Chair’s welcome

The twelve strong political committee of the regional council are charged with a governance role that has significant implications for the long term health of the region. This is never more obvious than when council must review significant plans and policies, such as the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) or the master policy document the Regional Plan.

An important function of governance under the Local Government Act is ‘representative democracy’. This involves representing the community, setting policy and monitoring and reviewing that policy.

Representing the community can mean making decisions on their behalf for their wellbeing, in the case of Environment Waikato, the regional community at large. This without doubt includes keeping in contact the broader community, reporting their views and reporting back to them on the decisions of council.

In setting policy Environment Waikato must determine what activities should be carried out and why and the appropriate regulatory framework to support the policy. Much of the work is determined by legislation or existing community mandate. For example, significant public consultation was undertaken three years ago to establish the first LTCCP with a 10 year horizon.

This past year the council has considered, and in some cases implemented, a number of significant policy changes. This has included Variation 6 (Water Allocation) which was fully adopted by council in the past month. Council has also had to consider whether to vary the Regional Coastal Plan to allow for a level of fin-fish farming in existing aquaculture. Both water allocation and aquaculture have demonstrated the need for robust policy that balances economic, social, cultural and environmental issues. The effects have to be well understood as do the ‘trade -offs’ and the policy needs to be be readily monitored and enforced. Poor policy can bring about detrimental environmental effects that are hard to reverse of can hinder appropriate economic development.

Creating policy can be time consuming and costly. Much depends on the level of demand for and competition over the resources under consideration and the level of potential effects.

Once in place policy provides the fundamental framework for councils and communities use of the regions natural resources. Policy however is in my opinion, is only useful if it is implemented effectively. This is where LTCCP’s are vital. The funded work programme set by this plan (and others) must be set in a way that brings about the positive outcomes or protections intended by the policies.

The draft LTCCP will be available for public feedback early next year. I encourage all sectors of our community to have their say in determining in what ways and how quickly we do what we are obliged to or want to achieve for our region.

Cr Paula Southgate
Chair, Policy and Strategy Committee

Group Manager’s comments

Welcome all to the latest edition of the Policy Newsletter from Environment Waikato.

On behalf of the team here at Environment Waikato, we wish you seasons greetings and a happy new year.

The current economic crisis and the change in government bring new challenges to us all. From a policy writer’s perspective these national and global changes and trends make our job all the more complex. They bring into much sharper perspective the importance of balancing the environmental outcomes our community are seeking with the social, cultural and economic aspirations of the region and the country as a whole. They also cause us to emphasise more and more the importance of integration not only between levels of government but also integration in the decisions we make about land use, infrastructure and resource allocation.

If anything, the changes we are seeing put more emphasis on the work we are doing in our sub regional growth strategies such as Shore Futures or Blueprint and on the opportunities that the Regional Policy Statement review project presents.

My team and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these projects and the opportunities they provide.

Best wishes,
Robert Brodnax
Group Manager, Policy and Strategy
Community planning and partnership programmes

2009-19 Long-Term Council Community Plan
Work is now underway across the organisation on the 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The LTCCP covers a ten year period and describes the activities Environment Waikato will fund and provide in order to achieve community outcomes – the goals the community considers important for its wellbeing.

This year council has a new starting point for discussions with the community on the long-term plan – our new strategic framework which emphasises community partnerships, safe and resilient communities, regional development and environmental management. The framework consolidates Environment Waikato’s work into four strategic groups of activities considered essential to address the big issues facing our region.

Over the next few months all the activities within these groups will be considered, prioritised and consulted upon. Waikato people are encouraged to take the opportunity to get involved in the development of the LTCCP with information in community newspapers and on the Environment Waikato website. In the meantime, share your views with your regional councillor.

Key dates are detailed below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Council activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 2008 onwards</td>
<td>Strategic discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2008 – February 2009</td>
<td>Preparation of draft plans and budgets</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2009 – April 2009</td>
<td>Draft adoption, publication and formal consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2009 – June 2009</td>
<td>Submission hearings and deliberations</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>Final draft adoption, publication and responses to submissions</td>
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For more information, please contact Anthea Sayer.

