

WELL-BEING STATEMENTS



The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02) provides a new planning framework for councils, however, this does not mean that existing processes and plans automatically become obsolete or redundant. In addition to ensuring new processes are consistent with the LGA02 framework, existing processes also need to be aligned where possible and reviewed if they are inconsistent.


In order to ensure that Community Outcomes can give direction to Council policy, plans and strategies and be translated into actions, Council is developing Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural (SEEC) Statements. It is anticipated that these statements will give coherence to the different planning processes undertaken and also ensure that Council's public policy is robustly consulted on every three years when the Ten Year Plan is reviewed.

The adoption of SEEC Statements is likely to have benefits in such areas as reinforcing the District Plan by ensuring that key policies are developed through the relevant SEEC statement and then included in the Ten Year Plan which must be adopted using a public consultation process.

This approach will make the Ten Year Plan a cornerstone document that reflects Council's high level policy approach in all spheres of well-being. Guiding policy contained in the plan can be reviewed and validated every three years and thus drive amendments or new policy development in plans and strategies. An additional benefit will be closer linkages to policy direction and resource allocation as both will be contained in the plan.

Much of the information needed for the draft statements has been developed through, or in conjunction with, other strategic work being undertaken by Council such as the District Plan review and the Bright Economy strategy. The statements are not implementation documents that will govern day to day operations, but will provide managers and elected members a clear understanding of key issues in each well-being area along with a guide on Council's approach to promoting social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.

It is anticipated that over time the statements will be reviewed and refined to ensure that council plans and strategies continue to have a sustainable development approach that is appropriate for the Rotorua district. This will also ensure priorities are set that help to promote the community's identified outcomes.



SOCIAL WELL-BEING STATEMENT

“A safe and caring community”

“A healthy community”

“A community with excellent facilities and services”

“A learning community”

The community outcomes that relate to social well-being¹ reflect the importance of Rotorua’s social assets to the people who live in the district and to those who visit. These assets include:

- Strong networks of not-for-profit/community/voluntary sector agencies.
- Health agencies (public, private, not-for-profit, Maori) working together to promote the health of Rotorua’s people.
- Presence of Health Rotorua – low cost access Primary Health Organisation.
- Ongoing and active intersectoral relationships/collaboration on projects with a community/social and safety focus.
- Partnerships in place and being developed to address skill requirements and facilitate youth transition into the workforce.
- Support for elderly (e.g. RDC’s pensioner housing, retirement villages and rest homes, HNZA houses....)
- Being a regional base for a range of Central Government agencies, e.g. Ministry of Social Development, Child Youth and Family, Police, Tertiary Education Commission, Te Puni Kokiri.
- Presence of Rotorua Public Hospital and other hospitals in Rotorua.
- A range of educational opportunities for young people; early childhood education options, primary, secondary schools plus Waiariki Institute of Technology and Rotorua School for Young Parents.
- Strength of Te Arawa as Tangata Whenua.
- Presence of Rotorua Trust as a funder of social initiatives.
- Support of community development in a sustainable way.
- An extensive network of parks, reserves and recreation facilities.

The Local Government Act (2002) provides for Rotorua District Council to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of local communities, both now and in the future. This follows the sustainable development approach which is defined as “.. development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

¹ Social Well-being – This encompasses factors that enable individuals, their families, hapu and communities to set goals and achieve them – these include factors such as education, health, the strength of the community networks and associations, financial and personal security, rights and freedoms and levels of equity. Local Government NZ [Local Government Act 2002: An Overview 2003](#) pg 5

Achieving sustainable development involves a different way of thinking and working. It requires:

- looking after people.
- taking the long term view.
- taking account of the social, economic, environmental and cultural effects of our decisions.
- encouraging participation and partnerships.

(Source: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (January 2003) Sustainable Development for NZ: Programme of Action)

Council’s vision is:

To provide excellence in leadership and sustainable community services that improves quality of life for residents and ensure a world-class experience for visitors (LTCCP 2004-2014).

This social well-being statement sets out the ways in which Council will contribute to achievement of Rotorua’s Community Outcomes.

Social Outcomes

1. Knowledge and skills
2. Social connectedness
3. Health – personal and public
4. Civic and political rights
5. Community safety
6. Education
7. Employment opportunities
8. Support for families
9. High standard of living

1. Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge and skills enhance people’s ability to meet their basic needs, widen the range of options to them in every sphere of life and enable them to influence the direction their lives take. The skills people possess can also enhance people’s sense of self-worth, security and belonging.

Knowledge and skills include not only education and training but also abilities gained through work and daily life.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p34

The challenge is to make knowledge and skills available for each individual in our community.

Rotorua District Council is working in this area through:

- Actively addressing youth in transition and pathways to employment through collaborative relationships with stakeholders.

- Collaboration with organisations to ensure equality of access to educational opportunities for people living in Rotorua.
- Providing access to information and knowledge through a variety of print and other media.
- The presence of Rotorua Museum which tells stories about times and this place.
- Provision of facilities and programmes for people to develop skills e.g. swimming, sports, arts, physical activity.
- Implementation of RDC Employment Skills Strategy.

- Monitoring Rotorua social and cultural trends and keeping Council and the community informed.
- Facilitating community consultation, research and activities around social and cultural issues as directed by Council.
- Acknowledgement of those involved in voluntary/unpaid work.
- Collaboration to improve and increase access to information and communication technology.
- Provision of safe, well designed public spaces for people to use and interact in.

2. Social Connectedness

Social connectedness refers to the relationships people have with others and people's sense of belonging in the community. Social connectedness is integral to well-being. People are defined by their social roles, whether as partners, parents, children friends, caregivers, team-mates, staff or employers, or a myriad of other roles. Relationships give people support, happiness, contentment and a sense they belong and have a role to play in society. They also mean people have support networks in place that they can call on for help during hard times.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p 114

Rotorua has increasing numbers of older people and a greater proportion of young people than the national demographic profile. Opportunities for social connectedness allow people of the Rotorua District to develop a sense of belonging and of working together to achieve shared goals.

