



KOMITI AHUREA ME NGĀ RANGAPŪ COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

26 August 2025

Order Paper for the meeting to be held in the
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt,
on:

Tuesday 2 September 2025 commencing at 2:00pm

The meeting will be livestreamed on Council's YouTube page.

Membership

	Cr K Brown (Chair)
	Cr K Morgan (Deputy Chair)
Mayor C Barry	Cr G Barratt
Cr J Briggs	Deputy Mayor T Lewis
Cr C Parkin	Cr N Shaw
Cr G Tupou	

For the dates and times of Council Meetings please visit www.huttcity.govt.nz

Have your say

You can speak under public comment to items on the agenda to the Mayor and Councillors at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this by emailing DemocraticServicesTeam@huttcity.govt.nz or calling the Democratic Services Team on 04 570 6666 | 0800 HUTT CITY

KOMITI HAPORI AHUREA ME NGĀ RANGAPŪ COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Chair:	Cr Keri Brown
Deputy Chair:	Cr Karen Morgan
Membership:	Mayor Campbell Barry Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis Cr Glenda Barratt Cr Josh Briggs Cr Chris Parkin Cr Naomi Shaw Cr Gabriel Tupou Refer to Council's Standing Orders (SO 31 Provisions for Mana Whenua)
Quorum:	Half of the membership
Meeting cycle:	Meets on an eight-weekly basis or at the requisition of the Chair
Reports to:	Council

OVERVIEW:

This committee assists Council to ensure healthy, vibrant and resilient communities through partnerships and the development and management of relevant plans, strategies and functions.

The committee is aligned with the Neighbourhoods and Communities Directorate and Te Tira Māori.

Its areas of focus are:

- Major neighbourhoods and communities projects
- Arts and culture
- Community funding
- Community development
- City/community safety
- Emergency management
- Housing needs
- Open spaces and places (parks and reserves, sport and recreation, community facilities and hubs)
- Social procurement
- Relationships with the seven marae
- Te Ao Māori
- Treaty partnerships
- Rangtahi | Youth engagement
- Oversight of the Pito-one projects
- Oversight of the Disability Advisory Group (if established)

PURPOSE:

To develop, implement, monitor and review strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with community, social and cultural activities. This includes making the city a desirable, safe and attractive place, providing facilities and recreational opportunities that support quality living and healthy lifestyles, and supporting the cultural well-being of residents.

DELEGATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S AREAS OF FOCUS:

- All powers necessary to perform the committee's responsibilities including the activities outlined below.
- Develop required strategies and policies. **Recommend draft and final versions to Council** for adoption where they have a city-wide or strategic focus.
- Implement, monitor and review strategies and policies.
- Oversee the implementation of major projects provided for in the Long Term Plan (LTP) or Annual Plan.
- Oversee budgetary decisions provided for in the LTP or Annual Plan.
- Advocate for strong relationships with Council's Mana Whenua partners as outlined in the Tākai Here agreements ensuring the outcomes of the committee are in line with the aspirations of the partners.
- Advocate for the best interests of Māori communities in Lower Hutt having regard to the committee's goals.
- Ensure the committee is operating in a way that is consistent with various pieces of legislation that provide for Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Oversee the development and implementation of plans and functions associated with community, social and cultural activities.
- Oversee the social/broader outcomes through the delivery of Council's contracts.
- **Recommend to Council** the brief (alignment of projects, opportunity, community engagement) for the Pito-one projects.
- Maintain an overview of work programmes carried out by Council's Neighbourhoods and Communities Directorate.
- Advocate in conjunction with relevant community organisations on matters related to housing needs and the health and social/cultural well-being of communities.
- **Recommend to Council** the acquisition or disposal of assets unless the acquisition or disposal is provided for specifically in the LTP.
- Approve and oversee monitoring around Community Funding Strategy grants.
- Matters arising from the activities of Community Houses, other than those in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, which are delegated to the community boards in those areas.
- Conduct any consultation/engagement processes required on issues before the committee.
- Approve and forward submissions (other than those delegated to the District Plan Review

Committee).

