

## Section 1 - Overview

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## 100 - Introduction



This is the first District Plan prepared in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and replaces the Transitional District Plan prepared under the Town & Country Planning Act 1977. The District Plan is a legal document with the force of legislation. It sets out the way the District's environment will be managed to achieve the purpose and principles of the RMA. It provides an environmental policy framework and associated methods for dealing with the District's growth and development over the next 10 years and beyond.

In this section of the Plan:

- 110 Sets out the legislative mandate the Plan is written in accordance with;
- 120 Explains the difference between different plans;
- 130 Explains the contents of the District Plan;
- 140 Provides information on how to use the District Plan;
- 150 Describes the profile and resources of the District;
- 160 Identifies the District planning areas;
- 170 Explains the Plan process and the consultation carried out.

## 110 - Purpose and Principles of the RMA

The District Plan is a legal document required by the Resource Management Act 1991 for the Thames-Coromandel District.

The Plan seeks to achieve the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991, which are stated under Part II of the Act.

They are:

### "5. Purpose-

- (1) *The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.*
- (2) *In this Act, **sustainable management** means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well being and for their health and safety while-*
  - (a) *sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;*
  - and*
  - (b) *safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
  - (c) *avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

**6. Matters of national importance-** *In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:*

- (a) *the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development:*
- (b) *the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:*
- (c) *the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:*
- (d) *the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers:*
- (e) *the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga:*
- (f) *the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development:*
- (g) *the protection of recognised customary activities.*

**7. Other matters-** *In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to-*

- (a) *kaitiakitanga:*
- (aa) *the ethic of stewardship:*

- (b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources:
- (ba) the efficiency of the end use of energy:
- (c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values:
- (d) intrinsic values of ecosystems:
- (e) [repealed]
- (f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment:
- (g) any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources:
- (h) the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon:
- (i) the effects of climate change:
- (j) the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy.

**8. Treaty of Waitangi-** In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)."

## 120 - Different Plans, Different Roles

There are many documents and plans which affect everyone involved with the Thames-Coromandel District Council. These are:

### 121 - New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is prepared by the Minister of Conservation. The purpose of this policy statement is set out in Section 56 of the Resource Management Act as follows:

*"Section 56 Purpose of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement - The purpose of a New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of this Act in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand."*

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement guides local authorities in their day to day management of the coastal environment. It provides a series of guidelines with which the district and regional plans must be consistent. Consent authorities are required to have regard to it when considering applications for resource consent. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement includes policies on the following matters:

- National priorities for the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment including protection from inappropriate subdivisions, use and development;
- The protection of the characteristics of the coastal environment of special value to the tangata whenua including waahi tapu, tauranga waka, mahinga maataitai and taonga raranga;
- Activities involving the subdivision, use or development of areas of the coastal environment.

### 122 - Regional Conservation Management Strategy

The Regional Conservation Management Strategy is implemented by the Department of Conservation (DOC) under the Conservation Act 1987. It applies to all land administered by the Department. In this District, land zoned Conservation Zone may be also managed by DOC. The Regional Conservation Management Strategy sets out policy and strategies for the Regional Conservancy to carry out. Land managed under the Conservation Act is exempt from the rules in the District Plan if the work or activity is consistent with a conservation management strategy, or conservation management plan.

### 123 - Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Policy Statement is prepared by Waikato Regional Council. It sets out a policy framework for the Regional Council and all of the district and city councils in the region. The Policy Statement provides: an overview of the significant resource management issues of the region; puts in place objectives, policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the region; and outlines the anticipated environmental results. Regional and district plans cannot be inconsistent with the Regional Policy Statement.

### 124 - Regional Coastal Plan

The Regional Coastal Plan sets out how the Regional Council will carry out its resource management responsibilities in the coastal marine area (CMA). This is; the use, development and protection of the CMA. The CMA covers the area from mean high water springs out to the 12 nautical mile limit of the territorial sea as shown on the Figure over the page. The Department of Conservation has a role in managing the CMA. The Regional Coastal Plan sets out rules and other methods for managing the CMA.

