



Choosing Futures Waikato

Whiriwhiria Te Waa Heke o Waikato

Project Update December 2004

Choosing Futures Waikato

Choosing Futures Waikato is a collaborative process being undertaken by the 13 councils of the Waikato region to identify regional community outcomes, develop a collaborative action plan to achieve community outcomes and to monitor and report on progress made.

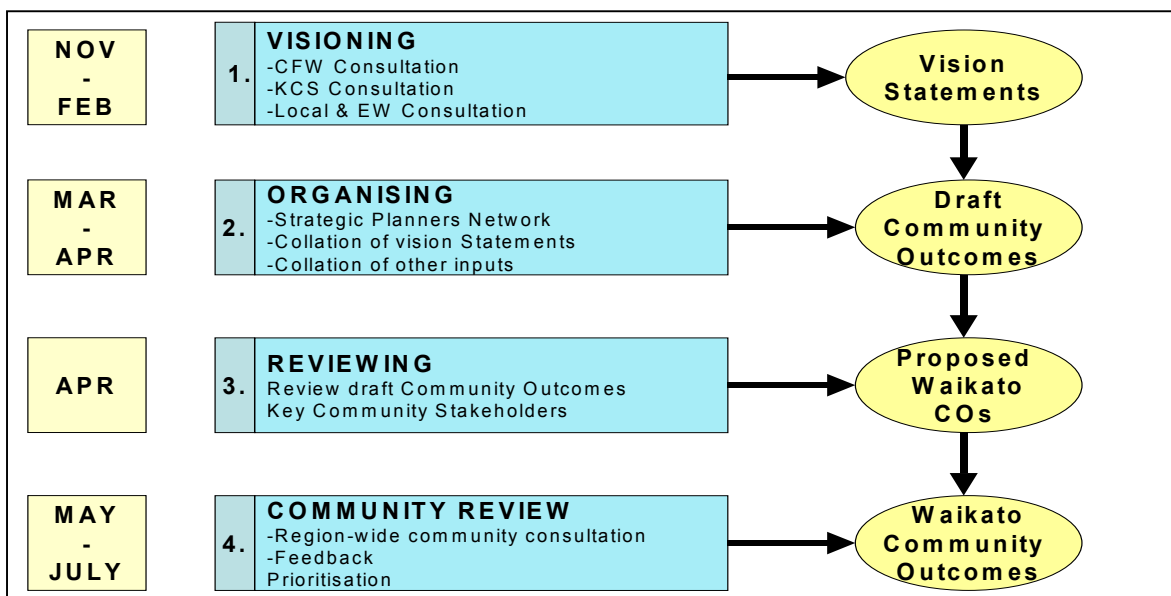
Choosing Futures Waikato aims to complement local community outcomes processes. The regional process has been set up to encourage the participation of community stakeholder organisations, to streamline consultation and to identify effective ways of achieving community goals.

Consultation Plan

A draft Consultation Plan was considered by the Strategic Planners Network and is now being implemented. This Plan will be adjusted as needed to accommodate the requirements of the regional process and to ensure a high level of compatibility with local processes. A communications strategy will be built around the Consultation Plan to ensure effective community engagement and reach of target audiences. This will be sent out to the participating councils when available.

Consultation Plan Timetable

The regional consultation plan timetable is outlined below. Any changes in dates or in processes will be notified in future updates and on the web-site.



Visioning Workshops

The first of the Choosing Futures Waikato visioning workshops was held for key regional stakeholders on 30 November 2004 at Waikato Stadium in Hamilton. Invitations were sent to around 50 identified organisations and to the Chief Executives of all councils in the Waikato region. We had representatives 55 people attend.

Guest presenters were Mike Underhill, CEO of WEL Networks and Glen Lauder from Common Ground. Both presenters were extremely well received and got the day starting with participants quickly switching on to thinking about the Waikato region and working together.