Rotorua District Council is developing and maintaining social connectedness through:

- Consideration of the needs of groups of people e.g. children & young people, elderly, people with disabilities as the district develops.
- Provision of information and support to the people of the district through a range of media.
- Support of community and sustainable development.
- Effective management of resources and services which enhance community well-being e.g. rural community halls, pensioner housing and community assistance policies.
- Sharing of public celebrations.
- Families/whanau supporting and nurturing their members.
- Facilitating and planning events, activities & services relevant to Council priorities e.g. Anzac Day/Santa Parade/Mardi Gras, databases, Civil Defence.
- Advising Council on social policy issues and matters in support of Council's advocacy and leadership roles.
- Collaboration with Central Government e.g. Ministry of Social Development.
- Contracts with not-for-profit social service organisations e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau, Rotorua Social Services Council.
- Implementation of a youth policy and youth action plan.
- Supporting the NZ Positive Ageing Strategy.

3. Health – Personal and Public

Good health is critical to well-being. Without good health, people are less able to enjoy their lives to the fullest extent, their options are limited and their general levels of contentment and happiness are likely to be reduced. Good health has two core dimensions: how long people live and the quality of their lives.

MSD The Social Report p 22

Health encompasses many dimensions – these include social, mental, spiritual and emotional aspects.

Increasing attention is being given to the interaction between socio-economic factors and health outcomes.

Good health means ensuring that people living in the Rotorua District Council area have access to health and support services.

Rotorua District Council achieves this by:

- Providing facilities and programmes for active living.
- Good quality urban design that fosters active living.
- Providing Pensioner Housing units for older persons who meets RDC criteria.
- Working with partners at a regional level to achieve Sport and Recreation NZ objectives.
- Working with local partners towards "Healthy Communities- Mauriora"/ NZ Positive Ageing Strategy.
- Providing regulatory control and monitoring of food outlets, noise and animal control, building services.
- Developing and monitoring the impact of gambling and alcohol in our community.
- Providing high quality drinking water and treatment of sewerage in urban and all rural lakes communities.
- Regulating development to prevent negative effects on health.
- Providing appropriate burial and cremation services.

4. Civic and Political Rights

The engagement of civil and political rights is crucial to people's ability to participate in society, make choices about their lives and live with dignity.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p 72

Rotorua District Council is working in this area through:

- Encouraging young people to have a voice.
- Provision of opportunities for people within the Rotorua district to participate in decision making on RDC activities and plans.
- Facilitation of three yearly local authority elections.
- Encouraging participation in local and national elections.

5. Community Safety

Safety is fundamental to well-being: at their most extreme, violence and avoidable injuries threaten life itself. In other cases, they reduce the quality of life for the victim and other people in a multitude of ways. Both safety and security are important. Safety is freedom from physical or emotional harm, while security is freedom from the threat of fear of harm or danger.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p 104

The desired outcome is that all people enjoy physical safety and feel secure. People are free from victimisation, abuse, violence and avoidable injury.

Rotorua District Council is addressing this by:

- Collaborating with other stakeholders to work towards WHO Safer Community Accreditation.
- Implementing a crime prevention plan.
- Working closely with key stakeholders on community safety projects.
- Undertaking an annual Perceptions of Safety Survey.
- Encourage and apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Consideration of public safety at community events.
- Provision of animal control services.
- Application of safety principle transport network design.
- Support for Drivewise – Road Safety Programmes.

6. Education

Those with relatively few educational qualifications are more likely to be unemployed and, on average, have lower incomes when in work. This affects not only the economic standard of living people are able to enjoy but also their security and ability to make choices about their lives.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p 34

Evidence from New Zealand and international research shows that the early years of childhood are vital to a child's development and future ability to learn. Quality early childhood programmes prepare young children socially, physically and academically for entry into primary education and can help narrow the achievement gap between children from low-income families and those from more advantaged families.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p 36

Participation in early childhood education in the Rotorua District is slightly below average at 92.0% compared to the national average of 95.2%. European students are more

likely to have attended early childhood education services than Maori or Pacific children.

*MSD BOP Social Report Indicators p 1
Territorial Authority Results*

Education means ensuring that people living and working in the Rotorua District have access to opportunities for educational activities. Rotorua District Council is:

- Collaborating with local partners on educational initiatives/resources.
- Maintaining relationships with secondary and tertiary educational institutions.
- Encouraging the pursuit of excellence by administering the Young Achievers Award programme.
- Taking an active leadership role in educational issues e.g. establishment of Rotorua School for Young Parents and Rotorua District Truancy Action Plan.
- Monitoring of participation and achievement in formal education.
- Provision of land to assist with provision of early childhood facilities.

7. Employment Opportunities

Paid work has an important role in social well-being by providing people with incomes to meet their basic needs and to contribute to their material comfort as well as by giving them options for how they live their lives. Paid work is also important for the social contact and sense of self-worth or satisfaction it can give people.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p46

Rotorua District Council will maintain and protect employment opportunities by:-

- Working with local and national partners.
- Implementation of RDC Employment Skills Strategy.
- Enabling migrants to move to and be sustained in our communities.
- Monitoring of employment related statistics.
- Working with local and national partners towards employment for young people 15-17yrs.
- Implementing the Rotorua Tourism Strategy and Bright Futures Strategy.

8. Support for Families

Social connectedness is fostered when family relationships are positive, and when people have the skills and opportunities to make friends and to interact constructively with others.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p114

Groups of people provide the support for children and young people in our communities. These groups provide opportunities for interacting and learning life and relationship skills. Healthy relationships contribute to the overall health of individuals. The ability to relate to well to others requires the adult who does these things, to be treated well as a child.

Rotorua District Council supports families by:

- Working with local and national partners to support children and families.
- Researching and sharing information about children and families.
- Providing facilities/events/services that cater for the needs of children and families e.g. playgrounds, swimming pools, parks and reserves, walkways and BBQs.
- Provision of rates relief for religious organisations.

9. High Standard of Living

Long lasting low family income in childhood is associated with negative outcomes such as lower educational attainment and poor health.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p 64

The standard of living of individuals and families refers to their ability to choose where they live, what they buy and whether they have money to spend. Food, clothing and housing are basic to social well-being. The presence of extremes of incomes can cause social disconnections across communities. Insufficient economic resources restrict people's quality of life.

Access to affordable and safe and un-crowded housing for residents enhances community well-being.

