

POLICY ON SIGNIFICANCE

Background

The Local Government Act 2002 (s.278), hereinafter referred to as 'the Act' requires that every local authority adopt, by 30 June 2003, via the special consultative procedure, a policy on "significance".

The terms "significant" and "significance" are defined in s.5 of the Act as follows;

"Significance, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter that concerns or is before a local authority, means the degree of importance of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter, as assessed by the local authority, in terms of its likely impact on, and likely consequences for,—

- a) *the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region;*
- b) *any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter;*
- c) *the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so."*

"Significant, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision, or other matter has a high degree of significance."

Section 90 requires that the policy must set out:
*"...(the) general approach to determining the significance of proposals and decisions in relation to issues, assets or other matters; and
 any thresholds, criteria or procedures that are to be used by the local authority in assessing the extent to which issues, proposals, decisions or other matters are significant."*

Section 90 also requires that the policy list all strategic assets.

The Council's general approach to determining the significance of proposals and decisions in relation to issues, assets, or other matters

The Council will consider every issue, proposal, decision, or matter requiring a decision on a case by case basis to determine whether the matter is significant.

In determining whether the matter is significant, the Council will consider the following:

- The likely impact/consequences of the decision on the current and future social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community; and

- The likely impact that the impact / consequence(s) of the decision might have on achievement of the agreed community outcomes for the district; and
- (If any proposed action involves a decision in relation to land or a body of water) the likely impact/consequence(s) of the decision on the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga; and
- The parties who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision or matter and the likely impact/consequences of the decision from the perspective of those parties (including if the decision is likely to affect a large number of residents and ratepayers to a moderate or greater extent; or a small number of residents and ratepayers to a large extent); and
- The financial and non-financial costs and implications of the decision; and
- The extent (if any) to which the issue, proposal, decision or matter (or type of issue, proposal, decision or matter) has had a history of generating public interest within the Rotorua District, the Bay of Plenty Region, or New Zealand.

Thresholds and criteria that the Council will use in assessing the extent to which matters are significant

The more significant or material the likely impact of the required decision, the more likely it will be that the matter is 'significant'.

Significant decisions will include, but will not be limited to, the following:-

- A proposal or decision requiring more than \$10 million of budgeted, or \$2 million of unbudgeted, expenditure;
- A proposal or decision to significantly alter the intended level of service for any significant activity - including a decision to commence or cease such activity (s.97(1)(a));
- A proposal or decision to transfer ownership or control of a strategic asset (s.97(1)(b),
- A proposal or decision to construct, replace or abandon a strategic asset (s.97(1)(c));
- A proposal or decision that will, directly or indirectly, significantly affect the capacity of the Council, or the cost to the Council, in relation to any activity identified in the Long Term Council Community Plan (s.97(1)(d));
- A proposal or decision to change the mode of delivery of any significant activity (s.88);
- The sale of all or a majority of the Council's shareholding in any council-controlled trading organisation, or council-controlled organisation;

- A proposal to enter into a partnership with the private sector to carry out a significant activity.
- For the avoidance of doubt, this policy does not apply to:
 - Carry forwards
 - Rejections
 - Maintenance
 - Emergency works

- Shares in Rotorua Regional Airport Limited and Civic Assurance; and
- Rotorua Regional Airport infrastructure.
- Waste Management Infrastructure consisting of:
 - Rotorua Landfill
 - Rotorua Recycling Centre
 - Transfer Stations

The Council's general approach to determining decisions in relation to issues, assets, or other matters

Decisions pursuant to this policy will be made in accordance with the provisions of the Council's proposed governance statement that is required to be prepared pursuant to Section 40(1) of the Act.

If the matter is deemed to be significant, the Council will decide whether the special consultative procedure should be used – or if the requirement to 'appropriately observe' (see s.76(3)(b)) the provisions of Sections 77, 78, 80, 81 and 82 will be sufficient.

