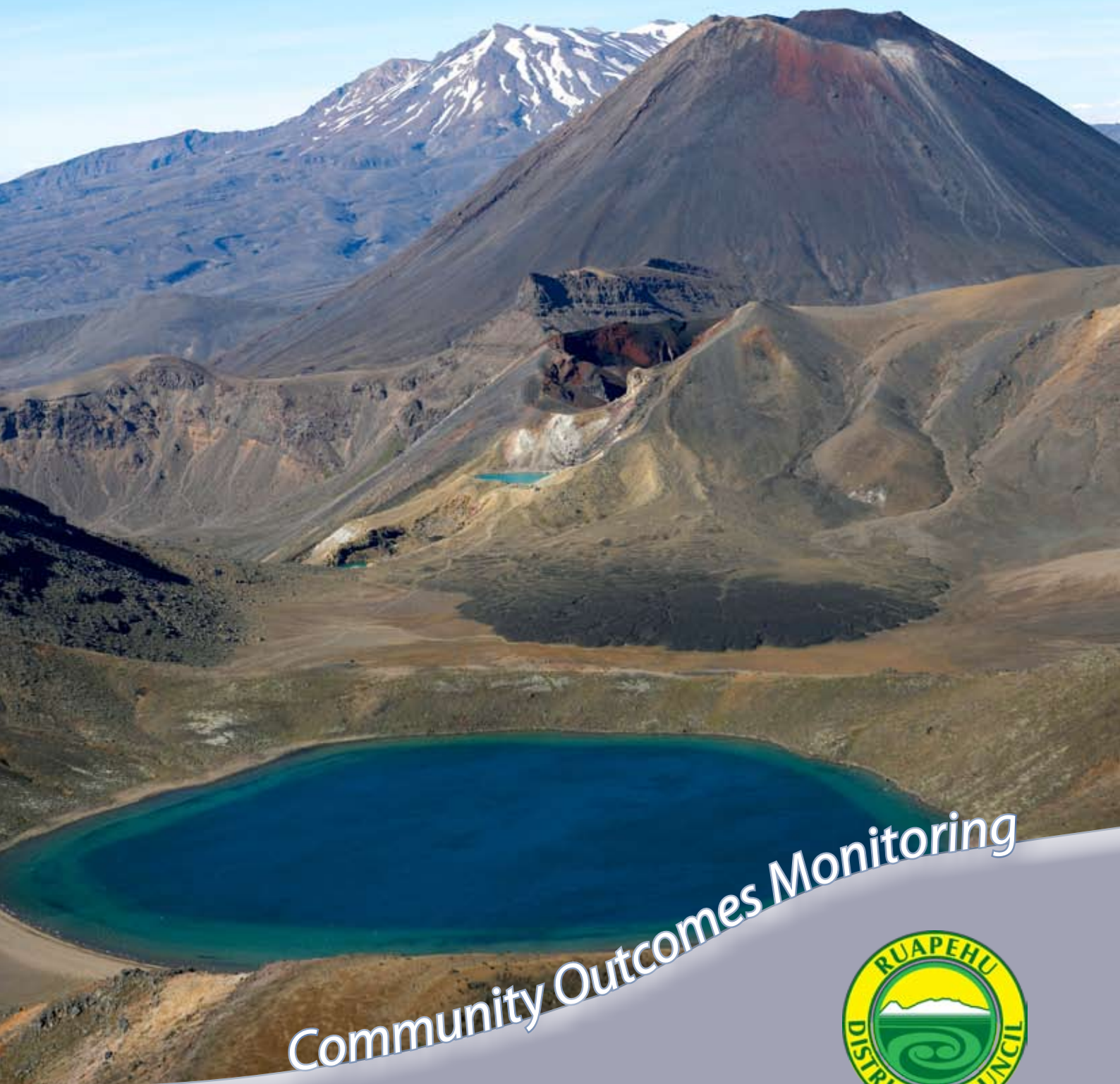


Ruapehu 2008

State of the District Report

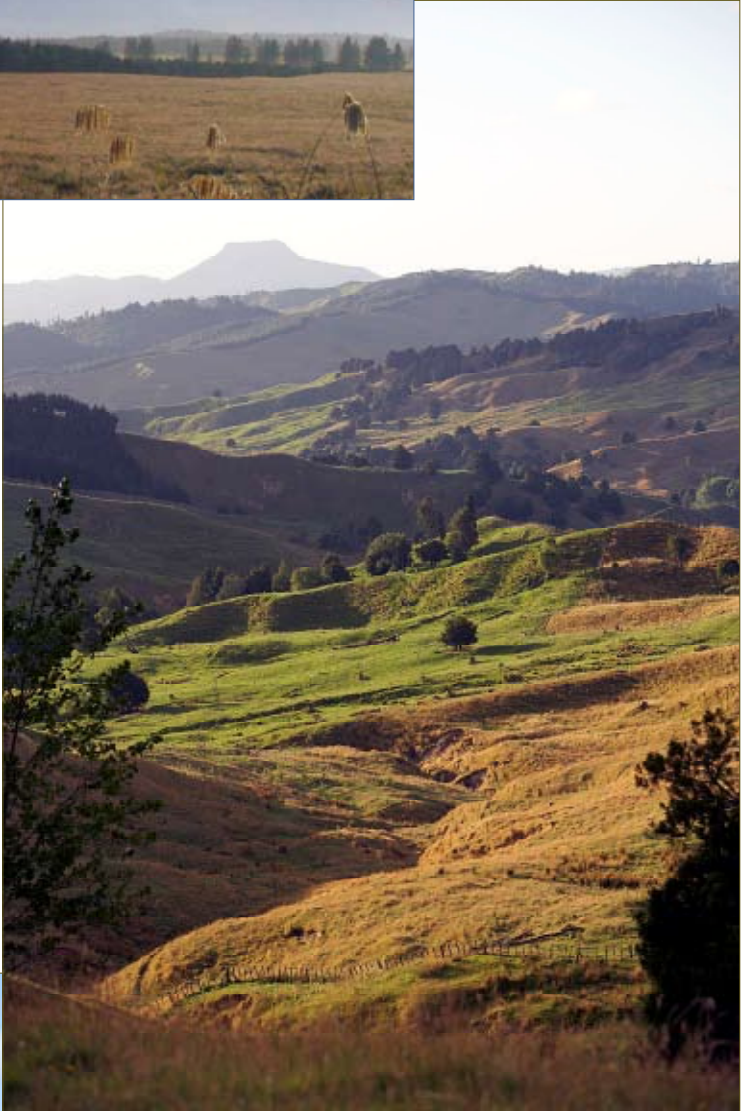


Community Outcomes Monitoring





“ Our purpose is to promote an environment which is both sustainable and which enhances the quality of life and meets the needs of our present and future citizens.”



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Disclaimer

Care has been taken in the production of this publication to ensure its contents are as accurate as possible. However, Ruapehu District Council and the authors take no responsibility for any information contained within subsequently proving to be incorrect.



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Why this Report?

What are Community Outcomes?

Community Outcomes can best be described as long-term aspirations or goals of the community. These outcomes shape and direct Council and other partners in their planning and activities in the District and are a legislative requirement under the Local Government Act 2002. Community Outcomes express a District-wide vision that should be 'owned' by the community and cannot be achieved by Council alone. While Council activities target Community Outcomes, many other government and non-government agencies and groups assist in achieving the community vision as set out in the Community Outcomes.

Future Ruapehu Community Outcomes

Council undertook an extensive consultation process during 2004 and 2005 to identify Community Outcomes. Following a series of discussion groups, 42 Future Ruapehu Community Outcomes were identified and grouped together under the four wellbeings identified under the Local Government Act 2002 namely Social, Environmental, Economic and Cultural.

The Community Outcomes were confirmed by the community at large through a self-completion survey to determine the level of agreement with the Community Outcomes, to prioritise the Community Outcomes and to

provide comment on the outcomes themselves, as well as to identify the main issues and the strengths of the District.

Monitoring Community Outcomes

To make sure we are on the right track Council is required under the Local Government Act 2002 to monitor the progress made in achieving the Community Outcomes for the District. The report is intended to assist with high-level strategic planning for the District. To enable informed decision-making about achieving Community Outcomes we need an understanding of the evidence available about the needs and priorities of the community.

The State of the District Report 2008 uses indicators chosen to reflect the overall picture of the District and how we are doing. An indicator is a measure or a collection of measures that tell us something about the state of the outcome. Indicators don't paint the whole picture but give us an idea of what the picture might look like. It is not intended to be a detailed report but rather to show general trends and states. The selected indicators are based on data available and generally accepted indicators used by other organisations and publications.

The State of the District is summarised in relation to each of the four wellbeings by showing the overall states and trends for the selected indicators in the following table.



© Visit Ruapehu

Indicator	State	Trend
Cultural Wellbeing		
Maori language speakers	☹️	↓
Visitors to libraries	☹️	↓
Recognition of heritage	😊	↑
Local events	😊	?
Social Wellbeing		
Population changes	☹️	↓
Participation in early education	😊	↑
Adult educational attainment	😊	↑
Employment rate	😊	↑
Unemployment rate	😊	↑
Social connectedness	😊	↑
Recorded crime	😊	↑
Road safety	☹️	↑
Home ownership	☹️	↓
Household crowding	☹️	↑
Voter turnout	☹️	↓
Female representation	😊	↑
Life Expectancy at birth	😊	↑
Access to Health services	☹️	↑
Youth profile	☹️	?
Environmental Wellbeing		
Waste volumes	😊	↑
Drinking water standards	☹️	↑
Freshwater quality	☹️	↓
Biodiversity management	☹️	↑
CO2 emissions per capita	☹️	?
Economic Wellbeing		
Median personal income	☹️	↑
Average hourly earnings	☹️	↑
Economic growth in GDP	☹️	↓
Number of businesses	😊	↑
Employment growth	☹️	↓
Growth in tourist numbers	😊	↑
Resource consents	😊	↑
Building consents	😊	↑

Key to States: 😊 Good/Satisfactory ☹️ Mixed/Uncertain ☹️ Unsatisfactory
Key to Trends: ↑ Improving ↓ Declining ? No Trend Data

States indicated may not relate directly to trends shown. Some indicators may have improved and show upward trends but are still overall less than satisfactory and may not show a positive state. Trends reflect changes between the latest data and the equivalent previously available such as Census 2001 and 2006 or The Social Report from 2006 and 2007.

Overview

Highlights

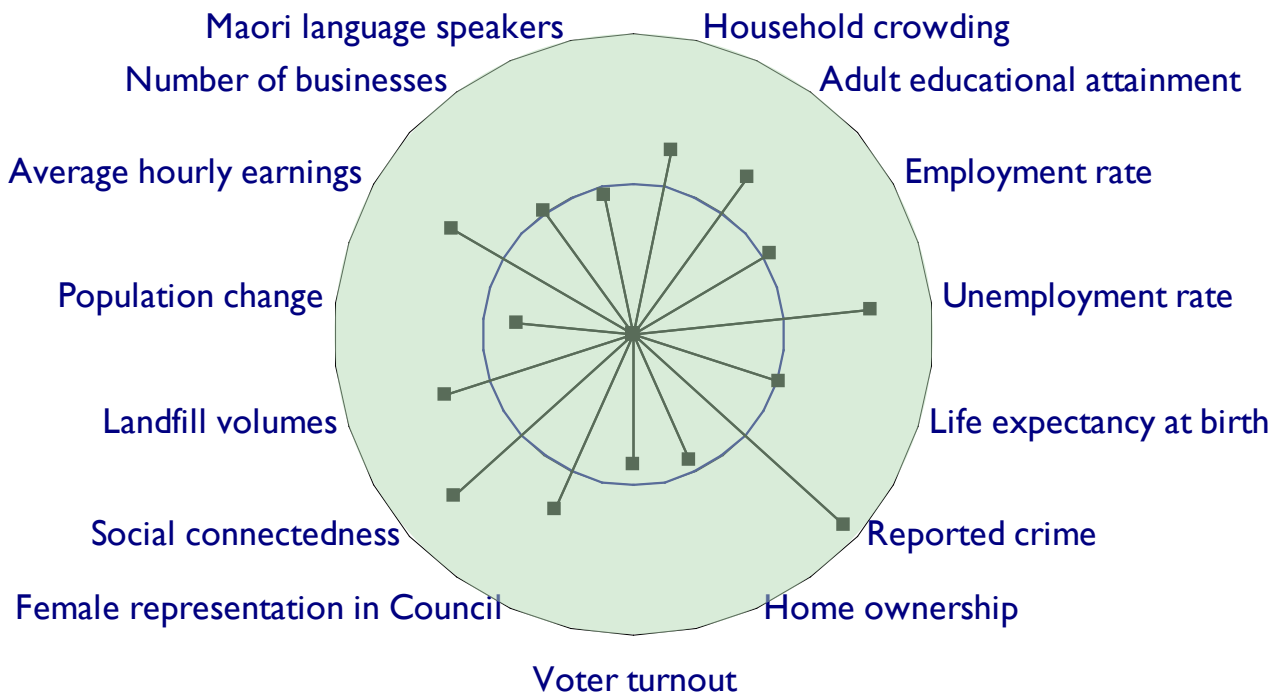
The strong growth experienced in the District in recent years is reflected in the high rates of resource and building consents issued for property developments. The significant increase in tourist numbers averaging 5% annually since 2003 and its positive impact on the local tourism industry are some of the key drivers of this growth.

