

Environmental Services



What we do

The Environmental Services activity role is to undertake the regulatory, non-regulatory and science based provisions with regard to the management of the Gisborne district's natural and physical resources and in particular the exercise of its functions as a regional council. It includes the following activities: Biosecurity, Environmental Data Management, Soil Conservation and Water Conservation.

Environmental Services disseminates information, assists, regulates, monitors and reports on animal and plant pest management, and sustainable land and water resource management. Some direct control of animal pests is carried out. The activity enables Council to give effect to Statutory Plans and responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 1993, Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Why we do it

To manage the use, development and protection of our natural and physical resources, now and into the future.

Water Conservation

The principal goal is sustainable management of the district's water resources and environs. To achieve this we undertake:

- surface water and groundwater quality and quantity monitoring
- coastal water quality monitoring
- beach and river sand and gravel monitoring
- analysis of environmental data
- implementation of statutory plan rules for water management which set permitted activity standards or require resource consents. This includes processing of water discharge consents, water takes, coastal consents, bore permits, shingle/sand extraction consents and consents for activities in the beds of rivers and lakes. It also includes compliance monitoring and enforcement - maybe replaced by below.

The introduction of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) has resulted in a substantial increase in work in this area, and the implementation of the Freshwater Plan will be a focus for the next ten year period. As pressure has come on our water resources the number of consents is growing and applications are becoming larger and more complex.

Soil Conservation

The principal goal is sustainable management of land resources that suffer from biodiversity loss and soil erosion. To achieve this we undertake:

- promotion of sustainable land management, mitigation and prevention of soil erosion and soil degradation, and maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity
- delivery of a small incentive fund for biodiversity enhancement
- land instability assessments, especially with respect to the Building Act (1991)
- management of two soil conservation reserves and a poplar and willow nursery providing a base of superior clones for soil conservation plantings
- implementation of Regional Land and District Plan rules which set permitted activity standards or require resource consents for achieving effective tree cover, land disturbance or vegetation removal. This includes compliance monitoring, including monitoring of harvesting consents and enforcement. Approximately 250 consents are processed each year. The number has grown and the applications are becoming larger and more complex
- maintenance and interpretation of Land Use Capability and other specialised resource databases used for monitoring and planning.

Environmental Data Management

The principal goal is to ensure natural resource management and response decisions are made using sound data. We also have a number of monitoring requirements in order to implement our statutory role under the RMA. To achieve this we undertake:

- water quality and quantity monitoring at river and groundwater sites
- monitoring of climate forecasts and telemetry readings
- maintenance of hydrological equipment
- administration of an external contract for field data collection, asset maintenance and water quality testing

- management of a database of time dependent data
- data analysis and report generation.

Biosecurity

The principal goal is to limit the adverse effects of unwanted plants and animals. Effects may be on human health, indigenous flora and fauna, our heritage, or the economy. To achieve this we undertake:

- development and implementation of the Regional Pest Management Plan and its rules requiring control or eradication of pest populations. This includes compliance monitoring and enforcement
- direct control of specific low incidence, high threat pests and possums (on account of the district's Tuberculosis free status)
- introduction and spread of biological control agents for pests
- surveillance for introduction of new pests.

This activity contributes to the following Community Outcomes:

- **Tairāwhiti Taonga**
- **Tairāwhiti Tangata**

Challenges and Opportunities

Future challenges and opportunities facing the activity:

- significant additional investment is needed to better align the delivery of these activities with statutory requirements and to support the review and implementation of Council's RMA Plans.
- implementing changes to the RMA, in particular as it relates to water management and the NPSFM as well as any new National Environmental Standard for Forestry.
- additional consent requirements and new requirements have been put in place around water monitoring and accounting for contaminants within water. The Freshwater Plan is being developed to meet the requirements of the NPSFM, and implementing the Freshwater Plan will create significant new work for the Environmental Data Management, Water Conservation and Soil Conservation activities.
- improving our science/knowledge information and how we share this information with the community. This includes providing core science information to underpin the development and review of statutory plans being undertaken in the Strategic Planning Activity including the development of Catchment Plans for the whole region by 2025. It also includes

making our information much more available and accessible to the community on internet-based platforms such as the Land Air Water Aotearoa website for water quality monitoring.

