



FACILITATED WORKSHOP REPORT

FOR

CHOOSING FUTURES WAIKATO

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
VISIONING # 9 – TE AWAMUTU**

10 MARCH 2005

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OVERVIEW SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The community workshop minuted in this report was the last 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, 10 March 2005 in the Waipa District Council Chambers, Te Awamutu.

2. FACILITATED WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

This workshop was the last 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.

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 Alan Livingstone, Mayor, Waipa District Council.

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

Angela Bron, Research and Policy Development Officer, Waipa 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. Transport
 - bottleneck at Cambridge / Bridge
 - public transport (buses) Cambridge-TeAwamutu-Hospital
 - dealing with rapid growth
2. Farmland being cut up into lifestyle blocks (need for planning) – using good farmland
3. Quality of waterways (rivers / lakes)
4. Hard to find good quality staff in outlying towns
5. Rental space for voluntary organisations – places to access the various provisions
6. Waste – need for recycling
7. TeAwamutu in need of good space for the arts
8. Facilities in TeAwamutu but no transport from say Cambridge

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 four 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

- **Tourism and events**
- **Education and research**
- **International airport**
- **Health care**
- **Coastline and waterways**
- Tourist attractions
- River, lakes, coastline
- Growing population including Maori peoples
- Rural infrastructure
- Central location
- 2 airports including international
- Main trunk line
- Huge diversity in social, sport, art and cultural activities
- Research centre – 2 universities, 3 polytechs
- Innovation park
- Tertiary hospital, provincial hospital, small provincial hospitals
- Close to Auckland
- Number of Maori providers for health care
- Significant events i.e. fieldays

Regional Weaknesses

- **Transport**
- **Deteriorating water quality**
- **Health unequal access**
- **Youth – resources**
- Close to Auckland
- Transport
- Inability to service the youth, neglect of youth culture
- Deteriorating water quality – farm run off
- Erosion of coastline
- Exploiting coastlines – buildings
- Health – unequal access to primary health care
- Traffic

Regional Opportunities

- **Maungatautari E.I**
- **Education**
- **Tourism / international airport**
- **Research centres / business opportunities**
- Maungatautari Ecological Island
- Economic growth
 - proximity to Auckland
 - Agriculture
- Universities, research centres, innovation park, world class business
- Proposed motorway to Auckland
- Education – international students
- Tourism
- International airport

Regional Threats

- **Scattered socio economic**
- **Power pylons**
- **Cutting up farmland**
- **Ageing populations**
- Scattered socio economic areas i.e. Waipa – High, Kawhia - Low
- Increasingly ageing population – need to keep / attract youth
- Traffic
- Power pylons
- Cutting up farmland

Sub Group B

Regional Strengths

- **The people and their cultures**
- **The environmental features**
 - **lakes, rivers, mountains, caves, coastline, bushes**
- River
- Sense of communities, lots of small communities
- Friendliness of people in the whole
- Density of population – economic development
- Variety of cultures
- Strong Maori representation - Tainui
- Diverse mix of cultures
- Diverse terrain / environmental features
- Environmental tourism – Taupo, Rotorua, caves
- Only a hop away from Auckland yet don't have traffic woes
- Waikato University and Waikato hospital
- District central in North Island

Regional Weaknesses

- **Corridor to Auckland**
- **Lack of infrastructure**
 - **ports, transportation**
- We are a corridor between Auckland and elsewhere
- Land to expand
- Lack of infrastructure to support industrial growth
- Regulatory compliance choking the life out of entrepreneurs and new industrial developments
- Distance from markets – transportation infrastructure
- We don't have a major port

Regional Opportunities

- **Expanded growth in tourism**
- **Expanded growth in industry**
- Expanded growth in tourism
- Expanded growth in industry
- Waikato is a great place to live – volunteerism / resources to assist volunteer groups to provide community needs
- Keep the students in the Waikato

- Preserve our native species - Maungatautari

Regional Threats

- **Bio security and environmental disasters**
 - **pollution, destruction**
- Auckland is moving down / South Auckland is moving into Northern Waikato
- Damage to environmental resources, lakes mines
- Our “spread out” environment very different from overseas
- Sweat shop competition from China vs. developing new industry
- Inability to achieve economies of scale re industry growth
- Pylons going through the Waikato destroying our “look” for Auckland’s benefit
- Bio security disasters affecting rural
- Natural disasters affecting Waitomo, Taupo, Rotorua and tourism
- Degradation of natural resources, lands rivers
- Pollution of the river
- Coastline destruction / erosion

