

AUDIT REPORT

TO THE READERS OF HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL AND GROUP'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Hawke's Bay Regional Council (the Regional Council) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Mark Maloney, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out an audit on his behalf. The audit covers the Regional Council's compliance with the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report of the Regional Council and group for the year ended 30 June 2008, including the financial statements.

Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion:

- The financial statements of the Regional Council and group on pages 52 to 87:
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
 - fairly reflect :
 - the Regional Council and group's financial position as at 30 June 2008; and
 - the results of operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
- The service provision information of the Regional Council and group on pages 15 to 51 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").

The audit was completed on 24 September 2008, 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, performance information 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, performance information 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, performance information and the other requirements. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

report of the auditor-general

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, performance information and the other requirements.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements, performance information 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

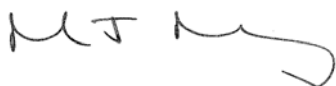
The Council is responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the Regional Council and group as at 30 June 2008. They must also fairly reflect the results of operations and cash flows and the levels of service provision for the year ended on that date. The Council is also responsible for meeting the other requirements of Schedule 10 and including that information in the annual report. The Council's responsibilities arise from Section 98 and Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements, performance information 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.

Other than the audit and in conducting the audit of the Long Term Council Community Plan, we have no relationship with or interests in the Regional Council or any of its subsidiaries.



M J Maloney
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements, Performance Information and the Other Requirements

This audit report relates to the financial statements, performance information and the other requirements of Hawke's Bay Regional Council and group for the year ended 30 June 2008 included on Hawke's Bay Regional Council and group's website. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council and group's Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of Hawke's Bay Regional Council and group's website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of Hawke's Bay Regional Council and group's website. We accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements, performance information and the other requirements since they were initially presented on the website.

The audit report refers only to the financial statements, performance information and the other requirements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from the financial statements, performance information and the other requirements. 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, performance information and the other requirements as well as the related audit report dated 24 September 2008 to confirm the information included in the audited summary annual presented on this website.

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