The Council's strategic assets

Strategic assets are defined in s.5 of the Local Government Act 2002 as:

"Strategic asset, in relation to the assets held by a local authority, means an asset or group of assets that the local authority needs to retain if the local authority is to maintain the local authority's capacity to achieve or promote any outcome that the local authority determines to be important to the current or future well-being of the community; and includes—

- a) any asset or group of assets listed in accordance with section 90(2) by the local authority; and
- b) any land or building owned by the local authority and required to maintain the local authority's capacity to provide affordable housing as part of its social policy; and
- c) any equity securities held by the local authority in—
 - i) a port company within the meaning of the Port Companies Act 1988;
 - ii) an airport company within the meaning of the Airport Authorities Act 1966."

The assets and groups of assets that the Council considers to be "strategic assets" are:-

- The Council's roading network; and
- The Council's wastewater network and treatment plant; and
- The Council's water supply network; and
- The Council's stormwater network; and
- The Council's public library, museum, pensioner housing, community halls, event facilities, international stadium, aquatic facilities, parks and reserves, nursery, cemeteries and crematorium; and

Note

Legislative references to "significance" include sections 5, 90 and 278 of the Local Government Act 2002. In addition, Schedule 10 (7) of the Act requires that a summary of the significance policy be included in the Long Term Council Community Plan.

COUNCIL ORGANISATIONS AND COUNCIL-CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS

There are a number of organisations where Council has the right to appoint a representative and/or has a shareholding. Under the Local Government Act these organisations are defined as Council Organisations (COs), Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs) and Council-Controlled Trading Organisations (CCTOs).

These organisations assist Council in pursuing its purpose and meeting the demonstrated needs of the Rotorua community. Those appointees to the organisations have the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience to take on their respective tasks. Council has a policy on the appointment of Directors to assure this is the case.

Where Council is involved with a CCO or CCTO, it must provide further information in the LTCCP. The two organisations in this category are the Rotorua Regional Airport Limited and the Waikato Region's Local Authority Shared Service Limited (LASS). Further information about the Airport and LASS, and their statements of Intent is provided in this section of the plan.

Council Organisations

QE Hospital Trust
Tourism Advisory Board
Rotorua Community Youth Centre Trust
Rotorua District Community Arts Council
Pukaki Trust
Ngati Rangitiorere Consultative Group
Te Amorangi Trust

Council-Controlled Organisations

Local Authorities Shared Services (LASS)

Council-Controlled Trading Organisations

Rotorua Regional Airport Limited

Exempted Organisations

Kauae Cemetery Trust Board

LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHARED SERVICES LIMITED (LASS)

Statement of Intent

The local authorities of the Waikato Region have worked closely together over a number of years on mutually beneficial joint projects. These projects have demonstrated the benefits that can be gained both in terms of outcomes achieved and reduction of costs to the community.

Taking this a step further, the local authorities have begun to develop new shared service initiatives, including a valuation database to provide on-line, up to date, information for all councils. The initiative has been formalised by the establishment of the Local Authority Shared Services Limited (LASS).

Local authorities of the Waikato Region have established LASS as a Council-Controlled Organisation by way of a company, in which each local authority will have a single share. This company will be used as an umbrella for future development of shared services through the Region.

Share Holders

Local Authority Shared Services Limited is jointly owned by the 13 local authorities of the Region, being: Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato), Hamilton City Council, Franklin District Council, Hauraki District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Otorohanga District Council, Rotorua District Council, South Waikato District Council, Taupo District Council, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Waikato District Council, Waipa District Council and Waitomo District Council.

Council Policies and Objectives Relating to CCOs

While Council does not have any significant policies or objectives about ownership and control of the company, the establishment of the company, "Local Authority Shared Services Limited" was subject to public consultation as part of the 2004 Long Term Council Community Plan. Council has a Policy on the Appointment and Remuneration of Directors.

The Constitution of Local Authority Shared Services Limited sets out the principles according to which the company will be operated and governed. This includes shareholders rights and the appointment of directors. The annual Statement of Intent identifies the activities and intentions of the Company for the year and the objectives to which those activities will contribute.

Company Objectives

The objective of the company is to provide local authorities of the Waikato Region with a vehicle to develop shared services and provide them to local authorities.