Information from this workshop will be forwarded to all councils by the middle of December to enable this to be used by participating councils in their local outcomes identification processes. Councils are welcome to engage with these organisations individually but a key reason for the establishment of the regional process was to allow a one stop shop approach to be adopted with these organisations.

Early in the new year we will be running eight community workshops to gather the thoughts and aspirations of community members within the region. The proposed venues for these are: Thames, Huntly, Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Te Aroha, Otorohanga, Tokoroa and Taupo. We will be in touch with councils shortly to discuss venues, dates, participants and generally ensure these workshops complement local processes.

We have engaged an independent facilitator for the visioning workshops, Martin Thomas, who will run the key regional stakeholder workshop and will be running the regional community workshops.

Visioning Document

An excerpts version of the Choosing Futures Waikato "Visioning Document" was made available for the key regional stakeholders Visioning Workshop on November 30. The finished document is intended as a primer to visioning workshop participation – to get participants thinking about the region as a whole and about the issues and possibilities they see as important over the coming ten to twenty years.

This will be printed by the end of January and copies will be sent to all participating councils at that time. A print run of 10,000 copies is planned with each district council getting 500 copies and Environment Waikato and Hamilton City getting 1000 copies.

This document will be generic enough to be used by all councils as a common resource. It will include interviews with key regional experts along with Waikato regional snap-shot and issues and options information. Copies will be available to each district for use in local processes or for general information purposes.

Web Site

The Choosing Futures Waikato web-site went live on December 2. This features information on the regional process and how it links with local processes, information on the region, links to participating council web-sites (home page) and contact details. Councils will be able to post their own events on the Choosing Futures site using the "events module".

A password protected area will be provided for council use only to enable strategic planners to share resources such as consultation plans, presentations, background reports. Training and a manual for posting information on the web-site will be provided to each of the participating councils as soon as this can be arranged with the designated person from each organisation. **Web-site address is www.choosingfutures.co.nz**

Iwi Consultation

Environment Waikato are taking the lead role in facilitating regional consultation with Iwi/ Maori with some assistance from Te Puni Kokiri and the Ministry of Social Development. Reg Proffit will be leading this process with back up from the EW Tai-ranga-whenua Iwi Liaison Team.

Monitoring and Reporting – MARCO

A working group 'Monitoring and Reporting Community Outcomes' (MARCO) has been formed to develop a coordinated approach to monitoring progress towards achieving community outcomes. The MARCO working group is made up of representatives from the Local Authorities in the Waikato Region, including Environment Waikato, and other key stakeholder organisations like the Waikato District Health Board.

What is MARCO doing?

The MARCO Working Group is developing a framework and monitoring plan for integrated measuring and reporting of community outcomes across the Waikato region. This framework will include the development of systems and tools for the coordinated gathering, sharing, and reporting on information that is relevant to all parties. The output will be a core set of indicators for regional community outcomes monitoring along with a monitoring plan for collecting, analysing and reporting on the information.

The Working Group will be producing six key outputs over the next 2 years.

1. Draft Monitoring and Reporting Framework/ Strategy	Completed
2. Inventory of Available Information – including standardised templates	Underway - templates completed
3. Set of Regional Community Outcomes Indicators	December 2005 - underway
4. Regional Outcomes Indicator Metadata Templates and Monitoring Plan	2005/ 2006
5. Information Sharing Protocols	2005/ 2006
6. Regional Community Outcomes Monitoring Report	2007

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Some Issues to Consider

- Local community engagement processes – thanks to those who have forwarded consultation plans. We need information on all local community consultation plans so this information is available and to maximise compatibility between local and regional processes.
- Regional community visioning workshops. The regional process will require some assistance setting up community workshops – in particular advice on timing, venues, catering, communications, organisations etc. I will be in touch with councils in December to discuss this.
- The Choosing futures Waikato web-site is now live. Consultation events and other material can be posted on the site. We need to know who in each organisation will be responsible for doing this so we can arrange the required training.

I will be sending another update in January/ February. In the meantime please contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss any part of the Choosing Futures Waikato process.

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