



## State of the Environment Report 2019/20



## Contents

1.	The People in Our District.....	1
2.	Amenity.....	5
3.	Our Economy.....	13
4.	Heritage.....	16
5.	Incompatible Activities.....	20
6.	Natural Environment.....	23
7.	Natural Hazards.....	31
8.	Works and Network Utilities.....	35
9.	Residential Growth.....	41
10.	Riparian Management.....	48
11.	Rural Area Development.....	54
12.	Waste.....	61
13.	Tangata Whenua.....	67
14.	Transport.....	71



# The People in Our District

## Growth

There was a 3.3 percent population growth in Matamata-Piako between 2001 and 2006, to 30,483, and 3.5 percent growth between 2006 and 2013, to 31,536. From 2013 to 2018 there was 9.1 percent growth to 34,404 people in the district.

The Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha townships all increased in population size between 2006 and 2018. Morrinsville increased by 17.5 percent, Matamata by 23.7 percent and Te Aroha by 20.8 per cent.

## 2018 Census figures

Total population 34,404

- Morrinsville 7,761
- Matamata 7,806
- Te Aroha 4,554

- 19.7% of district over 65 years of age
- 20.3% percent aged less than 15 years
- 76% European, 16.7% Maori
- Rural/Urban mix: 41.5% rural, 58.5% urban



In April 2020, economy strategy specialists, Infometrics delivered a review of growth projections for Matamata-Piako District Council. The main purpose of the review was to provide population, employment and dwelling projections covering the period 2018 to 2051. Council has adopted this report as the basis for its Long Term Plans and future District Plan Changes. Below is transcript and a chart from the Infometrics report, for the full report please refer to: [Population projections 2018-2051 for Matamata-Piako District Council](#).

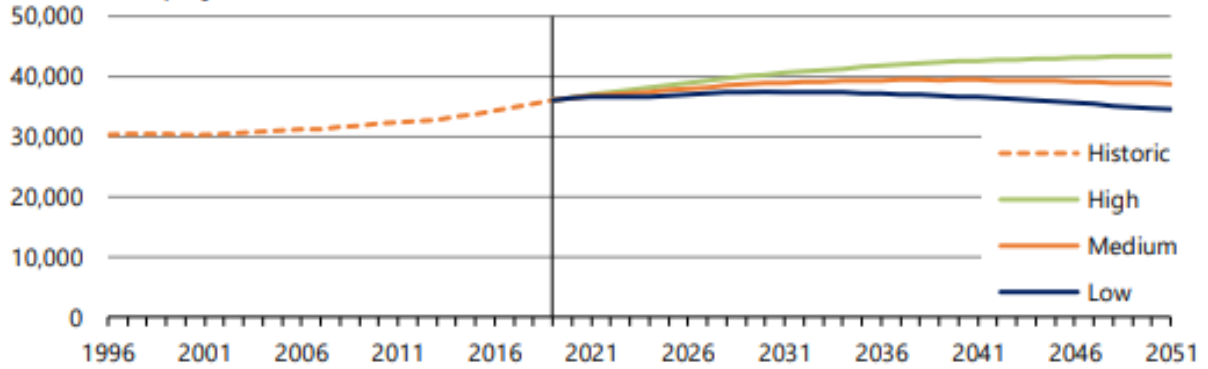
*'Matamata-Piako District's population has grown steadily over the past 15 years, from 30,900 in 2004 to 36,000 in 2019. Under the medium scenario, the district is projected to gradually grow to peak at 39,500 by 2039, beyond when the population will stabilise for the remainder of the projection period, easing slightly to 38,700 in 2051. Higher levels of net migration under the high scenario lead to steady growth throughout the projection period, with the district reaching a population of 43,600 by 2051. Under the low scenario, the population does grow in the near term, reaching 37,400 by 2029, before gently easing to 34,300 by 2051.'*

## Charge Population Projections 2019 to 2051

### Population projection

Matamata-Piako District

Infometrics projection



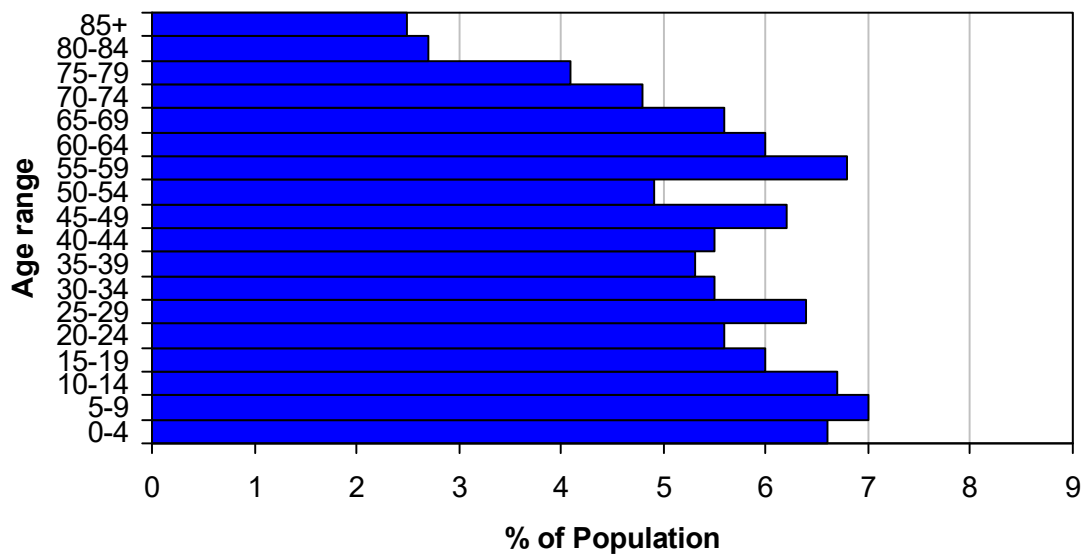
Source: Infometrics report referred above.

Below is an overview of the predicted population data for the Matamata-Piako District for 2051:

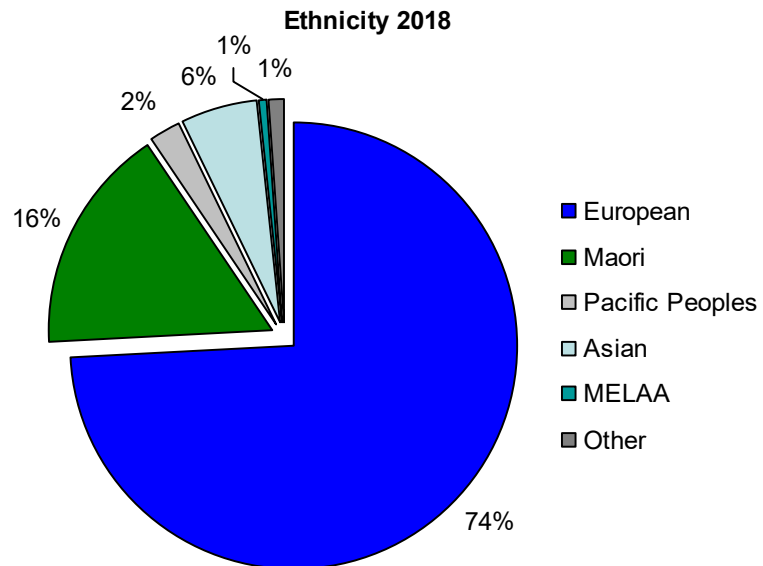
### 2051 Infometrics medium growth projection

- Total population 38,700
- Morrinsville 9,420
- Matamata 9,353
- Te Aroha 5,400

### Matamata-Piako Population Age Structure 2018

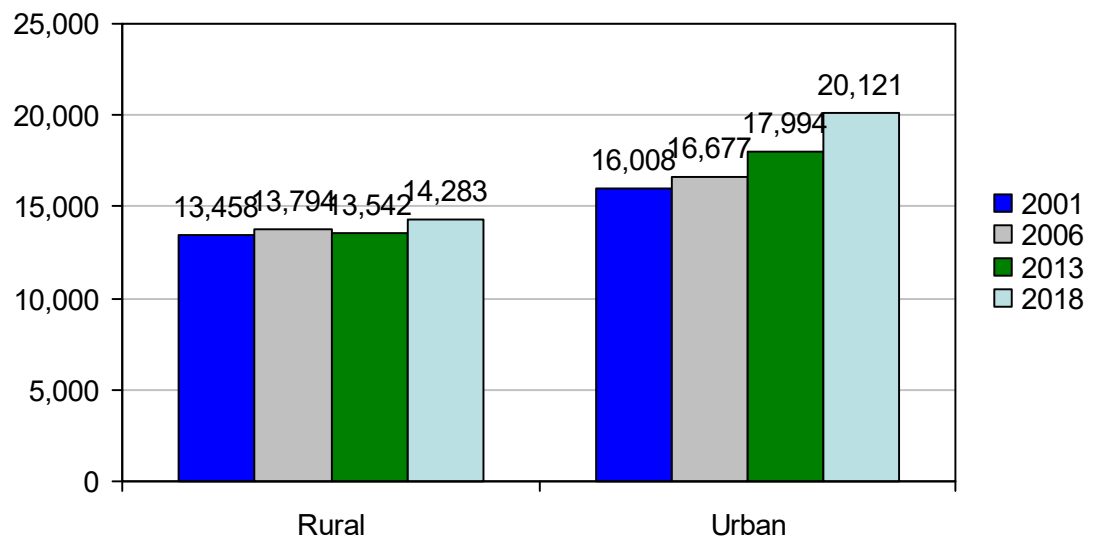


## Change in Matamata-Piako age structure based on projections



(Total percentage is greater than 100% as more than one ethnicity can be chosen)

## Rural/Urban Mix of Matamata-Piako District



(Source of all data unless otherwise noted: Statistics New Zealand)

**Useful Links**

[https://www.mpd.govt.nz/images/CouncilDocuments/Reports/Population\\_Projections\\_2018-2051\\_for\\_Matamata-Piako\\_District\\_Council\\_prepared\\_by\\_Infometrics\\_23\\_April\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mpd.govt.nz/images/CouncilDocuments/Reports/Population_Projections_2018-2051_for_Matamata-Piako_District_Council_prepared_by_Infometrics_23_April_2020.pdf)

<http://www.mpd.govt.nz/pdf/OurCommunity/SocioDemographicProfile.pdf>

<http://www.stats.govt.nz>

# Amenity



## Amenity Indicators

### Overview

Amenity values are natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, and cultural and recreational values.

Having a safe and healthy environment for living, working and recreation is important for Matamata-Piako residents. This involves maintaining generous access to daylight and private open space, especially in urban areas. Amenity values can differ in rural areas to those in urban areas, as people in rural areas commonly both live and work on the land, and can be involved in activities that generate noise, odour, dust and other effects.



### Pressures

The amenity and heritage values of Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha could be adversely affected by unsuitable development. Amenity in rural areas can also be compromised by rural activities that generate noise, odour, dust and other effects.

In general, disturbance to amenity values as a result of legitimate farming activities undertaken in accordance with best practice is acceptable; however, in urban areas and near large-scale rural industry, it is expected that any significant negative effects on amenity values will be avoided, remedied or minimised.



### Our Situation

#### Development Controls

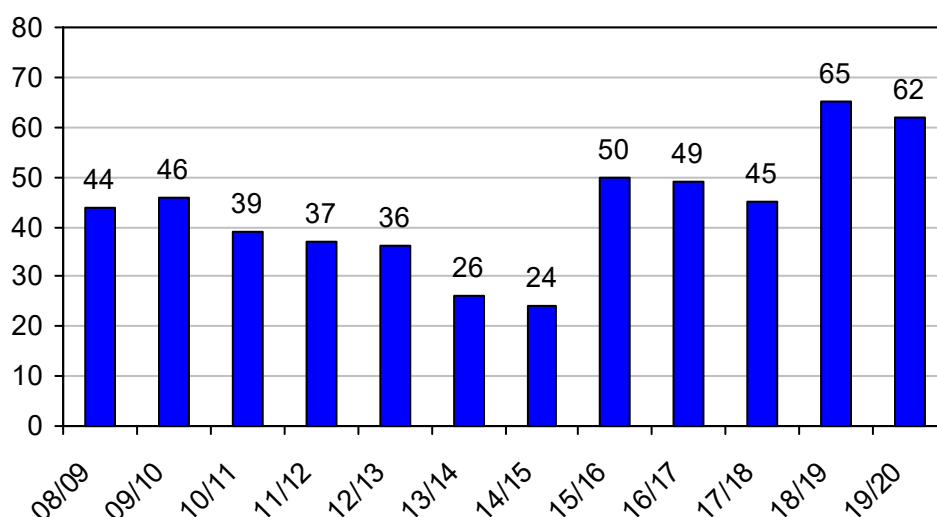
The number of resource consent applications to breach Council's development control rules in the District Plan had decreased since 2009/10, but increased again since 2015/16. In 2016/17, 40 of 49 of resource consent applications to breach development controls were for yard encroachments. In 2017/18, it was 39 of 45 of resource consents applications. The other six consent applications were for five applications to encroach upon the height-to-boundary rules and one application to encroach on recreational space requirements. In 2018/2019, the number of resource consent applications to breach development controls have increased to 65. That is a result of the growth that the district is experiencing and the implementation of the

Permitted Boundary Activity (PBA) in 2018. The PBA is a process that can be used when there is a non-compliance in regards to yard setbacks and the applicant has written consent from the affect parties, the application is processed in a shorter timeframe. From the 65 applications, 25 were processed as a standard resource consent application and 37 were PBAs applications. On 2019/20 from the 62 breaches, 16 were from PBAs and 46 from resource consent applications. The ongoing volume of applications to breach development control rules is in line with the overall increase in the number of building consent applications. Yard areas provide space for outdoor activities and landscaping, and also create a pattern of open space and built up space, which forms the character of the district.

The Council's Plan Change 47 – Plan Your Town reviewed the sections of the District Plan relating to the planning rules and zoning for each of the district's largest three towns and the areas around them. Rule changes included a reduction in the building setback distances from some boundaries for residential and rural-residential properties, changes to residential infill subdivision around town centres and identifying likely future urban growth areas. A hearing was held in June 2017 and a decision was notified in April 2018, allowing the plan change to become part-operative. Plan Change 47 became fully operative in 22 April 2020 after a decision from the Environmental Court in regards to the Banks Road rezoning.

During 2019/20 Council carried two rounds of informal public consultation for Plan Change 53 – Settlements (PC53). The plan change is proposing to review the development rules for our small villages using a new zoning mechanism called Settlement Zone provided by the National Planning Standards. Currently, most of our settlements are zoned as Rural and our rules for the Rural Zone does not reflect the residential land use character of the settlements. Therefore, with a new zoning mechanism MPDC expects to facilitate the process for development and breaches of development standards, such as yard setbacks. The following settlements are under the scope of PC53: Waihou, Waitoa, Tahuna, Mangateparu, Motumaoho, Walton, Hinuera, Te Poi, Manawaru and Te Aroha West. The plan change is also proposing reduced yard setbacks for small rural sites.

**Number of resource consent applications to breach development standards (e.g. daylight admission and bulk and location requirements)**

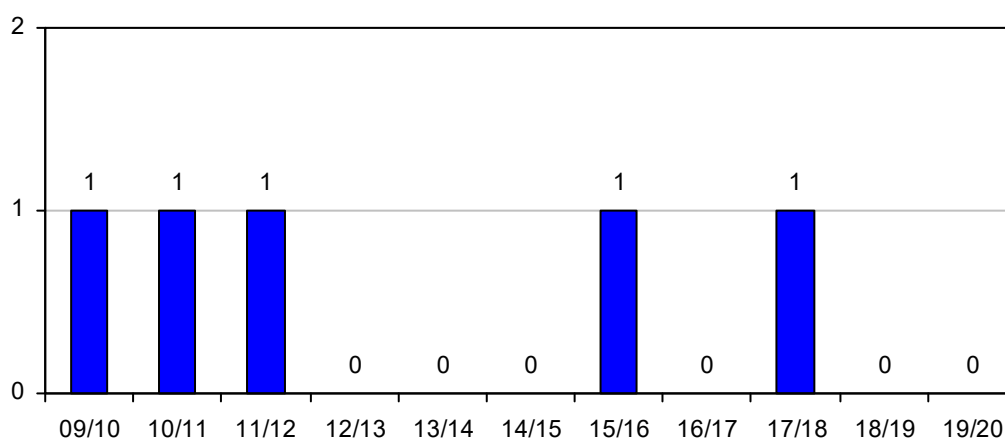




## Offsite Signage

Increased signage and advertising can also impact upon the visual amenity and traffic safety of the environment; however, the number of resource consent applications for off-site signage has remained low since 2008/09. There have been only two applications received since 2012/13. One application was received in 2015/16 for a billboard in Thames Street, Morrinsville, predominantly used for community or local advertising. The only other application in the last six years was processed in 2017/2018, and it was for a petrol station price display sign to be located on a neighboring property. In May 2018 Council received an application for a change of sign conditions for a store in Te Poi, no applications were received for 2019/20.

Number of resource consent applications received for off-site signage

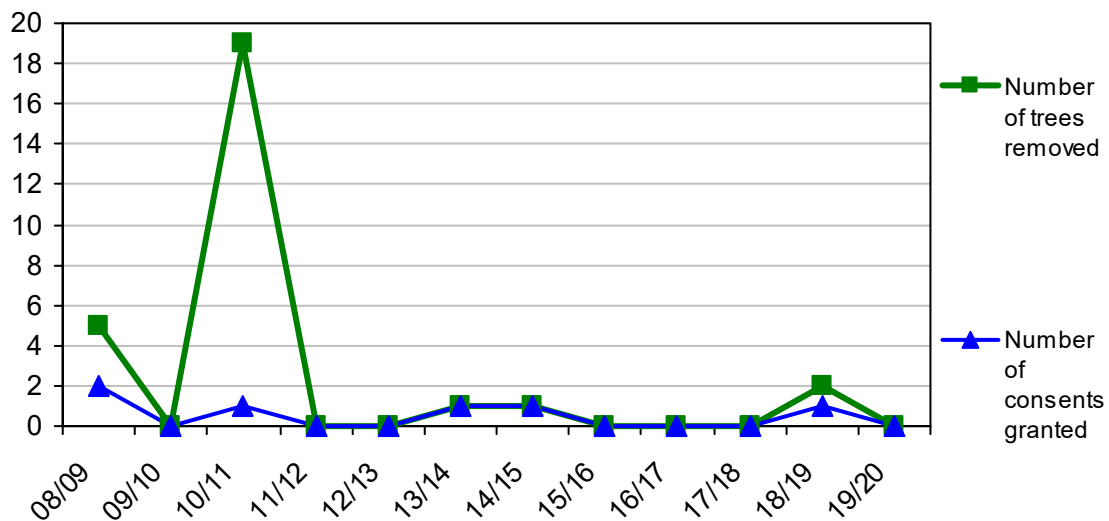


Complaints about signage can relate to the size of text, content, location and size of a sign. In 2017/18, 10 complaints were received about signage; mainly about real estate or business's sandwich-board style signs. On 2018/19 only four complaints were received; two in regards to signs blocking road visibility. For 2019/20 six complaints were received; four in regards to signs blocking road visibility, one for a non-complying sign at a reserve and a complaint for moving a public toilet sign.

## Protected Trees

Removing trees can also have an impact on amenity values. As of 2018/19, there were 95 scheduled protected tree sites in the district. Very few resource consents have been granted for the removal of protected trees since two were granted in 2008/09. In 2018/19, there was one granted resource consent application for the removal of two protected trees, as shown below:

### Number of Resource Consents granted for removal of protected trees



During 2008, Council completed a plan change to amend the tree protection provisions within the District Plan. Previously, a resource consent was needed to remove, or do any major work to any tree over 10 metres in height. This approach was deemed to be too restrictive by Council, and changes to the Resource Management Act meant that only trees specifically listed in a schedule of the District Plan could be protected.

A process was undertaken to identify those trees which added to the amenity of the district and these were added to the schedule of outstanding or significant natural features and trees and other protected items. This plan change aimed to give confidence to whether or not a resource consent would be needed to remove a tree and to remove any unnecessary restrictions. The plan change allows notable trees to be removed as a permitted activity if they were dead, dying or terminally damaged.

This has had an effect on the number of consents granted and trees removed over the past five years. The number of trees removed as a result of being considered a permitted activity has not been monitored; however, at least some trees have been removed each year under this provision.

In 2010/11 there was an application for the removal of 19 scheduled trees within a woodlot adjacent to the Morrinsville Stream, to allow for construction of a wastewater treatment plant. The trees were seen as being significant because they were part of the woodlot, not as individual trees, and replanting with 38 trees was seen as an effective mitigation measure. Resource consents were granted in both 2013/14 and 2014/15 to remove single protected trees. No resource consents were granted in 2011/12, 2012/13, or from 2015/16 to 2017/18 to remove protected trees. In 2018/19, there was one granted resource consent application for the removal of two protected oak trees. The reason behind the removal was that the trees were failing and consequently causing significant damage in property and potential risk for people. According with the arborists inspection report the maintenance of the trees was not an option. However, as referred to above, protected trees may have been removed as a permitted activity if considered by an approved arborist to be dead, dying or terminally damaged. For 2019/20 no applications were received in order to remove protected trees.

Two consent notices required the protection of notable trees in 2012/13. There have been no similar consent notices in the years since.

In 2014/15, Plan Change 48 – Protected Trees commenced, which reviewed the rules and provisions relating to protected trees, as well as Schedule 3 in the District Plan, which lists all protected trees in our District.

All currently protected trees were examined by an arborist, using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method to assess and score them. Council nominated a threshold score of 140 that all trees proposed for protection must meet and then held a public formal submission process in 2015/16.

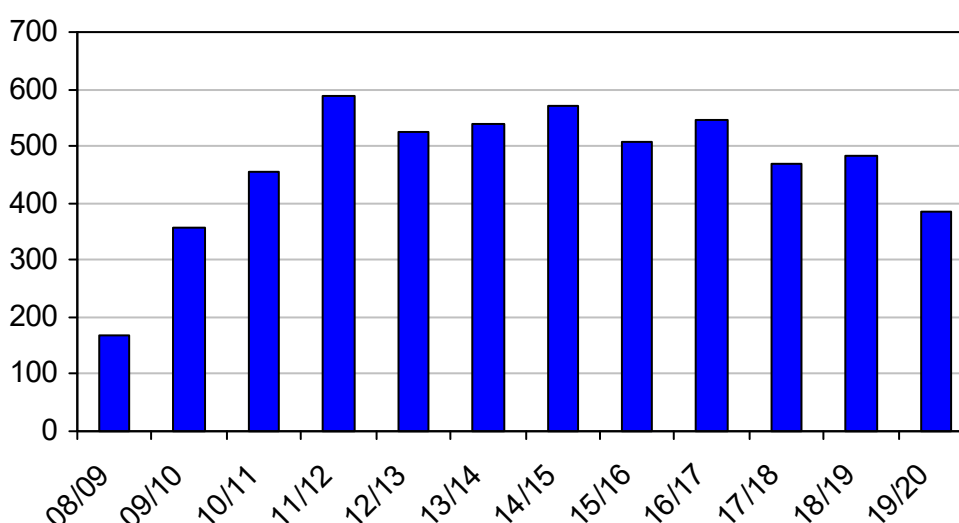
As a consequence of Plan Change 48, which became operative in 2016/17, 97 individual or groups of trees achieve the threshold of 140 and have been protected by Schedule 3A of the District Plan. 129 trees or groups of trees were removed from the schedule and are no longer protected by the District Plan. A further 46 items, including stands of trees and remnants of bush, were transferred to schedule 3B: “Outstanding or Significant natural features and other protected items”.