Nature and Scope of Activities

The principle nature and scope of the activity for the company is to:

1. Provide shared services to all local authorities within the Waikato Region. The company also intends to sell processes and systems as set up under individual agreements to local authorities outside the Region.
2. Pursue all opportunities to develop shared services that may benefit the community, either through enhanced services or reduced cost.
3. Give consideration to developing shared service products which a majority of local authorities of the Region believe are of value. The objective is to provide the most effective access to regional information that may be of value to the community using modern technology and processes.
4. Explore all possible avenues to provide these services itself or contract them from outside parties, each depending on a rigorous business case.

Directors

The current directors of Local Authority Shared Service Limited are noted below:

Director	Position	Councils Director Represents
Harry Wilson (Chairperson)	CEO Environment Waikato	Environment Waikato
Tony Marryatt	CEO Hamilton city Council	Hamilton City Council
John Inglis	CEO Waipa District Council	Waipa, Otorohanga and Waitomo District Councils
Langley Cavers	CEO Hauraki District Council	Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako District Councils
Phillipa Wilson	CEO Franklin District Council	Franklin and Waikato District Councils
Peter Guerin	CEO Rotorua District Council	Rotorua, South Waikato and Taupo District Councils

The initial product developed is a shared valuation database. It is envisaged that the company will continue to develop new products to be made available to the local authorities within the Waikato Region. At the same time, other opportunities may be explored in partnership with local authorities outside the Region to develop new products such as aerial photograph provision, GIS systems and emergency management systems.

Performance Targets

The initial performance targets shown are best estimates and will be reviewed on a year by year basis to ensure that the products being offered continue to provide state of the art and cost effective processes for the shareholders.

The Performance Targets are that:

- All products are to be fully costed including development costs and to be recovered by way of revenue over a maximum of a five year period.
- The company will enter into long term contracts of at least three years duration with each of the participating parties in relationship to any product development so as to ensure the costs of development are spread equitably between the partners and over a realistic time frame.
- Guarantees will be obtained from the participating parties to provide for the capital and cash requirements of the organisation and to ensure that, based on prevailing interest rates, the cost of the development of new products is covered.
- A positive cash flow will be maintained such that the equity ratio is maintained at least 40%.
- Customers will be surveyed annually to ensure that there is at least a 90 percent satisfaction with the services being provided.

ROTORUA REGIONAL AIRPORT LTD

Statement of Intent

Introduction

Rotorua Regional Airport Limited –

- is a limited liability company pursuant to the Companies Act 1993.
- is a Council-controlled Trading Organisation pursuant to Section 6 Local Government Act 2002.

This Statement of Intent –

- is prepared in compliance with Section 64 and the Eighth Schedule of the Local Government Act 2002.
- sets out the objectives and scope of activities proposed to be carried out by the Rotorua Regional Airport Ltd (RRAL) in the 3 year period commencing 1 July 2005.

The Local Government Act 2002 requires that Council-controlled organisations –

- review their Statement of Intent prior to the commencement of each financial year.
- have a financial year ending 30th June each year.

The Eighth Schedule of the Local Government Act states that the purpose of a statement of intent is to -

- state publicly the activities and intentions of a council-controlled organisation for the year and the objectives to which those activities will contribute.
- provide an opportunity for shareholders to influence the direction of the organisation.
- provide a basis for the accountability of the directors to their shareholders for the performance of the organisation.

On 31st July 2002 Rotorua District Council purchased the 50% shareholding in RRAL held by Central Avion Holdings Limited. The Council now holds 100% of the shares in RRAL.

During the 2004-2005 financial year the Infrastructure assets of Rotorua Regional Airport Limited were transferred to the Rotorua District Council. RRAL remains the airport operating company leasing the assets from the company's sole shareholder, Rotorua District Council.

The Rotorua District Council is responsible for the ongoing capital development of the Airport. The operating company's (RRAL's) goals are primarily concerned with optimising the use of the infrastructure.

Mission Statement

"A user friendly, attractive airport 'hub' which meets the regional need for domestic and trans-Tasman airline services and is a safe, commercially viable operation optimising the social and economic benefits to the community shareholder."

Goals

Maintenance of domestic jet services

RRAL will look to facilitate continued jet services.

Establishment of trans-Tasman passenger services

RRAL continues to assist RDC with obtaining the planning consents required to extend the airport runway. RRAL continues to invite airlines to commence trans-Tasman flights as soon as we are able to host them.

