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EHI Update

It is with great pleasure and pride that I introduce the latest newsletter from the EHI team. Undoubtedly, the major recent achievement in our work programme has been launch of the revamped EHI website, which is the centrepiece of this newsletter. Kylie and Andrew expertly lead an enthusiastic EHI team who were ably assisted by our design wizards Catherine and Jennah at OpenLab and Graeme at McK design & print. I am sure you will agree the website is a wonderful asset and outstanding contribution to our monitoring the environmental health of New Zealand.

As always we welcome any comments and suggestions you have about our work and, of course, the website.

Best wishes

Barry

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EHI Website



New EHI website goes live

You will have noticed that we have updated our EHI website. We wanted it to be more useful and user-friendly for people looking for environmental health information for New Zealand. The EHI website is also recommended by the Public Health Association of New Zealand.

You can now find the following on the EHI website:

- the latest information and data on environmental hazards, exposures and health effects in New Zealand
- indicators organised by domain - like air quality, drinking water, and indoor environment

- new indicators on climate change, and populations at risk
- interactive graphs and maps
- downloadable factsheets and publications
- lots of links to other useful websites

The new website went live at the end of September 2014, the result of more than 6 months work by the team.

We're always keen to improve what we do, so if you have any suggestions for the website, please email us at ehnz@massey.ac.nz.

Interactive maps showcased

As part of our new website, Andrew has been developing online interactive maps. These maps help you explore our regional data on environmental health indicators

We've now got online interactive maps for a range of indicators, including:

- [wood and coal fires](#)
- [livestock](#)
- [lack of home heating](#)
- [household crowding](#)
- [population change \(2006-2013\)](#)
- [Māori and Pacific populations](#)
- [socioeconomic deprivation \(NZDep2013\)](#)

You can also see 'movies' of maps over time, for the following climate change indicators:

- [temperature \(days over 25°C\)](#)
- [rainfall and drought \(days of soil moisture deficit\).](#)

We hope to include more maps in the future.

You can also still get all the geographic data through our other website, [CPHROnline](#).

Environmental Health Indicators

- grouped and updated



In our newly developed website, the Environmental Health Indicators were grouped into nine domains based on various aspects of environmental health. Those domains (indicators) are:

- **Air quality** (Wood and coal fires, vehicles, air quality levels, health impact)
- **Recreational water** (Livestock, freshwater and coastal water quality, water-borne diseases)
- **Drinking water** (Access to safe drinking-water, water-borne diseases, fluoridated water, oral health of children)
- **Climate change** (Changes in temperature, rainfall and drought, and health impacts)
- **Indoor environment** (Cold and damp homes, household crowding, second-hand smoke, health impacts)
- **Hazardous substances** (Injuries and diseases from exposure to hazardous substances)
- **Biosecurity** (Vector-borne diseases, international infectious disease outbreaks)
- **UV exposure** (Ultraviolet (UV) levels, melanoma, vitamin D deficiency)
- **Population information** (Population groups more at risk from environmental hazards, demographic information)

Click each domain for more information and downloading the 2014 factsheets.

Climate Change Indicators released



The newly developed climate change indicators were released along with our revamped EHINZ website.

The following environmental health indicators for climate change were developed to help assess the health impacts of climate. This is regardless of whether there is a significant degree of 'change' over the time that the indicators are measured.

Topic	Indicators
Temperature	Days over 25°C Days under 0°C
Rainfall and drought	Days of soil moisture deficit
Climate change is a health issue	Notifications of cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, salmonellosis Population groups more at risk than others to the effects of a changing climate, including: young children (aged under 5 years) older adults (aged 65+ years and 80+ years) Māori ethnic minorities those living in povert

Find out more about the indicators, and download factsheet from <http://www.ehinz.ac.nz/indicators/climate-change/>

