

# Working together for a better Waikato

## Identifying Community Outcomes

Choosing Futures Waikato has developed a four step process for identifying regional community outcomes.

- 1 Visioning:** workshops will be held with regional key community stakeholders and with a cross-section of regional residents and ratepayers. Information gained through local consultation will also contribute to the regional process.  
*Timeline: Nov 2004 - Feb 2005*
- 2 Organising:** information collected in the visioning step, community consultation processes and previous consultation will be organised into draft community outcomes statements by a team of strategic planners. *Timeline: Mar - April 2005*
- 3 Reviewing:** the draft community outcomes will be reviewed by representatives of the regional key community stakeholders organisations. This will ensure the draft community outcomes are in line with knowledge of community expectations gained through consultation processes and through working in the community. *Timeline: May 2005*
- 4 Community review:** will be sought from residents and ratepayers of the Waikato region through a community outcomes document, detailing the draft outcomes and seeking feedback, and through a community survey. This step asks the community whether we have the community outcomes right and also asks the community to prioritise the outcomes. *Timeline: June - Aug 2005*

When the Waikato Regional Community Outcomes are finalised, councils and other organisations can then look at strategies for working towards achieving our communities' goals.

*Timeline: From Aug 2005*



Choosing Futures Waikato  
Whiriwhiria Te Waa Heke o Waikato

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Choosing Futures Waikato  
Whiriwhiria Te Waa Heke o Waikato

A joint initiative of Districts of Franklin, Hauraki, Matamata-Piako, Otorohanga, Rotorua, South Waikato, Taupo, Thames-Coromandel, Waikato, Waipa and Waitomo, Environment Waikato and Hamilton City.

Choosing Futures Waikato

Whiriwhiria Te Waa Heke o Waikato



The Local Government Act 2002 requires local and regional councils to facilitate processes to identify community outcomes.

Community outcomes are statements of what communities want to achieve now and in the future. These desired outcomes will help guide groups and organisations delivering community services by giving direction on community aspirations and priorities.

Community outcomes are identified through community consultation. Councils and other groups and organisations can then decide how they will contribute to achieving the community outcomes. By maximising opportunities to work together we can find the most efficient and sustainable ways of responding to what our communities want to achieve for their social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.

Local and regional councils of the Waikato region are seeking the agreement of key organisations to the regional community outcomes process and invite them to work together to create a better Waikato community.

Organisations like yours have been identified as being capable of significantly contributing to the identification and promotion of community outcomes.

## Why have a regional process?

The councils of the Waikato region recognise there are many key groups and organisations that are able to contribute to community outcomes and which operate at a regional level.

Rather than individual councils approaching these organisations, this regional process focused on a regional approach to regional issues. This will enable us to work effectively together to achieve our regional community outcomes. We are calling this approach the “Choosing Futures Waikato” process.

## What are the advantages of participating in the Choosing Futures Waikato processes?

- One stop shop for community outcomes engagement with councils
- Access to information on community aspirations and priorities
- Opportunities to work collaboratively with other regional groups and organisations to achieve community outcomes
- Opportunities to share information with other participating organisations
- Opportunities to work together to create a better Waikato community

## Are all councils identifying their communities' outcomes?

Yes – all councils must engage with their communities to identify community outcomes. Some of the district councils in the region have consulted, or are currently consulting with, their communities. The level of future local community engagement may, therefore, vary from council to council.

The Choosing Futures Waikato process will complement local community outcomes processes through efficient and effective information sharing and through providing a framework for regional organisations to contribute to local community outcomes processes.

Key organisations which participate in the regional process are still able to participate in local processes – you choose how best to contribute.

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## Working with community outcomes

There are three main stages to the community outcomes process:

### 1 Identifying community outcomes

At least every six years a process involving consultation with key community stakeholders, residents and ratepayers to identify and prioritise a set of community outcomes will be undertaken, facilitated by councils.

Please note: This approach is outlined overleaf.

### 2 Responding to community outcomes

Councils and key community stakeholder organisations will develop plans to work towards achieving community outcomes.

Councils will outline their plans to work towards achieving community outcomes every three years in their respective long term council community plans.

Key community organisations and councils will explore ways to share information and work together on these action plans.

### 3 Monitoring and reporting on progress

At least every three years councils must report back to communities on progress made towards the achievement of community outcomes.

Accurate monitoring and reporting will involve the development of appropriate measures and indicators to assess progress towards achieving community outcomes and the collation of a wide range of information.

It is anticipated there will be significant opportunities for participating organisations to share information and develop collaborative approaches to monitoring and reporting.

## In Summary

**The Choosing Futures Waikato regional community outcomes process is an opportunity for us all to work together to create a better Waikato region.**

**It is an ongoing process designed to enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the region's people. It is also a pathway to finding sustainable development and growth options that will enable us to create a better life experience for all in the Waikato, without compromising the well-being of our future generations.**