These improvements have led to good employment levels and historically low unemployment rates, in line with national labour market trends. Social wellbeing has improved markedly in terms of both early education participation rates and adult educational

attainment, while life expectancy and social connectedness are showing improvements over time. Safety indicators have also improved with recorded crime in most areas of the District nearly halving compared to ten years ago.

The recognition of heritage and an increased promotion of local events are making inroads towards improving cultural wellbeing in the District, although this remains difficult to measure. The District is at the leading edge of waste minimisation activities with the amount of recyclable waste diverted from landfill outstripping refuse entering landfill since 2006 and most of our river catchments remain in good condition in terms of water quality.

Ruapehu District Trends (1991-96 Compared with 2001-2007)



This circle of represents Ruapehu District performance during the period 2001-07 in comparison to 1991-96, represented by the circle in the middle. Where a line extends beyond the inner circle, it means the District is performing better in recent years (2001-07) and where it falls within the inner circle, the District performance has declined compared to the previous period (1991-96). Not all of the 30 indicators used in this report are represented on the circle due to lack of available or appropriate data for comparisons.

Challenges

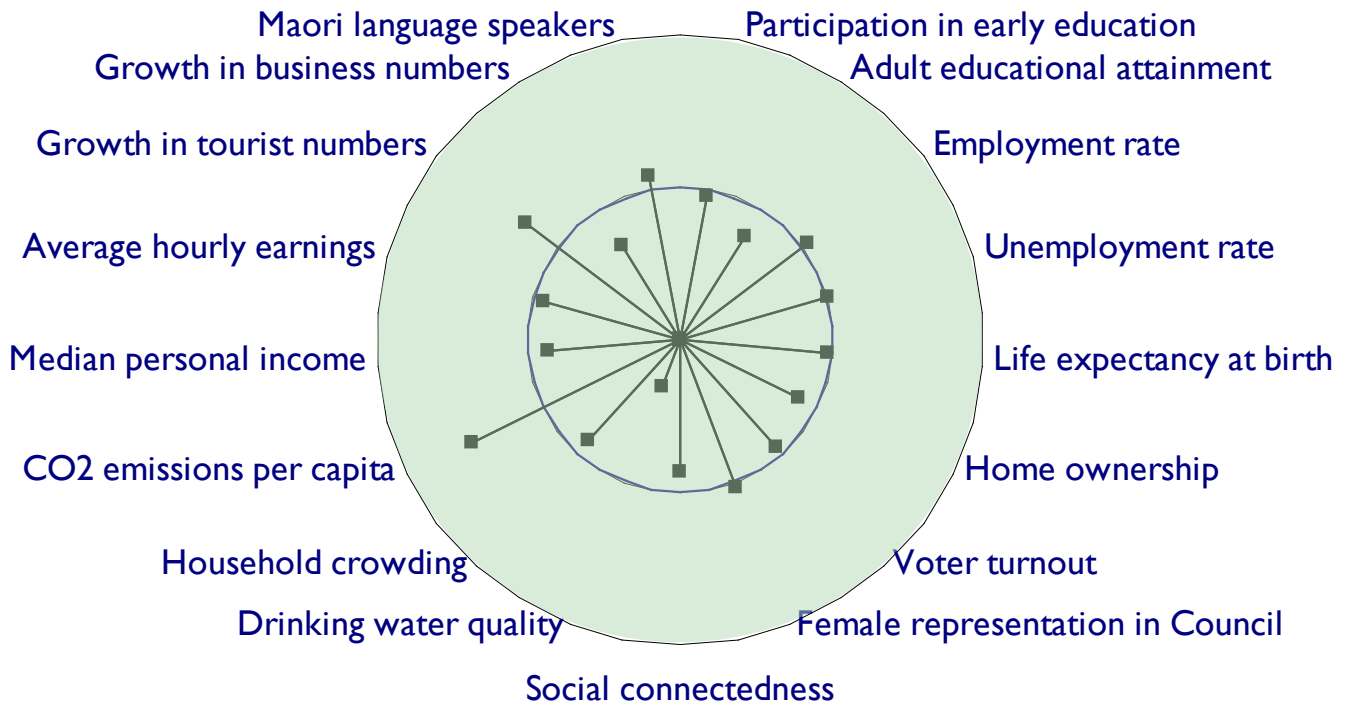
The latest census data shows the District's usually resident population continuing to decline, although the rate of decline slowed to 5% from 2001-2006 compared to 14.6% during 1996-2001. Alongside this the composition of the population is also changing with the increase in transient, non-resident ratepayers. Growth and development are necessary to enhance economic wellbeing. However, its impact on the character and social wellbeing of the permanent communities is still unclear.

Amid concerns over affordability for rural communities there is a need to balance the demands placed on the District, including Council services and infrastructure, by the needs, priorities and expectations of these different groups in the District. The District's

economic output as value added to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is continuing to decrease, falling by -6.7% in 2005-2006 and an average of -2.3% from 1996-2006. Although business numbers are growing, the average business size based on employees is declining.

Natural resource management and reducing the negative environmental impacts of human activities are becoming more pressing at all levels. Wider responses to such key issues as sustainable development and climate change could lead to potential changes in the nature of the rural economy, which could impact on our significant agriculture and forestry industries. These challenges and responses must be managed with due regard given to social, economic and environmental wellbeings together.

Ruapehu District Compared with New Zealand (Mid 2000s)



This circle represents Ruapehu District's standing against the equivalent national data for the given indicators, represented by the circle in the middle. Where a line extends beyond the inner circle, it means the District is performing better in that indicator; and where it falls within the inner circle, the District's performance is below the national average. Not all of the 30 indicators used in this report are represented on the circle due to lack of available or appropriate data for comparisons.

Progress towards Community Outcomes

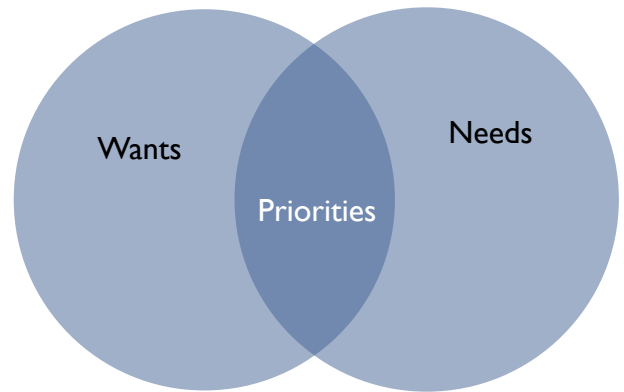
Reviewing progress in the District as a whole provides the community with a chance to build on achievements, as well as to take a critical look at where resources might be applied to help achieve community outcomes and enhance wellbeing. Once we have established how we are performing in terms of Community Outcomes, Council and other agencies can prioritise their work towards the areas of greatest need as highlighted by the this monitoring and reporting.

This Report is the first in Council's specific monitoring of Community Outcomes. As a result, it aims to provide a baseline indication of the current state of the District to inform the community and Council as to what action is required to improve wellbeing. Future reports will also include feedback on actions taken in response to these monitoring results. From 2008 onwards the State of the District report will be published at least three-yearly.

Working in Partnership

The Future Ruapehu Community Outcomes provide a shared framework for all stakeholders

to discuss progress towards community wellbeing and sustainable development. Community outcomes are not Council-owned or its sole responsibility, it is also dependent on other organisations and agencies' actions. The Local Government Act 2002 creates new obligations for Council to collaborate with local groups and organisations including Maori, Central Government agencies, non-governmental organisations, businesses and other private sector groups. The aim is to work together in partnership to ensure on-going improvement in community wellbeing and Council is increasing its collaboration efforts in this respect.



Ohakune on Dusk © Visit Ruapehu

Cultural Wellbeing

Cultural wellbeing encompasses the customs, practices, languages, values and world views that define different social groups such as those based on nationality, ethnicity, region or common interests.

Cultural activities are an integral part of leisure and recreation. People participate in these activities for enjoyment and entertainment, personal growth and development, as a means of expression, to learn new skills and meet people or to pass on cultural traditions.

There is little monitoring information on cultural wellbeing compared with other wellbeings, where there are vast amounts of data available. Thus it is difficult to gauge and monitor progress on the quality of the District's cultural wellbeing.

Ruapehu District has a diverse cultural identity and its unique heritage is one of its major strengths. Increased cultural wellbeing in the District is integral to promoting its profile and achieving overall community wellbeing.

The area encompasses the volcanic mountains and Whanganui River which has much historical and spiritual significance to local Maori tribes.

European history began around 1850 with the building of the main trunk railway line and, since then, the railway, timber milling, farming and market gardening have helped shape the District's history.



“The cultural diversity of the District is recognised”



Indicator	State	Trend
Visitors to Libraries	☹	↓

Libraries are community assets and contribute to the development and wellbeing of the community. In addition to the library's role as a place to meet, relax and get out a good book to read, the library also acts a resource centre for the community. The library enhances the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of its communities by providing resources that enables the community and businesses to increase its capacity and effectiveness in a cost efficient way. The openness of the library service also promotes social cohesion.

The three District libraries have a combined active membership base of 1,812 borrowers. Taumarunui library has the most active memberships at 1,125 while Ohakune has 556 members and Raethi has 131. From 1 July 2005 to 31 May 2006 a total of 39,943 books were issued and a further 9,970 of those books were renewed across all three libraries.

In the 2005 Customer Satisfaction Survey 47% of respondents reported that they have

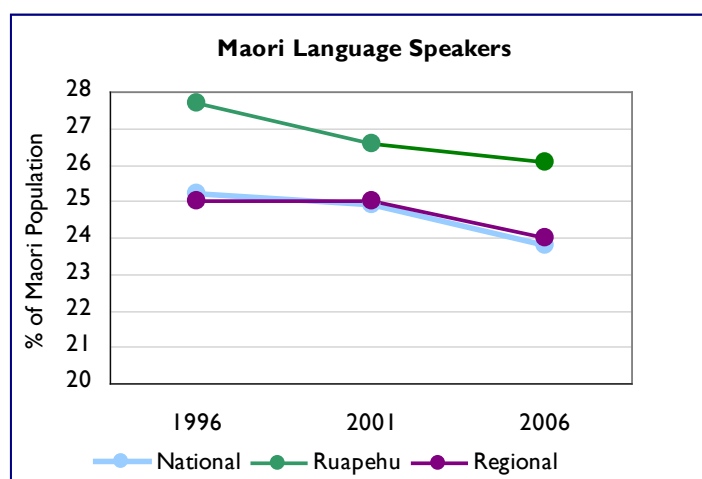
used Council's library service in the last year, a decline from 52% in 2001 when the survey was last undertaken. At the end of 2007 Council was developing a District-wide Library Strategy aimed at delivering improvements and changes to the service to ensure it continues to meet the community's needs and expectations.



Indicator	State	Trend
Maori Language Speakers	☹	↓

As a central component of Maori culture, Te Reo is an important aspect of cultural participation and identity. It forms part of the broader cultural identity and heritage of the District and the number of Maori speakers is a commonly used indicator of cultural wellbeing.

