

Environmental Health

Why we do it

To promote and improve human health, safety, comfort and wellbeing for all persons in the Gisborne District and protect the environment.

What we do

The following Council services are undertaken as part of the Environmental Health Activity:

Service Areas	Service Focus (Respond to Complaints, Respond to Incidents, Issue Licences and Permits, Proactive Monitoring, Enforcement etc)
FOOD, LIQUOR, PREMISES and DISEASE CONTROL	
Food Safety	Administer registrations, licences Education of food premises operators Respond to complaints Enforcement
Sale of Liquor	Administer licences Respond to complaints Enforcement
Registered Premises Control (Hairdressers, Campground, Offensive Trades etc.)	Administer licences Respond to complaints Enforcement
Events	Administer licences Respond to complaints
Gambling	Implement Council policy on gaming machines
LIVING CONDITIONS	
Housing	Respond to complaints
Sewage Treatment and Disposal	Administer consents Proactive monitoring
Drinking Water Supplies	Proactive monitoring
Nuisances and Pests	Respond to complaints
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
Air Quality	Administer consents Proactive monitoring of resource consents Proactive monitoring of background air environment Respond to complaints Enforcement Public education

Service Areas	Service Focus (Respond to Complaints, Respond to Incidents, Issue Licences and Permits, Proactive Monitoring, Enforcement etc)
Noise and Vibration	Proactive monitoring of resource consents Proactive monitoring of background noise environment Respond to complaints Enforcement Public education
Resource Management	Proactive monitoring
Water Recreation	Proactive monitoring of recreational waters
WASTE MANAGEMENT	
Litter	Respond to complaints Enforcement Education
General	Proactive monitoring of waste handling sites Enforcement Education
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES	
Hazardous Substances	Proactive monitoring Respond to complaints Enforcement Education
Contaminated Land	Respond to complaints Education
Pollution Incidents	Respond to pollution incidents
BYLAWS and GENERAL	
Port Regulation and Safety	Proactive monitoring Respond to complaints Education Enforcement
Public Area Control	Proactive monitoring Respond to complaints Education Enforcement

Community outcomes

This activity contributes to the following community outcomes:



Safe
Tairāwhiti



Healthy
Tairāwhiti



Environmentally Sustainable Tairāwhiti

Where we are now

Environmental Health is primarily concerned with bringing about community wellbeing in a healthy environment through planning, education, surveillance, regulation, enforcement and response. The activity is split into a number of functions to perform this role.

- ▶ Food, Liquor, Premises and Disease Control.
- ▶ Living Conditions.
- ▶ Environmental Protection.
- ▶ Waste Management.
- ▶ Port Regulation and Safety.

Most of the Council's Environmental Health functions are prescribed by legislation and Council bylaws and policies. However, it is recognised that preventative health and environmental education are more effective than legislative action.

Food, Liquor, Premises and Disease Control

Under the provisions of the Health Act 1956 and its accompanying Food Hygiene Regulations, every premises selling food to the public is required to register with a local authority. All food businesses in the district are graded using a risk assessment system. Environmental Health also investigates complaints about these premises.

Food Bill ■ A new Food Bill has been drafted and, subject to further delays, is expected to proceed through Select Committee and the parliamentary process during 2009. In the interim, Council has become a signatory to a voluntary implementation programme which sets out how councils can proceed as far as possible with implementing the Food Bill under the current legislative base.

Hairdressers, mortuaries, camping sites and 'offensive' trades are also required to register with local authorities and are subject to an inspection regime.

Environmental Health coordinates Council responses to event organisers and compliance with relevant legislation and Council conditions.

Environmental Health works collectively with a number of key stakeholders to reduce the adverse effects of alcohol abuse, in both public and private settings. Environmental Health does this by processing, inquiring into and investigating, then approving and issuing a number of applications for liquor licences and managers' certificates. Together with the Police and Public Health staff, Environmental Health proactively monitors and works with the licensees towards the overall aim of a safer and healthier Gisborne. Educational packages are also distributed.

Sale of Liquor (Objections to Applications) Amendment Bill ■ This Bill seeks to amend the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 to make wider provision for objections to applications for on-licences and off-licences. The Bill allows any person to object to an application. However, the objector must be able to provide evidence of adverse impact on the objector if the application were to be granted. The Bill also requires an applicant for an on-licence to carry out a Health Impact Assessment to be submitted with the application.

The Gambling Act 2003 requires Council to have a current Gisborne District Class 4 Gambling and TAB/Board venue policy in place. Environmental Health receives and processes all applications for Council consents.

Regular updates of venue and machine information is also provided and liaison with Department of Internal Affairs maintained.

Living Conditions

Environmental Health responds when alerted to poor living/housing conditions of residents in the district. Environmental Health works with public health and housing providers to promote the best possible outcome for residents.

Council monitors both the performance and maintenance of sewage disposal facilities to protect public health. Similarly, the quality of drinking water supplied to consumers is also monitored.