### 125 - Regional Plans

Regional plans are implemented by the Regional Council and assist the Council in carrying out its functions in order to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act. The main features of regional plans relate to; water quality and quantity maintenance and enhancement; discharges to water, land or air; diverting of natural water; and air quality.

## 126 - Thames-Coromandel District Council Plans

### 126.1 - Long Term Council Community Plan

The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) outlines community outcomes that are developed through extensive community planning and community outcome processes. The LTCCP also outlines the strategic framework within which the Council operates - setting out its vision, mission and priorities over the next 10 years and provides a framework which links all other Council documents and plans.

### 126.2 - District Plan

The District Plan provides the means for the Council and communities to manage the environmental effects of activities in the District. The Plan is written in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991. Council's functions and duties are set out in Sections 31 and 32 of the Act. The District Plan is a statutory policy document and has the force of regulation. The Plan utilises a wide range of tools to achieve high standard environmental outcomes, these include; rules, advocacy, education, incentives and joint management planning.

### 126.3 - Asset Management Plans

Asset management plans are prepared to meet the Local Government Amendment Act (No.3) 1996. These plans are a tool for combining management, financial, engineering and technical practices to ensure that community assets are being provided at the best cost for the level of service required by the community. Different asset management plans are prepared for different assets or groups of asset to show how the Council is exercising its stewardship of those assets on behalf of its customers and stakeholders.

## **126.4 - Annual Plan**

The Annual Plan sets out the Council's financial budget and performance targets for projects, works and services in detail over 12 months, and in general terms for the following two years.

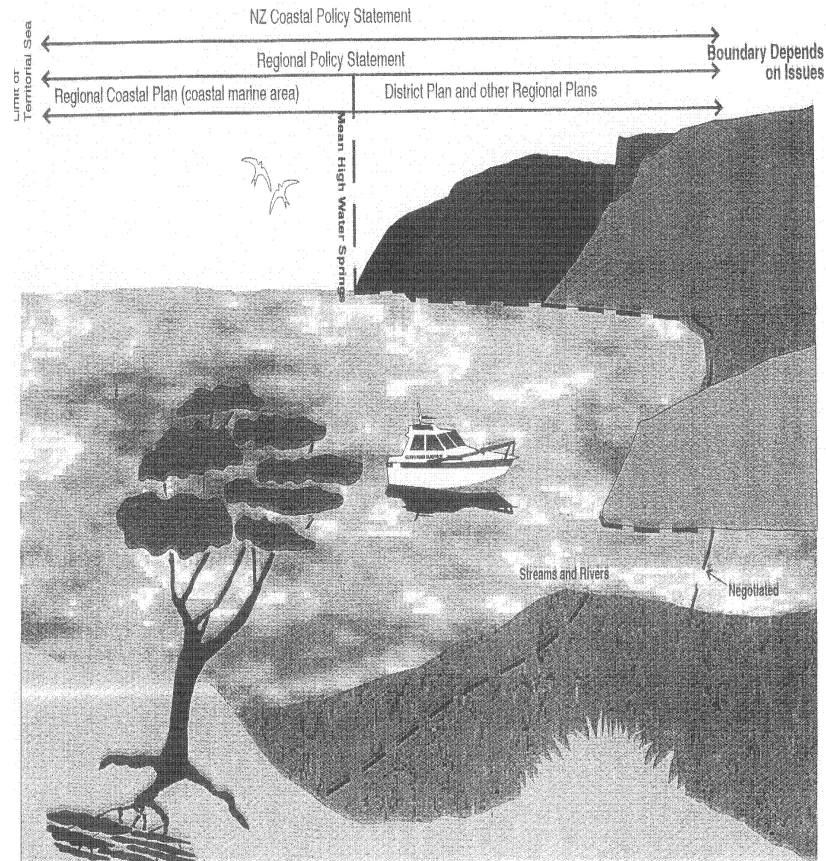
## **126.5 - Reserves Management Plans**

Reserves management plans are prepared by Council in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977. Many, but not all reserves in the District have management plans prepared to meet the requirements of the Reserves Act. A reserve management plan may include provisions for the use, development, maintenance, protection and preservation of one or more reserves.

