

Annual Report

2008/09



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What is an Annual Report?

In 2002, the Government enacted the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). The LGA has changed the way local authorities meet the needs and wants of their communities.

Once every six years, a local authority is required to ask the community what it wants to achieve. This consultation results in identification of Community Outcomes (COs). The local authority is required to produce a plan showing how it will contribute to the achievement of COs. The local authority demonstrates its contribution towards COs in the setting of Strategic Goals (SGs) and in development of a Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

The LTCCP describes what a local authority is trying to achieve over a minimum period of ten years and must be produced once every three years, and an Annual Plan for the years in between. The Annual Plan provides the annual budget for the coming year and discusses any changes from the LTCCP. The first year of the LTCCP forecast is considered to be the Annual Plan for that year. The Annual Report is used to monitor the local authority's progress against the SGs and work programmes identified in its LTCCP and budgets contained within its Annual Plan.

Council's LTCCP being reported against in this Annual Report is entitled Future

Ruapehu Long Term Plan 2006-2016 (LTCCP 2006-16) and covers a period of ten years. The LTCCP 2006-16 includes a set of performance indicators and a list of major projects and activities that will be used to monitor Council's progress towards its SGs.

This Annual Report communicates the progress that has been made (for each significant activity) in the 2008/09 financial year towards the SGs set out in the LTCCP 2006-16 and the work programme contained in the 2008/09 Annual Plan. This is the third year in which Council will be reporting its progress against the LTCCP 2006-16.

Structure of the Annual Report

Part 1: Overview

This section provides an introduction to the Report and the year at a glance, including:

- Council Directory.
- Council Organisation Structure.
- Mayor and Council Members.
- Message from the Mayor.
- Interview with the Chief Executive.
- The Year at a Glance.
- Audit Opinion.

Part 2: Council Activities

This section details the progress of each of Council's activities for the 2008/09 year including:

- Ruapehu's Community Outcomes.
- Ruapehu's Strategic Activity Groups.
- Detailed activity performance levels.
- Negative effects and mitigation.
- Cost of service statement for each activity.

Part 3: Financial Statements

This section shows the overall financial performance and position of Council. It also includes the accounting policies used to produce the financial statements and notes to the financial statements.

Every endeavour has been made to ensure that this Report is a proper and meaningful reflection of the work undertaken and the results achieved in the 2008/09 financial year.