



A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE WATER SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY WESTERN BAY SUB-REGION

Ko te wai te ora o nga mea katoa
Water is the lifegiver of all things

STRATEGY PURPOSE

THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY IS TO IMPROVE THE WAY WE ALLOCATE AND MANAGE THE QUANTITY OF WATER IN THE WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY SUB-REGION. It draws upon recent science which has identified long term water requirements, water short and water rich areas for both surface and groundwater resources in the region. The strategy is a non statutory document that provides guidance for the management of water.

The Strategy will be used by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council to:

- Focus Council work programmes relating to water
- Identify gaps in Council work programmes for water
- Help prioritise funding for Council work programmes for water

WHY IS A STRATEGY NEEDED?

WATER IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE. THERE ARE COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS THAT A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR HOUSEHOLD USE, IRRIGATION, POWER GENERATION, AND INDUSTRY WHILE MAINTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL VALUES.

The population of the western Bay of Plenty sub-region (Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council areas) is set to double by 2055. In addition, industrial, agricultural and horticultural demands on water are intensifying which, collectively, will put considerable pressure on our groundwater aquifers, rivers and streams. The graph on the following page shows future demand for water over the next 50 years against current demand in the sub-region.

VISION FOR THE STRATEGY

**WATER FOR LIFE: ENOUGH
FOR PEOPLE, PROSPERITY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Water: rivers, streams and groundwater aquifers

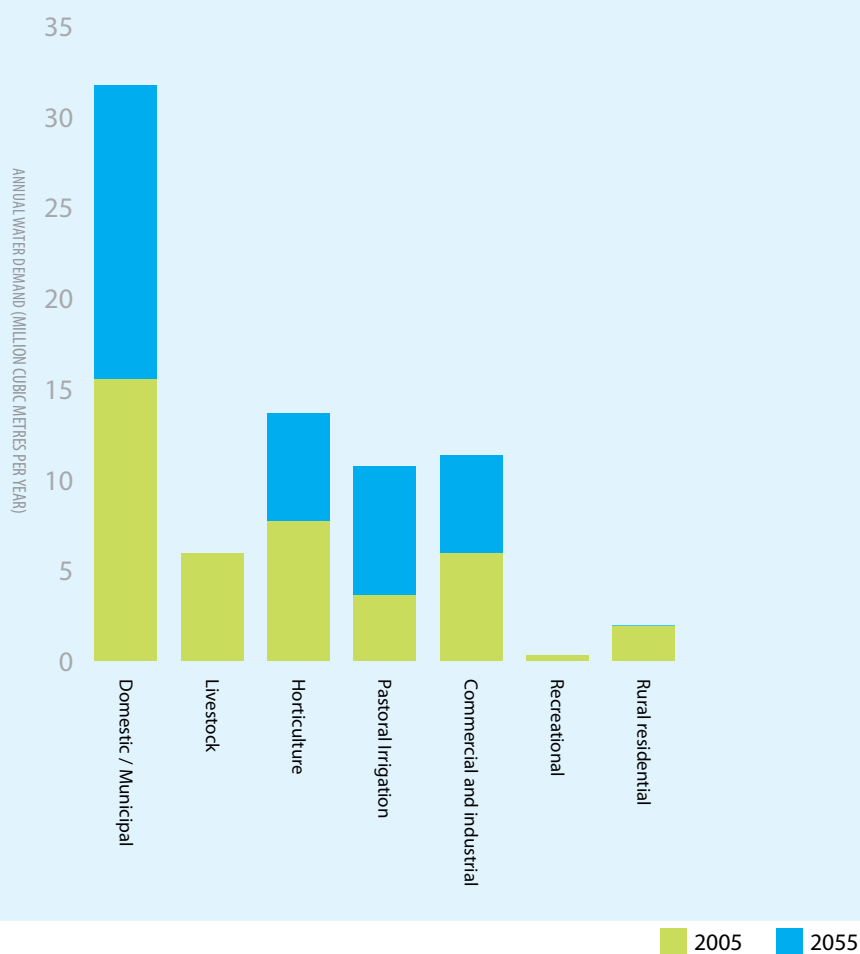
For Life:

- life of humans, plants, crops and animals*
- life of our water resources (mauri)*
- livelihoods*
- lifelong – now, tomorrow and into the future*

By 2020 there will be an improvement in the way we work together to manage the quantity of water in our valuable rivers, streams and groundwater aquifers.

This can only be achieved through shared knowledge and responsibility about our water resources.

PREDICTED CHANGES IN WATER DEMAND BY SECTOR



(Source: Aqualinc Research limited (2007). Water Use and Availability Assessment for the Western Bay of Plenty. Report prepared for Bay of Plenty Regional Council).

WHAT ARE THE WATER MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

There are opportunities to improve water management:

- Improving the way we collect, store and use water.
- Exploring all alternative sources of water i.e. rainwater and deep aquifers.
- Supporting economic development by ensuring a reliable water supply.
- Learning from other regions that have had to deal with fully allocated catchments and conflicting water demands. One key area of learning is collaborative water management through Water User Groups – we need to get better at allocating and sharing water.
- Utilising improved technologies in key industry sectors (agriculture/horticulture/manufacturing) that enable water to be used more efficiently.
- Making people aware that there are parts of the sub-region where water supply is plentiful at present.

