

# Stratford District Council

## In the heart of Taranaki



STRATFORD  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR END 2009

## Outcomes for the Stratford Community

The 2006-2016 LTCCP stated the vision for Stratford as "The heart of rural Taranaki, a progressive district serving prosperous and proud

people." The community outcomes are listed in the LTCCP and Council is working towards the achievement of those outcomes either by working

with other organisations in the common pursuit of community goals or by taking direct action through the provision of services and facilities. Council is expected to take a leadership role in areas not considered a core service of Council. This includes

areas of health, education and social support. Below are some key projects undertaken by Council during 2008/09 in achieving the social, cultural, economic and the environmental well-being needs of the Stratford community.

## Key Projects

### Parks and Reserves

All sporting codes have been able to operate within the four sports grounds available:

- Page Street Sport Ground – rugby and rugby league
- Swansea Road Sport Ground – soccer
- Victoria Park Sport Ground – rugby, cricket, athletics, touch rugby and croquet
- Portia Street Sport Ground – hockey and cricket

Ongoing park development took place in King Edward Park with the removal of dead and ageing trees and the tree canopy lifted on various other trees along the river bank to allow views of the Patea River. The gardens along the Page Street frontage and the Hamlet Street entrance to the park were reshaped, mulched and included additional plantings. The Miranda Street planter boxes were rejuvenated with the existing under planting removed, the gardens mulched and a new perimeter planted.

### TSB Swimming Pool

The user numbers for 2008/09 were 59,390. Numbers are similar to previous year, which can be attributed to a new management contractor from 1 July 2007 introducing new activities and another Learn to Swim group. The activity was funded 18% from user charges and 82% from general rates.

### Civic Amenities

The number of hires for the War Memorial Centre increased by 22% from last year's bookings to 733 this year. The number of hires for the Centennial Restrooms in 2008/2009 was 201. Booking numbers have decreased due to no "special occasion" bookings. The hot water cylinder and interior repainting were funded from renewals.

Major works completed include the replacement of the bus shelter on the west side of Miranda Street; painting of the clock tower including maintenance of glockenspiel mechanisms; removal of the Lych Gate to new site and new paving stones were laid in the pathway; repaint of the exterior and interior of the Broadway public toilets; and refurbishment of the Victoria Park Memorial Gates.

### Pensioner Housing and Elsie Fraser Housing

A 95% occupancy rate was achieved with three tenancy changes over the 10 units at 37 Page Street. Eighteen applications were received and added to the waiting list.

### Rental Properties

Rental and lease payments are all up to date and all lease conditions were fully complied with. The Miranda Street office was extended by approximately 216m<sup>2</sup> to accommodate an archive. The project involved renovating the existing engineering office into an archives room while new offices were built to house staff.

### Holiday Park

The number of visitors at the Holiday Park increased by nearly 7,000 on last year's figures to 18,702 visitors. The lessee installed two additional self contained units increasing the capacity of the site. A 'Certificate of Verification' was obtained from Energy Safe, a department of the Ministry of Economic Development. This certificate verified that the park complied with the Electricity Act 1992 and the Gas Act 1992.

### Roading

Reseals were completed on 32.8kms (205,293m<sup>2</sup>) of sealed roads, and 9,682m<sup>2</sup> of metal was spread on 40.2kms of unsealed roads. The contractor completed 4.0kms of pavement rehabilitation on Claudius Street and on Monmouth and Opunake Roads. They also completed 6.0 km of seal extension (sealing of unsealed roads) on Makuri and Mangapapa Roads. A total of 286.5kms of water tables were cleared. An additional 1,002m of kerb and channel were constructed on Orlando and Romeo Streets and 520m of new footpath was added on those same roads. The average roughness for urban roads is 116.6 NASSRA (target not to exceed 135) with 24.2% greater than 150 (target no more than 30%). The average roughness for rural roads is 96.7 NASSRA (target not to exceed 115) with 8.9% greater than 150 (target no more than 20%). There were 14 fatal and injury crashes (District Roads only) from 1 January to 31 December 2008. The target for such crashes was to have less than 29 for the year. The Road Safety Action Plan actions for engineering, education and enforcement in Taranaki are ongoing. Regular 3-monthly meetings of all road safety partners were held to monitor and ensure progress on the required actions to reduce the incidence and severity of crashes in the Taranaki Region.

### Solid Waste (Refuse)

Regular appraisals of contractors performance showed a 99.6% compliance with contract parameters which are above the 95% target. The target of no green waste being sent from the transfer station to landfill was achieved.

### Wastewater (Sewerage)

No reticulation projects were undertaken during the year because Council is awaiting completion of a sewerage reticulation model. All contract parameters were achieved as well as full compliance with treatment consent conditions. There were 6 sewer overflows during the year which was below the targeted maximum of 10.

### Stormwater

All renewal and capital work planned for the year was completed to the required standards. Approximately 150 meters of undersized and substandard pipes were replaced to enable the system to handle a "1 in 20 year" storm event. All maintenance contract parameters were met.