Council will maintain a record of location, by ward, of protected trees that are removed annually. None were removed in either the 2016/17 or 2017/18 years. In 2018/19, two protected oak trees were removed.

## Complaints

Council receives many complaints concerning amenity values. The majority of complaints are about noise, mainly loud music. There was a large increase in the number of complaints between 2008/09 and 2011/12 and a moderate increase in 2016/17. In 2017/18, the number of complaints dropped to its lowest rate in seven years. The reduction was mainly due to a reduction in the number of noise complaints. Other noise complaints were about machinery or tools, motorbike and car noise, or noise early in the morning. It is these complaints, which are few in number, that are more likely to affect people’s perception of the amenity of the district.

**Number of complaints received concerning amenity values**



## Matamata-Piako Residents’ Perception of Their Local Environment

The 2013 Waikato Regional Perception Survey found that 76.4 per cent of respondents from the

Matamata-Piako District were satisfied with the 'unique or special character of your town'. This has increased from 74 per cent satisfaction in the 2010 survey.

The 2013 survey also asked 'how strongly do you agree or disagree with that you feel a sense of pride in the way your district looks and feels'. 76 per cent of respondents agreed with this statement, which is consistent with the survey in 2007 and 2010.

In 2000, 2003 and in 2006 the Waikato Regional Council surveyed people in the Waikato region to get their views on environmental issues. A similar study was repeated in 2013,

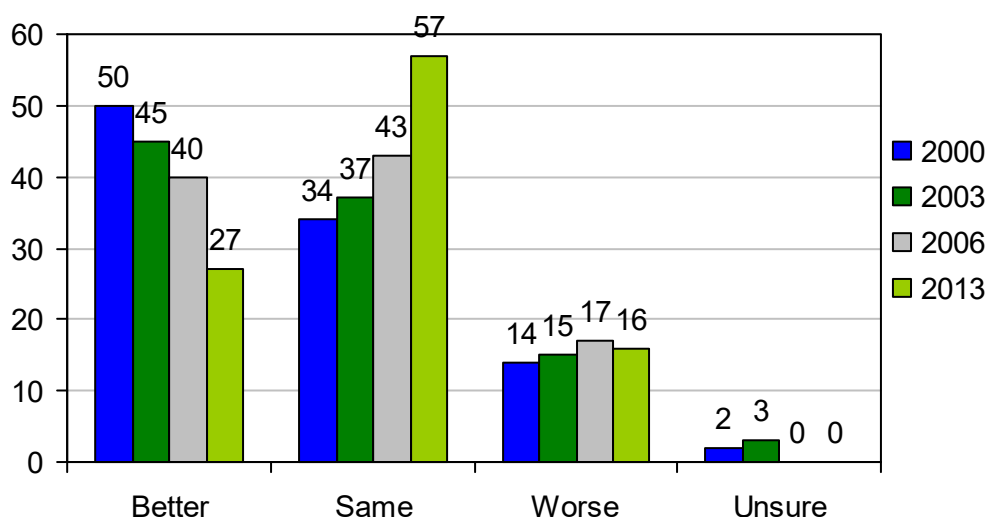
The most important environmental issues that were identified by Matamata-Piako residents were:

2000	2003	2006	2013
Water Pollution – 28%	Water Pollution – 25%	Water Quality and Supply – 19%	Water – Pollution/Quality – 32%
Waste Disposal – 27%	Sprays and Pesticides – 6%	Water Pollution – 15%	Water – availability and suitability for use – 19%
General Pollution – 8%	General Pollution – 6%	Don't Know/ No Reply – 10%	Don't Know – 15%
Air Pollution – 6%	Rubbish Disposal – 6%	Air Pollution – 8%	Drought – 10%
Don't Know – 14%	Animal Pest and Disease – 4%	Effluent disposal/ run off- 8%	Waikato River – 5%

**The Waikato Regional Council also asked residents if they thought the overall state of their local environment had improved.**

Since 2000 the number of Matamata-Piako residents who consider the overall state of their local environment to have improved has decreased steadily. However, an increasing number of people consider that the overall state of the environment is the same, and slightly fewer people think it is worse.

**Community perception of the change in the overall state of the environment 2000–2013**



## Participation in Protecting the Environment

In the Matamata-Piako District in 2000, 18% of residents had taken action to protect the environment and 42% of those people believed their action was effective.

In 2003 16% of residents had taken direct action for the protection of the environment through methods such as attending meetings, preparing submissions or writing to Council. Of the residents that had taken direct action, 49% believed that their actions were effective. 14% of respondents had not taken any action to protect the environment.

In 2006, of the respondents who had been involved in public action, 87% of these perceived the effectiveness of the public action to be fairly or very effective. This is a significant increase from 2003.

In 2013, some survey questions were worded differently from those in the earlier surveys, and the overall percentage of people who took action to protect the environment was no longer recorded. However, the following statistics were recorded:

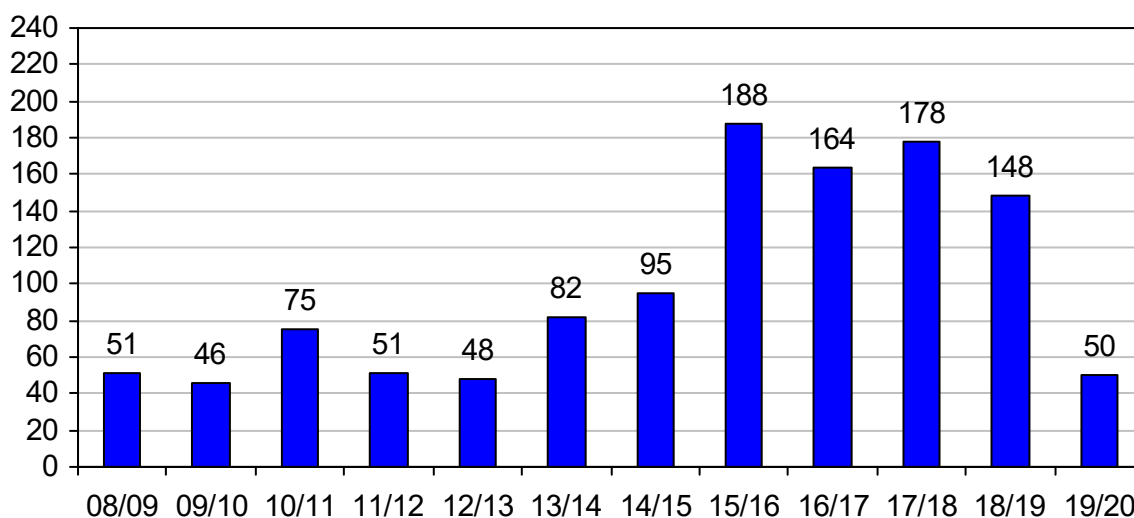
8% of residents were involved in public action or meetings. Of those residents who had taken public action, 39% were on a committee or attended a meeting, and 30% participated in an action group. 50% of people who were involved in public action perceived the effectiveness of that action to be very effective.

## What Council Is Doing

Council is able to impose conditions on new development to reduce impacts on amenity. These include the control of noise, dust, odour, glare, vibration, spray drift and signage, and more than one condition may be imposed on a resource consent. The number of conditions imposed has increased since 2012/13. The 188 conditions imposed on 94 resource consents in 2015/16 is the highest number recorded to date.

The number of amenity conditions varies from year to year with the type of activities applying for consent and the environmental effects they may have. Council's Regulatory Planners apply conditions to consents clearly stating the limits of what is acceptable in terms of amenity effects.

**Number of resource consent conditions imposed to control noise, dust, odour, glare, vibration, spray drift and signage**



## **Significant Natural Features Grant**

Council is also working with local land owners to protect the district's significant natural features. Landowners who think they have a significant site on their property can apply for a Significant Natural Features Grant to help pay for fencing off the site. This grant was established in 2006 when Council worked with an ecologist to determine significant native vegetation in the district. 667 units of habitat totaling 3,111 hectares have been surveyed and 23% of this area (721 hectares) was considered significant. Of the total area surveyed, 78% was determined to be indigenous (predominantly native species), 20% (mainly non-native species) and 2% was not determined. The significant features included native indigenous vegetation, such as native tree stands, areas of bush, and wetlands. Council, along with a working party made up from different sectors of the community, considered different incentives to offer landowners who fence off and protect significant natural features.

Council is happy to provide an ecologist to survey potentially significant sites that have not already been visited within the district. Please contact Customer Services to discuss this further.

## **What You Can Do To Help**

Contact Council if you are affected by loud noise or offensive odours.

## **Useful Links**

[Matamata-Piako Noise Control Information](#)

[Incompatible Activities](#)

[Environmental Awareness, Attitudes and Actions Survey](#)

[Waikato Region Perception Survey](#)

## **For More Information**

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
Fax: 07 884 8865

# Our Economy

In 2018, the Matamata-Piako district had a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of \$56,965 and a mean household income of \$98,200.

Learn more about our district and its economy [here](#).

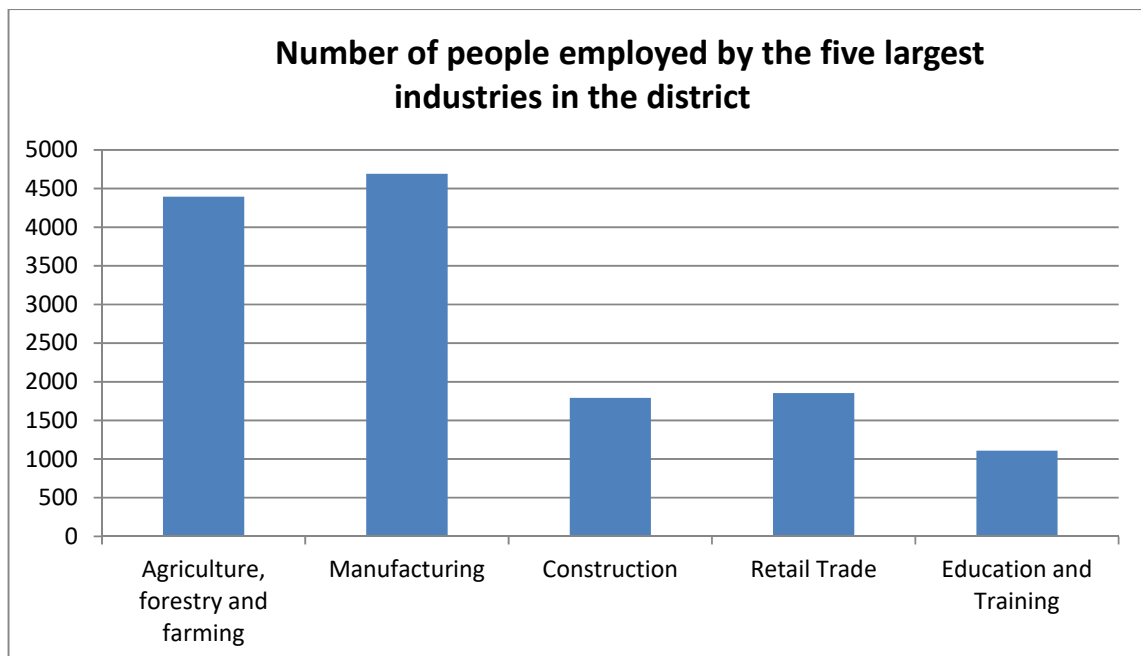
## Economic Significance of Matamata-Piako to New Zealand

The proportion of the national GDP produced in the Matamata-Piako District has increased from 0.9% in 2013 to 0.98% in 2018. The percentage change in GDP from 2017 to 2018 for the District was 7.6% while the national change was 3.5%.

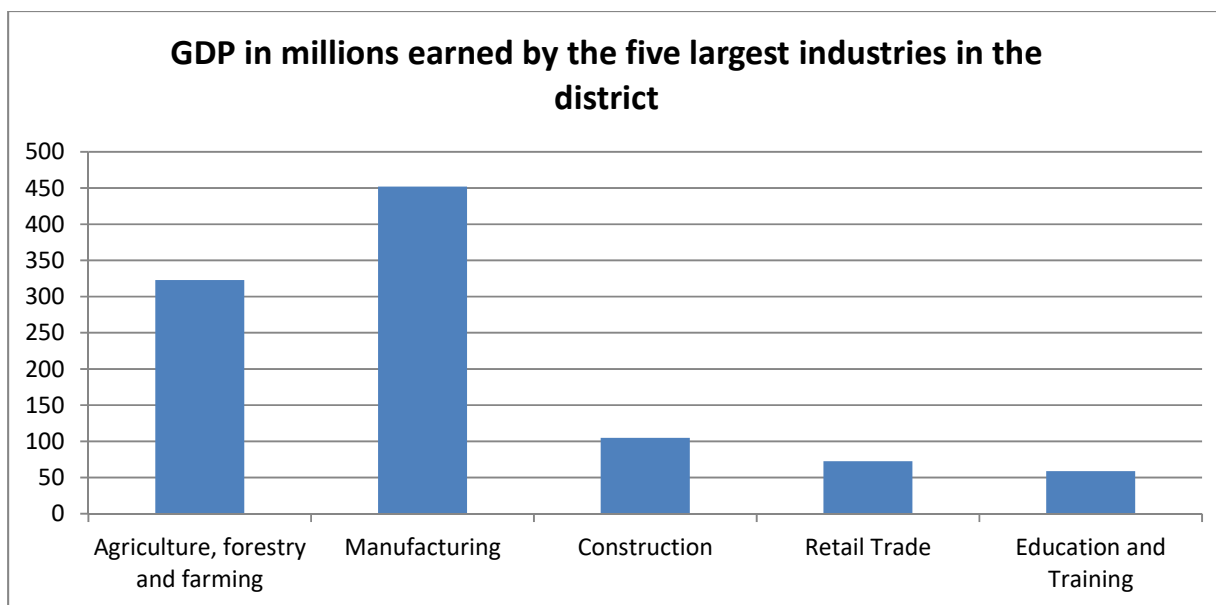


The five leading employers in the district in the year to March 2018 are:

- Manufacturing
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Construction
- Retail Trade
- Education and Training

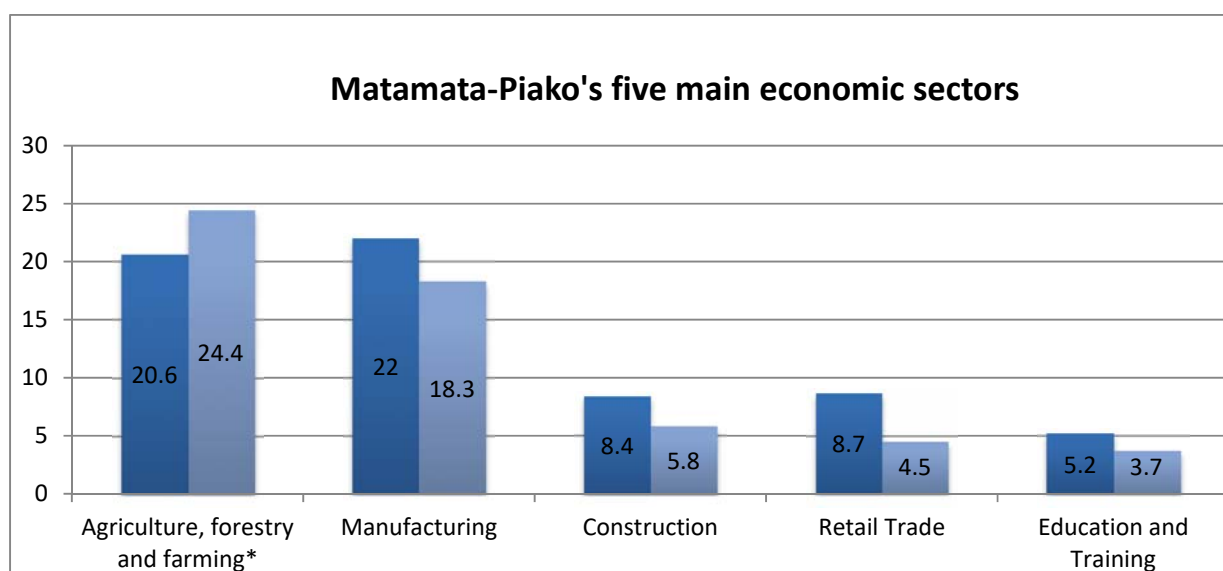


Source: [Infometrics](#)



With some of the best quality soils in New Zealand our district is one of New Zealand's cornerstones of the dairy industry. There is also a strong presence of other large primary industries such as horticulture and meat processing. These all play a major role in building a strong local economy.

The graph below shows the Matamata-Piako's five largest industries (by employee number) in 2018, the percentage of the district's workforce that they employ (dark blue) and the share of the District's total GDP that they produce (pale blue).



Source: [Infometrics](#)

The percentage of the district's GDP earned by Agriculture, as the leading earner, has been displayed above. This graph shows that the agricultural sector contributes a higher proportion of the total



economic output of the district (24.4%) than the percentage of people that are employed in the sector (20.6%). It is thus the most productive large industry when GDP is divided by number of employees.

Sources:

Statistics New Zealand

[Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment Regional Economic Activity Report](#)

[Infometrics – Matamata - Piako District's Economic Profile](#)

# Heritage



## Heritage Indicators



## Overview

Heritage refers to things of historic value, including buildings, possessions, and culture that have been passed on to us by previous generations. There are a number of sites in the district that contain heritage values, including:

- The Te Aroha Heritage Character Area, which is a unique array of historic buildings and places.
- Historic buildings and places that are registered on the New Zealand Heritage list (formerly the Historic Places Trust Register) and within the District Plan.
- Archaeological sites that contain features such as middens and pa sites.
- Culturally significant sites, including pa sites, urupa (burial sites), and marae.



## Our Situation



### Te Aroha Heritage Character Area

Development in the district can result in pressure to inappropriately use and develop heritage and cultural sites. The Te Aroha Heritage Character Area has special recognition to protect its unique buildings and places.

Plan Change 47 – Plan Your Town examined both the extent of the Te Aroha Character area and the mechanism for protection of character values for buildings within the area. To make the rules more effective, the Character Area was reduced in size to a central area around Whitaker Street and Boundary Road, and it was also renamed the Te Aroha Heritage Character Area. The rules now also focus on building frontages rather than applying to all buildings on the sites in question.

From 2008/09 to 2019/20, 12 resource consents have been applied for (and granted) to substantially modify scheduled buildings in the Te Aroha Heritage Character Area. These have mainly related to altering the appearance of buildings by the addition of signage or decks.

In 2012/13 two consents were granted. Extensions were made to the Te Aroha fire station. This was granted with the effects being considered minor given that the appearance of the original building appeared unchanged from the street frontage, with the additions being recessed from the main building, and that the upgrade allowed for its continued use as a fire station.

The Te Aroha Masonic Lodge was rebuilt for use as a veterinary clinic. This included demolition of the building, which was in disrepair, apart from the floor, and reconstruction using the original bricks, and replica stucco detailing, and wooden framed doors and windows. The form, materials and detailing of the building were reinstated, and therefore the effect on the Te Aroha area was considered limited. One consent was granted in 2013/14 to refurbish an existing retail facility within

the Te Aroha Heritage Character Area while a consent was granted in 2014/15 to erect a workshop in the Character area on Rewi Street. No consents have been granted since 2014/15.

Two consents were granted in the 2006/07 year to develop structures in the Heritage Character Area. One structure was a covered outdoor area for a hotel and the other was a garage. There have been no consents granted to construct new buildings within the Te Aroha Heritage Character Area in the last 10 years.

### Heritage Features

Since 2008/09, two resource consents have been granted to modify listed heritage features outside the Te Aroha Heritage Character Area. The most recent consent application was granted in 2013/14. It was an extension of time for a resource consent first granted in 2008/09. This was for the removal of the Thames Valley Power Board building in Matamata. Council worked through conditions for this consent with the Matamata Historical Society and a condition was imposed requiring that if the building is removed then a monument be built in its place.

#### Number of resource consents granted to modify listed heritage features outside Te Aroha Heritage Character Area

Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of consents granted	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

The number of resource consents applied for and granted involving sites that contain or adjoin a known culturally significant site has been very low. In 2011/12, there was one application involving the relocation of the Horahora Historical Power Pylon to the Firth Tower Reserve, and also an upgrade of buildings at the Rukumoana Marae. In 2012/13 there was an application to construct a new wharehau meeting house to replace an existing building at Raungaiti Marae in Waharoa. There was also an application to quarry adjacent to the Ongatiti Ignimbrite Bluffs, which were found to be unaffected by the proposal. In 2016/17, two consents were granted for erosion protection works beside Lake Karapiro, and for the construction of a farm bridge over the Topehahae stream.

#### Number of resource consents applications involving sites which adjoin or contain a culturally significant site

Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of applications	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

There are 88 listed heritage features in the Matamata-Piako District Plan. These include historic buildings such as churches and commercial buildings, as well as monuments, geological formations, and landing sites.

In the 2010/11 year the Te Aroha Power House was added to the heritage schedule. Electric current was provided to the Te Aroha Borough in 1906 through this facility, making the borough the first local body in the Thames Valley to provide this amenity. Water was taken from the Tunakohia and Omahu Streams, stored in a reservoir above Hamilton Street, and then delivered by pipeline to

the power house. The plant became a standby electricity source in 1923 after power from the Arapuni Hydro Dam became available. The listing in the district plan schedule was in response to a 2006 request from the community that the Power House, water reservoir and the Tunakohoa Pipeline at the Hamilton Street site be protected.

There are 78 other culturally significant sites in the district including urupa (Maori burial site), pa and midden sites, and marae. One of these culturally significant sites (a pa site) was added to the District Plan in the 2006/07 financial year after a plan change was undertaken.

The 2013 Waikato Regional Perception Survey found that 76 per cent of respondents in the Matamata-Piako District were satisfied with the 'unique or special character of your town'. This has increased from 74 per cent satisfaction in the 2010 survey.

### What Council Is Doing

Development pressures are the biggest threat to the rich heritage history in the district. Council is continuing to monitor development to ensure heritage values are maintained. Six consent conditions have been imposed on resource consents to protect or enhance heritage resources since 2008/09. These conditions related to a variety of issues including; waiving car parking requirements, erection of signage, constructions of decks and the control of a building's appearance.



In 2009/10 the conditions imposed related to the erection of district-wide Heritage Trail signage by Council, and the replacement of a building within the Te Aroha Heritage Character area.

Plan Change 47 has reviewed the extent of the Te Aroha Heritage Character area to ensure that it forms a precinct of historic buildings - to act as a focal point - near to the centre of the town. Section 10 of the District Plan has also been reviewed to ensure that the rule framework is not unduly restrictive to these building owners.

### Number of imposed conditions on resource consents to protect or enhance heritage

Year	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of conditions imposed	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Council has allocated funds for the protection and promotion of the heritage resources in the district, including managing the Matamata, Te Aroha, Morrinsville and Matamata-Piako District Heritage Trails. Each of the four heritage trails has a corresponding brochure which is distributed through our information centres.

In addition, heritage funding assists with advertising for the Te Aroha Leisure Pools and Spas, and assisting with funding of the three museums in Morrinsville, Matamata (Firth Tower) and Te Aroha.

## Amount of Council spending on protecting, enhancing and promoting heritage features

Year	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Amount spent (\$ 000) * approximate	107	43	30	283	154	175	62	13	47	45

In 2017/18, the largest contribution from Council was that of \$5,500 to help maintain historic buildings at the Te Aroha Domain, A further \$3,667 was spent to assist with the Te Aroha Museum operating costs. \$2,892 was spent on building maintenance at Firth Tower.

