

# Introduction

## 1. WHAT IS IT?

---

The State of the City Report is a monitoring report that presents an overview of Waitakere City's natural, social and economic environment. It shows whether things are improving or getting worse.

## 2. WHAT IS IT FOR?

---

It is intended to be used by the Council, residents, schools and businesses to inform decisions, raise awareness of issues and identify practical actions that can be taken to improve the City.

## 3. WHAT IS IN IT?

---

The State of the City Report provides high level information that is available on issues facing the City over a time period of the last ten years. Information has been obtained from many sources including Council records, census data, central government, Auckland Regional Council, community groups, etc.

## 4. WHAT ISN'T IN IT?

---

The report doesn't propose ways to address the issues - i.e. it is not a policy document. It doesn't set targets. It doesn't suggest what should happen in the future. It doesn't contain detailed information, but it does refer to detailed reports produced by the Council.

## 5. WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE REPORT?

---

The report is divided into three sections, with about 6 chapters in each:

**Natural Environment (the state of mauri – the life force)** - Treaty of Waitangi, State of our Land, State of our Water, State of our Air, State of our Biodiversity, Landscape;

**Social Environment (the state of wairua - the spiritual)** - Who lives in Waitakere City, Maori Community, City Wellbeing, City Form & Design, Heritage, Arts & Culture, Democracy & Participation;

**Economic Environment (the state of Te oranga - the wellbeing)** - Economic Development, Industries & Businesses, Business Clusters, Work and Income, Transport & Communications, Energy Resources & Waste.

The general format of each chapter is:

- **Introduction** - This provides an overview of the content/issues;
- **Key indicator** - One indicator is identified as the key trend to watch;
- **Issues** - Three to six issues are examined showing the current state of the environment and the pressures on the environment;
- **Case study** - This is a practical example of how an issue has been addressed;
- **Steps that the Council has taken** - This is a list of the main steps that the Council has taken to address the issues raised;
- **Steps that you can take** - This is a list of some practical steps that residents and businesses can take to help maintain or improve the environment.

## WILL IT BE UPDATED?

---

The Council intends to produce a State of the City Report every 3 years in line with its electoral cycle. In the intervening years, new information is being updated on the Council's Internet site:

<http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/AbtCit/ps/socrptindex.asp>

## IS THE REPORT AVAILABLE IN ANY OTHER FORMAT?

---

The report is available:

- as a photocopied document (Phone the Call Centre Ph 839 0400);
- as a 7 page summary document (Phone the Call Centre Ph 839 0400);
- on the Council's website (<http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/AbtCit/ps/socreport.asp>);
- as a short video presentation for free community use (Phone the Call Centre Ph 839 0400) See clips from the video at <http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/AbtCit/ps/socrptindex.asp#video>;
- as part of an education kit of resources for secondary schools (but also useful for primary school teachers).