

Message from our Mayor and CEO

We are pleased to present you with our annual report for 2019/20. It has been a year of highs and lows from the celebration of finally securing the funding for Ōpōtiki's long held aspiration of a new Harbour entrance to the lows and worry that came with the pandemic, followed by the announcement of a number of successful grants for Covid recovery projects.

A new set of councillors were elected in October 2019 and have had a very unusual first six months in their new roles steering the organisation through the events of 2020. The annual plan and early work on the Long Term Plan has been a major part of their work.

As well as the Ōpōtiki Harbour Development, other successful Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) outcomes were realised with several kiwifruit developments along the coast and our growing marine industry receiving funding. These put the district in a great position.

On 26 March 2020 our nation went into a full lockdown to try to manage the spread of Covid 19. For council that meant fundamentally changing the way we operated within a matter of weeks. Our Civil defence team was activated, re-deploying staff out of business-as-usual functions, our front-line staff stepped up to manage our essential services in a safe way for themselves and the community, and our managers prepared for Covid recovery by preparing funding applications. Working remotely required new equipment and software installed quickly and learning how to hold formal meetings remotely.

CEO, Aileen Lawrie
Mayor, Lyn Riesterer

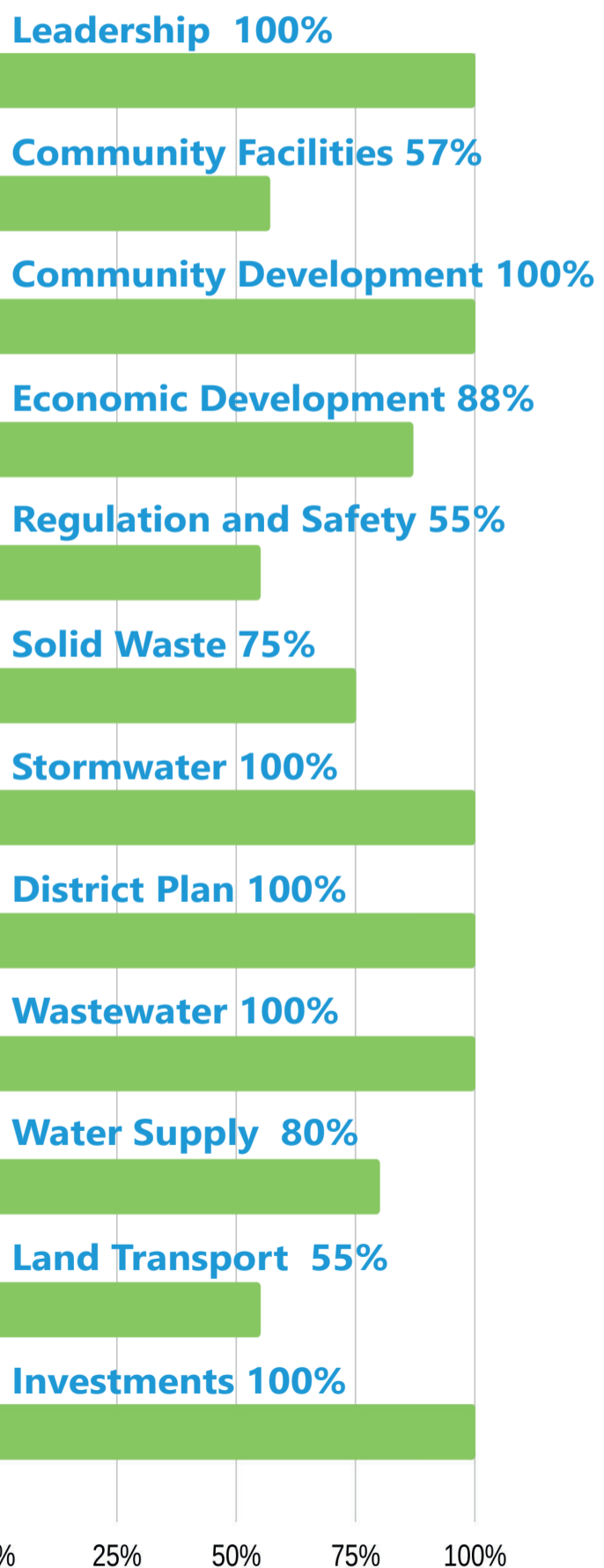
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View the 2019/20 Annual Report and Summary Report online at odc.govt.nz/annualreport

Pick up a hard copy from our office or the library.

Email info@odc.govt.nz or PH 07 3153030 to request a copy of the Summary be posted to you.

Our performance target results for 2019/20



Harbour Development

An announcement on 28 February 2020 was made that the government would fund the harbour development project from the newly formed National Infrastructure Fund, in conjunction with the contribution from Bay of Plenty Regional Council. We celebrated with a street party and now physical works have begun.

Te Ahiaua (Pipi Beds) Reserve

The reserve upgrade is now complete. There is a new and more efficient water supply and effluent disposal system, upgraded toilet facilities, a new sealed internal roadway and car/campervan parking area with associated picnic facilities.