In 2018/19, Council spent \$28,001 for the maintenance of the historic buildings and operating costs for Firth Tower. At the Te Aroha Domain the cost for maintaining historic buildings was \$9,500.

In 2019/20, \$ 6,157.35 of heritage funding was spent on building maintenance at Te Aroha Domain and \$ 3, 2735.17 at Firth Tower and a further \$ 393.60 was spent on the maintenance and repair of the Te Aroha town clock.

### What You Can Do To Help

- You can register any heritage site with Heritage New Zealand.
- Apply for heritage protection funding

### Useful Links

[Heritage New Zealand](#)

[Waikato Regional Council Perception Survey](#)

### For More Information

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
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# Incompatible Activities



## Incompatible Activities Indicators

### Overview

#### What are incompatible activities?

Incompatible activities happen when one activity has a negative impact on another nearby activity. This can happen when farming activities affect nearby dwellers, or dwellers intrude on farmland or nearby businesses. The most common negative effects that create these situations are loud noise, offensive odours and nuisance from dust, vibration, and glare. Incompatible activities have a higher chance of occurring if new developments and new houses are built in certain areas such as sites neighbouring industrial spots or established intensive farms (e.g. chicken and pig farms).



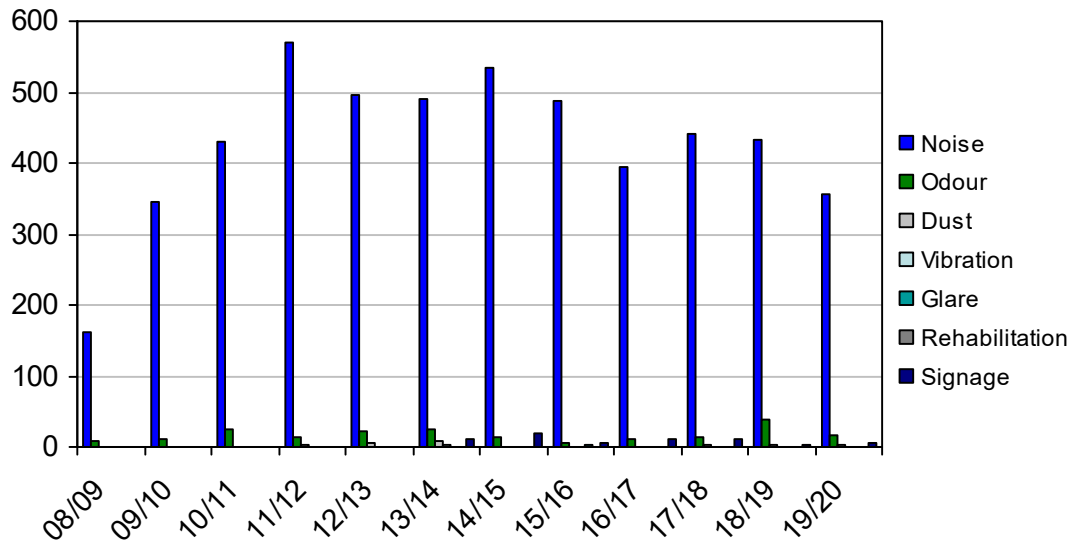
#### Our Situation

The most common complaint received by Council is about noise. Most of these complaints are related to loud stereos in urban areas; however, noise from activities such as industry, farming and other activities also has negative effects.

Odour from farm activities, particularly from chicken and dairy farming, along with other activities such as effluent disposal, smoke from fires, and rubbish, also contribute to the issues within the district. Dust and vibration also create a nuisance, although these are less common than noise and odour.

Noise complaints increased steadily until a peak of 570 in 2011/12, before dropping slightly over the next two years. In 2014/15, noise complaints rose again to 533 before fluctuating over the next three years. In 2018/19 there were 434 complaints, with a reasonable drop for 2019/20 with 356 complaints, most of this as a result of excessive noise. Odour complaints, which are consistently the second greatest cause of complaint after noise, have remained more constant, but at much lower levels; 39 odour complaints in 2018/19 and only 17 for 2019/20. There have been only two complaints about vibration, five about glare, and no complaints about rehabilitation since 2011/12. The vast majority of noise complaints since 2010/11 have been about loud music in residential areas.

### Complaints received for adverse effects from activities



### Number of building or resource consents granted within 500m of an intensive farm or within a scheduled industrial site

Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The two consents granted in 2011/12 were for additional dwellings located within 500 metres of the intensive farms with which they were directly associated.

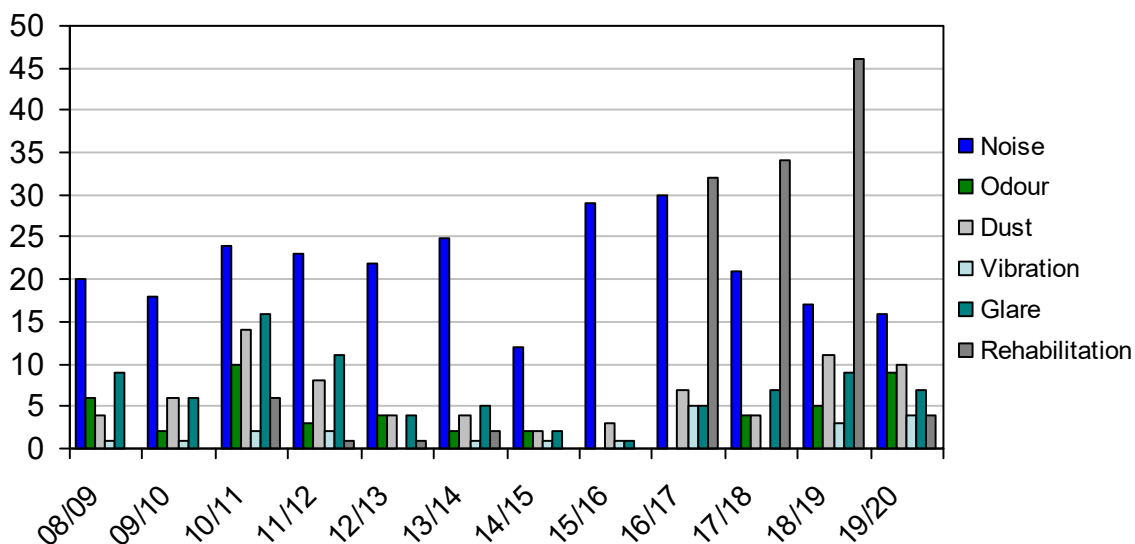
### What Council Is Doing

Council is able to control the effects of new developments through provisions in its District Plan. Zones set environmental standards, which reflect the desired values and environmental outcomes within that zone. Performance standards also control potential nuisance effects of activities, and conditions may be imposed on resource consent applications to control these nuisances.



In 2016/17, 61% of consents had conditions imposed to prevent incompatible activities. In 2017/18, 57% of resource consent applications were approved with conditions on noise, dust, vibration, glare and rehabilitation. This figure was 46% in 2018/19 and 54% for 2019/20. Conditions of resource consent are not likely to prevent effects of loud music in residential areas. This issue is addressed through the excessive noise provisions under the Resource Management Act 1991.

### Number and type of resource consent conditions imposed to control adverse effects from activities



The conditions relating to rehabilitation are often in the form of a requirement on the consent holder to ensure that damage to a relocated building or a footpath as a result of a consented activity is remedied in a set time frame. This helps to ensure that matters such as neighborhood amenity values or pedestrian safety are maintained.

#### What You Can Do To Help

- Consider the effects of your activities
- Let us know if you are being affected by noise, odour, dust, etc
- [Control noise](#)

Also see our [amenity indicator](#) information

#### For More Information

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
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# Natural Environment



## Natural Environment Indicators

### Overview

Our 'Natural Environment' means our native ecosystems, such as wetlands, lakes, bush, forests and geothermal areas. It includes both the physical and biological components of natural areas.

Before settlement, the district was covered in indigenous vegetation. The Kopuatai Peat Dome made up the majority of this vegetation. It stretched from the Hauraki Gulf to Matamata and from the Kaimai Ranges to the Western Ranges.

The Matamata-Piako natural environment contains outstanding natural features; in some cases these are of national and international significance.

- The Kaimai Ranges are considered to be the most outstanding natural feature in the district.
- The Hinuera Valley is an important regional feature due to its rarity and landscape features.
- The Kopuatai Peat Dome is the only true peat/dome/restaid bog remaining intact in New Zealand. As well as the largest remaining freshwater wetland left in the North Island, it is the best example of its kind in New Zealand. It supports a vegetation type unique to the world.



### Our Pressures



The primary activity affecting our natural environment is changes in land use such as land drainage, bush clearing, subdivision and development.

The health of our native plants and animals is also threatened by predation and competition from introduced species. 69 regional plant pests and 35 animal species to be managed were identified in the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2014-2024. The Plan includes five groupings of plant pests, and a table of animal pests that hold a production, environmental or public threat. The Waikato Regional

Council will directly control and manage some pests and will provide advice and assistance for others.

Plant pests include Manchurian wild rice (particularly in the Piako and Waihou rivers), Noongoora bur, and the Water poppy. Moth plant, Nodding thistle and Pampas are also significant plant pests in the district. Some of the animal pests damaging our natural environment include possums, feral goats, feral cats and mustelids such as ferrets and stoats.

## Our Situation

In 2017/18 native vegetation made up 11.8% (20,786 ha) of the Matamata-Piako District, of which 19,475 ha is held within the Department of Conservation Estate. Council owns and manages around 12.6 hectares. The largest area of Council-owned and fenced reserve is Hawes Bush, which has an area of 2.2 hectares.

Within Matamata-Piako, the Kaimai Forest Park makes up an area of 14,670 hectares, and the Kopuatai Peat Dome an area of 5,313 hectares (approximately one third of the Dome is within Matamata-Piako). There are 5911 hectares of peat soil in the district. The Te Tapui Reserve comprises 2370 hectares. There are 338 hectares within Matamata-Piako that are protected by covenants from the Queen Elizabeth II Trust.

## Activities within the Kaitiaki Zone

A small number of resource consents are applied for to carry out activities within the Kaitiaki (Conservation) Zone each year. This shows development is generally occurring in conjunction with existing land use, facilities and zoning, rather than in areas with conservation values.

In 2018/19 MPDC did not grant any resource consent applications for activities in the Kaitiaki Zone. There were three resource consents granted in 2017/18 for activities in the Kaitiaki Zone: these were for the construction of a weir on the Piako River, the construction of a back country hut and vegetation clearing and for road embankment earthworks. There were 6 consents granted in 2016/17 for activities in the Kaitiaki Zone. Two related to the harvesting of plantation forestry and two others related to earthworks near, and the construction of a jetty on, Lake Karapiro. There were 3 consents granted in 2015/16 for activities in the Kaitiaki Zone. These were for the construction of a dwelling, the extension of the Hauraki Rail Trail and assorted work including channel excavation and remediation work on the Tui mine site. In 2019/20 there were no applications for activities within the Kaitiaki Zone.

### Resource Consents granted in the Kaitiaki Zone

Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of consents	0	1	5	4	1	0	3	6	3	0	0

## Protection of Natural Resources

In the 2005 Operative District Plan, Council listed outcomes they wished to achieve relating to protecting and enhancing the natural resources within the district. Significant steps have already been taken towards meeting these outcomes.

In 2012/13 two subdivision consents were granted with conditions requiring the protection in perpetuity of areas of native vegetation, amounting to an area of 8,200m<sup>2</sup>. There were no similar consents granted in 2013/14. There were two consents granted in 2014/15. Both had conditions requiring effluent systems to have specific engineering designs.

In 2018 Council granted a consent for subdivision in Matamata at Banks Road with conditions in

relation to ecological enhancement, such as the planting of native plants, stock exclusion fences and weed & pest eradication within the riparian and wetland areas. In 2019 Council granted a subdivision consent for an application at Thomas Road, Waihou, with conditions in regards to ecological enhancement and landscape mitigation; covering stock exclusion fences, weed and pest eradication and a landscape mitigation planting scheme.

In 2006 Council worked with an ecologist to determine significant native vegetation. 667 units of habitat totaling 3,111 hectares were surveyed, resulting in 23% of this area (721 hectares) being considered significant. Of the total area surveyed, 78% was determined to be indigenous (predominantly native species), 20% exotic (mainly non-native species) and 2% was not determined. These significant features include native indigenous vegetation, such as native tree stands, areas of bush and wetlands. Native fauna also exist in significant areas.

There are a number of rare or threatened species that are still considered to be living within the district. These include:

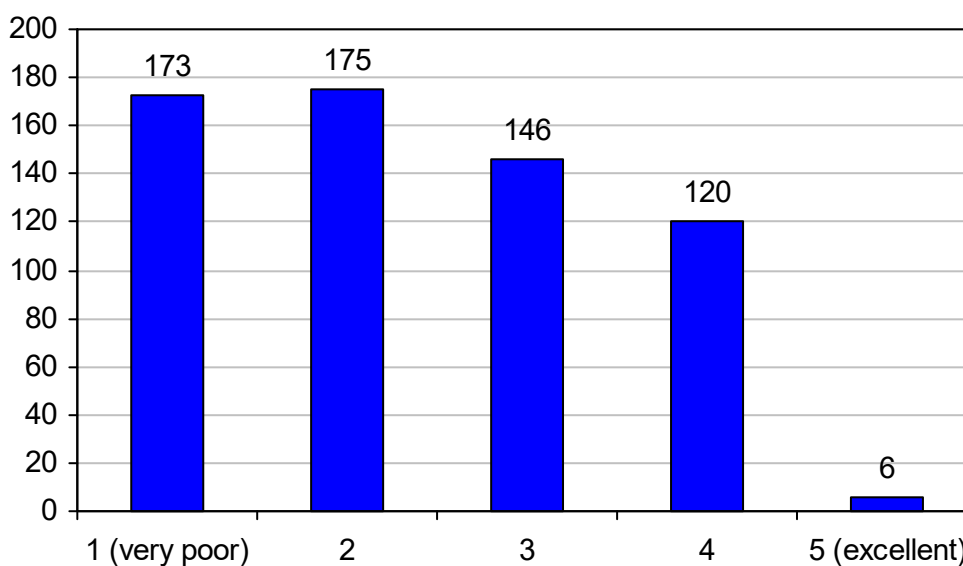
Threatened species	Where you might see them
<b>Birds</b> North Island brown kiwi North Island kokako NZ falcon Kereru North Island kaka Australasian bittern Branded rail Marsh crake North Island fernbird	Kaimai/Mamaku ranges     Kopuatai Peat Dome
<b>Reptiles</b> Striped skink	Kaimai/Mamaku ranges
<b>Amphibians</b> Hochsetters frog	Kaimai/Mamaku ranges
<b>Mammals</b> Both short and long tailed bat	Kaimai/Mamaku ranges
<b>Fish</b> Giant kokopu Banded kokopu Black mudfish	Kaimai/Mamaku ranges  Kopuatai Peat Dome
<b>Invertebrates</b> Te Aroha stag beetle	Kaimai/Mamaku ranges
<b>Plants</b> Stout milfoil Scarlet mistletoe Red mistletoe King fern	Kaimai/Mamaku ranges
Clubmoss Giant Wire Rush	Kopuatai Peat Dome

These rare or threatened species are present in the above locations, but may also be present in other, smaller, areas in our district.

### **The Condition of Our Native Vegetation**

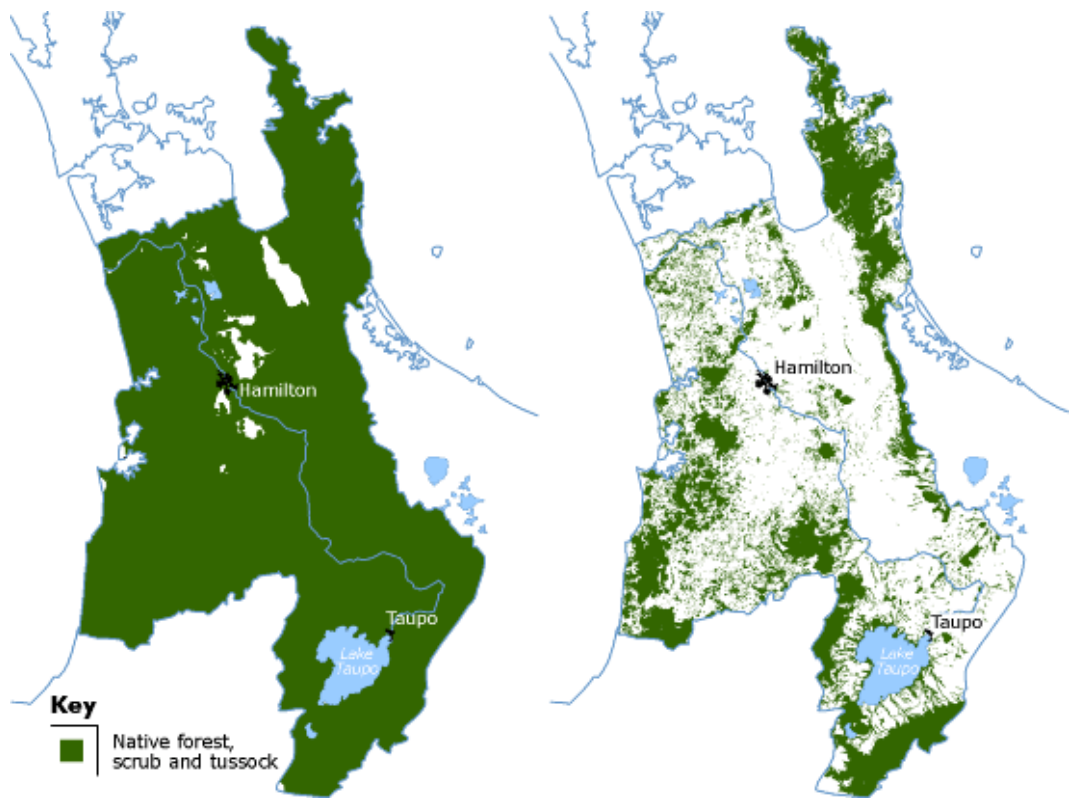
As part of the identification of areas of significant native vegetation within the district the condition of the vegetation was also assessed. Vegetation units were given a rating between 1 (very poor condition) and 5 (excellent condition). The average condition was 2.36. Only 6 of the 667 units of vegetation surveyed were considered to be in an excellent condition.

**Condition of Vegetation Surveyed**

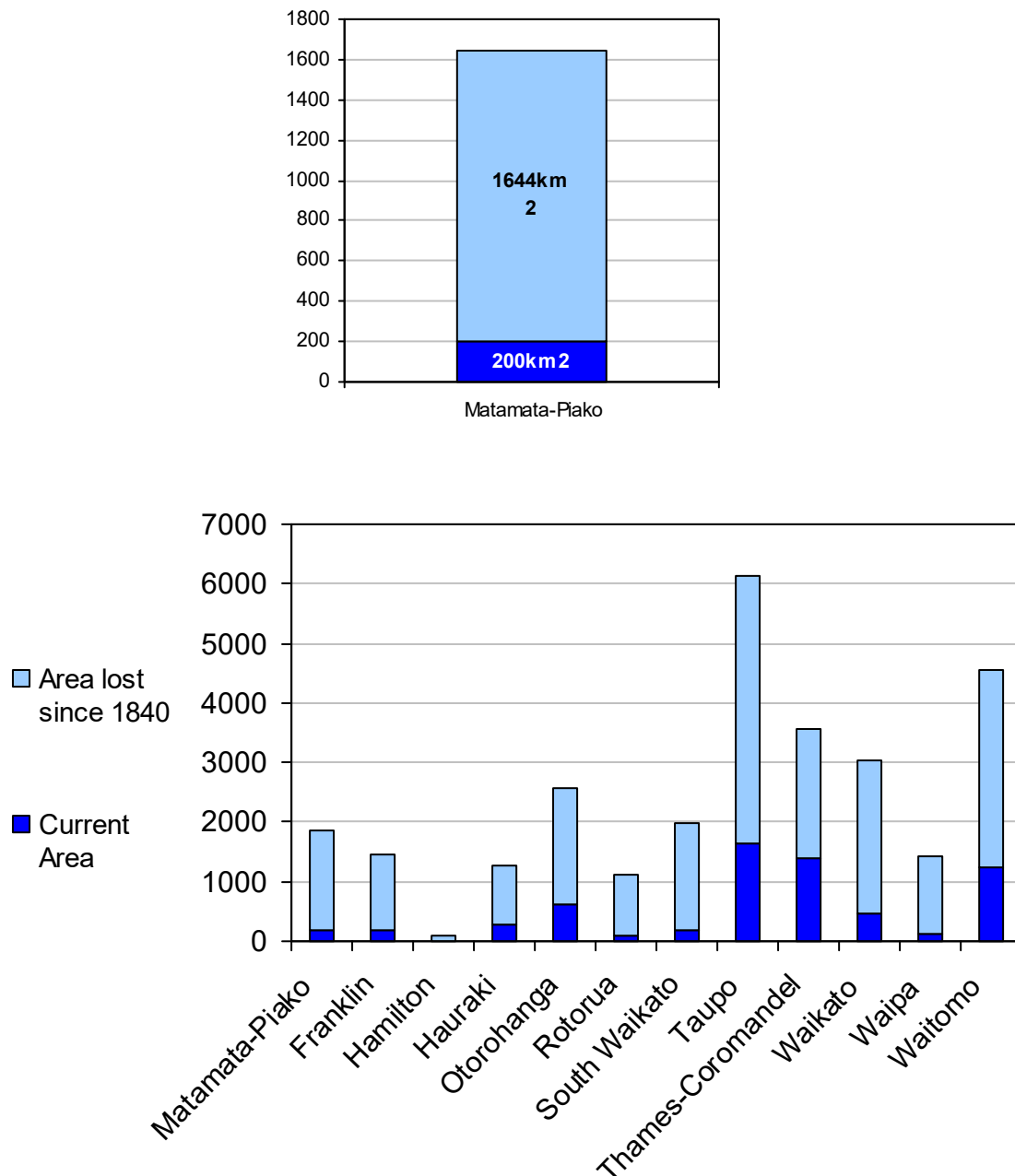


In 1840, 95% of the district was covered in native vegetation; this figure is now 15%, most of which is in the Kaimai ranges. Through provisions of the District Plan, Council is attempting to manage the natural environment; this includes zoning and putting methods in place for the protection of areas of significance.

The maps below show the historic (around 1840, on the left) and current (right) extent of native forest, scrub and tussock in the Waikato Region.



### Change in areas of native forest, scrub and tussock from 1840 – present (km2)



From the 2013 Waikato Regional Perception Survey, 73.5 per cent of respondents in the Matamata-Piako District were satisfied with 'community treatment of your district's natural assets'.

### Incentives

In 2006 Council approved the introduction of funding rounds, allowing landowners and Community Groups to apply for financial assistance to undertake projects such as fencing significant sites and controlling pests. Landowners who have a significant natural feature on their land can also apply for rates remissions. Funding rounds occur once a year around September. To establish this process, Council has worked with numerous organisations and people including Federated Farmers, Department of Conservation and individual farmers. Two areas along a stream on Council-owned land in Te Aroha were fenced off and native plants were planted between the stream and the fence in both 2014/15 and 2015/16. Council is happy to provide an ecologist to

survey potentially significant sites that have not already been visited within the district. Please contact Customer Services to discuss this opportunity.

### **What else is Happening?**

Council is aware of a number of landcare groups operating in Matamata-Piako that are taking measures to benefit waterways and their margins. The Mangawara Landcare Group and the Morrinsville Landcare Group aim to improve environmental health by protecting river margins and increasing biodiversity by planting and fencing streams and bush remnants. The Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust has representation from iwi, recreational groups, primary industry and conservation groups and aims to restore forest biodiversity, enhance recreational activities and provide for sustainable land use across the entire Kaimai-Mamaku area, straddling several territorial boundaries. There are several other initiatives with a focus on waterway rehabilitation.

