

Part One - Our Community

Our Community

The quality of life enjoyed by people in Wairoa is dependent on a variety of factors such as:

- Good living accommodation,
- Good infrastructure services (potable water, the safe disposal of household sewage and wastes, electricity reticulation),
- Ability to earn an income through full or part-time employment,
- Access to community services (marae, schools, hospitals) and facilities (landfills, roads),
- Opportunity to participate in formal and informal recreation (reserves, recreational facilities, sports fields), and
- The presence of supportive networks in the community.



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Population

With 8,481 people in 2006, the Wairoa District ranks 66th in size out of the 73 districts in New Zealand. This is a decrease of 432 people, or 4.9 percent, since the 2001 Census. The Wairoa District has one of the highest proportions of Māori population of all New Zealand local authorities, at 60.7% in 2006 (this compares with only 14.6% nationally).

In the five-year period of 2001 to 2006, the Wairoa District has gone through a number of demographic changes. The most significant of these is a continuing population decline. From 2001 to 2006 the district's population decreased by 432 (1996 to 2001 population decreased by 987).

Factors contributing to population growth and decline in the Wairoa District include births, deaths, and migration. The Wairoa District has a relatively high birth rate but this natural growth is significantly countered by outwards migration. There is a trend toward a decline in levels of births year-to-year in the Wairoa District.

Population Change

The population of Wairoa District has declined 4.9% since 2001, from 8,913 to 8,481 (1996, from 9,900 to 8,913). By comparison, New Zealand's population as a whole grew 7.8% from 2001 to 2006 (7.2% from 1996 to 2001 and 3.8% from 1991 to 1996).

The population projections for the Wairoa District to 2026 indicate a decline to between 6,310 and 8,090 people. This would reflect ongoing decline in birth rates as a result of both an aging population and smaller family sizes.

A local trend in Wairoa that is apparent is the large number of young people who leave for work and education opportunities elsewhere.

Various factors that may stem the decline in population include new coastal development and potential permanent residents (including

retirees), particularly at Mahia, as well as Tangata Whenua returning home to raise new families and to retire.

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Ethnic mix / Diversity

The largest iwi in the Wairoa District is Ngati Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, closely followed by Ngati Kahungunu (area not defined), Ngati Porou, Tuhoë, and Rongomaiwahine. Ngati Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa and Rongomaiwahine iwi are both based in the Wairoa District. Both of these iwi have substantial numbers outside of the local district.

At the time of the 2006 Census, 20,982 people, or 3 percent of the total population of Māori descent, belonged to Ngati Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, a number greater than the actual population of the Wairoa District and an increase from 14,661 people in 2001.

In 2006, 86 percent of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa iwi members lived in urban areas (towns or cities of 1,000 people or more), with 66 percent living in areas with a population of 30,000 or more. In comparison, 84 percent of the total population of Māori descent lived in urban areas, with 65 percent living in areas with a population of 30,000 or more.

18,528 iwi members or 88 percent of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa were living in the North Island in 2006 and 2,433 iwi members or 12 percent were living in the South Island.

In 2006, 35 percent of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa were under the age of 15, compared with 37 percent in 2001. In 2006, 34 percent of the total population of Māori descent were aged under 15.

25 percent (or 5,211) of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa were aged 15–29 years, an increase of 1,689 people since 2001. The proportion of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa aged 30–64 years (36 percent) has increased since 2001 (when the proportion was 35 percent).

4 percent of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa were aged 65 years and over in 2006.

Ethnic Groups

Around 60.7 percent of people in the Wairoa District belong to the Māori ethnic group, compared with 14.6 percent for all of New Zealand. This

is a decrease of 2.8 percent since the 2001 Census. The district's Māori population ranks 37th in size of the 73 districts in the country (4,797 Māori out of 8,481 people). In contrast, 44.8 percent of people in the district identify with the European ethnic group, compared with 67.6 percent for New Zealand as a whole.