Church Street Reserve

As part of the old Rose Garden upgrade the heritage roses were moved to their new location at Forsyth Reserve. Derelict structures have been demolished. A new network of paths is in. Public toilets, play equipment, and community facilities will follow as funding becomes available.

District Plan review

Mediation of the appeals made against the plan were completed and all outstanding consent orders have been signed off by the Environment Court. The final Decisions Version of the Ōpōtiki District Plan will be presented to Council for formal adoption before the end of 2020.

Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi

The build of Ōpōtiki's new research and technology library has begun. Funding from BayTrust, Lotteries, PGF Digital Hub, Trust Horizon, and Crown Infrastructure Partners has been secured. This means Council does not need to raise a loan for the build.

Street lighting

Assisted by a generous Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency contribution and funding from the Eastern Bay Energy Trust (EBET), 253 LED luminaries were installed as part of the infill programme. They are better for the environment and provide cost savings. The programme should be complete within the next two years.

Sewerage

Work continued on our rehabilitation project to decrease inflow and infiltration in both the main sewer pipes and pipes on private property. On time and under budget this project was used by the Office of the Controller and Auditor General in its report on local government activity as an example of best practice.

Walkways & Coastal Access

Use of the Dunes Cycle Trail increased during the Covid lockdown and the level of local engagement and responsibility also increased with many users actively helping to keep the trail tidy and dealing with, or reporting, any incidents of concern.

Solid Waste

The volume of waste going to landfill has risen to 1500 tonnes - an increase of 50% over the previous average. This is due to higher capacity refuse bins being used for the urban collection and all waste collected being sent to landfill during Covid due to health risks. Recycling initiatives are reduced due to global circumstances.

Animal Control

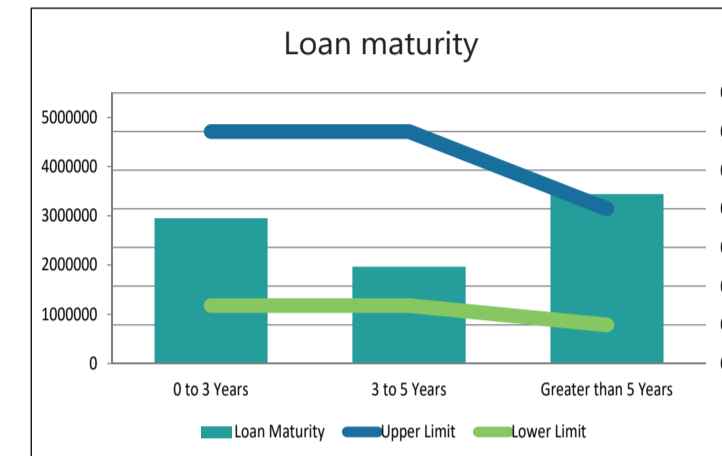
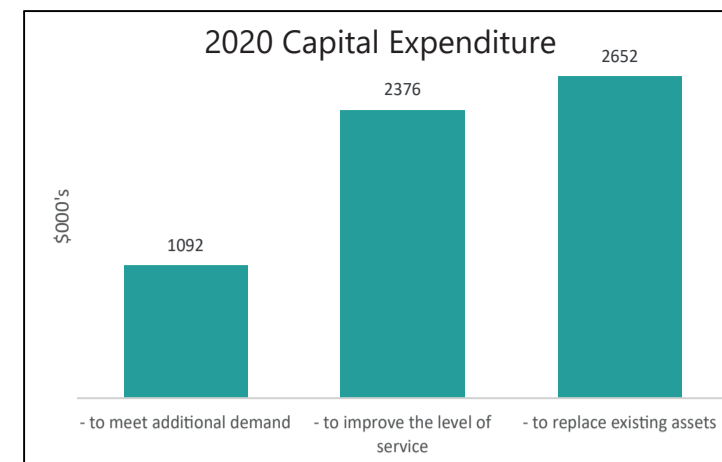
New initiatives have improved registration rates over the last few years and more dogs have been rehomed from the pound. There has been a significant decline in the number of menacing breeds being impounded as a result of Council's de-sexing programme. That means more of the dogs impounded are suitable for rehoming.

Water Supply

Work continued to improve the resilience of the supply system with a focus over the year on water mains. The extension to the Te Kaha supply was completed and new water meters were installed.

Town centre revitalisation

Consultation with the community took place and informed the Town Centre Structure Plan which was adopted by Council in June. A masterplan is now being progressed to assist decision making around the revitalisation of the CBD.



Assets	2019 \$000's	2020 \$000's
Operational assets	4,206	4,878
Roads & footpaths	144,329	152,328
Water systems	10,820	11,656
Sewerage systems	12,664	14,541
Stormwater drainage	8,257	8,364
Other infrastructure assets	4,484	5,086
Restricted assets	18,887	18,891
Total	204,647	215,743