There are other groups that are currently working towards restoring our natural environment such as the Piako Catchment Forum, Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust, the Te Miro Pest Control Group, Friends of Hawes Bush and Keep Te Aroha Beautiful. The Piako Catchment Forum.

See [Riparian Management](#) for more information about these groups.

The Matamata-Piako District Council also contributes to the general landscape of the district through tree planting programmes such as Arbor Day. From the Arbor Day celebrations held in 2011/12, 186 children attended from eight schools and planted trees at the Howarth Memorial Wetland in Te Aroha, Howie Park in Morrinsville and Furness Reserve in Matamata.

During 2019/20:

- 3000 native plants were planted at the Morrinsville stream by the Piako Catchment Forum;
- 100 Kahikatea trees were planted at Herries Park wetlands in Te Aroha by Keep Te Aroha Beautiful;
- 600 native plants were planted at the Matamata Swap Park; and
- Plantings of more native plants on a floodplain portion of Skidmore Reserve, Te Aroha, next to the Waihou River;
- Animal pest control at Te Miro Forest which is reducing the possum and rat populations near the Topehaehae Stream which provides water supply to Morrinsville;
- Pest plant control along the Waitakeruru River along Morrinsville River Walk;
- Council is working with the Piako Catchment Forum which aims to connect various restoration projects along the Waihou, Waitoa and Piako Rivers;

### **What You Can Do To Help**

- Protect your vegetation by fencing and controlling pests and weeds
- Become involved in initiatives such as tree planting and associated conservation programmes
- Become involved in landcare groups

You may be eligible for funding to protect biodiversity. Check out the [Ministry for the Environment website](#), or contact Council to discuss the Significant Natural Features annual funding round.

## Useful Links

For more information on landscape types, plant and animal pests, soils see;

<http://www.mpdcc.govt.nz/component/content/article/99-council-documents/soe-report-1999/416-state-of-the-environment-report-1999?Itemid=647>

[Waikato Regional Council's Land and Soil Indicators](#)

[Department of Conservation](#)

## For More Information

Contact [info@mpdcc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdcc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
Fax: 07 884 8865



# Natural Hazards



## Natural Hazards Indicators

### Overview

The district is subject to a wide range of natural hazards. Several significant natural events have been recorded that have caused loss of life, and damage to property and the environment. Our district's hazards include:

- **Earthquakes and volcanic hazards** – the Matamata-Piako District contains several active fault lines. Geothermal activity occurs at the hot springs at the Te Aroha Domain, the Opal Hot Springs near Matamata and the Okauia and Taihoa geothermal fields in the south of the district.
- **Flooding** – extensive flood protection schemes have been implemented to minimise flood damage in the district.
- **Erosion and landslides** – these are important concerns in hill country in the district, particularly on the steep slopes of Mount Te Aroha, and along the Kaimai Ranges.
- **Fire** – forest fires are a rare event within the district, but still pose a significant risk.
- **Wind** – this can be a problem in areas adjacent to the Kaimai Ranges, and in known wind tunnelling areas.
- **Peat Soils** – these represent a hazard because of the subsidence, fire and flood risks that are associated with them.



Te Aroha Flood 1985

### Our Situation

#### Flooding

There are approximately 8,091 hectares of land that has been identified by Council as being at risk of flooding. A 'flood event' is a mean annual event or higher. In 2015/16, in a weather event on 31st July, flooding was recorded on Te Aroha-Gordon Road and the Old Te Aroha Road and a footbridge across the Waihou River was closed. In a weather event recorded from 31st December to 2nd January 2016, trees were blown over and there were four incidences of roofs lifting.

In April 2017, Cyclone Cook and Debbie caused widespread flooding. Matamata and Waharoa residents were asked to conserve water as the heavy rain caused flooding at a water treatment

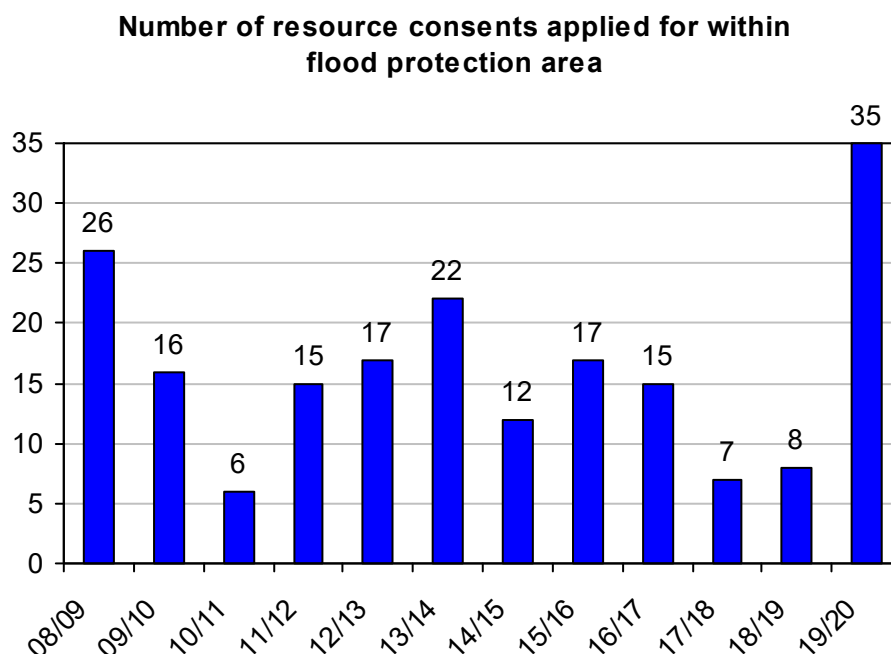
station, causing damage to pumps. A number of roads throughout the district were closed for several days and flooding to a number of buildings was reported.

Between 2010/11 and 2012/13 and from 2014/15 onwards no damage was recorded to public property from natural hazards. However, in the 2013/14 year, the 17 April flooding caused approximately \$20,000 damage to Thompsons Track on the Kaimai Ranges. In the 2017/18 year, two weather events caused flooding and road closures, particularly in rural areas. On 29 April 2018, there was flooding on the Te Aroha-Gordon and Old Te Aroha Roads and both Mace Road and Armadale Road were closed due to the Waihou River overtopping. On 6 June, the Ohinewai-Tahuna Road and the Te Aroha-Gordon Road were flooded, and Mace Road was again closed due to the height of the Waihou River.

Again in 2018/19, a weather event caused flooding and consequently road closures; Armadale Road was closed for a day in July the 16, 2018 and flooding across Mace Road, closed the road for three days, from the 16 to 18 July, 2018. For 2019/2020 there were several minor localized flooding events that required temporary signage for short periods of time. However, no road closures were required during this period in regards to flooding events.

## Hazard Zones

New developments in known hazard zones are potentially at high risk of being damaged by hazard events. Between 2008/09 and 2019/20, 196 resource consents have been applied for within the flood protection area in the district. All of the consents were granted, subject to conditions to mitigate potential adverse effects. These consents were for activities such as building new sheds to house livestock or poultry, relocating dwellings, upgrading buildings and to build a jetty.



In 2018/19 and 2017/18, four resource consents were approved on land subject to fire and in 2019/20 three consents were granted. These consents were granted subject to conditions to mitigate potential adverse effects. No resource consents were approved for either year on land subject to instability.

Since 2008/09 there has been a decreasing trend in the number of building consent applications within the flood protection area. The most likely cause would originally have been the economic recession of the late 2000's, although resource consent figures on land subject to flooding have remained low since then, despite the overall increase in consents, especially in 2015/16.

Erosion can also be a potential problem on the steeper slopes of the district. According to data taken from the 1992 Regional Indigenous Vegetation Inventory, there is approximately 20,686 hectares of vegetated land classified as having severe erosion potential in the district.

## Rural Fire

Local Authorities no longer have any financial or operational responsibility for rural firefighting, as of 1 July 2017. The New Zealand Fire Service Act and the Forest and Rural Fires Act have been repealed and replaced by the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act.

Consequently, the data collection and reporting formerly completed for rural firefighting is no longer carried out.

## Earthquakes

The table below shows the number of earthquakes recorded in the district each year, at a depth of 70 km or less. The 2010 District Plan Effectiveness Report notes that the District Plan includes an objective to minimise the risks of earthquakes affecting people and property in the district, but that research is not sufficiently advanced to permit detailed land use management and planning controls to be implemented to mitigate these risks. Data for 2012/13 was not available from GeoNet due to a changeover in their recording systems.

Number and magnitude of Earthquakes	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of Earthquakes	0	2	11	9		10*	3*	7*	14*	2*	5*	6*
Magnitude of Earthquakes		2.6 2.8	3.5 3.4 3.3 3.1 2.5 2.5 2.4 2.1 2.0 1.8 1.6	3.4 2.8 2.5 2.5 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.0 1.9		From 1-3*	From 2-4*	From 2-3*	From 2-4*	From 2-3*	From 2-3*	From 2-3*

Source: <http://www.geonet.org.nz/>

\*Geonet now depicts earthquake information in map form over specified time periods so the numbers and magnitude of earthquakes is an approximate figure

## **What Council Is Doing**

Council has identified 8,091 hectares of land as being subject to flooding in the district. New development on areas identified in this flood zone can be regulated by Council to prevent flood damage. Potentially unstable land has also been identified as a hazard within the Council's District Planning Maps. There are approximately 11.3 hectares of this land identified in the district.

Civil Defence plays a role in community protection. In 2011/12, 30 hours of Council time was spent delivering presentations to community groups and training of Council staff, and in 2012/13, 41 hours.

Additional presentations have been made by Civil Defence staff in each subsequent year. The financial value of these education sessions was not recorded as it is considered part of the core service of Civil Defence and covered by the levy paid to Civil Defence by Council. Council has concentrated on increasing emergency information on its website and increasing its presence on Facebook during natural hazard events.

The Waikato Regional Council completed a Natural Hazard risk assessment report for the Matamata-Piako District in 2014/15. The report provided an overview of natural hazards in our district as a basis for guiding and prioritising work activities for both the Matamata-Piako District and Waikato Regional Councils. This information will assist in the future review of the Natural Hazards provisions in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

## **What You Can Do To Help**

- Keep your insurance cover up-to-date.
- Ensure that your family has an emergency plan.
- Know whether you live near potential hazard areas.
- Have an emergency kit and drinking water ready at all times.

## **Useful Links**

[Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management](#)

[GeoNet](#)

## **For More Information**

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
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# Works and Network Utilities



## Works and Network Utilities Indicators

### Overview

Council aims to provide effective and environmentally efficient water, stormwater and sewage reticulation and treatment to meet the needs of our communities. Council provides network utilities to houses and businesses within the district.

Works and network utilities provide services essential to our social and economic well being, and to our health and safety. Other utilities in our district include electricity and telecommunications.

While there are positive effects to infrastructure, works and network utilities may potentially have some negative effects on the community and our environment. These are addressed through resource consent conditions that aim to remedy, mitigate and avoid any adverse effects of activities. There could also be negative social, economic and environmental effects if these works and infrastructure services were not provided.

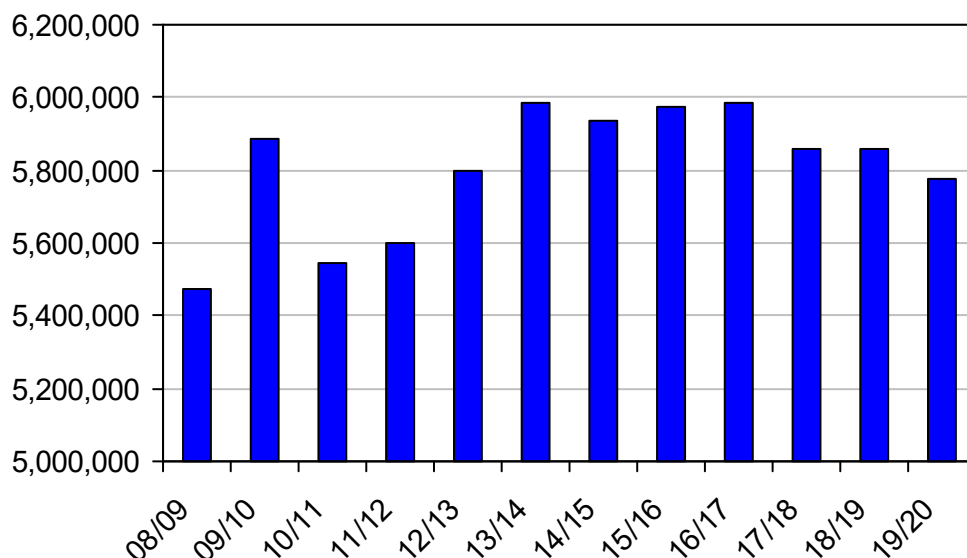


### A summary of our situation:

#### Water

The total quantity of water being consumed in Matamata-Piako District has remained largely unchanged since 2013/14, when it peaked, after having fluctuated in the six years prior.

Quantity of water consumed (m<sup>3</sup>)



In 2009/10 water restrictions were not required as a result of responsible water use during the dry summer months. In 2010/11 restrictions lasted for three weeks but there were no restrictions in 2011/12. In the three years 2012/13 to 2014/15 there were again water restrictions resulting from drought conditions. The restrictions related to either dwindling raw water sources or short term peak demands during the height of summer. Although a 'conserve' water reminder was issued in 2015/16, there were no water restrictions for 2016/17. Between the 31st of January and the 16th of April 2019, there were 75 days of water restriction. In 2020, between 29th of January and 1st of May the whole district was on Level 2 restrictions for 16 days and Level 3 for 78 days, except for Morrinsville which had 43 of these 78 days at Level 4.

For reference:

Level 1: Conserve water

Water supply is expected to come under pressure.

Level 2: Water on alternate days

The water supply is under considerable pressure and significant savings are required. Hoses, sprinklers and garden irrigation systems can only be used on alternate days (even street numbers on even days; odd street numbers on odd days).

Level 3: Sprinkler ban

At this level the water supply is under extreme pressure. Hand held hoses should only be used on alternate days. Sprinklers, garden irrigation systems, unattended hoses, unnecessary water blasting and other water use is banned.

Level 4: Total watering ban

At this level the water supply level is critical and Waikato Regional Council restrictions may have been applied. All use of water outside the house is banned

The Te Aroha water supply is adequate for residential growth, in 2019 Te Aroha West was connected to the Te Aroha's treated reticulation system. However, if water consumption by industrial users increases significantly, upgrading of treatment facilities will be required. Council budgeted \$2 million in 2016/17 for the Te Aroha Water Treatment Plant capacity expansion project. The progression of this project is dependent on demand from industrial consumers, which has not yet been established.

## **Water Quality**

Council provides clean, safe drinking water as this core service is essential to the health of our communities. Our focus is on improving the water quality through water treatment plant upgrades to comply with New Zealand Drinking Water Standards (2008) and ensure we are complying with our resource consents.

The Ministry of Health sets 'New Zealand Drinking Water Standards' (NZDWS) to ensure that safe drinking water is available to everyone. The NZDWS define the minimum standards for drinking water in New Zealand, and the water the Council treats and supplies needs to meet those standards. We started upgrading water suppliers and water treatment facilities five years ago in order to meet these requirements.

Public Health Management Plans for the Matamata, Te Aroha and Morrinsville water supplies have been approved.

There are six water supply schemes in the district:

- Three larger supplies for Matamata (including Waharoa), Morrinsville and Te Aroha
- Three small schemes in Te Poi, Tahuna and Hinuera.

There are eight treatment plants and approximately 348 kilometres of water pipes. Water is supplied 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which means we operate and maintain equipment, machinery and backup facilities, and train staff to respond rapidly in the event of a problem.

In 2013/14, Council upgraded existing reticulation pumps at the Burwood Road Water Treatment Plant to improve the flow of water in to the reticulation network. The cost was \$35,000. A 148 metre deep replacement bore was drilled to supply the Tahuna community at a cost of \$49,000. A backup generator was installed at the Tawari Street Water Treatment Plant. The backup generator will ensure that Council can continue to supply water to the Waharoa community in the event of a prolonged power outage.

A new bore is currently being drilled at Waharoa to reduce the demand on the Matamata reticulation network.

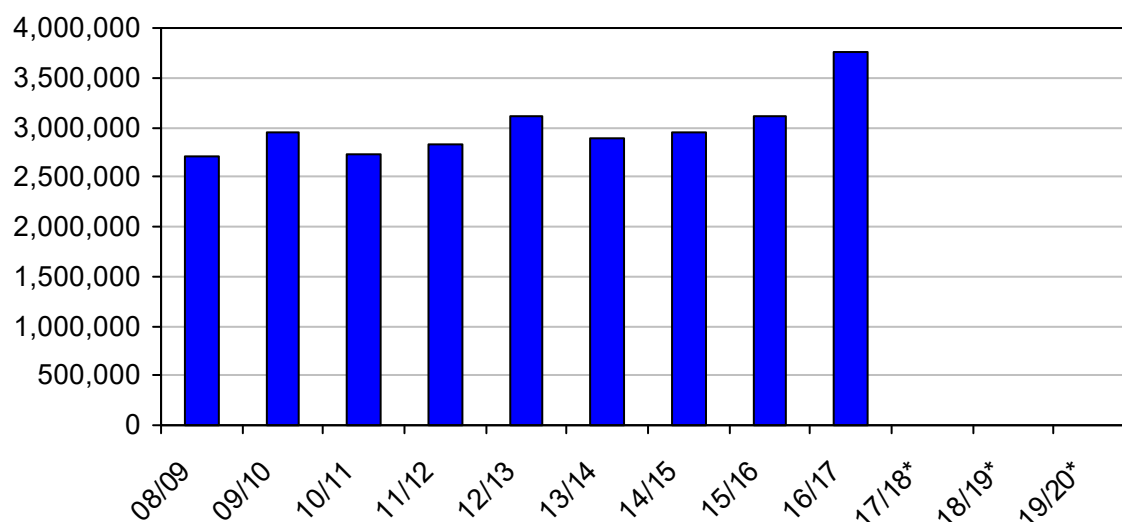
## Wastewater

Despite improvements on the metering of discharges and efforts by large industry to reduce the volume they discharge to Council treatment plants, there is a general trend of an increase in the quantity of sewage treated by Council. This trend correlates to an increase in the consumption of water over the same period. This trend is likely to be the result of an increasing population. This includes the increase from 2009/10 to 2010/11, which is due to the sewerage connection to Tahuna and Waharoa. The figures for the quantity of sewage treated in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 were not available at the time of writing.



In order to improve the efficiency of our district's wastewater network Council has instigated a programme to measure and reduce stormwater infiltration to our sewerage systems.

**Quantity of sewage treated by Council services (m³)**



\*Figure not available



At the end of 2020, Council received a \$5 fund from the Trench 1 program under the three waters review. Below are the proposed actions to be undertaken in regards to improvements of Waste Water discharges in the near future:

- Develop emergency response plans for all wastewater treatment plants;
- Develop a pond desludging plan;
- Undertake desludging at Matamata WWTP (possibly Te Aroha as well);
- Implement ingress and intrusion reduction and wastewater network improvements in Te Aroha; and
- Enhanced pipe renewals programme.

### Discharge Quality

Improvements to waste water treatment plants (WWTP) has seen a steady increase in the level of discharge compliance throughout the district. Council commissioned a new \$4.5 million WWTP for Te Aroha in December 2006 and the effluent discharge from this plant is fully compliant with the current discharge consent.

The Matamata and Morrinsville WWTPs were upgraded in 2009/10 and 2012/13, respectively, in order to comply with resource consent requirements. The Waharoa/Raungaiti sewerage scheme, completed in 2012/13, is connected to the Matamata sewage system and allowed nearly 200 septic tanks to be decommissioned. The WWTPs for Tahuna and Waihou were also updated in 2010/11 and 2011/12 respectively.

### Compliance rates with resource consent conditions

Year	Level of Compliance
2008/09	Council complied 100% with water resource consent conditions, 95% with stormwater resource consent conditions and 96% with wastewater discharge consent conditions.
2009/10	Council complied 100% with water and storm water resource consent conditions and 94% for waste water.
2010/11	High compliance with conditions.
2011/12	High compliance with conditions.
2012/13	High compliance with conditions.
2013/14	High compliance with conditions.
2014/15	High level of compliance except for two water and two wastewater sites
2015/16	Most Resource Consents have achieved a high level of compliance except two wastewater sites. Matamata and Te Aroha wastewater treatment plants are not compliant during specific times of the year. Council and the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) are working together to resolve this and Council may apply for a variation to the resource consents. Council is still awaiting the annual reports from the Regional Council for our water consents.
2016/17	All but two sites achieved compliance with resource consent conditions. The two non-compliances were both Matamata bores which exceeded their annual water take.
2017/18	Figures were unavailable at time of writing
2018/19	High compliance with conditions.
2019/20	High compliance with conditions.



## Stormwater

Information on the volume of stormwater discharged from Council reticulation is not monitored. Council does, however, monitor the quality of stormwater discharged as per conditions detailed in our discharge consents. Visual inspections of key stretches of open channel are carried out.

## Other Network Utilities

### Number of new network utilities granted resource consent

Year	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of new network utilities granted resource consent	1	4	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0

Three new network utilities resource consents were granted in 2013/14, for a substation and two telecommunications facilities. No network utilities were granted resource consent in 2014/15 or 2015/16. In 2016/17, a resource consent was granted for the upgrade of aircraft navigational infrastructure on the Kaimai Ranges. In 2018/19 and 2019/20 there were no resource consents granted for new network utilities.

## Reserves

As of 2019/20 there were 681.70 hectares of reserves, this figure includes leased areas, areas not maintained by Council and areas under Council management.

## What Council Is Doing

Council has spent a considerable amount of money on the maintenance and upgrading of urban services such as wastewater, water and stormwater. The community receives education material regarding water conservation through the fortnightly publication 'Council in Focus'.

### Amount of Council spending on upgrading & renewing urban services

Year	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
(\$000s)	5,994	7,258	8,014	8,124	8,463	13,248	11,281	15,816	12,002	11,200

To help Council provide for increased demand and growth, development and financial contributions are collected by Council on all new developments and subdivisions.

### Number and value of development contributions collected per year\*

Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number	229	238	114	84	73	76	107	205	627	587	462
Value in (\$000)	336	373	168	133	132	147	432	304	1,149	1,955	1,851

When these contributions were originally collected, the majority of them were for Council recreation reserves but in recent years the contributions have related more to services. Significant Development contributions were collected between 2009/10 and 2010/11 from the first stage of a development for 89 lots in Banks Road, Matamata.

Between 2011/12 and 2014/15 the amount of money received from contributions reduced significantly. This is primarily because there was less demand for residential sections as a result of the economic downturn. Consequently, fewer 224 certificates (completion certificates) have been issued and fewer development and financial contributions have been received by Council. However, in the last three years both the number and value of contributions has climbed significantly when compared to the previous four years, in line with the growth in development in the district. The figures for 2018/19 are the highest recorded over the past 10 years.

### **What can consumers do to assist Council with our environmental obligations?**

#### **Water**

- Try not to waste water unnecessarily. Every drop of water coming from Council reticulation systems has been treated and this is expensive.
- Fix leaking taps & valves as soon as possible.
- Conserving water helps the environment by leaving more water in streams & rivers.

#### **Wastewater**

- Do not connect down pipes or stormwater drains to the sewerage system (gully traps).
- Up to 75% of sewage pumped & treated during wet weather is directly related to stormwater infiltration. This costs Council (and ratepayers) thousands of dollars per year.

