Conservation

Why we do it

To sustainably manage the district's land and water resources and minimise and prevent animal and plant pests (using a range of regulatory and non-regulatory measures) to protect and enhance the district's natural environment (where possible).

What we do

The Conservation activity covers the following sections:

- Animal and Plant Pests
- Soil Conservation
- Water Resources.

The Conservation activity manages the environmental effects of plant and animal pests and aims to protect/enhance the environment through sustainable management of land and water resources.

Specific components for each consent section are as follows:

Animal Plants and Pests

- Implementation of Regional Pest Management Strategy rules requiring control or eradication of pest populations. This includes compliance monitoring and enforcement.
- Direct control of specific low incidence, high threat pests and possums (on account of the district's Tb free status).
- Introduction and spread of biological control agents for pests.
- Surveillance for introduction of new pests.

Soil Conservation

- Promotion of sustainable land management, mitigation and prevention of soil erosion and soil degradation, and maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity.
- Land instability assessment, especially with respect to the Building Act (1991).
- Management of two soil conservation reserves and a poplar and willow nursery providing a base of superior clones for soil conservation plantings.
- Implementation of Part Operative Regional Land and District Plan rules which set permitted activity standards or require resource consents for achieving effective tree cover, land disturbance or vegetation removal. This includes compliance monitoring and enforcement.
- Maintenance and interpretation of Land Use Capability and other specialised resource databases used for monitoring and planning.

Water Resources

- Surface water and groundwater quality and quantity monitoring.
- Coastal water quality monitoring.
- Beach and river sand and gravel monitoring.
- Maintenance of a water resources database and analysis of data.
- Implementation of statutory plan rules for water management which set permitted activity standards or require resource consents such as water discharge consents, water takes, coastal permits, bore permits, shingle/sand extraction permits and waterway permits. This includes compliance monitoring and enforcement.

Advocacy, Monitoring and Reporting

- Accessing up-to-date scientific information and knowledge and dissemination through one-to-one advocacy and education of target audiences are key components of each section.
- Environmental Monitoring and annual progress towards desired environment outcomes are reported in a biennial State of the Environment Report.

Staffing

Animal and Plant Pests operate with nine fulltime equivalent (FTE) staff. The Pests and Plants Controller allocates tasks and is responsible for day-to-day supervision. The Soil Conservation section has six FTE staff. The Senior Soil Conservator allocates tasks and is responsible for day-to-day supervision. The Water Resources section has three FTE staff with the Senior Water Conservator allocating tasks and providing day-to-day supervision. Hydro Technologies Ltd hold a three-year contract for water resources data collection. One FTE and a back-up relief carries out the data management function. One FTE provides conservation management for the activity.

Accessing scientific information is largely provided by external agencies and funded through Envirolink.

Community outcomes

This activity contributes to the following community outcomes:

Safe Tairāwhiti

Prosperous Tairāwhiti

Environmentally Sustainable Tairāwhiti

Where we are now

Animal and Plant Pests

- The principal Animal Plants and Pest activity goal is to limit the adverse effects of unwanted plants and animals referred to as pests. Depending upon the nature of each pest, adverse effects may impact on human health, indigenous plants and animals, our heritage or the economy. Many pests have multiple adverse effects.

- Pest Management tools are continuing to be developed and extended. Council is party to a biological research consortium of regional councils that enables local releases of biological control agents. Monitoring techniques have greatly improved. New poisons and poison delivery mechanisms are becoming available on a regular basis. Public awareness of pests has increased and there is more demand for intervention.
- The Regional Pest Management Strategy, (the guiding document and statutory basis for plant and animal pest management), expires in 2009. Council has begun the process towards its review and replacement.

