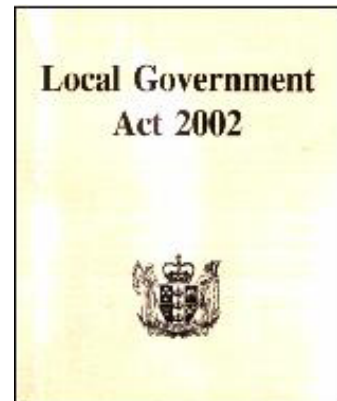


INTRODUCTION

From the 18th April 2005 to the 18th May 2005, the Council will be asking for feedback on its draft assessment of water & sanitary services prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Local Government Act 2002 recognises the importance of water, and obliges all territorial authorities to carry out an assessment of water services for their jurisdictional areas.

Part 7, Sections 125-129 of the Act specifies the required form, scope and content of what is termed the *Assessment of Water & Sanitary Services*, the first of which must be completed and adopted by each council by 30 June 2005.



The assessment of water & sanitary services for Waitakere City is comprised of the following documents:

Three-Waters Services:

- Statement of Proposal – An Assessment of the Three-Waters in Waitakere City (*this report*)
- Appendices as set out in this Statement of Proposal
- Interactive Multi-Media DVD

Sanitary Services:

- Assessment of Solid Waste Services
- Assessment of Cemeteries & Crematoria Services
- Assessment of Public Toilet Services

The Background report provides more detailed technical information and further references for Waitakere City's Assessment of Water Services.

The interactive CD for the three-waters will be used for educational purposes in schools and with local community interest groups.

The detailed Assessments of Sanitary Services, which cover cemeteries & crematoria, public toilets and solid waste, are available as separate reports.

Why Have an Assessment of Water & Sanitary Services?

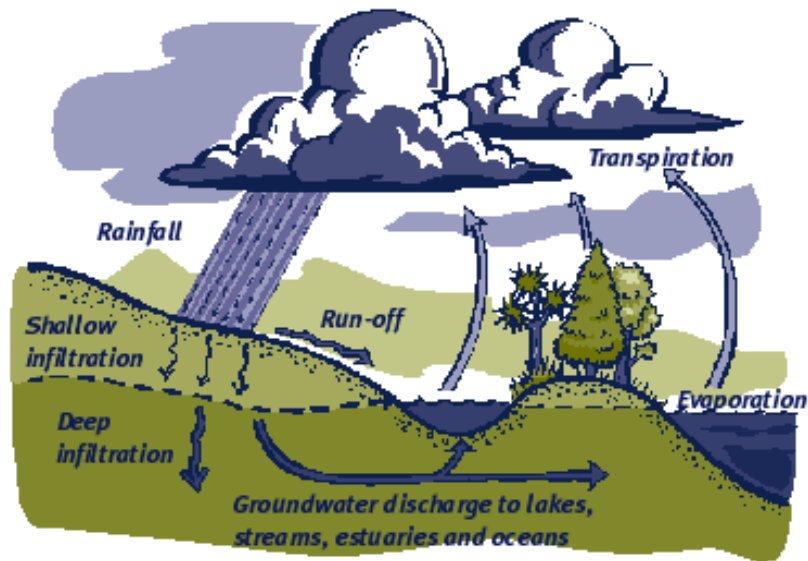
The Council provides a wide range of water and sanitary services, including water supply, wastewater, stormwater, solid waste, cemeteries & crematoria, and public toilets.

Although it is a legal requirement under part 7 of the Act, it makes sense to prepare the Assessment of Water & Sanitary Services to provide information to the community on the long term issues and enable the community to provide feedback on its preferences.

The assessment identifies how water & sanitary services contribute to the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community and how Council will implement a sustainable development approach.

The Earth could support several times its current population, but the way humans chose to live - in large populous cities - creates problems for the natural water cycle. The more water is used, the more wastewater pollution is produced. The more the ground is covered with hard surfaces the more stormwater runs off, causing unnatural erosion of soil and clogging of streams and harbours. At the same time, less water can infiltrate the subsoil, causing streams and stream life to die. Hard surfaces also mean higher water and air temperatures, which also harm the environment. These wastes and pollutants we produce harm the natural water and water cycle that is in fact our future.