People identifying with Pacific Island, Asian and Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ethnicities also reside in the district. A considerable number of people simply choose to identify themselves as 'New Zealanders'.

Ethnic Groups in Wairoa District, 2006 Census		
	Male (%)	Female (%)
European	46.4	44.9
Māori	57.5	61.5
Pacific peoples	2.2	1.9
Asian	1.1	1.4
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	0.2	0.1
Other ethnicity		
New Zealander	7.9	7.2
Other ethnicity–other	0.1	0.0
Total	8.0	7.3

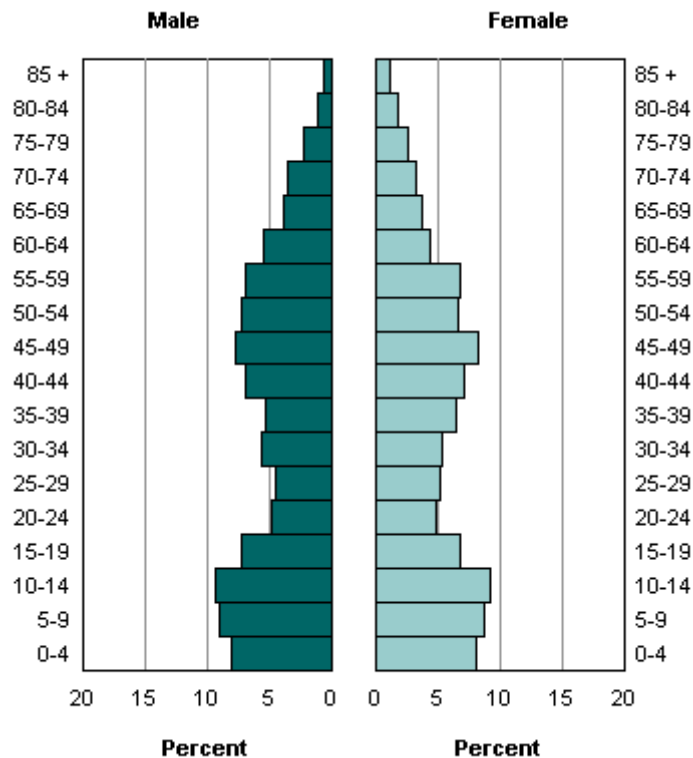
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Age Distribution

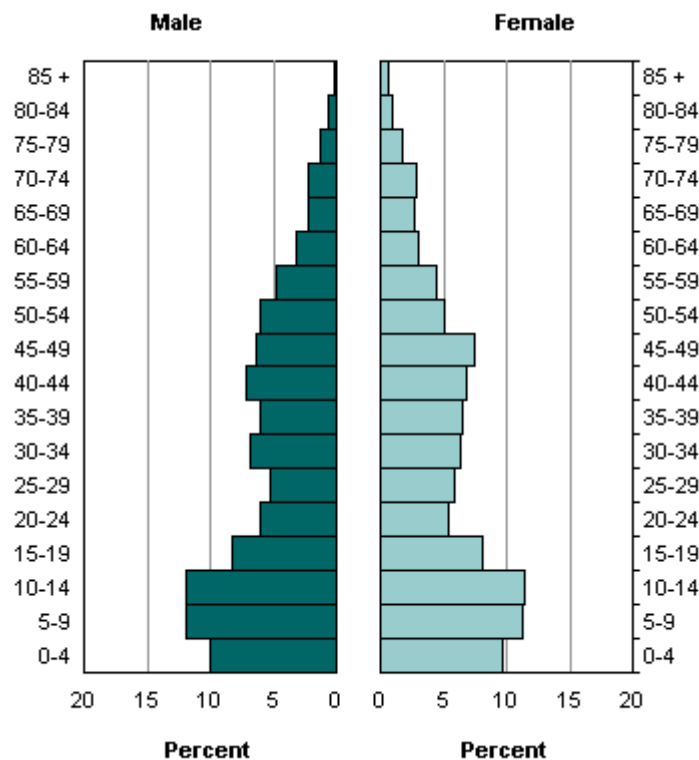
The Wairoa District has a unique age structure. The age structure for Māori compared to the district as a whole is noticeably different. Māori are much younger, with fewer proportionally in older age groups (40+). Overall there is a significant age group “gap” in the 15-34 age groups, when young people head away from the district for education and/or employment.