Sub Group C

Regional Strengths

- **Tourism**
- **International airport**
- **Cultural and geographical diversity**
- **Tertiary education**
- **Farming**
- **Strong business**
- **Mystery Creek**
- Size of area
- Varied
- Rural and urban
- Great for tourism
- Beaches, mountains, rivers etc got it all
- Quality of rural area – farming return - prosperous
- Fishing – industries
- 4 urban areas
- Tertiary education
- International airport
- Culture diversity

Regional Weaknesses

- **Transport infrastructure**
- **Poor planning of building developments**
- **High level of economic deprivation**
- **T.L.A fragmentation**
- Poor transport
- Roading – insufficient South of Auckland
- Poor planning in new building developments
- Disappointing arrival in Waikato
- Size
- High level of economic deprivation
- Road signs
- Fragmentation

Regional Opportunities

- **International tourism**
- **Education**
- **Arts and culture**
- **Better use of railways**
- **Reduce deprivation**
- International tourism
- Education
- Arts and culture – to build on this
- Better use of our railways
- To reduce deprivation (housing etc)
- Reduce fragmentation

Regional Threats

- **Unplanned growth**
- **Health**
- **Seasonal economy**
- **Pollution**
- **Roading**
- **Rural employment**
- Unplanned growth
- Health – difficulty of hospital treatment
- Seasonal economy
- Roothing
- Increasing pollution of lakes and rivers
- Rural employment
- Demands of tourism in high season

Sub Group D

Regional Strengths

- **Location (central)**
- **High population**
- **2 coastlines**
- **Scenery / landscape / lakes / rivers etc.**
- **Leisure activities / sporting activities**
- **Diverse cultures**
- **Forest (employment / recreation)**
- **Recreational opportunities**
- **Young district – lots of opportunities**
- **Clean / green environment**
- Location (central)
- High population
- 2 coasts
- Scenery / landscape / lakes / rivers
- Leisure activities
- Sporting opportunities
- Diverse cultures
- Forests (employment)
- Recreational opportunities
- Young district – lots of opportunities
- Clean / green environment

Regional Weaknesses

- **Lack of services in smaller communities**
- **Accessibility to services**
- **Development of region – lots of potential yet untapped**
- **Resources spread wide**
- **Youth development – all cultures**
- Lack of services in small areas
- Accessibility to services
- Development of region – lots of potential yet untapped
- Resources spread wide
- Youth development – all cultures

Regional Opportunities

- **Development**
 - **all round**
 - **culture**
 - **industry**
- **Distribution – centrality**
- **Tourism**
- **Transportation hub**
- **Take advantage of our cultural / ethnic mix**
- **Eco-friendly industry**
- **Development**
 - **all round**
 - **cultural**
 - **industry**
- **Distribution : centrality**
- **Tourism**
- **Transport hub**
- **Take advantage of our cultural / ethnic mix**
- **Eco friendly industry**

Regional Threats

- **Smaller communities in danger of disappearing**
- **Uncoordinated consultation**
- **Transpower – our environment**
- **Big industry – threat to environment**
- **Being absorbed into “major cities” “losing identity”**
- **Smaller communities in threat of disappearing**
- **Uncoordinated consultation**
- **Transpower – our environment**
- **Big industry – threat to environment**
- **Being absorbed into “major cities” i.e. the sprawling / migration**

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. Deprivation
2. Auckland drawing from this region
 - corridor
 - energy
 - water
 - youth
3. Infrastructure (all aspects including services) – the number of T.A.'s
4. The environment
 - risks
 - bio hazard
5. Lack of long-term planning for region
6. Health
7. Education
8. Housing

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 divided into three randomly selected 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

- **Education – high quality education from birth to tertiary and ongoing work skills and professional development**
- **Housing – affordable housing close to work, study, school and recreation**
- **Social – support and incentives for youth to return to region (↓ student loan) and productive, supportive prison services (staff and clients). Encourage entrepreneurship**
- **Environment – alternative energies, conservation and protecting our waterways, coastal environment, estuary etc**
- **Infrastructure – effective health and transport systems. Managed, sustainable tourism. Industry – centres of influence – for business**
- **Culture – better understanding and acceptance of all cultures and diversity**
- **Employment**
- Transport – better balance, mix and use
- Centres of influence / excellence
- Planning for business development
- Locally elected Councils but minimise management structures
- More affordable housing in the cities
- Youth – more support, create incentives for our youth to return
- More productive prison services
- Alternative energies i.e. solar, wind, power conservation
- High quality health system – easy access, affordable
- High quality education from birth to tertiary
- Better understanding of other cultures
- No student debt
- Planned and sustainable environment
- Encourage the entrepreneurial skills in our area
- Tourism
 - improved accommodation
 - better management
- Crystal clear waterways and lakes
- Pollution free coastlines and estuaries