#### **Stormwater**

- Don't dispose of waste down stormwater drains.
- Water running out onto the road ends up in our rivers and waterways. Wash the car on the grass, not the driveway.

#### **Useful Links**

[Ministry for the Environment](#)  
[Ministry of Health](#)

#### **For More Information**

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
Fax: 07 884 8865

# Residential Growth



## Residential Growth Indicators

### Overview

The data from 2013, shows a slight growth in population of the three main centres of Morrinsville, Matamata, and Te Aroha. Rural population shows a slight decrease between 1996 and 2006, but a slight increase between 2006 and 2013. However, for the 2018 census the Rural population numbers decreased again, compared with 2013.

Residential growth puts extra pressure on the use of good quality soils for agricultural purposes, and also can create adverse effects from the construction, location and dominance of new buildings. New development can also impact on the open space character of residential and rural areas. Growth in the number of dwellings is likely to be an issue, as between 2013 and 2018 the district's population increased by 9.1 per cent, while the number of dwellings increased by 5.3 per cent.



### Our Situation

#### Subdivision

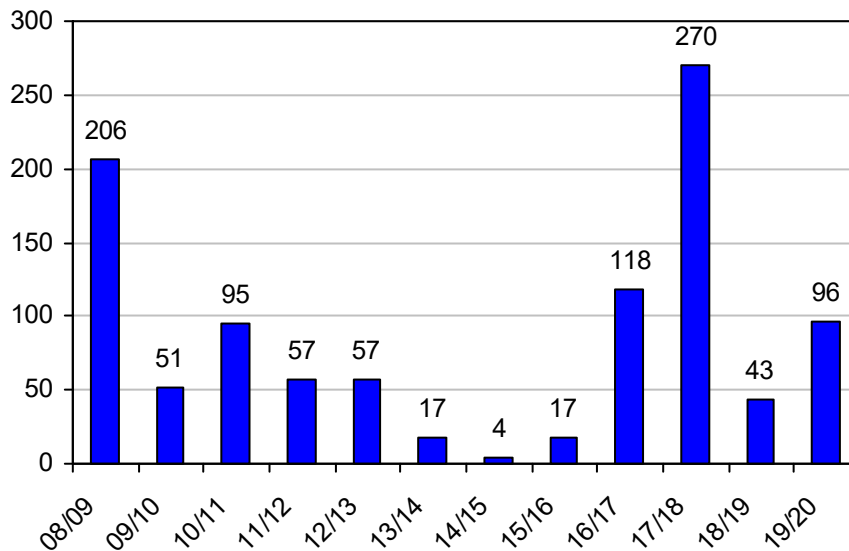
As of 2009/10 there are a total of 1896 hectares of land zoned for residential and rural-residential purposes in the district. In 2015/16 there were 460 lots between 2,500 and 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the areas zoned Residential and Rural-Residential. 14 residential or rural-residential lots between 2,500m<sup>2</sup> and 1 hectare in area were granted consent in 2016/17, and 16 additional lots were granted consent in 2017/18. In 2018/19, 50 additional lots were granted consent. For 2019/20 there were 155 new lots consented.

Between 2008/09 and 2019/20, 1031 new residential lots have been granted subdivision consents. This has included major developments such as:

- An 86 lot development in Banks Road, Matamata, in two stages from 2009/10 to 2010/11.
- A 44 lot development in Mangawhero Road, Matamata in 2016/17.
- A 32 lot development in Fairway Drive, Morrinsville in 2016/17.
- A 155 lot development in Jellicoe Road, Matamata, in 2017/18, to be created in five stages.
- A 64 lot development in Studholme Street, Morrinsville, in 2019/20.

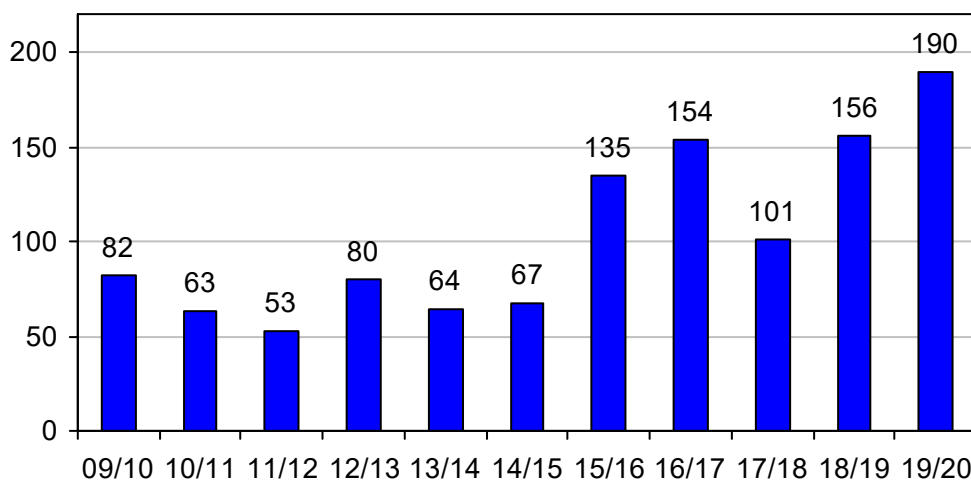
In 2017/18, the total of 270 new lots was the highest in the last 10 years. No significant residential subdivision consents were granted in 2018/19. Residential subdivision between 2013/14 and 2015/16 all stemmed from small-scale, two lot subdivisions.

**Number of lots created in the Residential zone**



Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, 1145 building consents have been granted for the creation of new dwellings within the Residential Zone. The increasing economic confidence of recent years has resulted in house price growth and a building boom which helps explain the sharp increase of building consents granted in 2015/16 to 2016/17. However, the 2017/18 figure of 101 building consents is very close to the annual average over the last ten years. For 2018/19 and 2019/20 we have experienced another increase in figures with 156 and 190 respectively new building consents for the district; only in the Residential Zone. That is an indicator of a strong economy, considering the growth is above the annual average.

**Number of building consents granted for new dwellings in the Residential zone**

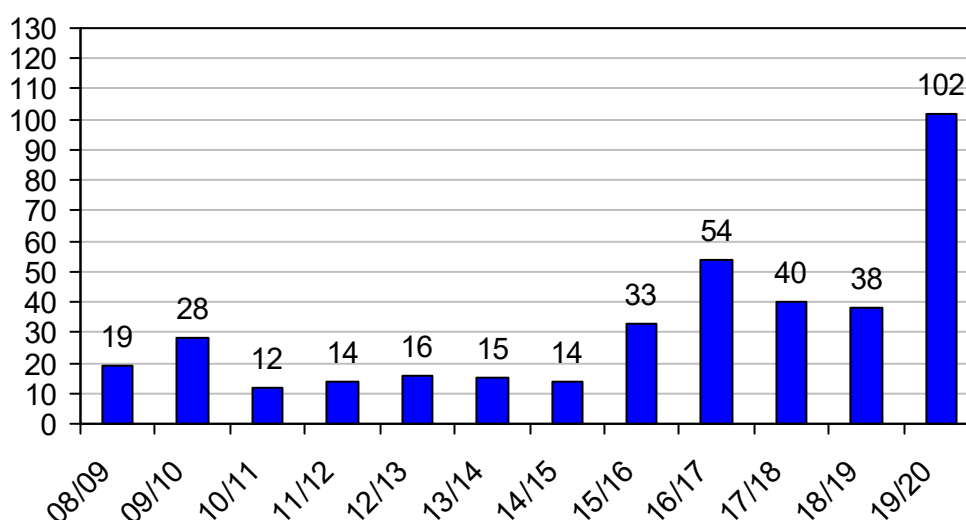


The Resource Management Amendment Act 2017 amended the RMA so that from 2017/18 subdivision will be permitted unless it is expressly restricted by a District Plan rule or a National Environmental Standard, which indicates that subdivision is potentially acceptable as a permitted activity in certain circumstances.

### **Development Controls**

Development controls are in place for new developments to ensure any negative impacts are minimised. These include 'maximum heights for buildings', 'yard setbacks', 'site coverage' etc. The number of resource consents granted to breach development controls has generally followed the level of activity in residential subdivision and building construction over the last ten years. This suggests that at this stage the existing development controls are not creating increasing pressure on the efficient use of land.

**Resource consent applications granted for the dispensation of residential development controls**



Since 2008/09 no resource consent applications have been declined for non-compliance with Council development controls. The potential cost of making a resource consent application may discourage people from submitting designs which contravene the development control rules. It's possible that the costs involved with an unsuccessful resource consent application might offset the potential gain made from increased building intensity or height.

### **Protected Trees and Amenity**

New development can also affect amenity values through the removal of trees protected by the District Plan. A total of five consents have been issued to remove trees in the last 10 years.

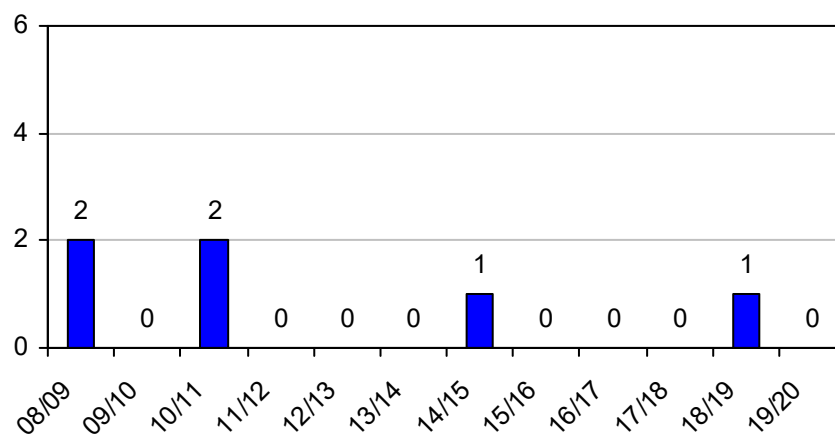
During 2008, Council completed a plan change to amend the tree protection provisions within the District Plan. Previously, a resource consent was required to remove, or do any major work to any tree in the urban area that was over 10 metres in height, which was deemed to be too restrictive. In addition, changes to the Resource Management Act meant that only trees listed in a schedule of the District Plan could be protected. A process was undertaken to identify those trees which added to the amenity of the district and these were added to the schedule of outstanding or significant natural features and trees and other protected items. This plan change aimed to give confidence to whether or not resource consent was needed to remove a tree, and to also remove unnecessary restrictions.

The plan change allows notable trees to be removed as a permitted activity if they are dead, dying or terminally damaged. This change has been reflected in the reduced number of consents granted for tree removal.

In 2014/15, Plan Change 48 – Protected Trees commenced, which reviewed the rules and provisions relating to protected trees, as well as Schedule 3 in the District Plan, which listed all 272 protected trees and outstanding or significant natural features in our District.

All currently protected trees were examined by an arborist, using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method to assess and score them. Council nominated a threshold score of 140 that all trees proposed for protection must meet and then held a public formal submission process in 2015/16. As a consequence of Plan Change 48, which became operative in 2016/17, 97 individual or groups of trees achieve the threshold of 140 and have been protected by Schedule 3A the District Plan. 129 trees or groups of trees were removed from the schedule and are longer protected by the District Plan. A further 46 items, including stands of trees and remnants of bush, were transferred to schedule 3B: “Outstanding or Significant natural features and other protected items”.

**Number of resource consents granted for removal of protected trees as a result of residential development**



### Provision of Services

By the 2015/16 year, 9,649 properties had access to water and 9,143 had access to wastewater. By 2016/17 this increased to 9,706 properties with access to water and 9,217 properties with access to waste water.

From 2017/18 Council has changed the method to count properties provided with services; there was an inaccuracy in the numbers once, commercial properties were being added to the figures. For 2017/18 the numbers of residential properties provided with services were 8,525 and for 2018/19, 8,634. The reason for the substantial drop in numbers from 2016/17 to 2017/18 is the exclusion of commercial properties from the count. However, when we consider 2017/18 and 2018/19 figures, there is an increase of 109 residential properties provided with services. For 2019/20 the number of residential properties with access to water was 8,645 and 8,353 homes were connected to the wastewater reticulation system.

The Morrinsville water supply will support the forecast population growth over the next five years, with a new bore completed in 2014/15 and the construction of a new reservoir, completed in October 2017. The upgraded Morrinsville wastewater plant will have sufficient capacity well into the future.

A new bore was drilled at Waharoa in 2014/15 to reduce the demand on the Matamata reticulation network, but there has been no increase in the volume of water that Council is permitted to extract. A larger reservoir has been established at the Matamata water treatment plant. The town's sewer plant was upgraded in 2011 and has adequate capacity for forecast growth, but an upgrading of reticulation will be required.

The Te Aroha water supply is adequate for residential growth, in 2019 Te Aroha West was connected to the Te Aroha's threatened reticulation system. However, if water consumption by industrial users increases significantly, upgrading of treatment facilities will be required. Council budgeted \$2 million in 2016/17 for the Te Aroha Water Treatment Plant capacity expansion project. The progression of this project is dependent on demand from industrial consumers, which has not yet been established.

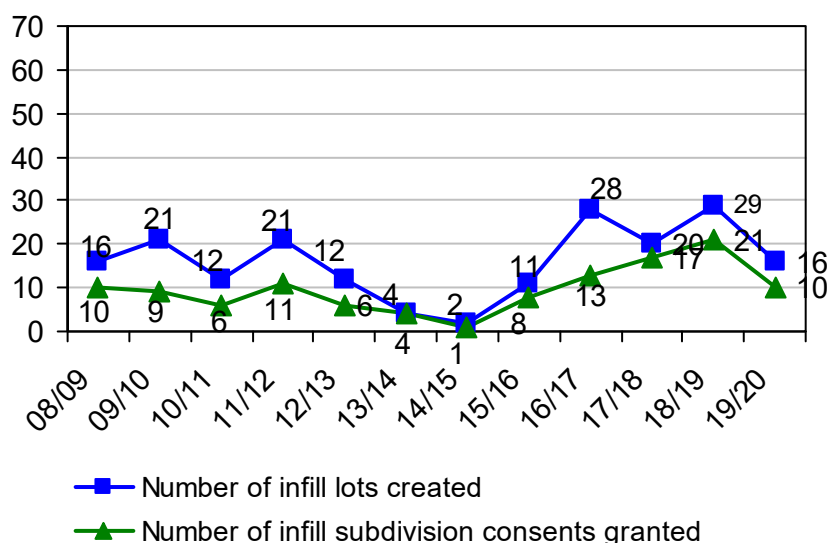
The Te Aroha waste water plant has adequate capacity to meet forecast population growth in the town.

### What Council Is Doing

Council wishes to encourage new development within existing zone boundaries where possible, as infrastructure services are readily available. This should result in contiguous growth within urban areas. In 2016/17, Council notified for submission Plan Change 47 which, as part of reviewing the extent of existing zoning in our three main towns, proposed a reduction in the minimum lot size for residential zoned properties, and for infill subdivision properties close to the town centres.

Infill subdivisions are subdivisions in residential areas, on lots with existing dwellings. In 2015/16, 11 new infill lots were created and in 2016/17, 28 new residential infill lots were created. In 2017/18, there were 22 new infill lots. 2019/20 experienced a drop on numbers for either residential infill lots and and subdivision consents, 16 and 10 respectively. We assume that is a consequence from Covid-19. Smaller developments are likely to subdivide existing residential properties, whereas larger developments are more likely to create residential development on previously undeveloped land.

**Infill subdivision in the district**



Development contributions are collected by Council from developers to assist in providing works and services to residential communities. They are paid when a development has been completed.

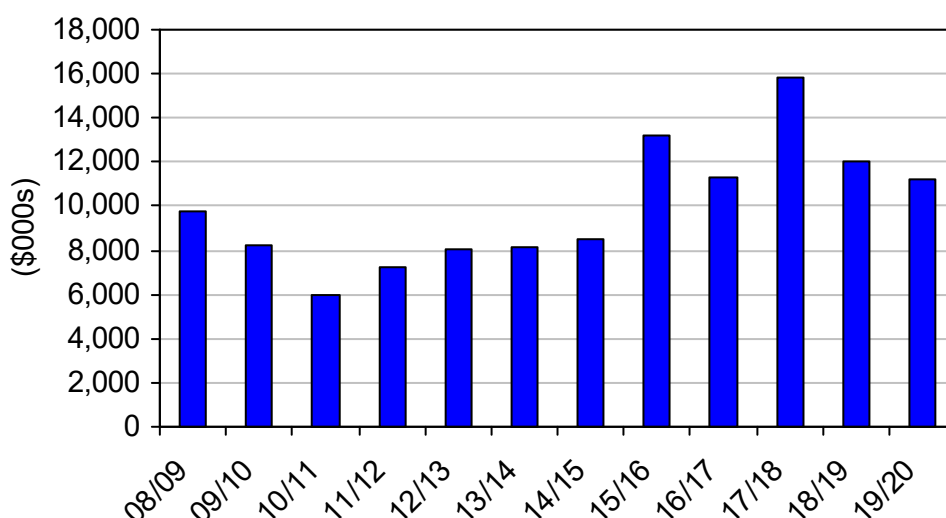
In 2015/16, the number of development and financial contributions increased by about a fifth over the previous year, but their value more than doubled. The amount collected from Residential development, roading, and works and network utility development contributions all rose considerably from the previous year. In 2016/17, the number of contributions climbed again. In 2017/18, the number and value of development contributions tripled, in line with a three-fold increase in Residential development. In 2018/19, the number of development and financial contributions increased by 14% with the amount collected increased by 68%. For 2019/20 there was a slightly decrease on both the numbers of contributions and the amount collected,

#### Number and value of development and financial contributions collected per year

Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number	118	238	219	160	196	181	220	347	1,078	1,228	1,205
\$ Value (in 000's)	297	373	394	421	366	315	895	524	1,795	3,022	2,823

Includes Network contributions and Parks and Reserves contributions

#### Amount of Council spending on upgrading and renewing urban services



Council spends considerable amounts of money on maintaining and upgrading urban services such as sewerage, water and stormwater. Council spent \$11,281,143 in 2016/17, \$15,816,111 in 2017/18 and \$12,002,111 in 2018/19

#### What You Can Do To Help

Support and encourage residential development in line with the Council's resource management policies.



**For More Information**

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
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Phone: 07 884 0060  
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# Riparian Management



## Riparian Management Indicators

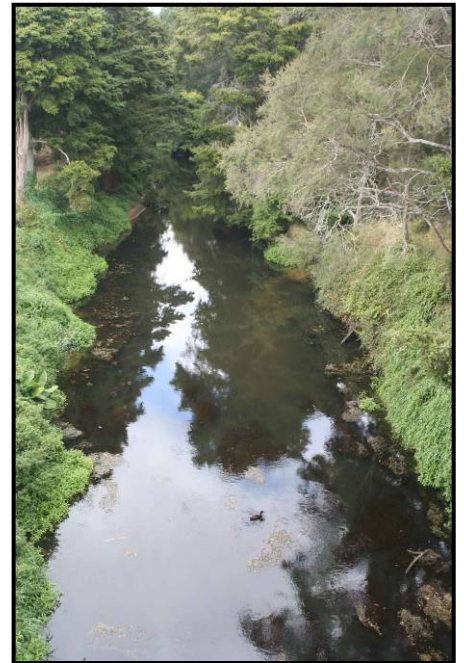
### What Are Riparian Margins?

A riparian margin is a strip of land alongside a waterway where the water and land meet. It contributes to the natural functioning, quality and character of the waterway.

### Overview

Riparian margins have the ability to prevent, correct or minimise the adverse effects of land based activities on the water quality and the aquatic environment. Improved riparian management can result in cleaner water, which can benefit stock and increase farm production. It also provides habitats for fish, birds and other animal life. Riparian management can enhance the visual attractiveness of a farm and provide more opportunities for recreational activities such as swimming.

Farming has a major influence on the quality of our rivers and streams. Stock effluent and stream bank erosion caused by grazing stock degrade our streams by adding pollutants and increasing sediment levels.



Farming is a dominant activity in our district and 2012 figures show that the Matamata-Piako district had an overall density of between 200 and 300 livestock per square kilometre, including the highest average density of dairy cattle in the country at 208 cattle per square kilometre.

### Our Situation

On October 2020, the Waikato Regional Council provided MPDC with valuable data on trends and current status of Matamata-Piako District's significant rivers; Waihou, Piako and Waitoa. The figures revealed that the overall water quality of the rivers for the past 25 years are mostly stable or improving.

Over the past 25 years, the water quality of the Hauraki Rivers has:

- Generally been 'stable' (62% of records)
- Improved (27% of records)
- Deteriorated (11% of records)

The Piako River at Kiwitahi has many important improvements; turbidity, ammonia and total phosphorus are statistically declining, that means significant improvements in water quality. Also, no changes on the levels of nitrogen, water clarity and bacteria, which is also positive, considering it has not decline in the past 25 years. The stand-out is that phosphorus is improving at every site and there's been no change in E. coli bacteria; the 'swimmability' status has held constant.


Below is the table of trend results for four river sites, which gives more in-depth information:


**Table 1:** Slopes (% per year) of very likely trends (slope direction probability > 95%) at four river sites in the Matamata-Piako district during 1993–2017. Important improvements are shown in bold; important deteriorations are bold and underlined. See *WRC technical report 2018/30* for further details. 'nvl', not very likely (trend slope probability < 95%); DO, dissolved oxygen; NTU, turbidity; 'NH4', ammoniacal-nitrogen; 'NNN', nitrate and nitrite nitrogen; 'TP', total phosphorus; 'TN', total nitrogen; 'Clar', horizontal water clarity; 'Ecoli', *Escherichia coli*.

Site	DO	NTU	NH4	NNN	TP	TN	Clar	Ecoli
Piako at Kiritahi	-0.2	-1.0	-5.1	nvl	-2.3	nvl	nvl	nvl
Waihou at Te Aroha	-0.1	nvl	nvl	0.5	-0.4	0.5	0.6	nvl
Waihou at Okauia	nvl	<b>1.7</b>	<b>nvl</b>	0.9	-0.8	<b>1.0</b>	-0.7	nvl
Waitoa at Lansdowne Rd	nvl	-0.7	-4.0	nvl	-2.1	nvl	nvl	nvl
Important improvements	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
Important deteriorations	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0


The Waikato Regional Council is responsible for taking samples and measuring the health and bathing quality of our rivers and streams. It is important that we live in a healthy environment. Clean waterways and margins are important to flora and fauna. Unsatisfactory water quality has various negative effects, including making it difficult for aquatic animals to breathe and restricting plant growth. Water pollution can also be bad for human health.

The Waikato Regional Council monitors the water quality for our rivers and streams, now in a partnership with Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) in one location within the Matamata-Piako District, which is part of the larger Hauraki water catchment zone. This site is located at Te Aroha boat ramp reserve at the corner of Lawrence Avenue and Terminus Street. The latest measurement taken on 22 February 2021 is green, meaning it is suitable for swimming. For the latest update, please visit: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/swimming/waihou-at-te-aroha/swimsite>


New Zealand / Waikato region / Can I swim here?