## **127 - The Inter-Relationship Between Plans**

There is a wide range of different plans that affect the way the environment may be managed. The organisations that establish and implement these plans must work together to achieve the integrated management of resources. Many of their functions overlap and complement each other, therefore it is essential that this is recognised through the planning process and resources are not duplicated or overlooked.

## 127 - Physical and Plan Boundaries in the Coastal Environment



## 130 - Plan Contents

The District Plan comprises five separate documents.

The Plan is an integrated document which should be read as a whole to understand the inter-relationship between different sets of objectives, policies and rules. Cross-referencing has been used to assist in finding the relevant sections. The contents of the sections of the Plan are shown in the Table of Contents.

### 131 - Volume One

- Overview
- Introduction
- Users Guide
- Significant Resource Management Issues
- Resource Management Issues, Objectives and Policies
- Techniques Adopted
- Rules
- Definitions

### 132 - Volume Two: Appendices

- Schedule of Designations
- Approved Management Plans
- The Hazardous Facility Screening Procedure

### 133 - District Planning Maps

### 134 - Volume Three: Thames Heritage Register

- Heritage Buildings and Sites
- Tree Register - Notable Trees

### 135 - Volume Four: Coromandel Heritage Register

- Heritage Buildings and Sites
- Tree Register - Notable Trees

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	343	Coromandel Area .1 Kikowhakarere Bay .2 Buffalo Road .3 Victoria Street Extension and Bypass .4 Coromandel Business Park
	344	Whitianga Area .1 Ferry Landing Flaxmill Bay Purangi Road .2 Cooks Beach Purangi Road .3 Hahei above Florence Place .4 Grange Road Hahei .5 Whitianga Waterways .6 The Northern Marina Reclamation Whitianga .7 Matapaua Bay .8 Hahei Holiday Resort .9 Wharekaho .10 Hot Water Beach Road

	345	Thames Area .1 Tapu Valley .2 State Highway 25 Te Puru .3 Waiotahi Road .4 Thames Hospital .5 Totara West .6 Totara Valley
	346	Tairua Pauanui Area .1 Industrial Land - Tangitarori Lane and Hikuai Settlement Road .3 Pumpkin Hill Road .4 Tairua Marine Activities Policy Area .5 State Highway 25 / Hikuai Settlement Road
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VOLUME 3	
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VOLUME 4	
COROMANDEL HERITAGE REGISTER	Heritage Buildings and Sites Tree Register - Notable Trees



