

Long Term Plan 2018-2028

Groups of Activities - Service Descriptions

Roads and Footpaths

The primary purpose of the Roads and Footpaths activity is to provide for the safe, efficient and comfortable movement of people and freight within the district. The Roads and Footpaths activity group provides the planning, provision, development, operations and maintenance of a district land transportation network as well as local facilities including town centre facilities, footpaths, service lanes, street lighting, bridges and car parks.

Our road transportation network currently comprises 481kms of sealed roads, 216kms of unsealed roads and 152 bridges and other associated infrastructure such as signage. The transportation assets have a replacement cost (June 2016) \$402.4M. The cost of delivering the NZTA subsidised road maintenance and renewal activity in 2015/16 was \$9.8 million (net cost to TCDC after subsidy of \$5.3million). The total cost of roading storm damage in 2016/17 was \$1,677,720 (net cost to TCDC after NZTA subsidy = \$775,823). It should be noted that this cost related to emergency works completed within the financial year.

Stormwater

The Stormwater activity includes managing stormwater as well as land drainage. Stormwater systems collect and dispose of stormwater to limit the effects of surface ponding. We have a number of stormwater systems throughout our district to manage runoff and reduce surface water ponding. This reduces risks to public health and safety, damage to property, and avoids dangerous road conditions. The stormwater system includes more than 200km (217km) of stormwater pipes, more than 3,000 manholes and 4 pump stations. Some parts of our network are older than others and require a more active maintenance programme. There are 23, 928 properties accessing Council's stormwater system.

Stormwater is the consequence of heavy or sustained rainfall resulting in the need to manage the disposal of surface water. The Coromandel is particularly vulnerable to heavy rainfall due to its geography. We are required to maintain our current stormwater schemes by law. The way in which schemes are managed and provided is also subject to legal requirements.

Veolia Water New Zealand is our Operations and Maintenance contractor and the contract runs to 2025.

Wastewater

The Wastewater activity covers the collection, treatment and safe disposal of wastewater (sewage) from households and businesses within currently serviced urban communities. The Council operates 10 wastewater systems in Cooks Beach, Coromandel, Hahei, Matarangi, Oamaru Bay, Onemana, Tairua-Pauanui, Thames, Whangamata and Whitianga. Assets for the wastewater activity include

397km of piped networks, 128 pumping stations, 6832 manholes and 10 treatment plants. There are 17,575 rated water connections throughout the district. Some of our assets are older than others and require a more active maintenance programme.

The wastewater activity is delivered to help protect the environment and public health. Wastewater systems help protect the environment by ensuring that raw wastewater does not infiltrate river and harbour catchments and coastal areas. Wastewater systems provide a safe living environment for our residential and business communities. These services support the growth of our communities and the local economy.

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Water Supply

The Water Supply activity covers the provision of water to residential, commercial and industrial properties in the district and the treatment of water to ensure it is safe for our communities to use. Council serves 10 water supply schemes in the district, operates nine water treatment facilities and has three rural water supplies located south of Thames. The total pipe length of the district's water supply activity is 548km, servicing 17,840 water connections throughout the district.

Clean and safe water is one of the essential services Council provides to the community. Council water supplies ensure that people in the areas of benefit (usually urban areas) have safe clean water to drink and to clean with (to maintain public health). The water systems provide water for commercial uses and also firefighting which helps protect our communities and visitors.

The rural supply networks of Matatoki, Puriri, Omahu, Wharepoa and Hikutaia are recognised as nearing the end of their useful lives and renewal to upgrade works are already underway. The Drinking Water Standards New Zealand 2005 (08) requires upgrades to the majority of our treatment plants. These are underway or programmed in the coming three years. It is possible that Council may be asked or required to take over a number of private water schemes around the district in the future.

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Rubbish and Recycling

The Rubbish and Recycling activity provides for waste to be properly disposed of to protect public health and the environment. The activity also promotes recycling, reuse and resource recovery with the objectives of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and practising responsible resource efficiency. In addition to weekly kerbside refuse and fortnightly recyclables collection services, the Council manages closed landfill sites and operates transfer stations where waste and recycling can be dropped off. Due to a high influx of visitors over the peak summer period, we increase our levels of service over that time to have more frequent rubbish and recycling collection in order to meet increased demand.

The Council is also required to have a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) which we have created in collaboration with the neighbouring Hauraki and Matamata-Piako District Councils. The WMMP sets goals and actions to improve outcomes for rubbish and recycling in the district. A shared contract held by the three councils with Smart Environmental endeavours to deliver cost efficiencies to all our ratepayers.

