predominantly a rural environment
- Geographically in a good position
- Waikato river for electricity - recreational

Regional Weaknesses

- Transport – public lack of infrastructure
- Brain drain
- Complacency towards the environment
- Lack of marketing
- Police not 24 hours

Regional Opportunities

- Energy technology
- Horticulture
- Tourist
- Environmental protection
- Encourage large industry
- Hi tech industry

Regional Threats

- Auckland industry coding
- High energy prices
- Unplanned development
- Natural disaster
- Council amalgamation

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. Transportation (under-utilisation of rail)
2. “Brain drain” / urban drift
3. Policing
4. Environmental degradation – loss of amenity
5. Tourism (as potential)
6. Provision for natural disaster / man-made disaster
7. Diversification – of the region as a whole
8. Centre of education (e.g. Wintec)

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.

Sub-group A

- **Better and more coordinated district and regional zoning in all aspects, stronger enforcement of the R.M.A act e.g. lifestyle zones, industrial zones less**
- **Tighter environment controls and educating children, industries and land users to be more environmentally responsible**
- **Develop a strong Waikato culture e.g. “Waikato Day”, a festival, an anniversary day. Hamilton to be the smartest city in NZ. Make the region a destination and make more of our diversity**
- **Varied day trips, adventure tourism, cultural tourism**
- **Transport – widen its scope to take tourism to other places than the main tracks. A comprehensive rail system get industry to utilize rail**
- **Pockets of poverty amongst wealth. Maori people to be more ‘engaged’ and stable e.g. getting involved in cultural tourism and arts**
- **Encourage diversity in land use to get more people and employment on the land**
- Better town and district planning / zoning
 - Less “higgledy piggledy”
 - Transportation links
 - Stricter R.M.A enforcement
 - Safety from weed infestations, diseases
- Tighter environment controls to be continued
- Educating children, industries and farmers to be environmentally responsible. More resources to go into projects like sheep pellets and use of effluent
- Tourism – make it a destination with such diversity. Day tours, adventure tourism
- Transportation widened in its scope to take tourism to other places comprehensive rail system
- Arrest depopulation. Encourage farms to be smaller units. Lifestyle blocks bring in business
- Reduce monoculture of dairying
- Pockets of poverty amongst wealth. Maori people to be more engaged and stable e.g. cultural tourism
- Develop a strong Waikato culture. A “Waikato Day” events staged out of Hamilton e.g. food festival. Hamilton to be the smartest city in NZ.
- The arts – arts trails / arts centre

- Places for people to congregate e.g. fantasy land, plan to have facilities less scattered

Sub-group B

- **Planning + Development + Research**
 - **local**
 - **district**
 - **consultation**
- **Health**
 - **services**
 - **water**
 - **modern technology**
 - **air quality**
 - **noise**
- **Employment**
 - **production**
 - **diversification**
 - **full / quality**
- **Economy**
 - **industry**
 - **agriculture**
 - **diversification**
- **Transport**
 - **railway**
 - **road usage decrease**
 - **passenger service**
- **Environment**
 - **native bush**
 - **waterways**
 - **retention & restoration**
 - **air quality**
 - **alternative energy / fuel sources**
 - **noise**
- Water taxis on the Waikato River
- Electrified railway
- Railway – corridor
- Don't ruin the environment
- Urban planning
- Water roof tanks
- Water conservation
- Trees / plants that absorb nutrients

- Wind power
- Cleaner environment
- 3 Piako towns doubling in population (Matamata)
- Industrial decentralisation
- Modern technology use medically
- Better health services
- Smaller hospitals
- Free (little cost) for medical services
- Increase in produce
- Production increase – horticulture
- Restored native bush
- Retaining professional practitioners
- No squabbling
- Better transport service
- Full employment
- Less crime
- Air quality – cleaner air
- Holistic town planning
- District planning
- Industrial development
- Education – better, buildings
- No NZQA – better governance of Ed.
- Opportunities
- Less cars and trucks on the road – electric? Alternative fuels
- Smaller councils
- Smaller council zones / areas
- Growth
- Agriculture growth
- Abundant energy sources
- Advances in technology
- Healthy
- Safe
- Clean
- Tide utilisation – diversification
- Unity
- Knitted cultures
- Amalgamated councils
- Not amalgamated