## 140 - How to use the District Plan

VOLUME 1		
SECTION:		USE WHEN YOU NEED TO:
1.	Overview	Overview Understand the layout of the District Plan and the profile of the District: statistics and geography.
2.	Issues, Objectives, Policies and Methods	Issues, Objectives, Policies and Methods Principles are to provide assistance for the integration of objectives and policies under the various issues.
		Understand Council's resource management principles for the District.
		Check whether your proposal is in accordance with the principles.
		Lodge or assess a resource consent application for a discretionary or non-complying activity. The principles provide guidance and direction for integrating the various objectives and policies developed to address the Significant Resource Management Issues.
		Find the issues facing the District and how they are going to be dealt with.
		Lodge or assess a resource consent application for a discretionary or non-complying activity. The section provides guidance and direction through objectives and policies.
		Determine the principal reasons for implementing rules.
		Find how Council will monitor the effectiveness of the Plan.
3.	Techniques	Understand the various planning techniques used in the Plan.
		Determine the circumstances under which Council will require financial or development contributions.
		Understand how the Plan, consents and the environment will be monitored.
		Find special rules applying to areas of land subject to Structure Plans.
SECTION:		USE WHEN YOU NEED TO:
4.	Rules Applicable to All Activities Throughout District	
Earthworks and Land Disturbance Activities	Determine what scale of earthworks activities are permitted, controlled, discretionary, non-complying or prohibited.	
	Determine the activity status of mining and quarrying.	
Clearance of Indigenous Vegetation, Wetland and Dune Vegetation	Determine what scale of removal or loss of indigenous vegetation, wetland and dune vegetation is permitted, controlled, or discretionary.	
Heritage Protection	Find out if your site or building is in a Heritage Register or is within a Heritage Policy Area. This will apply to buildings or activities in Thames or Coromandel only.	
Tree Protection	Determine what types of trees are protected and what work can be done on the tree as of right.	
Natural Hazards	Find out how your activity may be affected by natural hazard avoidance or mitigation measures.	
Hazardous Substances	Design, build or establish activities or facilities (other than domestic or retail activities) that involve hazardous substances.	
Parking, Loading and Access	Determine what carparking loading and access provisions are required for activities or buildings.	
Financial Contributions	Find out the financial contributions payable for an activity and the formula that will apply to determine the amount payable.	
Amenity and Safety	Determine how the amenity issues of noise and signs will apply to activities.	
	Noise - Design build or establish activities that may create noise beyond the boundaries of the site.	
	Signs - To determine the extent to which this Plan controls signs and advertising.	
	Safety - To determine how safe operations of airfields may affect use of land.	
5.	Rules Applicable for Activity Groupings	
Housing	Design or build a house, additions or alterations, or establish a home occupation or homestay.	
Visitor Accommodation, Community Health and Recreation	Design, build or establish recreational, health, service or visitor facilities and accommodation.	
Commercial	Design, build or establish a commercial activity.	
Industrial	Design, build or establish an industrial activity.	
Primary Production (Farming, Forestry and Horticulture)	Find out how your rural activity is affected by the Plan.	
Public Works and Utilities	Design, build or establish infrastructural activities.	
Marine Activities	Design, build or establish land-based marine or river activities or activities on the surface of rivers.	
Airfields and Activities Involving Aircraft	Determine the rules applying to the use and establishment of airfields and use of aircraft including helicopters.	
Maori Activities	Determine the range of activities and management of environmental effects in Maori Policy Areas.	
6.	Rules Applicable to Specific Locality Zones	
Whitianga Central Area		
Iwi Kainga Zone		
Industrial A Zone		
Recreation (Passive) & (Active) Zone Rules		
Open Space Zone Rules		
7.	Rules Applicable to Subdivision	
In all Zones and Policy Areas	Subdivide land	
Note: The proposed landuse will be covered by another rules section		

<b>8.</b>	<b>Rules Applicable to Resource Consents</b>
Introduction	Find out the types of resource consents dealt with in the Plan and summary of consent procedures under the RMA.
Delegations	Find out about staff delegations and provision for review of delegated decisions.
Notification	Find notes and guidelines for notification and non-notification of resource consent applications.
Activity Status	Understand what permitted, controlled, restricted discretionary, discretionary, non-complying and prohibited activities are.
Information Requirements	Determine what information needs to be provided with resource consents applications.
Assessment Criteria	Determine how controlled and discretionary activity resource consent applications will be assessed.
Amenity Values and Landscape Characters	Use guidelines provided to find out how activities may affect amenity and landscape values of the District.

<b>9.</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	Determine the meaning of some expressions and terms used in the Plan.
<b>VOLUME 2</b>		
<b>Appendices</b>		Find out about designated land and approved management plans.  The details and information provided here will show what activities are existing or proposed on specific land.  Assess the effects of any hazardous substances on a site.
<b>VOLUME 3</b>		
<b>Thames Heritage Register</b>		Find out about significant heritage buildings sites and trees in Thames.
<b>VOLUME 4</b>		
<b>Coromandel Heritage Register</b>		Find out about significant heritage buildings sites and trees in Coromandel.
<b>PLANNING MAPS</b>		
Obtain spatial information on zoning, designations, roads, property boundaries, etc.		

## Notes from The Proposed District Plan Decisions Version (September 1999)

The Proposed District Plan Decisions Version incorporated all decisions of Council following hearings of submissions and further submissions. Consequential alterations and editing were carried out in accordance with Clauses 10 and 16 First Schedule RMA.

## Planning Maps

Land in the Coastal Margins.

The maps have been prepared on the basis of information provided in incomplete or inconsistent electronic databases. These need to be updated and refined. Once this is done maps showing the coastal hazard lines will be prepared and incorporated into the Plan.