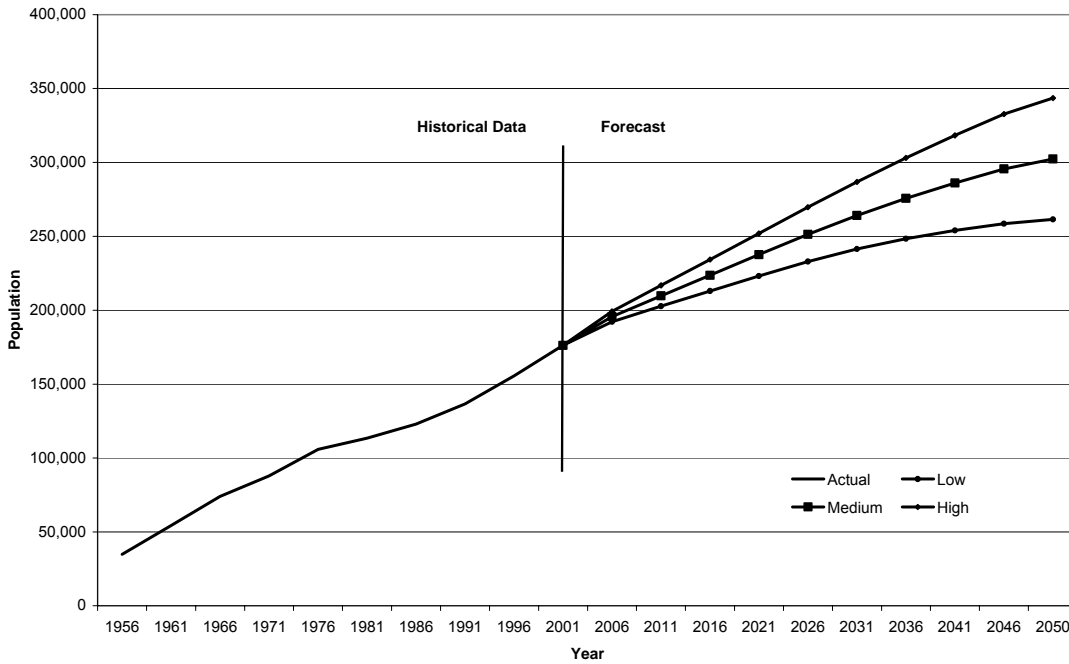
Figure 1: The Water Cycle



Therefore the community and Council have to address a number of issues including:

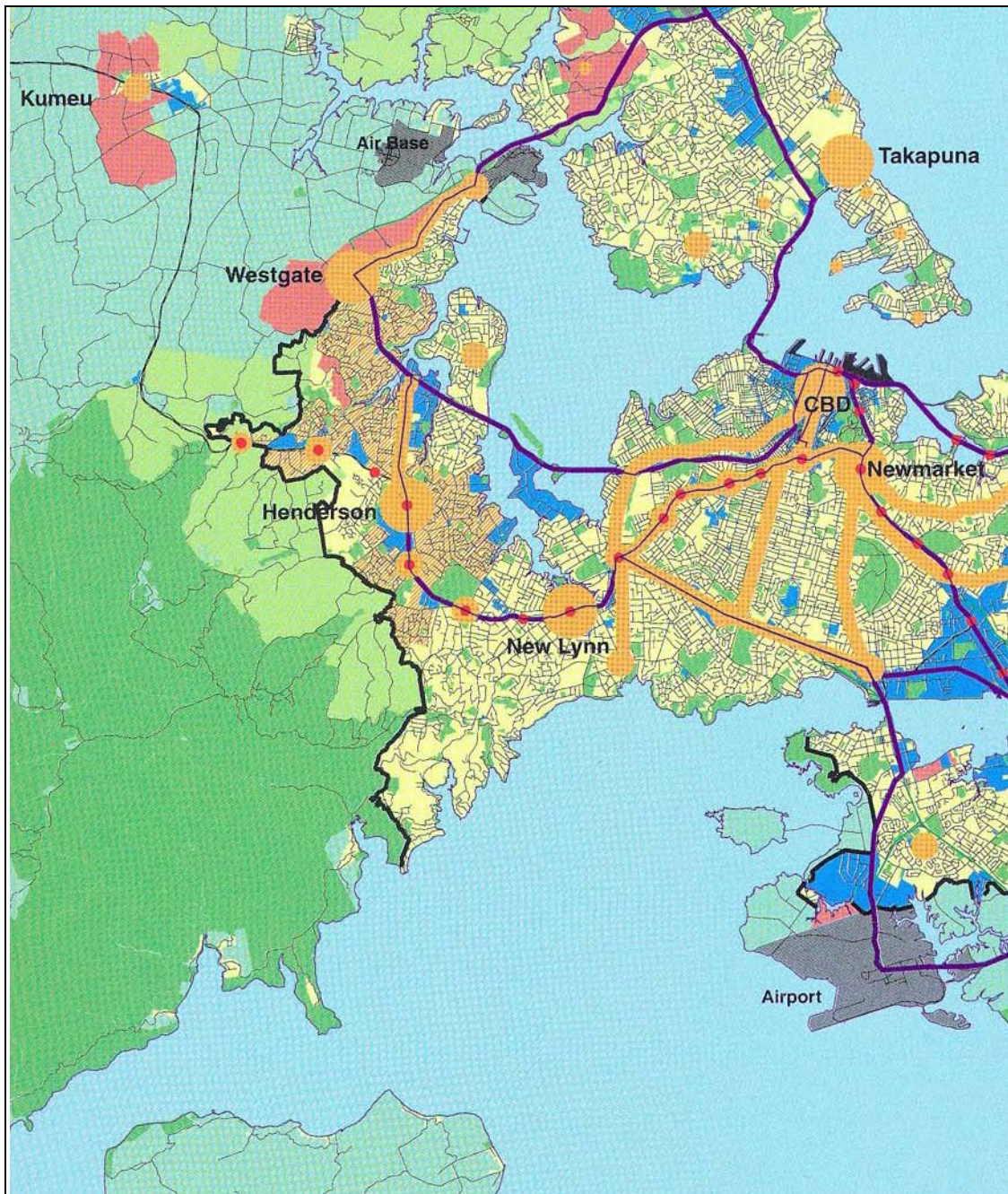
- How to achieve sustainable management
- Population growth, over the next 20 years Waitakere City is predicted by at least 35% as shown in the graph below:

