

CLIMATE

CONNECTING

LAND

THE
BIG SIX

ENERGY

MAORI

ECONOMY



**tell us what
matters to you**




OUR ENERGY
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THE BIG SIX

Thank you for your interest in the future of Hawke's Bay.

We are on the road to updating our Long Term Plan, looking UP AND OUT so we don't miss the opportunities for our region to connect, be resilient and prosper.

In these few pages we're SHARING WITH YOU what we think are the six big priorities facing Hawke's Bay. Please tell us whether we're on the right track, and what you expect Council to do as a response to these priorities.

Don't be concerned that not all of Council's activities are mentioned in this booklet. We will continue to focus on activities tied to our land, water, air and coast but for the moment we are looking 'up and out'.

Take a look, tell us what YOU THINK and give some comment on the questions we've asked. Are they the right priorities? Are there others? Is our thinking on the right track?

We're after your views, whether in a good old-fashioned letter, an email, through facebook or twitter. Talk to me, to your Councillor or staff. It's all good conversation, and it helps us to get our PLANNING RIGHT.

Comments before 15 October will mean they can be considered in Council planning and our workshops in November, but as your representatives we are here to reflect your views at any time, so just give us a call.



Fenton Wilson

Chairman

September 2014

OUR ENERGY FUTURE



We cannot survive in today's world without energy.

We flick a light switch or jump into our cars without really thinking about it, but lighting our homes, running our vehicles, and many other essential activities, all require energy. Unfortunately, energy costs are rising.

In planning for the future, we need to understand the environmental, economic and social issues around energy use and development. We also need to understand that there are global influences over which we have no control.

The potential for oil and gas development on the East Coast and public concern about fracking raises a bigger picture issue: what is the energy future for Hawke's Bay?

Suppose Hawke's Bay wished to declare 'energy independence', with 100% of our region's electricity and transport fuel requirements produced locally. Ambitious maybe, but how might we start to contemplate such a goal? And what would the benefits or disadvantages be?

Hastings District Council's proposal to convert methane from landfill to energy is an example of what can be done, but will this type of project make a significant dent in our energy needs? Recent advances in solar energy technology appear to present a regional opportunity, but how much energy could we gain from solar or wind, and are there sufficient incentives in energy markets to encourage investment in this area?

HBRC thinks that developing an Energy Strategy might be one way of charting the path towards our desired energy future. That's why we want your views on questions such as:

- How might increasing energy costs affect the viability of our agriculture and horticulture sectors, as well as other Hawke's Bay export businesses?
- If oil and gas exploration and/or development goes ahead in Hawke's Bay what additional measures would be needed to protect our water, environment and public health?
- What investments or incentives might help achieve a cleaner and more sustainable energy future?
- What are the opportunities, other than conventional oil and gas, for producing fuel and/or electricity right here?
- What does an ambitious energy conservation programme for Hawke's Bay look like? In what energy-saving technologies might we excel or lead the way?
- What values should drive our energy future - energy security, economic growth, sustainability, legacy to our children, reducing costs, the global 'big picture'? What changes are people prepared to make in their lifestyle to achieve the desired energy future?







RELATIONSHIP WITH MĀORI

Hawke's Bay is part of the rohe of Ngāti Kahungunu iwi, the third largest tribe in New Zealand.

There are about 70 marae in Hawke's Bay, forming the hub of many Māori communities. It is a time of significant change for Ngāti Kahungunu whanui. As treaty claims are settled, new governance organisations will emerge. There will be new voices, new directions and new Māori organisations.

The establishment of these organisations will take time. In the meantime, there may be some uncertainty as to who has the mandate to speak on behalf of iwi, or collective groups of hapū.

HBRC engages with iwi, hapū and marae at various levels and will continue to do so.

The long established Māori Committee comprises representatives of four tangata whenua organisations and provides advice to Council and makes recommendations on matters relevant to Māori people in the region.

The recently established Regional Planning Committee has equal representation of the Crown-recognised mandated

groups and HBRC. This committee enables co-governance of natural resource management in Hawke's Bay. This does not replace the need to consult with tangata whenua on the development of regional planning documents in their rohe.