Sub-group B

- **Protection of the environment**
- **Infrastructure that supports strong communities – re health, education, welfare, employment, housing, transport etc.**
- **Socially responsible community, that respects cultural differences, personal safety and stronger families**
- Protection of environment
- Free transport (public) that's environmentally safe
- Easy access to services (health)
- Young dynamic leadership
- Less red-tape
- Roads safer – Meremere
- Better housing, situated by good infrastructure
- People safety (less crime)
- Generational change – giving back to the community
- More highly skilled jobs or career development opportunities
- Accessibility to hubs – Hamilton
- Cohesion of local groups
- Jail closed no need for police
- Increase in “personal responsibility”
- Family support – initiating better family relationships
- Cultural understanding of tolerance
- Facilities for elderly

Sub-group C

- **Energy**
 - **solar power in new buildings for water heating**
 - **wind power increase**
 - **tidal power**
 - **no additional pylons**
 - **nuclear options fully explored**
- **Arts and Culture centre for New Zealand**
 - **Links to events**
 - **Tourism**
- **Health**
 - **hospital waiting lists reduced to none**
 - **improved access to quality health services on demand**
- **Social and Economic development**
 - **planned housing / environmental development**
 - **inclusive society – physical access / increased awareness (PP)**
- **Strong Communities**
 - **strong rural schools**
 - **local shops**
 - **halls**
 - **sports facilities**
- **Strong mixed industry and economic base resulting in strong employment opportunities**
- **Recycling**
 - **aim of free community / household recycling**
 - **industry focus on recycling and re-using materials**
- **Buildings look good**
- **Coastal erosion prevented and house building controlled**
- **Social / affordable housing accessible to all**
- **Boundaries aligned**
 - **TLA – MSD**
 - **Health government (political) – Waikato is the same**
 - **Lots of health objectives for DHB!!**
- **Clean water – across whole region**
 - **input from farmers**
 - **urban**

- Transport
 - roading (quality and safety)
 - public transport
 - infrastructure inc. 'corridor access'
 - diversification e.g. rail and river
- Prison free environment?? 20 years what is the focus
- Focus on 'older people'
 - aging in place – housing
 - range of focused service
- Strong eco tourism
- Health – at or above national average 'stats'
- Growth in education across whole spectrum to meet needs of local economy and inc. needs of population
- Move away from current social dependency

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 values life-long learning

- Education – high quality education from birth to tertiary and ongoing work skills and professional development

A region with strong and vibrant communities that our people enjoy living in

- Housing – affordable housing close to work, study, school and recreation
- Social and Economic development
 - planned housing / environmental development
 - inclusive society – physical access / increased awareness (PP)
- Social – support and incentives for youth to return to region (↓ student loan) and productive, supportive prison services (staff and clients). Encourage entrepreneurship
- Infrastructure that supports strong communities – re health, education, welfare, employment, housing, transport etc.
- Strong Communities
 - strong rural schools
 - local shops
 - halls
 - sports facilities

A region that respects its environment and protects its natural resources

- Environment – alternative energies, conservation and protecting our waterways, coastal environment, estuary etc
- Protection of the environment

A region with efficient and sustainable infrastructure and services

- Infrastructure – effective health and transport systems. Managed, sustainable tourism. Industry – centres of influence – for business
- Energy
 - solar power in new buildings for water heating
 - wind power increase
 - tidal power
 - no additional pylons
 - nuclear options fully explored

A region with inclusive communities that respect diversity

- Culture – better understanding and acceptance of all cultures and diversity
- Socially responsible community, that respects cultural differences, personal safety and stronger families

A region with a strong and diversified economy that provides good employment opportunities

- Employment
- Strong mixed industry and economic base resulting in strong employment opportunities

A region that is recognised for its and arts and culture

- Arts and Culture centre for New Zealand
 - Links to events
 - Tourism

A region with accessible quality health services

- Health
 - hospital waiting lists reduced to none
 - improved access to quality health services on demand

APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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

Community Participants

Joye Steel	Cambridge
Leslie Wood	Cambridge
David Pearks	(EW) Hamilton
Catherine Stuart	Cambridge
Shriley Howat	Cambridge
Billie Crossley	Kihikihi
Barry O'Connor	Hamilton
Ruth Rhodes	Cambridge
Dianne Burgess	Hamilton
Tewhini Morgan	Kihikihi
Amanda Scott	Cambridge
Richard Hurrell	TeAwamutu
Stephanie Blackie	Cambridge
Lynne Stone	TeAwamutu
Leanne Milligan	TeAwamutu
Tyron Pini	TeAwamutu
Clare Coles	Cambridge
Jean Green	TeAwamutu
Rosalie Lunsia	Cambridge

Total Participants 19

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?

- Sharing knowledge
- Meeting new people
- The food
- The size of the sub-groups
- The well explained process
- Liked having to summarise – having to re-think - succinctly

What didn't go well?

- Doubling up information

Any other comments?

- How do you communicate with those not represented here?

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

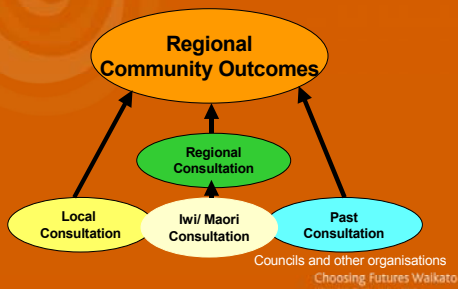
Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

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

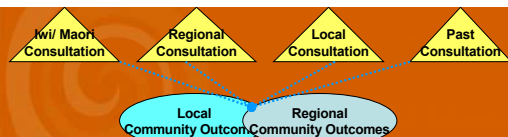
- Step 1- Community consultation undertaken
- Step 2 – Draft Community Outcomes developed
- Step 3 – Review – key stakeholders
- Step 4 – Community Review – every household in the region

Choosing Futures Waikato
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

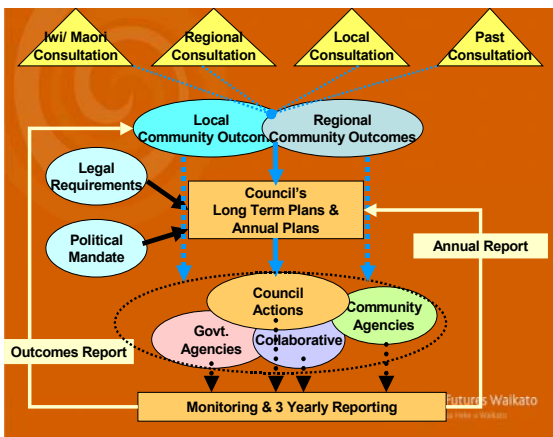
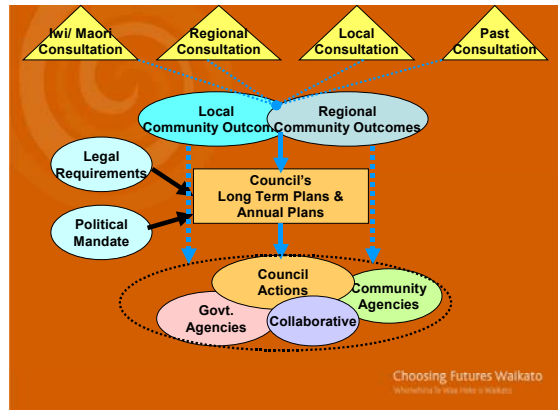
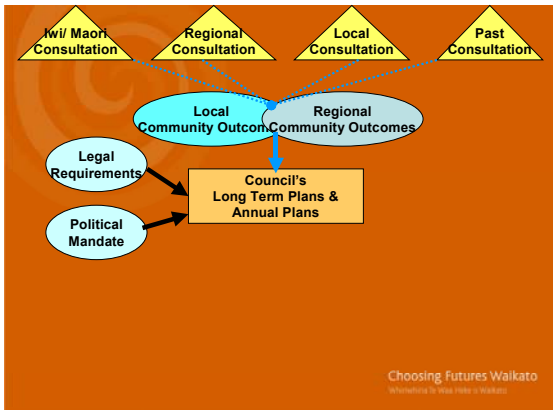
Working To Achieve Community Outcomes

- 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 ārahi i Waikato