Across New Zealand, the proportion of Maori who were fluent Maori speakers declined markedly over the last century, particularly following the rapid urbanisation of the Maori population in the 1950s and 1960s. A survey of the health of the Maori language conducted in 2001 showed that more people could understand Maori than speak it. In 2006, 10% of the District population cited Te Reo as their first language, while 26% of the Maori population could hold a conversation about everyday things, down from 27.7% in 1996.



Source: Census 2006, The Social Report

However, this is still slightly higher than the regional (23%) and national (24%) proportions of the Maori population fluent in Te Reo.

Indicator	State	Trend
Recognition of Heritage	☺	↑

Heritage of any nature, once lost or altered, is irreplaceable. The conservation of heritage of historic interest allows people to develop a greater understanding of history and identity. Even if there is little left to preserve, heritage items offer linkages and stories of interest to locals and visitors alike. Recognising and acknowledging the importance of the past contributes to the community's understanding and awareness of a sense of place. Ruapehu District's unique identity and its appeal as a cultural and tourist centre are built on its historic, cultural and scenic attractions.

The recognition of the District's heritage has increased significantly in recent years. Council adopted its first Heritage Policy in late 2007,

with the aim to "identify, recognise and record the diverse heritage of the Ruapehu District for the benefit of its communities and visitors, of both present and future generations". As a result, the Ruapehu Heritage Inventory has been created as a resource for learning about heritage items in the District and its history.

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) is the country's leading heritage agency responsible for keeping its heritage alive and useful. It is responsible by law for identifying, registering and protecting heritage of national importance to New Zealand. There are currently 29 heritage items in the Ruapehu District registered by NZHPT, an increase of 69% from nine items registered in 2003.

Indicator	State	Trend
Local Events	☺	?

Since June 2007, Council's regional tourism organisation, Visit Ruapehu, has been publishing a monthly Events Calendar for the District. The aim of the Calendar is to co-ordinate and publicise events taking place within the District, to increase community and visitor awareness and participation. During the last six months of 2007 there was over 80 events on the Calendar and there are currently nearly 100 events scheduled for 2008. Since this is a new initiative, the growth in number and type of events will be monitored and reported on in future years.

Many of the events are winter sport or adventure sport related and there are also several environmental education and conservation events. Included in the Events Calendar are around 20 annual cultural events covering arts, crafts, film, literature, fashion, music and local heritage.



Social Wellbeing

Social wellbeing encompasses health, education, community safety, housing, community spirit and many other related areas that contribute to people achieving satisfaction and quality of life. Social wellbeing is also dependent on the other wellbeings with economic prosperity, a healthy environment and cultural wellbeing fulfilling enabling roles. Based on the prioritising of the Community Outcomes identified in 2005, social wellbeing was rated as the highest priority by the community. This reflects the view of a majority of residents who named the people of the District as its greatest strength.

Ruapehu District largely follows the trends of other similar regions in terms of social progress. Relative to the national average, we fare poorly on several of the social indicators but are showing steady improvements. Particular areas that remain of concern are income levels and housing indicators, while progress is showing in education, health and safety.

“The achievement of a safe and healthy community with strong community networks”

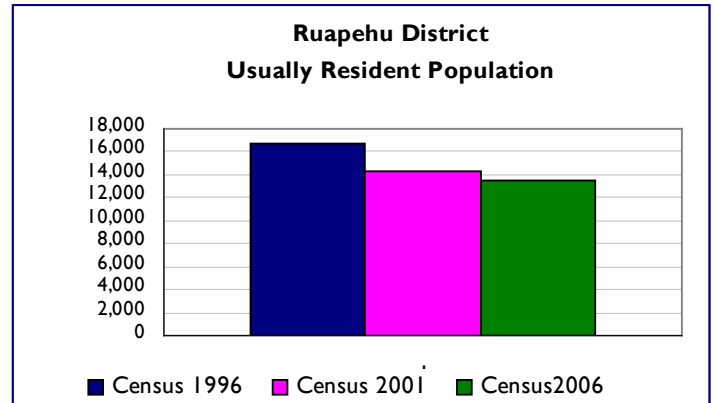


Indicator	State	Trend
Population Changes	☹	↓

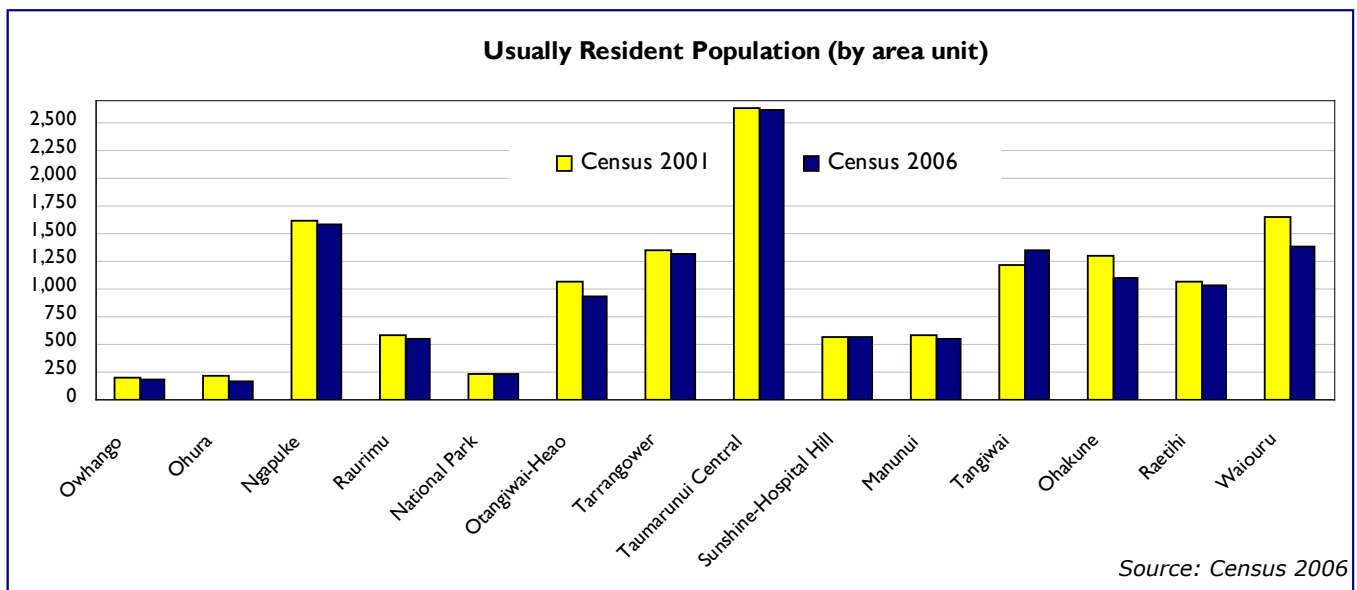
Ruapehu District currently has a more youthful and larger Maori population compared to the national averages, with 25% under 15 and 36.5% Maori. Although the District population continues to decline, the decrease from 2001 to 2006 Census results (5%) was only approximately a third of the more severe decrease during the 1996-2001 Census period (14.6%). During the winter months, and increasingly in summer too, thousands of visitors come to the District and during the busiest periods the population can increase temporarily by as much as 69%.

When considering the population changes by area units, the areas that show increased

populations from 2001 to 2006 were National Park, Sunshine-Hospital Hill and Tangiwai, whilst the most significant decrease was in Waiouru.



Source: Census 2006



Source: Census 2006

Indicator	State	Trend
Participation in Early Childhood Education	☹	↑

This indicator shows the number of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in early childhood centres or home-based education programmes as a percentage of all 3 and 4 year olds. Evidence from New Zealand and international research shows that the early childhood years are vital to a child's development and future ability to learn. Quality early childhood education prepares young children socially, physically and academically for entry into primary school and can help narrow the achievement gap between

children from low-income and more advantaged families.

In Ruapehu District the total number of young children in early education programmes increased by 22% in the five years from 2001 to 2006, compared to a national increase of 4% during this time. Although the number of 3 year olds decreased slightly in the District between 2005 and 2006, the figures for 4 year olds improved significantly during this year.

Yearly Participation Rate %*	Ruapehu District		Manawatu-Wanganui Region	
	3 year	4 year	3 year	4 year
2001	71	78	96	101
2002	79	79	97	96
2003	77	85	102	99
2004	91	92	100	103
2005	97	79	105	104
2006	88	103	105	108

Source: The Social Report 2007

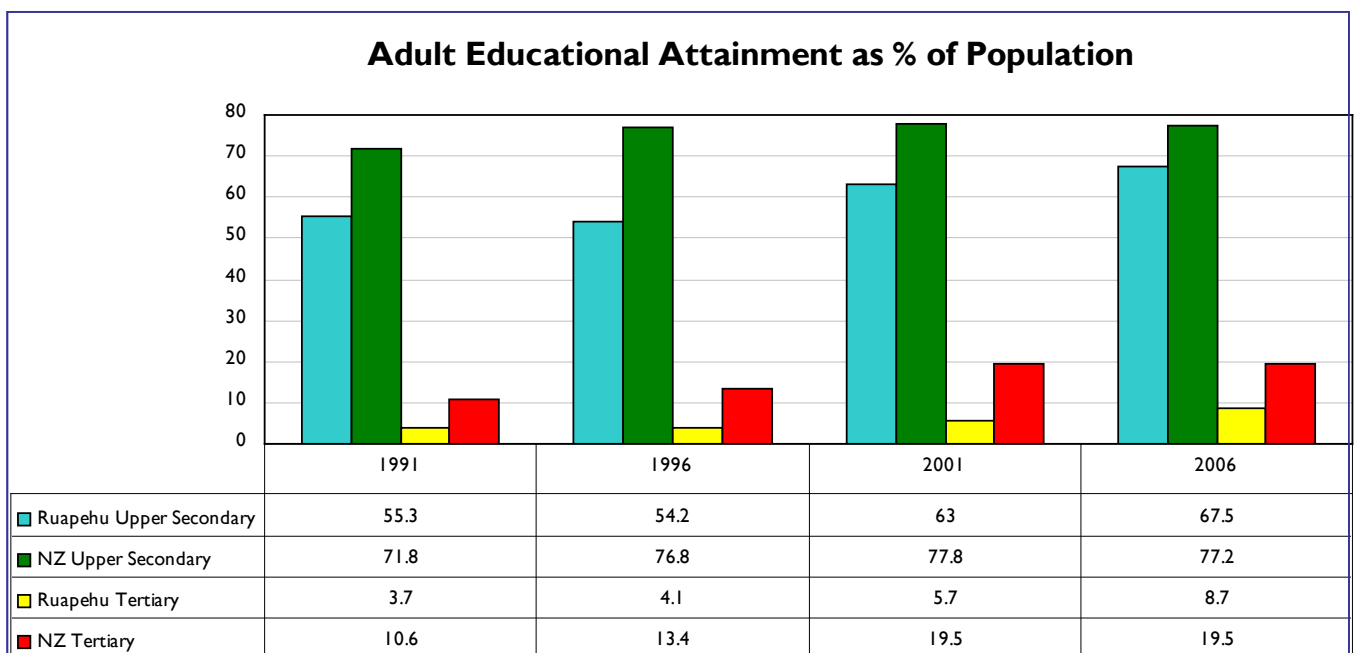
*"Apparent" participation rate, 3 and 4 year olds (numbers can add to more than 100%, where some children participate in more than one programme).

Indicator	State	Trend
Adult Educational Attainment	☹	↑

Educational attainment of the adult population provides a broad picture of New Zealanders' possession of knowledge and skills. It is influenced by factors not measured in other indicators, such as adults gaining new qualifications and new migrants arriving with qualifications.

The highest educational attainment of the adult population is determined by using the percentages of adults who have either at least an upper secondary or tertiary qualification.

This is an area of marked improvement in the District since 1991, with the number of adults with upper secondary increasing by 12% compared to 6% nationally. For tertiary qualifications Ruapehu's 5% increase since 1991 is behind the national average of 9% growth. However, figures for both types of qualifications have continued to improve in the District between 2001 and 2006 whilst the corresponding national figures remained static for this period.



