

**Coromandel:  
surfing the  
wave of  
Community  
Empowerment**



*Moving “good examples” to become everyday normal*

# TCDC Community Empowerment

- Decentralised service delivery, budget and decision-making delegations, revenue setting, planning & devt.
- Integrating local leadership with District for One Vision.
- TCDC Changes to Boards: Scope, budgets, delegations, Area Offices, cost efficiencies, capital mngt, leadership.



# Coromandel democracy

Highly engaged peoples with strong desire for local democracy & decision-making

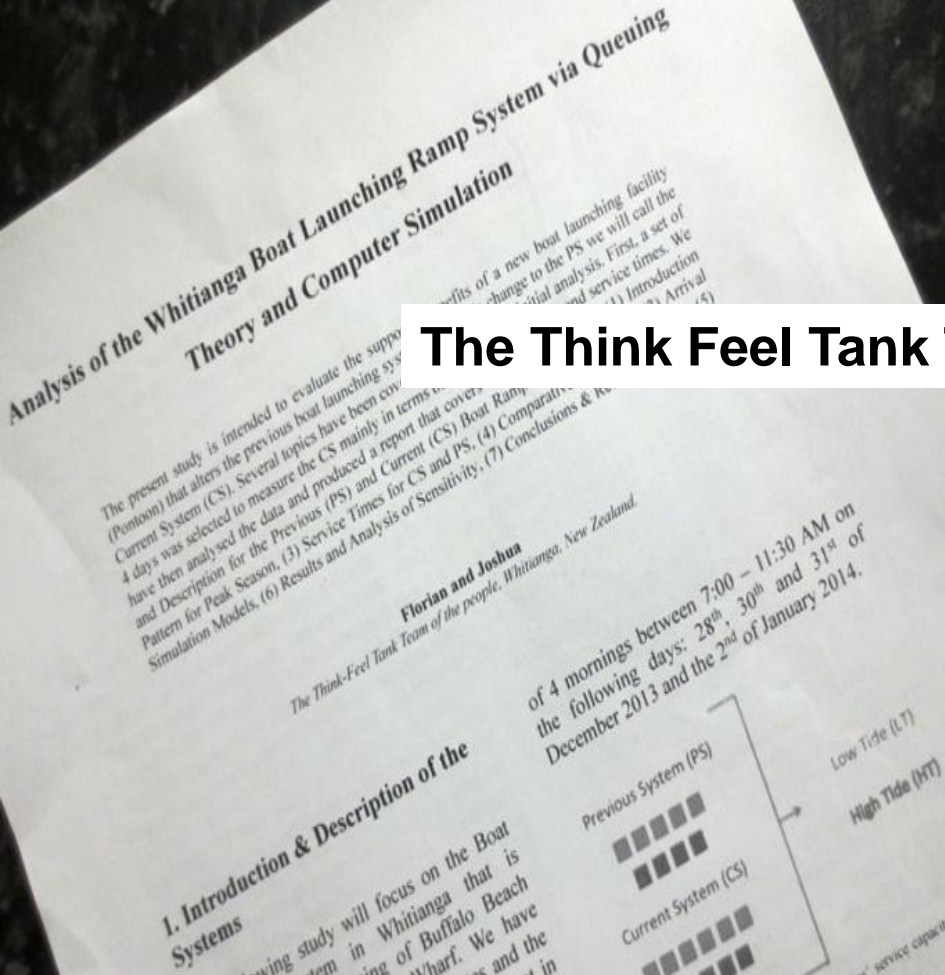
Coromandel Dislikes:

- Glass Tower decision-making from centrist organisations
- One size fits all
- Bureaucracy
- Slow, inflexible decisions