Integrated coastal plans – west coast of the Waikato region
Environment Waikato, Otorohanga, Waikato and Waitomo District Councils and the Department of Conservation are working together on an integrated (land and harbour) catchment planning project for the Kawhia and Aotea catchments. This means coming up with ways (regulatory and non-regulatory) of managing activities and development, both on land and in the coastal marine area, while taking into account the special aspects and features of these west coast catchments.

In early 2007 a series of workshops were held with the public at various locations focusing on the issues of water quality, landscape and natural character and subdivision and development. A report summarising the consultation can be viewed on the Shore Futures website. The agencies have also been working with tangata whenua of the area to ensure that important cultural values are understood and recognised in planning documents. This phase of the project is ongoing.

The consultation that took place in 2007 has helped to inform the drafting of the Shore Futures Report, as well as technical information that has been undertaken by contractors (including a landscape and natural character assessment of the catchments and a heritage report of Kawhia and Aotea). The Shore Futures Report will provide recommendations on how all councils might deal with development in the area while protecting natural character, environmental well-being and heritage and will provide direction on key issues to be addressed in the review of the Regional Policy Statement. The project team recognise that pressure for land use change and subdivisions is increasing within the Kawhia and Aotea catchments, particularly near the coastal margin.

The Shore Futures Governance Group recently met to discuss the natural environment and the development and infrastructure chapters of the report. The Community Reference Group will be reviewing these chapters in the near future. Work is continuing on other aspects of the Shore Futures Project that address heritage matters. It is expected that a draft Shore Futures report will be available for public comment early 2009.

For more information, please visit www.ew.govt.nz/shorefutures or contact Amanda Banks.
Resource management plans and initiatives

Regional Policy Statement (RPS)
Work on the RPS review is progressing, with additional team members on board and a number of workstreams underway.

We are currently working on a new two-part structure. The first part is based around six broad themes that contain regional issues and associated objectives. Policies and methods relating to natural and physical resources follow in the second part. We are currently developing a document that will give an indication of potential directions in the new RPS, for release in early 2009. Based on the new structure, this document will be used as an awareness-raising and feedback tool as part of our consultation strategy. Also as part of the consultation process, a Reference Group has been established comprising second-tier managers of the region’s territorial authorities, which meets quarterly.

For updates on the RPS review, please keep an eye on our website www.ew.govt.nz/rpsreview – or for further information please phone Blair Dickie or email us at rps@ew.govt.nz.

Climate change
The council was recognised in April for achieving the International Council for Environmental Initiatives, Communities for Climate Protection – ANZ, Milestone 1 following completion of both a Corporate and Community wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Work on setting greenhouse gas emission reduction targets (Milestone 2) and developing actions plans (milestone 3) is progressing over the 2008 – 09 summer period.

Work is also progressing with the development of a background paper covering the regional council’s role with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation for inclusion into the LTCCP review and the second generation RPS.

For more information, please contact Blair Dickie.

Policy effectiveness reporting
Environment Waikato produces individual detailed policy effectiveness reports for each RPS subject area on a rolling basis, such that every five years, reports are completed for all RPS subject areas. These reports provide a detailed analysis of each RPS issue, the methods designed to address the issue, the extent to which these methods are being implemented, pressures operating on the matter, and evidence of success with respect to the relevant objectives.

During this year, we have been working on two policy effectiveness reports. The first is on Natural Hazards. This should be available on Environment Waikato’s Policy Effectiveness web page early 2009 (refer to www.ew.govt.nz/Policy-and-plans/Policy-effectiveness-reports/). The second report investigates the extent to which we are achieving our energy and infrastructure objectives in the RPS. This will be available by about March 2009.

For more information contact Urlwyn Trebilco.

Forum for Integrated Resource Management (FIRM)
Three FIRM meetings have been held this year. Historic Heritage was held in March; Energy and Climate Variability in July; and Stormwater (drainage, urban design, biodiversity) in October. The Forum is useful for local authorities and Environment Waikato policy and planning staff to get together three to four times per year to learn, hear each other’s views and experiences, and discuss ways that collectively we can improve the way we manage resource management issues.