Council promotes that public health nuisances are effectively and quickly abated.

Environmental Health coordinates and maintains a state of readiness to respond to all environmental emergencies as part of the Public Health Plan component of the Gisborne District Civil Defence Plan.

The Council's promotion of 'Healthy Homes' has been a recent focus of Environmental Health education initiatives, providing practical information to homeowners and occupiers, raising awareness on how to improve internal living environments with appropriate insulation, heating and ventilation. Energy efficiency is also promoted.

Environmental Protection

Under the Resource Management Act, Council is responsible for monitoring the noise levels. Council operates an after-hours noise service contracted to a local security company.

Council also operates a monitoring programme for all commercial and school pools to ensure that they are maintained in a hygienic condition.

Council monitors the air quality of the district and determines all applications for discharges to air under the Resource Management Act and the Regional Air Quality Management Plan. Monitoring of discharge to air resource consents is carried out.

Environmental Health carries out an annual recreational waters surveillance programme and investigates complaints about these. Environmental Health monitors the quality of recreational shellfish gathering waters.

Waste Management

Advice and education is provided to the community on waste management to encourage protection of public health and the environment. Education and enforcement is also carried out to reduce the amount of litter in the community.

Hazardous Substances

Environmental Health controls all handling, storage, use, transport, processing and disposal of dangerous goods, hazardous and toxic materials. Environmental Health also operates a 24/7 response team for hazardous/pollution incidents.

Port Regulation and Safety

Regional Councils have statutory responsibility for and regulating navigation safety in harbours within their jurisdiction. The Council employs two part-time Harbour Masters to administer these responsibilities.

Where we want to be

- ▶ Minimise and control liquor abuse in licensed premises and in public places.
- ▶ Proactively monitor our environments to minimise risk of illness/injury/nuisance.
- ▶ Have effective stakeholder relationships and service delivery alignment aimed at significant injury reduction/prevention across several key indicators.

- ▶ Have adequately resourced and trained staff to enable an effective response to imminent/recent legislation change and where possible adopt more proactive responses to Environmental Health issues.

How we plan to get there

- ▶ Adopt a more proactive approach in identifying and monitoring high risk licensed premises.
- ▶ Continue to develop an active Liquor Liaison Group with participation of key stakeholders including members from the liquor industry. Through this develop a robust framework for the regular inspection of licensed premises and initiate the interviewing of all applicants for managers' certificates, with the aim of maintaining high standards around the operation of those premises.
- ▶ Work with key stakeholders such as Tairāwhiti District Health, Housing NZ, Police, ACC, Ngāti Porou Haurora and others in attempting to identify potential environmental health issues and where practicable develop joint initiatives to remedy these.
- ▶ Continue to conduct customer surveys on Environmental Health's operations to identify priority areas of concerns and develop strategies to address these. Develop Council-wide compliance policies and standard enquiry/reporting procedures.

Significant negative effects

There are no significant negative effects from this activity.

Summary of Forecasted 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
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH										
OPERATIONS										
Operating Revenue										
Activity revenue	-367	-379	-388	-397	-406	-415	-424	-434	-444	-455
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	-367	-379	-388	-397	-406	-415	-424	-434	-444	-455
Operating Expenditure										
Depreciation	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operating costs	1,168	1,215	1,252	1,283	1,313	1,344	1,378	1,417	1,454	1,496
Total Operating Expenditure	1,179	1,226	1,263	1,294	1,324	1,355	1,389	1,428	1,465	1,507
Net Internal Charges/recoveries	470	498	528	576	604	620	666	714	812	878
Net Cost of Service	1,282	1,345	1,403	1,473	1,522	1,560	1,631	1,708	1,833	1,930
Funded by:										
Rates income	-1,282	-1,345	-1,403	-1,473	-1,522	-1,560	-1,631	-1,708	-1,833	-1,930
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	-1,282	-1,345	-1,403	-1,473	-1,522	-1,560	-1,631	-1,708	-1,833	-1,930
CAPITAL										
Capital outgoings										
Total Asset Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Outgoings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to/from other reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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) - Health and Safety Customer Service Regulate commercial operations to protect public health.		Percentage of applications for liquor licences and food certificates processed within target timeframes.	95% (2008)	95%	95%	95%	95%	
		Percentage of registered and licensed premises that undergo a compliance inspection annually.	100% (2008)	100%	100%	100%	100%	
LOS (2) - Health and Safety Intervene to ensure housing identified as sub-standard is brought up to minimum living standards.		Compliance with Building Act standards notice within specified timeframe.	100% (2008)	100%	100%	100%	100%	
LOS (3) - Reliability Respond to environmental health issues in the interest of protecting public and environmental health.		Percentage of Requests for Service resolved within target timeframes.	99% (2008)	99%	99%	99%	99%	Coordination of staff.
		Percentage of customers who rate Requests for Service responses as excellent/good.	93% (2008)	93%	93%	93%	95%	