- The median age of people in the Wairoa District is 36.1, compared with 35.9 for all of New Zealand.
- 12.1% of people in the Wairoa District are aged 65 and over, compared with all of New Zealand, which has 12.3% of people aged 65 and over.
- 26.1% of people in the Wairoa District are aged under 15, compared with 22.7% for all of New Zealand.

Total population
Age-sex structure



Māori ethnic population
Age-sex structure



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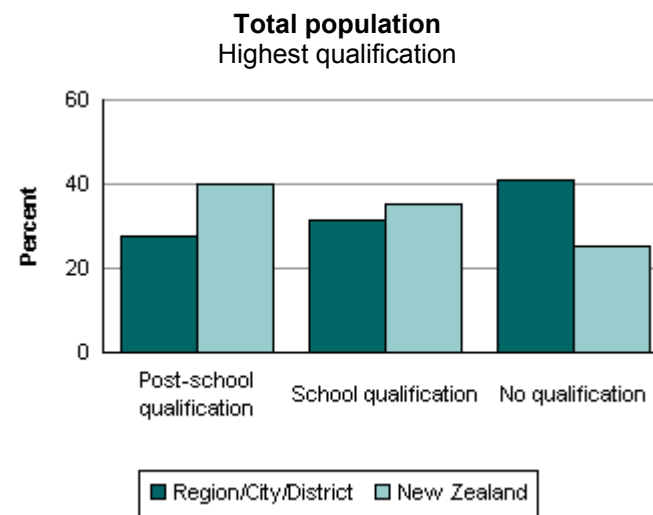
- The median age of Māori people in the Wairoa District is 27.2 years, compared with 22.7 for all Māori in New Zealand.
- 7.7% of Māori people in the Wairoa District are aged 65 and over, compared with 4.1% for all Māori in New Zealand.
- 33% of Māori people in the Wairoa District are aged under 15, compared with 35.4% for all Māori in New Zealand.

Changes in figures from the 2001 census suggest the Wairoa District has an ageing population, which is reflective of New Zealand as a whole.

Education & Qualifications

Analysis of socio-economic status provides a range of indicators of community well-being and capacity for social growth and development. Educational qualifications and employment status have a particularly significant impact in this regard.

There has been a significant increase in people achieving post-school qualifications from the 2001 census to the 2006 census (21.5% in 2001 and 27.5% in 2006).



- 27.5% of people aged 15 years and over in the Wairoa District said they have a post-school qualification, compared with 39.9% for New Zealand as a whole.
- 41% of people aged 15 years and over in the Wairoa District said they have no formal qualifications, compared with 25% of people aged 15 years and over in New Zealand.

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Māori ethnic population
 Highest Qualification for Māori Aged 15 Years and Over



- 22.3% of Māori people aged 15 years and over living in the Wairoa District said they have a tertiary qualification, compared with 27.9% for all Māori people aged 15 years and over in New Zealand.
- 47.4% of Māori people aged 15 years and over in the Wairoa District said they have no formal qualifications, compared with 39.9% of Māori people aged 15 years and over in New Zealand.

