



**FACILITATED WORKSHOP REPORT**

**FOR**

**CHOOSING FUTURES WAIKATO**

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS  
VISIONING # 7 - TAUPO**

7 MARCH 2005

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## OVERVIEW SUMMARY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The community workshop minuted in this report was the seventh 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 7 March 2005 in Meeting Room 2 of the Taupo Events Centre, Taupo.

## **2. FACILITATED WORKSHOP OVERVIEW**

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

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 Gavin Thomas, Choosing Futures Waikato Regional Community Outcomes Co-ordinator.

A presentation was then made by Gavin Thomas providing an overview of the *regional* Community Outcomes Process (refer Appendix E).

Kate Barker, Strategic Policy Advisor, Taupo 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. Affordable accommodation / housing
2. Skills shortage
3. Lack of early childhood education
4. Widening gap between haves / have nots
5. Health issues
6. Lack of services in small centres (and getting people to work in those)
7. Rural isolation
8. Increasingly aging population
  - not being involved
  - strangers in town
9. Domestic violence (increasing in this area – right across the board)
10. Water quality – lake / drinking water / sewage
11. Development of areas (Kinloch) infrastructure to deal with it (Developers will roll over local interests)
12. Dog control (outlying areas)
13. Not enough focus on environmental / heritage
14. Potential closure of Rangipo Prison

*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 two 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 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***

- **Geographical diversity (mountains, rivers, tourism)**
- **Central location**
- Farming (successful)
- Ethnic diversity
- Waikato river
- Scenic attractions / tourism
- Waikato university / WTI
- International airport
- Strong regional services

### ***Regional Weaknesses***

- **Socio – economic deprivation**
- **Small economy**
- **Split / diverse government agencies**
- Tourism – limited diversity
- Boundaries don't match
- Iwi boundaries
- High rate of road accidents
- Small rural communities – unemployment, social
- Land / transport / communication
- Poor access to health services

### ***Regional Opportunities***

- **Events – sporting, tourism, accommodation**
- **Desirable place to live**
- Organised Iwi groups (ToW settlements)
- Increasing internet capability
- Waikato university - biodiversity

### ***Regional Threats***

- **Declining lake / river water quality**
- **Natural disasters – volcanic, flooding, lahar**
- Power company tensions
- Poor internet / communication
- Weak rural services

## **Sub Group B**

### ***Regional Strengths***

- **Attractive physical environment / variety**
- **Maori cultural heritage**
- **People**
- Water supply
- Productive rural communities
- Education services
- Greater cultural diversity
- Recreation
- Employment
- Safe community (comparison?)

### ***Regional Weaknesses***

- **Health**
- Skills having to be sourced off shore
- Design of urban areas
- Sustainability of smaller towns
- Social isolation
- Bigger farming
- Not utilizing other economies, Asia / global

### ***Regional Opportunities***

- **Inter sectional collaboration**
- **Education up-skilling**
- Natural physical resources / tourism
- Industry, forestry, aquaculture
- Small businesses
- Business owners better trained and economically viable (HR best practice)
- Fits between outcomes regionally and locally
- “Making sure that councils make it work”

### ***Regional Threats***

- **Anything that threatens environment**
- Water quality / allocation
- Impact on aesthetics of environment / mountain
- Declining rolls in some areas / schools

- Rural services as a whole especially schools
- Roading network
- Land contamination
- Loss of wetlands
- Problem with diversity of culture and support services
- Bio security breach specifically for agriculture
- Access to lands e.g. coastal / rivers / streams
- Deforestation

## **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. Water quality / protection of lake - river
2. Workforce
3. Health
4. Access to government services
5. Employment
6. Environmental heritage
7. Deprivation
8. Bio security / bio diversity
9. Education / life long education
10. Decreasing small service centres (centralisation to main centres)

*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 two 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**

- **Empowered Families**
- **Environment ‘living waters, living land’**
- **Education**
  - **realised potential**
  - **maximised opportunities**
- **Health – ‘active, well balanced’**
- **Economy ‘sustainable’**
- **Law and Order**
  - **personal responsibility**
  - **community responsibility**
- **Culture ‘vibrant diversity’**
- Prosperous economically and socially
- Clean and green
- Healthy and productive
- Underground power source
- Liveable inter connected communities
- Bicycle and walking tracks
- Healthy
- Supportive infrastructure
- Access to coastal lands
- Access to rivers
- Designated parks / lands
- Pest free
- Sustainable buildings – good design
- Zero unemployment
- Lakes and rivers fenced off
- Healthy McDonalds (HEHA)
- Reclaim the streets
- Education (e.g. Health) – D & A, sexual etc
- Drug free
- Opportunities / activities for people
- Active communities
- Achieved outcomes (LTCP)
- Local government support
- Event support (family focus events)
- District council support

- Business development
- Finance
- Good screening programmes
- No child poverty
- Empowered families
- Smoker
- Litter free
- Recycled / Environment Culture / Mentality – support by local government
- Hydrogen powered vehicles
- Quick and effective transport system
- Affordable travel
- More fish
- Healthy affordable food
- Safe
- Ex pats living back in NZ
- Economy / opportunities that will encourage people to come home