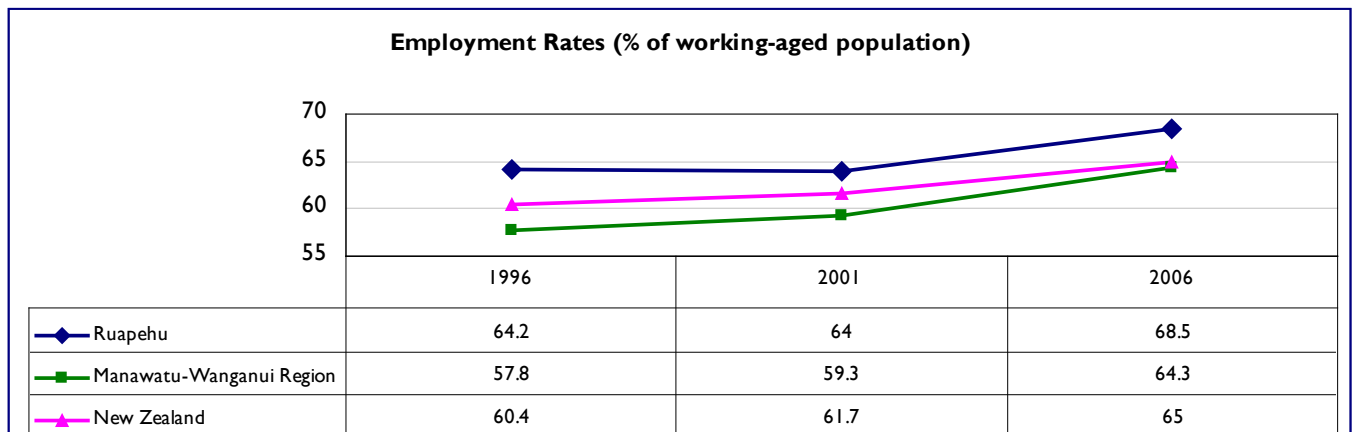
Source: The Social Report 2007

Indicator	State	Trend
Employment Rate	😊	↑

The condition of the local labour market is an important dimension of the social wellbeing, closely connected with the economic prosperity of the District. Employment allows people to actively contribute to the economy and community and to earn the income to enable them and their families to achieve wellbeing. Employment rates are based on the

proportion of the working-aged population (aged 15 years and over) that is employed.

Ruapehu District has mainly followed the national and regional trends for employment rates over the ten-year period from 1996 to 2006. The local employment rate remains higher than the national and regional figures and has improved significantly from 2001 to 2006.

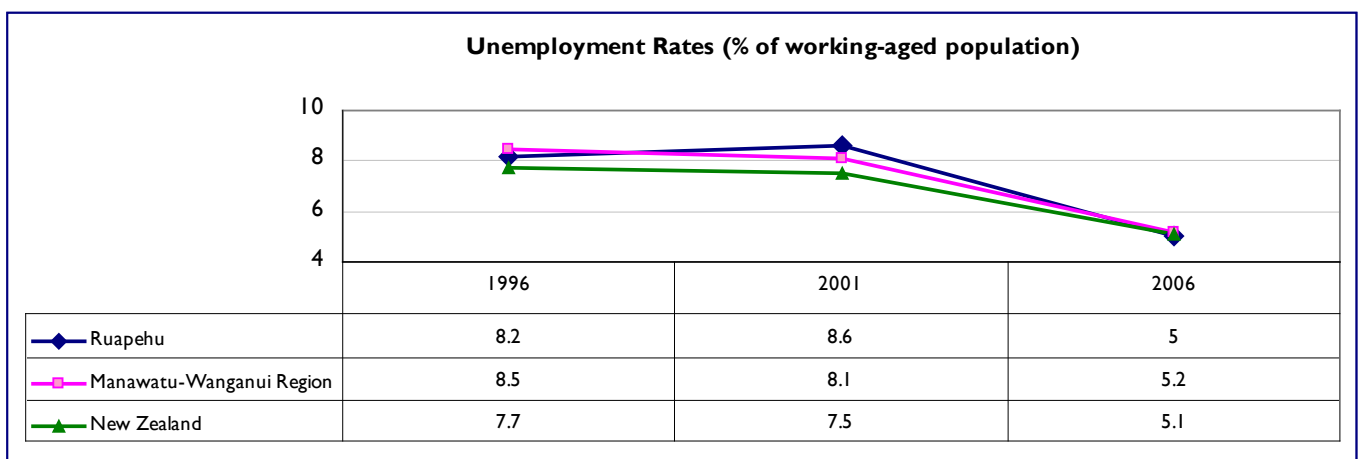


Source: Department of Labour, 2006

Indicator	State	Trend
Unemployment Rate	😊	↑

A further aspect of the labour market to consider is the unemployment rate. This indicator refers to the percentage of working-aged people in the population who are without employment, able to work and actively seeking employment. Unemployment can impact significantly on quality of life outcomes such as health, housing and education.

Although the national unemployment rates peaked during the recessionary period of the early 1990's, the local unemployment rate in Ruapehu District peaked in 2001, before following the nationwide trend in reaching historic lows since 2006. The present low unemployment rate in the District compares well to a regional high of over 6% in Wanganui and Horowhenua districts and the regional low of 3.6% in Tararua District.

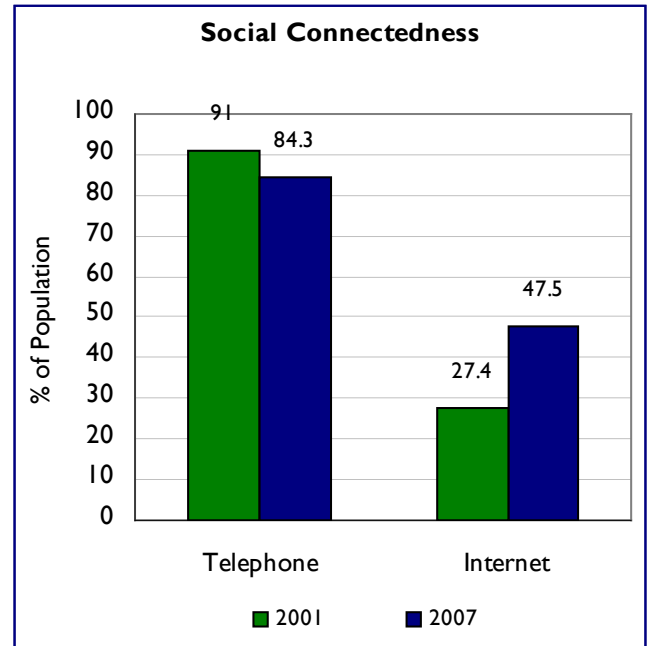


Source: Department of Labour, 2006

Indicator	State	Trend
Social Connectedness	😊	↑

Being able to communicate and interact easily in the absence of frequent face-to-face contact helps maintain social connectedness, particularly in more isolated areas. Access to a telephone and communications via the internet are particularly relevant indicators. The internet also makes it easier to access a significant and growing repository of information and knowledge.

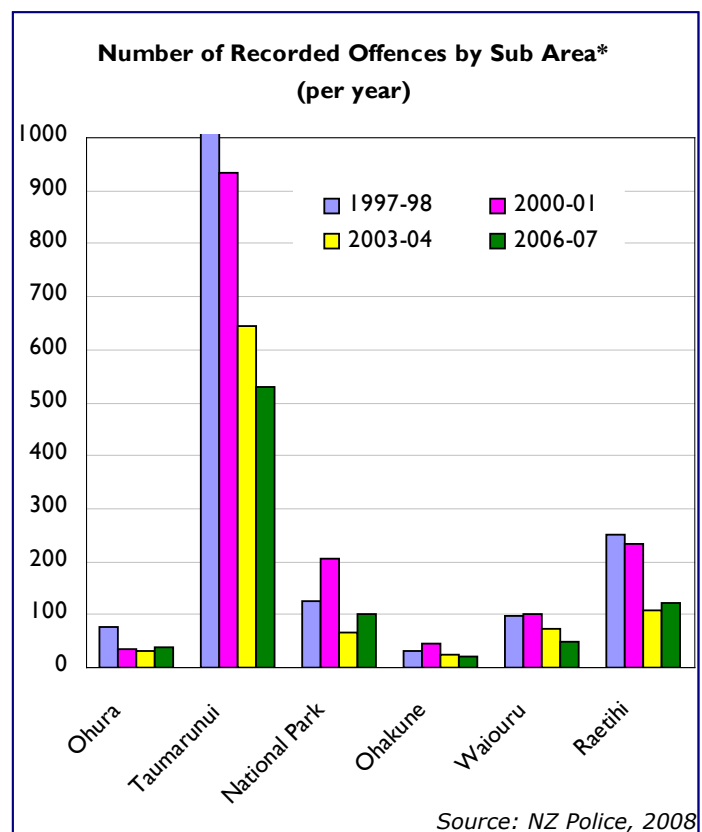
In Ruapehu District the number of people with access to a telephone has decreased slightly from 91% in 2001 to 84% in 2006, while those with internet access has improved significantly from 27% to 47% over.



Source: Census 2006

Indicator	State	Trend
Recorded Crime	😊	↑

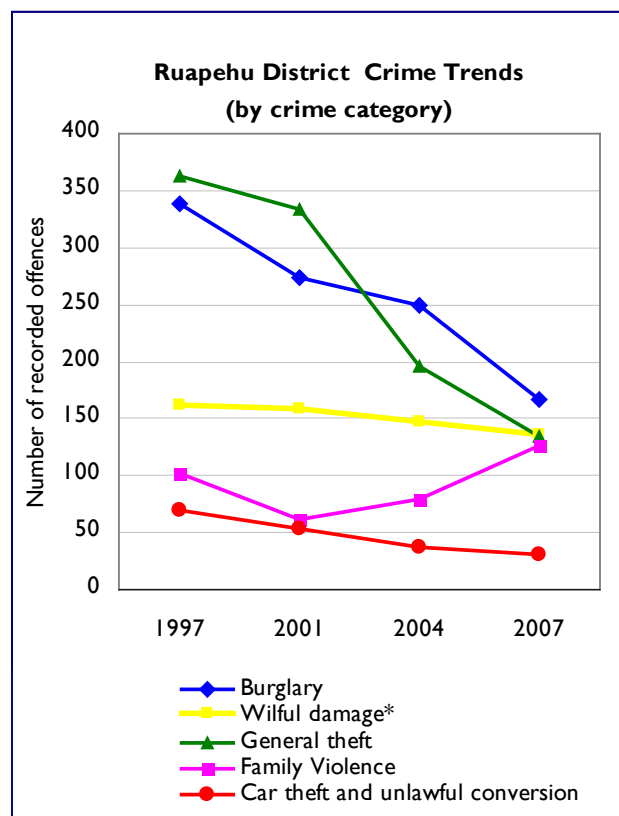
Safety is fundamental to wellbeing: violence and avoidable injury at its most threaten life itself, while other crimes such as burglary and theft reduce quality of life. Crime affects not only individuals but also society as a whole and fear of crime may restrict people's choices about how they live their lives, where they go and what they do. The incidence of recorded crime refers to the number of incidents or offences that are reported to, or discovered by, the NZ Police. This indicator shows trends in total reported crime for the six Police sub-areas of the Ruapehu District since 1997, as well as trends for different types of crime in the District as a whole. There have been significant improvements with decreases in recorded crime in the District since 1997, in both subarea and crime category trends. Particularly positive trends are noticeable in Taumarunui, Ohura, Raetihi and Waiouru sub areas where recorded offences have almost halved since 1997.



Source: NZ Police, 2008

Indicator	State	Trend
Recorded Crime (continued)	☺	↑

An exception is the increase in recorded Family Violence (FV) since 2001. The reporting and resolution of FV has been a major, nationwide focus for Police since 2000. Improved procedures resulting in increased recorded FV crime include more intense supervisory scrutiny, more rigorous prosecution, changes to evidence rules and improved interagency liaison. There is also more willingness in the community to report these offences due to the heightened publicity in recent years. However, the reporting still tends to come from only some parts of society. The increased FV reporting trend is viewed positively because this is traditionally an under-reported area, but unfortunately it is believed these improvements are still only scratching the surface of the problem.



