

Whakatauaki - proverb

he taenga ki tetahi pito ko te timatanga ano tera

“Arriving at one point is the starting point to another.”





Introductory messages



Message from the Mayor

The state of our environment plays an important part in determining the quality of life that today's community and future generations experience. I am therefore pleased to introduce our second State of the Environment Report.

This document takes us to a new level of information since the previous baseline reporting of the 2002 State of the Environment Report. Importantly, it meets the Rotorua District Council's obligations as set out in the Resource Management Act.

In New Zealand we are fortunate to live in an environment that rates highly against those of most other countries in the world. In Rotorua in particular, we enjoy an environment that is the envy of many other towns and cities around the globe.

When international visitors come to Rotorua they bring with them an expectation that they will experience the clean, green environment that is reflected in New Zealand's international image. Generally we are able to fulfill those expectations to a high level but it is an increasingly challenging and resource intensive task. However we do need to ensure this image is backed by reality because it drives our economy in key areas such as tourism, farming and forestry, all of which require careful management of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The water quality of our many lakes remains the most significant environmental issue for our council and for our community. The Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group is an innovative partnership between Rotorua District Council, Environment Bay of Plenty and Te Arawa Lakes Trust. Together we are addressing the issue of lakes water quality, and progress has already been made in preparing and implementing specific action plans for a number of our lakes.

Emerging environmental issues that are increasingly requiring more of our attention are climate change and air quality. These issues both need local action to complement national and international endeavors.

This State of the Environment Report is a particularly important publication. It will be of interest to our council, other organisations, agencies and individuals as we all share a vision of a safe, healthy, attractive and sustainable environment for the Rotorua district.

Kevin Winters JP
Mayor
Rotorua District



Message from the Chief Executive

This State of the Environment Report is a vital and far reaching document that has been written in the context of our Ten Year Plan (Long Term Council Community Plan) and our Environment Statement. The report reflects the links to, and the complementary nature of, both the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act.

Not only does it provide compliance with legislative requirements but it will also assist us to measure progress towards achieving our own objectives in relation to the environment, a major focus of the Rotorua District Council today and for the foreseeable future.

The State of the Environment Report highlights emerging environmental issues, problems and successes. This information contributes to our preparedness for making sound decisions about how we manage our environment for the future.

More specifically it provides us with some of the tools needed for effective strategic decision making around future resource management and planning for the district. It also highlights a range of future opportunities that we can embrace as a community.

Currently Rotorua District Council is undertaking a comprehensive review of our District Plan. That plan is expected to take into consideration those opportunities and issues highlighted in this report.

A substantial amount of detailed research and planning has gone into the preparation of this 2007 State of the Environment Report and I acknowledge and applaud the excellent work of all those who have contributed to it.

Peter Guerin
Chief Executive
Rotorua District Council