Soil Conservation

- The principal Soil Conservation activity goal is the sustainable management of land resources. The Gisborne district is renowned for soil erosion; the product of a young, soft and complex geology, and also for biodiversity loss through historical land clearance.
- Intensive cropping on the Poverty Bay Flats over the last 15 years has necessitated an extension of advocacy and education into soil compaction issues.
- New subdivisions and housing developments onto potentially unstable sites mainly about Gisborne City have necessitated urban land use capability mapping and detailed commentary and geotechnical reporting.
- The Sustainable Hill Country Project (SHCP) has passed through the planning process by way of a plan variation and plan change to the Combined Regional Land and District Plan (CRLDP). The commissioner's decision was adopted in August 2008 and no appeals were received. The implementation role is now a responsibility of Soil Conservation. Trained staff and a budget are available to process SHCP applications and contact landowners in the development of Work Plans. Works are required to be completed or Work Plans approved by July 2011. A Memorandum of Understanding links GDC to Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the East Coast Forestry Project.
- Poplar and willow pole material continues to be scarce.

Water Resources

- The principal Water Resources goal is sustainable management of the district's water resources and environs. This includes surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters, riverbeds and the seabed below mean high water springs.
- Statutory plan rules are implemented for water management which set permitted activity standards or require resource consents such as water discharge consents, water takes, coastal permits, bore permits, shingle/sand extraction permits and waterway permits. This includes compliance monitoring and enforcement.
- The Council undertakes surface water and groundwater quality and quantity monitoring, coastal water quality monitoring, and beach and rivers sand and gravel monitoring.
- Maintenance of a water resources database and analysis of data is also undertaken.
- In 2008 there have been national directives in the form of proposed National Environmental Standards and a proposed National Policy Statement for discussion on water issues. Progress is being made in conjunction with Environmental Planning in identifying options to develop a Water Plan. This will alter the present plan rules that govern water management implementation.

Where we want to be

To adapt and focus resources to meet changing work priorities in response to changes to the statutory planning framework, while taking account of customer and community expectations.

How we plan to get there

- Seek environmental data management efficiencies through application of new technologies.
- Review and implement a revised Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- Refocus the conservation section/staff in response to changes to the statutory planning framework and customer and community expectations, for example:
  - ~ Once a Water Plan is adopted, processing Water Permit applications within the framework of this plan as opposed to the current reliance on Section 14 of the Resource Management Act, the Discharges Plan and transitional documents.
  - ~ Processing Work Plan SHCP applications and contacting landowners in the development of work plans.
  - ~ Contributing to the implementation of several sub-chapters of the CRLDP on natural heritage once they have been made operative.
- Build on the synergies available through tree planting incentives of Government's Climate Change policy initiatives.
- Use the Waerenga-a-Kuri Nursery and farm nurseries to mitigate the shortage of poplar and willow poles.
- Liaise effectively with government and other agencies.

Significant negative effects

Animal and Plant Pest

For some individual landholders the costs of plant pest control required by Regional Pest Management Strategy rules are likely to be significant and ongoing where the plants are prolific seeders.

Soil Conservation

Economic impacts on some individual landholders of changes in land use are likely to be significant, especially if promoted by regulation (SHC Project). Sustainable land management precludes short-term unsustainable profit-taking.