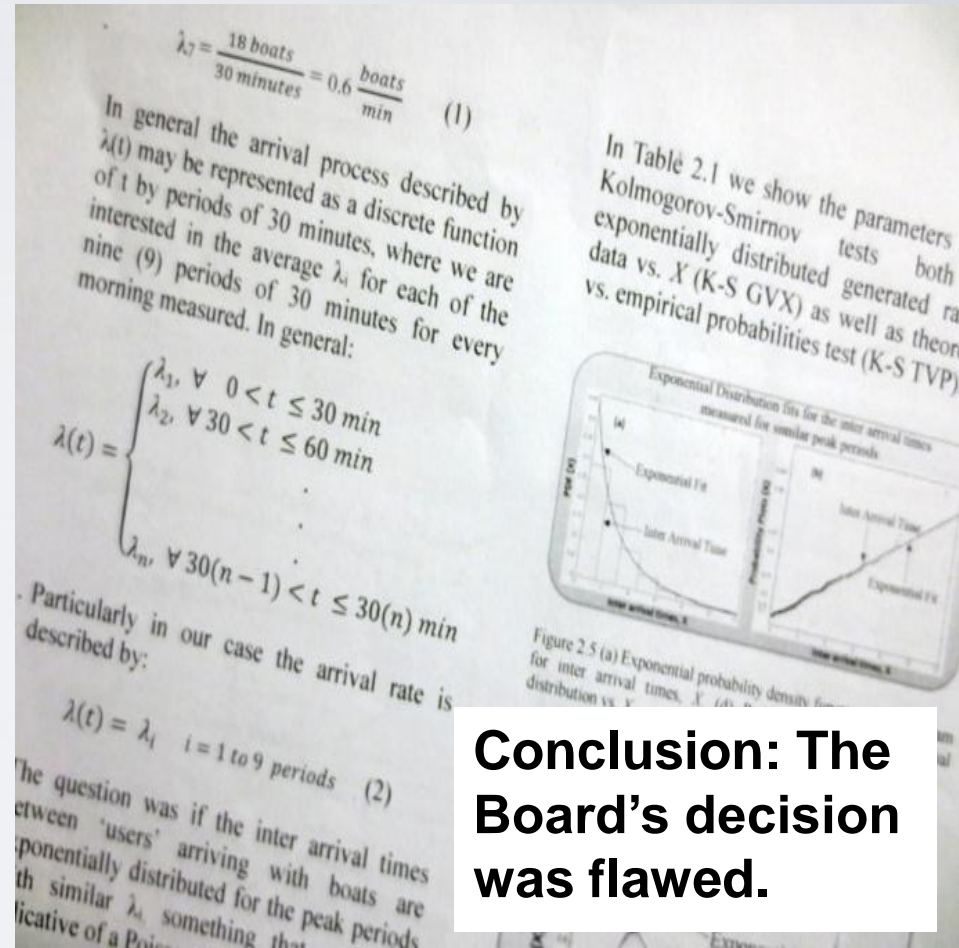


# Whitianga Area Office Harbour Pontoon Project 2013

The Think Feel Tank Team of the People of Whitianga NZ



Board Decision-making analysed - 22 pages of statistical tests including the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test...