An attractive customer friendly airport facility

The Stage one terminal development is complete. The new air conditioned terminal is host to a Robert Harris café and retail area providing all travelers with a great place to visit. RRAL will use local imagery to present a fantastic, positive representation of our wonderful city and region.

Minimum cost and optimum benefit to community shareholder

RRAL has already and will continue to work hard to ensure that long term tenancy agreements maximise the revenue generating capacity of the airport.

Objectives

- Meet the airport needs of the district and region
- Maintain an effective working relationship with the shareholder and landlord
- Meet the needs of the community for growth in aircraft movements and passenger numbers
- Establish scheduled trans-Tasman services
- Operate company as a 'stand alone' commercial business
- Optimise net earnings potential for reinvestment in airport development
- Mitigate adverse effects caused by airport operations and development
- Maintain a safe, secure airport facility
- Provide for general aviation activity consistent with primary purpose of providing for airline passenger services

Strategies

- Maximise revenue potential of terminal expansion – food/beverage, retail, and advertising
- Mitigate adverse effects caused by airport operations and development – noise, dust, flight path clearance
- Facilitate introduction of scheduled and charter services on Rotorua trans-Tasman routes by fostering relationships with airline customers
- Develop and increase existing revenue streams – secure parking, space rental, new services
- Reach compliance with international Civil Aviation Authority security regulations to enhance likelihood of trans-Tasman operations
- Work with RDC to develop parking and roading facilities to enhance the 'look and feel' of the airport facility
- Contribute to initiatives to secure the right to have an international airport servicing Rotorua
- Provide RDC with advice to assist with infrastructure development planning

Governance

The board's approach to governance dictates:

- that the company operate as a legal entity in its own right separate from its shareholder¹
- that all decisions are made by the board of directors² in accordance with the company constitution and statement of intent
- the maintenance of an effective working relationship with the shareholder on issues of strategic importance

Nature and Scope of Activities

The primary nature and scope of activities for the company is to operate an airport at Rotorua.

These activities include:

- Retaining the Civil Aviation Authority Aerodrome Operator Certificate by abiding by the laws and requirements outlined in the Civil Aviation Act.
- Operating a facility suitable for the required use of the public in a safe, lawful and efficient manner.

Over the next three years the company will actively pursue opportunities for passenger and revenue growth. RRAL will endeavour to present the airport facility to all users at a standard which residents and ratepayers can be proud of.

Capital Expenditure Proposals

RRAL capital expenditure will be limited to the budgeted replacement and repair of company owned assets.

Financial Forecasts

The following table forecasts the Company's anticipated financial performance for the three year period ending 30th June 2009. Please note: the financial forecasts contained within this document are based upon the projections of Price Waterhouse in their capacity as financial advisors to Rotorua District Council.

Table 2: Financial Forecasts

Year ending 30 June :	2007	2008	2009
Total revenue	3,848,234	4,380,517	5,141,328
Total expenses	3,701,884	4,229,776	4,986,065
Surplus / deficit before tax	146,350	150,741	155,263
Provision for tax	48,296	49,744	51,236
Surplus / deficit after tax	98,054	100,997	104,027
Term Debt	0	0	0
Total assets (net current liabilities)	994,000	994,000	994,000
Total shareholders' funds	1,094,000	1,094,000	1,094,000
Net profit after tax to average shareholders' funds	9%	9%	9%
Debt equity percentage	0%	0%	0%

¹ Section 15 of the Companies Act 1993 refers

² Section 128 of the Companies Act 1993 and Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2002 refer

Performance Targets

The company will report to the shareholders on the following performance indicators:

- The ratio of net profit before and after tax/interest/revaluations (before extraordinary items) to average shareholder funds
- The ratio of net profit before and after tax/interest/revaluations to average total assets (including revaluations, net current liabilities).
- Interest cover ratio

Table 3: Performance Indicators

Year ending 30 June :	FORECAST		
	2007	2008	2009
Return on Shareholders Funds (after tax and interest)	7%	7%	7%
Return on Average Shareholders Funds (before tax and interest)	10%	10%	10%

Capital Structure

The Capital Structure is comprised of 1,000 \$1 shares owned by Rotorua District Council.