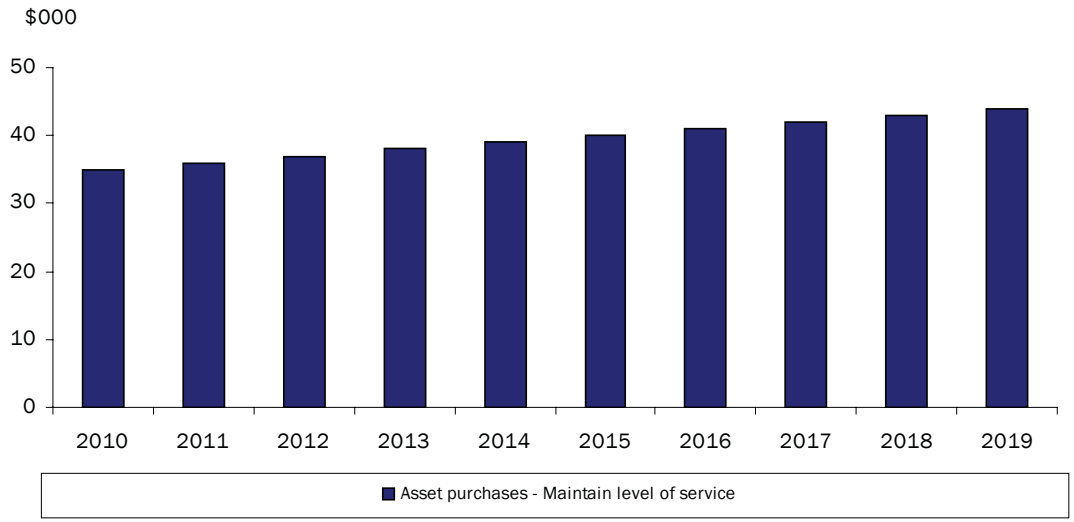
Water Resources

Sustainable management of water resources precludes short-term, unsustainable profit-taking eg irrigation of high-value crops at the expense of others. This may negatively impact on individuals, while still benefiting the community as a whole.

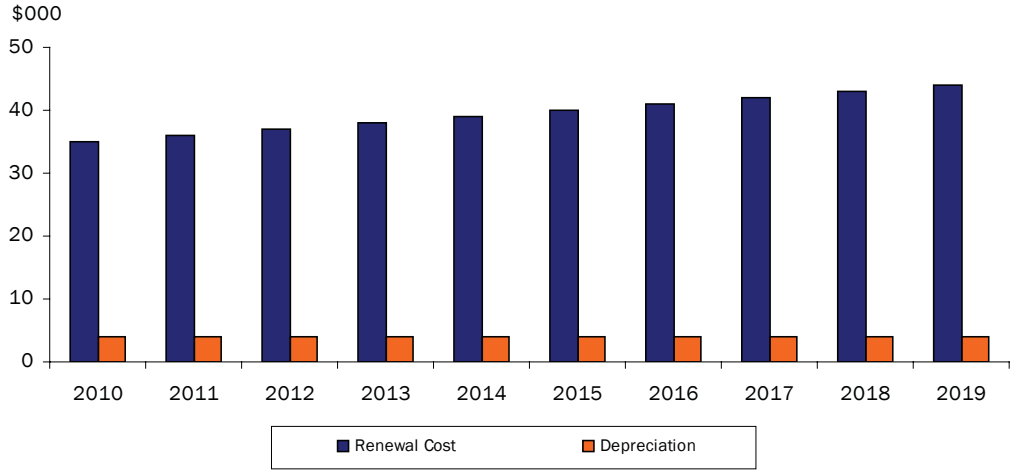
Summary of Forecasted Financial Performance for the 10 Years 2010 to 2019

	2010 $000	2011 $000	2012 $000	2013 $000	2014 $000	2015 $000	2016 $000	2017 $000	2018 $000	2019 $000
CONSERVATION										
OPERATIONS										
Operating Revenue										
Activity revenue	-221	-278	-290	-291	-303	-304	-316	-318	-331	-334
Grants and subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Revenue	**-221**	**-278**	**-290**	**-291**	**-303**	**-304**	**-316**	**-318**	**-331**	**-334**
Operating expenditure										
Depreciation	4	8	12	17	22	27	32	37	42	43
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operating costs	2,628	2,739	2,830	2,893	2,964	3,028	3,106	3,185	3,271	3,356
Total Operating Expenditure	**2,632**	**2,747**	**2,842**	**2,910**	**2,986**	**3,055**	**3,138**	**3,222**	**3,313**	**3,399**
Net internal charges/recoveries)	538	573	612	686	723	742	812	882	1,035	1,136
Net cost of service	2,949	3,042	3,164	3,305	3,406	3,493	3,634	3,786	4,017	4,201
Funded by:										
Rates income	-2,929	-3,024	-3,119	-3,259	-3,346	-3,419	-3,560	-3,711	-3,982	-4,178
Transfers to/from reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation not funded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in deficits carried forward	-20	-18	-45	-46	-60	-74	-74	-75	-35	-23
Total Operations Funding	**-2,949**	**-3,042**	**-3,164**	**-3,305**	**-3,406**	**-3,493**	**-3,634**	**-3,786**	**-4,017**	**-4,201**
CAPITAL										
Capital Outgoings										
Asset purchases - Maintain level of service	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Total Asset Purchases	**35**	**36**	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**	**41**	**42**	**43**	**44**
Loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total capital outgoings	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Funded by:										
Rates income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Development contribution income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers to/from development contribution reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital grants and donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from depreciation reserve	-35	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44
Transfer to/from other reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Funding	**-35**	**-36**	**-37**	**-38**	**-39**	**-40**	**-41**	**-42**	**-43**	**-44**