## Waihou at Te Aroha



Last sampled 22 Feb 2021

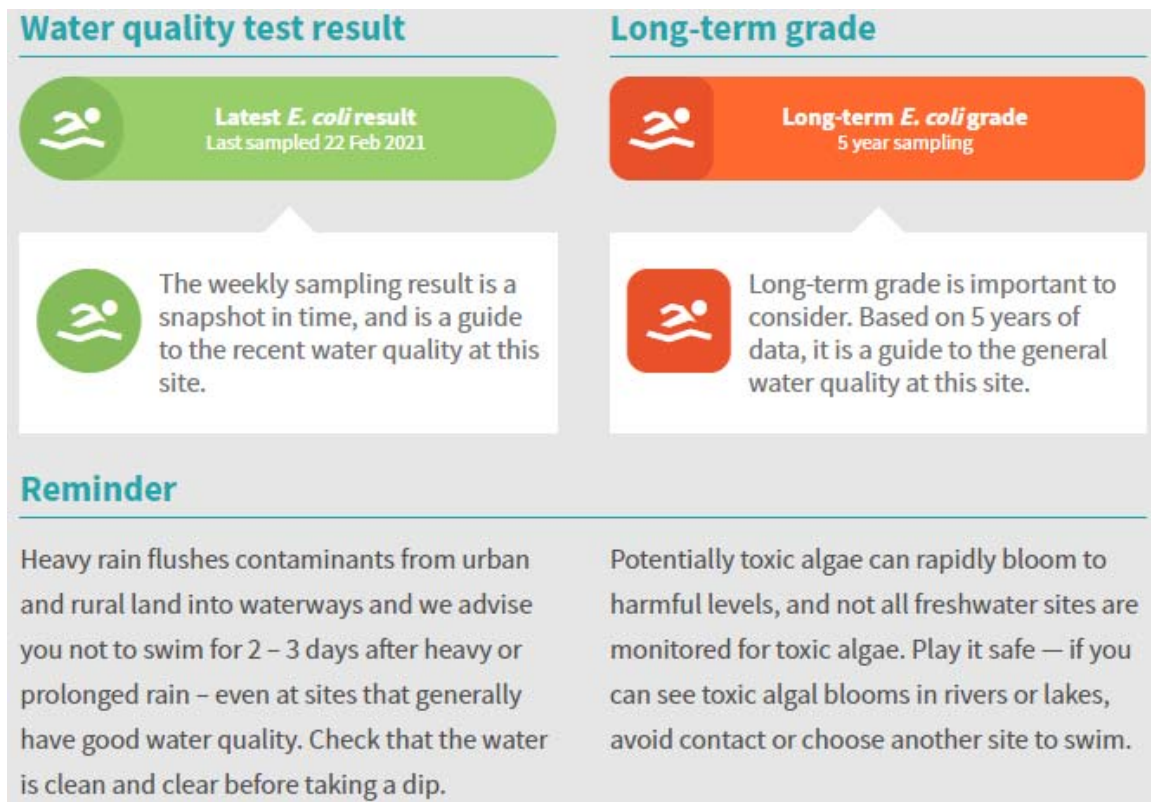
Weekly result
☒
Long-term grade

This site is located at Te Aroha boat ramp reserve at the corner of Lawrence Ave and Terminus Street. A boat ramp and jetty are located here as well as a skate park close by. There are no public toilets but they are available a short walk up Lawrence Ave, back towards the town centre. A campervan parking spot for refilling water is present.

*This site is monitored for 12 weeks over the summer period (the start of December to the end of February).*

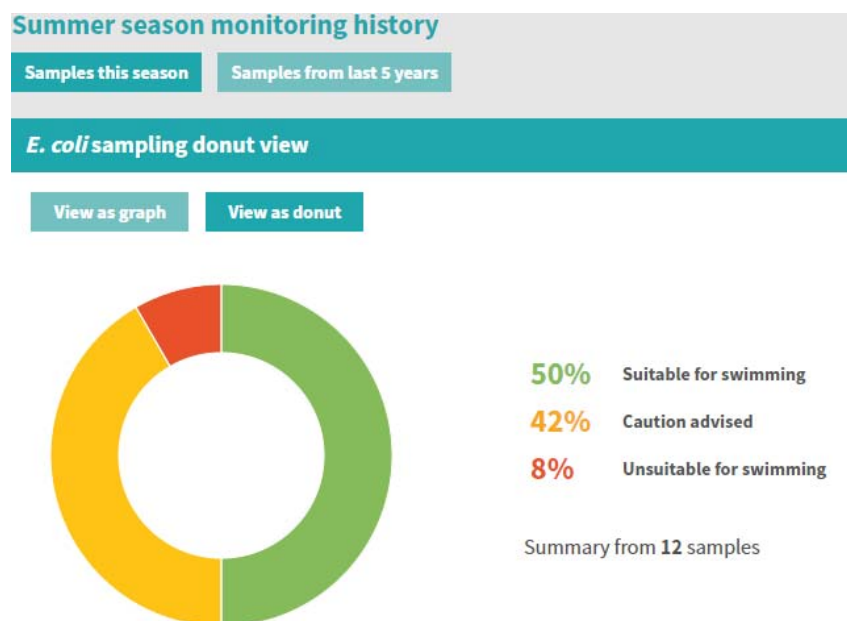
Source: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/swimming/waihou-at-te-aroha/swimsite>

LAWA shows the best available water quality information to help you decide where to swim. For many sites there are two types of information available, the weekly sampling result and the long-term grade as displayed below:



Source: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/swimming/waihou-at-te-aroha/swimsite>

The donut view below is another extract from the LAWA website and it shows a snapshot of this summer season monitoring history at the Te Aroha site:



Source: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/swimming/waihou-at-te-aroha/swimsite>

At the LAWA website you can also view a snapshot for the past five years.



### What Council Is Doing

Council owns approximately 70 hectares of esplanade reserve within the Waihou and Piako River catchments. This is the land that generally extends 20 metres out from a river, and contains riparian margins. These esplanade reserves make up approximately 13% of all Council owned reserves.

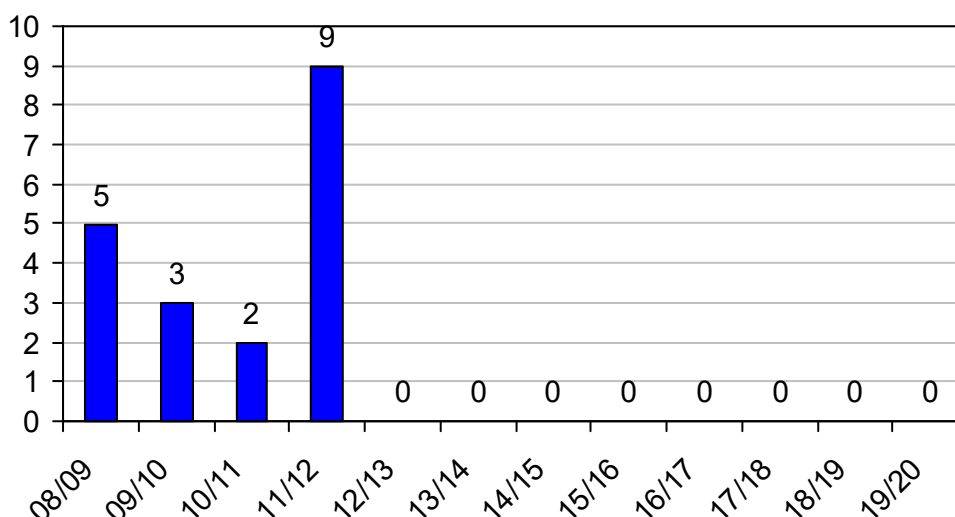
Data from the Waikato Regional Council Funded Riparian Retirements for MPDC, shows that from 2002 to June 2020, 165,651 plants were planted

within the Matamata- Piako Catchment's riparian margins. While 207,248 meters of fencing were erected, resulting in 163,966 meters of streambanks retired from farming. With a total retired area of 264 hectares.

Resource consent conditions are used by Council for the protection or creation of riparian margins and esplanade reserves.

From 2008/09 – 2011/12 there were 19 consents granted with conditions requiring the creation or protection of existing riparian margins. No consents have been granted in the last six years.

**Number of resource consents granted requiring the creation or protection of riparian margins**



Council offers the Significant Natural Features Grant to landowners who protect and preserve features such as wetlands or native bush areas, by providing funding of up to 50 per cent towards fencing or legally protecting the site. In 2015/16, \$5710.53 in funding was provided in Significant Natural Features Grants. \$2,000 and \$1,250 was provided for these grants in 2016/17 and 2017/18, respectively. In 2018/19 there were no applications for grants. For 2019/20 Council granted \$ 1,555.28 for the maintenance of protected trees under the district plan. The Waikato Regional Council also funds up to 35 per cent of the cost of fencing and planting natural waterways on private property.



Until early 2014, landowners protecting their sites in perpetuity had applications for rates remission assessed by Council. Following a 2014 review of the Significant Natural Features Policy, the policy no longer allows for any new applications for a rate remission. However, Council has committed to an annual rate remission totalling \$4,213.63 (excluding GST) to land owners who have made an application to the Significant Natural Features Grant and have protected their site in perpetuity. As a result, for 2019/20 Council granted \$ 4,845.68 under our rates remission policy.

In 2013/14 there was some work done in fencing off watercourses on Council-owned land on Rewi Street and Gilchrist Street in Te Aroha that is subject to grazing licences, in response to submissions that stock were entering waterways on this land. In 2016/17, a plan was being developed with local community groups to permanently fence off additional native trees and bush on Council reserve land along the eastern bank of the Waihou River in Te Aroha and to supplement this with native planting.

Landcare groups also take an active role in improving the environment. They take practical steps that benefit the whole community. Council wants to ensure we have sustainable farm production, protection and rehabilitation of sensitive environmental areas, pest and weed control, native bush monitoring, river monitoring and rehabilitation, as well as biodiversity enhancement (protection of native flora and fauna). Landcare groups help the community to achieve these aims.

Council is aware of three Landcare groups operating in Matamata-Piako that are taking measures to benefit waterways and their margins:

1. Whitehall Landcare Group

This group was formed by members of the community who became concerned with the water quality of the Upper Karapiro Stream. The group undertook fencing for over 17 properties that border the banks of the Upper Karapiro Stream. Since completing the fencing, members still carry out restoration and pest control work on their own properties with a focus on possum control with the Waikato Regional Council.

2. Mangawara Landcare Group

This group was formed in 1994. Their aim was to improve catchment management and flood control in the Mangawara River. They have fenced and planted natives along the river, as well as willows to stabilise eroding banks. This project has resulted in a reduced nitrate runoff and reduced erosion, benefiting the downstream river ecology.

3. Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust Catchments Forum

The Kaimai Mamaku Catchments Forum has representation from iwi, recreational groups, primary industry and conservation groups and aims to restore forest biodiversity, enhance recreational activities and provide for sustainable land use. A priority is to develop a multi pest management control programme plan. In addition, the Forum intends to ensure genuine community involvement. This community theme will continue with the establishment of new Landcare groups in addition to further support for existing groups.

In addition to the three groups above, there are several other initiatives in the district with a focus on waterway rehabilitation:

The Piako Catchment Forum is a community group formed in Morrinsville in 2016 with the goal of helping clean up the Piako River and to get involved in riparian plantings along the Morrinsville River Walk.

Keep Te Aroha Beautiful has a focus on riparian planting along a stream feeding into the Waihou River.

The Upper Waihou Project is a project supported by the Waikato Regional Council to clear willow and poplar from the upper Waihou River and to help restore its margins.

The Regional Council is also coordinating a collaborative project between mana whenua, landowners and local government to help restore wetlands in the Waihou catchment. “Te Puna o Waihou ki Tikapa te Moana” or “Source to Sea” aims to work co-operatively to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity.

The dairy industry has introduced the Sustainable Dairying Water Accord, an initiative to improve environmental performance on dairy farms which required, by May 2017, all dairy cattle to be excluded from any lakes; significant wetlands and all permanently flowing rivers, streams, drains and springs, that are more than a metre wide and 30cm deep. 97.2% of the waterways on New Zealand dairy farms were excluded from dairy cattle by the targeted date of May 2017.

The Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 introduced a new subsection, s360 1(hn), which allows the creation of regulations for the purpose of excluding stock from water bodies.

### **What You Can Do To Help**

- Get involved in a Landcare group
- Fence river margins to prevent stock grazing and erosion
- Plant natives to encourage animal life and increase the ecological health of a stream or river
- Obtain technical assistance from the Waikato Regional Council’s land management officers; please call 0800 800 401

### **Useful Links**

[LAWA](#)

[Landcare Research](#)

[Waikato Regional Council](#)

[AgResearch](#)

[Dairy NZ](#)

[Environmental Health Indicators New Zealand](#)

[Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy \(Waikato Regional Council\)](#)

### **For More Information**

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
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# Rural Area Development



## Rural Area Development Indicators

### Overview

Demand for residential properties and lifestyle blocks in rural settings can create considerable pressure on rural land. Particularly close to townships, areas of rural land on high quality soils are purchased and subdivided into smaller lots for residential and lifestyle purposes.

### What is High Quality Soil?

Soil class makes up one of the three components of the Land Use Capability Classification (LUC). The LUC categorises different kinds of land according to those properties that determine its capacity for long-term sustained production. The LUC has three basic components: class, subclass and unit (Landcare Research 2009).



LUC class is most commonly used and classifies land from I (the most versatile and productive class) to VIII (the class with most limitations). Classes I, II, and III are considered high quality soils within Matamata-Piako District Council's District Plan.

The land in each class is further subdivided into sub-classes according to the major kind of limitation to its use. The subclasses are erodibility, wetness, soil or climate.

The LUC unit is the most detailed level of classification and allows for subclasses to be further classified based on the kind of intensity of management or conservation treatment required. Areas of land that have the same unit are capable of growing the same kind of crops, pasture or forest species.

### Subdivision on High Quality Soils

Council monitors the subdivision of rural land on high class soils. This type of land fragmentation could result in future shortages of properties of suitable size for viable farming and horticultural units.

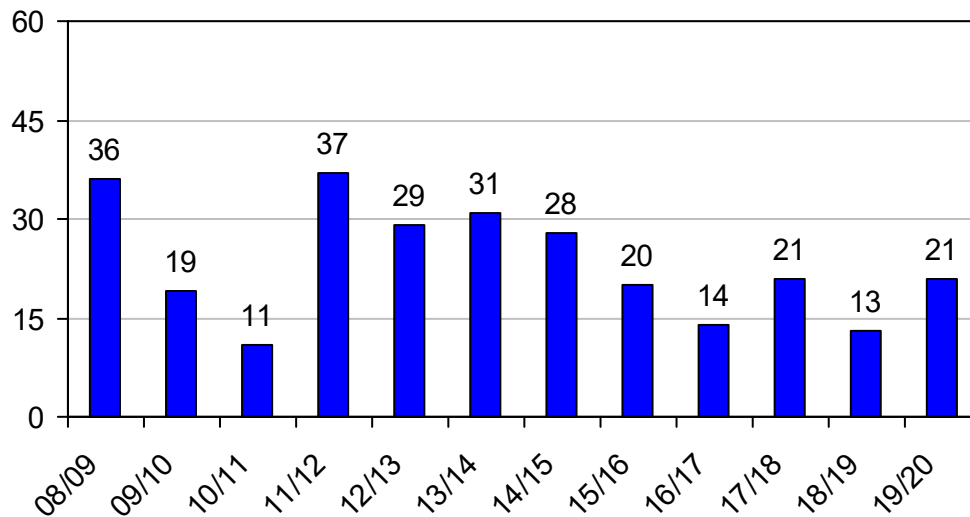
The number of applications received to subdivide Class I, II and III soils into lots less than 8 hectares has varied between 11 and 37 per year between 2008/09 and 2019/20. The large increase from 11 applications in 2010/11 to 37 applications in 2011/12 may be due to the proposed Rural Subdivision district plan change (Plan Change 42), which was consulted on in 2011/12, and proposed to increase the minimum lot size in rural areas to 40 hectares.

Plan Change 42 provided for boundary relocation applications, where two adjoining lots could be reconfigured to allow for one lot of up to one hectare, with the second lot making up the balance area. Although a small lot of less than eight hectares is created it means that, overall, no additional



lots are created and the second lot has a larger area, which fulfills one of the intentions of Plan Change 42, which was to reduce the fragmentation of rural zoned land.

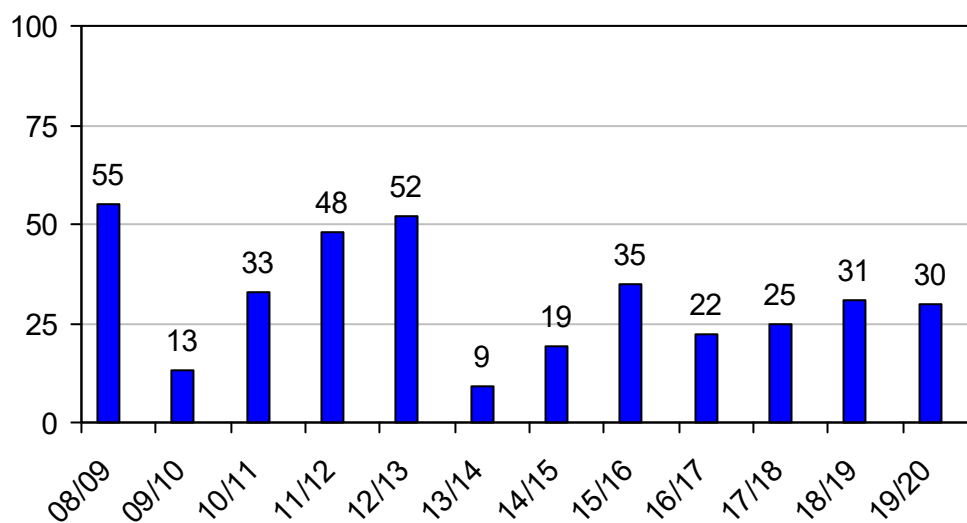
**Number of applications to subdivide class I, II and III soils into lots less than 8 ha**



Some of the above applications were to subdivide land to create more than one new lot. In 2016/17, there was just one boundary relocation application on high quality soil and only two in 2017/18. In 2018/19, 10 applications were processed in relation to boundary relocation, while 8 applications were processed in 2019/20.

The number of new lots less than 8 ha created as a result of subdivisions on high class soils is shown below.

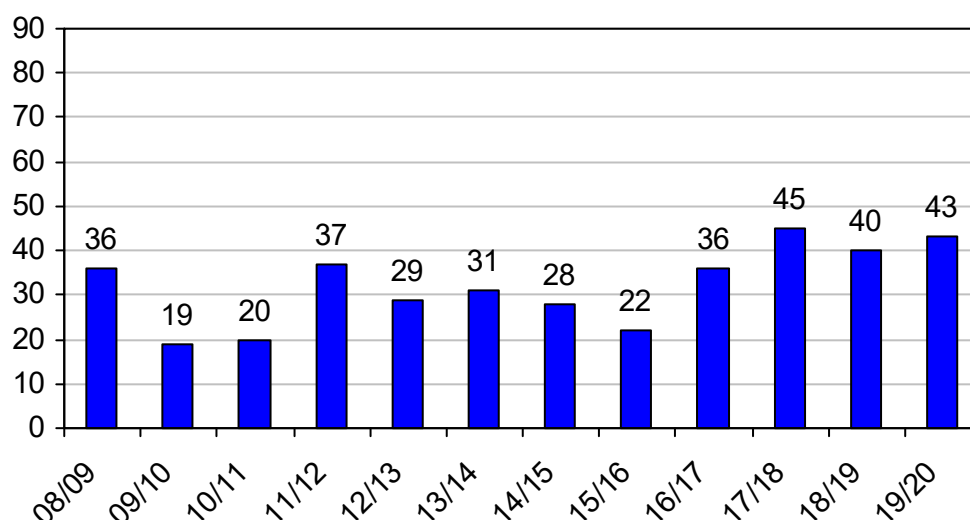
**Number of new lots created smaller than 8 ha on class I, II and III soils**



## New Dwellings in the Rural Zone

The number of building consents applied for on Class I, II and III soils for new dwellings in the Rural Zone steadily decreased from a high of 54 in 2007/08 to the lowest level since state of the environment reporting began, 19 in 2009/10. The trend in the number of building consents has been consistent with the trend in the number of lots created in the Rural Zone.

**Number of building consents applied for on class I, II and III soils**



## Designations in the Rural Zone



A designation is a selected piece of land that is required by an authority for a specific purpose. Designations are listed in Schedule 4 of Council's District Plan and may be required for uses such as roads, water, sewerage, electricity and communication purposes.

In the Matamata-Piako District the area of class I, II and III soils in the Rural Zone designated for non-productive uses decreased, overall, from 1160 hectares in 2010/11 to 634 hectares in 2013/14.

In 2011/12, 23 designations were removed from the District Plan because they had not been given effect to before the date of their

expiry. Designations in the district include Council-owned facilities such as cemeteries, recreational reserves, water and sewerage works, roads and other government-owned purposes such as electricity supply, schools, roading and telecommunications and radio. No designations were added or removed in the rural area in 2013/14 or 2014/15. In 2015/16, a designation was added for the Mount Misery water reservoir south of Morrinsville.

## Non-productive Activities in the Rural zone

There are non-productive activities other than designations on Class I, II and III soils. Non-productive activities include educational facilities, places of assembly, accommodation facilities, industrial and depot activities, mining/quarrying, offices, marae developments, commercial services and boarding/breeding of domestic pets.

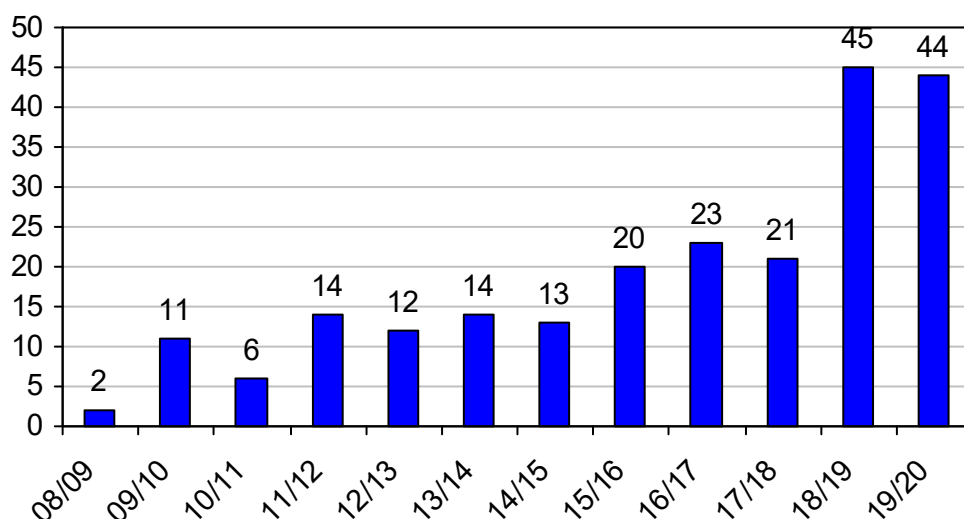
These are activities that do not depend on soil quality; some have located in the rural environment because of the adverse effects that they create while others serve a rural purpose, or have historically been located in a rural area.

In 2017/18, there were also 23 applications granted for non-productive activities on the highest class soils: two related to the expansion of chicken farms, four related to bridge construction, and 10 were for yard encroachments.

In 2018/19, there were 45 applications granted for non-productive activities in the Rural zone. These included 12 yard encroachments, nine applications to relocate second hand buildings, four applications related to poultry farming and three applications for accessory farm buildings in the peat hazard zone.

In 2019/20, there were 44 applications granted. Six related to the relocation of dwellings, while thirteen were to construct new dwellings associated with farming and only two creating new lifestyle blocks. There were also applications for the expansion of a chicken farming operation and to operate a childcare centre.