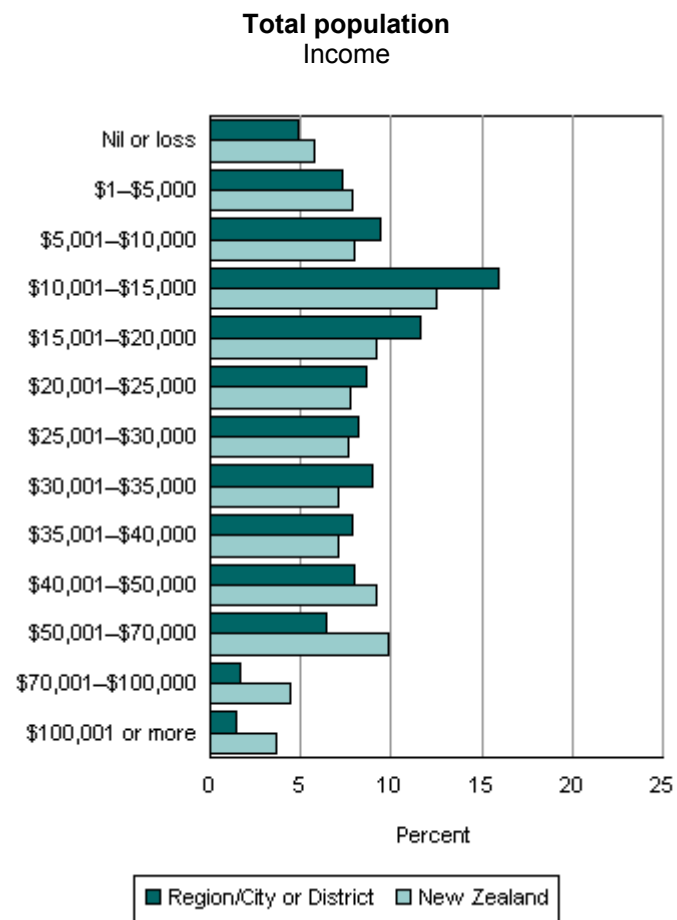
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Incomes

The impact of unemployment on a community can differ according to the social structures in place. In a community where personal worth is measured by work status and where the “user-pays” philosophy dominates, unemployment can have a devastating effect. This trend is reflected in the Wairoa District.

Access to fundamental services such as health, housing, transport, education and leisure opportunities may all be restricted by a lack of income and this combined with loss of self-esteem can be a factor in the occurrence of crime and violence (particularly family violence).

In seeking to highlight trends and opportunities within this report, it is hoped that the negative impacts of job loss or lack of job opportunity can be mitigated in a society where the unemployed are able to make a valuable contribution and where opportunities are not wholly dependant on an ability to pay.

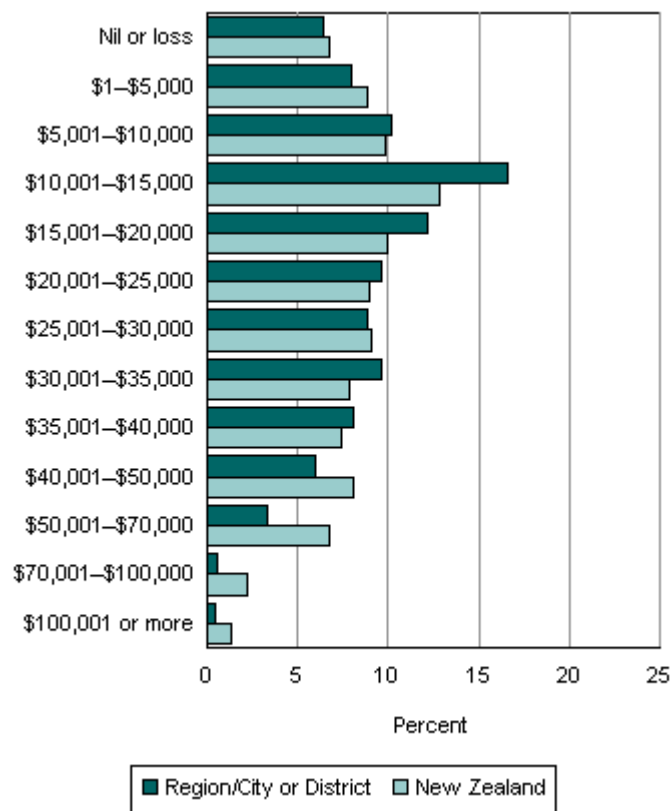


- The median income of people in the Wairoa District is \$20,000, compared with \$24,400 for all of New Zealand.
- 49.9% of people aged 15 years and over in the Wairoa District have an annual income of \$20,000 or less, compared with 43.2% for New Zealand as a whole.

