

Audit Report

To the readers of Horizons Regional Council and group's financial statements and service provision information for the year ended 30 June 2010

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Horizons Regional Council (the Regional Council) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Clint Ramoo, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out the audit on her behalf. The audit covers the financial statements, the service provision information and the Regional Council's compliance with the other requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that are included in the annual report of the Regional Council and group for the year ended 30 June 2010.

Unqualified opinion

In our opinion:

- The financial statements of the Regional Council and group on pages 1 to 170:
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
 - fairly reflect:
 - the Regional Council and group's financial position as at 30 June 2010; and
 - the results of operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
- The service provision information of the Regional Council on pages 1 to 127:
 - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
 - fairly reflects the Regional Council's levels of service provision for the year ended 30 June 2010, including:
 - the levels of service provision as measured against the intended levels of service provision adopted in the long-term council community plan; and
 - the reasons for any significant variances between the actual service provision and the expected service provision.
- The Regional Council and group have complied with the other requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that are applicable to the annual report, and that are included in the Regional Council and group's financial statements and service provision information.

The audit was completed on 28 September 2010, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

Basis of opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards.

We planned and performed the audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements, the service provision information and the other requirements did not have material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements, the service provision information and the other requirements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

The audit involved performing procedures to test the information presented in the financial statements, the service provision information and the other requirements. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

Audit procedures generally include:

- determining whether the significant management and system controls are working and can be relied on to produce complete and accurate data;
- verifying samples of transactions and account balances;
- performing analyses to identify anomalies in the reported financial and service provision data;
- reviewing significant estimates and judgements made by the Council;
- confirming year-end balances;
- determining whether accounting policies are appropriate and consistently applied;
- determining the appropriateness of the reported service provision information within the Council's framework for reporting performance; and
- determining whether all required disclosures are adequate.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements, the service provision information and the other requirements.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements, the service provision information and the other requirements. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support our opinion above.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The Council is responsible for preparing financial statements and service provision information in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the Regional Council and group as at 30 June 2010. They must also fairly reflect the results of operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date. The service provision information must fairly reflect the Regional Council's levels of service provision for the year ended 30 June 2010.

The Council is also responsible for meeting the other requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 and including that information in the annual report. The Council's responsibilities arise from section 98 and Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements, the service provision information and the other requirements and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and section 99 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Independence

When carrying out the audit we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Other than the audit and in carrying out the audit of long-term council community plan, we have no relationship with or interests in the Regional Council or any of its subsidiaries.

Clint Ramoo
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand

Matters relating to the electronic presentation of the audited financial statements, service provision information¹ and the other requirements

This audit report relates to the financial statements, service provision information and the other requirements of Horizons Regional Council and group for the year ended 30 June 2010 included on Horizons Regional Council's website. The Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of Horizons Regional Council's website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of Horizons Regional Council's website. We accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements, service provision information and the other requirements since they were initially presented on the website.

The audit report refers only to the financial statements, service provision information and the other requirements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from the financial statements, service provision information and the other requirements. If readers of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communication they should refer to the published hard copy of the audited financial statements, service provision information and the other requirements as well as the related audit report dated 28 September 2010 to confirm the information included in the audited financial statements, service provision information and the other requirements presented on this website.

Legislation in New Zealand governing the preparation and dissemination of financial information may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.