

ACHIEVEMENTS



Taranaki's GDP is the highest per capita in the country and is driven by the oil and gas, and agricultural industries.

\$80,297



GDP per capita Taranaki

\$51,319



GDP per capita NZ average



Taranaki's population was

109,608

at the 2013 census—a 5.1% increase since the 2006 Census. The region has not experienced the population pressures of other regions.

Dairying in Taranaki is well-established and stable, in contrast to widespread dairy conversions in other regions. This region's milking cow numbers have changed little over the past 15 years and at 493,361, account for 10% of the national herd—down from nearly 15% in 1998/1999.

Tourism plays an important role in the economy.



The oil and gas industry has a long association with the region since the first wells were established in the 1860s. It has seen the greatest increase in employment growth in the region in the past decade, and it is New Zealand's fourth largest export earner.



What's the story?



66% of the most at-risk land of privately-owned land has a farm plan.

81% of samples meet target ranges for soil health.

Some results indicate an increase in soil compaction.

99.5%

of dairy farms have riparian plans.

Council has facilitated supply of more than **378,000** plants to landowners in 2014/2015.



92% of land is sustainably managed.





Good quality groundwater across all sites monitored.

Best-ever long term trends in physicochemical and ecological health.

Over the past 19 years ecological health has improved at 44 sites monitored with no significant deterioration at any site.



Nitrate concentrations in Taranaki groundwater have remained stable. In the latest survey, 96% of samples were within Drinking-water Standards for NZ.



80%

of streambanks in the programme are fenced and 65% are protected with vegetation.

In summer 2014/2015

86%

of samples taken from freshwater swimming spots were within MFE guidelines.



Improving ecological trends at 14 sites have become highly significant since 2007.

The majority of sites monitored in Taranaki meet NIWA guidelines for most water uses, most of the time.

Water allocated for use in the region is low—only

4%

of the total allocation.

The Council's riparian programme is the largest environmental enhancement planting scheme on privately-owned land in NZ.



The coast has a rich cultural history and quality of marine waters continues to improve.

Major discharges to coastal waters have reduced from 25 to

3

since the 1970s.



In summer 2014/2015

100%

of bathing beaches were within MFE guidelines.



Natural sand accumulation impacts rocky shore ecology.



Survey results from 2008 to 2014 showed concentrations of metals and faecal coliform in shellfish were well below guidelines.



100%

of nitrogen oxide results in 'Excellent' (66%) or 'Good' (33%) categories for air quality.

Low levels of carbon monoxide even in 'worst-case scenario' areas.

National air quality standards have never been exceeded in Taranaki.





Taranaki's biological diversity and unique species are important taonga.

Taranaki has **151,054** hectares

formally protected by the Department of Conservation (DOC) or under a QEII or DOC covenant—up from 145,000 hectares in 2008. 31 new QEII covenants were registered in Taranaki in 2014—the largest number for any region.

Taranaki community groups and agencies collaborate closely to protect and enhance the region's indigenous biodiversity. The recently established Taranaki Biodiversity Trust has 19 groups and agencies as founding members.



4,256

properties in the Self-help Possum Control Programme—the largest participation in NZ.

There has been a small (1.3%) loss of wetland area between 2007 and 2012—but the annual rate of wetland area loss has reduced by 60%.

The condition of remaining wetlands is improving under the Council's programmes. 72% of wetlands covered by Council-developed biodiversity plans showed improvement in overall condition between 2010 and 2015, compared with 31% of wetlands without a plan.



198

sites covering 119,103 hectares are classed as Key Native Ecosystems.

The Council has increased its biodiversity budget to **\$1.33million** (2014/2015).



6,100

property inspections for pest plants.

Regional emergency management response implemented to 20 June flooding event.



100%

dairy farm effluent systems inspected.

100% 

compliance with consent processing timelines for 15th year running.



\$3 million

upgrade to Waitara's flood protection to future-proof the town.

Taranaki is readying itself for future challenges from extreme climatic and geological events.

0 marine oil spills requiring response.

749 environmental incidents investigated.



214

abatement notices and 102 infringement notices issued.

Potential hazards include volcanic eruption, earthquakes, floods, high winds, drought and landslips.



AT A GLANCE



2
farm plastics
recycling programmes
operating in Taranaki.

Waste disposal in
Taranaki is not
increasing as rapidly
as it is nationally,
despite the region
leading New Zealand
in economic growth.



Only **1** well-regulated landfill
for all of the region.

The region has a firm focus
on minimising waste.

More being recycled through district
council kerbside collections and facilities.



Dedicated centres
for e-waste collection
in three districts.

Yarrow Stadium hosted

6 games in the FIFA U-20 World
Cup, New Zealand 2015,
including three involving
the runners-up Brazil.




New scoreboard
installed at Yarrow
Stadium.



455

students took part
in Council education
sessions at Pukeiti.

138

Events held at the
three Regional
Gardens.

 **14**

Environmental Awards
presented in revamped
programme.

5,522

students involved
in Council education
programme.



Significant progress
on review of Regional
Fresh Water and
Regional Soil plans.



Upgrade of
Pukeiti facilities
commenced.

Pukeiti


Taranaki
Regional Council



0.7% increase in adult
patronage for
New Plymouth
Citylink.



41,556

passenger trips
in the Total
Mobility scheme.

24,164

passenger trips
in the first year of
Hawera-New Plymouth
Connector service.