FIRM meetings planned over the next two years focus on key RPS areas as part of the current review of the RPS and the consultative process that is required.

For more information, please contact Katie Mayes.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency
The Waikato Regional Energy Forum held a very successful conference in October of this year. The draft Regional Energy Strategy was reported back to 130 members of the Forum. The Forum is an independent entity facilitated and supported by Environment Waikato. At the time of writing comments on the strategy are being received and these will be considered by the multi stakeholder Advisory Group prior to the release of the final strategy in March 2009.

Eight of the 28 recommendations contained in the strategy have direct relevance to the review of the RPS and relate to accessing natural resources for their energy. The majority of the remaining recommendations relate to energy efficiency and conservation opportunities.

For more information, please contact Blair Dickie.

Water allocation
A hearing committee of three commissioners and two Environment Waikato councillors have completed hearings for the submissions to PWRP: Proposed Variation No. 6 – Water Allocation in December 2007. The Committee’s Report on Submissions was approved at the council meeting on 30 October 2008.

The Hearings Committee Report was publicly notified 14 November 2008. The Environment Court has granted Environment Waikato an extension to the appeal period from 30 working days to 60 working days. The period for appeals to the Environment Court will close 5 March 2009.

For more information, please contact David Speirs or Bruce McAuliffe.
**Geothermal Policy**

RPS Change No.1 (Geothermal module) was made operative in December 2007. Replacement pages have now been circulated to all RPS copy holders. The operative text is incorporated in to the Regional Policy Statement available on our website at www.ew.govt.nz/Policy-and-plans/Regional-Policy-Statement.

WRP: Variation No. 2 (Geothermal) became operative on 7 November 2008. The text of the operative module is now available on our website at www.ew.govt.nz/Policy-and-plans/Regional-Plan. Replacement pages for copy holders of the Operative WRP will be circulated in the near future.

For more information, please contact Blair Dickie or Nicola Rye.

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**Protecting Lake Taupo**

Council decisions on a variation to the Regional Plan to protect the high water quality of Lake Taupo were notified on 24 March 2007 (Variation 5 – Lake Taupo Catchment).

Environment Court hearings on the appeals lodged commenced on 5 May (in Taupo) and continued throughout May, June and July. The Environment Court’s interim decision on appeals was released in early November. We will now be working with the appellants to incorporate the Court’s direction into the Variation.

For more information, please contact Justine Young.

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**Draft Lake Taupo Erosion and Flood Strategy**

Policy have been providing assistance to River and Catchment Services and Taupo District Council in the development of the Draft Lake Taupo Erosion and Flood Strategy. The non-statutory document provides a preventative approach to reducing flood and erosion risk around the lake. Implementation of the strategy will be via an action plan which identifies key work areas including monitoring, planning, education and awareness, emergency management, river and sediment management, and physical works. The draft Strategy will be available for public feedback from mid December 2008.

For further information contact Matthew Vare.
Regional integration
The regional integration team continues to be involved in district plan changes and reviews and growth planning work with territorial authorities all over the region. Our involvement in applications for district council consents is therefore taking more of a back seat as we work to help get a good ‘front end’ to planning processes.

For more information, please contact Katie Mayes.

Strategy for a Sustainable Environment (SSE)
The Strategy for a Sustainable Environment Project is looking at the potential future resource management issues that may arise over the next 50 years in the Waikato region due to regional growth and development. The aim is to develop a set of principles to guide Environment Waikato’s advocacy with respect to regional development. These principles will be advocated through our second generation RPS and through our work with territorial authorities, developers and other stakeholders who influence growth in the region.

This year we have been researching and preparing a discussion document which identifies current and potential growth trends, and discusses how land use and resource use in the region may change as a result. The document identifies potential resource management issues that may arise as a result of these trends and suggests some principles for managing the issues. The document is almost completed. It will then be used to workshop the issues and principles over the next 12 months with territorial authorities and other parties. The strategy itself will be developed through the course of these workshops.

For more information, please contact Urlwyn Trebilco.

Waikato Regional Plan: Variation No. 7 – Minor Changes and Geothermal Maps
Environment Waikato proposed Variation No. 7 to the Waikato Regional Plan. The purpose of the proposed variation is to make minor changes to the proposed Waikato Regional Plan to improve the workability of the plan and to amend the Regional Plan maps showing significant geothermal features and geothermal water features.