In other areas of HBRC activity, close relationships have been formed and are maintained with various hapū and marae.

HBRC is asking Ngāti Kahungunu whanui what more can we do to best fulfil our responsibility to an enduring relationship with Māori, to help them express their full potential to grow and prosper, and to be involved in the full range of HBRC's activities.

- How might HBRC help the whole community understand the importance of this time for Hawke's Bay iwi and hapu?

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Hawke's Bay is one of New Zealand's key horticulture and viticulture regions.

Hawke's Bay is a small to medium sized economy, home to 155,000 people. The region's GDP per capita is \$39,035 or \$6.05b in total. Of our 16 regions, Hawke's Bay is the 9th largest, but it is worthwhile noting that the top 8 regions account for 88% of our national GDP.

Hawke's Bay's warm climate, plentiful water and rich soils have supported its primary production. It is widely predicted that we can expect increased climate volatility in the future. With natural resources dominating our economy in the form of food and fibre production, value-adding processing, branding and tourism, it follows that our economy will face equal volatility in the years and decades ahead.

HBRC supports that economy through wise land and water management and long term regional scale infrastructure, such as flood control schemes.

The potential for increased activity within the Māori economy is widely known, particularly in securing returns from land and sea assets. Māori also make up 23% of our population and will

account for the majority of our working age population growth over the next two decades. This presents both an opportunity and a challenge for our education and training systems.

Economic Development requires us to make choices about how we move forward and we would like your thoughts.

- How does Hawke's Bay best define economic development: what outcomes are sought, what are the time frames, and how will we measure success?
- How should we support Māori economic development and tourism opportunities?
- What is unique about our economy? Is there an opportunity to create, identify or highlight a regional point of difference that commands an enduring premium with our consumers?
- Should we focus more effort on diversifying our economy? If so, what areas do we prioritise? What industries or sectors don't we have that we should get? What are the opportunities and threats arising from global economic trends?





CONNECTING OUR REGION

The prosperity of Hawke's Bay relies on good transport and communication networks.

Telecommunication networks are a vital component of our present and future economy. They connect Hawke's Bay to the world. It is essential that connectivity is fast and reliable.

71% of Hawke's Bay households have internet access. The Government's UltraFast and Rural Broadband initiatives are aiming for 90% of businesses to be connected by 2015 and the remaining 10% by 2019.

Hawke's Bay Airport offers a good frequency of flights to the main centres and other regions. However fares are expensive. Napier Port is the fifth largest in New Zealand and connects us to our global markets. It has a growing catchment which relies on an efficient transport system to move freight to and from the port. The Port predicts a cumulative growth of 50% in both imports and exports.

Road transport networks are well developed on the Heretaunga Plains. The Whakatu Arterial Link, and the Pākōwhai-Links Rd intersection improvements will enhance efficiency for all users, especially for freight. We have good road and rail connections to the south through SH2 and SH50. To the west, SH5 provides the ability to carry the larger, longer trucks (High Productivity Vehicles) for improved freight movement.

Funding for maintenance of rural roads, which are important to rural communities, may reduce if lower levels of service are set nationally, leaving local communities to pay the balance if a higher level of service is desired.

Transport connections are less secure for Wairoa and north to Gisborne-East Coast. This corridor is currently serviced only by road, as the rail line was mothballed in March 2012. You've told us you want it back in operation. Heavy traffic on this route is predicted to increase due to forest harvesting over the next 10 to 15 years. Economic development, such as opportunities for tourism growth in Te Urewera National Park, and access to regional social services in the Wairoa District may be constrained without safe and efficient transport links.

Hawke's Bay has new-found status as a centre for safe recreational cycling. We can enjoy the network of off-road cycle trails, which link with parks, bike-friendly routes and services in Napier and Hastings cities. Local people are changing their commuting habits. Wairoa has added a pathway to the sea, while a new trail is connecting Waipawa and Waipukurau.

