

**Porirua City Council
2007 City Wellbeing Report**

Glossary of terms/definitions

The following terms are likely to be used in the Porirua City Wellbeing report.

Term	This means ...
Local Government Act 2002	One of the main laws describing local government activities, processes and requirements. Based on democratic local decision-making, <i>wellbeing</i> (see below) and the concept of <i>sustainable development</i> (see below), including setting and reporting <i>community outcomes</i> (see below).
Local government organisations	There is a range of local government agencies with different titles and roles in New Zealand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 regional councils • 15 city councils • 57 district councils “territorial local authorities” (TLAs).
TLA functions	Porirua City Council is the TLA for this area and is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community well-being and development • environmental health and safety (building control, civil defence, environmental health etc) • infrastructure (roading, transport, sewerage, water/stormwater etc) • recreation and culture • resource management, land use planning and development control
Regional council functions	Porirua City Council comes within the boundary of the Greater Wellington (GW) Regional Council, responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management of effects of use of freshwater, coastal waters, air, land • biosecurity control of regional plant and animal pests • river management, flood control and mitigation of erosion • regional land transport planning and contracting of passenger services • harbour navigation and safety, marine pollution and oil spills • regional civil defence preparedness <p>GW works co-operatively with TLAs on regional strategies eg <i>Wellington Regional Strategy</i> (sustainable regional urban development to 2050, an overarching framework linking all planning documents with major milestones), and <i>Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy</i>.</p>
Community outcomes	The ‘top priorities’ for the community in each local authority. A process is required at least every 6 years to identify community outcomes for the medium and long-term. Community outcomes, and the process to determine them, are important to allow people input, promote better co-ordination and application of resources, and to inform and guide the setting of priorities. The general wording of community outcomes and subjects will be similar between local authorities. Community outcomes describe the type of place that our people want the City to be, describing what we value as important for a good quality for life.
Long Term Council Community Plan	Council describes activities and direction in a plan that covers at least 10 years including why the activities are being carried out, and how they will be done. The Porirua LTCCP has a detailed short-term three year focus

(LTCCP)	<p>and a longer term seven year outlook. The LTCCP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes the City's community outcomes and activities of Council • provides integrated decision-making and co-ordination of Council resources; a long-term focus for Council decisions and activities; a basis for Council accountability to its communities; an opportunity for the public to participate in the decision-making process
Sustainable Development	<p>A key concept relating to local authorities enshrined in legislation is that, in taking a sustainable development approach, Councils must take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of people and communities • the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment • the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.
Wellbeing	<p>The quality, status or position of where an individual or community considers they are at any point in time. Some descriptions of wellbeing imply that there are separate "well-beings", while others take the approach that wellbeing is an overall state and there are many "aspects" to it. The Local Government Act 2002 describes 'well-being' as including social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that contribute to a person's, peoples or community's wellbeing, and are overlapping and interdependent. These are described below.</p>
Cultural	<p>The Ministry for Culture and Heritage defines cultural wellbeing as the vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation in recreation, creative and cultural activities; • the freedom to retain, interpret and express their arts, history, heritage and traditions. <p>This covers many local authority activities such as provision of libraries, museums, parks, venues and recreational facilities, support for arts, celebration of events, promotion of language, heritage protection, provision of main street programmes, cycle-ways etc.</p>
Economic	<p>Economic wellbeing refers to the strength, vitality and diversity of a community's economic base and its progress. Depending on indicators, monitoring can include high level outcomes (eg income levels) and underlying factors (eg level of employment or labour force participation). In local government, district plans are used to encourage economic development and efforts are made to ensure streamlined consent processes; areas designated for 'greenfield' development; and provision of infrastructure. Porirua City Council has worked with the business sector and community to decide how best to harness the City's assets and opportunities to achieve sustainable economic opportunities and quality of life. An Economic Development Strategy was adopted in principle in February 2006 with four focus areas: Business Environment; Business Investment; City Promotion; and Workforce Development.</p>
Social	
Environment	<p>State of environment (SOE) monitoring and reporting Required under the Resource Management Act (RMA), state of environment (SOE) monitoring and reporting can provide early warning of problems and</p>