### Water Supply

All renewal and capital work planned for the year was completed to the required standards. Appraisals of the contractor's performance showed that the targeted 95% contract compliance was achieved for the physical works. Council exceeded the daily extraction limit set at Midhurst however the Taranaki Regional Council has allowed a variation to the consent since it was bought to their attention. All other consent conditions were met.

### Farm Investment

Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd awarded Council and its sharemilkers a 'Certificate of Merit for Quality Milk Production' for supplying milk of a consistently high standard for the 2008/2009 season. In addition, Fonterra awarded Council a 'Certificate of Achievement' for attaining an average bulk milk somatic cell count below 150,000/ml. Both these awards were achieved through the rigorous management of dairy hygiene practices and an on-going commitment to milk quality. Production of 115,516 kg of milk solids was 19.3% above the 2009 district average and an 8.6% increase on last year's production. Taranaki Regional Council granted a continuation of the resource consent to discharge treated farm dairy effluent from an oxidation pond treatment system into an unnamed tributary of the Piakau Stream, a tributary of the Kahouri Stream. This consent will be reviewed in June 2016 and/or June 2022 and will expire on 1st December 2028.

### Youth Council

The Youth Council progressed their "For Youth By Youth" initiative by successfully applying through the Community Services Team to the Ministry of Youth Development for funding to undertake a feasibility study and project planning process to establish a Youth Centre in town.

### Cemeteries

There were 32 burial interments and 21 ashes interments at the Kopuatama Cemetery and two burial interments and one ashes interment at the Midhurst Cemetery. A new water reticulation system was installed at the Kopuatama Cemetery. A cemetery layout sign was erected at the main entrance to assist visitors to locate plots and the Central Taranaki Rural Women replanted the memorial garden. Veterans' Affairs supplied two black granite memorial stones for the Kopuatama Cemetery. The contractor completed the maintenance and inspections of the rural and closed cemeteries.

### District Plan

The Stratford District Plan was under review and will become operative in October 2009. The number of planning consents granted, of which 48% were for subdivisions, went down from 93 last year to 69 this year (2008/2009). 98% of these applications were processed within 15 working days and 100% within the 20 working days allowed for under the Resource Management Act.

### Building Control

The building control function was accredited and Council registered as a Building Consent Authority on 19 December 2007. The number of building consent applications granted for dwellings has dropped from 53 last year to 38 for 2008/2009. The total number of building consent applications granted during the year was 344 which are 26 less than 2007/2008. No Notices to Fix were issued in respect of non-compliant building work and all consents were granted within the 20 working days allowed for under the Building Act.

### Environmental Health

All premises required to be registered under the Health Act were registered in 2008/09. In regard to food premises, all premises were inspected and there were no reports of food borne illness. Unfortunately, however, only 58% of the district's food workers had gained a formal food safety qualification as compared with the 75% which was being aimed for. This was in part due to the turnover of staff being higher than anticipated and also because of the lack of a local training opportunity.

### Liquor Licensing

94% of premises required to be licensed under the Sale of Liquor Act were inspected during the year. 100% of the licence applications were granted within the 10 working days allowed for under the Act.

### Dog Control

97.8% of all known dogs were registered for the year and 130 infringement notices were issued. During 2008/2009 283 complaints about dogs were received with all being responded to within the required one hour. The number of complaints is 51 less than last year.

### Bylaws

A total of 107 bylaw related complaints were received and all were responded to within the required two working days. The number of complaints received has dropped considerably compared to the last three years.

## Financial Overview

### Financial Performance

The following table provides a summary of the comparative financial performance for the Council and Group for the last two financial years. Council performed close to budget with operating revenue slightly above budget and operating expenditure within budget. The consolidated figures comprise those of Council and its Council Controlled Organisation, the Percy Thomson Trust.

| Summary of Income Statement & Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2009 | Council        |                |                | Consolidated   |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | Actual 2008/09 | Budget 2008/09 | Actual 2007/08 | Actual 2008/09 | Actual 2007/08 |
|  | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          |
| Operating Revenue  | 13,432.6       | 12,656.2       | 12,627.7       | 13,564.5       | 12,824.9       |
| Less: Finance Costs  | 285.9          | 444.3          | 218.2          | 285.9          | 218.2          |
| Less: Other Expenditure  | 11,754.0       | 11,685.2       | 10,299.9       | 11,932.2       | 10,497.7       |
| Net Surplus (Deficit) before income tax  | 1,392.7        | 526.7          | 2,109.6        | 1,346.4        | 2,109.0        |
| Income Tax Expense   | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              |
| Net Surplus (Total recognised Revenue and Expenditure)                                       | 1,392.7        | 526.7          | 2,109.6        | 1,346.4        | 2,109.0        |
| Equity at the Beginning of the Year  | 260,716.1      | 239,441.7      | 243,441.7      | 263,496.0      | 246,055.6      |
| Movements in Revaluation Reserves  | (119.5)        | -              | 15,164.8       | (119.5)        | 15,331.2       |
| Equity at the End of the Year  | 261,989.3      | 239,968.4      | 260,716.1      | 264,722.7      | 263,496.0      |