All rivers and streams in the District are zoned Conservation Zone by definition in the Plan. The maps may show streams and rivers as part of the adjoining zone or show no colour or pattern (i.e. remain white). This is a result of the electronic data bases supplied. Efforts to remove this inconsistency will be made without losing information about the position of streams and rivers on the maps.

## 150 - District Profile

### 151 - Natural Environment

- The Thames-Coromandel District forms part of a range of steep sided mountains that stretch from the Mamakus at Rotorua and the Kaimais at Tauranga, to the Coromandel Range. Mt Moehau is the District's highest peak reaching 829m above sea level.
- Six landscape types have been identified across the District. These are based on landform and geomorphological characteristics. The six landscape types defined are:

#### Plains

This type includes flat land which lies in the south-western corner of the District. This part of the Hauraki Plain is contiguous with a much larger area of similar landform which lies outside the District.

This area is comprised of undifferentiated alluvium and fluvial and estuarine deposits. The meandering Waihou River remains a significant natural element within the area and defines the District boundary to the west.

#### Lowlands

This type comprises low lying land (between sea level and the 20 metre contour) such as:

- small fluvial outwash plains, for example Te Puru and Tararu;
- undifferentiated sand, foredunes and beach ridges, for example Whangamata, Matarangi and Pauanui; and
- alluvium, swamp and peat deposits and fluvial and estuarine deposits, for example around the Kennedy Bay, Whangapoua and Whitianga Harbours, the Kauaeranga Valley and Waiaro Stream.

In the west these areas are generally narrower and contained by the steeper hill country adjacent whilst in the east they are more extensive.

#### Hills

This type comprises the land generally between the 20 and 100 metre contour as well as localised high points above 100 metres. It incorporates the foothills which lie between the lowlands and the steeper and more elevated uplands and ranges. In the east there are more extensive areas of hill country around the harbours and estuaries. In the west the land is generally steeper with the upland and ranges being more dominant. This type also extends up the valley systems of the uplands and ranges and comprises the lower side slopes of these valley landforms.

#### Uplands

This type comprises steeper and more elevated lands at the foot of the ranges. It is largely defined by the land between the 100 and 300 metre contour. The upland areas are narrower and deeper in the west whilst in the east they are broader valleys providing enclosure and an upland hill backdrop to many of the estuaries, harbours and bays of this coast.

#### Ranges

This type comprises the upland spine of the Peninsula. It is land above the 300 metre contour and forms a strong north-south central range to the District. Ridges also extend eastward and to a lesser extent westward toward the coast.

These are volcanic landforms and incorporate some dramatic rock outcrops and tors such as The Pinnacles, Tauranikau, Castle Rock and Table Mountain.

These distinctive features and the ranges form the often dramatic and characteristic skyline and backdrop to the settled parts of the District.

#### Islands

There are many islands within the District ranging in size from the large habitable islands such as Great Mercury Island down to rocks and reefs which host colonies of birds. The largest island of the District, Great Mercury Island or Ahuahu, one of the Mercury Group of Islands has been incorporated with the mainland landscape types due to its large size and landform diversity.

- The District's temperate climate encourages the growth of trees and dense bush. Since European settlement, indigenous bush has been steadily removed. Most of the indigenous vegetation which currently exists has regenerated. Some pockets of indigenous vegetation do however remain and these contain fine examples of kauri, puriri and pohutukawa.
- It is this strongly developed physical character and quality of the coastline, harbours, estuaries, landform and indigenous forests that combine to create outstanding wildlife habitats, landscapes, natural features and areas with high natural character.
- Adverse environmental effects generated by some activities have the potential to degrade the District's environment. The effects of these activities need to be avoided, remedied or mitigated. Promoting the sustainable management of the District's natural resources will mean recognising the special natural context in which activities are best able to be accommodated.