	show where management has been effective. It allows councils and communities to get information on the state or condition of the environment, key pressures, and to assess responses.
Standard data terms	
Data	Information – “facts and figures”.
Quantitative	Hard data, counted from observing individual items, objects or occurrences. Also referred to as objective data. For example the number of robberies reported to police. It is important to note that while data appears precise or certain, it is not necessarily better or more accurate than qualitative data.
Qualitative	Not everything can be expressed in hard data or figures. Sometimes it is important to collect the stories that people have about aspects of their lives, their community and their experiences. For example, instead of measuring public safety by the number of crimes in a neighbourhood, surveys of the public can be conducted about their feeling of safety after dark. People’s views vary and this sort of information might sometimes be referred to as being subjective or perceptual.
Indicator	Tools for identifying or recording change in performance or condition. Measuring changes in key indicators is likely to be a core aspect of local authorities' monitoring and reporting strategies. Indicators can allow us to monitor progress toward goals, and benchmark performance against other areas. Indicators can help monitor high level outcomes and the underlying factors that drive these outcomes. Indicators can also help evaluate effectiveness of activities. Over time the direction of change in an indicator may provide information on whether activities are on the right track or where more action is needed. Indicators might not exist in some important areas and contextual qualitative information will also have a valuable role to play. This may be particularly so when designing monitoring and reporting strategies for local and regional outcomes, as good quality data may be difficult to get.
Measure	We want to know if things of importance to us have changed. A measure is a unit of capacity or a factor by which a thing is evaluated or gauged.
Outcome	We want to state the general situation we aim for or aspire to. Outcomes are a desired result or state of affairs of “where we want to be”.
Baseline	Accurate, quantitative data at a point in time that marks the beginning of a trend and enables comparisons and progress from then on.
Trend	A direction shown by observing data and/or indicators over time.
Monitoring	Monitoring and reporting progress towards community outcomes is necessary to inform decision-makers and the community about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the state of the issue (eg trends of what is being measured) • what influences the issue (eg why a negative situation is occurring) • the effectiveness of activities implemented to help achieve positive outcomes (eg positive change occurring to what is being measured)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the effectiveness of policies and processes a council has employed and suggestions to improve it or make it more efficient. <p>In monitoring, clarity is needed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> why a measure is being monitored what is to be done with the data what effect the data will have on the policies and programmes that affect the measure /outcomes
Collection of Data sources	
Census	The official count of population and dwellings in New Zealand, providing a 'snapshot' of our society at one point. Known as the Census of Population and Dwellings; held every 5 years (most recently 7 March 2006). From late 2006, results of the latest Census are being made available. The Census is very important for local government planning, monitoring and reporting.
Quality of Life (QoL) Project	Established in 1999 to provide social, economic and environmental indicators of quality of life in our six largest cities (now 12 TLAs incl Porirua from 2003) in response to growing pressures on urban communities, concern about impacts of urbanisation and effects on wellbeing of residents. Two reports produced in 2001 and 2003 (incl Porirua). Next full QoL report due November 2007. QoL project also conducts resident surveys (two-yearly telephone survey) asking residents for perceptions and feeling on a number of issues relating to the quality of living in the city but with a different focus to TLA's resident satisfaction surveys (see below) - next due 31 January 2007.
Residents Satisfaction Survey	TLAs conduct regular (often annual) surveys to assess resident's satisfaction with services, activities and facilities. Porirua has regularly commissioned the National Research Bureau (NRB) for this purpose. Results provide performance measure information to monitor Council services and together with Community Outcome and LTCCP processes, assist Council planning and priorities. The NRB conducts similar surveys for other TLAs enabling comparison between similar sized cities (peer group) and with national trends. Surveys create benchmarks for review, analysis, and comparison with other results, such as the Quality of Life survey (another Survey Council participates in), and the assessment of effectiveness of new initiatives Council provides.