Dividend Policy

The company's policy prior to Council purchasing a 100% shareholding has been to distribute by way of dividend to shareholders 40% of net profit after tax provided where it is prudent to do so.

The shareholder has waived its right to require RRAL to pay a dividend provided that the company invests an equivalent amount into airport development.

Shareholders' Funds/Assets

Table 2 shows total projected shareholders' funds.

Shareholders' funds include share capital and reserves.

Assets include current assets and non-current assets which comprise fixed assets at historical cost and amortised over the expected life of the asset and deferred taxation.

Debt : Equity Ratio

The company aims to maintain a debt equity percentage below 40 – 45%.

Interest Cover

The company aims to have an interest cover above 2.

Acquisition of Shares

The company will not subscribe for, purchase, or otherwise acquire shares in any company or other organisation without first being authorised to do so by a special resolution of shareholders.

Shareholder Information

The company will provide shareholders with information on its current and future activities at a level sufficient for shareholders to assess the performance of the company against its objectives.

The company will endeavour to disclose as much information on its operation as is practicable and consistent with commercial and confidentiality considerations. As a minimum this will involve:

- Half Yearly:
Compliance with Section 66 Local Government Act 2002 including -
 - a year-to-date unaudited statement of profit and loss compared with budget and result for the same period of the previous year.
 - balance sheet at the end of the period
 - statement of source and application of funds
 - updated performance indicators
 - narrative on major developments, trends, and any revisions to financial forecasts in the light of performance which will be the subject of discussions with the shareholders
- Annual:
Compliance with Sections 67 and 68 Local Government Act 2002 including -
 - annual report and accounts
 - budget for coming year
- As Necessary:
 - details of any new developments not covered in the annual budget and Statement of Intent.
 - any other information justifiably sought by the shareholder

Compensation

Except for shareholder advances, the board is not proposing any activities for which it would seek compensation from any local authority¹

¹ Clause 9(j) of the Eighth Schedule of the Local Government Act 2002 refers

Company Valuation

The book value of shareholders' funds as at 30th June 2005 was:

Shares:

Rotorua District Council (100%)	\$1,000
Total Book Value of Shares	\$1,000

Capital Reserve and Retained Earnings: \$ 1,093,309

The value of the company's assets at 30th of June 2005 was:

Asset Type	\$	Basis
Land	0	Valuation
Improvements	0	Valuation
Plant & equipment	\$233,199	Book Value

Accounting Policies

Accounting policies will be consistent with legal requirements in the Companies Act and generally accepted accounting standards as promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand modified as necessary for the circumstances of the company.

Auditors

Section 70 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that Council-controlled Organisations be audited by the Auditor General.

Public Notification

The Act requires that any completed statement of intent and each modification adopted must be made available to the public within 1 month after the date on which it is delivered to the shareholders or adopted, as the case may be.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Introduction

This report provides some insight into the practices and processes that we follow to ensure Council is a good employer and one of the highest performing local authorities in New Zealand.

NRB Survey

Council staff have consistently maintained a high performance rating by residents. In 2005 some 70% of the residents rated the staff performance at very or fairly good. Staff have continued to be rated by residents above their peer group nationally.

Staff Development

As with all local authorities this Council has a wide range of career paths on offer with work places ranging from a labourer/driver, to planner, to engineer through to chief executive.

The Council does its best to encourage both professional and personal development by identifying individual training requirements through the Performance Development Review process (P.D.R).

The Challenge is an Australian competition in which New Zealand Local Authorities compete. The Challenge is a contest of "Management Teams" of 6 people from Councils who address a range of issues based on a theme.

The N.Z. winner of the Challenge then competes against the winner of each Australian state in an Australasian final. To date the Council has used the Challenge as a leadership training exercise and selects the team with this in mind, together with the willingness of staff to take part, rather than basing selection purely on maximising our chances of winning.

Health and Safety

We are focused on a safe working environment and continue to strive to improve the overall health and safety record of our operations including those contractors and other organisations that we work with. Our Health & Safety record continues to improve each year. Occupational Safety & Health Inspectors continue to acknowledge that Council is very good at proactively ensuring that staff work in a safe environment.