### 152 - Physical Environment

- Settlements have been established along the narrow coast on the western side of the Peninsula. On the eastern side of the Peninsula there is more open space, and settlement has occurred on attractive areas of coast, particularly near estuaries, associated sandspits and sandy shores, as well as inland. Housing demand has resulted in the expansion of existing settlements and the establishment of new ones.
- Increasing demands are being placed on water supplies with peak demand coinciding with summer low flows. Community sewerage schemes service the main urban settlements, and a few of the smaller settlements. The remaining settlements (and population) rely on individual household systems. Solid waste production is also increasing. Landfills were located close to settlements in foreshore areas, gullies or wetlands. Many are now closed and have been replaced by a network of refuse transfer stations. The peak in the District's population, experienced over summer, not only affects Council's services, but other infrastructure, public works and network utilities.
- Human activity has modified plains, lowlands, hills, uplands and islands through:
  - extensive pastoral activities
  - settlements
  - production forestry
  - land clearance and former farming land now reverting to indigenous vegetation
  - modifying riparian margins (streams, rivers, and the coast).

- Ranges remain predominantly bush clad and are largely contained within the Conservation Estate. Some of the upland areas are also bush clad.
- Riparian margins are at risk of modification or damage through natural processes such as river or coastal erosion and inundation.
- Roads are the main transport link within the District. The roading network strongly influences how people use certain areas. Council maintains the roads to provide safe transport links which fit in with the environment.

## 153 - Social and Cultural Environment

- The District was first settled by Maori. The iwi of Hauraki Maori had lived here for many centuries before Captain Cook arrived in 1769.
- From the mid 1830s the District began to be settled by Europeans who engaged in trading, kauri milling, mineral development, farming and fishing, kauri gum and this phase of the District's history took place with little or no consideration for the environment.
- This Plan recognises this history. It endeavours to protect the heritage resources for all people of the District, and develop a positive relationship with Maori, to achieve equity within the limits set by the Resource Management Act.
- In 1991 the usual resident population of the District was estimated to be 21,747 people including 2,613 Maori (1991 Census). In 1996 the usual resident population of the District was 24,819 people including 3,681 Maori (1996 Census).
- Demographic profiles prepared by Statistics New Zealand in 1993/94 showed a population of 23,900 including 2703 Maori and that of the total labour force 78% were employed full time. The unemployment rate for the District was 12.3%. This varied around the District with the highest rate of 16.7% at Whangamata and lowest of 9.2% at Thames. The population is expected to grow strongly to 34,500 by the year 2016 (medium projection). This 50% increase in 20 years is significant compared with the growth rate of 19% for the Waikato Region.
- All occupational groups are well represented throughout the District. The main occupational groups are agricultural and fishery workers, service and sale workers, trades workers, administrators and managers.
- Over the next 20 years the elderly population (>65 years of age) is expected to rise to approximately 27% of the total District population. This proportion is significant and Council policy must recognise the District's population is ageing. The percentage of elderly varies throughout the District. Medium projections (by the year 2016) indicate that Tairua and Whangamata could expect the proportion of elderly to increase from 23% and 20% to 34% and 25% respectively.
- Council faces many challenges arising from population growth and development over the next 20 years.
- The District also experiences sudden influxes of people over the summer months with the population peaking to approximately 200,000 around Christmas and the New Year. This places considerable pressure on the District's natural and physical resources by:
  - Increasing pollution and rubbish
  - Decreasing water availability
  - Increasing traffic volumes
  - Degrading natural character
  - Degrading indigenous ecosystems
  - Increasing demand for services
- The District's environment may reach a point where it cannot cope with the sudden peaks in population. Spreading the peak over longer periods would reduce the environmental effects experienced during these times.
- People visit and live in the District for a variety of reasons including:
  - the relaxed lifestyle
  - the sense of exploration and remoteness
  - the natural beaches and coastline
  - the maritime recreation.
  - the interesting and expressive communities
  - the pioneering heritage
  - the Maori heritage and Treaty settlements
  - the forest parks and mountains
  - the outstanding landscapes
  - the rural character
  - varied and interesting employment opportunities.
- The community and wider public expect these experiences to be protected for future generations to enjoy. Council has described the mix of these experiences as the "magic of the Coromandel".