- re-orienting our water quality, hydrological and environmental data collection and management to ensure that it meets statutory requirements, provides good quality information in a timely manner necessary to underpin good decision making and resource management.
- up-skilling staff and the community in response to additional demands and the need to manage our environment more effectively.
- working with the community to bring about environmental improvements. This includes:
 - significant new requirements placed by the Freshwater Plan to put in place Catchment Plans
 - also ensuring Overlay 3A Work Plans continue to be developed and implemented.
- collaborating with tangata whenua on resource management issues of cultural importance and giving effect to Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi settlements through the implementation of Council's Resource Management Act plans. Examples of significant projects with iwi are the Waiapu River Restoration Project, Waingake Waterworks Restoration, and Native Fish Spawning Restoration Project.
- responding to changes in the environment such as droughts, storm events and floods. These can have a substantial impact on pest levels, biodiversity, soil erosion and water resources.
- there is a continual threat of new pests or diseases arriving in the region, requiring rapid interventions to attempt eradication or containment.

What are our plans for the next ten years?

Water Conservation

What have we been doing?	What will we do in years 1-10?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the technical information required to develop the Regional Freshwater Plan and Waipaoa Catchment Plan. • Implementing the Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations. • Reviewing monitoring programmes for freshwater quality and quantity creating opportunities for community monitoring of freshwater parameters. • Setting limits and allocation caps for surface and groundwater takes in key aquifers and rivers. 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Freshwater Plan and Waipaoa Catchment Plan. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ work with water users to put in place efficiency requirements and irrigation management plans to reduce over-allocation of water in the Waipaoa Catchment. ○ develop water allocations and caps for all water bodies and recommend storage options for the region. ○ raise awareness with landowners and water users on the requirements of the Freshwater Plan and undertake compliance monitoring. ○ provide science and technical input to the development of the Waiapu and other Catchment Plans. • Develop a Research Strategy to support the review of RMA Plans and commence its implementation. • Develop an Environmental Monitoring Strategy which includes new requirements such as biomonitoring. • Develop a strategic document on climate change. • Undertake 'State of the Environment' reporting, with a strong focus on providing a good understanding on the state of freshwater resources. <p>Years 1-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research and provide science and data analysis to assist in developing the Freshwater Plan and associated catchment management plans. All Catchment Plans must be in place by 2025. • Undertake research and provide science and data analysis to support the review and implementation of other statutory plans. This includes research and information for the natural hazards review as well as the Regional Policy Statement, Regional Coastal Environment Plan and the Combined Plan. • Implement non-regulatory Freshwater Plan projects. In the Waipaoa Catchment these are: Gisborne urban stormwater management, Waikanae streamside restoration, Waipaoa fish passage enhancement, Te Arai/Waipaoa inanga spawning restoration, Taruheru River restoration, Rere Falls and Rockslide water quality improvement, Awapuni lagoon water quality improvement. As each catchment plan is completed additional projects will be undertaken for that area. • Provide science and technical input to the implementation of the restoring the Waiapu Catchment Project.

We will achieve these plans by:

- Putting in place an effective project management framework, including adequate resourcing.
- Assembling cross-Council teams to ensure appropriate expertise is used to manage and implement projects.
- Working collaboratively with landowners, water users, iwi and the community to achieve desired outcomes for water resources and to implement non-regulatory projects.
- Take a more proactive approach to compliance and monitoring to ensure the sustainable use of water resources.
- Collaborate with adjacent Regional Councils with similar issues and pool resources where possible to deliver high value research and science to inform the implementation of Council's Regional Council functions.

Soil Conservation

What have we been doing?	What will we do in years 1-10?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting landowners to meet their Overlay 3A land Work Plan and tree establishment requirements. Working with the MPI and TRONPnui to initiate the Waiaapu Restoration Project. Increasing the emphasis on forest harvesting monitoring in response to increases in harvest area and public interest. Waerenga-o-Kuri Soil Conservation Reserve animal pest control and forest re-planting and release spraying. 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with landowners to ensure all Overlay 3A areas have a work plan in place and that they are being implemented. Implement the Freshwater Plan by working with farmers and horticulturists to develop Farm Environment Plans for intensive farming to reduce impacts on water quality. Approximately 100 plans need to be developed by 2020. Through a pilot project, assess how extensive historical Land Use Capability mapping can be converted to a GIS format that can be easily accessed. Carry out a detailed cost benefit analysis of Waerenga-o-Kuri Soil Conservation Reserve – owned by the Crown and managed by Council under the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941. The reserve contains the Council's poplar and willow nursery and 160 ha is in exotic plantation forest. Develop a range of content options for State of the Environment monitoring. Develop an information delivery programme for the Environmental Services activity. <p>Years 1-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participate as a partner in the Waiaapu River Restoration project – this seeks to address environmental degradation associated with deforestation and unstable land management practices in the Waiaapu river catchment. The initial emphasis is on encouraging tree establishment activities on targeted erosion prone lands; incorporating East Coast Forestry Project funding and Overlay 3A requirements. A Shaking Amplification study for Gisborne city and Poverty Bay and a Ridge Renting study will be undertaken to better understand the risk of damage to buildings and infrastructure in the event of earthquakes. This information is expected to help reduce costs for resource and building consent processes. Implement a biodiversity improvement programme for Waingake (waterworks) Bush. Assist in developing the Freshwater Plan and associated catchment management plans. Implement hill country provisions. Biodiversity enhancement at key sites.
<p>We will achieve these plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting in place an effective project management framework, including adequate resourcing. Assembling cross-Council teams to ensure appropriate expertise is used to manage and implement projects. Working collaboratively with landowners, water users, iwi and the community to achieve desired outcomes for soil and biodiversity resources and to implement non-regulatory projects. Take a more proactive approach to compliance and monitoring to ensure the sustainable use of land and biodiversity resources. 	