**Number of applications for non-productive activities on class I, II and III soils**



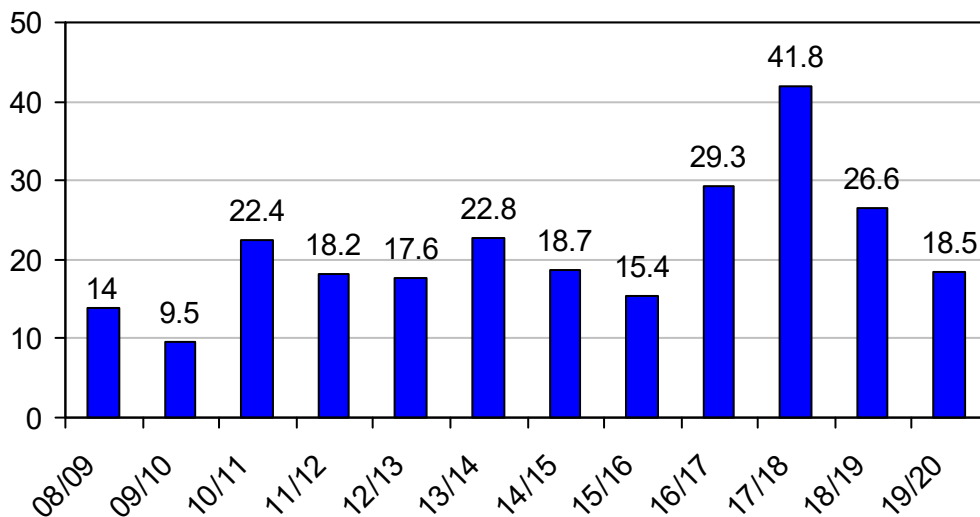
## New Lots resulting from Subdivision

The average lot size of rural subdivisions on Class I, II, and III soils has increased in recent years. Before 2010/11, the average newly created lot size of created lots on high quality soils was less than 12 ha. However, since 2010/11 the average lot size is about 22ha.

The relatively low number of properties that are subdivided in an average year, and the variability of their size can create distortions in the figures. The recent larger average lot size may have been

in response to Plan Change 42 – Rural Subdivision, Council’s review of the subdivision rules, which specified a new minimum lot size of 40 hectares in the Rural Zone but did also, however, introduce the boundary relocation rule. In the years 2017/18 to 2019/20 the average subdivision lot size on high quality soils was 41.8, 30.7 and 18.2 hectares, respectively.

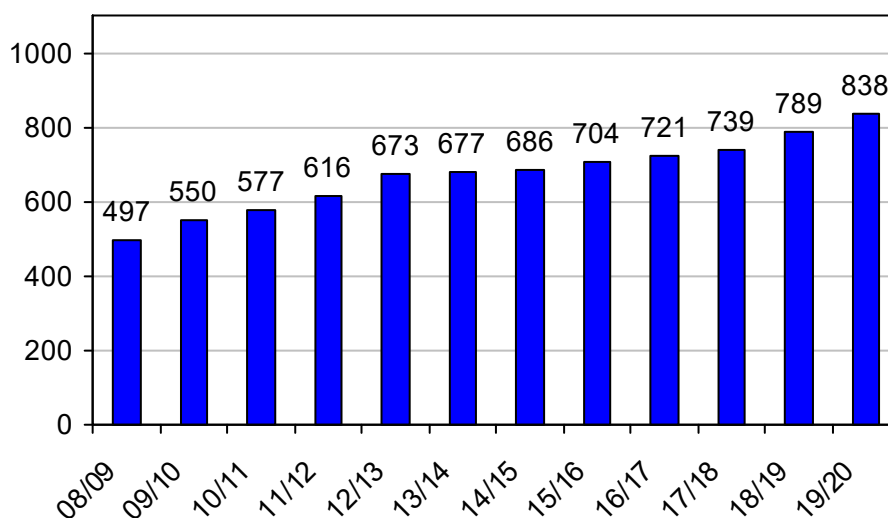
**Average lot sizes for rural subdivisions on class I, II and III soils (ha)**



#### Rural-Residential Subdivision

The number of lots between 2,500m<sup>2</sup> and 1 hectare in the Rural and Rural-Residential zones has steadily increased between 2008/09 and 2017/18.

**Number of lots between 2,500m<sup>2</sup> and 10,000m<sup>2</sup> in the Rural and Rural-Residential zones**



Approximately 2,727 dwellings exist on Class I, II and III soils in the Rural and Rural-Residential zones within the district. A number of these are small lifestyle and house blocks, and are not used for productive purposes. However, lifestyle blocks are only using a small percentage of our productive land.

- Approximately 98% of the high class soils are likely to be for productive uses on larger blocks of land in the Rural zone
- Approximately 1% of the high class soils is made up of small sized land parcels (up to 4.5 hectares)
- Approximately 1% of the high class soils is made up of designations

## **What Council Is Doing**

Plan Change 53 – Settlements (PC53). This plan change is proposing to review the development rules for our small villages using a new zoning mechanism called Settlement Zone provided by the National Planning Standards. Currently, most of our settlements are zoned as Rural and our rules for the Rural Zone does not reflect the residential land use character of the settlements. Therefore, with a new zoning mechanism MPDC expects to facilitate the process for development and breaches of development standards, such as yard setbacks. The following settlements are under the scope of PC53: Waihou, Waitoa, Tahuna, Mangateparu, Motumaoho, Walton, Hinuera, Te Poi, Manawaru and Te Aroha West. The plan change is also proposing reduced yard setbacks for small rural sites, which are sites with an area smaller than 2500m<sup>2</sup>.

Council continues to monitor development on high class soils in the Rural zone. Only one subdivision consent has been declined in the past 10 years.

In 2009/10 Council received an application which proposed to subdivide creating four lots between 5,507 m<sup>2</sup> and 8,050 m<sup>2</sup> and a balance larger lot on rural land near Morrinsville. The Hearings Commission declined the application which was then appealed to the Environment Court where the Hearings Commission decision was upheld (*Sanson v Matamata-Piako District Council* [2011] NZEnvC 165). The judge in making a decision concluded that:

*“In terms of taking land out of productive use, we would have to agree that losing 10, or even 13 ha, taken as a single instance, is unlikely to have a significant direct adverse effect, locally, regionally or nationally. But the cumulative effect of the loss of even that much cannot be ignored, especially when such an outcome conflicts with the relevant Plan provisions.”*

*And also that the proposal would directly be responsible for fragmenting titles and establishing houses on good quality soils: “The outcome would be exactly the opposite of what the Plan says is sought.”*

Designations for non-productive activities on Class I, II and III soils can be removed to provide access to these high quality soils. From 2009/10 to 2010/11, no designations for non-productive activities were removed from high class soils, with 23 removed in 2011/12. There have been no designations removed from high class soils in the years since.

The removal of buildings can also make high class soils more available for productive uses. In the 10 years to 2017/18 a total of 70 building consents have been granted for demolition in the Rural Zone.

Removal of non-productive activities on high class soils	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of designations removed	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Number of building consents granted for demolition	13	7	6	3	8	5	1	4	4	6	1

### For More Information

#### [Land Use Capability Survey Handbook](#)

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
Fax: 07 884 8865

# Waste



## Waste Indicators

### Overview

Waste is generated as part of everyday living when people dispose of things they no longer require. Matamata-Piako is responsible for promoting effective and efficient waste management and waste reduction practices within the district. Refuse collection services are provided to approximately 8,600 households and 700 commercial properties throughout the district.

### Our Situation

#### Landfills

Within Matamata-Piako, Council has three refuse transfer stations, located at Waihou, Morrinsville and Matamata. Each is adjacent to closed, former landfills, which are managed to reduce unfavourable effects on the environment. Waste from the transfer stations is transported out of the district to a privately owned landfill at Tirohia, south of Paeroa.



Compliance of the district's landfills with their respective resource consent conditions is monitored regularly. Council monitors the amount and quality of leachate from the landfills to nearby surface water bodies, both up and downstream of the landfill location. Council also monitors several sampling bores near the landfills. The groundwater quality at the sampling sites has been good—satisfactory since 2000. Council's sampling sites achieved a compliance rate of 100 percent with Environment Waikato's Standards during 2009/10. In 2010/11 the Waihou Refuse Dump and Matamata Landfill had high levels of compliance with their resource consent conditions. The Morrinsville Landfill had partial non compliance, due to monitoring not being undertaken at the agreed intervals, and some monitoring results not being provided. However, there were no environmental concerns: there was no damage in need of urgent attention, and the quality and quantity of leachate pumped from the landfill had remained consistent. From 2012/13 to 2017/18 there was 100% compliance.

#### Hazardous Waste

There were no reported incidents or spills involving hazardous waste in the district during the 2007/08 - 2009/10 period or in 2011/12. In both the 2010/11 and 2012/13 years there was one spillage of septage on to a roadway. There were no reported incidents in the three years until 2017/18 when it was reported a chemical waste spill from a dairy factory at Waharoa. For 2018/19 and for 2019/20 there weren't any significant hazardous incidents in regards to waste.

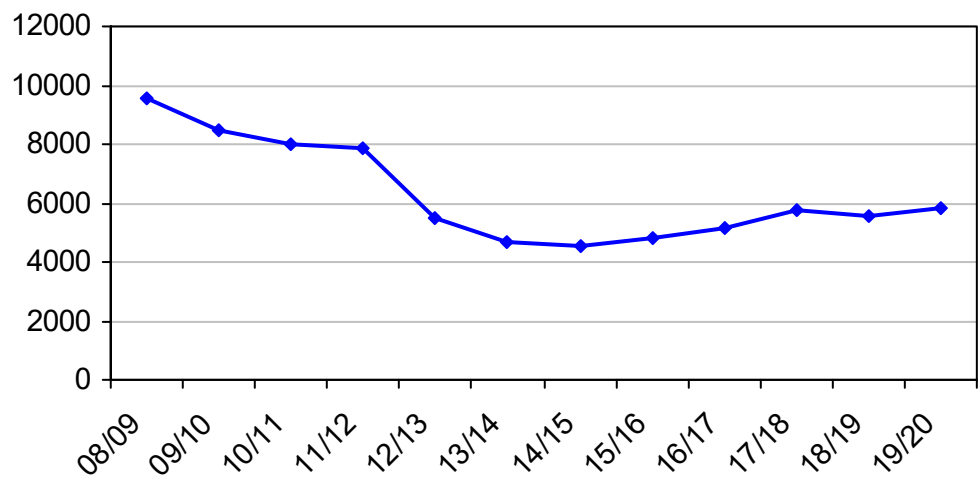
The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017, which resulted in the merger of the New Zealand Fire Service with rural fire authorities to form Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 also added the authority for expanded functions, including hazardous substance and incident response. FENZ reported eight incidents during 2017/18 including leaking gas cylinders at

business and industrial sites, and hazardous chemical spills at a milk processing plant and from a truck crossing the Kaimai Range.

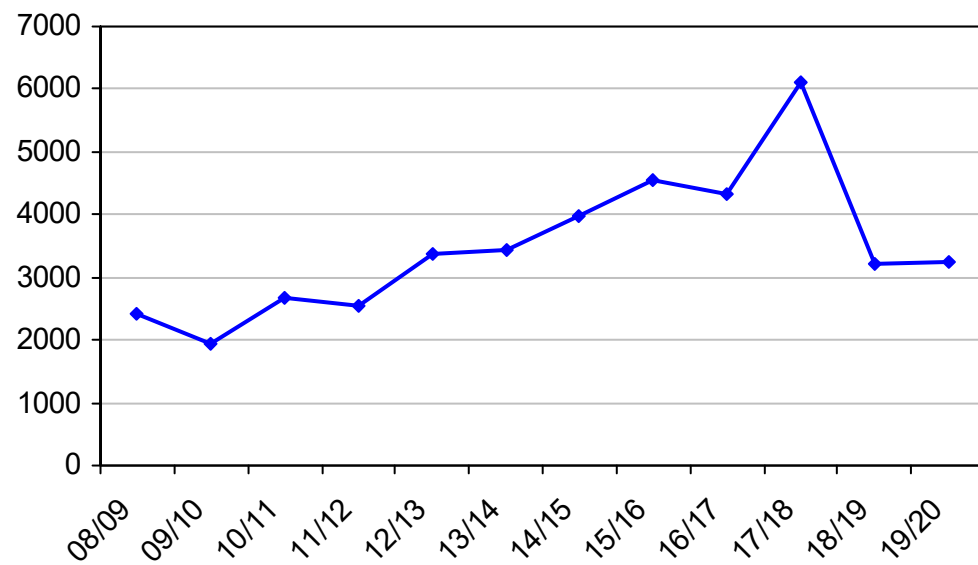
**Quantity of Waste Generated and Recycled**

The following graphs show how much waste is being disposed of at Council-operated transfer stations in our district and how much of this waste is being recycled/composted. This excludes waste disposed of in commercially operated landfills

**Quantity of waste disposed to transfer stations at Waihou, Morrinsville, and Matamata and then sent to landfill (tonnes)**



**Quantity waste recycled / composted (tonnes)**





Overall the amount of waste being disposed of at the waste transfer stations has steadily increased in the last four years. The reduction between 2011/12 and 2012/13 is due to the loss of the Council's largest private customer that used the Council's transfer stations to dispose of waste; however, this waste was still sent to landfill.

The percentage of our district's waste being recycled or composted has increased since 2009/10. However, the graph above detailing the quantity of waste recycled varies from year to year. This is due to variation in the quantity of green waste being composted.

<b>Matamata-Piako Waste Stream</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>
Quantity of hazardous waste collected at transfer stations (tonnes)	1.2	0.71	1.5	0	0*	1.03	0*	0.87	0.57	1.1	2.17

\*There is some variation in the yearly totals as hazardous waste is not collected at regular intervals. As it is not cost-effective to collect small quantities of hazardous waste, it is stored until collection is economically viable.

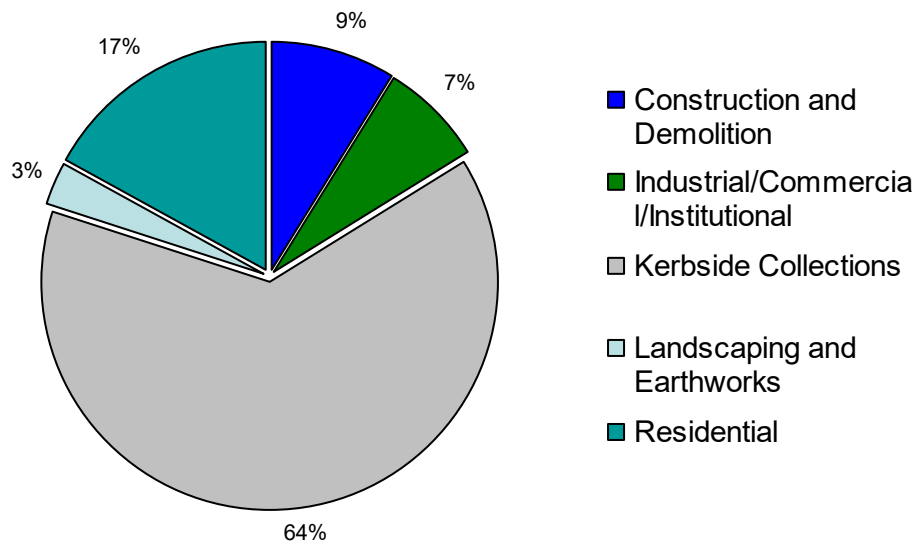
Other waste is collected in addition to the waste stream collected at Council's transfer stations. Solid waste is also collected from screens at the district's wastewater treatment plants, and sent directly to the Tirohia Landfill. From 2010/11, this amount is included as an estimate in the "Total Waste to Landfill" figures below.

<b>Total Waste Matamata-Piako (tonnes)</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>
Landfill at Tirohia (Waste water treatment plant)	23										
Total Waste to Landfill	8,456	8,000	7,833	5,471	4,680	4,566	4,801	5,144	5,743	5,514	5,851

## What's in Our Waste

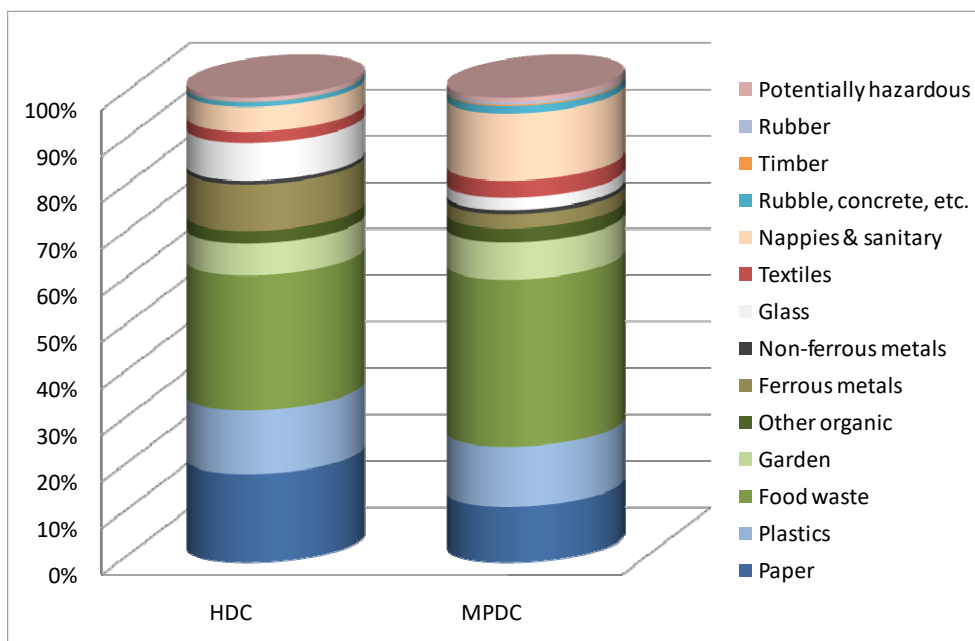
The following graph shows the sources of waste deposited at transfer stations in the district, from a July 2010 survey. The largest proportion of waste entering our transfer stations comes from kerbside collections, from commercial and residential premises.

### Waste Streams Entering Transfer Stations



Organic material, which includes primarily food waste and greenwaste, comprised the largest proportion of the overall waste stream to landfill.

### Kerbside Waste Composition



The above chart is from the Eastern Waikato Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, developed in 2012, and jointly used by Matamata-Piako, Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel District Councils. Similar to earlier surveys, the highest proportion of waste that households put out for collection in is organic, garden or food waste which, instead of being sent to landfill, could be

composted or processed to generate energy. Paper and plastic are two other main sources of general waste which could be recycled, rather than sent to landfill.

### What Council Is Doing

Currently Council is consulting thorough the Long Term Plan 2021-31 on a new Waste Management and Minimization Plan. A highlight from the proposed plan is to make improvements to two of our transfer stations (resource recovery centres) and to build a new fit for purpose hub. For more information, please visit: <https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/have-your-say/solid-waste>

Council aims to lessen the negative impacts of landfills by preventing leachate entering receiving waters.

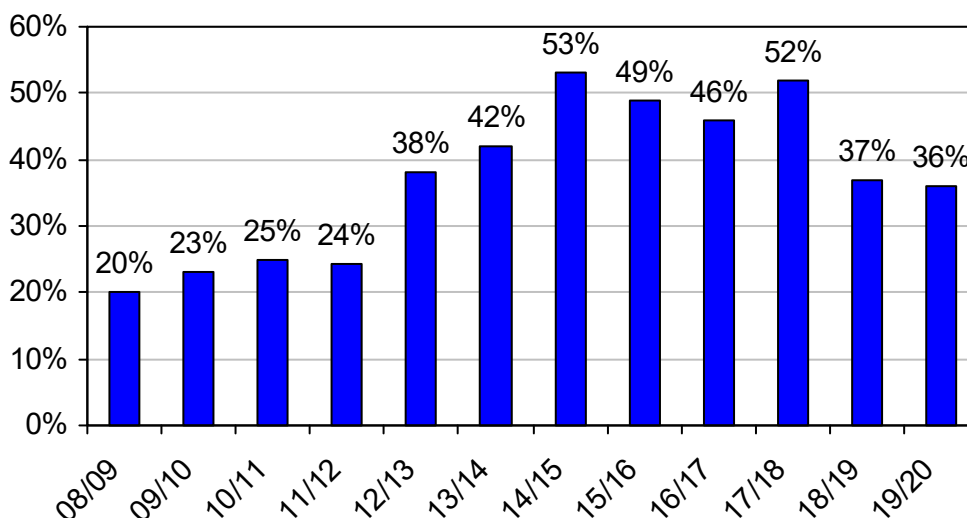
The Matamata landfill does not a have leachate collection system, however, Council treats any leachate produced from the now closed Morrinsville and Waihou landfills through the associated wastewater treatment plants. Leachate volumes and treatment cost is no longer recorded as it is not required under Council's resource consents.

Council spending on leachate & receiving waters	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Amount spent (\$)*	30,000	25,000	30,000	40,000	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

\*not recorded

Council also contributes to reducing waste by operating recycling centres at the transfer stations. The collection of recyclable material is also undertaken as part of its kerbside refuse collection.

**Proportion of total waste recycled/composted from Council transfer stations**



Participation rates for recycling ranged between 30% and 33% between 2000/01 and 2004/05. The 2006 Environmental Awareness, Attitudes and Actions Survey conducted in conjunction with Environment Waikato showed that in 2006:

- 50% of Matamata-Piako residents recycle glass
- 49% of Matamata-Piako residents recycle plastic
- 49% of Matamata-Piako residents recycle tins/cans and
- 49% of Matamata-Piako residents recycle paper



Participation rates for municipal recycling have increased steadily to 64% in 2011/12, 83% in 2012/13 and 85% in 2013/14.

In 2017, 66% of properties within Matamata-Piako had access to Council kerbside recycling according to the Eastern Waikato Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

### **What You Can Do To Help**

- Compost green waste at home for use in the garden or establish a worm composting house
- Recycle glass, paper and card, plastic, metals.
- Reduce packaging. Buy products with less packaging.
- Instead of throwing out goods or items that may be used by someone else list them on your community's [Neighbourly](#) website.
- Ensure you dispose of your waste in an appropriate manner. Don't dump in an uncontrolled environment.

### **Useful Links**

[Matamata-Piako State of the Environment Report 1999](#)

[The Waikato Regional Council's](#) Waikato waste and resource efficiency strategy 2015-18

[Zero Waste New Zealand Trust](#)

[Eastern Waikato Waste Management and Minimisation Plan](#)

<https://www.neighbourly.co.nz/>

### **For More Information**

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
Fax: 07 884 8865

# Tangata Whenua



## Tangata Whenua Indicators

### Overview

The Matamata-Piako District Council aims to maintain and encourage kaitiaki responsibility (guardianship) of Maori by implementing a partnership approach to the sustainable management of the district's natural and physical resources.

The Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 requires that in achieving the purpose of the Act all persons under it shall:

- Recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu (spiritual and culturally important places for Maori), and other taonga (items, objects or things that represents the ancestral identity of a Maori kin group (whanau, hapu or iwi) with their particular land and resources) as a matter of national importance;
- Have particular regard to kaitiakitanga (the exercise of guardianship);
- Take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 has amended specific sections of the RMA. Of particular interest to Maori may be the insertion of section 58O "Mana Whakahono ā Rohe" which are Iwi Participation Agreements (IPA). Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are written agreements between councils and iwi authorities to agree and record how tāngata whenua will participate in the preparation, change or review of a policy statement or plan. IPA are not limited to one iwi authority and one council, and there can be more than one party to each side of the agreement. An IPA can be initiated by either an iwi authority or a council.

Land use activities and subdivision development may adversely affect sites of cultural significance to iwi. Sites might be modified, damaged or destroyed by construction activity, roads or housing development. To avoid, mitigate or minimise any adverse effects there needs to be:

- An understanding with the local iwi or hapu to identify sites of cultural significance potentially affected by development;
- A partnership between iwi and Council;
- Increased involvement of iwi in the decision making process such as plan development and monitoring.