Staff Numbers

The total number of staff employed by Council for the period ending 30 December 2005 was 465 full time equivalents. Staffing levels are anticipated to remain similar over the next 10 years.

Staff Support Systems

Council has a number of initiatives to support staff health and well-being. One of the initiatives most used is the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) which provides staff with an independent counselling service for both work and personal issues that are impacting on their work performance or have the potential to.

Free flu injections are also provided for staff as are Hepatitis injections for those staff working in Waste Water Reticulation activities. Ongoing hearing tests are also provided for staff working in noisy work sites.

Subsidised school holiday programmes for children of staff are also provided and have proven to be very popular.

Managing Diversity

Te Waka Awhina O Aotearoa was established in 1991 and is an annual national conference that exists to provide appropriate and timely training for Maori within local and regional government to discuss, debate and learn about the various social, economic and political issues that impact on Maori. It is also a vehicle for establishing a national Maori network for Maori involved in local and regional government.

The 2003 Conference was hosted for the first time by our Council. As well as participating, our staff played a central role in organising the hui with a number also attending. Annual participation in te Waka Awhina is one example of how Council manages diversity in the workplace.

Council is committed to making sure that staff at all work sites within Council have the same opportunities to contribute to, and share in, the successes.

Other initiatives that have been implemented for managing diversity are:

- Cultural Awareness Programmes
- Te Reo and Tikanga Maori – Maori language and customs workshops

Remuneration Committee

Council has a Remuneration Committee made up of the Chief Executive, job analyst, three staff members elected 'at large' and one Union nominated representative from the Public Service Association.

Equal Employment Opportunities Policy and Programme

Rotorua District Council is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in the recruitment, employment, training and promotion of its employees and has a stated policy to this effect. This commitment is not only because of legal (Local Government Act) and moral obligations, but also because EEO makes good business sense. EEO is about good management practices; it is about valuing and encouraging diversity; about developing our human resource and about attracting the best people to our jobs. As such, Rotorua District Council will implement a purposeful programme of action to ensure its activities and services are carried out with an awareness of, and an intent to eliminate discrimination in the areas of race, colour, ethnic origin, gender, religion, marital status, family responsibilities, age, people with disabilities, political opinion and sexual orientation.

SUMMARY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Summary

The Waste Management Plan was prepared under the Local Government Amendment Act (No. 4) and incorporates the provisions of that Act.

A copy of the full plan is available from the Engineering Department of Council.

This Waste Management Plan is focused around the following key principles:

Integrated Waste Management

To manage waste in accordance with the recognised hierarchy of:

- Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Recovery
- Treatment
- Disposal

Education / Consultation

To develop and implement this Plan seeking maximum input from the community, and to inform and educate regarding methods of achieving the objectives of this Plan.

Environmental Protection

To ensure that the processes employed in implementing this Plan are carried out in a manner that poses the minimum risk to the environment and the health and safety of the community.

Funding and Incentives

To ensure that, as far as practical, the cost of managing wastes are applied to the generators of those wastes, so that waste production is not subsidised by the rest of the community and to provide incentives for reduced waste generation.

Services and Implementation

For effective and efficient delivery of services, activities described in this Plan shall be undertaken either by Council or by contract to Council, at the discretion of the Council.

Bylaws

At various times Council may implement Bylaws to achieve the objectives of this Plan.

SUMMARY OF WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES ASSESSMENT

1. Introduction

The Local Government Act 2002, Part 7, Subpart 1 requires the Rotorua District Council to make assessments of water and sanitary services available to communities within the District.

Water services includes water supply, sewerage and stormwater, and **sanitary services** includes public conveniences, cemeteries and crematoria. Solid waste services are not included under this assessment.

2. Definition of Community

In defining the communities to be assessed it was decided that communities for the purposes of this assessment should not necessarily be geographical in nature, but could be based on areas or groups of people of a common need. Together, the communities cover the whole district, its residents and visitors.

3. Water Supply

3.1 Urban and Rural RDC supplies

The urban area of Rotorua is serviced by the Urban Water Supply comprising the Central, Ngongotaha and Eastern zones. Extensive information on water services is provided in the Asset Management Plan for the supply. The same applies to the Rural supplies which are Mamaku, Rotoiti, Rotoma, Kaharoa, Reporoa, Hamurana and Okareka.