Figure 2: Waitakere City Population Projections



The City’s planning provides for growth in accordance with the Regional Growth Strategy, which calls for urban intensification around the railway stations and transport corridors and growth at Westgate and Hobsonville. This is illustrated in the map below:

Figure 3: Regional Growth Forum Nodal Development Concept



Other important issues that must be addressed in a sustainable manner include:

- Deterioration of assets due to age, as a significant number of assets were built in the 1960s
- Protection of public health, property and the environment
- Providing for growth in the local economy and ensuring affordability
- Establishing community partnerships
- Establishing a regional approach

By carrying out the assessment the community and Council will be able to determine the future direction of the essential three-waters services.

What is the strategic context for the Assessment of Water Services?

Waitakere City Council adopted the principles of Agenda 21 in 1993 as the basis for sustainable development of the city. Since that time the Council has actively pursued alternatives to conventional infrastructure based on the principles of the Greenprint and the Water Cycle Strategy.

The Local Government Act 2002 identifies that the purpose of Council is to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its community taking a sustainable development approach. In addition the Act recognises and respects the need to maintain and improve opportunities for Maori to contribute to local government decision making processes.



The principles encompassed above are included in the 2003 Long Term Council Community Plan and specifically for water the Council's vision is that by 2020 Waitakere will be the centre of innovative management for 3 waters which are water supply, wastewater and stormwater.

In addition under the Green Network platform the Council aims to have streams and forests that are full of life and a green network linking the Waitakere Ranges and the sea.

Under the Zero Waste platform Council's vision is that it will be a clean and attractive city that turns all its wastes into resources.

Who does the Assessment of Water & Sanitary Services apply to?

The assessment of water & sanitary services applies to all occupiers and owners of property in Waitakere City Council and to iwi and persons and organisations providing or intending to provide water & sanitary services in Waitakere City Council.

A summary of the key stakeholders is set out in the table 1 below:

Table 1: Stakeholders

Activity	Stakeholder	Role
Water Supply	Residents & Ratepayers	Benefit and pay for the services
	Watercare Services Ltd	Provides bulk water supply collection, treatment & distribution
	Council	Promotes sustainable use of water and delivers the service to the community
Wastewater	Residents & Ratepayers	Benefit and pay for the services
	Watercare Services Ltd	Provides bulk wastewater collection, treatment & disposal
	Council	Promotes sustainable management of wastewater use of water and delivers the service to the community
Stormwater	Residents & Ratepayers	Benefit and pay for the services
	Council	Promotes sustainable management of stormwater and delivers the service to the community
State Highways	Transit NZ	Manage stormwater from state highways
Solid Waste	Residents & Ratepayers	Benefit and pay for the services
	Council	Promotes zero waste and provides collection, transportation, disposal and waste treatment services and facilities
	Solid Waste Industry	Provides solid waste services
Cemeteries & Crematoria	Residents & Ratepayers	Benefit and pay for the services
	Council	Provides cemeteries at Waikumete and Swanson and a crematorium at Waikumete
Public Toilets	Funeral Directors	Provide burial services for the community
	Residents & Ratepayers	Benefit and pay for the services
	Council	Provides public toilets in parks, public spaces and town centres
Environmental Regulation	Sports clubs	Benefit from the services
	Auckland Regional Council	Sets and monitors environmental standards for the water environment
Public health regulation	Medical Officer of Health, Auckland Healthcare	Sets and monitors public health standards for the 3 waters

Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes.

What's contained in the Assessment of Water & Sanitary Services?

The scope of the Assessment of Water & Sanitary Services includes:

- The 3 waters – water supply, wastewater and stormwater
- Solid Waste
- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Public Toilets

The information provided includes the following:

- A description of the services provided
- An assessment of any risks to the community
- An assessment of the quality, quantity and adequacy of the services provided
- A statement of current and estimated future demands for the services
- A statement of the options available to meet current and future demands
- A statement of Council's intended role
- A statement of Council's proposals for meeting current and future demand

It is intended that the Assessment of Water & Sanitary Services will be adopted by Council by 30th June 2005 and will provide the basis for the Activity Plans for water & sanitary services in the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan.