A summary of submissions received on Proposed Variation No. 7 – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps has now been produced. The summary of submissions was notified on 7 November 2008. The close date to lodge further submissions was Monday, 8 December 2008.

The Variation and the summary of submissions are available to download from our website.

For more information, please contact Nicola Rye.
Regional Coastal Plan: Proposed Plan
Change 1: Minor changes

Environment Waikato proposed Plan Change. No 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan in 2007. The purpose of the proposed plan change is to make minor changes to the Plan to improve the workability. The change provides for the installation of temporary structures for monitoring and research as a permitted activity subject to conditions, and to provide for associated vehicle use in relation to relevant existing permitted and controlled activities.

A summary of submissions received on Proposed Change No.1 has now been produced. The summary of submissions was notified on 7 November 2008. The closing date to lodge further submissions was Monday, 8 December 2008.

The proposed change and the summary of submissions are available to download from our website.

For more information, please contact Nicola Rye.

PM$_{10}$ air quality

Air pollution affects a number of Waikato urban centres. According to a recent government report air pollution causes almost 1100 premature deaths in New Zealand every year.

In 2004 the government set a national environmental standard (NES) that requires all areas to comply with ambient air quality standards by 2013. If an area does not comply with the NES by 2013, Environment Waikato will be unable to issue resource consents for particulate air discharges. There are five areas in the region that don’t currently meet the NES. They are the urban areas of Tokoroa, Taupo, Putaruru, Te Kuiti and Hamilton city. The main cause of the problem is smoke from domestic home heating. This smoke contains tiny particles (PM$_{10}$) that are small enough to get into human lungs and worsen asthma, inflame throats and noses and contribute to serious health problems such as heart disease.

Council is currently developing a strategy to minimise the effects of air pollution on community health. The strategy will aim to improve the air quality in urban areas where levels of PM$_{10}$ are highest by encouraging households to upgrade heating appliances, educating communities about air pollution, and considering new rules in the Waikato regional plan to control outdoor burning and inefficient home heating.

For more information, please contact Phil Parkes.
**Experimental aquaculture plan change**

Following nearly two years of information gathering and discussions, Environment Waikato has decided to proceed with drafting a plan change to allow new types of aquaculture, such as fish farming, within the existing aquaculture management areas. Currently the Regional Coastal Plan only allows shellfish farming in the 1500 hectares of water space allocated to aquaculture.

Several technical reports have been commissioned to investigate the potential ecological effects of fish farming and a multi-stakeholder working group has been assisting with the evaluation of these. As the studies are completed the reports will be available on Environment Waikato’s webpage. Further consultation will occur in the first half of 2009.

For more information, or if you’d like to be involved in the discussions, please contact Graeme Silver.

**Coastal occupation charges – deadline for a plan change**

Coastal occupation charges are a rental for the private use of public space in the coastal marine area. They replaced the older coastal rental regime that was not implemented and the foreshore and seabed licence fees levied under the Harbour Act. Environment Waikato has resolved that coastal occupation charges are appropriate and should be levied on private occupation of public space, but council considers the current system of occupation charges to be unclear and subject to interpretation, and therefore should not be implemented as this would expose council to lengthy and expensive court processes.

However, the RMA contains a deadline for regional councils to address coastal occupation charges by amending their regional coastal plans. Failure to do so results in council being unable to make any changes to the Regional Coastal Plan (RCP), unless they first address coastal occupation charges. That deadline has passed, and as a result, council is preparing a plan change to the RCP to state that while we consider coastal occupation charges to be appropriate, we will not levy them at this time. This plan change will be notified in conjunction with the next change to the RCP.

For more information, please contact Graeme Silver.

**Marine Farming Variation and Wilson Bay Marine Farming Zone**

In March 2008 the Minister of Conservation announced that the Wilson Bay Marine Farming Zone had been declared an interim aquaculture management area (AMA). This is the first step in making the Zone a fully fledged AMA. The Ministry of Fisheries is currently assessing the impact of the Zone on commercial, customary and recreational fishing and fisheries resources. If the Zone passes this test it will become a fully operative AMA in 2009.

