



Audit New Zealand

AUDIT REPORT

TO THE READERS OF WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL AND GROUP'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Waitakere City Council (the City Council) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Rudie Tomlinson, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out an audit on his behalf. The audit covers the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report of the City Council and group for the year ended 30 June 2005, including the financial statements.

Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion:

- ▲ The financial statements of the City Council and group on pages 82 to 116:
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
 - fairly reflect
 - the City Council and group's financial position as at 30 June 2005; and
 - the results of operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
- ▲ The service provision information of the City Council and group on pages 40 to 80 and 118 to 131 fairly reflects the levels of service provision as measured against the intended levels of service provision adopted, as well as the reasons for any significant variances, for the year ended on that date; and
- ▲ The Council has complied with the other requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report (the "other requirements"), including the provisions of Clause 15(f) of Schedule 10 relating to the significant acquisitions or replacements of assets.

The audit was completed on 26 October 2005, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

Basis of Opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards.

We planned and performed the audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the other requirements did not have material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements and the other requirements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

The audit involved performing procedures to test the information presented in the financial statements and the other requirements. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

Audit procedures generally include:

- ▲ determining whether significant financial and management controls are working and can be relied on to produce complete and accurate data;
- ▲ verifying samples of transactions and account balances;
- ▲ performing analyses to identify anomalies in the reported data;
- ▲ reviewing significant estimates and judgements made by the Council;
- ▲ confirming year-end balances;
- ▲ determining whether accounting policies are appropriate and consistently applied; and
- ▲ determining whether all required disclosures are adequate.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements and the other requirements.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the other requirements. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support our opinion above.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The Council is responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Those financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the City Council and group as at 30 June 2005. They must also fairly reflect the results of operations and cash flows and the levels of service provision for the year ended on that date. The Council is also responsible for preparing the information in the other requirements. The Council's responsibilities arise from Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and the other requirements and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and section 99 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Independence

When carrying out the audit we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

In addition to the audit we have carried out an assurance assignment providing an independent peer review on an internal audit review of a ratepayer enquiry, which is compatible with those independence requirements. Other than the audit and the above assignment, we have no relationship with or interests in the City Council or any of its subsidiaries.



R L Tomkinson
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Auckland, New Zealand

Matters relating to the electronic presentation of the audited financial statements

This audit report relates to the financial statements of Waitakere City Council and group for the year ended 30 June 2005 included on the Waitakere City Council's web site. The Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Waitakere City Council's web site. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the Waitakere City Council's web site. We accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.

The audit report refers only to the financial statements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements. If readers of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communication they should refer to the published hard copy of the audited financial statements and related audit report dated 26 October 2005 to confirm the information included in the audited financial statements presented on this web site.

Legislation in New Zealand governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.