Council

Representation

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out the principles and processes that Council must abide by when making decisions. Other legislation gives us additional duties and responsibilities and provides rules for many of our processes. These include the Local Electoral Act 2002 for elections and representative review processes, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 on access to information, the Resource Management Act 1991 for district plan development and plan making in relation to sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The Mayor and councillors focus primarily on district wide decisions and issues. They are supported by five local community boards, which represent their communities and ensure local views and aspirations are known, considered and advocated for. The Community Boards make decisions on local issues and activities and have a role in representing local community aspirations and concerns to assist in district-wide Council decision-making.

Our leadership role is changing. We expect that Treaty settlements will soon be finalised between the Crown and Hauraki iwi. Post-Treaty settlement arrangements have the potential to bring new challenges and opportunities as we build and foster more enduring relationships and partnerships with better-resourced and statutorily empowered Hauraki iwi.

The next local government elections will be held in 2019. Prior to the nomination period a pre-election report will be released by the Council to promote public discussion about the issues facing the district. The report includes information on the council's financial position and the major projects planned for the following three years.

The six-yearly representation review was last undertaken in 2014/15 in preparation for the 2016 elections. The next representation review will be held in 2020/21.

Grants and remissions

The grants and remissions service provides support to community organisations to build their capacity to assist in developing a strong and connected community. Council actively collaborates with organisations to achieve efficient use of resources, strong partnerships and financial assistance contributing to greater community cohesion. This is achieved by service level agreements, the administration of grants for community groups and events and administration of rates remissions.

The grants budget has a district and local component. The district grants budget in the last Long Term Plan provided grant funding for community services through Sport Waikato, Age Concern, Life Education Trust, and the Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant.

Each of the Community Boards has a local grants budget that provides contestable funding for community organisations and funds service level agreements for three year terms.

Property

Our Property activity relates to the responsible management of the district's property assets. We own a wide range of land and buildings which require careful management for the benefit of current and future generations. This activity funds the maintenance and renewals of our administration buildings and a range of buildings and property available for lease by community and commercial organisations. The Property activity also includes district wide asset management of community funded building facilities like halls and libraries.

This activity is responsible for ensuring our buildings are safe for public and private use, are well maintained and meet legal building code requirements. In this activity we also consider whether our current portfolio of land and buildings is what we need as a district right now, and into the future.

Economic Development

The Economic Development activity focuses on providing developers and businesses with clear pathways through council processes. We achieve these enabling pathways through the facilitation of local infrastructure developments and improvements such as broadband, strategic planning and development investigations, i.e. land use reports/strategy, land use identification. Council also focuses on identifying local inhibitors that impact on business and industry development, growth and coordination and working on how these can be resolved. This activity provides a communication function to Council and its departments of business and industry needs as well as providing key information to investors looking at our district is a place to do business.

District Plan

The District Plan activity involves the preparation, monitoring and maintenance of the Thames-Coromandel District Plan which provides a framework to implement and support appropriate subdivision and land use management in the District.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires the Council to, at all times, have a District Plan. The Council is currently operating under two District Plans. The Operative District Plan became fully operative in 2010. The District Plan is reviewed every 10 years and the current District Plan review has been underway since 2012. We now have a Proposed District Plan, this is the new District Plan but it has some areas that are still subject to appeal (legal challenge) and will only become fully operative once these challenges are resolved.

Planning and Regulation

Resource Consents

As the key land use consent authority in the District, Council processes resource consents as provided for in the Resource Management Act (RMA) and seeks to achieve good environmental outcomes promoting sustainable management of natural and physical resources, consistent with the policies approved in the District Plan. Statutory timeframes for the processing of resource consents are reflected in our levels of service for this activity.

Building Control

We are required by law to carry out building control activities both as a Territorial Authority (TA) and a Building Consent Authority (BCA). The Council has been an accredited Building Consent Authority since mid-2008. There are two distinct components to the Building Control activity:

- Building Consenting for processing, inspecting and certifying building work,
- Building Enforcement to ensure compliance with legislation and related requirements.

This activity also incorporates Land Information Memoranda (LIMs) which are reports issued by the Council, on request, about a particular property or piece of land. LIMs help protect buyers of property and provide important information for building development project planning.

Statutory timeframes for the processing of building consents are reflected in our levels of service for this activity.

