

Natural environment and heritage

This section explains how the ARC will manage Auckland region's natural environment and heritage resources. It includes the following LTCCP activities:

1. Stormwater management and pollution response
2. Freshwater management
3. Coastal management
4. Land management
5. Improving air quality
6. Natural heritage conservation and biosecurity*
 - 6a. Natural heritage conservation*
 - 6b. Biosecurity*
7. Cultural heritage conservation
8. Planning for the future.

***Note:** The activities have not changed, but the structure of the sub-groups has been revised since the LTCCP 2006-16 to reflect the separate funding for streams of work.



The natural environment and heritage activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Efficient energy use based on clean and reliable sources.
- Community health and well-being is supported by a healthy environment where people have access to appropriate health care.
- Aucklanders caring for and enjoying the natural environment.
- A thriving regional economy that supports a good standard of living.
- The ARC, the community, local and central government, and business work together to achieve results.
- Recreational and leisure opportunities that offer a range of experiences for all.
- Aucklanders are educated and skilled, and have access to appropriate learning and training opportunities.
- Neighbourhoods with a sense of community.
- Open spaces and green places, now and in the future.
- Auckland's special places are respected and conserved.
- The diversity of native species and habitats is protected and restored.
- The significant place of tangata whenua is acknowledged and their role as kaitiaki is recognised.

Influence on the four well-beings:



Environmental



Social

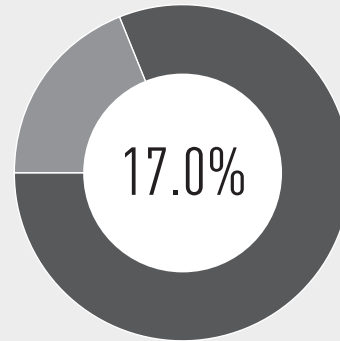


Cultural



Economic

What this will cost



This is 17.0% of the ARC's total rates
 The total rate requirement for the Activity Group for 2008/09 is \$26.866m.



Prospective income statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	National environment and heritage	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
25,630	Rates	26,865	29,138	(2,273)
72	ARH distribution - CCO Unit	91	73	18
6,675	ARH distribution - Stormwater grants	5,898	5,178	720
12,566	Service fees	12,955	11,833	1,122
751	Facilities	595	260	335
1,852	Grants and subsidies	1,658	351	1,307
1,285	Investment	1,520	773	747
281	Sundry operating	498	315	183
10	Merchandising	10	-	10
49,122	Revenue	50,090	47,921	2,169
19,722	Human resources	20,085	21,508	(1,423)
1,559	Professional services	3,493	3,287	206
8,226	Technical services	6,579	6,191	388
7,489	Contracted services	7,826	7,364	462
2,210	Funding grants - Stormwater ICMP	2,363	2,321	42
516	Materials	516	638	(122)
906	Printing and office supplies	1,074	784	290
170	Fuel and power	142	192	(50)
719	Repairs and maintenance	748	244	504
568	Communications	630	625	5
1,660	Information services	1,632	679	953
2,530	Occupancy	2,643	2,290	353
1,010	Grant & subsidies	741	600	141
148	Interest and bank charges	12	53	(41)
1,685	Other	1,492	1,667	(175)
(323)	Internal expenditure recovery	(342)	(1,900)	1,558
243	Vehicle	284	326	(42)
2,294	Depreciation	2,488	2,302	186
51,332	Expenditure	52,406	49,171	3,235
(2,210)	Net surplus/(Deficit)	(2,316)	(1,250)	(1,066)

Prospective capital expenditure for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	National environment and heritage	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
81	Land Improvements	-	-	-
470	Plant & equipment	504	436	68
	Bridges, structures and dams	-	-	-
	Vehicles	-	-	-
551	Total capital expenditure	504	436	68
	Funded by			
81	Reserves	-	-	-
470	Rates	504	436	68
551	Total capital expenditure funding	504	436	68



LTCCP Activity 1: Stormwater management and pollution response

Key issues

As the region develops and intensifies, environmental pressures become more visible and significant. Stormwater has the single largest impact on the region's marine ecosystems and urban streams, which adversely affects the regional community's social, cultural and economic values. There is significant cost associated with funding infrastructure to achieve environmental outcomes. Pollution incidents and hazardous substances have an adverse effect on the region's environment. The ARC, working proactively with high-risk industries, helps to minimise the potential impacts of pollution.

What we want to achieve

- To work cooperatively with regional stakeholders to implement appropriate stormwater management solutions that achieve environmental outcomes throughout the region.
- To minimise the number of pollution incidents, by working proactively with business to improve high risk industrial trade practices.
- To deliver an efficient, high quality consent processing and compliance monitoring service, which meets statutory requirements.
- To work collaboratively with local councils in the region to exchange information and improve best practice, and develop a regional contaminated sites database.

Responsibilities

This activity is focused on implementing appropriate stormwater management solutions throughout the region, while the ARC's pollution response is directly focused on rural, urban and maritime pollution response and prevention.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 the ARC is responsible for controlling the effects of stormwater discharges into the environment. This includes processing and compliance monitoring of resource consents for stormwater treatment and disposal.