The frequency and coverage of public bus services around and between Hastings and Napier has significantly increased over the last five years and provides transport for people who are unable to use a car for whatever reason. There's good growth in passenger numbers and we anticipate this to continue.

We'd appreciate your thoughts on communication and connectivity for our region:



- What role could the regional council take in improving telecommunication networks around the region, with the rest of New Zealand and the world?
- How could we make transport links between regions and cities as efficient and safe as possible?



WISE LAND USE



Our soils are the foundation of our regional economy.

However, much of the land here is hilly or steep, and has some of the highest rates of soil erosion in New Zealand.

More intensive farming of rolling hill country has been made possible thanks to technological advances in irrigation, cultivation and cropping systems. But soil run off from hilly and steep land, especially in intense rain storms, is a problem. The resulting sediment deteriorates the water quality and habitats in our streams, rivers and lakes right out to our coastal environments. Lost soil is lost productivity. It also means the loss of other benefits provided by soils, such as recycling nutrients and treating wastes, cleaning and storing water, locking in greenhouse gases and enabling biodiversity.

The challenge is to protect soil quality and maintain and improve our land's productivity while reducing the environmental footprint. This is what we mean by 'wise land use'.

Until recently, HBRC's approach to land management has focused on research and incentive programmes - helping landowners who want to improve the way they use the land. The Tukituki Plan Change 6 indicates a shift of focus to 'hot spot' areas where land use practices are a significant cause of the poor state of the rivers and streams. HBRC will be prioritising funding and incentives in those areas, such as the Papanui sub-catchment flowing into the Tukituki River.

Hawke's Bay has innovative, research-based farming systems led by forward-thinking entrepreneurs showing leadership. There is a lot of work to be done by many organisations.

Unlike water, land is a private resource and much of it is in private ownership. There are no National Policy Statements on land or land management. We believe that we need to pay much more attention to the way we use our land. We'd like your views on:

- What more should be done to understand soil quality state and trends in Hawke's Bay?
- What do you think should be done to protect soil quality and achieve wise land use in Hawke's Bay?
- How can the development of innovative land use solutions on farm be well-supported?
- What role is there for collective governance, particularly for finding resilient social, economic and environmental solutions to the challenges of the East Coast hill country?

CLIMATE CHANGE



In Hawke's Bay, everyone will be impacted either directly or indirectly by climate change.

Human activity - industry, agriculture and transportation - affects our planet's natural climate balance. Scientists warn that the likely impacts of climate change include rising temperatures, rising sea levels, changing rainfall patterns and more storms, all of which increase the natural hazard risk for our communities and economy.

Hawke's Bay needs to prepare for and adapt to the impact of these changes, so we can minimise the risks and maximise the opportunities. But will adaptation be enough?

Many coastal communities will be affected by sea level rise. For some, there will be an increased risk of sea water inundation during storms, while others will experience damage to their property by continual coastal erosion. What's the adaptation strategy for Hawke's Bay? We need to start planning on how we use land in the future, and develop options for protecting our property and infrastructure.

Changing rainfall patterns will increase risks from the two extremes of flooding and drought. Flood protection schemes may no longer provide the level of protection required to the economic hub of the Heretaunga Plains, and the twin cities of Hastings and Napier. The Regional Council is increasing the level of protection against higher floods based on your feedback.

For the rural community, the increased risk of drought heightens the challenges that farmers already face in dealing with Hawke's Bay's natural climate variability. Careful use and management of land and fresh water resources should be actively pursued in all climate circumstances.

Many HBRC activities are a response to climate change and aim to help our community to adapt. These include our role in civil defence and emergency management, land use planning, the work on a coastal hazard management strategy from Te Awanga to Tangoio, land management research, water storage, and land and water management practices.

HBRC's roles and responsibilities enable us to provide leadership to help both urban and rural communities become resilient in the face of climate change as well as the natural variability of climate events.

- Is adaptation and resilience enough? Should we also focus on initiatives thought to slow the onset of climate change, such as seeking regional carbon neutrality?
- How else should HBRC help the community understand how climate change could impact their future, such as insurance consequences, or health and disease implications?





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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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We are here to represent you.

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