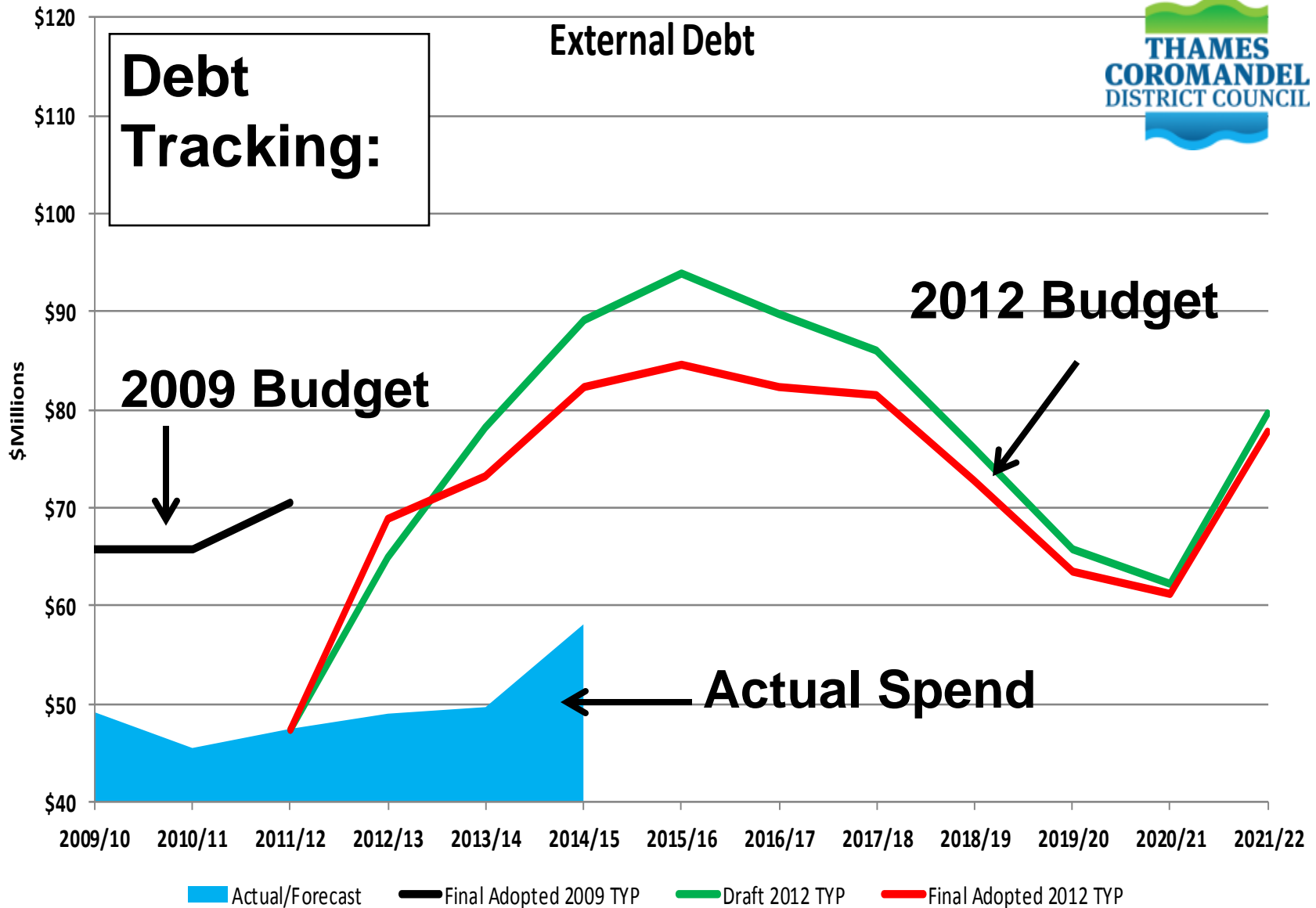
Conclusion: The Board's decision was flawed.