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- 8.4% of people aged 15 years and over in the Wairoa District have an annual income of more than \$50,000, compared with 18% for New Zealand as a whole.

Māori ethnic population
Income



- The median income of Māori people in the Wairoa District is \$18,500, compared with \$20,900 for all Māori in New Zealand.

- 53.6% of Māori people aged 15 years and over in the Wairoa District have an annual income of \$20,000 or less, compared with 48.3% for Māori in New Zealand as a whole.
- 4.3 of Māori people aged 15 years and over in the Wairoa District have an annual income of more than \$50,000, compared with 10.2% for Māori in New Zealand as a whole.

Families

Couples with children make up 37.4 percent of all families in the Wairoa District, while couples without children make up 36.6 percent of all families. This compares with national figures, which show couples with children making up 42 percent of families and couples without making up 39.9 percent.

26.1 percent of families in the district are one-parent-with-children families, compared with 18.1 percent of families for New Zealand as a whole.

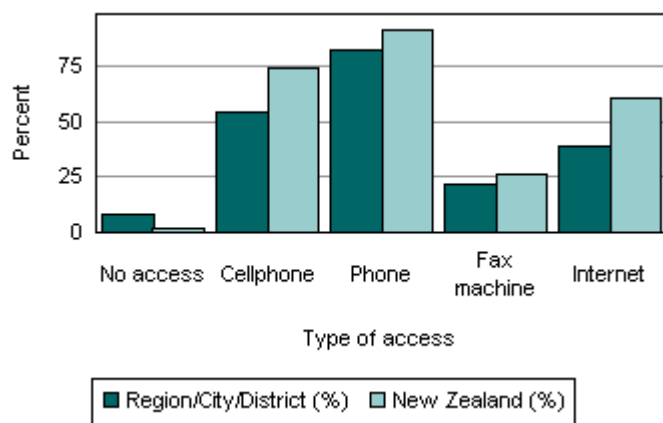
Family type	Region/City/District (%)	
	Region/City/District (%)	New Zealand (%)
Couple without child(ren)	36.6	39.9
Couple with child(ren)	37.4	42.0
One parent with child(ren)	26.1	18.1
Total	100.0	100.0

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Phones, net & fax

Many rural areas of the district are still unable to access broadband, but affordable satellite technology is bringing this service into more households.

Household(1) Access to Phones, Internet and Fax Machines
Wairoa District and New Zealand, 2006 Census

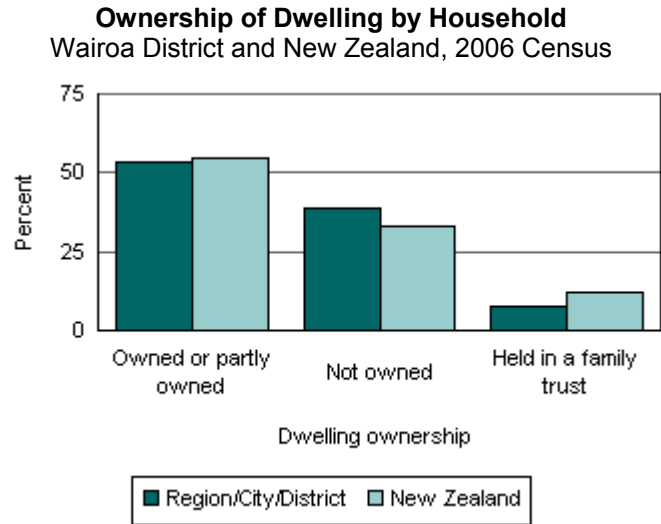


- 38.9 percent of households in Wairoa District have access to the internet, compared with 60.5 percent of households throughout New Zealand.
- In Wairoa District, 54.2 percent of households have access to a cellphone, compared with 74.2 percent of households for New Zealand as a whole.