*Hinerangi-Tawhaki Marae*

## **Our Situation**

Of the 175,500ha of land in the district, 3,579ha is held in rateable Maori Title.

## **What Council Is Doing**

Council endeavours to create effective partnerships with local iwi. The District Plan provides for the creation of Iwi Housing and Marae Development Plans. Once established these mean that development in accordance with the plan is a permitted activity, and does not require resource consent. In 2013/14, The Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan was lodged with Council, and the Raukawa Environmental Management Plan 2015 was lodged in 2014/15. When Council is reviewing or changing a planning document under the RMA, both these plans must be considered the same as any other planning document recognized by an iwi authority. Regard must also be given to them when Council considers resource consent applications.

On 27 May 2019, Plan Change 54 – “Papakainga” was launched at a hui at the Kai a te Mata Marae. The Plan Change will evaluate the District Plan’s provisions for “Papakainga” in conjunction with the new Tangata Whenua section in the District Plan, which is to be introduced with the National Planning Standards. On 15 July 2020 staff invited the 12 iwi authorities within Matamata-Piako and key stakeholders to attend a first working group hui, with the intent to collaborate on the development of the provisions and to identify potential land for Papakāinga development. So far, the iwi working group have had four hui. MPDC is aiming to notify the plan change by 2021.

As of 2019/20, three Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts have become operative in our district. The three Acts Raukawa, Ngāti Hauā and Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Claims Settlement Acts of 2014 form an agreement between the Crown and the iwi to give effect to a Deed of Settlement for all the historical claims by an iwi against the Crown over land or other resources taken in breach of the Treaty.

Ngāti Hinerangi is in the closing stages of reaching a Treaty of Waitangi Settlement with the Crown; the Deed of Settlement has been confirmed and at this stage the process is being finalized so the Settlement Legislation can give legal effect to the settlement. The Act is expected to become operative by the end of 2020.

Another Treaty Settlement that will have an impact in our district is the Hauraki Treaty Settlement. On 22 December 2016 the Crown and the Iwi of Hauraki initialed a Collective Redress Deed. The Deed provides shared redress for the collective interests of the 12 Iwi of Hauraki in the Hauraki region. It also provides certain redress which will then on-transfer to specific iwi to form part of their iwi-specific Treaty settlements. At this stage it is uncertain when the treaty will become operative.

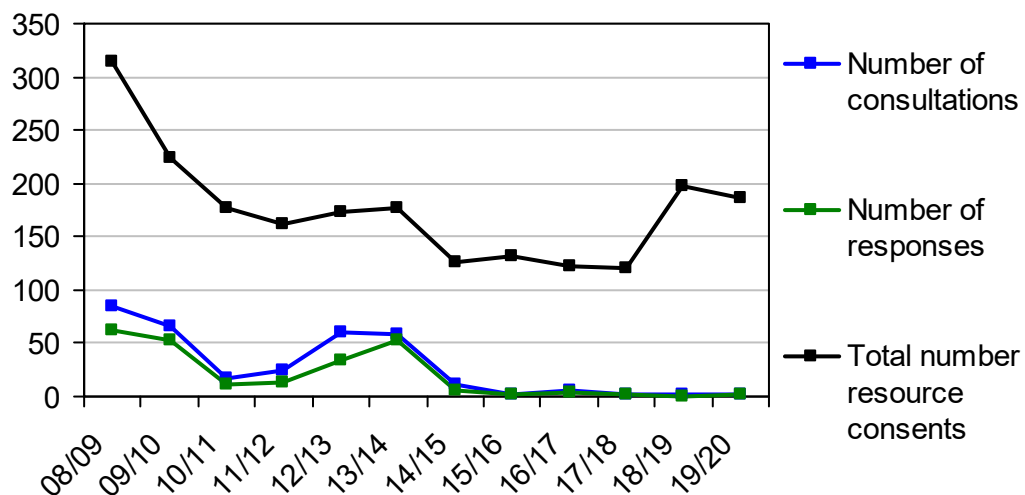
There are 78 waahi tapu sites listed in the District Plan and these include urupa (burial sites), pa and midden sites, and marae.

## **Consultation**

Consultation with iwi is important in creating an effective partnership in the management of the district’s natural and physical resources. Council consults iwi when it receives resource and subdivision consent applications that may be of iwi interest. The graph below shows the trends in the number of consultations and responses. The total number of resource consents in each year is also shown for reference. The number of consultations experienced a steady decrease in the three years from 2008/09, followed by a subsequent fluctuation in numbers and it has remained largely unchanged since 2014/15, which is consistent with a reduction in the total number of resource consents, as is the relative number of consultations compared to total number of resource consents between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

As part of the memoranda of understanding that Council has with a number of iwi, no consultation is made on some types of resource consents, such as breaches of development controls and yard requirements in urban areas. Additionally, a number of iwi, including Ngāti Hauā are currently receiving a weekly spreadsheet of all consents received by Council rather than just information on resource consents in their rohe. Also, the applications with a direct effect on iwi, usually already contains the details of the consultation undertaken by the applicant, if not MPDC will request the consultation under Section 92 of the RMA.

### Number of consultations and responses to consultation with iwi



### Resource Consent Conditions

Developments arising from subdivisions and land-use activities can place significant pressures on iwi interests. Council responds to pressures on culturally significant sites by imposing conditions on resource consents when necessary to protect iwi interests such as pa and waahi tapu sites.

In 2015/16, three resource consents had conditions imposed. These included an undertaking to revisit the consent's conditions should a co-management settlement act be signed for the Waihou catchment within 12 months. To ensure consistency between the requirements of the act and the resource consent. Also, two consents required archaeological discoveries to be reported to Tangata Whenua and Council; that work must cease immediately and not recommence until after Tangata Whenua values and interests had been considered and written permission had been provided by Council.

In 2016/17, there were two conditions imposed on resource consents; these were in relation to erosion protection earthworks and earthworks to re-contour land and develop a walkway for a tourist accommodation venture by Lake Karapiro. In 2018/19 and 2019/20 no conditions were imposed on resource consents for the purposes of the protection of culturally significant sites.

### Tangata Whenua and Council decision-making

Council has a standing committee of Council called 'Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako'. This Forum has two representatives from Council, and each of the iwi in the district. These include

Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Paoa, Raukawa, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Rahiri-Tumutumu, Ngāti Whanaunga and Ngāti Hinerangi. The Heads of Agreement also provides for representation by Ngāti Tamaterā.

The purpose of the Forum is to facilitate tangata whenua contribution to Council's decision-making. The members meet four times a year and consider any matter that has the potential to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Maori communities today and in the future.

### **For more information**

For more information on the various iwi in our district visit the [Te Puni Kokiri](#) website.

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

Customer Services  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342  
Phone: 07 884 0060  
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# Transport



## Transport Indicators

### Overview

A good transport system is vital to the prosperity of the district. It provides the link between different areas, and gives people access to attend to their needs and activities. Transport enables businesses to access resources and markets, and provides people with social, cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Transportation and traffic growth can result in economic, environmental, social and safety impacts that need to be managed through careful land use decisions.

While Matamata-Piako maintains an efficient transport system providing many benefits to the community, there are also several social and environmental impacts of the system.

### Our Situation

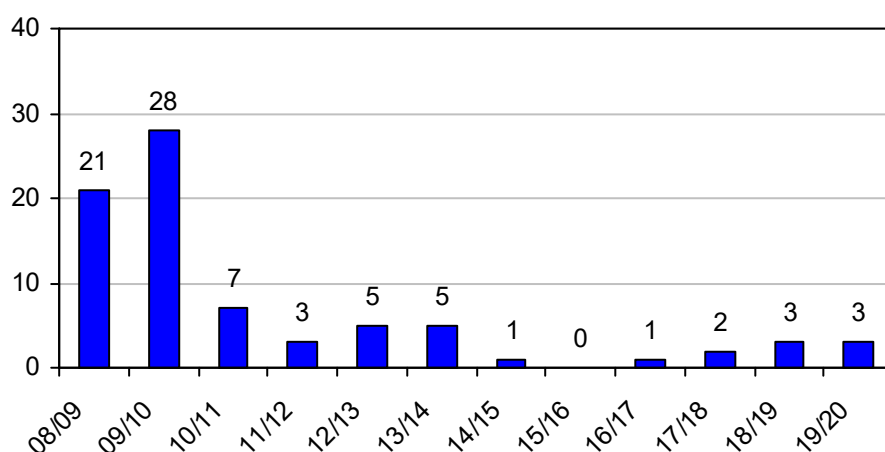
Our urban areas are relatively free of significant loading and vehicle access problems. However, car parking availability in Matamata has caused increasing dissatisfaction and traffic safety along state highways and arterial routes (major roads) is of concern as traffic speeds are often high due to the flat and open nature of the environment.

Traffic can generate adverse effects; particularly by creating noise. In some locations, roads with high vehicle counts affect the use, values and function of the neighbouring environment.

The District Plan requires a resource consent for any new entranceway, or where there is any increase in the character, scale or intensity of use of an existing entranceway, onto a significant road or arterial road. Since 2009/10 the trend has been for a steady decrease in the number of resource consents that include entranceways onto major roads.



**Number of resource consents permitting an entranceway onto a state highway or arterial road**



## Parking

New developments can create traffic problems if there is not enough parking available. In the industrial and business zones, there have been 46 resource consents granted between 2008/09 and 2018/19 for activities that did not require additional on-site parking or loading. From 2011/12 to 2013/14 all the consents granted could provide parking from existing on or off-street car parks.

Plan Change 43 – Transport, which was made operative in 2015/16, introduced an exemption for businesses in the Shopping Frontage Areas of the three main towns with a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1 or less. Businesses with a FAR of 1 whose total floor area does not exceed the area of the lot upon which it is built are exempt from having to supply parking if they instead supplied a verandah for pedestrian shelter as it promotes a pedestrian-friendly environment. The plan change also introduced as an alternative means of compliance; the ability for business owners in lieu of providing onsite parking spaces to make a financial contribution.

However, the National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) prescribes that all territorial authorities with an urban environment with more 10.000 people must not require car parking for new developments. Matamata-Piako has not reached that threshold yet. However, Matamata and Waharoa's population numbers combined are near the 10.000 people, which gives Council the option to adopt the policy statement. Considering the growth expected for the area within the next three years, Council has decided to start implementing the NPS-UD throughout the district; Proposed Plan Change 53 – Settlements is already in alignment with the NPS-UD.

Resource consents in Industrial and Business zones given parking exemption	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of consents	2	2	7	5	9	1	0	4	5	8	3	3

Council's most recent annual customer survey of July 2018 showed that 25% of respondents are dissatisfied with the availability of car parks within Matamata. Further work will be done to consider future vehicle use patterns as well as the possibility of future new car parks in the town.

## Signs

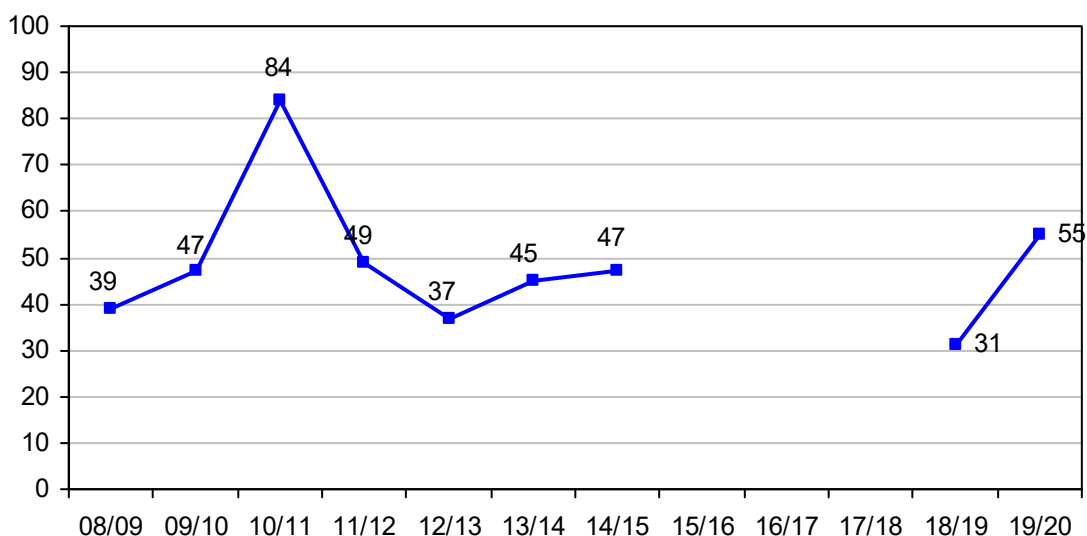
Signs that are poorly located can distract driver attention and restrict visibility. The number of resource consents granted that permit signage on or visible from a state highway has remained consistently low since 2007/08. The consent in 2013/14 was for a sign to be erected for a recreational club located beside the state highway in urban Morrinsville. The three consents in 15/16 related to signage at the Tatua Dairy factory, and the erection of a 6.5m cow statue and a billboard in central Morrinsville. The consent in 2017/18 was for a petrol station sign adjoining State Highway 24, near Matamata.

Number of resource consents granted which permit signage on or visible from a State Highway	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of consents	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0

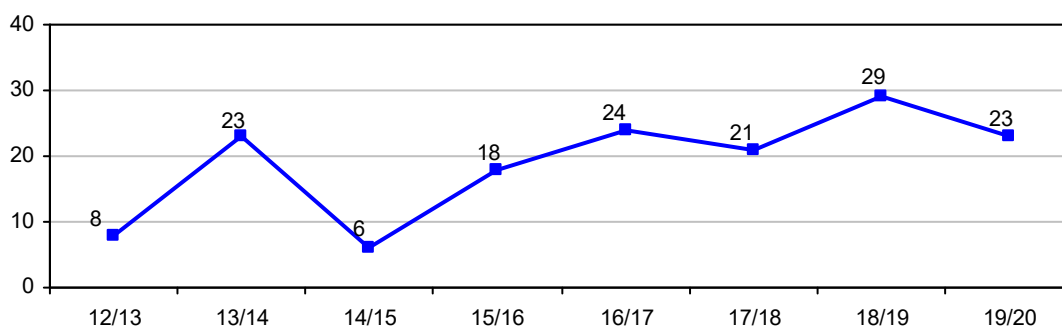
## Traffic Accidents

The number of reported crashes causing injury on Council roads has fluctuated over the past ten years, reaching a peak of 84 in 2010/11. The overall annual trend in the years since then is for a relatively constant number of injury-causing accidents. The data from the last three years is not available due to a change in the way that accident data is now recorded. Formerly, it was the number of all injury-causing accidents in the district that was calculated. In recent years, however, it is only accidents that cause serious injury or death that have been calculated. For 2016/17 and 2017/18 years, the data is not available. For 2018/19 the number of injury-causing accidents dropped to 31 and for 2019/20 the number arose to 55.

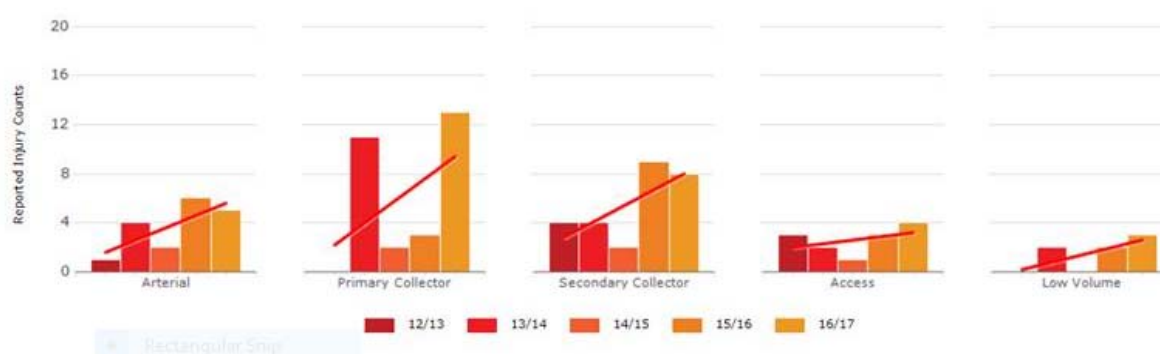
**Number of reported injury-causing accidents in the district**



**Number of reported accidents causing serious injury or fatality in the district**



## The total number of reported serious injuries and fatalities each year on the network



## The Roding Network

In 2008/09 there were 993.6km of roads in the Matamata-Piako District. This was made up of 994.5km of sealed road and 59.1km of unsealed road; approximately 860 km of the roads were within the rural area and 120km in the urban areas. The length of the roading network has increased very gradually since due to new roads being created through subdivision, mostly in urban areas.

Length of Roding Network (km)	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Sealed	934.5	935.7	938.9	938.9	938.9	938.9	938.9	938.9	938.9	948.9	951	962
Unsealed	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.1	51	51
Total	993.6	994.8	998.0	998.0	998.0	998.0	998.0	998.0	998.0	1008.0	1002.0	1013

## Roding Network Complaints

The number of calls received by Council regarding the roading network has decreased from the years between 2010/11 and 2014/15. However, since 2015/16, the number of calls has fluctuated, but has been much lower on average than in the years previous.

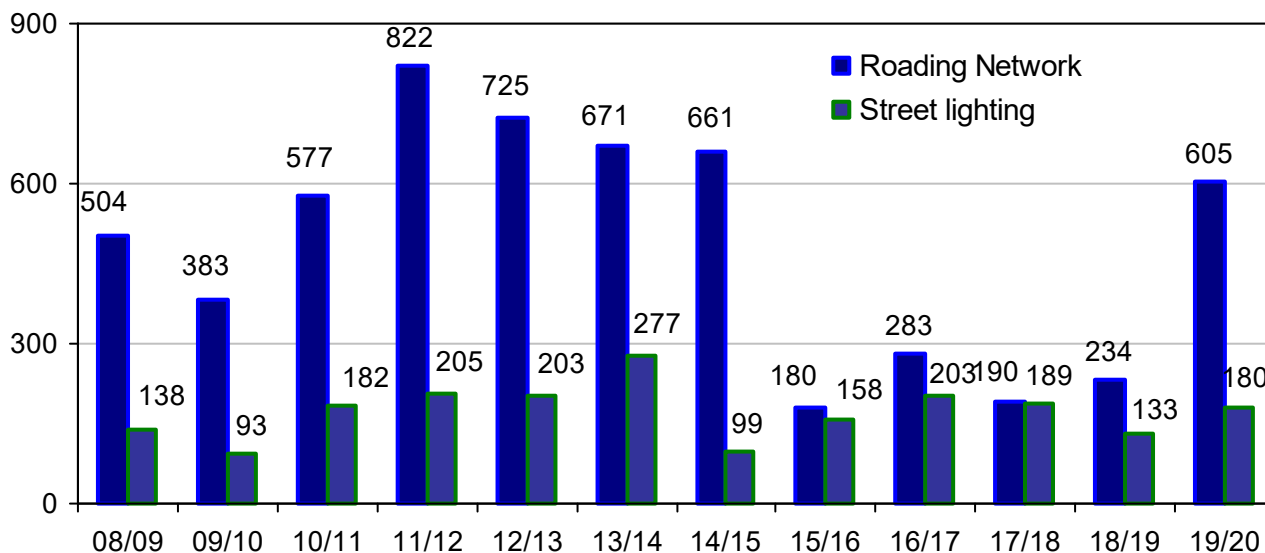
A notable percentage of all the roading calls received have been regarding damage to the road surface or potholes. Other complaints included abandoned vehicles, culvert maintenance, rubbish on roads, parking, and road signs. In 2014/15, a change in the way that data was captured for streetlight complaints meant that data was available only from late January until June 2015. Over this five month period, 99 complaints were received about streetlighting of which 93 of the calls related to maintenance. Calls regarding the roading network included requests for maintenance of footpaths, reports of damage to roads, and queries about the trial closure of a turning lane on Broadway in Matamata.

In, 2016/17, 203 complaints were received about streetlighting, and in 2017/18, 189 complaints, were recorded. The few complaints that were not about maintenance related to nuisance caused by glare, damage caused by vehicle accidents and the time the streetlights were turned on or off. In 2016/17, 283 complaints were received about the roading network; the most common complaints were regarding damage to the road, hazardous or slippery material on the road surface. In 2017/18, the number of complaints dropped to 190. In 2018/19 only 133 complaints were received about streetlighting. On 2019/20 605 complaints were received in regards to the roading network, out that number 180 were related to streetlighting.

Due to changes introduced by the Local Government Act, information has been categorised

differently from previous years. This has resulted in both a change to the roading network information that has been sourced, and also to the final figures. 2016/17 is the first full year of the new information requirements.

**Number of calls regarding the roading network**



The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is responsible for the development and maintenance of the country's state highways. Council received no complaints between 2008/09 and 2017/18 from the NZTA.

### What Council Is Doing

The number of vehicles on New Zealand roads has increased by 45% since 1990. This has been at the expense of public transport and other modes such as walking and cycling. The Matamata-Piako district is predominantly a rural district and in 2002 had only half a kilometre of dedicated cycle or walkways.

As of 2019/20 the total length of footpaths in the district is 208.2 kilometers, and there is 500 metres of cycleway. In addition, 22 kilometres of the Hauraki Rail Trail, which provides a cycleway between Thames, Te Aroha and Waihi, is in the Matamata-Piako District. In 2015/16, Council decided to extend the rail trail from Te Aroha to Matamata, and this 38 kilometers extension is almost finished, currently finalizing landscaping and signage and it is expected to be concluded by early 2021.

There has been no Council spending on noise mitigation measures as a result of transport effects between 2008/09 and 2019/20.

### Parking

Work carried out during Plan Change 43, the review of the Transportation section of the District Plan, in 2012/13 included a review of the town centre parking in Morrinsville, Matamata and Te Aroha. The report concluded that there is sufficient supply of on-street car parking within a short walking distance of the three town centres so as not to require on-site car parking within the "Shopping Frontage" areas of the town centres, over the next ten years. The matter of not requiring sites within the Shopping Frontage areas to supply on-site parking was included in a new "Transportation" section of the District Plan.

Council is also analyzing alternative options and modes of transport to cope with the restriction of car parking requirement brought by the NPS-UD, before giving effect to the policy statement throughout the whole district. Matamata-Piako has a rural character and therefore at this stage is car dependent and the current public transport services do not suffice the needs of our communities.

Other matters included in this section relate to higher thresholds for access to significant and arterial roads, and direction for Integrated Transport Assessments, which assess the wider effects of traffic predicted to result from a proposed activity.

The existing number of car parks in the District (both public and private) is not currently monitored. Only the number of car parks created as a result of development and recorded on resource consent decision reports is calculated; the number of car parks created by activities that comply with all the rules in the District Plan, and therefore do not require resource consent, is not included.

Number of parking spaces created as a result of development	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Number of spaces	6	35	200	111	153	87	34	129	136	136	173	276

## Roading Development Contributions

Through the 2009–2012 LTCCP Council implemented a district-wide development contribution requirement for roading where development contributions would be paid on completion of a subdivision or development.

In 2009/10 the total of roading development contributions collected, \$6,731, was low, as very few subdivisions or developments had been completed since the policy came into effect. This figure has increased since the introduction of the policy. In the three years 2017/18 through 2019/20 a total of \$439,554, \$718,455 and \$639,226 respectively, were collected on roading contributions. There were no parking contributions collected over this period.

## Useful Links

[Regional Land Transport Strategy](#)

[Ministry of Transport](#)

[Ministry of Transport - Annual Fleet Statistics 2014](#)

## For More Information

Contact [info@mpdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpdc.govt.nz) or

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