Environmental Data Management

What have we been doing?	What will we do in years 1-10?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed processing of the backlog of historical data to appropriate standards. Reviewed the Environmental Data contract. Improved our river monitoring systems for both low flow and flood conditions by continuing to install new radar water level sensors. 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the review of environmental monitoring undertaken in light of new statutory and information requirements and ensure the programme meets the needs of Council and the community. This includes expanding the indicators measured to include biomonitoring of periphyton and macroinvertebrates. Implement Business Transformation Portfolio improvements with new technology for collecting and transmitting data. Telemetry Project – a stocktake of existing monitoring equipment and the need for additional monitoring will be undertaken in 2015. Opportunities for increased efficiency and effectiveness will be identified. Where appropriate additional telemetry will be installed during 2016 and 2017. <p>Years 1-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review environmental monitoring requirements, quality of data and contracting arrangements to ensure Council needs are met. Maintain and upgrade telemetry and other hydrological equipment to ensure good function for Council's needs. Where required, install additional monitoring equipment to deliver the data required for the range of Council functions using the information. Explore opportunities to engage with communities over environmental monitoring – particularly of aquatic ecosystem health indicators such as fish and macroinvertebrates.
<p>We will achieve these plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting in place an effective project management framework, including adequate resourcing. Work with staff across Council to ensure that Environmental Data Management meets the range of requirements for effective Council function. Work with community and iwi to explore ways to collect, access and utilise environmental data to provide for their needs as well as that of the Council. 	

Biosecurity

What have we been doing?	What will we do in years 1-10?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began the process to review the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2010-2015. Conducted random monitoring of five selected indigenous areas where possums have been controlled to measure and record any improvements in flora and fauna from pest control. Continued initial private awareness and control initiatives in the Ruatoria community. Worked with Tolaga Bay community on weed management initiatives along the banks of the Uawa River by practical demonstration of control methods, information transfer and weed identification. Continued Argentine and Darwin's ant awareness programme in the city and Manutuke community, and visited outlying communities to raise awareness. Recovered and re-distributed the biological agent (Lace Bug) to sites in the Tawhiti-Uawa and Matakaoa-Waiapu wards for control of Woolly nightshade. 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new Regional Pest Management Plan that fully addresses plant and animal pest issues, reduces the spread and where possible eliminates pests. The plan will progress the implementation of an effective surveillance system to detect new arrivals. Develop annual Operational Plans. <p>Years 1-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Pest Management Plan will be reviewed and refined again at least once. Work with landowners, community and iwi in a proactive manner to a good level of understanding of biosecurity issues and how they can assist with their management. Collaborate with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and neighbouring regional councils to optimise delivery and implementation of the Pest Management Plan.

What have we been doing?	What will we do in years 1-10?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented the Ministry of Primary Industries funded Didymo awareness programme. Commenced a review of service delivery options for pest control. 	
<p>We will achieve these plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting in place an effective project management framework, including adequate resourcing. Work with staff across Council to ensure that Biosecurity activities are integrated with other Council programmes. Working collaboratively with DOC, neighbouring regional councils, landowners, iwi and the community to achieve desired outcomes for biosecurity. 	