What we plan to deliver

Over the next 12 months, the ARC will undertake a comprehensive programme to financially assist, plan and implement effective stormwater solutions to maintain and, where possible, improve the quality of Auckland's freshwater, groundwater, marine and aquatic resources.

The stormwater programme will deliver the following:

- Between 2008-16: provide regional leadership and cooperation with infrastructure operators and key stakeholders, to implement stormwater solutions for the region's long-term health.
- Between 2008-16: continue to proactively work with infrastructure operators and partially fund the development of integrated catchment management plans.
- Between 2008-10: evaluate the whole-of-life costings for stormwater solutions, and identify the barriers to installation and maintenance.
- Between 2008-10: policy will be evaluated for the management of key metal contaminants in stormwater for the Auckland Region.

- Between 2008-16: ensure effective partnerships with industry stakeholders are maintained and enhanced.
- Between 2008-09: identify capacity issues within the industry that affect the implementation of stormwater solutions, and develop an action plan to address these issues.
- Continued support for the implementation of Low Impact Design (LID) approaches to stormwater and land management, including the integration of such devices as raingardens and rainwater tanks in land use development.

The ARC's pollution prevention service will continue to work proactively with business to reduce the potential for pollution incidents by increasing awareness of best management practices on high risk industrial sites.

The pollution response programme will deliver the following:

- In 2008 the ARC will work to better understand the effects of permitted activities on the environment and develop appropriate monitoring and response mechanisms.
- Between 2008-16: the ARC will continue to provide a 24-hour pollution complaint response service.
- Between 2008-16: the ARC will undertake fair and appropriate enforcement action in response to non-compliance with environmental rules and regulations.
- Resource consents for stormwater treatment and disposal will be processed and monitored to ensure that they are appropriately managed and statutory responsibilities are met. The ARC will continue to develop efficient processes and best practices to enable the effective treatment and disposal of stormwater, and address community concerns.

The ARC will work with the wider community to increase understanding of stormwater issues, and provide information, incentives and opportunities for people to make positive changes at the local level.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Stormwater management and pollution response	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
11,196	Revenue	9,187	9,075	(112)
14,399	Expenditure	12,018	14,226	2,208
3,203	Net cost of services	2,831	5,151	2,320
91	Reserves	(108)	(404)	(296)
3,294	Rating requirement	2,723	4,747	2,024

ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. The number of repeat pollution incidents from industrial and trade premises will reduce annually.	26 incidents in 2006	Adopted by 4 July 2007					Achieved
2. The percentage of ARC's sediment contaminant state of the environment monitoring sites with either non-significant or declining trends in zinc concentration over the preceeding 8 year period		90 percent by 2014		17	n/a	44	n/a
3. Greater than 75 percent satisfaction level achieved in customer satisfaction with resource consent process.		greater than 75 per cent	71	74	73	70	63
4. 100 per cent of resource consents are processed within statutory timeframes.		100 per cent	82	86	96	98	90
5. 95 per cent of all statutory enforcement decisions are upheld.		95 per cent	100	100	100	96	100
6. Greater than 80 per cent of all consents monitored are in compliance with consent conditions.		Greater than 80 per cent	91	79	81	88	91



LTCCP Activity 2: Freshwater management

Key issues

A key issue for the region is to manage the effects of growth and development on the natural environment. This includes balancing the needs for environmental protection with the community's social, economic and cultural needs, and their aspirations for our freshwater resources and animal and plant life.

What we want to achieve

- Sustainable management policies for the allocation and use of the region's scarce freshwater resources. This includes forecasting future water demand.
- Protect fragile freshwater stream systems, lakes and their ecology from the effects of land use and development.
- Deliver an efficient, high-quality consent processing and compliance monitoring service that meets statutory requirements.

Responsibilities

The ARC has a specific responsibility to control the use of land in order to maintain and enhance the quality of water and ecosystems in freshwater lakes, streams and coastal waters. This includes monitoring water quality and ecology to measure the effects of land development of these natural resources, and the development of policy to achieve the integrated and sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, the ARC is responsible for controlling the use and protection of freshwater resources. This includes processing and compliance monitoring of resource consents to take and use water (both surface water and groundwater), dam and divert water, and discharge to water.

What we plan to deliver

The freshwater programme has four components:

- Monitoring the quality and health of the region's freshwater resources (streams, lakes, groundwater, and freshwater ecology) to determine trends over time.
- Developing environmental policy to manage the use and protection of the freshwater resources and ecology.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of policy implementation.
- The processing and compliance monitoring of resource consents to take, use or dam freshwater, and to discharge into water.

The freshwater programme will deliver the following:

- Between 2008-09: A management plan for the use and protection of the Waiheke groundwater resource will be prepared and implemented.
- Between 2008-09: Policies will be developed to define the allocation constraints for surface water resources in the northern part of the region. Similar policies will be developed in 2009-16 for the water resources in the north-west and south Auckland areas, with an intervening period of implementation via statutory processes.
- Between 2008-10: ongoing contribution and response to the Government's Sustainable Water Programme of Action.
- Between 2008-16: Policy to support initiatives being undertaken in the stormwater management programme will be developed, reviewed and revised.