STRATEGY OUTCOMES

Water can be a cause of conflict. Equally, water can be a catalyst for co-operation. This Strategy addresses future potential problems while seizing on possible opportunities for water.

KEY STRATEGY MESSAGES

Generally we have enough water, but it is often not in the right place or right time.

We need to be smarter about the way we collect, store and use water.

Good decisions can only be made through collecting and sharing good information.

There are benefits for water users to work together.

We need to encourage economic development without compromising environmental protection.

We have a lot to learn from other regions.

The western Bay sub-region has enough water to meet reasonable, foreseeable water requirements. However, water is not always in the right place at the right time to meet the demand from people while ensuring there is sufficient to support a healthy environment. The yellow, light green and blue areas of the map below highlight the parts of the sub-region where demand for water may exceed what is available to be taken.

WATER SHORT AREAS BY 2055 SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER RESOURCES



KEY OUTCOME 1: IMPROVE WATER RESOURCE KNOWLEDGE

Water management decisions can be improved if there is enough information or knowledge about the sub-region's water resources. We need to collect good information so that people can make good decisions.

For example, continue research to improve knowledge of our water resources and to share information about where water is plentiful and which catchments are under pressure.

KEY OUTCOME 2: BALANCE WATER AVAILABILITY AND DEMAND

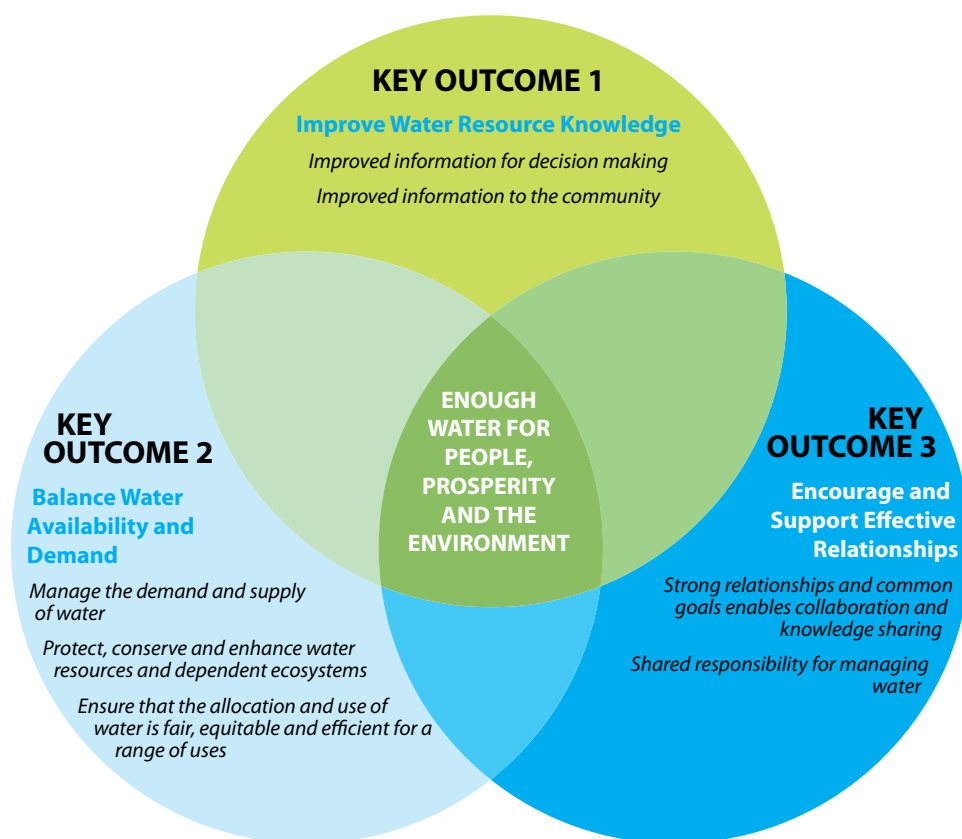
Water management (and ecosystem health) can be threatened when the demand for water exceeds water supply. We need to find a balance between the amount of water available and the various demands for water.

For example, increasing the availability of water by using alternative water sources, water harvesting and storage as well as looking at the potential of community based water storage schemes AND managing demand by efficient use and allocation.

KEY OUTCOME 3: ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Water management can be enhanced by good relationships, between statutory agencies, major water users and local communities. We need to work together more to enable shared knowledge and responsibility for water.

For example, establish a Western Bay Water Forum and encourage the establishment of Water User Groups (community based water management).



MEASURING PROGRESS WITH THE STRATEGY OUTCOMES

THE STRATEGY OUTCOMES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL, TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL AND WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Active monitoring of the effectiveness of strategy actions will ensure that areas needing more attention or improvement can be identified. An annual report will be prepared by Bay of Plenty Regional Council to show what has been done in the year and what is proposed in the following year. The strategy will be reviewed in 2013.