Rotorua District Council (RDC) endeavours to maintain a high quality of life for people in its district. A high quality of life allows people to participate fully in society and to have choices in their lives.

RDC achieves this by:

- Working with local and national partners towards improving quality of life for people in the Rotorua District.
- Contracting with Social Service organisations who support people in our communities.
- Working with partners on housing initiatives.
- Provide opportunities for economic growth via Economic Development Unit.
- Monitoring and researching social well-being e.g. Deprivation Index to facilitate Council decision making.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING STATEMENT

Context

“A prosperous Rotorua community”

Where people and businesses are motivated to be successful; jobs are created and rewards are shared.
He Iwi Whanui tenei e kokiri whakamua ana I roto inga take
Houkura

“The Rotorua community is keenly engaged in building a prosperous future for its people. Key elements to enhancing and creating wealth include:

- Innovative & dynamic leadership
- Thriving, engaged and fulfilled community – “owning their future”
- Recognition that Tangata Whenua has been and will continue to be key and influential contributors
- Growth in population and business
- Innovative business and support for existing business activities
- Knowledge production and commercialisation
- Value added and high value opportunities are pursued across all key sectors

The Rotorua experience is fundamental to achieving a prosperous future and is based on the unique combination of geothermal activity, landscapes, lakes and culture, underpinned by the concept of Manaakitanga. This will result in Rotorua being a stimulating and highly desirable place to live, work, invest, do business and play.

Rotorua is a leader in key sectors and is an integral part of the dynamic & fast growing Bay of Plenty economy, with a sharing of and an ability to capitalise on opportunities as they arise.”

Rotorua BrightEconomy Strategy “Leading Prosperity Naturally”

The BrightEconomy Strategy a Rotorua economic development framework aimed at creating future wealth and prosperity for our people has been developed over a period of the past eighteen months through a number of public and more targeted business community focussed consultation processes. The strategy has been developed to provide a framework from an economic perspective, to create future wealth and prosperity for the people of Rotorua.

The ideas and opinions that local people have put forward, throughout this process have been incorporated into the strategy which has formed the basis for this Economic Statement.

They provide a good indication of the economical outcomes that matter to the people of Rotorua, and highlight the areas

where Rotorua needs to focus its attention now and in the future.

Rotorua’s Economic Focus

The following five themes provide the basis to grow the economy, create future wealth and enhance the Rotorua quality of life.

1. Adding Value to the Economy
2. Dynamic Place
3. Business Environment
4. Education and Skills
5. Building Networks and Growing Capacity

1. Adding Value to the Economy

Tourism, forestry and agriculture are all very important to the Rotorua economy. This theme is about **deepening** the economy to extend opportunities in these sectors, by creating high value-added niches. Examples include the health spa and environmental tourism niches within the visitor industry. There is also huge potential in wood processing and niche wood product manufacturing. Rotorua must look to overseas markets if it is to capitalise on these opportunities. The proximity to the Port of Tauranga, the nation’s largest export port, provides the region with a significant competitive advantage for exporting. A culture of innovation within business will be needed to make these leaps. This theme is also about **broadening** the economy by encouraging the ongoing development of other sectors. This will help make the economy more robust and reduce the impact of the seasonal effects associated with tourism, forestry and agriculture. Retailing, health and education are all examples of sectors that have grown in the last ten years and it will be important to continue to broaden the base. Incubation of new business will assist the growth of new and emerging sectors.

The development of high value added business is a significant focus for this strategy and will be achieved by:

- Encouraging and promoting tourism/retailing to increase share of visitor expenditure.
- Developing value added forestry and wood processing opportunities.
- Supporting emerging economic activities.
- Encouraging sustainable land uses and reflecting this in other strategies, so economic and environmentally appropriate uses occur.
- Promoting and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Promoting the concept of ‘wealth creation’ and creating an environment that encourages this.
- Establishing and maintaining successful relationships between the business community and the media, with

the collaborative focus on building the Rotorua community.

- Optimising the sustainable use and value of geothermal resources.
- Maximising economic contribution of cultural and recreational attractions and events.

2. Dynamic Place

Rotorua has long been a major visitor destination for both international and domestic visitors. The combination of unique natural attractions, diverse recreational opportunities, cultural tourism products, and a stunning setting give Rotorua its **competitive edge**. New Zealand is currently experiencing strong international tourism growth however regions are increasingly competing vigorously for the visitor dollar. To maintain its edge Rotorua must continually evaluate, protect, and innovate to extend and improve what it has to offer. For example, the district may be able to attract more major events. Protecting the quality of the natural environment is critical.

A dynamic place is important not only to attract visitors but to help attract and retain people to live in Rotorua. **Lifestyle** factors are increasingly being recognised as critically important to attracting talented entrepreneurs and skilled workers. The community has identified, through the community outcome process, that it wants to be a **“happening community”** – an exciting place with lots of activities and events, where people welcome diversity and are inspired by creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

This theme is about making these things happen for Rotorua people. In addition as water quality issues are addressed, a need will exist to encourage the transformation of land uses to sustainable activities. Changing land-use patterns will open up opportunities for rural lifestyle living, which could act as another people attractor.

To ensure Rotorua is a dynamic place, Council will work with others to:

- Enhance Rotorua’s competitive edge as a visitor, living and business destination.
- Continue to offer high quality community facilities and recreational opportunities.
- Continue to revitalize central business district.
- Attract and retain skilled labor by offering unique mix of lifestyle opportunities.

3. Business Environment

This theme is about establishing an environment in which sustainable economic development can occur. It is about removing external barriers to **business competitiveness** by ensuring that infrastructure is capable of meeting business needs and that sufficient serviced land is available in the right location. New Zealand as a whole has enjoyed a sustained period of economic growth which is now being threatened by bottlenecks such as power supply constraints and

inadequate roading infrastructure. An example for Rotorua is the need for better infrastructure for power distribution.

Rotorua’s basic infrastructure is relatively sound however there is also an opportunity to use investment in infrastructure strategically to create economic opportunities for the district. New development at Pyes Pa opens up the possibility of a growth corridor between the western Bay and Rotorua. This would allow Rotorua people to share some of the economic benefits from rapid growth in the Bay. Investment in improving transport links between Rotorua and Tauranga, and in servicing new residential, lifestyle and industrial land along this corridor could be the catalysts for a “twin city” relationship to be developed.