- Between 2008-16: Policy will be developed to protect fragile stream systems from a variety of development-induced impacts, particularly the loss of streams due to urbanisation. This includes developing policy provisions relating to stock access to streams and protecting riparian vegetation.
- Resource consents for water takes, dams, diversions and discharges will be processed and monitored on an ongoing basis, to ensure that the effects of such activities are appropriately managed and statutory requirements are met. The ARC will continue to develop efficient processes and best practices to enable the responsible use of freshwater and to address community concerns.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Freshwater management	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
2,097	Revenue	2,210	1,722	(488)
4,958	Expenditure	5,070	4,366	(704)
2,861	Net cost of services	2,860	2,644	(216)
(123)	Reserves	(179)	(191)	(12)
2,738	Rating requirement	2,681	2,453	(228)

ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. At least 50 per cent of representative streams monitored have excellent biological quality, as measured by a biological index of stream health.	50 per cent	50 per cent					22
2. Lake surface water quality is maintained or improved.	Seven lakes are monitored	Each lake monitored to maintain or improve their Trophic Level Index score (as measured by a 0.2 change to the 3 year rolling average over two consecutive years)					
3. Policy development is of high standard, as measured by a policy quality assurance rating, based on process compliance and analytical quality		Under development					
4. The region's freshwater resources are being sustained, as measured by the water allocation and use in high-use aquifer management areas.		0 per cent are over-allocated		6*	0	0	0
5. Greater than 75 per cent satisfaction level achieved in customer satisfaction with resource consent process.		greater than 75 per cent	71	74	73	70	63
6. 100 per cent of resource consents are processed within statutory timeframes.		100 per cent	82	86	96	98	88*
7. 95 per cent of all statutory enforcement decisions are upheld.		95 per cent	100	100	100	96	100
8. Greater than 80 per cent of all consents monitored are in compliance with consent conditions.		Greater than 80 per cent	91*	79*	81*	88*	91



LTCCP Activity 3: Coastal management

Key issues

The community places a high value on Auckland's extensive coastal environment for the many opportunities it offers. These include social, economic and cultural uses and values (such as boating, swimming, fishing, beaches, landscapes, and commercial shipping), as well as intrinsic environmental values (such as the natural values of marine ecology). The quality of the coast is a major reason why people want to live and work in the Auckland region.

A key issue for the region is to manage the appropriate use and development of the coastal environment, while protecting or enhancing the coast's quality and natural character, and ensuring public access is maintained.

What we want to achieve

- Effective policies and initiatives to sustainably manage the appropriate use, development and protection of the coastal environment; and balance competing aspirations, obligations and demands.
- Ensure that the quality of coastal waters and marine ecosystems is maintained and enhanced as far as practicable.
- Deliver an efficient, high-quality consent processing and compliance monitoring service, which meets statutory requirements.

Responsibilities

The ARC has a specific responsibility to sustainably manage the use, development and protection of the coastal environment, including the quality of coastal waters and marine ecosystems. The Council is responsible for monitoring coastal water quality and marine ecology, and developing policy to achieve the integrated and sustainable management of the natural and physical resources within the coastal marine area.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, the ARC and the Minister of Conservation share responsibility within the coastal marine area for controlling the occupation of space, along with various activities and their effects. This includes the ARC processing, and compliance monitoring, resource consents for a wide range of activities (such as marine farming, sand extraction, coastal structures and discharges) that can impact on the coastal environment.

What we plan to deliver

This activity has five components:

- Monitoring the quality and health of the region's coastal environment to determine trends over time.
- Developing environmental policy to ensure appropriate use and protection of the coastal environment, and monitoring the policy's implementation.
- Processing and compliance monitoring of resource consents to authorise the use of the coastal marine area.
- Funding and implementing projects to raise awareness of coastal values, promote safe navigation and water safety, protect and enhance coastal water, and promote and support marine biodiversity.
- Working with communities and stakeholders to improve the coastal area by providing training, advice and support.

The Coastal Management programme will deliver the following:

- Between 2008-09: Policy will be developed to support variations to the Regional Plan: Coastal for aquaculture, coastal occupation and possible charging, downtown waterfront development, and mangrove management.
- Between 2008-09: Continue to identify regionally significant coastal habitats and promote management controls necessary to sustain the functions of the most highly valued areas.