# Cost efficiency achieved

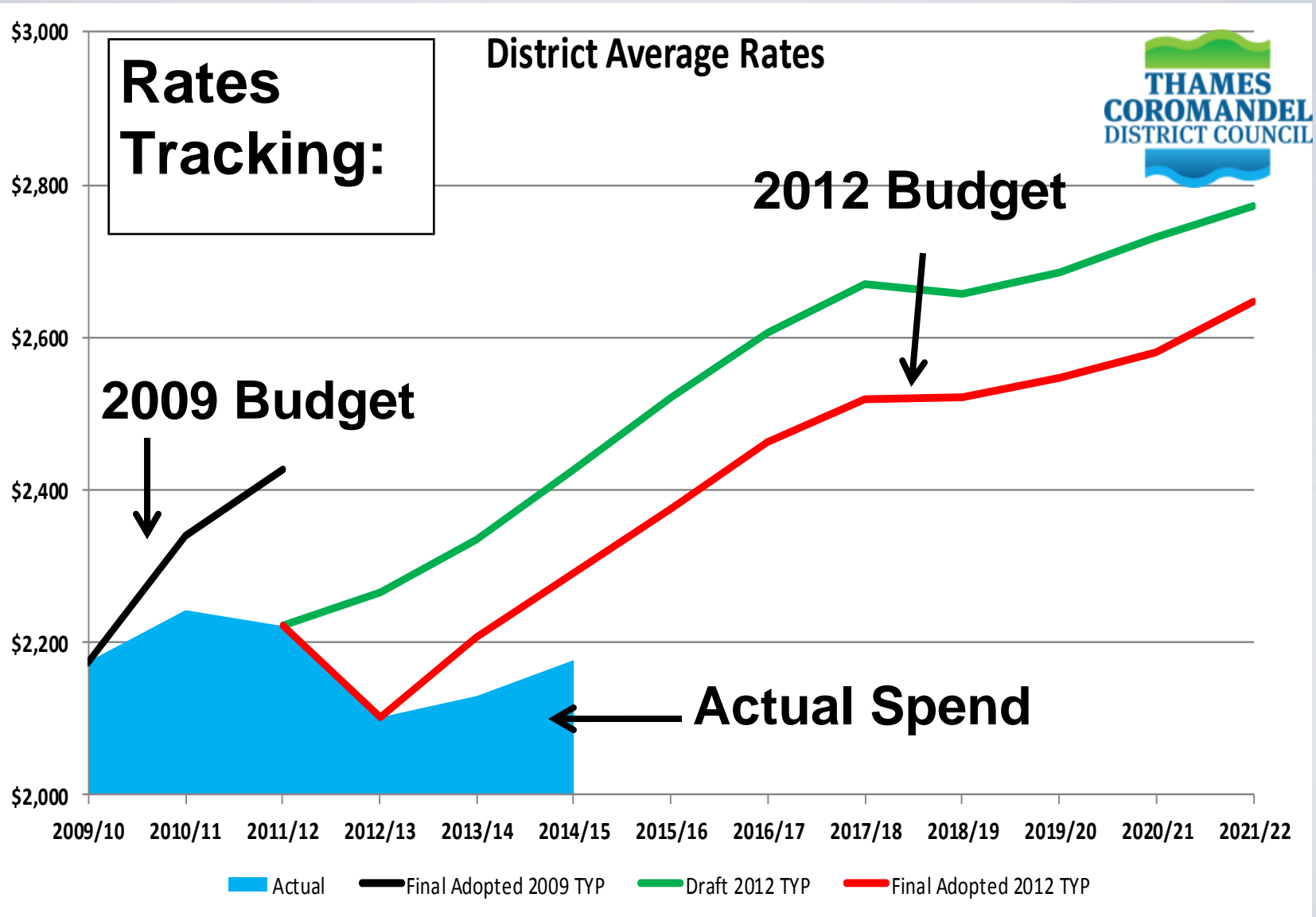


## External Debt

**Debt Tracking:**



# Cost efficiency achieved





# Challenges

- Change from a centrist council;
- Cost trade-offs to build up Area Offices;
- Capital management tightened;
- Councillors' roles clarified;
- Community expectations;
- Still a work in progress in 2015.

# What they say:



“The doomsayers told us we would be crippled by personal grievances, our services would collapse and communities would send rates sky-high wanting every project under the sun.

“It was a hell of a big change to staff but we weren't crippled by personal grievances. The next year, in 2013, we had the highest ever public satisfaction with many of our main services, and average total rates dived to the lowest per property in the Waikato in 2013 as our costs came under control.”

Mayor Glenn Leach  
TCDC





# What they say:



“In my view, more 'local' projects have been completed under the first year of Community Empowerment, with contemporaneous reductions in rates, than had been completed in several prior years of convoluted and expensive bureaucracy.”

Keith Johnson  
Whangamata Community Board  
Chair



# Future?

**“We think that power should be exercised at the lowest practical level – close to the people affected by decisions, rather than distant from them.”**

**(UK; Rt Hon Greg Clark, 2010)**

**“When you are talking about localism in NZ you are running against a deep-seated ideology, and it is one of the reasons why localism has not made a lot of traction. The good news is: Statism has peaked.”**

**(Rt Hon Bill English, in Hartwich 2013)**