



Lake Moana-nui (Sarge Dempsey)

South Waikato District State of the Environment Report 2006



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District
Council**

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Contents

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive	3
How to Use this Report	4
Explanation of the Page Format.....	5
Name of Indicator	5
Summary Statement of Environmental Highlights.....	6
Industry Impact on the Environment	6
Introduction	7

Water (Wai)..... 11

Water Indicators.....	12
Drinking Water Used in Urban Areas.....	14
Amount of Sewage Treated	15
Ground Water Quality - Overall Chemistry and Health Indicators.....	16
Ground Water Quantity and Availability.....	16
Stream Water Quality - Overall Chemistry and Health Indicators.....	18
Stream Bacterial Quality	20
Stream Fencing	22

Land (Papatuanuku)..... 25

Land Indicators.....	26
Quantity of Solid Waste Generated	28
Recycling	29
Potentially Contaminated Sites.....	30
Walkways as Provision for Enjoyment of the Countryside	31
Rural Subdivision Numbers	32
Section Size	32
District-Wide Subdivision.....	33
Vacant Land.....	34
Protection from Potential Erosion by Retaining/Providing Vegetation Reserves	34
Amount of Land Used.....	36
District Land Use.....	37
Change in Extent of Indigenous Vegetation	38
Indigenous Vegetation.....	39
Dairy Farming on Erodible Land	40
Land Use and Erodible Soil Areas	41

District (Rohe) 43

District Indicators	44
Rainfall.....	46
Temperature.....	47
Road Traffic Injuries and Fatalities	48
Provision for Cyclists.....	49
Power Generation	50
Dust in Tokoroa as Particulate PM10	52
Odour Effects Reported	52
Noise Levels Measured Meet Standards in District Plan	53
References.....	54

Disclaimer

The contents of this document are as accurate as the data available. However, South Waikato District Council take no responsibility for any errors in the data or for the consequences of any action taken in reliance on the use of data for any purpose.

Maps have been produced for the express use of the State of the Environment Report. Maps are not guaranteed as accurate and should not be used for any purpose other than the interpretation of the Report. South Waikato District Council accepts no liability for the use of any information contained within or implied by the maps included in this Report.

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive

Local Government plays an important role in the management of the environment, providing a linkage between Central, Regional and other Government agencies. The South Waikato District Council takes pride in the quality of its environment and has a strong desire to ensure future generations enjoy this quality. By recognising the different components that contribute to the District's unique environmental characteristics, we can ensure that these are managed appropriately.

Our communities interact with our environment on an everyday basis and this Report aims to show these connections to land, air and water resources. Industries within the District contribute significantly to communities' social and economic wellbeings, in relying on the utilisation of the natural

environmental resources to produce high quality products. Such industries, on one hand, support our communities and, on the other hand, impact on the natural environment. A balancing act between the two needs to be maintained. This document reflects the current state of this relationship.

Council is required to meet its obligations for reporting on the state of the environment under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) every three years. This report provides an information base to assist Council with future Policies, Plans and Strategies that assist in fostering sustainable management within the District.



Neil Sinclair MNZM BDS JP



Arthur Treble

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NAS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Neil A Sinclair MNZM JP BDS

MAYOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Treble', written in a cursive style.

Arthur J Treble

INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

How to Use this Report




The Environmental Performance Indicators have been grouped into Land, Water and District, in relation to what their primary impact is. These groups form Sections in this State of the Environment (SOE) Report.

Water Indicators refer to water-related resources within the District, such as the District's streams, rivers and underground aquifers. Water indicators in this Report have been used to show the state of the District's water resources and the pressures affecting them.




Land Indicators refer to land related activities within the District such as dairy farming, waste disposal, recycling, soil erosion and indigenous vegetation. Such activities directly relate to the impact and pressures that land resources within the District face.

District Indicators refer to the environment that encompasses the District. These indicators do not fit into Land or Water, but instead relate to climatic factors, air quality and transport.