Highlights from the EHI factsheets

Topic	Highlights
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 42 million livestock in New Zealand in 2013 • The number of livestock declined 17% during 2002 to 2013
Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand had 597 passenger cars per 1,000 populations. This was higher than Australia, Japan, United Kingdom and United States. • New Zealand had an older vehicle fleet than Australia, Canada and the USA.
Vector-borne disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2013, 167 cases of vector-borne diseases were notified in New Zealand, a 39% increase from 2012. • In the last 5 years, 95% of all vector-borne disease events had an overseas travel history.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ehinz.ac.nz>

New Look for the EHI Atlas

To match the relaunched EHI website, the EHI Atlas on CPHROnline has also been given a new look. Themes match those found on the EHI site and contain the same groups of indicators. This provides consistency and easy navigation between the two sites.



Waikato Progress Indicators

– Tupuranga Waikato

The Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) – Tupuranga Waikato is a monitoring framework for assessing progress towards Council’s strategic direction and regional wellbeing[1].

The WPI includes a set of 32 indicators that provide a balanced high-level picture about important economic, environmental and social/cultural aspects of the Waikato region and its people. The development of the WPI has been based on a review of the most recent international, New Zealand and Waikato work on measuring genuine progress.

The first WPI report provides a snapshot of the Waikato region’s current overall state of wellbeing, tracks recent trends (Figure 1), compares the Waikato with other regions, with New Zealand overall, and internationally (Figure 2) and sets a benchmark to evaluate future changes and trends. Each indicator has a separate report card and an overall scorecard summarises the results of all indicators. The 32 indicators will be annually updated.

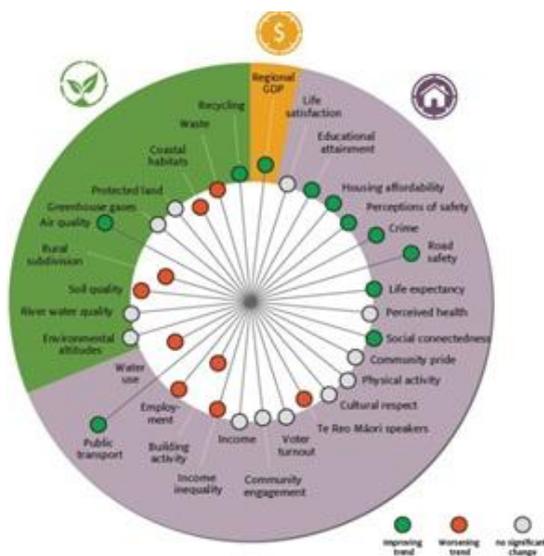


Figure 1 illustrates WPI changes between 2006-08 and 2012-13 for all WPI indicators.

The central circle represents the WPI score for each indicator in the Waikato region in 2006-08 and the spokes show WPI score progress to 2012-13.



Figure 2 shows latest available data comparing the Waikato region with New Zealand average.

In this diagram, the circle represents national average wellbeing. In summary, the Waikato region is similar to the national average on many of the available indicators.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Waikato Progress Indicators.

[1] The Waikato Regional Council's mission is "to work with others to build a Waikato region that has a healthy environment, a strong economy and vibrant communities."

Meetings and Presentations

Maria, Helene, Fei, Deborah and Kylie attended the first New Zealand Population Health Congress (NZPHC) in early October. The below EHI projects were presented at the congress:

- E-notifications of hazardous substances disease and injury (Presenter: Helene Marsters)
- Environmental Health Indicators for Climate Change in New Zealand (Presenter: Maria Poynter)
- Environmental Health Indicators (Presenter: Fei Xu)

Environmental Health Website

The EHI team recommends you to visit the Environmental Health Indicators website: www.ehinz.ac.nz, which reports on 60 core environmental health indicators. The Environmental Health Indicators website is also recommended by the Public Health Association of New Zealand.

And if you are interested in mapped health data, the CPHROnline (<http://cphronline.massey.ac.nz>) would be great place for you.



Disturbing fact: the first recorded boomerangs were made of mammoth tusk.

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