



**FACILITATED WORKSHOP REPORT**

**FOR**

**CHOOSING FUTURES WAIKATO**

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS  
VISIONING # 6 - THAMES**

2 MARCH 2005

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## OVERVIEW SUMMARY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The community workshop minuted in this report was the sixth 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 2 March 2005 in the War Memorial Civic Centre, Thames.

## **2. FACILITATED WORKSHOP OVERVIEW**

This workshop was the sixth 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 Adrian Catran, Deputy Mayor of Thames-Coromandel 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 D).

Peter Mickleson, Policy and Planning Group Manager, Thames-Coromandel 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. Coastal Development (control)
2. Planning Progress
3. DOC controls large area here (Treaty Claim)
4. Mining
5. Disregard for health of the earth – energy supply (lack of resource appreciation)
6. Sewerage infrastructure / geology of the area (Potable water) – water in general
7. Floods / hazards
8. Risk to the coast road (tourism and logging pressures on road)
9. Roothing infrastructure
10. Environmentally unfriendly housing
11. Waste disposal
12. Lack of public transport
13. Health and disability issues
14. Depletion of fish

*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 five 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***

- Lake Taupo / Coromandel – two strong natural areas
- Beauty
- Agriculture – sustainability
- Forestry
- Fish
- Beautiful natural values
- Rich economically
- The people of the district
- Inventive
- Diverse
- Involvement of community
- A lot of small communities with strong community values
- Strength of small local active communities

### ***Regional Weaknesses***

- Forestry
- Lack of biodiversity
- Fresh water quality
- Lack of decent public transport
- Scattered isolated local communities

### ***Regional Opportunities***

- Preserve natural qualities of Coromandel and Taupo, Rotorua, Waitomo
- Grow employment opportunities through soft options e.g. technology, ecology
- Making best use of natural resources
- Sustainable land / social management
- Passive energy systems
- Harnessing renewable energy resources
- Find creative ways to conserve resources e.g. soil, energy

### ***Regional Threats***

- Land use intensification
- Contaminated water through industry
- Forestry, farming

- Exotic forests and biodiversity
- Depletion of resources / ecosystems – Degradation of natural resources and depletion

## **Sub Group B**

### ***Regional Strengths***

- On a catchment basis
- Diversity of land and people
- Highway network
- Tourist opportunities
- Water transport

### ***Regional Weaknesses***

- Diversity
- Road damage
- Farming under threat
- District / Regional councils model

### ***Regional Opportunities***

- Time to change
- Opportunity to develop environmental awareness
- Opportunity to purchase land and market rates
- Commonsense planning – sustainable developments

### ***Regional Threats***

- Complacency
- Short term thinking
- Access to health facilities lacking
- Natural events
- Use of land and use of resource
- Weed and pest issues
- Free market forces

## **Sub Group C**

### ***Regional Strengths***

- **Proximity to Auckland**
- **Resources rich**
- **Economy – primary products**
- **Climatically diverse**
- Thames / Coromandel has its own identity
- Good roading infrastructure
- Good economy
- Good power
- Waterways, lakes, coast
- Forests - native
- Diversity
- Mineral resources – resource rich
- Has retained remote areas

### ***Regional Weaknesses***

- **Large diverse – very big no focus**
- **Reliance on primary product**
- Too close to Auckland
- Large – diverse – very big
- Doesn't fit with any single brand
- Not quite yet stuffed up
- No room for experiment
- Rural isolation
- Commodity price variations

### ***Regional Opportunities***

- **Closeness to Auckland**
- **Tourism**
- **Innovation**
- Eco tourism
- Cultural Waikato Maori arts - growth
- Wide spread economic base - gives parallel development
- Gives opportunity – to marry the 2
- Innovation – science – agriculture
- Research – education
- Clean water

### ***Regional Threats***

- **Auckland closeness**
- **Water**
- **Environment**
- **Volcanic**
- **Bio diversity**
- Water pollution
- Flooding
- Tsunami
- Transport
- Waterway pollution
- Biological security
- Environmental security

## **Sub Group D**

### ***Regional Strengths***

- **Farmland – agricultural resource**
- **Diverse (bush, swamp, lake/sea, mudpool – geographic wildlife)**
- **Energy rich**
- City triangle – Auck, Hamilton, Tauranga
- Large Maori population
- Tourism development
- Diverse communities
- Long established community – continuity
- Heritage sites
- Arts & arts community

### ***Regional Weaknesses***

- **Parochialism of community**
- **Lack of education for how to live in harmony with the Earth**
- Size of region