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Home Ownership

53.3% of households in private occupied dwellings in the Wairoa District are owned with or without a mortgage, compared with 54.5% for all of New Zealand.



Part One - Our Environment

Our Environment

We now live in an age of growing environmental awareness. There is a growing awareness of the links between human welfare and the condition of our natural environment. In New Zealand, such awareness has been put in place through legislative tools such as the Resource Management Act, and through a growing desire from the public for more information regarding the condition of the natural environment around them.

Regional and District Councils in New Zealand are creating state of the environment reports that gauge the conditions of the natural environment. These reports quantify what is known about the natural environment, and present new information that enriches our knowledge. These reports use “Indicators” for future monitoring of progress towards or away from each community’s environmental goals.

Human activities have had significant impacts upon the natural environment of the Wairoa District. Although the district has a relatively small population (8,481 at the last Census in 2006), much of the district’s landscape has been altered through farming and forestry activities. Deforestation and introduction of non-indigenous species has radically altered ecosystems, river catchments, waterways, and coastal environments. Hydroelectric plants have significantly altered natural lake levels and river flows at Lake Waikaremoana. Urban settlement at Wairoa township brings localised impacts of urban runoff and sewage disposal from residential and industrial areas.

Within the District, there are some important historic buildings, sites, waahi tapu and notable trees. All these have special heritage value to the Wairoa community and require protection.

Physical Location

The Wairoa District is located in northern Hawke’s Bay and extends north from the Waikare River to its boundary with Gisborne District beyond Mahia Peninsula, and contains the Mohaka River Catchment, Lake Waikaremoana and much of Te Urewera National Park.

The district has a total area of about 4,118 square kilometres, including approximately 130km of coastline. It lies within the Hawke’s Bay Region and is bordered by Taupo District to the west, Whakatane District to the northwest, Gisborne District to the north, and Hastings District to the south.

The majority of the region is hill country, merging with mountains in the west and often deeply dissected with gorges. Areas of coastal and river flats of versatile soils give greater variety to the landscape. The Mahia Peninsula is a prominent landform on the coast. The northwestern part of the district includes Lake Waikaremoana, surrounded by Te Urewera National Park.

Te Urewera National Park is the largest natural feature in the district. However, there are numerous other natural areas of significance comprising native bush, habitat and natural waterways. Whilst Wairoa District is fortunate to have a relatively large amount of conservation estate within its boundaries, the historic loss of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats (and consequently, biodiversity) is an issue.

The District also contains numerous lakes, rivers and wetlands. A number of these are of local, regional and national importance. These include the Mohaka and Wairoa Rivers and stretching along the coast from the Wairoa River to the Nuhaka River, a series of interconnected wetlands, the largest of which is Lake Whakaki. Within the District, there are high quality trout fisheries, and coastal lagoons that are important for providing waterfowl habitat and game bird hunting opportunities.

Part One - Our Environment

The Wairoa District is a largely rural area, with large areas of rural hill country mostly used for sheep farming and forestry, and flat land along the coast and in river valleys. The main settlement of the district is Wairoa Township, and there are growth pressures at the beach resort settlements of Mahia Peninsula.

In total, 77,386 hectares are in the Department of Conservation (DoC) stewardship in Wairoa District. Almost all of this (99%) is native forest and bushland reserve. Te Urewera National Park consists of a total land area of 212,673 hectares, of which approximately a quarter lies within Wairoa District.

There are a number of other smaller native bush reserves, including Morere Hot Springs Reserve and Mahia Peninsula Bush Reserve.