No risks due to the absence of a water supply are identified, although it is recognised that improvements are necessary in a number of areas to comply with the Drinking Water Standards for NZ (DWSNZ) 2000 and the proposed DWSNZ 2005. Budgets are already allocated for Protozoa treatment over the next two years. Public Health Risk Management Plans as required by the impending Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act will also identify and minimise other risks.

3.2 Rural Farming, Residential and Work/Accommodation/Education

Information on services to each property has never been collated, nor is it cost-effective to do so. However, some existing information has been sourced, and a survey of all inhabited rural properties was carried out. This survey had a 49% response rate.

3.3 Demands, Options and Council's Intended Role

The following current and future (potential) demands have been assessed from the information assembled:

- treatment for Arsenic where present in groundwater
- alternatives to lake water sources
- extension of the Reporoa supply to some properties at Mihi
- possible demand due to development in the Rotorua Eastern Suburbs
- possible industrial development in the Waipa Valley
- improvements for Kaingaroa Village
- promotion from Health Authorities of Fluoride adjustment

Options to meet these demands include:

- Council-initiated and run water supplies, either utilising consultants and contractors or by own forces, or a combination of the two. This is only likely to be viable in more densely-populated areas.
- private bores or small clusters of houses on one bore, dependent on groundwater quality and availability.
- roof-sourced water, using modern collection and storage systems which can significantly improve water quality.
- consideration of benefits, public opinion and technical information related to Fluoridation.

Council's role in meeting these demands

- regulator to ensure compliance with the Building Act.
- educator/facilitator, in the case of properties seeking individual solutions.
- monitor/information gathered on water quality to further ascertain demands for physical services.
- where services are required, infrastructure and service provider as appropriate.

4. Wastewater

4.1 Urban

The Urban area of Rotorua is serviced by the Rotorua Urban Wastewater Scheme. This is managed according to Council's Asset Management Plan and Environment Bay of Plenty Resource consent, and poses no significant risk to health or the environment.

4.2 Rural

The remainder of the District is served almost exclusively by septic tanks. In most of the more sparsely populated rural areas there are few issues with disposal of wastewater.

However, there are a number of localities (mostly adjacent to lakes), where contamination of groundwater and lake water poses serious health and environmental risks.

Council is also proposing to provide sewerage reticulation for most lakeside communities within the next ten years, and will review quality issues in several other localities in more detail to ascertain the need for improvements in service.

Council has already considered a number of options, responsibilities and roles to deal with these risks, and is planning the construction of sewerage schemes over the next ten years for the communities:

- Mourea/Okawa Bay
- Brunswick/Rotokawa
- Okareka
- Okere/Otaramarae
- Gisborne Point/Hinehopu
- Hamurana
- Tarawera
- Rotoma

5. Stormwater

5.1 Urban and Rural

Rotorua District is well-served by a well-maintained network of pipes, channels and natural watercourses, utilising as much as possible the natural contour of the land. The network is designed to protect dwellings from a flood with a probability of 0.02 (1 in 50 year flood) and land from a flood with a probability of 0.1 (1 in 10 year flood).

Council has undertaken detailed analysis of the composition and impact of its major stormwater discharges and found these to be minor.

6. Cemeteries

Council maintains and manages 5 cemeteries in the District. These are Rotorua and Kauae in the city; and Reporoa, Mamaku and Ngakuru.

These are managed according to relevant laws and regulations, and comprehensive records are kept and no public health or environmental risks have been identified with cemetery services.

Council is currently investigating options for use of Council reserve land or purchase of a suitable block for provision for burials for the next 100 years.

7. Crematorium

Council operates one Crematorium which services the District, located in the grounds of the Rotorua Cemetery.

The operation is strictly controlled by well-documented operations and maintenance procedures, and there are no issues related to future demand.

8. Public Toilets

Council has 13 public toilets in the CBD and 49 located in various Urban and Rural reserves throughout the District. These are subject to maintenance contracts and service standards, and no public health issues are evident.

Council has a policy in place which will provide for future demand, based on community usage.

A copy of the full Water and Sanitary Services Assessment is available from the Engineering Department of Council.