## 160 - District Planning Areas

- .1 The District is divided into eight planning areas which reflect the geography of the District. The planning areas have been carefully devised to take account of the:
  - Interrelationship between land and water
  - Communities of interest and social and economic values and interests of the people who live in the District
  - The relationship between the mainland and its islands
  - Landforms which influence drainage, transport and communication
- .2 It is not difficult to discern eight distinct communities of interest:
  - The rugged land at the top of the Peninsula, surrounding Mt Moehau and including Colville
  - The area around Coromandel, including the Coromandel, Te Kouma and Manaia Harbours Kennedy Bay, Whangapoua Harbour and the northern part of the Kuaotunu Peninsula.
  - The area around Whitianga, Mercury Bay and south to Boat Harbour.
  - Thames and the coastal land from Thames to Wilson Bay.
  - The area around Tairua and Pauanui.
  - The area around Whangamata, up to and including Opoutere.
  - The area south of Thames, around Matatoki, Puriri and Hikutaia.
- .3 These different "character areas" have been called "Planning Areas" and each character area or planning area is made up of a set of Planning Maps. The Maps are numbered in sets for each planning area.

10/00 - 10/09 Moehau  
20/00 - 20/22 Whangapoua  
30/00 - 30/07 Coromandel

31/01 - 31/08  
40/00 - 40/10 Whitianga

41/01 - 41/08  
50/00 - 50/09 Thames

51/01 - 51/13  
60/00 - 60/07 Tairua

61/01 - 61/04

62/01 - 62/04 Pauanui  
70/01 - 70/08 Whangamata

71/01 - 71/08  
80/00 - 80/03 Puriri

## 170 - District Plan Process / Consultation

The First Schedule to the Act outlines the procedures to be followed for the process of preparing a District Plan and the consultation required. This section sets out the key steps and dates involved in preparing this plan.

Date	Plan Process/Consultation
May 1995	District Plan Preparation Programme and Timetable Confirmed by Council with critical target dates.
May 1995 to June 1996	Preparation of discussion papers, issues and options, workshops and consultations.  Written request to requiring authorities to give notice of designations to be included in the Proposed Plan.
May 1995 to June 1996	
June 1996	Presentation of Draft District Plan (text and Maps) to Council.
June 1996 to February 1997	Circulation of Draft Plan, consultation meeting, workshops, clinics. Council receives and reviews written submissions, reports commissioned, legal audit and presentation made.
22 March 1997	Council resolves to publicly notify its Proposed District Plan.
<b>Note</b>	Fuller details of the process and consultation are contained in the "Section 32 Record" (Thames-Coromandel District Council: February 1997).
May 1997	Submissions period closed.
June 1997	Public notification calling for further submissions in support or opposition to the submissions received.
August 1997	Further submissions period closed.
September 1997 to June 1998	Hearings of submissions and further submissions held by Hearings Committee and Commissioner.
September 1998	Report and recommendations from Hearings Committee made to Council.
7 October 1998	Council resolved to adopt reports and recommendations.
October 1998	Decisions released to submitters and further submitters.
October 1998	Public notice that Council has made its decisions.
December 1998	Recommendations made to requiring authorities.
December 1998	Period for references to the Environment Court on decisions (except those relating to requiring authorities other than Council) closed.
January 1999 to February 1999	Decisions from requiring authorities received by Council and released to submitters and further submitters.
January 1999 to February 1999	Period for reference to the Environment Court on decisions by requiring authorities (other than Council) closed.
January 1999 to July 1999	Briefs for four variations prepared and let to consultants.
September 1999	Proposed District Plan Decisions Version incorporating all decisions adopted by Council for release to the public subject to Auditors' report.
1 October 1999	References to the Environment Court still outstanding.
1 October 1999	Four variations in preparation but not publicly notified.
27 October 1999	Council resolution to approve Variation Number 1 Whitianga Waterways.
11 November 1999	Public Notice (Clause 10 First Schedule RMA 1991) incorporation Variation Number 1 Whitianga Waterways.
24 July 2007	Council Resolution to make District Plan Operative in Part.
14 January 2009	Committee Resolution - 1st Annotation to the "Operative in Part" District Plan
<b>30 April 2010</b>	<b>Council Resolution to make the District Plan Operative</b>