- More tourists
- No poverty
- More bicycle ways and walkways
- Stop selling our land to overseas countries
- Better control of food security

Sub-group C

- **Transportation – rivers, air, train, roads (straighten) use of small bus type vehicles for family groups – use of bikes**
- **Quality water – for personal farming industrial and recreation – preservation of water and native trees (restoration and preservation), sustainable living – recycling of waste – greatly reduce the use of packaging**
- **Small cultural activities in towns and cities like community halls and usage – restrict use of cars – neighbourhood watch and local interest and support**
- **Power generation given to individual groups and use of hydro, solar, wave and wind also use of electricity etc. for cars and other transport**
- **Education for raising awareness and greater critical thinking amongst today's decision makers – bring decisions into us all rather than dictation by secret and imposing control groups**
- Efficient transport connections – straight roads, use of rail, air transport, river transport. Waikato and Waihou River usage.
- Quality water for all uses – farming, industrial, rural, household, medical etc.
- Greater control of developments in beach and city areas.
- Use of fuller transport systems – biking, bus, small bus type vehicles, concentrating on multi family use
- Small cultural facilities again in cities, towns – reduces use of cars which destroy many cultural activity and give enormous damage to us all – accidents, medical, pollution etc.
- Recreate neighbourhood awareness – live together, talk together, assist and care for each other
- Alternative small scale power resources even individual homes or streets with individual power / heating / lighting. Better protection of homes for solar energy systems etc.
- Preservation of stands of native trees / remnant – restoration / regeneration
- Education for sustainable living recycling, zero waste, wise consumer choices – packaging / waste reduction
- Education for raising awareness and creating critical thinking amongst today's decision makers to make this vision happen

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.)

Coordinated, sustainable and accountable district and regional planning creating opportunities for all

- Better and more coordinated district and regional zoning in all aspects, stronger enforcement of the R.M.A act e.g. lifestyle zones, industrial zones less
- Tighter environment controls and educating children, industries and land users to be more environmentally responsible
- Planning + Development + Research
 - local
 - district
 - consultation
- Education for raising awareness and greater critical thinking amongst today's decision makers – bring decisions into us all rather than dictation by secret and imposing control groups
- Encourage diversity in land use to get more people and employment on the land
- Employment
 - production
 - diversification
 - full / quality
- Economy
 - industry
 - agriculture
 - diversification

A region with a strong local identity

- Develop a strong Waikato culture e.g. “Waikato Day”, a festival, an anniversary day. Hamilton to be the smartest city in NZ. Make the region a destination and make more of our diversity

A region which is a great place to visit

- Varied day trips, adventure tourism, cultural tourism
- Transport – widen its scope to take tourism to other places than the main tracks. A comprehensive rail system get industry to utilize rail

A region with healthy, strong and engaged communities

- Pockets of poverty amongst wealth. Maori people to be more ‘engaged’ and stable e.g. getting involved in cultural tourism and arts
- Health
 - services
 - water
 - modern technology
 - air quality
 - noise
- Small cultural activities in towns and cities like community halls and usage – restrict use of cars – neighbourhood watch and local interest and support

A connected and accessible region

- Transport
 - railway
 - road usage decrease
 - passenger service
- Transportation – rivers, air, train, roads (straighten) use of small bus type vehicles for family groups – use of bikes

A region that treasures and preserves its natural environment

- Environment
 - native bush
 - waterways
 - retention & restoration
 - air quality
 - alternative energy / fuel sources
 - noise
- Quality water – for personal farming industrial and recreation – preservation of water and native trees (restoration and preservation), sustainable living – recycling of waste – greatly reduce the use of packaging
- Power generation given to individual groups and use of hydro, solar, wave and wind also use of electricity etc. for cars and other transport

APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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