To make the information easier to understand, the data is presented from the indicator's perspective, as follows:

-  Excellent/Good
-  Mixed /Uncertain /Satisfactory
-  Disturbing/Watchful/Unsatisfactory

Where there is a history of sampling, the trend may be shown as:

-  Sample data has shown an increase in values
-  Sample data has shown a decrease in values
-  No significant trend shown from sample data

Explanation of the Page Format

The indicator is listed in the header box and is made up of three parts, as described in the Pressure, State, Response diagram shown under “Links to Other Plans/Policies”.

“**Indicator**” describes what the indicator is measuring.

“**State**” is a symbol depicting an assessment of the current state of the indicator at the time the data was collected and analysed.

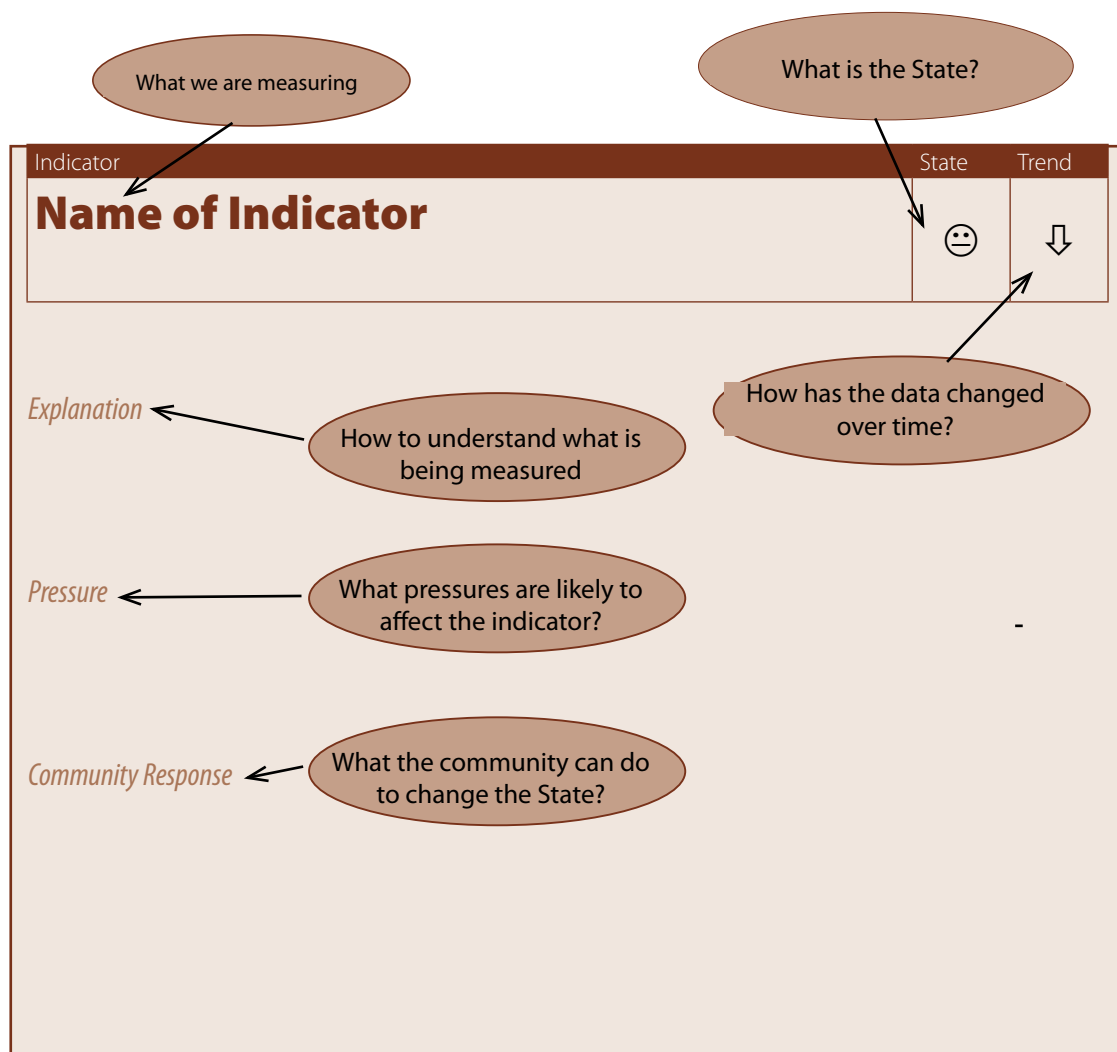
“**Trend**” is an arrow showing how the data has trended over the selected period of time. Such trending may be illustrated on the page in the form of graphs, tables or maps. Where possible, the changes have been expressed as a percentage on the summary page.