Part of the Zone is already developed under consents issued in 2001 or earlier and these areas have deemed AMA status. Full AMA status for the Zone will allow the processing of consent applications over the Area B part of the Zone. These applications cover 520 hectares and are on hold due to the Aquaculture Moratorium that expired at the end of 2004. As Area B is considered to be ‘new space’ under the reformed legislation, it is subject to a 20 per cent allocation of space to the Takutai Trust on behalf of local Maori.

For more information, please contact Graeme Silver.

**Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint project**

At the moment the Blueprint technical team is collating, interpreting and summarising the community and stakeholder feedback results. That material will then be used in alignment with the constraints and opportunities identified during earlier Blueprint work and existing statutory provisions. This process will require considerable involvement of the Blueprint Political Steering Group, to be conducted as a series of closely spaced workshops between February and May 2009. The final outcome will be the ‘preferred future’, which is the actual district-wide Blueprint.

In parallel, a scoping exercise is nearing its completion for the second stage of the Blueprint - Local Area Blueprints (LABs) for individual settlements, catchments and the adjoining CMA. The Blueprint technical team is now preliminarily signing off the bulk of the document. The development of these LABs is intended to start mid 2009, after the completion of the district-wide Blueprint.

For more information, please contact Ursula Lehr.
Strategy and bylaw reviews

Navigation Safety Bylaw
In October and November of this year 17 public meetings were held around the region to assist in the review of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2006. The review is required in order to be consistent with the Maritime New Zealand Regulations (as our Bylaw is not to be inconsistent with the national directions such as Part 91, which have been amended since the 2006 Bylaw was reviewed), the Harbour Risk Management Plan as well as enabling account to be taken of changing use and pressures on surface waters around the Waikato region.

The Bylaw was presented to council on 11 December this year and will be notified and enter the formal statutory process in January 2009. At this stage submissions will be received from January 19 to February 27, 2009 with the aim of adopting the revised Bylaw at the May, 2009 council meeting.

For more information, please contact Shelley Monrad.

Harbour Risk Management Plan (HRMP)
Environment Waikato was the third region to gain approval from Maritime New Zealand for their Harbour Risk Management Plan and Safety Management System. This document primarily identifies the risks in each of the region’s harbours and proposes actions to reduce the risk as much as possible.

This plan was prepared in accordance with the NZ Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code. The code arose primarily from Maritime New Zealand’s concerns at the groundings of two vessels (Jody F Millennium at Gisborne and the Tai Ping at Bluff) and the lessons learnt from these events. It is a voluntary code which promotes good safety practices and provides a national standard against which performance can be measured.

Environment Waikato’s plan covers the region’s maritime harbours and Lake Karapiro. It is aimed at identifying risks and ensuring they are managed by reducing the level of risk to as low as is reasonably practicable. The plan describes primary accountability and procedures, communication and monitoring regimes, to ensure the effective facilitation of navigation safety. For example, the plan includes policies and operating procedures for matters such as accidents, bar crossings, navigation aids, wrecks and harbour works. It also covers area specific information and contingency plans for the harbours and Lake Karapiro.

This plan was audited by Maritime New Zealand in October 2007 and consequently signed off by the Director of Maritime New Zealand. As the initial risk assessment was undertaken three years ago, council is required by Maritime NZ to undertake an audit and a review on how the system is working. Meetings with key stakeholders were held around the region throughout November, 2009 to determine any changes in how this plan and safety management system is working for them and whether any changes are required.

For more information, please contact Shelley Monrad.
Regional Rail Strategy

Environment Waikato is currently developing a Regional Rail Strategy and released a Waikato Regional Rail Strategy Discussion Document to key stakeholders in August. Environment Waikato received 19 responses to the discussion document from a wide range of organisations, including Kiwirail/Ontrack, ARTA, NZTA, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority and six district councils.

The responses cover many issues relating to policy and actions in the discussion document and staff are currently collating these responses.

For more information, please contact Bill McMaster or Vincent Kuo.