- Between 2008-10: Continue to develop policy to refine the rules in the Regional Plan: Coastal, which will enable better management of activities within the coastal marine area. This will be implemented through statutory processes and regulation, as well as through the development of community partnerships and environmental programmes.
- Between 2008-10: Policy will be developed to improve the integrated management of the Kaipara Harbour coastal environment. This work will be progress through joint projects with Northland Regional Council and in collaboration with the iwi-led Integrated Kaipara Management Group.
- Between 2008-09: Develop a sound and effective method for valuing the loss of natural environments and habitats in the coastal marine area.
- Between 2008-15: Continue to monitor marine ecology and water quality parameters at representative sites across the region. Independent peer reviews of each section of the monitoring programme will be undertaken.
- Between 2008-10: Fund and implement projects through the Environmental Management Committee to raise awareness of coastal values, promote safe navigation and water safety, protect and enhance coastal water, and promote and support marine biodiversity.
- Resource consents for the use of the coastal marine area will be processed and monitored to ensure that any associated effects are appropriately managed and statutory requirements are met. The ARC will continue to develop efficient processes and best practices to enable responsible use of the coastal marine area and address community concerns.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Coastal management	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
1,825	Revenue	2,096	1,631	465
4,784	Expenditure	5,080	4,461	619
2,959	Net cost of services	2,984	2,830	154
(440)	Reserves	(372)	(176)	(196)
2,519	Rating requirement	2,612	2,654	(42)

ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Public perception of the balance between the built elements and natural environment on the coastline.	70 per cent	At least 70 per cent of the community are satisfied with the balance between built elements and the natural environment on the coastline.			79	80	71
2. Policy development is of high standard, as measured by a policy quality assurance rating, based on process compliance and analytical quality		Under development					
3. Coastal water quality is maintained and improved, as measured by a range of environmental indicators.	2006	Greater than 80 per cent of sites monitored					85
4. Greater than 75 per cent satisfaction level achieved in customer satisfaction with resource consent process.		Greater than 75 per cent	71	74	73	70	63
5. 100 per cent of resource consents are processed within statutory timeframes.		100 per cent	82	86	96	98	93
6. 95 per cent of all statutory enforcement decisions are upheld.		95 per cent	100	100	100	96	100
7. Greater than 80 per cent of all consents monitored are in compliance with consent conditions.		Greater than 80 per cent	91	79	81	88	91



LTCCP Activity 4: Land management

Key issues

Land use activities, in both rural and urban areas, can have significant adverse effects on water quality in receiving environments.

The discharge of contaminants, particularly from contaminated land and industrial trade processes, needs to be managed appropriately to minimise the potential for adverse effects on the environment.

What we want to achieve

- Develop effective policies to manage the impacts of land use activities on receiving environments.
- Effective environmental programmes that address land use issues and engage with iwi, the community and other stakeholders to achieve outcomes.
- Deliver an efficient, high-quality consent processing and compliance monitoring service that meets statutory requirements.

Responsibilities

The ARC has a specific responsibility to control the use of land in order to maintain and enhance the quality of water and ecosystems, and to ensure human activities are undertaken in a sustainable manner. This includes monitoring water quality and ecology to measure the impact of land development on these natural resources, and developing policy to achieve the integrated and sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The ARC also undertakes monitoring and investigation of contaminated sites, primarily to prevent contaminants entering underground or coastal water resources.

The ARC also funds and manages the aftercare requirements of former landfill sites at Devonport, Greenmount, Pikes Point and Rosedale, for at least 30 years after the closure of each landfill. Landfill aftercare is funded from a charge on all material deposited at landfills since 1982, and from a reserve created for aftercare purposes.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, the ARC is responsible for controlling certain aspects of land use activities. This includes processing and compliance monitoring of resource consents for a wide range of activities, including the discharge of contaminants to land (wastewater, contaminated sites discharges) and to carry out earthworks and streamworks.

The ARC also works in partnership with other agencies (for example Rotary New Zealand, Trees for Survival and schools), to help improve water quality in streams and rivers in rural areas through riparian planting. This programme provides landowners with the opportunity to restore eroded land, improve stream and water quality and increase biodiversity.

The ARC has adopted a policy, in principle, that it is opposed to the release of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the field and in the production of food.

The ARC acknowledges that the regulation of GMO is the responsibility of the Environmental Risk Management Agency (ERMA).

The ARC is piloting comprehensive catchment management in the Mahurangi Harbour to improve water quality, and is working with landowners, and contributing funding to carry out environmental enhancement work.

What we plan to deliver

This activity has five components:

- Monitoring the impacts of land use and development on natural resources and receiving environments to determine trends over time.
- Developing environmental policy to manage the use of land to ensure that human activities are undertaken in a sustainable manner.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of policy implementation.
- The processing and compliance monitoring of resource consents to discharge contaminants to land (wastewater, contaminated land discharges) and to carry out earthworks and streamworks activities.

- A range of environmental programmes, which are undertaken in partnership with iwi and the community, to improve land management practices, e.g. the Mahurangi Action Plan, Trees for Survival, riparian planting.

