



## SECTION TWO CHOOSING FUTURES THAMES-COROMANDEL



*Pinnacles, Kuaeranga Valley*  
Photograph courtesy of Tony Lilliby



# CHOOSING FUTURES - THAMES-COROMANDEL

Choosing Futures - Thames-Coromandel describes the vision or aspirations the community has for the Thames-Coromandel District. This allows local communities to define what they think is good for their economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing at a District level and are an expression of what their values are:



**Our communities are healthy, cohesive, caring and supportive.**



**Our local economies reflect the spirit of the Peninsula.**



**Our communities recognise and value the natural environment.**



**The diversity and character of our communities and the uniqueness of the Peninsula is a valued part of our lifestyle.**



**The needs of both local and visitor communities are met through sound planning, ahead of growth and development.**



**The Peninsula's long and rich history is valued and preserved.**



**The natural values of our coast and beaches are respected and enhanced.**

Choosing Futures - Thames-Coromandel helps to promote better co-ordination and application of community resources and inform and guide priorities for activities undertaken by different organisations. It means that all groups can move in the same direction together to achieve results.

Choosing Futures is intended to inform the development of the Council's own planning by influencing decision-making, priorities and ultimately what is delivered. The Annual Report reflects on progress the Council has made towards achieving Choosing Futures - Thames-Coromandel in relation to its own activities.

## *Monitoring Our Success*

Many groups are working hard to try to achieve our community aspirations. In order to know how much progress we are making, the Council, on behalf of the Thames-Coromandel communities, checks progress. This enables the community to see how its going in working towards the achievement of the Community Outcomes and where it might need to place more emphasis and effort.



# SNAPSHOT 2009

## monitoring progress towards community outcomes

**Snapshot2009** was completed last year, and reports the progress made towards the District's community outcomes to help ensure we are on the right track. We will know we are succeeding when these trends are moving in a positive direction - towards the future that the Thames-Coromandel District has chosen.

**Snapshot2009** is available to view on the Council's website ([www.tcdc.govt.nz](http://www.tcdc.govt.nz)) or on request. A summary on the level of progress made to date is provided below.

### The outcome sought

### Some ways we monitor our progress

### Samples of movement to date include



**Our communities are healthy, cohesive, caring and supportive.**

- We measure...
- How safe our communities feel
  - Reported crime levels
  - Health and exercise
  - Housing affordability
  - Voter turnout
  - Work-life balance

- Reported crime in the Waikato East Police area is decreasing overall, however reported domestic violence has increased.
- While communities feel that they are generally supported, some are unsure of what support is available from community organisations.
- While many factors influence housing affordability, housing in general appears to be unaffordable in the District.



**Our local economies reflect the spirit of the Peninsula.**

- We measure...
- Employment and unemployment
  - Business numbers and types
  - Tourism and events
  - Business and 'the environment'

- Unemployment decreased however this is between the years 2001 and 2006.
- The number of businesses in the District has increased, with a corresponding increase in employees.
- 98% of residents agree that economic growth and environmental protection can go 'hand-in-hand'.
- The number of Kiwi Green accredited members has doubled.



**Our communities recognise and value the natural environment.**

- We measure...
- Levels of satisfaction with environmental protection
  - Air quality
  - Water quality
  - Community initiatives in place
  - Amount of land under covenant

- People are moderately satisfied with the level of protection given to the Peninsula's special landscape features.
- People are concerned that our ecosystems are not being enhanced.
- Our air quality is good.



**The diversity and character of our communities and the uniqueness of the Peninsula is a valued part of our lifestyle.**

- We measure...
- Levels of satisfaction with quality of life
  - Satisfaction with town's character
  - Whether the community sees the District as a place for the young to build a life
  - Culture, diversity and community involvement as an active part of the District

- 81% of residents believe their community values the uniqueness of the Peninsula.
- 87% of residents are happy with their quality of life.
- Only 47% of residents think the young can imagine building a life on the Peninsula.
- The youth population is also declining.



**The needs of both local and visitor communities are met through sound planning, ahead of growth and development.**

We measure...

- Satisfaction with essential services
- Demographic trends
- Emergency management
- Community input into Council planning

- The number of road closures has decreased over the two years monitored, however the number of crashes has increased.
- Increased number of submissions to the 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan.
- Only 55% of households believe they are prepared for a civil defence emergency.
- The 2007/2008 peak population was over five times the usual resident population.



**The Peninsula's long and rich history is valued and preserved.**

We measure...

- The number of recognised buildings and sites of historic value
- Satisfaction with the protection of assets with historical significance
- Both Council and community involvement in the preservation of historical assets

- There are 174 historic places and historic areas identified in the Council's District Plan.
- Council added a new Natural and Cultural Heritage activity to its 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan.
- 65% of residents think that the District does protect and value the history of the area.



**The natural values of our coast and beaches are respected and enhanced.**

We measure...

- Coastal water quality for contact recreation
- The protection and preservation of the coastal environment
- Management of development on the coast

- Only 45% of people believe that development is managed and minimised appropriately.
- 89% of people are concerned with the loss of natural character through development.
- Dune protection and remodelling projects are undertaken as necessary, in particular at Pauanui and Whangapoua.

The Council has also started measuring its own contribution to achieving our community outcomes. The results are reported against activity group in section three of this Annual Report.