

Highlights

Overall the South Waikato District is progressing well on a number of fronts including:

- Increasing business and community confidence, signaled through rising building consents and subdivision activity and a slowdown in the rate of population decline, with expectations for future growth.
- Strong feelings of community pride and cohesion.
- A falling crime rate and above average resolution of recorded crimes.
- High and increasing use of recreational facilities include libraries, swimming pools, parks and playgrounds.
- Access to quality education facilities.
- A clean, green natural environment and plentiful public open space in our towns and villages.

Areas we could do better as a District include:

- Improve youth transitions from school to work and training, and reduce the District's high rate of student stand-downs and suspensions.
- Increase tourism opportunities through the development of a Tourism Strategy and roll-out of District Branding.
- Continue the focus on employment and business opportunities, particularly aiming to increase the number of skilled jobs and train workers to fill these jobs.
- Promote wide support for the Raukawa Reo Strategy, arts and cultural facilities and events and other initiatives that promote cultural wellbeing.
- Provide more activities and facilities for young people and make the District a great place to grow up.
- Improve outcomes for the District's young people, particularly in terms of increased engagement in community activities, educational attainment and reduced levels of teen parenthood.
- Promote increased physical activity and healthier lifestyles.
- Pay continued attention to road safety on both local roads and State Highways.
- Tackle urban air quality and housing issues through insulation projects and community education on cleaner home heating.
- Put more resources into environmental education and initiatives to promote waste minimisation, energy efficiency and conservation.

Information about South Waikato's Strategic Framework to address the issues above can be found at the back of this document.

The State of the District in relation to each of South Waikato's Community Outcomes is summarised on the following pages. Note there are still substantial data gaps to be filled which may raise additional issues to be addressed.