The Land Management programme will deliver the following:

- Between 2008-09: We will contribute to the development of a national environmental standard for the use of contaminated land.
- Between 2008-09: We will implement a monitoring programme to determine the health of the region's soil resources and identify high risk areas for soil erosion.
- Between 2008-09: We will continue to actively contribute to the "Inter Council Working Party" which is investigating GMO issues. We will also address GMO issues, as part of the RPS review. This process will confirm the GMO policies to be included in the RPS, as appropriate.
- During 2008-09, ARC in conjunction with the local community will scope and develop an action plan for the Whangateau Harbour and catchment area to protect these from current and future environment degradation.
- Between 2008-10: We will complete a policy review of the sediment management approach and implement any required variations to the relevant regional plans.
- Between 2008-15: We will increase the fencing and planting of riparian margins in the region by 15km per year, through the Catchment Restoration Programme, and the Mahurangi and Waitakere River projects.
- Between 2008-16: We will manage aftercare at four former ARC landfills.
- Resource consents for discharges to land and to carry out earthworks and streamworks, will be processed and monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that the effects of such activities are appropriately managed, and statutory requirements are met. We will address community concerns by continuing to develop efficient processes and best practices to enable the responsible treatment of wastes, contaminants, and the control of sediment.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Land management	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
5,767	Revenue	6,663	4,509	2,154
10,386	Expenditure	11,099	8,221	2,878
4,619	Net cost of services	4,436	3,712	724
(1,169)	Reserves	(752)	(3)	(749)
3,450	Rating requirement	3,684	3,709	(25)

ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Policy development is of high standard, as measured by a policy quality assurance rating, based on process compliance and analytical quality		Under development					
2. ARC will achieve 100 per cent compliance with resource consents for landfill aftercare activities.		100 per cent					97
3. The length of the region's streams that are fenced and planted is increasing by 15km annually.	2003/04	15km increase annually			11	19	24
4. Greater than 75 per cent satisfaction level achieved in customer satisfaction with resource consent process.		Greater than 75 per cent	71	74	73	70	63
5. 100 per cent of resource consents are processed within statutory timeframes.		100 per cent	82	86	96	98	63
6. 95 per cent of all statutory enforcement decisions are upheld.		95 per cent	100	100	100	96	100
7. Greater than 80 per cent of all consents monitored are in compliance with consent conditions.		Greater than 80 per cent	91	79	81	88	91



LTCCP Activity 5: Improving air quality

Key issues

Auckland's air pollution levels regularly exceed guidelines set to protect human health. On average these levels have been exceeded more than 20 times per year since 1999.

Auckland's air quality problem is primarily related to the transport sector (between 50 to 80 per cent depending on the pollutant). There is a significant seasonal contribution from domestic fires. In winter, daily emissions can be three times summer levels.

Vehicle use in the region is growing rapidly. Around 895,000 motor vehicles are now registered in Auckland. Every day an additional 35 join the Auckland fleet. The population is expected to increase to two million people by 2041. More people will be exposed to unacceptable health consequences in future unless Auckland's air quality is significantly improved.

Fine particle (PM10) emissions alone are estimated to cause 500 premature deaths and 1.1 million restricted activity days per year in Auckland, with a wide range of sub-lethal health problems. A preliminary health impact assessment suggests that the current health cost of PM10 emissions in the Auckland region could be higher than \$460 million per annum. The largest single contributors to annual PM10 emissions are motor vehicles (41 per cent) and domestic heating (38 per cent). For nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, the principal source is motor vehicles (71 per cent). Consequently, emissions management strategies that target these sources will have the greatest impact on improving air quality in Auckland.

In 2004, the Ministry for the Environment introduced National Environmental Standards for Air Quality to address the health consequences of poor air quality in New Zealand, by regulating or prohibiting certain activities that pollute the air, and mandating a set of ambient air quality standards that have to be met for key contaminants. Meeting these

standards by 2013 will require a more stringent approach to targets or industry will be penalised, with potentially significant adverse economic impacts for the region.

What we want to achieve

- Transport emissions reduction policies are incorporated and implemented by key regional planning documents, such as the Regional Policy Statement, the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the Regional Growth Strategy, by 2010.
- Domestic emissions reduction policies are incorporated into and implemented by key regional planning documents, such as the Regional Policy Statement, the Regional Plan: Air, Land, Water, and the Regional Growth Strategy, by 2010.
- The number of days when internationally accepted health standards for air quality are exceeded progressively reduce, and meet the National Environmental Standards, by 2013.
- To deliver an efficient, high-quality consents processing and compliance monitoring service, which meets statutory requirements.
- Work with the regional community, key stakeholders and partners to raise awareness of air quality issues in the region, particularly domestic fire emissions.

Responsibilities

The ARC is responsible for managing the effects of discharges of contaminants to air and ensuring that air is clean and healthy to breathe. This includes monitoring the quality of the region's air across a range of indicators to measure trends and identify major pollutant sources. This monitoring provides the framework for developing and implementing effective policy and management options both for improving the region's air quality and for meeting the Air Quality National Environmental Standards.

Under the Resource Management Act, the ARC is responsible for controlling the discharges of contaminants into air. This includes processing and compliance monitoring of air discharge consents.

What we plan to deliver

This activity has six components:

- Advocating for effective policies to reduce air emissions from transport sources in the region.
- Developing effective policies to reduce air emissions from domestic sources in the region.
- Monitoring the quality and health of the region's air to evaluate the effectiveness of air quality policies to deliver necessary emissions reductions.
- Developing key air quality management tools to forecast the ability of the region to meet clean air targets in the future.
- Implementing a range of intervention measures in order to achieve improved air quality.
- Working with the regional community and key stakeholders to inform and educate people on air quality issues, and encourage behaviour change to reduce emissions.