### Summary of Financial Position

| Summary of Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2009 | Council        |                |                | Consolidated   |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | Actual 2008/09 | Budget 2008/09 | Actual 2007/08 | Actual 2008/09 | Actual 2007/08 |
|   | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          |
| Current Assets                              | 8,710.6        | 3,769.9        | 9,771.2        | 9,058.7        | 10,080.4       |
| Non-current Assets                          | 259,870.5      | 246,116.5      | 256,978.0      | 262,283.2      | 259,466.4      |
| Total Assets                                | 268,581.1      | 249,886.5      | 266,749.2      | 271,341.9      | 269,546.8      |
| Current Liabilities                         | 2,242.9        | 911.5          | 1,640.5        | 2,270.3        | 1,658.2        |
| Non-current Liabilities                     | 4,348.9        | 9,006.5        | 4,392.6        | 4,348.9        | 4,392.6        |
| Total Liabilities                           | 6,591.8        | 9,918.0        | 6,033.1        | 6,619.2        | 6,050.8        |
| Equity                                      | 261,989.3      | 239,968.4      | 260,716.1      | 264,722.7      | 263,496.0      |
| Total Liabilities and Equity                | 268,581.1      | 249,886.5      | 266,749.2      | 271,341.9      | 269,546.8      |

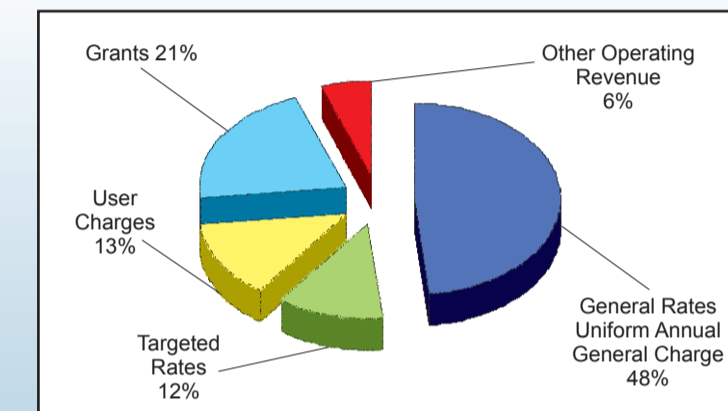
### Summary of Cash Flows

The Cash Flows table summarises how Council and the Group generated and used cash during the respective financial years. In both years cash surpluses from operating activities were invested in the district's assets.

| Summary Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2009 | Council        |                |                | Consolidated   |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | Actual 2008/09 | Budget 2008/09 | Actual 2007/08 | Actual 2008/09 | Actual 2007/08 |
|   | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          | \$000          |
| Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities                         | 4,841.6        | 3,778.7        | 5,506.8        | 4,896.0        | 5,557.7        |
| Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities                         | (6,333.6)      | (5,436.3)      | (4,105.9)      | (6,345.0)      | (4,278.8)      |
| Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities                         | (56.4)         | 1,508.4        | 642.9          | (56.4)         | 642.9          |
| Net Increase (decrease) in Cash Held for the year               | (1,548.4)      | (149.2)        | 2,043.8        | (1,505.4)      | 1,921.8        |
| Opening Cash & Cash Equivalents Balances                        | 8,821.5        | 3,279.0        | 6,777.7        | 9,111.8        | 7,190.0        |
| Closing Cash & Cash Equivalents Balances                        | 7,273.1        | 3,129.8        | 8,821.5        | 7,606.4        | 9,111.8        |

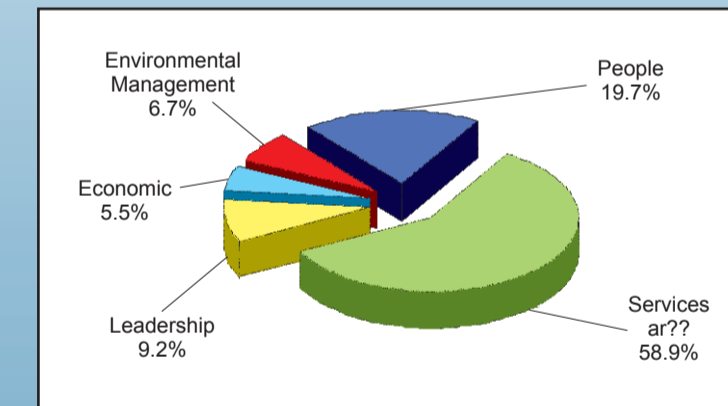
### Revenue

Sources of revenue



### Expenditure

Where the money is spent



## Interesting Facts

- 92,024 visits to the Stratford Library were recorded this year (2008/09), an increase of over 16,000 visits from the previous year.
- There were 18,702 visitors to the Holiday Park for this year (2008/09), an increase of nearly 7,000 on last year.
- No green waste was sent from the transfer station to landfill this year (2008/09).
- As at 30 June 2009, 15 people remain on Council's pensioner housing waiting list.