Total Capital Projects



Depreciation v Renewal Capital Projects



Capital Expenditure Programme

Description	LOS	Total Cost	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Loan & Reserve Funding
CONSERVATION													
Telemetry Equipment	MAINT	394,140	35,100	36,000	36,900	37,800	38,800	39,800	40,800	41,952	42,957	44,031	100%
Totals:		**394,140**	**35,100**	**36,000**	**36,900**	**37,800**	**38,800**	**39,800**	**40,800**	**41,952**	**42,957**	**44,031**	
Grand Total:		**394,140**	**35,100**	**36,000**	**36,900**	**37,800**	**38,800**	**39,800**	**40,800**	**41,952**	**42,957**	**44,031**	

CONSERVATION

Levels of Service Statement	Performance Measure		Current Performance	Targets				Mechanism to Achieve Target
	Customer	Technical		Yr 1 2009-10	Yr 2 2010-11	Yr 3 2011-12	Yr 4-10 2012-18	
LOS (1) - Sustainability Resource management decisions are made using sound data.		Number of valid physical environmental data measure points.	85% (2008)	85%	85%	85%	95%	Equipment replacement.
		Conservation's annual operational targets are met.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
LOS (2) - Sustainability Land resources are managed to conserve natural values, prevent or mitigate adverse effects and sustain productive capability.	Percentage of Requests for Service resolved within target timeframe.		79% (2008)	79%	80%	85%	90%	On call field staff.
	Percentage of customers who rate Requests for Service responses as excellent/good.		93% (2008)	93%	93%	93%	93%	
		Number of issues of the Conservation Quorum published per annum.	4 (2008)	4	4	4	4	
		Number of properties visited per annum for advocacy purposes.	140 (2008)	120	100	100	60	Diminishing returns.
LOS (3) - Sustainability Natural water resources, beds and beaches managed to conserve natural values and sustain consumptive usage.	Percentage of Requests for Service resolved within target timeframes.		74% (2008)	74%	80%	85%	90%	
	Percentage of customers who rate Requests for Service responses as excellent/good.		88% (2008)	88%	90%	90%	90%	
		Makauri aquifer static water values maintained with respect to three-year rolling average.	100% (November 2007)	100%	100%	100%	100%	
		Percentage of compliance with consent conditions under recorded rectification or enforcement within target timeframes.	100% (2008) 3 months of inspection	100%	100%	100%	100%	
LOS (4) - Sustainability Animal and Plant Pests are managed for human health and to reduce impacts on indigenous fauna and flora and primary production.	Percentage of Requests for Service resolved within target timeframes.		97% (2008)	97%	97%	97%	97%	
	Percentage of customers who rate Requests for Service responses as excellent/good.		100% (2008)	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	Number of confirmed incidences of Tb in possum populations.		Zero (2008)	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	
		Percentage of night shooting kill rate of possums.	85% (2008)	85%	85%	85%	85%	