The improving air quality programme will deliver the following in 2008/09:

- The regional air quality monitoring network will continue with a planned expansion to better assess representative health exposure in the region.
- Key knowledge gaps in the emissions inventory will continue to be identified and addressed.
- Policies will be developed and assessed for delivering necessary reductions in domestic emissions.
- Air quality management strategies will be developed for the other airsheds in the region.
- Trends in air quality and air emissions will be monitored and evaluated against targets to predict likely future compliance.
- Continue to implement the Air Quality Education Campaign improving the community's awareness of issues associated with domestic fires, and encourage behaviour change to reduce emissions.

The improving air quality programme will deliver the following from 2009–16:

- Policies for delivering emissions reductions from transport and domestic sources will be incorporated and implemented into the relevant regional plans, strategies and policy statements.
- Emissions reduction targets for each of the main sectors in the other airsheds will be determined (if necessary).
- Monitor trends in air quality and forecast air emissions to track progress against National and regional air quality standards.
- Resource consents for discharges of contaminants to air will be processed and monitored to ensure that the effects of such activities are appropriately managed and statutory requirements are met. We will continue to develop efficient processes and best practices to enable the responsible treatment and control of discharges to air, and to manage community concerns.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Improving air quality	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
1,320	Revenue	1,612	1,148	464
5,351	Expenditure	6,467	5,985	482
4,031	Net cost of services	4,855	4,837	18
(88)	Reserves	(172)	(135)	(37)
3,943	Rating requirement	4,683	4,702	(19)

ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Meeting the regional air quality targets by 2010, particularly with regard to Auckland's residential areas. Targets are as follows: , - PM10: 13 micrograms per cubic metre, on an annual basis NO2: 66 micrograms per cubic metre, in a 24-hour period.	PM10: All 7 urban sites above 13 micrograms per cubic metre annual average in 2004	Not to be exceeded					
	NO2: 170 actual in 2004	Not to be exceeded					
2. Meeting the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality targets for air pollutants by 2013, for the whole Auckland region: PM10: 50 micrograms per cubic metre, in a 24-hour period NO2: 200 micrograms per cubic metre, in a 1-hour period.	PM10: 2 exceedences in 2004	PM10 standard to be exceeded no more than once a year		2	2	4	6
	NO2: 16 exceedences in 2004	NO2 standard to be exceeded no more than 9 times per year		3	16	18	1
3. Greater than 75 per cent satisfaction level achieved in customer satisfaction with resource consent process.		Greater than 75 per cent	71	74	73	70	63
4. 100 per cent of resource consents are processed within statutory timeframes.		100 per cent	82	86	96	98	94*
5. 95 per cent of all statutory enforcement decisions are upheld.		95 per cent	100	100	100	96	100
6. Greater than 80 per cent of all consents monitored are in compliance with consent conditions.		Greater than 80 per cent	91*	79*	81*	88*	91



LTCCP Activity 6: Natural heritage conservation and biosecurity

This activity has two parts:

Part A. Natural heritage conservation

Part B. Biosecurity

The activities within these two parts remain the same as in the LTCCP, however the funding of biosecurity activities comes from a targeted rate. In the Revenue and financing policy Part A and Part B are consolidated under the heading of Natural heritage conservation and biosecurity (on page 39-40).

LTCCP Activity 6 - Part A: Natural heritage conservation

Key issues

The Auckland region is home to unique natural habitats and ecosystems including plants and animals, a number of which are endangered. The ARC works with a large number of community groups and landowners to undertake biodiversity conservation on private land, and to advocate for natural heritage protection through statutory plans and processes.

The ARC manages, in conjunction with community groups, a number of conservation programmes on our regional parks, which aim to restore native wildlife populations that have been severely affected by habitat loss and predators.

The protection of Auckland's unique geological features, landforms and landscapes, including the volcanic cones, is also important.

What we want to achieve

- Work with the regional community to raise awareness of, and advocate for, the conservation of our natural treasures.
- Protect and enhance significant habitats and endangered species in regional parks.

Responsibilities

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the Biosecurity Act 1993, the ARC has responsibility to establish, implement and review policy for maintaining the diversity of native plants and animals, and their habitats (biodiversity), and to prepare and implement a regional strategy for the management of plant and animal pests. Under the RMA, the ARC also has the responsibility to develop policy to achieve the integrated and sustainable management of natural and physical resources such as landforms, landscapes, wetlands and ecosystems. We also work to ensure that significant natural heritage resources are identified and managed appropriately, in accordance with the RMA.

What we plan to deliver

We will deliver the following:

- Implement a regional ecological monitoring network between 2008-16, including monitoring native bird populations in Waitakere and Hunua Ranges, wetland and forest ecosystems, and endangered species.
- Implement a biodiversity advocacy and conservation programme focused on landowner liaison and community partnership between 2008-16, working in particular with the rural community.
- Develop regional ecological corridors including the North-West Wildlink, in partnership with community and other agencies.