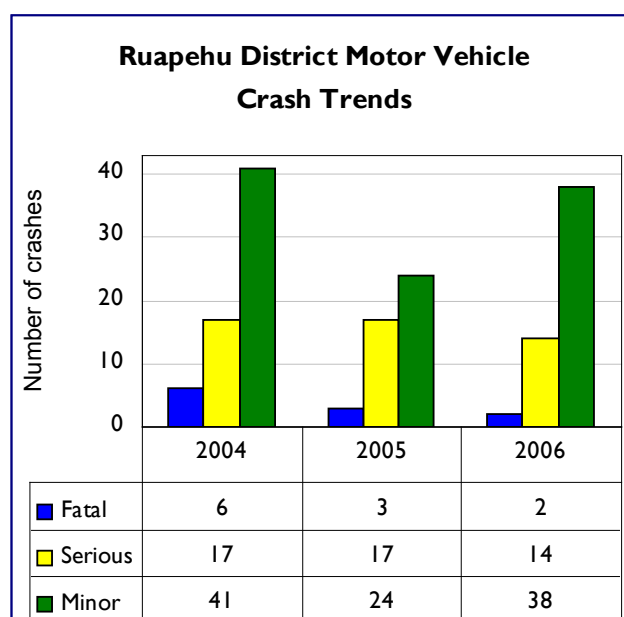
Source: NZ Police, 2008 * Wilful damage includes tagging and graffiti offences

Indicator	State	Trend
Road Safety	☹	↑

Council is responsible for 1,300km of local roads in the District and there are 320km of State Highways maintained by Transit NZ. Motor vehicle crashes are a major cause of fatalities in New Zealand, especially among young adults. Deaths, injuries and disabilities from motor vehicle crashes inflict considerable suffering on families and communities as well as on other road users and public resources such as health and emergency services.

There is an improving trend with the overall number of crashes reducing from 64 in 2004 to 54 in 2006, including both local roads and State Highways. Fatal and serious injury crashes in the District have reduced during 2006 whilst minor accidents have increased significantly. All three types of crashes have decreased in comparison to 2004 but there tends to be fluctuations in annual crash statistics in the District, particularly for minor crashes. This is

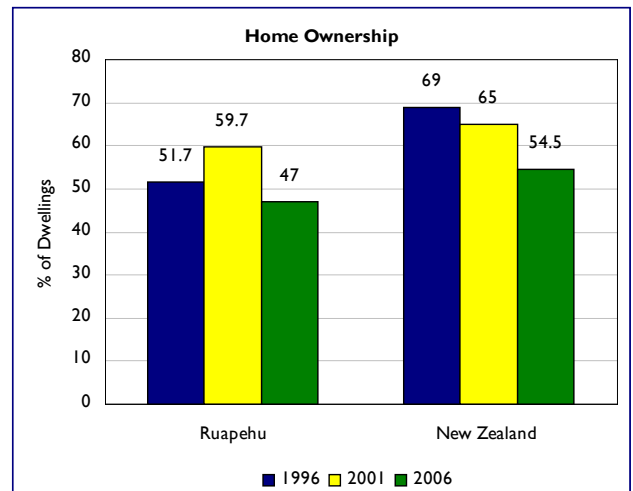
partly related to the severity of winter weather, while the small numbers can occasionally provide a distorted picture overall.



Source: Land Transport NZ Road Safety Issues Report: Ruapehu District 2007

Indicator	State	Trend
Home Ownership	☹	↓

High levels of occupier home ownership promote more stable, permanent and healthy populations and communities. Transient populations can have negative impacts on community dynamics and affect young families and children in particular, who are deprived of stability and a sense of belonging. The national trend since 1996 has been for a steady decrease in home ownership rates. However, for Ruapehu there was an increase from 1996 to 2001 before it fell to 47% in 2006.



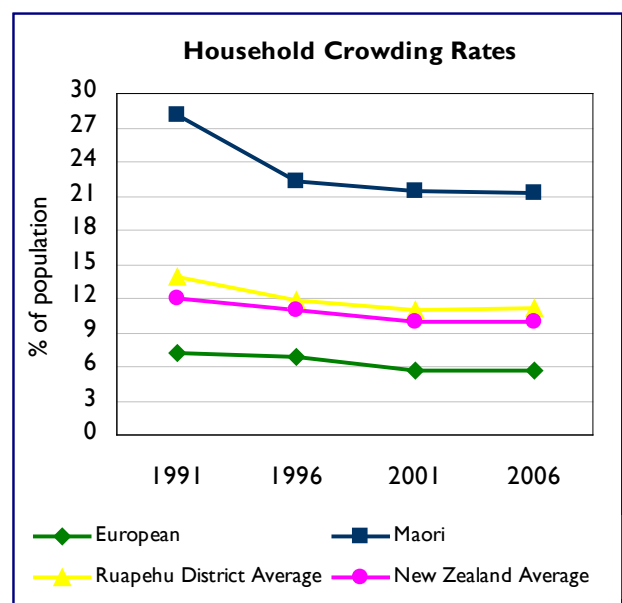
Source: Census 1996, 2001 and 2006

Indicator	State	Trend
Household Crowding	☹	↓

Housing space adequate to the needs and desires of a family is a core component of quality of life. This indicator shows the proportion of the population living in crowded housing, requiring one or more additional bedrooms, as defined by the Canadian Crowding Index. There is a clear relationship between levels of income and household crowding. There is no definite evidence that crowding leads to negative social outcomes. However, there are clear associations between crowded households and the prevalence of negative outcomes such as poorer health and educational attainment. Household crowding can also contribute to psychological stress in households.

In Ruapehu District household crowding has reduced since 1991 but it remains slightly higher in 2006 at 11% compared to the national average of 10%. Of more concern is the significant differences noted between household crowding rates for the Maori and European populations. Household crowding is more likely

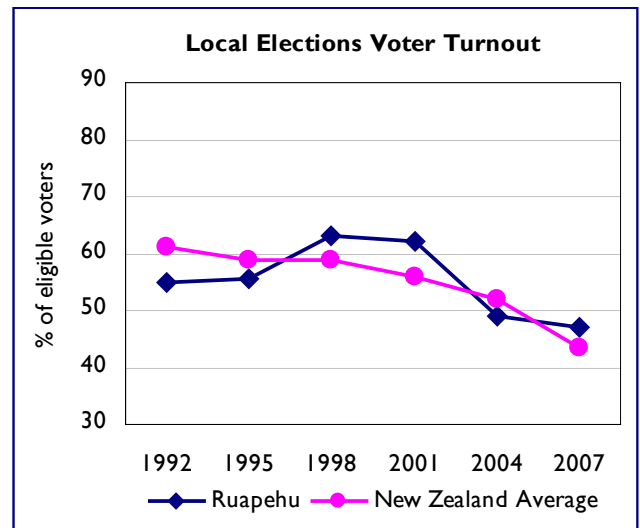
to be experienced by young people and those unemployed than older people and those in full-time employment. There are large variations across the country, with the highest crowding rates around 14% and all of the South Island having below average crowding rates.



Source: The Social Report 2007

Indicator	State	Trend
Voter Turnout	☹️	↓

Voter turnout rates are an indication of the extent to which citizens participate in the political process and democratic decision-making, the confidence the population has in political institutions and the importance they attach to these institutions. Across New Zealand the restructuring of local government in 1989 initially led to an increase in voter turnout, peaking at 61% in 1992 before a steady decline since then. The national decline from 2001 to 2004 was felt most by District councils, as reflected by the significant fall in Ruapehu District's turnout over this period. For the remainder of this 15-year period, the District experienced a peak in turnout in 1998 with 63%, followed by a fall to 47% turnout in the 2007 local elections.

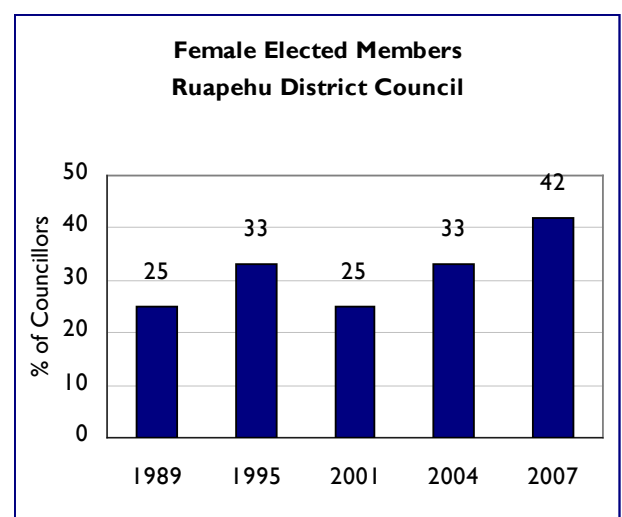


Source: The Social Report 2007 and Elections NZ

Indicator	State	Trend
Female Representation	😊	↑

The representation of women in government can be seen as an indicator of political representation more generally. Representative political institutions engage a wide range of communities, drawing on the capabilities, skills and knowledge of a broader group of people and providing checks and balances for the use of political power.

In 2004, women represented 30% of elected members in local government in New Zealand, up from 25% in 1989. Ruapehu District follows this trend with female representatives increasing from 25% in 2001 to reach a new peak of 42% in the last local body elections in 2007.

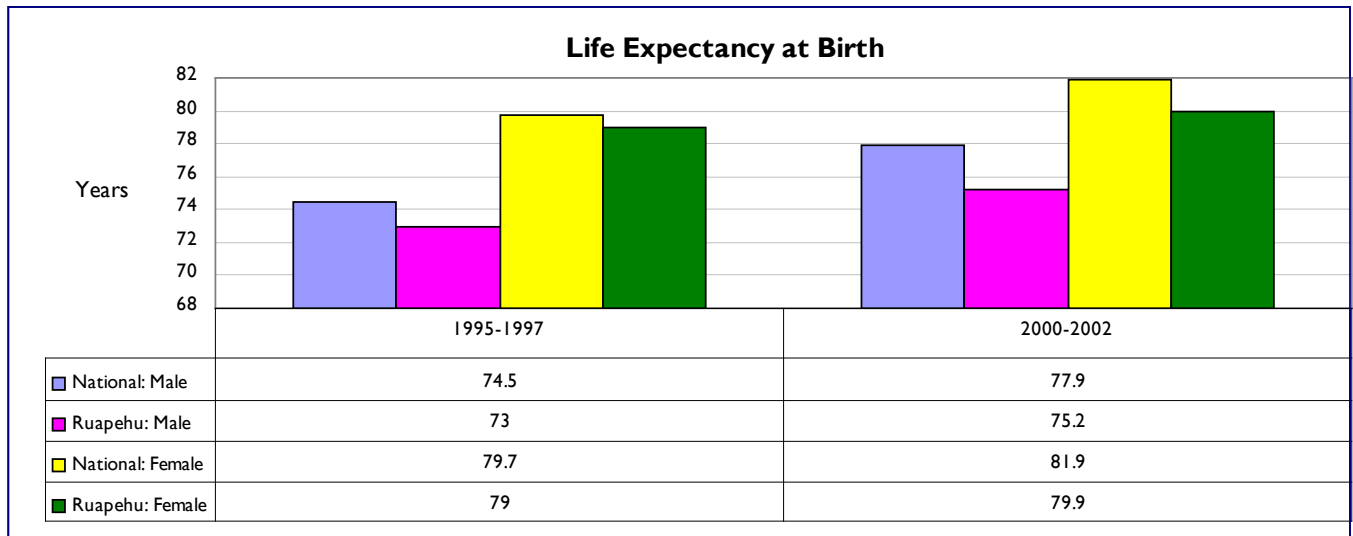


Source: The Social Report 2007 and Ruapehu District Council

Indicator	State	Trend
Life Expectancy at Birth	☺	↑

Life expectancy at birth indicates the total number of years a person can expect to live based on the mortality rates of the population at a given age in each year or period. It is a key indicator for health outcomes. Ruapehu District has a relatively lower life expectancy

than the national average for New Zealand at 75.2 for males and 79.9 for females. This is steadily improving and, since the 1980's, the gains in longevity have been greater for males than females, so the gap between the genders is also closing.



Source: The Social Report 2007

Indicator	State	Trend
Access to Health Services	☹	↑

Ruapehu District's geographical size and isolation means that some of our communities experience difficulty with access to primary health care, especially those in rural areas. In the 2005 Community Outcomes survey the community rated good health services as one of its top priorities. However, the number of General Practitioners (GPs) working in the District has fluctuated since 2000 and drawing new doctors to the District remains an on-going challenge. This indicator uses the ratio of the population

served by each GP in the District to give us an idea of the availability of primary health care. The data refers to individual, registered and active GPs as per the New Zealand Medical Council records. The decline in GPs in the District around 2003, where there was one GP for every 4,753 people in the District, followed a downward national trend, which has only recently started to improve again. The table below shows that Ruapehu District has significantly fewer GPs than the national average.