### ***Regional Opportunities***

- Improving water quality
- Alternative energy

### ***Regional Threats***

- **Triangle cities (Auck / Hm / Tauranga)**
- **Growth (70 & 75% loss natural environment)**
- Tourism development
- Indiscriminate subdivision
- Industry (sawmill, mining, aquaculture / tourism development)
- Water quality

## **Sub Group E**

### ***Regional Strengths***

- **Environmental Diversity. Forests, parks and coastline availability of food / employment, recreation, sense of wellbeing**
- **D.O.C – Forest Parks**
- Availability of food (proximity to the sea) Pastoral region
- Environmental diversity
- Important landscape which needs to be valued
- Energy resource
- Strong Maori culture
- Coastline

### ***Regional Weaknesses***

- **Pressures of development**
- **Contamination of water**
- Population pressures
- Diversity of the region, remoteness of some communities
- Historically fragmentation within councils and lack of overall plan
- Encroachment of exotic forests
- Contamination of waterways by farming

### ***Regional Opportunities***

- **Well managed tourism opp. to manage environment**
- **Strong Maori culture**
- Diverse communities within the Waikato region is an opportunity
- Not overdeveloped – learn by others mistakes
- Health Services – Waikato Hospital largest hospital in NZ.

### ***Regional Threats***

- **Over-development**
- Out of control, not well managed tourism

## **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. Transport
2. Energy
3. Environment
4. Infrastructure
5. Health / education and community safety
6. Development (planned, sustainable)
7. Communication between TAS bodies
8. Integrated approach to regional economy

*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 five 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**

- **Working with nature, harnessing natural resources in a sustainable way, balance achieved to ensure social and environmental values are achieved**
- **Vibrant interconnected communities**
  - **transport network**
  - **arts healthy alive, recreation resources**
  - **safe, voluntary groups supported**
  - **access to affordable housing and health services**
- **Restoration and protection of native biodiversity – ecologically sound, sustainable and healthy**
- Green, healthy, vibrant indigenous ecosystems, shaded rivers and streams
- Environmentally friendly, conscious of natural environment in all we do!
- Efficient rail system and comfortable
- Clean rivers, streams, lakes and sea
- Vibrant inter connected communities – fast comfortable energy efficient
- Public transport system
- Efficient communication system
- Affordable housing
- Recreation facilities, walkways affordable
- Sustainable farming, forestry, aquaculture
- Accessible, affordable health service
- Crime free, safe communities
- Industry located close to energy sources and major transport networks
- Theatre, dance groups and travelling artist playing in local communities throughout region
- Heavy transport off roads – loads on rail and barges and plant and equipment
- Funding, training and appreciation for voluntary organisations – youth, water safety, natural and cultural heritage groups, search and rescue, St. Johns, fire etc.
- Develop sustainable energy resources – solar, wind, tide
- Employment in socially and environmentally sound enterprises (small scale)
- Population growth consolidated on existing settlements

- Protection and conservation of life-supporting capacity of soils
- No further reclamation of coasts or waterways
- Reduced dependence on large artificial infrastructure – stormwater through natural overland flow areas landscaped and serving visual amenity, water supply conserved and recycled, natural hazards avoided (no artificial defences)

## **Sub-group B**

- **A holistic and ecological focus**  
**Ki te whakarite, te taha wairua, te taha hine ngaro, te taha tihana, te taha whanau. Kit e whenua, ka tino whaimana te mauri.**  
**When the spiritual dimension, the mental, the physical, the family are in balance with the earth there is total well being.**
- **The quality of the water in the Waikato River at Port Waikato matches the quality of the water at the head of the catchment south as Lake Taupo.**
- **A reversal of the depletion of kaimoana and return to a healthy ecology for our marine environment**
- Quality of water entering Lake Taupo is matched by the quality of water in the Waikato River at Port Waikato
- Strong rural communities with less centralisation of services
- No hospitals are required, people take responsibility for their own wellbeing
- A healthy earth that has regenerated because people are living in harmony with the land/earth and no monetary base. Be independent nor requiring imports or exports
- Strong local communities / community spirit. Good services that match practical local needs
- A reversal of the depletion of our kaimoana. A return to a healthy ecology for our marine environment.
- A beach somewhere that doesn't see human footprints every day
- Communities committed to communities
- Communities thinking global acting local
- Respect for each other and the environment is inherent in everyone's thinking
- People taking responsibility for themselves, their actions, the environment