- Advocate for the protection of Auckland's Volcanic Cones through statutory and non-statutory processes.
- Advocate for the protection of significant natural areas and natural heritage through statutory and non-statutory processes.
- Together with our partners, Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society, Shakespear Open Sanctuary Society and the Waitakere Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, we will:
 - implement the Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary between 2008-16, and plan for the development of an open sanctuary at Shakespear Regional Park by 2010.
 - advise and assist Waitakere Forest and Bird with implementing Ark in the Park.
- Continue a wide-ranging habitat restoration and species management programme on regional parks between 2008-16, including the management of the Muriwai Australasian gannet colony, North Island brown kiwi at Tāwharanui, the Hunua Ranges kokako population, and the planting of native plants in partnership with the community.
- Provide information and advice to the regional community in conjunction with targeted education and advocacy programmes.

Variations to the LTCCP 2006-16

This activity remains the same, but the Biosecurity portion has been split off to better reflect the separate streams of work and funding of the biosecurity work programme.

6 > What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Natural heritage conservation	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
233	Revenue	299	169	130
2,212	Expenditure	2,156	3,630	(1,474)
1,979	Net cost of services	1,857	3,461	(1,604)
(110)	Reserves	(30)	(90)	60
1,869	Rating requirement	1,827	3,371	(1,544)

7 > ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Annual increase in the level of public awareness of natural heritage issues and values in the Auckland region, as measured by the Environmental Awareness Survey.	53 per cent in 2003/04	Increase on 2006/07		53	54	57	51
2. Bird Count Index in the Waitakere Ranges.		Increase on 2006/07	314	412	411	503	474



LTCCP Activity 6 - Part B: Biosecurity

Key issues

The ARC identifies and controls pest plants and animals that pose a direct threat to our natural environment, our economy and health. Threats to our native flora and fauna include stoats, rats, possums, feral pigs, deer and goats, and a wide range of introduced pest plant species. The ARC works with a large number of community groups and landowners to undertake pest control and biodiversity conservation on private land.

What we want to achieve

- Continue our pest management programmes across the region in accordance with the Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- Ensure that contingency funds are available to respond effectively to biosecurity emergencies.

Responsibilities

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, the ARC has responsibility to prepare and implement a regional strategy for the management of pest plants and animals.

What we plan to deliver

We will deliver the following:

- Implement the Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012 to protect and enhance native ecosystems and reduce the effects of pests on the regional environment, with a greater emphasis on the protection of the unique values of the Hauraki Gulf and high value freshwater habitats.
- Implement programmes under the Biosecurity Act including total and boundary control provisions, the implementation of Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area provisions and the inspection of plant nurseries and retail plant outlets.
- Undertake surveillance, control and eradication of low incidence high risk pest plants.
- Control and eradicate targeted pest plants, including spartina and rhamnus in defined areas, to prevent significant adverse effects on ecosystems.
- Contribute to national research programmes for the biological control of ecological and agricultural pest plants.
- Undertake possum control within prioritised areas of high conservation value and adjoining buffer land, and on the regional parks estate, as part of a regional integrated animal pest management programme.

- Develop Possum Control Areas on the South Kaipara and Awhitu peninsulas in partnership with the communities.
- Implement a comprehensive pest plant control programme in targeted areas and on the regional parks estate.
- Build pest control partnerships with the regional community, in particular with rural landowners and regional parks conservation partners, to enhance pest control and ecological restoration programmes.
- Undertake Tb vector control as required, as part of the Animal Health Board Bovine Tb control programme.
- Continue with the feral goat eradication programme with a focus on the Hunua Ranges, and the feral pig control programme in the Waitakere Ranges.
- Implement a feral deer control programme, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, in areas previously free of feral deer.

Variations to the LTCCP 2006-16

This activity remains the same but it has been split off from the natural heritage portion to reflect the separate streams of work and funding of the biosecurity work programme under a targeted rate. This new rate is explained on pages 30-31 of this document.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Biosecurity	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
671	Revenue	701	345	356
6,007	Expenditure	6,096	5,363	733
5,336	Net cost of services	5,395	5,018	377
(297)	Reserves	(128)	(162)	34
5,039	Rating requirement	5,267	4,856	411

ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Possum population index in the Waitakere Ranges.		less than 3 per cent	4.5	1.02	0.9	0.6	1.67
2. Hectares under community pest control increases.		Increase on 2006/07	7300	11000	20000	30000	41500
3. Possum population index in the Hunua Ranges. This is a new measure	2008/09	less than 8 per cent					



LTCCP Activity 7: Cultural heritage conservation

Key issues

Cultural heritage includes the physical components of our heritage: places that are significant to the wider community and Māori because they are associated with our ancestors, cultures or our past. They include:

- built heritage - historic buildings or structures
- archaeological sites
- places of special significance to Māori, including wahi tapu, urupa, and places of traditional importance
- trees or other vegetation with historical or cultural associations
- places where past events have taken place
- cemeteries and burial places
- shipwrecks and other maritime heritage
- landscapes and areas of heritage places.

There are significant pressures and threats to the cultural and historic heritage resources of the Auckland region, including its unique built heritage. Updating information about cultural heritage values is required, as only a quarter of the region has been comprehensively surveyed. The ARC advocates for the protection of the region's cultural heritage through a range of statutory and non-statutory mechanisms, and actively manages and restores historic and archaeological heritage resources on regional parkland. Due to the pressures of growth and development, priority has been given to providing additional resources, particularly to our built heritage.