This theme is also about decision makers and the wider community understanding and addressing the needs of the economy. For example it is about having a regulatory framework (especially a district plan) which aligns with business aspirations, whilst protecting environmental bottom lines. Conversely it is about encouraging businesses to make their contribution and to undertake private investment to maintain a high quality business environment.

To ensure a competitive business environment it will be important to:

- Take advantage of the significant level of growth occurring in the western Bay of Plenty by capitalizing on the opportunities it provides.
- Upgrade transport links between Rotorua, adjacent areas and other regions.
- Ensure the Economic Development Statement is supported in the both the district plan and the RDC’s rating policy.
- Promote private investment in commercial areas.
- Support and work with the Tangata Whenua landowners so they can appropriately, use land in multiple ownership and realise its potential.
- Provide coordinated and co-located business support services and training, access to venture capital and other incubation services.
- Encourage research and development.

4. Education and Skills

Another bottleneck acting as a brake on national and local economic growth is a lack of skilled workers to fill vacancies across many sectors. This is the result of an extremely low national unemployment rate of 4% - the second lowest after Korea in the OECD. Rotorua is facing a major challenge in that it experiencing both skill shortages and an unemployment rate of 8% which is double the national rate. In addition Maori unemployment is running at about 17% which is nearly double the national unemployment rate for Maori.

The approach being taken across New Zealand to address skill shortages is a local one – undertaking analysis to determine the needs of the local economy, and bringing together all the relevant government and private agencies to

put in place a plan to **up-skill** the labour force (current and future).

This theme is about reinforcing this approach in Rotorua, at the same time as encouraging skilled workers to remain in the region. It is also about finding ways to assist unemployed people to acquire the education and skills they need to find jobs – and therefore to become **productive** members of the community. Encouraging the development of entrepreneurial skills through business incubation is another key area. Sound policy relating to these areas has already been developed through the Rotorua Employment Skills Strategy. Key aspects of this strategy have been integrated into the overall Economic Development Strategy.

Within the district, education and skills action areas will include the following:

- Develop partnerships to address skill requirements.
- Improve qualification levels and literacy/numeracy of school leavers.
- Facilitate youth transition to workforce.
- Encourage industry to support work place training.
- Use destination marketing to attract and retain skilled staff people and assimilation of people into the Rotorua community.
- Expand tertiary opportunities.
- Assist people involved in business start-ups to acquire necessary skills to enable successful commercialization of innovative ideas.
- Mentoring secondary school student in business practices, work ethics and attitudes.

growth and investment that is being experienced in nearby locations.

Another important aspect of this strategy is ensuring that there is an alignment between central government policy and local priorities – for example in areas such as tourism marketing. This will require more dialogue between central government, local government and local business.

As part of networking and building capacity it will be important that:

- Agencies are in place, with agreed resources and responsibilities to implement strategy.
- Rotorua District Council and business community provide leadership in economic development.
- There is effective advocacy to central government so that it responds to the needs and priorities of the district.
- The district works with Taupo, Whakatane, Waikato, Eastern and Western Bay to expand and optimize economic opportunities.
- The use of economic analysis tools for evaluating “dynamic community initiatives” is investigated.

5. Building Networks and Growing Capacity

To ensure that this strategy is implemented, Rotorua needs strong, well-connected groups and organisations representing different sectors and stakeholders, and **working together** to achieve an agreed set of outcomes. This theme involves developing the structures, partnerships and networks that will produce results across the entire strategy. While Rotorua has some sector and cluster groups – for example representing tourism and retailing, a local Chamber of Commerce, and some Maori economic development groups, they are relatively fragmented. In addition some groups are insufficiently resourced, and there is limited shared history of **ongoing collaboration** to achieve a common vision and grow competitive advantage. In particular many of these initiatives will require public and private sector partnerships.

This theme is about putting in place the structures and mechanisms that will address these issues, including a dedicated funding source. **Compelling leadership** from the business community and the Council will make this happen for the benefit of Rotorua people. It is also about developing better linkages outside the district – especially with Tauranga, western and eastern bay, Taupo, Waikato and Auckland. These linkages are critical because they will provide the opportunity for Rotorua to leverage off significant

ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING STATEMENT

*“A community that respects its environment”
“A healthy community”
“A safe and caring community”*

1. Freshwater Sustainability

Water resources play a vital role in our lives. Freshwater sustainability means ensuring that people living and working Rotorua District have access to clean water for drinking, household and other purposes, such as commercial and recreational use. In Rotorua District there are many challenges to our ability to protect our freshwater resources, including the ongoing need to restore the water quality of the Rotorua Lakes. It is likely that the allocation of freshwater resources, and ensuring access to these, will emerge as a key issue in the future as Council seeks to secure adequate water supplies for the community.

The sustainable use of freshwater resources will be achieved by:

- Continuing to work with Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Te Arawa Maori Trust Board to implement the *Rotorua Lakes Protection & Restoration Action Programme*.
- Putting in place strategies, networks and Lake Action Plans that will enable us to meet the goals of the *Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua District*.
- Working closely with our Regional Council partners to ensure that our approach to the management of freshwater resources is coherent and sustainable through shared strategic planning and management plans including:
 - *EBOP Regional Water & Land Plan*
 - *EBOP On-Site Effluent Treatment Plan*
 - *EBOP Regional Plan for the Tarawera River Catchment*
- Ensuring that environmental management of freshwater resources at Council level is informed by the growing body of research relating to lakes water quality.
- Supporting programmes that encourage the retention / enhancement / restoration of riparian vegetation and wetland areas to reduce both nutrient and sediment run-off into our lakes and waterways.
- Developing infrastructure in accordance with Council's *Water & Waste Water Strategy*, including the cost-effective provision of wastewater treatment facilities and storm-water drainage systems.

- Continuing to work towards securing access to sufficient freshwater resources to meet the needs of the local community, through partnership and negotiation with local landowners.
- Recognising the particular cultural and traditional associations of local iwi with specific areas of water within the District, and to continue to provide opportunities for tangata whenua to be involved in the management of freshwater resources.