### **Sub-group C**

- **Strong leadership, planning advocacy and this resulting in strong district plans**
- **Maori input into care of land and waterways. Maintaining ecosystems**
- **Total Holistic approach to community health and wellbeing resulting in improving the standard of living**
- **Population demographics in keeping with sustainability and transport requirements**
- Clean up waterways and oceans
- Diversified and integrated regional economy, activity with minimum impact on environment and lifestyle
- Strong leadership and planning and advocacy
- Total holistic approach
- Strong strength of regional identity
- Primary Health Care. Improved outcomes linked to population outcomes
- Integrated transport systems
- Maori input into care of land and waterways
- Spread of industry around region
- Outcome to a united Regional vision
- Recognise how to cope with natural hazards
- Must rely on maintaining ecosystems throughout region
- Managed tourism
- Maintain and enhance air quality
- Sustainable development
- Keep business locally owned
- Strong district planning and resulting plans
- Retain NZ for New Zealanders
- Retention of Historic building sites and regions
- Population demographics in keeping with sustainability

## **Sub-group D**

- **Protected natural environment enjoyed by all**
- **Economics based on sustainable land management and marine resources**
- **Safe communities having fun with equal access to health and education and developing locally diverse cultures**
- **Affordable housing and fair rating that acknowledges the need to protect some areas**
- **Tourism based on real appreciation of the environment and cultural values**
- Sustainable land management – agriculture managed better and horticulture
- Marine environment sustainable monitored management
- Clean water, undegraded waterways
- Recreational access to the beautiful places – coasts, forests, waterways – role for Councils here
- Protection of sand dunes throughout region
- Social cohesion and community spirit
- Market value
- More environment and social interaction
- Tourism based on a real appreciation of the environment and cultural values
- Rating that acknowledges the need to protect some areas
- All roads tarsealed
- Protected, regenerating natural areas
- Diverse energy sources (solar, wind)
- Walkways through bush, landscape
- Protected water quality
- Pan community perspective on education – broadband, interactive with together
- Protected and shared coastal regions
- Cultural development and appreciation of local histories and local places
- Heritage site protected and valued
- All children having good chances for health and education and safety
- Good health provisions district wide, equality of access and opportunity
- Safe communities with no domestic violence

- Economic development based on local communities not outside large businesses
- Strengthened and supported local cultures – enhancing local flavours
- Valuing differences in the region

### **Sub-group E**

- District planning on a catchment basis
  - including health boards and other services
  - rationalisation across the board
- To become the flagship for sustained and sustainable development
  - energy production/consumption – affordable solar power etc
  - farming to be environmentally friendly
  - greater respect for nature
  - water borne transport
  - education / attitudinal change
  - waste management
- Long term protection / good custodianship of landscapes
  - native bush, ecologically significant sites
  - farmscapes, geographical sites - taonga
- Education / attitudinal change
  - self responsibility
  - sense of community
  - safety (personal)
  - teach ecology and environmental care
- Actively retain New Zealand's uniqueness collaboratively

## 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 where we work in harmony with nature and where we enjoy our natural environment in sustainable ways**

- Working with nature, harnessing natural resources in a sustainable way, balance achieved to ensure social and environmental values are achieved
- Restoration and protection of native biodiversity – ecologically sound, sustainable and healthy
- A holistic and ecological focus:
  - Ki te whakarite, te taha wairua, te taha hine ngaro, te taha tihana, te taha whanau. Kit e whenua, ka tino whaimana te mauri.
  - When the spiritual dimension, the mental, the physical, the family are in balance with the earth there is total well being.
- The quality of the water in the Waikato River at Port Waikato matches the quality of the water at the head of the catchment south as Lake Taupo.
- A reversal of the depletion of kaimoana and return to a healthy ecology for our marine environment
- Maori input into care of land and waterways. Maintaining ecosystems
- Protected natural environment enjoyed by all
- Long term protection / good custodianship of landscapes native bush, ecologically significant sites farmscapes, geographical sites - taonga

**Vibrant, safe and healthy communities with access to services which enhance our overall well-being**

- Vibrant interconnected communities
  - transport network
  - arts healthy alive, recreation resources
  - safe, voluntary groups supported
  - access to affordable housing and health services
- Total Holistic approach to community health and wellbeing resulting in improving the standard of living
- Safe communities having fun with equal access to health and education and developing locally diverse cultures
- Affordable housing and fair rating that acknowledges the need to protect some areas

**A region that plans effectively for a sustainable future**

- Strong leadership, planning advocacy and this resulting in strong district plans
- District planning on a catchment basis
  - including health boards and other services
  - rationalisation across the board
- Population demographics in keeping with sustainability and transport requirements

**A region that is recognised as a flagship for sustainable economic development**

- Economics based on sustainable land management and marine resources
- Tourism based on real appreciation of the environment and cultural values
- To become the flagship for sustained and sustainable development
  - energy production/consumption – affordable solar power etc
  - farming to be environmentally friendly
  - greater respect for nature
  - water borne transport
  - education / attitudinal change
  - waste management