Levels of Service and Performance Measures

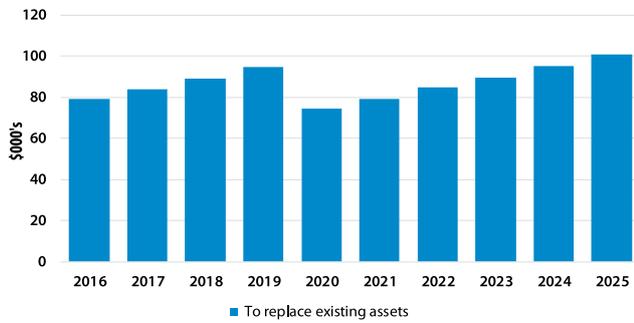
Level of Service	Performance measure	Results 2013/14	Target Years 1-3	Target Years 4-10
We manage animal and plant pests for human health and to reduce impacts on indigenous fauna and flora and primary production.	All 3 random sample lines in the Hawkes Bay buffer zone assessed post possum poisoning, trapping or night shooting achieves 5% residual trap, catch or less.	Amended Measure	100%	100%
	Number of Protection Management Areas subject to specific animal and pest control operations per year.	New measure	5	20
	Percentage of eradication animal pests found established in the district for the first time visited and all animals controlled.	Amended Measure	100%	100%
	Percentage of known significant Eradication plant pest (as defined in the Pest Management Plan) sites visited and all plants controlled.	100%	100%	100%
	Percentage of national plant pest accord pests found established in the district for the first time visited and all plants controlled.	New measure	100%	100%
We manage land resources to conserve natural values, prevent or mitigate adverse effects and sustain productive capability.	Number of farm properties where a Farm Environment Plan has been prepared per year.	New measure	20 per year	20 per year
	Total untreated Overlay 3A severely erodible land covered by a draft or final Overlay 3A work plan or an Overlay 3A resource consent.	New measure	Year 1: 34,000 ha Year 2: 44,000 ha Year 3: 44,000 ha	Year 4 -10 44,000 ha

	Percentage of total Overlay 3A severely erodible land treated.	New measure	Year 1: 50% Year 2: 55% Year 3: 60%	Year 4: 65% Year 5: 70% Year 6: 75% Year 7: 80% Year 8: 85% Year 9: 90% Year 10: 100%
We manage natural water resources, river and lake beds and coastal areas to conserve natural values and sustain consumptive usage.	Percentage of monitored coastal and freshwater sites below action guidelines for Enterococci of 280 MPN/100mL.	New measure	Year 1: Establish baseline and targets	Target to be established
	Percentage of monitored freshwater sites where the Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) monitoring result indicates good water quality or where the sites are showing a trend of improvement.	New measure	Year 1: Establish baseline and targets	Target to be established
	Percentage of monitored groundwater wells in shallow unconfined aquifers where water quality is being maintained or showing a trend of improvement for nitrate levels, salinity and E coli.	New measure	Year 1: Establish baseline and targets	Target to be established
	Percentage of resource consents where there is non-compliance with consent conditions and within twenty working days Council has either: - recorded the consent holder has rectified the non-compliance; or - enforcement action has been taken.	New measure	100%	100%
	Proportion of consents for water takes from the Makauri aquifer being managed for efficient water use as outlined in the Freshwater Plan for the Gisborne Region.	New measure	50% by end of Year 3	90% by 2020

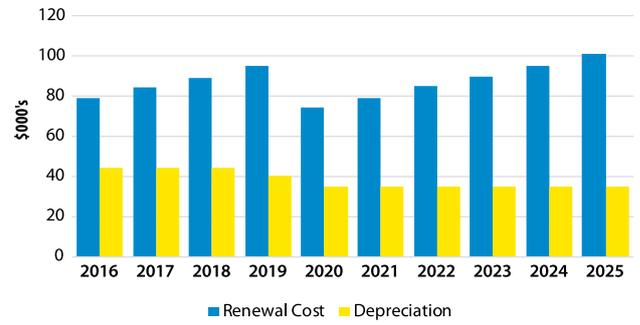
OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (\$000)	Budget 2015/16	Budget 2016/17	Budget 2017/18	Budget 2018/19	Budget 2019/20	Budget 2020/21	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Operating Non Exchange Revenue	125	71	48	50	56	66	56	58	61	66
Operating Exchange Revenue	499	522	526	536	552	568	587	607	629	651
Operating Expenditure	4,103	4,212	4,390	4,413	4,658	4,709	4,950	5,115	5,291	5,488
Net Cost of Service	3,479	3,619	3,816	3,827	4,050	4,075	4,307	4,450	4,601	4,771

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (\$000)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
- to replace existing assets	79	84	89	95	74	79	85	90	95	101
Capital Projects	79	84	89	95	74	79	85	90	95	101

Total Capital Projects



Depreciation v renewal capital assets



Total Capital Projects

Description	LOS	Total Cost	2015/16 \$000s	2016/17 \$000s	2017/18 \$000s	2018/19 \$000s	2019/20 \$000s	2020/21 \$000s	2021/22 \$000s	2022/23 \$000s	2023/24 \$000s	2024/25 \$000s
Telemetry and Hydrological Equipment	MAINTAIN	871	79	84	89	95	74	79	85	90	95	101