2. Sustainable Waste Management

Every community produces waste, and in Rotorua District over 100,000 tonnes of waste is produced in a typical year. This includes waste from Council's operations (such as litter collections), domestic and commercial refuse, and sewage sludge from Council's wastewater treatment plant. The key component of Council's waste disposal system at present is the landfill site, which incorporates a landfill gas generator. Rotorua District Council has a commitment to recycling, demonstrated by the busy Recycling Centre, which was recently upgraded and expanded, and is visited by over 300 cars every day, with over 1300 tonnes of materials being recycled each year.

Sustainable waste management means giving careful consideration to both the production and disposal of waste, and applying the principal of 'Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle' whenever possible. Council is doing this by:

- Reviewing the *RDC Solid Waste Management Plan* to provide a coherent strategic approach to waste management in Rotorua District that is broadly in line with national strategies such as the *New Zealand Waste Strategy* and the relevant Regional Council policies.
- Providing efficient, cost-effective waste collection services which are accessible across the District, including rural areas through the availability of Rural Transfer Stations.
- Continuing to manage the landfill site in a way that ensures that its operation does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment and that it provides a cost-effective waste disposal option over the duration of its operation.
- Continuing to provide facilities for recycling of a wide range of materials at the Recycling Centre, and to educate the public about the benefits of reducing, re-using and recycling waste.
- Ensuring that robust systems are in place to deal with the disposal of potentially hazardous and offensive

waste products, including domestic, commercial and farm wastes, such as used oil and batteries.

- Staying aware of new technologies which may, in the future, enable the development of innovative 'Waste-to-Energy' solutions for waste disposal in Rotorua District, and working with potential partners such as SCION (Forest Research) or other TLAs to pursue any viable options.

3. Geothermal Resources

Rotorua's geothermal resources contribute strongly to the unique sense of place in the District. The first Maori settlers were attracted to the outstanding geothermal features at Ohinemutu, Ngapuna and Whakarewarewa while later European arrivals saw the potential for the creation of a world-class spa resort on the shores of Lake Rotorua. As a result, the balance of protection and use of geothermal resources has always been a key issue for the District. Over-exploitation of geothermal resources in the past has resulted in a depletion of some features associated with the resource, most obviously the Pohutu Geyser, although stringent controls introduced during the 1980's has allowed these features to be replenished.

The sustainable management of geothermal resources means finding a balance between use and protection which allows the community to enjoy the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits now and in the future. Council will achieve this by:

- Recognising and promoting the uniqueness of Rotorua city as one of the only cities in the world to be built on an active geothermal field.
- Recognising that this renewable energy source is a valuable resource for the economic and social development of the District and enabling the economic potential of the geothermal resource to be developed in a sustainable manner.
- Recognising the particular importance of Rotorua's geothermal resources to the tourism and spa industries, and supporting the managed exploitation of the resource by these important economic activities.
- Planning for the future expansion of the spa industry in Rotorua, with a view to creating a world-class spa resort.
- Working with our partners at the Regional level to develop a coherent strategic approach to the sustainable management of geothermal resources throughout the District through the development of *Regional Geothermal Plans*.
- Ensuring that the unique biodiversity of important geothermal habitats and species is recognised and protected for the future.

4. Biodiversity

The term Biodiversity is shorthand for 'biological diversity' and refers to the number and variety of organisms that exist within a specific region. Biodiversity is valued for a number of reasons, particularly the native species of New Zealand, which contribute to our sense of identity and to our economy, as well as having an intrinsic value of their own. Rotorua District is fortunate to include large areas of native bush within its boundaries, and is home to a number of important indigenous species. Yet, as is the case throughout New Zealand, the pressures on biodiversity and native species are increasing due to ongoing habitat destruction and the impact of introduced and pest species.

Council recognises the importance of Rotorua District's remaining biodiversity and will seek to protect it by:

- Working in partnership with all the key stakeholders, including Maori, to ensure that the District's biodiversity is protected and maintained for future generations.
- Working with the Department of Conservation to work towards the goals of the *New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy*.
- Working with landowners and developers to recognise and protect biodiversity that exists on privately owned land and to encourage forms of development that are sympathetic to the need to protecting biodiversity, such as re-vegetation with native species.
- Identifying areas that are significant in terms of their biodiversity, recognising their importance and avoiding development that will have a negative impact on their biodiversity values.
- Working with our partners at the Regional level to develop a comprehensive and effective programme for dealing with introduced and pest species through the development of *Regional Pest Management Strategies*.

5. Urban Design

Rotorua City is the main urban centre in the District, and acts as a service centre for rural communities throughout the Bay of Plenty. Approximately 80% of residents in Rotorua District live in the city (urban area including Ngongotaha), so the urban environment is undoubtedly one that affects the quality of life of a great number of people. The appearance and vitality of the Central Business District, the services and facilities that are available to people, and other issues such as heritage, transport, residential development are all key aspects of city life in Rotorua.

The central objective of urban design is to ensure that the communities needs continue to be met in our main urban centre, in a way that can adapt to the ever-changing dynamics of modern life. Council is working towards this by:

- Recognising the importance of a creative and cohesive approach to urban design and providing documents such as the *Rotorua City Design Principles* to promote a coherent and aesthetically pleasing 'look' for buildings in the CBD.
- Conserving places and structures, natural and built, that contribute to the characteristic heritage and cultural values of the city.
- Promoting Rotorua as a 'vibrant and happening place', and providing facilities to cater for a diverse range of cultural and social events.
- Encouraging the use of *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design* principles in urban development and implementing a *Community Safety Strategy*.
- Acknowledging the dynamic nature of communities and lifestyles, and developing effective tools to manage these changes and any environmental impacts (such as noise) that might result.
- Exploring the options for the re-development of Rotorua Lakefront with the aim of realising its potential to provide a world-class lake frontage with associated economic, social and environmental benefits for the city.
- Recognising that rural land is an important resource for agriculture and forestry, and working with the community to achieve a balance between residential development and protecting the ability of rural land to provide for our primary needs.
- Continuing to support traditional rural activities, such as farming, forestry and wood processing industries, while encouraging greater economic diversification in rural areas.
- Working with our partners at the Regional level to reduce nutrient run-off to the lakes of the Rotorua District, through the implementation of *Lake Actions Plans*, *EBOP Regional Land & Water Plan* and other policies which may have implications for rural land use and management.
- Recognising that opportunities for the development of Maori land are likely to emerge in the future, and working with local iwi to ensure that this development is sustainable, and takes account of the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of the community as a whole.