Regional Road Safety Strategy

Environment Waikato is currently developing a Regional Road Safety Strategy and work on the Strategy has been progressing well. The Regional Road Safety Strategy will set a framework for the joint delivery of ‘3 E’ (education, enforcement, engineering) to target a range of identified priorities and risks. Part of this work will be to profile significant road user groups and explore the safety implications of changing transport patterns as determined by factors such as freight movements, modal shift and driver behaviour.

The strategy will also focus on road user groups contributing disproportionately to crash statistics. Examples of these are Heavy Commercial Vehicles and the current upward trend in motorcycle crashes.

Work will be carried out to identify where and why existing conflicts may occur and to anticipate what future conflicts may arise based on predicted trends. Data gathered from key stakeholders such as the Police, ACC, NZTA and local authorities will help to inform the direction of the strategy. Actions arising will be based on ‘best practise’ methodology and take into account the combined objectives and influence of the broad spectrum of stakeholders that have helped to shape this piece of work.

It is anticipated that a draft Regional Road Safety Strategy will be presented to the Regional Transport Committee in March 2009, before being released for stakeholder consultation.

For more information, please contact Jo Carling or Vincent Kuo.

Land Transport Management Act and Regional Land Transport Programme 2009-2012

The Land Transport Management Amendment Bill was passed into legislation on 3 July with the Act commencing on 1 August 2008. The amended Land Transport Management Act (LTMA) seeks to create an improved transport system. It introduced a Government Policy Statement which sets out the government’s high level priorities (including funding allocation) for land transport and three-yearly Regional Land Transport Programmes (RLTP) that identify all land transport activities in a region.

The Government Policy Statement (GPS) ensures that funding and planning for land transport contribute to the strategic objectives set
out in the New Zealand Transport Strategy 2008 (NZTS). The GPS will be issued on a three-yearly basis by the Minister of Transport and sets out the government’s funding policy and priorities for land transport for the next 10 years.

The NZTS provides direction (specific and stretch transport targets) for the transport sector until 2040, in the context of the Government’s sustainability agenda and other Government strategies in the areas of energy and energy efficiency.

The new Act also requires Regional Land Transport Committees (now called Regional Transport Committees (RTCs) under the new Act) to prepare their first RLTP by 1 July 2009 to prioritise regional funding for transport projects in the region. The RLTP must include a prioritised list of the following activities for the first three financial years:

- all state highway activities
- major local road improvements (typically over $4.5M)
- new public transport activities/services
- projects recommended for R and C funding by the RTC
- community activities (such as travel plans, road safety and education).

The RLTP will be released for public consultation in conjunction with the LTCCP in March 2009. Submissions will close on 20 April 2009.

For more information, please contact Bill McMaster or Vincent Kuo.

Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012


Council released its decisions on submissions in June 2007. The decision to include wild pigs and deer as pests in the strategy was appealed by Tokoroa Pig Hunting Club. Council has now reached an agreement with Tokoroa Pig Hunting Club in respect of its appeal and a consent order has been sealed by the Court.

The 2007-2012 Strategy was made operative 11 December 2008.

For more information, please contact Kevin Collins.
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where our documents are in the statutory process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Status – December 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008/09 Annual Plan</td>
<td>The 2008/09 Annual Plan is year three of our LTCCP. Adopted 26 June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Policy Statement</td>
<td>Operative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal Change No. 1</td>
<td>Operative – December 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Coastal Plan</td>
<td>Operative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Farming Variation</td>
<td>Operative in part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marinas Variation</td>
<td>Operative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variation No. 5 – Lake Taupo Catchment</td>
<td>Decisions released 24 March 2007. Appeals received and are currently in the Environment Court.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variation No. 7 – Minor Changes</td>
<td>Summary of Submissions prepared. Further submissions closed 8 December 2008.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation Safety Bylaw</td>
<td>The bylaw came into effect on 1 July 2006 and is currently being reviewed. Consultation was undertaken in October/November 2008 with 17 meetings held across the region. The statutory process commences on January 19, 2009, with submissions closing February 27, 2009.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Land Transport Strategy</td>
<td>Operative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Passenger Transport Plan</td>
<td>Operative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Road Safety Plan</td>
<td>Operative.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>