Landforms and Geology

The landforms of the district fall into five recognisable categories:

- 1) **The Western Hill Country** *The Huiarau, Panekiri, and Ngamoko Ranges are part of the main axial ranges of the North Island and, in many places, are over 1200 metres high. The western hill country is more rugged and more prone to erosion than the eastern hill country.*
- 2) **The Eastern Hill Country** *These hills seldom rise to more than 600 metres, but the land contrasts sharply with that of the lowlands and river valleys. The hills are formed predominantly of sedimentary rocks.*
- 3) **The Lowlands Land** *less than 30 metres above sea level is confined to the lower part of the Wairoa River valley, coastal plains to the east of Wairoa, and the Mahia Peninsula. Much of this land has drainage problems and is liable to flood, yet its natural fertility is high.*

- 4) **The Mahia Peninsula** *The Mahia Peninsula forms the eastern-most part of the district. It is a significant landscape/amenity resource and provides an important recreational resource for the region.*
- 5) **Coastal Wetlands** *The coastal wetlands between Wairoa and Mahia are of national significance in providing refuge for wildlife and habitat for the area's freshwater fishery, and in terms of scientific and ecological value.*

Soils

The District comprises an underlying layer of greywacke and argillite rocks, covered by a thick layer of younger sedimentary rock. Problems arise from the softness of the rocks, causing erosion and foundation difficulties for structures. The region is tectonically active and earthquakes are relatively common.

The steep land soils are the most extensive group of soils in the district. They are mostly found on steep slopes where they are relatively unstable and periodically erode. Some of the soils are shallow with hard rock a few centimetres below the surface. Others are deep with silt loam or sandy loam textures overlaying soft or fragmented rock at depths of one metre or more. The natural fertility ranges from very high to low depending on the nature of the underlying rocks and the indigenous vegetation under which they were formed.

The coastal flats north of Wairoa and the Wairoa River valley contains soils of high natural fertility and versatility. The more fertile lowland and river terrace soils have the potential for a range of intensive productive uses, but is limited in area.

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Significant Rivers and Lakes

A register of threatened significant rivers and lakes has been included in the Proposed Wairoa District Plan 2001 (Schedule 5). Special protection is afforded to these rivers and lakes through mechanism available in the district plan.

Significant Wetlands

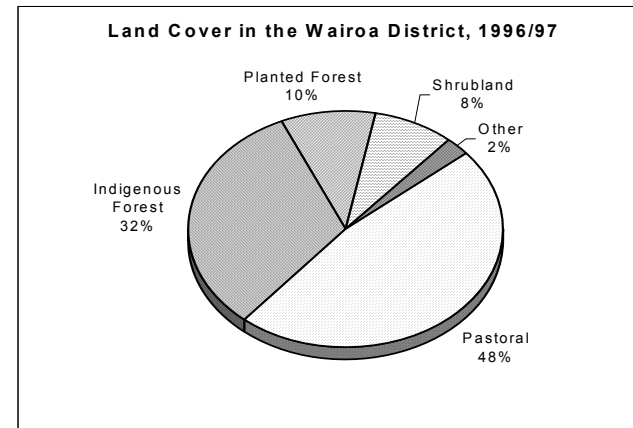
There are a number of significant wetlands in the Wairoa District. The overall wetland complex stretching from the Wairoa river mouth to Oraka is of national significance. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council is developing management plans for these significant ecological sites, which include: Opoutama, Maungawhia, Ngamotu, Whakamahia Lagoon, and the Whakaki Lagoon complex.

Land

The natural resources of Wairoa District are vital to allow people to provide for their economic, social and cultural wellbeing. They sustain cultural identity, rural production activities, ecosystems and natural processes.

The District's soil resource is dominated by steep land soils that are susceptible to erosion. Erosion can cause harmful downstream effects including reduction in soil versatility, reduction in water quality, riverbed aggradations and degradation of freshwater fisheries and loss of habitat. It can also threaten the safe use of the District's infrastructure, such as roading.