**A region that works together to nurture responsible individuals and strong communities**

- Education / attitudinal change
  - self responsibility
  - sense of community
  - safety (personal)
  - teach ecology and environmental care
- Actively retain New Zealand's uniqueness collaboratively

## APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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

### Community Participants

Graeme Silver	
Loes Bean	Coromandel
Betty Williams	Coromandel
Thelma Chantrey	Thames
Denis Rogers	Thames
Sue Wright	Coromandel
Sereena Burton	Thames
Kathy Archibald	Thames
Leigh Robcke	Thames
Patti Wicksteed	Thames
Robin Plummer	Thames
Wayne Todd	Coromandel
Fin Buchanan	Thames
Eoin Hicks	Thames
Rachel Garden	Ngarimu Bay
Max Parnell	Thames
Mike Martin	Thames
Frances Burton	Thames
Sue Williams	Coromandel
Mariana Gordon	Coromandel
Adrian Catran	Thames
Clive Monds	Thames
Anne Hay	Thames
Sue Edens	Whitianga
Sue Sharp	Thames
John Gaukrodger	Thames
Stuart Munro	Thames
Jim Archibald	Thames
Robyn Pengelly	Thames
Kathi Parr	Coromandel
Carol Nanning	Thames
Suzanne Sinclair	Auckland
Gary Blake	Waiomu
Peter Mickleson	Thames

*Total Participants*      34

**Regional Outcomes Facilitation Team**

***Choosing Futures Waikato***

*Ph 07 838-6672*

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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?*

- Liked the way sub-groups worked
- It was good to take the dreaming approach
- The very involved discussions
- The emphasis on communities rather than *stakeholder* interests
- Strategic long-term planning (20yrs out) has not been occurring – *this* is good
- The well thought-out and facilitated process
- Good outcomes
- The timing of the food

*What didn't go well?*

- Not enough advertising
- The turnout is disappointing
- Not many young people

*Any other comments?*

- The problem now will be in *the action*
- People are 'planned out'

## 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

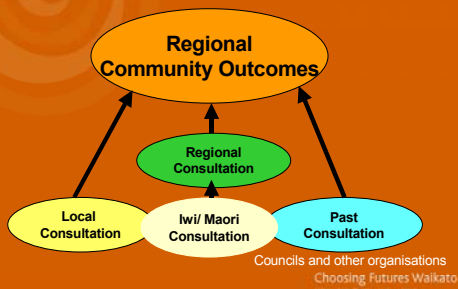
Choosing Futures Waikato  
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

### 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

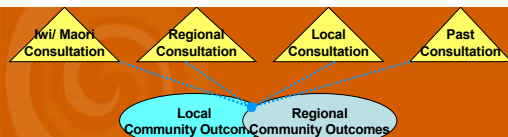
- Step 1- Community consultation undertaken
- Step 2 – Draft Community Outcomes developed
- Step 3 – Review – key stakeholders
- Step 4 – Community Review – every household in the region

Choosing Futures Waikato  
Whānau ki te Waikato o Waikato

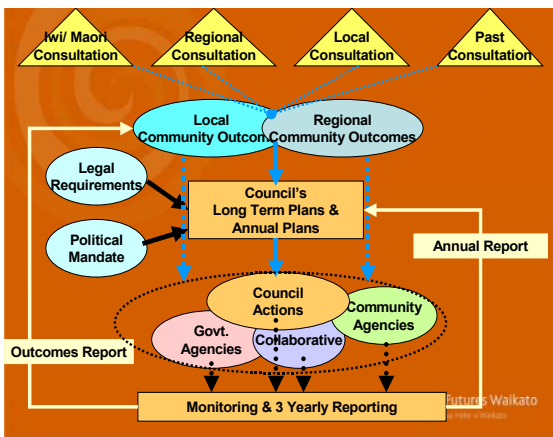
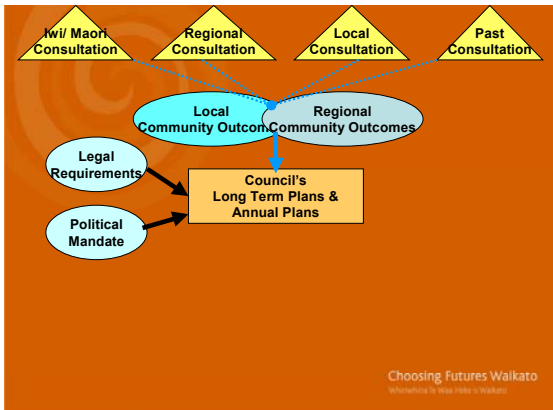
### Working To Achieve Community Outcomes

- 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



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  
Whāwhāria ki te huarua o Waikato