6. Rural Land

Rural land, lying outside the main urban centres, predominates in Rotorua District and undoubtedly the way that rural land is used and managed has a major impact on the community as a whole. Rural land encompasses a wide variety of social and economic functions including the traditional rural industries of agriculture, forestry and wood-processing, as well as supporting many small rural communities. Increasingly, with the growing popularity of rural 'lifestyle' properties, people who choose to live in rural areas do not necessarily work there – rather they are attracted to live in rural places for the perceived environmental benefits of that location, and they can bring quite different expectations about the ways in which rural land should be used. Rural places are also where some of our best loved and most heavily used public spaces are located, and where much recreational activity takes place. All these pressures are compounded by the sheer visual and aesthetic importance of rural land, which provides the 'backdrop' to the city, and to the lakes.

Council seeks to manage the competing pressures on rural land in the District by:

- Working with private landowners and developer to recognise the important visual and aesthetic qualities of rural land and to ensure that residential (and other) development does not unduly compromise places where these values are considered to be of high importance.
- Implementing the *Open Space Strategy* with a view to developing a sustainable network of open space ensuring to meet the changing needs of the community.
- Recognising and promoting the availability of open spaces and reserves to enable Rotorua residents to participate in a healthy lifestyle, through providing opportunities for sport and recreational activities.
- Recognising that Rotorua's open spaces and reserves are a major attraction to people visiting the district, and providing adequate resources to allow these places to be managed appropriately.

7. Open Spaces

Open spaces and reserves are found in both urban and rural locations throughout the district. They vary from small, local parks and reserves to some of the most popular recreation reserves in the district. Open spaces make an important contribution to the quality of life of people, particularly those living in urban areas. Reserves are classified to serve a number of purposes, including the protection of natural habitats and species, scenic areas and historic places. For the people of Rotorua access to land and water for recreation purposes is probably the most commonly used and widely appreciated purpose of reserves. Local purpose reserves include such things as accessways, roads and esplanades.

Council seeks to ensure that our open spaces and reserves continue to provide a wide range of social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits by:

- Identifying the locations of key view shafts in the district, and ensuring that these important visual corridors are protected from inappropriate development.
- Recognising the ecological, landscape and heritage value of specific reserves and open spaces, and protecting these areas for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Supporting the *Art in Public Places* project through the development, installation and maintenance of public art works, installed temporarily or permanently on a reserve.
- Continuing to acknowledge the generosity and foresight of Maori who gifted a number of reserve areas to the people of Rotorua, and managing these places in the spirit in which they were given.

8. Sustainable Infrastructure

Many aspects of well-being in Rotorua depend on the provision of an effective and sustainable infrastructure. Although it is not always acknowledged, the provision of services (water, power and energy) to our homes and the removal of waste (wastewater, sewage) are absolutely fundamental to the quality of our lives. We may take for granted the fact that when we turn on the tap, fresh clean water will be available, yet the importance of such services cannot be understated. It is also important to acknowledge that infrastructural projects can have an impact on the environment, and careful planning is required to ensure that any impact is minimal. As society continues to change, and our requirements for services change with it, a long term approach to infrastructural planning will benefit the community.

Council aims to achieve a sustainable approach to the provision of services by:

- Adopting a long term approach to infrastructure planning, to ensure that the dynamic nature of society and our changing community is taken into account.
- Engaging meaningfully with all key stakeholders to develop infrastructural solutions that meet the community's social, cultural, environmental and economic needs and aspirations.
- Providing cost-effective facilities and services for the community that are affordable to the end user.
- Recognising that infrastructure projects can have environmental, social and cultural impacts and ensuring that these impacts are managed through careful planning and management.
- Developing a Lifelines project to enable us to protect key services and facilities in the event of a major natural event, such as an earthquake or volcanic eruption.

9. Transport

Access to an effective transport system is a key factor in achieving economic and social well-being, and a well planned public transport system can contribute to environmental sustainability. Given its central location in the North Island, Rotorua benefits from good road connections, allowing it to act as a transport hub and a major centre for tourism. The upgrading and expansion of the airport is a key component in Rotorua's future economic development, particularly in attracting conference business and tying in with other developments, such as the Energy Events Centre. Local public transport is provided around the city, and is proving popular. These initiatives, and more, will allow further benefits to accrue to the community.

Council aims to achieve a sustainable transport infrastructure by:

- Seeking to provide a diversity of transport options to the community, including opportunities for public, private and commercial transport.
- Taking a long term approach to providing a safe, well-maintained transport network, now and for the future, through infrastructure development and the timely acquisition and sale of land.
- Supporting the development and further expansion of Rotorua Airport to provide for the air transport needs of the region in the future.
- Working with our roading partners at the national level to work towards the goals of the *New Zealand Land Transport Strategy*, the *Land Transport Management Act* and the *Road Safety Strategy*.
- Working with our roading partners at the local and regional level to develop strategic policies for transport, through involvement in the *Environment BOP Regional Passenger Transport Plan & Regional Land Transport Strategy*, and the *Environment Waikato Regional Passenger Transport plan, Regional Land Transport Strategy and Regional Road Safety Plan*.
- Participating in environmentally sustainable transport initiatives and continuing to promote alternatives to car transport such as cycling and public transport.
- Reviewing and implementing a Cycle Strategy to ensure that provision is made in transport planning for safe and effective cycleways.

10. Energy Resources

Like every other community in New Zealand, Rotorua depends on access to energy to maintain its economic and social well-being. Energy is needed to heat our houses, to cook our foods, to power our cars, lorries and airplanes, to keep our factories and offices running. We depend on energy

to such a degree that it is almost taken for granted, and it is only when access to energy sources is threatened that we give it much consideration. Yet, with predictions of oil shortages in the not-too-distant future, it is inevitable that we will all have to give consideration to how we will meet our energy needs in the future. Rotorua has some advantages in this respect, given the existence of renewable geothermal resources, and careful consideration must be given to making the best possible use of these, and other, resources at our disposal.