To stabilise the steep land soils, it is necessary to carry out land use practices that minimise erosion. Activities that help stabilise erosion should be promoted. This could be achieved by keeping disturbance of vegetation to a minimum and by promoting the protection of indigenous vegetation.



To protect the life supporting capacity of soils it is necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of land use. For example, activities that involve toxic or hazardous substances have the potential to contaminate the land.

Gravel suitable for roading and construction is an important natural resource in the district.

The lakes and rivers of Wairoa District are important for their habitat values, recreational values and also for their values as a source of water and energy, both within the District as well as the region as a whole. Their natural values are also important, in that they provide habitat for native fish such as eels and whitebait (and their adult form), brown and rainbow trout, and act as migratory corridors between the sea and the hill country for animals such as native fish and waterfowl. Water bodies also have cultural values to tangata whenua.

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Activities that occur on the surface of water bodies include boating for commercial and or recreational purposes. In many cases these recreational activities have only minor effects.

The use of rivers, lakes and wetlands can threaten their intrinsic natural values or reduce the enjoyment of those areas by changes to the cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua and people of the district.

In total, the land area of the Wairoa district is about 412,000 hectares. The highest proportion of this is pastoral farmlands, totalling 47.2%, closely followed by indigenous forest (32.3%). The only other major land cover types are planted forest (9.6%) and shrubland (8.5%).

Looking at land use types as a proportion for the whole of the Hawke's Bay region, Wairoa has a high proportion of the region's inland waters (79.8%) – which would mostly comprise Lake Waikaremoana – and a high proportion of the region's indigenous forest cover (47.7%).



Our Economy

Primary Production and Land Use

The economy of the district is based on the rural sector. Approximately 60% of the total land is in productive use, of which some 48% is in pasture.

Pastoral farming has been the basis of the economy since the first European settlement. Forestry is of growing importance and there is the potential for the further development of horticulture and cropping.

The pattern of rural land use has changed significantly since the 1980's largely due to changes in government policies aimed at reform of many sectors of the New Zealand economy. A decline in livestock numbers began and there are now fewer beef and dairy cattle, pigs and sheep.

The main reasons for the decline included falling fertility due to severe cutbacks of fertiliser on marginal land, low product prices, high interest rates, changes to livestock taxation, Cyclone Bola damage, and more latterly, changes in land use from pastoral to forestry enterprises. There has been a substantial increase in plantation forestry.

The Wairoa District forest resource totals approximately 65 000 ha with 57% less than 16 years old. Production forestry is dominated by the major growers, investment partnerships and companies and by a small number of large private growers.

Other prominent industries and employment groups include hunting, Fishing, Construction, Social and Personal Services, Manufacturing and Distribution.

The present horticultural industry in Wairoa is diverse, both in the mix of temporary and permanent crops grown and the location of the horticultural production areas. However, the current industry in Wairoa

lacks the critical mass to grow from within its own structure and resources. This is particularly true of permanent horticultural crops. The total area of soil types suitable for horticultural development in the Wairoa District is relatively small. The present horticultural industry occupies approximately 1000 hectares, which represents 4.2% of the total horticultural land available.

Mineral exploration has been an activity in the district for many years. While the concept of sustainability does not apply to minerals, the sustainability of land use activities associated with mineral exploration and extraction does.

Energy Resources

Electricity

- *A five-megawatt hydro station located at Waihi produces around 20 percent of Wairoa District's electricity. The balance is sourced via the National Grid, primarily from the Waikaremoana power stations.*

Gas

- *Significant finds of gas in Wairoa District could be reticulated for local domestic and industrial use. The source of energy could save present and potential industrial users in Wairoa up to 15 percent in energy costs. Recent interest in gas exploration has lifted business confidence.*

Water Resources

- *High Quality water is available (Wairoa Township) from the water production plant at Frasertown. The plant presently supplies the local AFFCO freezing works and Wairoa township and has further supply potential to meet forest-processing operations.*