“**Explanation**” provides the reader with important background information concerning the indicator. This may be information concerning what the indicator is measuring, relevant standards used in measuring the indicator.

“**Pressure**” provides information on what pressures are currently affecting the indicator and which pressures are likely to influence the indicator in the future.

“**Community Response**” shows what current and future responses Council and the community can take to make improvements on the current state of the indicator. Such improvements could be that businesses, industries or households within the community could take actions, in line with Council, Regional Council, or Central Government policies.

References for the information presented in each indicator are listed in the back of the report.



Summary Statement of Environmental Highlights

Indicator	Comment	State	Trend
Stream Water Quality - Overall Chemistry and Health Indicators	Stream quality has improved with 18 sites rating satisfactory or higher.	😊	↑
Stream Fencing	49 funded stream fencing projects since 2003.	😊	↑
Recycling	Recycling volumes have increased by 18% over the past five years.	😊	↑
Quantity of Solid Waste Generated	Waste generation per capita has reduced by 22% on the 2003 level.	😊	↓
Walkways as Provision for Enjoyment of the Countryside	12.6 km of new walkways established since 2003.	😊	↑
Protection from Potential Erosion by Retaining or Providing Vegetation Reserves	8.8% of the District is protected through Reserves.	😊	↑
Road Traffic Injuries and Fatalities	Rural injury crashes have increased by 20% since 2002. Urban injury and non-injury crashes peaked at 36 during 2003.	😞	↑
Dust in Tokoroa as Particulate PM ₁₀	Number of acceptable samples has decreased from 71% in 2002 to 46% in 2005.	😞	↓

Industry Impact on the Environment

In March 2003 Kinleith Recycling Centre opened for operation. This service has since been extended to the community and other organisations. The collaboration with Materials Processing Limited (now WastePro) to intercept all solid waste disposal has diverted 60,000 tonnes per year from Kinleith's landfill.

Water consumption has been lowered, despite significant increases in pulp production. In 1999, Kinleith used 105,000,000 litres of water per day to produce 400,000 tonnes of product. In 2005 this was reduced to 84,000,000 litres per day for 600,000 tonnes of product.

CHH Kinleith received an EnergyWise Awards 2005 for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority in the following categories: Meridian Energy Renewable Energy Award (a project or technology using a renewable energy source) and Energy Manager Award (individuals managing energy accounts over \$250,000 pa).

In the past year CHH Forest has undertaken possum control with aerial 1080 drops of 7000 ha in the upper catchments of the Pokaiwhenua and Oraka streams. This area has included 1100 ha of indigenous forest remnant located in the steep gullies within the Oraka, Tikitiki and Pukerimu catchments. Overall, this has reduced possum numbers from an indicated 45% Residual Trap Count (per 100 traps set) down to a figure of 1.92% RTC.

Grey willow is a major weed in wetlands within Kinleith Forest. A project has been under way for two years progressively poisoning the willow in the 10 ha Mangatapu wetland. Other wetland type projects are planned in conjunction with Waikato River Trails Trust.

Fonterra Lichfield Environmental Improvements 2006:

Waste - The implementation of a new system to manage waste within the Fonterra Lichfield site, once fully operational, is expected to reduce waste to landfill by 75% and will ensure that all of the reusable and/or recyclable wastes are captured for reuse, rather than being sent to landfill.

Water Use - In 2004/05 the Lichfield site used 5750m³ water per day to process 3,000 m³ milk per day. During the 2005/06 season water use initiatives within the site reduced this to 5250m³ water per day to process the 3,000m³ milk per day.

Chemical Use - As part of a company-wide initiative to reduce the quantity of chemicals used in the manufacturing process, the Lichfield site used 68,400 litres less in 2005/06 than 2004/05 a 3.5% reduction.

Energy - Fonterra is undertaking an energy reduction programme over all its sites and recently won an EECA award for the programme. The Lichfield site has reduced its energy use by 4.3% in the 2005/06 season.