Ruapehu District - Ratio of GPs to population

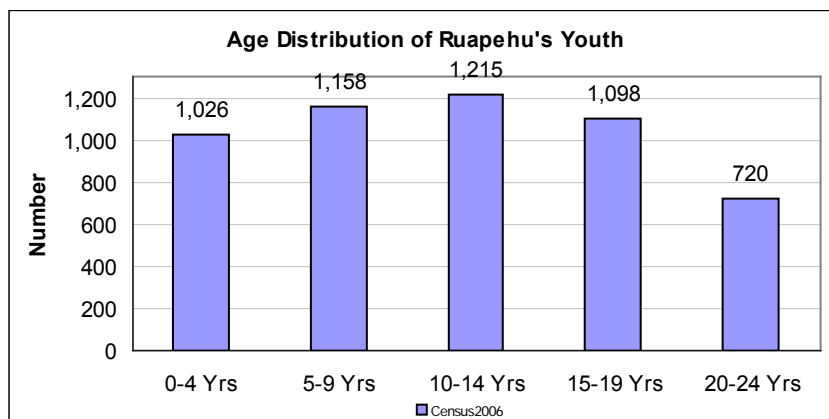
Year	Number of GPs	Population	Ratio*	NZ Ratio
2000	8	16,743	1: 2,093	1: 1,210
2003	3	14,259	1: 4,753	1: 1,333
2006	5	13,572	1: 2,714	1: 1,333

Source: New Zealand Medical Council, Medical Workforce Survey 2000, 2003, 2006

*Total District population divided by the number of GPs working in the District.

Indicator	State	Trend
Youth Profile	☺	?

Ruapehu District has a very youthful population, with over 38% being under 24 in 2006. A more in-depth look at the current composition and condition of our youth in areas such as education, work, crime and health helps to identify key issues impacting on them. Closer examination of youth aged 0-24 years shows that 25% of this group is aged 0-14, while only 5.3% is between 20-24.



Employment

- In 2007, 71.8% of youth (15-24 year olds) in the working-aged population were employed, while 8% of this group was classed as being unemployed (not in employment but able to work and actively searching for work).

Families

- In the 2006 Census there were 3,306 families living in private dwellings recorded in the District.
- Of these, 42% families consisted of couples with children and 20% were households with a single parent and children.

Education

- In 2007 there were 25 schools in the District with 2,550 students enrolled.
- The total number of students leaving secondary school in 2006 was 173 (91 male and 82 female).
- 12.3% of the 2006 school leavers had gained university entrance standard, an increase of 11% from 2005, while 19.1% had little or no formal attainment in 2006, 2% more than in 2005.

Benefits

- From 1998 to 2004 the number of youth (aged 15-24) in receipt of unemployment-related benefits reduced by more than two thirds, while all youth benefit numbers more than halved.
- In 2004, 56.5% of all youth beneficiaries in Ruapehu District had no formal school qualifications.

Health

- Mortality for 1-24 year olds is higher than for other areas*, especially for the 'Other' ethnic group, and is higher than the national average.
- Highest birth-related and infant mortality rates of the studied areas*.
- Suicides and motor vehicles crashes pushed the potentially avoidable mortality rate for young adults well above the national average.
- Evident pattern of younger childbearing, with high birth rates to teen mothers.

**Taken from Waikato District Health Board 'Top Ten' report on child and youth health indicators. The study covered the Auckland and Waikato regions, and the northern wards of Ruapehu District were part of the 'Rural Waikato' study area.*

Environmental Wellbeing



A sustainable environment means that the self-sustaining and life-supporting capacities of the environment, its natural resources and processes are not compromised or damaged by human impacts.

Our abundant natural resources and world-renowned scenery are defining characteristics of the District. The National Parks and other varied reserves provide recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for our residents and draw visitors to the District. The rural landscape sustains our large farming and forestry industries. As a result maintaining environmental wellbeing is essential to economic wellbeing in the District as well as to ensure that the needs of

“The achievement of a sustainable environment”

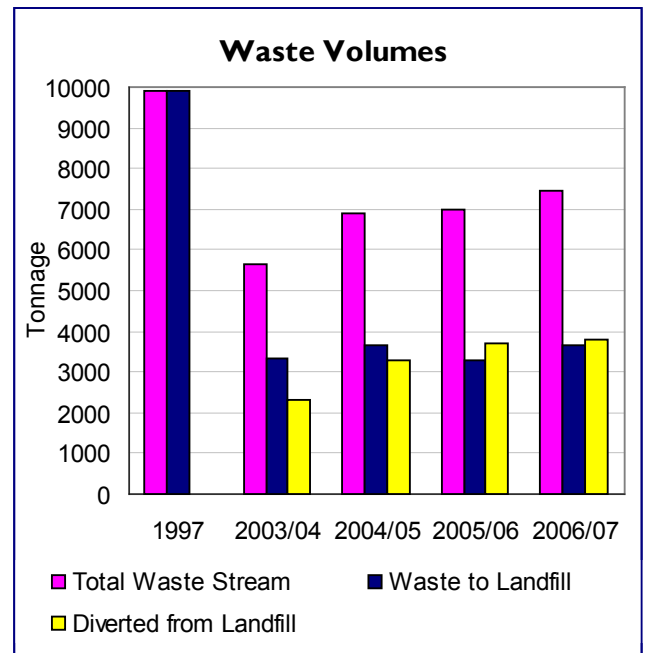
our present and future residents are met. In the Community Outcomes process of 2005 a clean, unspoilt and beautiful environment was identified by a large number of residents as the next major strength after the people of the District.



Indicator	State	Trend
Waste Volumes	☺	↑

Ruapehu District has a very special environment and its people enjoy a unique lifestyle. We value clean mountains and streams, and we want to live up to our 'clean green' image. As waste from our increased resource use creates negative environmental impacts, every effort must be made to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill. The residents of the District produce a significant quantity of waste and the uncontrolled dumping or poor management of this waste would have serious adverse effects on the environment and the quality of life of the community.

The District has been making significant gains toward achieving our strategic goal of having a zero waste environment by 2015. Since 2005-06 the amount of waste being diverted from landfill to recycling has outstripped the waste entering landfill. In addition to this achievement, the total waste stream for the District is now a quarter less that ten years ago, but the amount of waste we produce has started to increase again from a historic low in 2003.



Indicator	State	Trend
Biodiversity Management	☺	↑

Biodiversity refers the natural variety of all biological life: species of plants, animals and other organisms, as well as the habitats and ecosystems they live in. The decline of native biodiversity is one of the most pressing environmental threats identified at both national and regional level, in particular the loss of native forest and the impacts of exotic pests on biodiversity.

In comparison to most parts of the country, Ruapehu District has a relatively large area of natural habitat remaining under conservation management. The large Department of Conservation (DoC) estate encompasses 348 individual protected areas of 14 different types. In total this amounts to 136,210 hectares of

DoC protected land in the District, or 20% of the total District land area.

There are also a number of schemes with contestable funds allowing private landowners to voluntarily conserve biodiversity with covenants. The District currently has around 86 covenants from Nga Whenua Rahui protecting approximately 4,724 hectares of biodiversity on Maori land. In 2007 there were also 43 registered covenants under the Queen Elizabeth II Trust, an increase of 86% from 23 in 2000. These covenants currently cover 1,682 hectares and include over 20 different habitats of forest, shrub and wetland. There are a further nine new QEII covenants currently approved and awaiting registration.

Indicator	State	Trend
Drinking Water Standards	☹	↑

Maintaining good drinking water quality is critical for human health and quality of life outcomes. This indicator shows the proportion of the District population whose water complies with the 2000 Drinking Water Standards of New Zealand relating to two of the main micro-organisms carrying water-borne diseases, E.Coli (measured at the point of use) and Cryptosporidium (measured at the treatment plant). There is a trend across New Zealand that many small communities in outlying regions are supplied with non-compliant drinking water. However, a significant reason for non-compliance is inadequate monitoring, rather than actual

contamination of water supplies. The drinking water monitoring programmes are very rigorous and demanding with much scope for discrepancies that can result in inadequacies in standards.

Since 2003 the District's water supplies have improved significantly in Cryptosporidium compliance, while compliance for E.coli has declined. Council is continuously working towards improving the standards of the District's water supplies. Several asset upgrades are scheduled or are already in progress and the monitoring programme has increased since 2006 to accommodate the implementation of the NZ Drinking Water Standards 2005.

Year	Manawatu-Wanganui Region		Ruapehu District	
	(Percentage of supply compliant with drinking water standards)			
	E. coli (%)	Cryptosporidium (%)	E. coli (%)	Cryptosporidium (%)
2003	80.0	50.2	47.5	19.7
2004	67.7	40.0	3.9	0.0
2005	81.1	58.7	6.3	38.0

Source: The Social Report 2007

Water Supply	Condition	Comments
Ohura	☹	Improvement options under investigation
Taumarunui	☺	Upgraded in 2006/07
Piriaka	☹	Improvements options under consideration
Owhango	☹	Future project
National Park	☹	Upgrade being investigated
Ohakune	☹	Upgrade scheduled for 2007/08
Raetihi	☹	Water source under investigation

Source: Ruapehu District Council 2008

☺ - Good ☹ - Average ☹ - Unsatisfactory

Indicator	State	Trend
Fresh Water Quality	☹	↓

The good condition of local rivers is a key environmental outcome. It provides a drinking water and food source, but water is also valued for its support of wildlife and habitats, spiritual and cultural values, recreation activities and for purely aesthetic properties. Water quality is influenced by a number of natural factors such as climate, soils and land cover, as well as by human activities including waste disposal, road networks and recreation.

For most of the District's rivers the water quality upstream of sewerage outfalls is good. However, the Whanganui, Mangawhero, Makotuku and Whangaehu are all to varying extents affected by sewerage and industrial discharges and land-use practices.

Many upper Whanganui catchments have very good aquatic health based on invertebrate communities. Water quality declines in the middle to lower reaches of many rivers due to the human impacts mentioned above.

The Manganui o te Ao River is protected by a National Water Conservation Order and is an important sanctuary for blue ducks (Whio), as well as having flourishing trout and native fish populations. The Whangaehu River also deserves a special mention as it is a unique ecosystem due to its volcanic origin. Its high natural acidity and turbidity can be mistaken for degradation and it is affected by industrial discharges but this does not detract from its distinct ecological value.