Council is taking a sustainable approach to energy resources by:

- Adopting a policy of energy conservation in all Council activities by carrying out an 'energy audit' through the *Communities for Climate Change Project* and identifying ways in which Council's energy requirements can be reduced.
- Recognising that Rotorua's geothermal resources are a renewable energy source that can contribute to the future energy needs of the district and exploring the potential for economic development of this resource in a sustainable manner.
- Continuing to explore innovative 'Waste to Energy' solutions and assess their potential in conjunction with sustainable waste management solutions.
- Encouraging the application of energy efficient building techniques in all urban design and building projects.
- Staying aware of the potential of alternative energy sources, particularly renewables such as hydro, wind and solar power.

- Working with our partners at the regional and national level to stay informed about ongoing initiatives to address global environmental issues at the local level including the *National Strategy for Environmental Education* and the *National Sustainable Development Programme of Action*.
- Supporting the establishment and operation of the *Rotorua Sustainable Tourism Charter* and the *Sustainable Business Network*.
- Continuing to explore viable options for 'waste to energy' technology, particularly in relation to Council's waste management strategy and the operation of the landfill site.
- Funding the annual *Enviro-Challenge* event, which educates young people in Rotorua about environmental issues such as waste management, energy conservation and sustainable design of buildings.

11. The Global Environment

Climate change, access to energy resources, biosecurity and trans-boundary pollution of air, land and water are all environmental issues that affect people across the world. While many of them may seem quite remote from Rotorua at the moment, it is likely that the impacts of such issues will increasingly be felt at local level as we work to develop local solutions to global problems.

Council has an important role in planning how the community of Rotorua district will cope with the impacts of global environmental issues in the future, and in educating people about the key issues that are likely to affect us. Council is fulfilling this role by:

- Being active members of the *Communities for Climate Change Project* which will include undertaking an environmental audit of Council's activities in terms of greenhouse gas emissions with a view to identifying potential reductions, as well as education programmes.

CULTURAL WELL-BEING STATEMENT

**“A community that values its living Maori heritage”
“A community with excellent facilities and services”
“A happening community”**

The community outcomes that relate to cultural well-being² reflect the importance of Rotorua’s cultural assets to the people who live in the district and to those who visit. Cultural well-being is the vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through:

1. Participation in recreation, creative and cultural activities;
2. The freedom to retain, interpret and express their arts, history, heritage and traditions.

(Source: Ministry of Culture & Heritage website)

“Values, beliefs and identity provide the ‘glue’ for cultural well-being – they glue the ‘cultural’ and ‘well-being’ components together.”

(Source: Ministry of Culture & Heritage, June 2005, Cultural Well-being and Local Government, Report 1: Definitions and Contexts of Cultural Well-being, p2)

The new Local Government Act (2002) provides for Rotorua District Council to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of local communities, both now and in the future. This follows the sustainable development approach which is defined as “.. development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Achieving sustainable development involves a different way of thinking and working. It requires:

- looking after people
- taking the long term view
- taking account of the social, economic, environmental and cultural effects of our decisions
- encouraging participation and partnerships.

(Source: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (January 2003) Sustainable Development for NZ: Programme of Action)

Council’s vision is:

To provide excellence in leadership and sustainable community services that improves quality of life for residents and ensures a world-class experience for visitors (LTCCP 2004-2014).

This cultural well-being statement sets out the ways in which Council will contribute to achievement of Rotorua’s Community Outcomes.

² Cultural Well-being encompasses the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities reflected through language, stories, experiences, visual and performing arts, ceremonies and heritage.

[Local Government Act 2002: An Overview 2003 pg 15](#)

Rotorua’s cultural assets include:

- Strong networks of cultural groups – including Maori, Pacific Island and other ethnic groups.
- Prominence of public art and sculpture.
- Strong networks of arts, crafts and sporting organisations.
- Access to Kaupapa Maori education opportunities e.g. Kohanga Reo, Kura kaupapa schools, kapa haka
- Rotorua Museum of Art and History – Te Whare Toanga o Te Arawa which collects preserves and interprets the material heritage of the district for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Rotorua Public Library which collects and presents material from a variety of media.
- Strength of whanau/hapu of Te Arawa.
- Strength of Maori culture in Rotorua.
- Rotorua Arts Village (RAVE).
- Energy Events Centre.
- Recreation and sporting facilities on public reserves, schools, Maraes and private land throughout the district.
- Rotorua International Stadium.

List of Cultural Outcomes

1. Leisure and recreation
2. Support for arts and cultural expression
3. Maori heritage
4. Cultural tourism
5. Cultural associations and open space planning
6. Community that understands its place in the world
7. Access to information through print and electronic resources
8. Valuing diversity within our community

1. Leisure and Recreation

Recreation and leisure play an important role in social [cultural] well-being by providing people with a sense of identity and personal autonomy. Involvement in leisure time activities gives greater meaning to individual and community life and contributes to people’s overall quality of life.

Recreation can encourage personal growth, self expression and increased learning opportunities, satisfying needs not met in people’s non-leisure time.

Leisure time is a time when people can do what they want separate from work and other commitments. Recreation often involves physical activity or sport.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p90

Both leisure and recreation activities support health and overall well-being by allowing time out from stress and anxiety through opportunities to do different things and enjoy nature and new challenges.

Rotorua District Council supports people's leisure and recreation interests by:

- Providing and maintaining parks and reserves.
- Management and maintenance of sports fields both in central Rotorua and surrounding areas e.g. Ngongotaha, Eastern Suburbs.
- Provision of Rotorua Aquatic Centre facilities and services.
- Collaborating with stakeholders to promote healthy activities and events in our communities.
- Providing and maintaining playgrounds in all residential areas.
- Providing facilities and programmes for active living e.g. learn to swim, X-Zite programme.
- Working with partners at a regional level to achieve Sport and Recreation NZ objectives.
- Working with local partners towards "Healthy Communities- Mauriora"/ NZ Positive Ageing Strategy.
- Event Venues management of six facilities within Rotorua.
- Provision of lease areas on reserves.
- Funding for recreational clubrooms and facilities.