Community Participants

Hemi TeWano	Hamilton
Ted Guy	Waharoa
Len Bootton	Te Aroha
Noel Harvey-Webb	Te Aroha
David Pearks	(EW) Hamilton
Steve Osborne	(EW) Waitoa
Colin Whyte	Matamata
Jean Whyte	Matamata
Pat Reason	Te Aroha
Peter Blackiston	Te Aroha
Jim Howitt	Te Aroha
Dave Douglas	Te Aroha
Linda Thomas	Hamilton
Paul Thomas	Hamilton
Ethel Collins	Tahuna
Claude Collins	Tahuna
Ann Linstrom	Morrinsville
Heather Olesen	Morrinsville
Janet Gray	Morrinsville
Karen Semmens	Morrinsville
Sue Whiting	Matamata
Kathy Bentham	Te Aroha
Doug Bentham	Te Aroha
Megan Edmeades	Te Aroha
Matthew Satherley	Te Aroha

Total Participants 25

Regional Outcomes Facilitation Team

Choosing Futures Waikato

Ph 07 838-6672

Gavin Thomas Regional Community Outcomes Co-ordinator
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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?

- Constructive discussion
- Very open
- Small groups – enabled good exchange of ideas
- Good to have re-organised sub-groups for wider input
- The SWOT analysis was a good section
- Good facilities and good food
- It was a well organised workshop

What didn't go well?

- Nothing!

Any other comments?

- Would have been good for the Mayor to have stayed – to learn

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

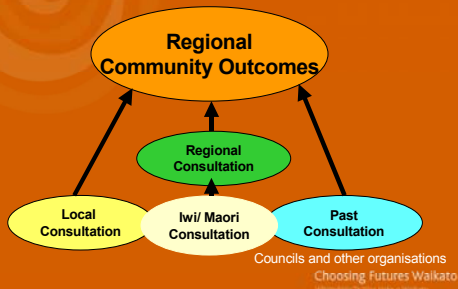
Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

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

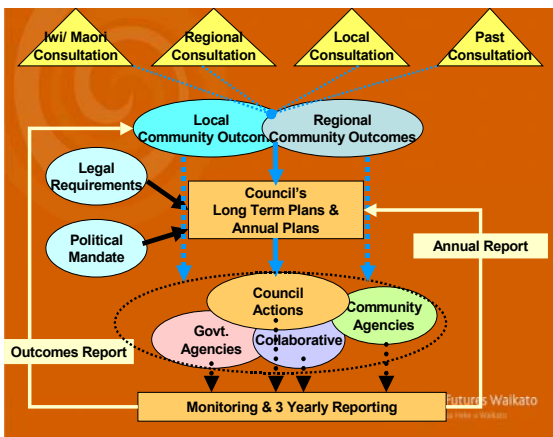
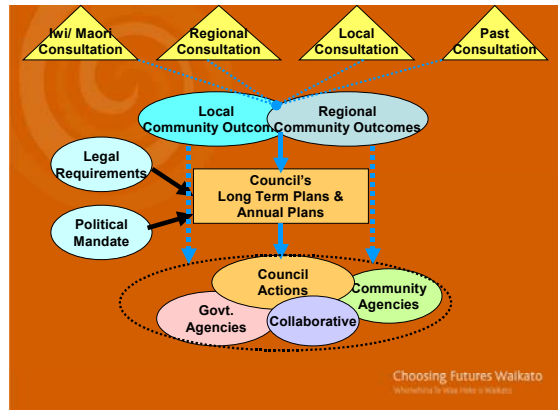
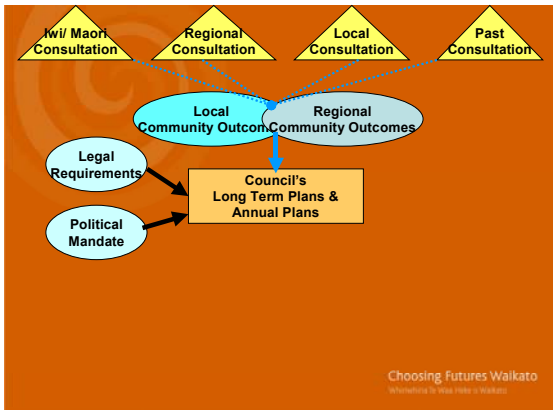
Working To Achieve Community Outcomes

- 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
Whāwhāinga ki te ārahi o Waikato