Condition of Rivers* in Ruapehu District

Catchment	Contact recreation	Nutrient enrichment	Life-supporting capacity	Turbidity
Upper Whanganui (upstream of Cherry Grove)	Excellent/Good	Excellent/Good	Excellent/Good	Fair
Ohura	Poor	Excellent/Good	Excellent/Good	Very poor
Ongarue	Fair	Fair	Excellent/Good	Fair
Whakapapa	Excellent/Good	Excellent/Good	Excellent/Good	Excellent/Good
Middle Whanganui (to Pipiriki)	Fair	Excellent/Good	Fair	Poor
Mangawhero	Excellent/Good	Fair	Excellent/Good	Excellent/Good
Whangaehu	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Very poor

Source: Horizons Regional Council, State of the Environment Report 2005

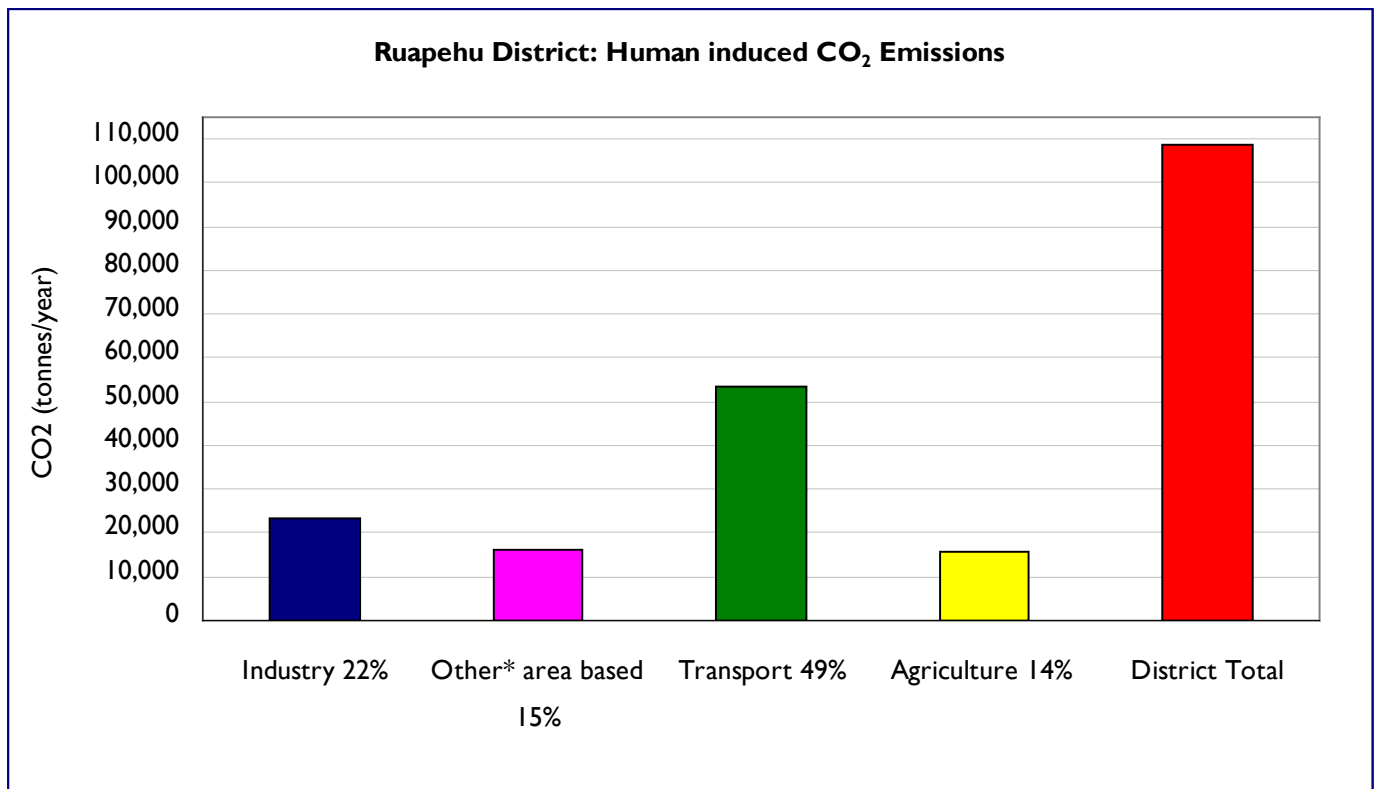
*The rivers rated are based on the availability of comparable data.

Indicator	State	Trend
Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Capita	☹️	?

The impact of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions on the climate is a growing concern presenting tremendous challenges to communities. The most prevalent greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO₂), mainly released into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuel from transport and activities generating and using energy. In 2001 the total emissions equated to over 8 tonnes of CO₂ per person in the usually resident population of the District for that year. Transport related emissions account for half of all CO₂ emissions in the

District. This is unlikely to change in the near future since the large, rural area of the District places a heavy reliance on transport and makes the use of public transport extremely difficult.

Central Government has recently launched its program of climate change solutions, aiming to make New Zealand the world's first sustainable, carbon-neutral country and which includes a continuing focus on waste minimisation activities and improving the efficiency of energy use.



Source: NIWA Science, Centre for Climate-Energy Solutions, 2001

*Other area-based emissions include those arising from open burning, wastewater, domestic and commercial fuel combustion, landfill and recreational vehicle use.

Economic Wellbeing

“Ensure that core facilities, services and infrastructure keep pace with the needs of the community”

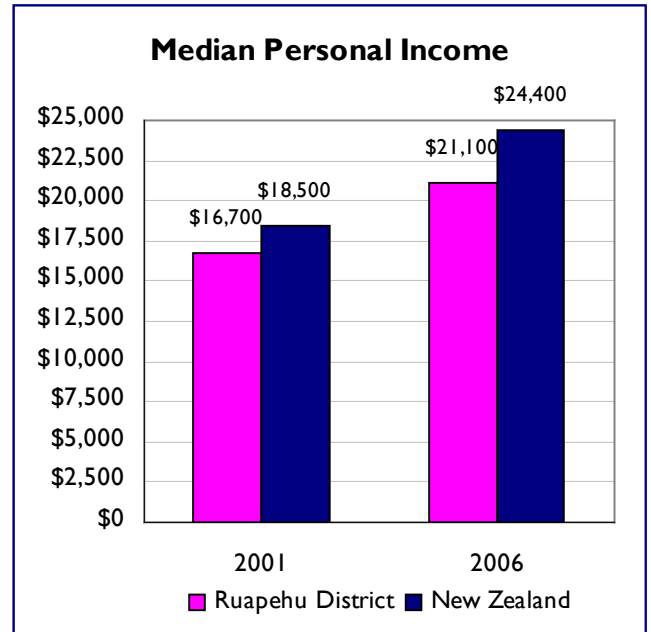
Economic wellbeing underpins prosperity and the material aspects of quality of life. Strong businesses and industries bring employment, income and development to the District. This in turn builds the capacity of our people to achieve social well-being and provides the financial means to both protect and effectively use the environment and resources. Existing economic prosperity is also a drawing pin to attract further development, new business and new residents to the District.

Although the usually resident population continues to decline, the continuing growth in the tourism industry is bringing more visitors and increasing the number of absentee ratepayers to the District. Combined with the resulting property development, demands on resources and infrastructure are increasing, and accordingly so is the cost of Council services. An important resulting issue is that of affordability as there is still a significant portion of the District population living on low incomes and in relative deprivation.



Indicator	State	Trend
Median Personal Income	☹	↑

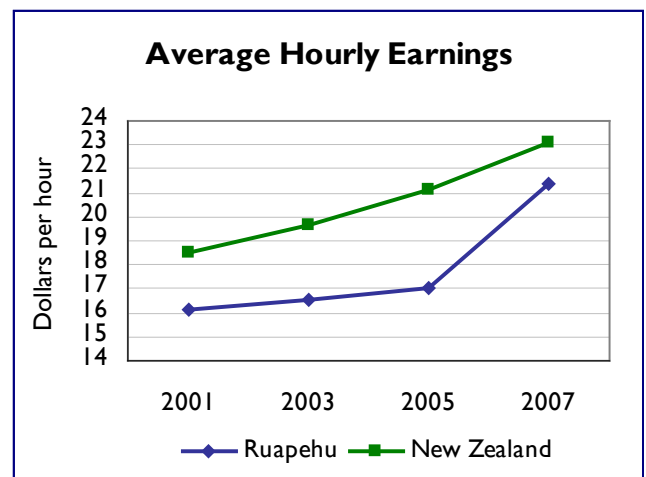
Median personal income refers to the midpoint of individuals' yearly earnings, indicating that half the population earns more and half earn less than this figure. Comparing this indicator to the national data gives an indication of the comparative earnings of people in the District. The median personal income has risen during the five-year period from Census 2001 to 2006 but the District still falls well behind the national average. In Ruapehu District it has increased by 20% from \$16,700 in 2001 to \$21,100 in 2006, while for the whole of New Zealand it rose by 24% from \$18,500 to \$24,400 during this time.



Source: Census 2001 and 2006

Indicator	State	Trend
Average Hourly Earnings	☹	↑

A further detailed indicator of level of income is that of average hourly earnings. Average hourly earnings is determined based on the total gross income paid to employees divided by the total amount of hours worked. Employees in Ruapehu District earned an average of \$21.35 per hour in September 2007, \$0.34 or 1.6% higher than in June 2007, compared with a 1.2% increase for the whole of New Zealand to \$23.10 over the same three-month period. Since 2001 the average hourly earnings in the District has increased by 25% from \$16.17.



Source: Census 2001 and 2006

Indicator	State	Trend
Economic Growth	☹	↓

The table below shows the District contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of New Zealand decreased by 6.7% from 2005 to 2006, compared to growth of 2.2% in New Zealand and 2.7% in the Manawatu Districts. This substantial drop in GDP can

be primarily attributed to a 26.3% fall in the contribution of Social Services sector to GDP. This sector saw a decline of \$32 million in GDP over the 2005 figure, mostly through losses in the Defence and Education industries.

	Value Added or GDP (2006 \$) (m)			% per annum change		
	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	1996 to 2006
Primary	93	92	97	-0.9	4.0	-0.4
Manufacturing and Building	81	83	84	3.0	1.4	-2.9
Retail and Distribution	60	65	67	7.8	3.5	-1.5
Business Services	85	71	64	-16.6	-9.4	-2.1
Recreation Services	14	14	15	-0.5	11.1	1.2
Social Services	112	123	91	9.7	-2.3	-4.3
Ruapehu District	444	447	417	0.7	-6.7	-2.3
Manawatu Districts	2,707	2,798	2,675	3.4	2.7	1.0
New Zealand	147,128	152,541	155,885	3.7	2.2	3.1

Source: BERL, Regional Database, Statistics New Zealand

Indicator	State	Trend
Employment Growth (in FTEs)	☹	↑

Employment growth is measured here in terms of units of Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs). In the year to March 2006, employment in Ruapehu District dropped 3% compared to positive growth of 0.7% the previous year. This fall is in line with the decreases in GDP value added and usually resident population, and together

with the increased numbers of business units have combined to produce a smaller average business size. The decline in employment growth during 2005 is consistent with the long-term trend of an average annual decrease of 3.1% in the ten years since 1996.

	Employment Number FTEs			% per annum change		
	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	1996 to 2006
Primary	1,729	1,602	1,680	-7.4	4.9	-0.2
Manufacturing and Building	949	1,013	1,041	6.7	2.8	-3.1
Retail and Distribution	1,115	1,194	1,246	7.1	4.4	-2.4
Business Services	313	333	310	6.4	-6.9	-1.6
Recreation Services	328	278	377	-15.1	35.2	1.9
Social Services	1,631	1,685	1,267	3.3	-24.8	-7.2
Ruapehu District	6,066	6,106	5,922	0.7	-3.0	-3.1
Manawatu Districts	35,581	36,173	36,791	1.7	1.7	-1.0
New Zealand	1,690,949	1,751,699	1,809,041	3.6	3.3	2.0

Source: BERL, Regional Database, Statistics New Zealand

Indicator	State	Trend
Number of Businesses	☺	↑

This indicator shows the change in the number of business units in Ruapehu District between 1996 and 2006, and compares the trend to that in the Manawatu Districts and across New Zealand. Ruapehu District business units are also broken down into the six business sectors.

In the year to March 2006, the total number of business units in the Ruapehu District

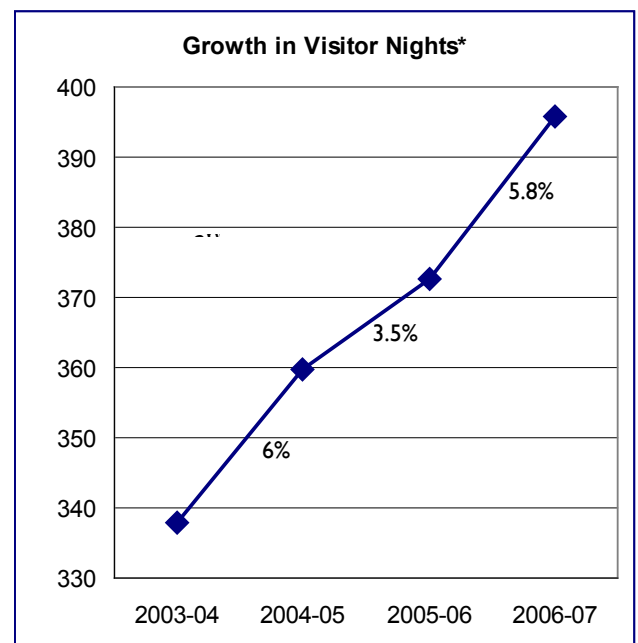
increased to 1,891, or by 1.8%. This compared to a regional increase of 1.4% over the year, and 2.5% growth in New Zealand as a whole. Looking at individual sectors, the best performer for the 2005/06 year was the Recreation Services sector, which grew by 8.5%, whilst Social Services showed the biggest decline of -8.9%.