## **Sub-group B**

- **Well managed environment – protected, preserved, productive, innovative crop development, promote healthy positive lifestyles**
- **Develop and sustain regional park systems / setting minimum standards for environmental protection**
- **Healthy, happy productive people, and raised literacy and numeracy levels in all sectors**
- **Develop and maintain efficient land transport, communications and power, recycling systems**
- Universal respect for everyone and everything and world peace
- Universal supporting respecting for the cultural differences
- Replace P.C with common sense
- Using our innovation and knowledge to develop the best power systems, waste disposal / recycling plants
- Well managed environment – protected, preserved, productive
- Healthy happy productive and prosperous people
- Set minimum standards for environmental protection
- An infrastructure that supports people
- Promote healthy, positive lifestyles
- Maintain regional park system / network regional parks
- Innovative crop development
- To have raised the numeracy and literacy levels across all sectors
- Develop, maintain efficient / land transport / communication systems

## 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 encourages personal responsibility through strong and supportive families and communities**

- Empowered Families
- Law and Order
  - personal responsibility
  - community responsibility

### **Healthy and happy communities that value life-long learning**

- Healthy, happy productive people, and raised literacy and numeracy levels in all sectors
- Education
  - realised potential
  - maximised opportunities
- Health – 'active, well balanced'

### **A region that treasures its natural environment and its open spaces**

- Environment 'living waters, living land'
- Well managed environment – protected, preserved, productive, innovative crop development, promote healthy positive lifestyles
- Develop and sustain regional park systems / setting minimum standards for environmental protection

**A region promoting a sustainable and efficient local economy**

- Economy 'sustainable'
- Develop and maintain efficient land transport, communications and power, recycling systems

**A region that values its cultural diversity and identity**

- Culture 'vibrant diversity'

## **APPENDIX B: WHOLE OF COMMUNITY APPROACHES**

With time available, the plenary group was asked for their ideas on whole-of-community approaches, going forward. (*Note, this was not done at other workshops in the series.*)

1. Apathy in getting groups together
  - change the engagement process
  - funding (some groups cannot afford to be involved in consultations)
2. If groups not competing for the same bag of money – would enable co-operation
  - need to keep own organisations viable
  - patch protection
3. Need to see acceptance / buy-in from central government (at MP level)
4. Education – these processes are new to the community (might take a few years to learn how to drive them)
5. Boundaries do not all match – real barrier
6. We don't teach about government (civics)
  - children's opinions not acknowledged
7. Profiling success stories

## APPENDIX C: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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

### Community Participants

Greg Curtis	Rotorua
David Pearks	(EW) Hamilton
Kristin Campbell Smith	Rotorua
Jeff Kivell	Taupo
Denise George	Taupo
Barry Kerr	Taupo
Laurie Burdett	(EW) Taupo
Chris Dolman	Waiariki
Cathy Cooney	Rotorua
Mary Smith	Rotorua
Hemi TeWano	Hamilton
Barry Hickly	Taupo
Kate Barker	Taupo

*Total Participants*      13

### 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 D: PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK**

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

*What went well?*

- It was positive, sharing

*What didn't go well?*

- We could have had more people here

*Any other comments?*

- *nil*

## APPENDIX E: 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 Taiao 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 Taiao o Waikato

### Community Outcomes Are...

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

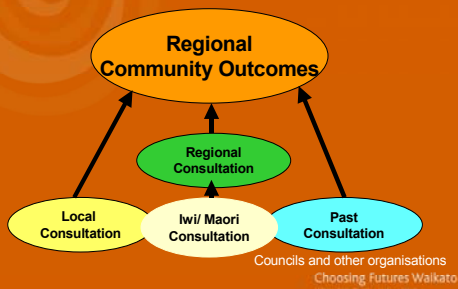
Choosing Futures Waikato  
Whānau ki Te Taiao o Waikato

### 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 Taiao 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

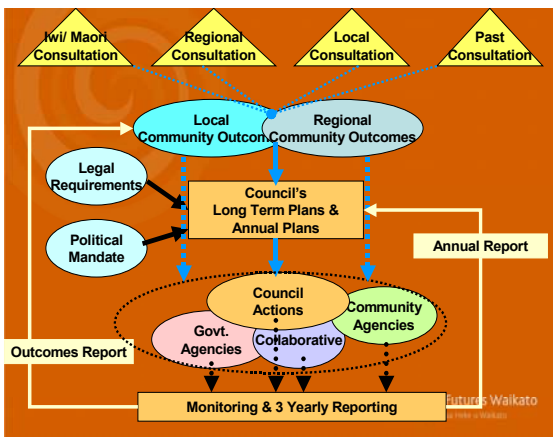
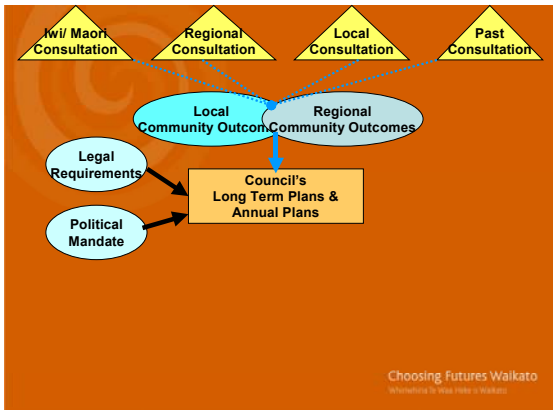
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### Working To Achieve Community Outcomes

- 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 Taiao 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  
Whāwhāria ki te hāhi hāhi o Waikato