In the 2016/17 financial year there were 1,205 building consent applications processed, 776 Code of Compliance certificates, 41 audits of buildings for warrants of fitness, 177 inspections of pools and 1,490 LIMS processed.

Protection of People and the Environment

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management activity focuses on communities being ready for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies when they happen. Work is undertaken through the EOC Emergency Operating Centre. The EOC undertakes various training exercises and programmes throughout the year to ensure staff are always ready and prepared to handle civil defence emergencies should they arise.

This activity also includes undertaking community response plans in consultation with local communities and agencies at a settlement level to help create prepared and resilient communities.

Coastal and Hazard Management

This activity plans for the avoidance and management of the impact of natural hazards across the whole of the Coromandel Peninsula with a particular focus on coastal settlements. Coastal hazards include coastal inundation (flooding), tsunamis, storm surges, king tides, coastal erosion, and sea level rise. The development of a Coastal Management Strategy has identified a suite of projects to help to identify and respond to coastal hazards in the future; including those related to the anticipated effects of climate change. The work programme is reflected in this Long Term Plan.

Community Health and Safety

This activity provides a range of services to ensure our communities are clean, safe and healthy places to live. This includes minimising public nuisances and offensive behaviour as well as helping ensure public places are safe. Key services include animal control, liquor control, health licensing and bylaws enforcement.

In the 2016/17 financial year there were 313 food premises inspected, 499 applications for the sale and supply of alcohol, and 53 property inspections for classified dogs. As at 31 January 2018 there were 4692 registered dogs in the district. There were also various other responses to calls for animal control and noise issues.

Community Spaces and Development

The community spaces and development activity supports local communities through the provision of a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces and facilities. These levels of service are determined by the local Community Board. Not all of these types of community facilities are provided in every community board area.

Services and facilities are delivered using a variety of approaches from direct delivery to working in partnership with the local community. This activity provides:

- Airfields:** these facilities are primarily for recreational use with some commercial activity and they are a useful resource in some emergency situations. Council operates two airfields located in Thames and Pauanui.
- Cemeteries:** these facilities meet the burial, remembrance and heritage needs of the community. The Council is currently responsible for the management of 13 cemeteries within the district of which 7 are currently open for burials and the remaining 6 are no longer operational. Most of the cemeteries cater to plot burials but there has also been the recent addition of a natural burial garden at Omahu Cemetery. Natural burial services are being explored in cemeteries in Coromandel-Colville and Mercury Bay also.
- Community Centres and Halls:** these facilities are provided to support recreation, social and cultural needs of the community. The council owns community halls in 13 locations through the district with the level of management involvement ranging from full building ownership with onsite manager to having service contracts with grants for community-based groups.
- Harbour facilities:** these facilities are provided primarily to support a valued part of the Coromandel lifestyle for both residents and visitors; commercial activity is supported at some facilities. There are 13 Council maintained wharves and jetties and 21 boat ramps in the district, which all provide varying services dependent on location/access and need of the communities.
- Libraries:** library facilities and programmes are provided to support cultural and education needs of our communities. Library services throughout the district are delivered in different ways with different levels of contributions from Council and users. The services offered by the libraries is also different, some have free computer access

and wifi with extensive on-line databases; some are part of the national library lending service and some cater for summer holiday makers. There are 3 Council run libraries located in Thames, Tairua in Whitianga and 3 community run libraries which receive support from the Council.

Parks and Reserves:

this service is provided to support the cultural and education needs of our communities. There is approximately 2000ha of parks and reserves in the Thames Coromandel district (excluding a massive amount of Department of Conservation estate and beaches) There are also parks, 43 playgrounds and skate parks as well as 10 sports fields and venues. Reserve Management Plans provide direction for the day-to-day management of reserves and the factors that impact upon these reserves, and they establish clear directions for their future management and development, where appropriate.

Public Conveniences:

public toilets, changing facilities are provided to support recreation, social and cultural needs of the community. There are 91 public toilets in the district, spread across each community board area. Each community board sets the level of service provided at these different facilities.

Swimming Pools:

these facilities are provided for both recreational purposes and to support water safety education and learn to swim programmes for the benefit of the community. There is only one Council managed pool in the district which is located in Thames. It is a 25m pool which provides a variety of programmes from learn to swim to academy training. The pool is available all year round with a removal dome used during cooler months and removed during the warmer ones. The current pool is due for replacement by 2027 and more information regarding the proposed facility can be found under our proposals.