What we want to achieve

- We will work with the regional community to identify and raise awareness of our significant historic resources.
- We will implement conservation programmes to interpret and enhance significant historic resources in the coastal marine area and on regional parks.
- We will maintain and enhance the regional cultural heritage inventory and undertake survey and monitoring programmes to update this information.
- We will conserve and restore heritage on regional parks.
- We will advocate for the protection of significant built heritage resources through statutory and non-statutory processes
- Between 2008–15: Maintain a regional cultural heritage database to advocate cultural heritage conservation and to provide information to landowners and resource consent applicants.
- Between 2008–16: Produce educational resources to raise awareness and promote conservation of significant heritage in partnership with local councils, the community and the Mangere Mountain Education Centre.
- Between 2008–16: Conserve and manage historic places on regional parks, including interpretation of at least one significant historic place on the regional parks network annually.
- Between 2008–16: Implement at least one kaitiakitanga project annually with tangata whenua 2008–15.
- Advocate for the protection of the Auckland region's built and cultural heritage through statutory and non-statutory mechanisms.

Responsibilities

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Historic Places Act 1993, the ARC plays an important role in the conservation of cultural heritage in the Auckland region. Under the RMA, the ARC has a direct responsibility for the management of historic sites in the coastal marine area, and as a landowner on the regional parks estate. The protection of historic heritage has been elevated to a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act.

What we plan to deliver

We will deliver the following:

- Between 2008–15: Progressively implement coastal surveys and a regional cultural heritage resource monitoring network in partnership with the regional community.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Cultural heritage conservation	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
254	Revenue	247	23	224
1,983	Expenditure	1,874	696	1,178
1,729	Net cost of services	1,627	673	954
(49)	Reserves	(44)	(12)	(32)
1,680	Rating requirement	1,583	661	922

ARC service levels

Measures	Baseline	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Increase in the level of formal protection for natural heritage (NH) and cultural heritage (CH) resources in regional and district plans.	3000 in 1996	Increase on 2006/07			2537CH 2924 NH	2633 CH	2646 CH
2. Annual increase in the level of public awareness of cultural heritage issues and values in the Auckland region, as measured by the Environmental Awareness Survey.	56 per cent in 2003/04	Increase on 2006/07		56	46	47	45



LTCCP Activity 8: Planning for the future

Key issues

A key issue for the region is to manage the effects of growth and development on our natural environment. Policy frameworks, such as regional policy statements and plans, seek to promote the sustainable management of the region's natural and physical resources.

What we want to achieve

- Development and implementation of effective high quality plans and policy statements which meet the requirements of the Resource Management Act and its sustainable management objectives.
- Advocacy is undertaken with local authorities, government and other relevant parties to give effect to regional policy in district plans, local strategies and development proposals.
- Monitoring frameworks are in place to assess the effectiveness of existing policies, identify emerging issues, provide information that contributes to the review of the Regional Policy Statement and plans, and provides long-term robust data and understanding about the region's natural and physical environments, social and economic status and trends, and changes in land use.

Responsibilities

Under the Resource Management Act, 1991, the ARC is responsible for preparing regional policy statements and plans to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the region.

Monitoring of regional status and trends, for both natural and physical environments as well as social and economic trends, provides a knowledge base from which to identify emerging issues, assess the potential impacts of policies and the effectiveness of their implementation.

What we plan to deliver

Between 2008-10, the ARC will commence the review of the Regional Policy Statement, with the intention of notifying a reviewed Regional Policy Statement by mid-2010.

Between 2008-10, the ARC will manage the following plan changes:

- Regional Policy Statement Changes 6, 7, and 8.
- Metropolitan Urban Limit Change requests in Manukau, Papakura and Rodney.
- Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act changes to the Regional Policy Statement and other plans.

Between 2008-16 the ARC will produce a State of the Region report (including monitoring of community outcomes) every three years and distribute this to internal and external customers and stakeholders. The next State of the Region report will be produced in 2009.

We will continue to ensure that:

- District plans align with regional policy, e.g. Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plans.
- Plan changes relating to the development of town centres give effect to regional policies.
- We work with key stakeholders to align structure plan changes with regional policy.
- Infrastructure provision by major providers supports and gives effect to regional policy.
- Development proposals support regional policy.

What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Planning for the future	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
130	Revenue	210	161	49
1,253	Expenditure	2,546	2,223	323
1,123	Net cost of services	2,336	2,062	274
(25)	Reserves	(531)	(77)	(454)
1,098	Rating requirement	1,805	1,985	(180)

ARC service levels

Measures	Target
1. Sustainable management policies and plans are of a high quality, as measured by indicators of process compliance, analytical quality and policy acceptance.	Under development
2. Internal and external customers/stakeholders have an increasing awareness of social, economic, natural and physical resource information collected, and seek advice where necessary.	Under development
3. Internal and external customers/stakeholders are happy with the timeliness and relevance of information provided, and use appropriate information in decision-making processes.	Under development