2. Support for Arts and Cultural Expression

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

MSD 2005 The Social Report p 96

Rotorua District Council (RDC) maintains strong networks which foster creative opportunities. Other RDC support for arts and cultural expression includes:

- Implementation of an arts and culture policy.
- Provision of support to arts and cultural groups and organisations (e.g. through grants, funding, buildings, rates relief).
- Valuing and nurturing cultural and artistic capacity.
- Facilitation of creative networks.
- Working with regional and national partners around creative opportunities.
- Access to opportunities through presence of Rotorua Arts Village (RAVE).
- Provision of the Rotorua Arts Trail and Creative Rotorua Website.

People in the Rotorua District have enhanced access to and participation in cultural and arts opportunities through:

- Support for collaboration and sharing of ideas, skills and resources.
- Supporting of a range of facilities which focus on arts, e.g. Rotorua Arts Village (RAVE)/theatre groups, school facilities used for these purposes.
- Maintaining effective avenues of communication with the community about planned/upcoming events and opportunities.

- Collaboration with stakeholders to develop, promote and run events and activities.
- Implementation of policies to grow a loyal audience for a wide variety of performances.
- Display of public art works.

3. Maori Heritage

A strong cultural identity can contribute to people's overall well-being.

Identifying with a particular culture gives people feelings of belonging and security. It also provides people with access to social networks which provide support and shared values/aspirations.... An established cultural identity has been linked with positive outcomes in areas such as health and education.

MSD 2005 The Social Report p82

Maori culture has a unique place in New Zealand society. Rotorua is steeped with a rich cultural background and tradition, dating back to the Te Arawa waka and all the descendants that have left their mark in song, dance, myths and legends. This tradition is acknowledged by Rotorua District Council through:

- Protection and valuing of Maori culture.
- Promoting of close working relationships with tangata whenua Te Arawa and developing protocols with hapu/iwi Tuhorangi.
- Making history and heritage accessible, including protection of wahi tapu.
- Maintaining database of Marae contacts.

4. Cultural Tourism

The importance of ensuring that:

New Zealanders' environment and culture is conserved and sustained in the spirit of kaitiakitanga (guardianship)... [and that there is]... recognition, understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's built, historical, cultural and Maori heritage.

Source: NZ Tourism Strategy 2010, 2001

Rotorua was founded in the early 1880's surrounding the shores of Lake Rotorua. The Maori people are an integral part of the history of Rotorua. They are also the original settlers in this area. The Te Arawa tribe has contributed greatly to the development of Rotorua as both a tourist destination and a great place to live. It is renowned as the heartland of Maori culture in New Zealand.

Rotorua is world famous for the exciting geothermal features and friendly people. Rotorua attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Rotorua District Council supports the infrastructure needed for cultural tourism by:

- Promotion of Rotorua as a cultural destination.
- Collaboration with stakeholder groups around employment issues in cultural and creative industry(ies).

- Provision of facilities and services that enhance cultural tourism e.g. regional airport, parking, security, CBD, public conveniences.
- Provision of the Rotorua Arts Trail and Creative Rotorua Website.
- Links between Destination Rotorua Tourism Marketing and Maori in Tourism Rotorua
- Making accessible Rotorua's stories through Rotorua's Gallery and Museum – Te Whare Toanga o Te Arawa.

5. Cultural Associations and Open Space Planning

As a well known tourist and conference destination, there is a need for facilities that serve both members of the local community and visitors/tourists. The use of existing facilities which encompass both buildings and spaces includes leisure, recreation, arts and tourism events/activities.

The cultural associations of Rotorua people with our natural and built environments are maintained and enhanced by Rotorua District Council through:

- Environmental enhancements to CBD, parks and reserves (and maintenance).
- Ensuring new developments are designed to be sensitive to people, places and the environment.
- Promotion of City Focus as a venue for community activities.
- Provision and maintenance of community halls in rural communities.
- Preservation of historic buildings/heritage sites.
- Referral of resource consent applications to the Kaumatua committee.
- Preserving NZ European Heritage.
- RDC contributes to Conservation Week, World Wetlands Day and Arbor Day.
- Development and implementation of the District Plan.

6. Community that understands its place in the world

The Rotorua Museum of Art and History has won a number of NZ Tourism Awards. There has been ongoing redevelopment of areas within the building to allow a greater range of national/international exhibitions to visit Rotorua.

The Museum's education programmes offer lessons to classes/schools within Rotorua and across NZ using video-conferencing facilities. The Museum has a Kaumatua Advisory Council which provides a reference group for policy and protocol issues related to tangata whenua.

Rotorua District Council supports the understanding of its community's place in the world through:

- Acting as a guardian of the community's treasures including Taonga Maori, arts, photos and social history collections.

- Provision of free entry for Rotorua residents into the museum.
- Telling the great stories of the Rotorua region.
- Interpreting our past.
- Maintaining relationships with Sister Cities.
- Preserving NZ European Heritage.

7. Access to information through print and electronic resources

Rotorua Public Library has one central city library and one mobile library bus providing library services to the Rotorua District. An excellent library service is maintained to enhance the lives of the community it serves.

Rotorua District Council offers access to information through:

- Provision of library facilities and services to facilitate access to information and entertainment from a variety of media.
- Archived Council records for research.
- Burial and Cremation records available for genealogical research.
- Valuing and presentation of early European heritage.

8. Valuing Diversity

In keeping with most areas of New Zealand, the Rotorua District is home to a number of people from other cultures. Some have been in the region/country for generations. Others have arrived recently. New immigrants to Rotorua come from a diverse range of countries, introducing new languages, religions and culture. All contribute to the social, cultural and economic well-being of our communities.

It is important that everyone in a community has opportunities to take part in the many aspects of life, to the best of their ability.

Rotorua District Council values diversity through:

- Providing facilities to cater for a diverse range of social and cultural events/festivals.
- Working on monitoring and improving perceptions of safety in the community.
- Developing and maintaining relationships with Sister Cities.
- Presence of Rotorua Ethnic Council.
- Implementation of a youth policy and youth action plan.
- Supporting the NZ Positive Ageing Strategy.
- Monitoring Rotorua social & cultural trends and keeping Council and the community informed.
- Facilitating community consultation, research and activities around social and cultural issues as directed by Council.
- Ensuring infrastructure is "disability friendly" through working with the Rotorua Access Group.