	Business Units (number)			% per annum change		
	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	1996 to 2006
Primary	803	805	796	0.2	-1.1	0.2
Manufacturing and Building	146	155	796	6.2	7.1	0.6
Retail and Distribution	315	326	345	3.5	5.8	2.1
Business Services	310	330	344	6.5	4.2	10.9
Recreation Services	114	117	127	2.6	8.5	4.3
Social Services	120	124	113	3.3	-8.9	1.2
Ruapehu District	1,808	1,857	1,891	2.7	1.8	2.2
Manawatu Districts	12,963	13,013	13,189	0.4	1.4	1.8
New Zealand	421,468	432,613	443,369	2.6	2.5	3.4

Source: BERL, Regional Database, Statistics New Zealand

Indicator	State	Trend
Growth in Tourist Numbers	☺	↑

Harnessing the potential of tourism by further developing the Ruapehu tourism industry is seen as a key step in enabling the District's overall economic strategy to achieve prosperity. The winter sport season is well established and continues to grow. The focus is now on promoting the District as an all-seasons destination in an effort to attract visitors and resulting benefits all year round. Tourist growth is measured here by the increase in visitor nights and shows the industry in the 'Visit Ruapehu' area growing by 5.8% in 2006 compared to the national figure of 4.6% and by an average of 5.1% from 2003 to 2007.



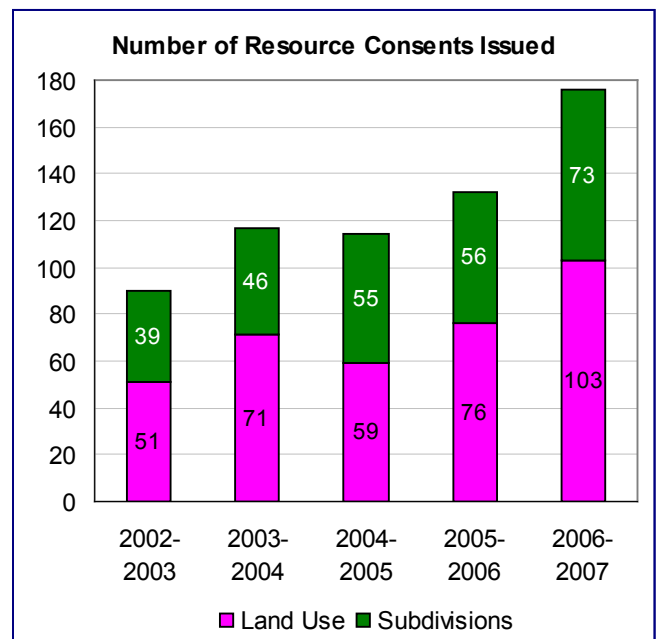
Source: Statistics NZ Quarterly Review, September 2007

Indicator	State	Trend
Resource Consents	☺	↑

Council's Resource Management activity ensures the environmental effects of development, such as subdivisions, and all building projects are minimised or mitigated. Any new development in the District must comply with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Ruapehu District Plan. There are two types of resource consent. Land-use consents are issued for activities that do not comply with the District Plan Rules, such as for gravel extraction, earthworks, boundary encroachments and building density requirements, while subdivisions occur where an existing single property is divided into several smaller lots to be sold on individually.

As a result, the number of resource consents issued is a good indication of the rate and scale of property development taking place in the District. In the 2006/07 financial year there were six subdivisions of 20 lots or more in Ohakune alone as well as developments in Raetihi, National Park, Horopito, Raurimu, Rangataua and other District townships.

The increase in subdivision activity has been matched by a huge rise in subsequent land-use consents for related building projects and activities.



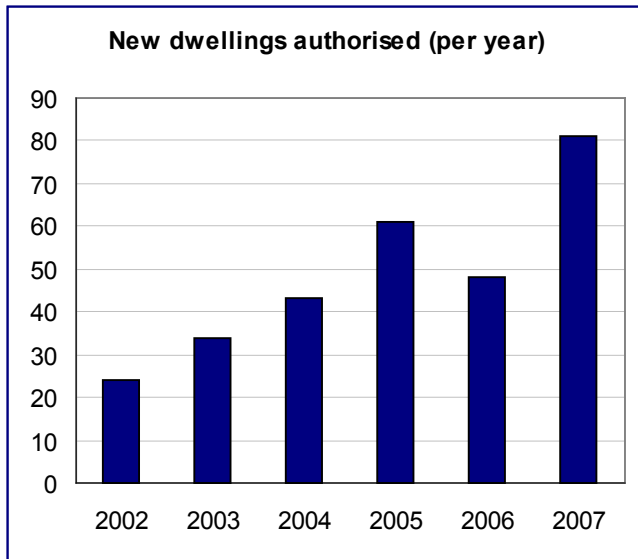
Source: Ruapehu District Council, 2008

Indicator	State	Trend
Building Consents	☺	↑

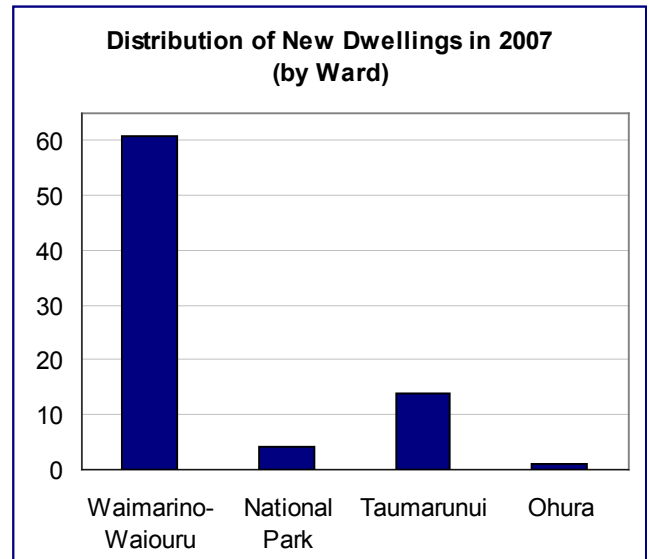
Property development and in particular new housing being built is an indicator of economic well-being in the District. An increase in new housing would normally be indicative of a growing resident population. However, in Ruapehu District many of the new developments are due to an increase in non-resident ratepayers who own second homes for holiday use or rentals, both full-time and seasonally. This indicator reflects this trend by showing the number of new dwellings authorised for building in the District has increased almost four-fold since 2002.

The distribution of this growth in dwellings is important to determine the growth points and resulting increases in demands on infrastructure and services. In 2007, over 75% of new dwellings in the District were located in the Waimarino-Waiouru Ward. This is in line with the strong growth in tourist numbers generally experienced in the local tourist industry due to the success and growing popularity of the Mount Ruapehu ski fields.

Indicator	State	Trend
Building Consents (continued)	☺	↑



Source: Statistics NZ Quarterly Review, September 2007



Source: Ruapehu District Council, 2008

Community Outcomes

As stated in the Ruapehu District Council 2006-16 Long Term Plan, Council undertook a consultation process with the Ruapehu District community to identify the Community Outcomes. These Community Outcomes are collective statements of community goals and aspirations - the things that the community think are important for its wellbeing. These Community Outcomes were collected by way of input from the community through a number of focus groups, as well as surveys of residents, outside ratepayers, community groups and high school students. The Community Outcomes Statements were then developed for each of the four wellbeings from the aspirations as developed by the community. This extensive consultation process provided the set of Community Outcomes below.

Cultural Wellbeing

- 1 A community that understands, embraces, respects and celebrates the traditions and history of all ethnic groups.
- 2 The history of the community and district is preserved and appreciated through museums, libraries, places of interest and historical attractions.
- 3 Events and festivals which are unique to the district are fostered and celebrated.

Social Wellbeing

- 4 A district which takes ownership over issues of health provision, education provision and infrastructure maintenance.
- 5 A district where a range of medical services are provided and accessible.
- 6 Leadership is respected, trusted, transparent, accountable, visionary and has integrity and a positive attitude.
- 7 Leadership facilitates a coordinated approach in providing effective solutions.
- 8 A community that provides excellent role models, good parenting, career and life skills guidance for youth.
- 9 A community that provides excellent activities and facilities for youth.
- 10 Core facilities, services and infrastructure planning and provision (water, sewage, solid waste, power, roading and medical) keep pace with development.
- 11 Average household incomes increase as the economy prospers.
- 12 Key service providers consult with the community and common goals are identified and worked towards.
- 13 A community that recognises and rewards excellence and achievement in sport, arts/cultural pursuits, community service and business.
- 14 Personal development and increased self esteem are enhanced through upskilling and educational opportunities.
- 15 A sense of community pride and togetherness is fostered where people work towards common goals and speak positively about the community.
- 16 A community that encourages participation in planning around community or district issues and promotes community responsibility.
- 17 Excellent standards of health practice in the community are promoted and individuals take personal responsibility for their health.
- 18 Excellent standards of safety in the community are promoted and individuals take personal responsibility for their safety.

Community Outcomes (continued)

- 19 The incidence of crime and violence are reduced and police are open and accessible.
- 20 A community that respects the welfare and safety of others.

Environmental Wellbeing

- 21 Quantity of native flora and fauna is retained and the quality is enhanced.
- 22 An environment which has an excellent quality of water, soil and air.
- 23 River catchment areas and waterways are protected from erosion and pollution.
- 24 A community which promotes a zero waste outlook and encourages minimisation of the impact of waste on the environment.
- 25 Retains the natural beauty, aesthetic values and vistas of the District.
- 26 Retains the quality and number of parks and reserves
- 27 Tourism growth is managed to retain the natural beauty of the district's ecosystems, bush, mountains, waterways and open spaces.
- 28 Renewable energy resources and alternative means of energy generation are promoted and available.
- 29 Public access to bush, waterways, open spaces, and mountains is retained and enhanced.
- 30 Farming, commercial and industrial practices ensure that the environment remains clean and retains its natural character and value.
- 31 An urban environment which is tidy, clean, safe, easy to get around and beautified.
- 32 A community that respects and promotes understanding of the environmental values of tangata whenua.

Economic Wellbeing

- 33 Modern telecommunications networks encourage tourism and business development.
- 34 A community that has a range of quality retail, entertainment, hospitality business services and facilities.
- 35 Key organisations facilitate business growth through a co-ordinated approach and support beneficial business and economic conditions.
- 36 The promotion of tourism includes emphasis on rivers, railway, bush, farming, and mountains, upon the history of life in the district, is coordinated across the district and is unified under a common brand/slogan.
- 37 A rail and roading network which is reliable, well-maintained and meets the needs of users.
- 38 Employment opportunities for school leavers are encouraged and supported through apprenticeships and affirmative employment action by the local business community.
- 39 The district's core tourism function is complemented with additional activities throughout the year.
- 40 A district that promotes economic diversity and retains its core economic strengths of farming, forestry, tourism, and horticulture.
- 41 A district that has a wide range of business activity, that facilitates and encourages business and economic growth, and provides upskilling and a range of employment opportunities.
- 42 The provision of excellent medical, educational, leisure and retail services attract families and skilled workers to the district.

Feedback

Council is interested in receiving your feedback and would value any comments or suggestions relating to this State of the District Report 2008. Please send your comments to:

Ruapehu District Council, State of the District Report, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946

Telephone (07) 895 8188, Fax (07) 895 3256, Email info@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

Did you know?

- Non-resident ratepayers own over 38% of the District.
- 16% of the District's population was born outside NZ.
- In 2002 there were 92 sheep and 12 cattle per person in the District.
- There are over 2,000 kms of unformed 'paper' roads in the District, but only 1,337 kms of maintained roads.
- The Tongariro National Park was the first one in NZ and only the fourth place in the world to be recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Area.
- Mt Ruapehu's name is taken from the Maori *rua* "pit" and *pehu* "to explode".



Our People

Demographic breakdown of the District's Usually Resident Population in 2006:

Ages	0-14	25%
	15-24	13.4%
	25-44	26%
	45-64	25%
	65 plus	10.5%
Ethnicity	NZ European	59%
	Maori	36.5%
	Pacific Peoples ...	2.1%
	Asian.....	1.9%
Overseas migrants	No of people.....	1,032
	% of population.....	7%
Gender	Male.....	52%
	Female.....	48%