- Any other matters delegated to the committee by Council in accordance with approved policies and bylaws.
- The committee has the powers to perform the responsibilities of another committee where it is necessary to make a decision before the next meeting of that other committee. When exercised, the report/minutes of the meeting require a resolution noting that the committee has performed the responsibilities of another committee and the reason/s.
- If a policy or project relates primarily to the responsibilities of the Komiti Hapori Ahurea me ngā Rangapū | Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee, but aspects require additional decisions by the Komiti Hanganga | Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee and/or Komiti Kaupapa Taiao | Climate Change and Sustainability Committee, then the Komiti Hapori Ahurea me ngā Rangapū | Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee has the powers to make associated decisions on behalf of those other committees. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that matters do not need to be taken to more than one of those committees for decisions.

Additional Parks and Reserves Delegations:

- Adopt, and agree amendments to, open space or reserve management plans.
- Make any decisions under open space or reserve management plans that are not otherwise delegated.
- Grant leases, licences, rights of way and easements in terms of Council policy for Council owned properties that are either open space under the District Plan or reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. This delegation, except the granting of leases and licences to Council owned community houses/centres in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, is sub-delegated to the community boards in those areas.
- Official naming of parks, reserves and sports grounds within the provisions of Council's Kaupapa Here Tapanga Naming Policy, other than those in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, which are delegated to the community boards in those areas, except where the sites have a high profile, city-wide importance due to their size and location and/or cross ward or community boundaries.
- Removal and/or planting of street trees within the provisions of Council's Operational Guide for Urban Forest Plan, other than those in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, which are delegated to the community boards in those areas.

HUTT CITY COUNCIL

KOMITI HAPORI AHUREA ME NGĀ RANGAPŪ
COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt
on
Tuesday 2 September 2025 commencing at 2:00 pm.

ORDER PAPER

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga a
te mea ngaro
ki runga ki tēnā, ki tēnā o
tātou
Kia mahea te hua
mākihikihi
kia toi te kupu, toi te mana,
toi te aroha, toi te Reo Māori
kia tūturu, ka whakamaua
kia tīna! Tīna! Hui e, Tāiki e!

*Let the strength and life force of
our ancestors
Be with each and every one of us
Freeing our path from obstruction
So that our words, spiritual power,
love, and language are upheld;
Permanently fixed, established and
understood! Forward together!*

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies have been received.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Generally, up to 30 minutes is set aside for public comment (three minutes per speaker on items appearing on the agenda). Speakers may be asked questions on the matters they raise.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have

5. TE HERENGA KAIRANGI Q2-Q4 2024-25 PROGRESS REPORT

Report No. CCPC2025/4/241 by the Kaiwhakarite | by the Tumuaki Māori 8

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

6. MOURI ORA FUND 2025/26 APPROVALS

Report No. CCPC2025/4/104 by the Head of Connected Communities 59

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

7. TE PĀTAKA KŌRERO O PITO ONE | PITO ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB REFURBISHMENT.

Report No. CCPC2025/4/105 by the Head of Neighbourhood Hubs and Library Services 66

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

8. TE NGAENGAE POOL AND FITNESS- SECOND PHASE FUNDING

Report No. CCPC2025/4/261 by the Head of Aquatics 87

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

9. HUGH SINCLAIR PARK - MASTERPLAN

Report No. CCPC2025/4/239 by the Head of Parks and Reserves 93

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

10. OVERSIGHT ADVISORY GROUP 2025 REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS

Report No. CCPC2025/4/243 by the Head of Connected Communities 122

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That recommendations (1) – (3) contained in the report be endorsed, and a new part (4) to read: notes that Council is just one contributor to the homelessness response, and while Council is maintaining its focus and level of funding, advocacy will be equally important given recent policy shifts from central government that look to be contributing to the worsening problem in our community."

11. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SIX MONTHLY UPDATE FY 2024/25

Report No. CCPC2025/4/244 by the Emergency Management Advisor 189

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

12. REVIEWING INVESTMENT IN RECREATION, SPORT AND PLAY

Report No. CCPC2025/4/242 by the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

237

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

13. NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report No. CCPC2025/4/245 by the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

257

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."

14. QUESTIONS

With reference to section 32 of Standing Orders, before putting a question a member shall endeavour to obtain the information. Questions shall be concise and in writing and handed to the Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.

15. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Mai te tohi rangi, ki te tohu
nuku,

Tiaho I roto, mārama I
roto,

Tupu mauri ora ki te whai
ao ki te ao Mārama

Haumi e, hui e tāiki e

Of heavenly and terrestrial
blessings may it twinkle and shine
within me and allow my being to
grow out into the work of life and
light

Draw together!

Affirm!

Vanessa Gilmour
DEMOCRACY ADVISOR

15 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/241

Te Herenga Kairangi Q2-Q4 2024-25 Progress Report

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update in relation to the actions outlined within *Te Herenga Kairangi* – Council's Rautaki Māori for the period Q2-Q4, 2024-2025.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes the progress made against the outcomes and actions identified in *Te Herenga Kairangi*; and
- (2) approves the *Te Herenga Kairangi* report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Background

2. On 28 February 2024, Council approved *Te Herenga Kairangi* (the Rautaki) (attached as Appendix 2 to the report). The Rautaki has a six-monthly reporting requirement to the Communities, Culture and Partnerships committee (the Committee).
3. The purpose of the Rautaki is to support Council to deliver better outcomes for Māori in our community and set a direction for Council that flows through to investment decisions.
4. *Te Herenga Kairangi* has three guiding principles, three outcomes, six priority areas and 38 actions that cover a range of activities across Council.
5. The delivery of the 38 actions is spread across financial years and all business units in Council.

Discussion

6. The reporting structure for the Rautaki aligns with the Committee's strategic objectives for this mahi:
 - a. to show current initiatives and identify future desired outcomes;
 - b. to provide clear expectations and accountability across Council; and
 - c. to monitor progress against the Strategy.
7. The report is modelled on Council's quarterly report format by providing highlights and challenges, and a breakdown of key activities during the quarter against the priority areas. The addition of a dashboard provides a visual aid for understanding progress against key outcomes.
8. This report shows a range of activities across Council that contribute to Te Herenga Kairangi during the period 1 October 2024 – 30 June 2025.
9. For reporting purposes, priorities and actions that are set for out-years have been excluded from the dashboard. Many of the actions have obligations on Council that continue from one year to the next, reflecting the enduring nature of our partnership with Mana Whenua.

Options

10. There are no options available, as this is only a report for noting.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

11. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.

Consultation

12. The report has been shared with Mana Whenua and the Corporate Leadership Team.

Legal Considerations

13. There are no legal considerations.

Financial Considerations

14. There are no financial considerations.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1	Appendix 1 - THK Report 1 Oct - 30 June 2025	10
2	Appendix 2 - Te Herenga Kairangi for publication	35

Author: Sophie Johnson

Kaiwhakarite | Coordinator - Office of the Chief Executive

Approved By: Kaanihi Butler-Hare

Tumuaki Māori



Te Herenga Kairangi

Rautaki Māori Progress Report

1 October 2024 – 30 June 2025



Tīmatanga Kōrero

Introduction

Te Herenga Kairangi (2024-2034) is Hutt City Council's rautaki Māori | Māori strategy. Supported by our Mana Whenua partners, it brings together the work we do across council aimed at improving outcomes for Māori. Key outcomes include:

- 1) Council and Hapori Māori have Strong and Trusting Relationships**
- 2) Māori are Healthy, Culturally Accepted, Sheltered and Economically Secure**
- 3) Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi is a Te Ao Māori Capable Organisation**

This report highlights Council activities that helped achieve these outcomes between 1 October 2024 and 30 June 2025.



Ngā Hua o Roto

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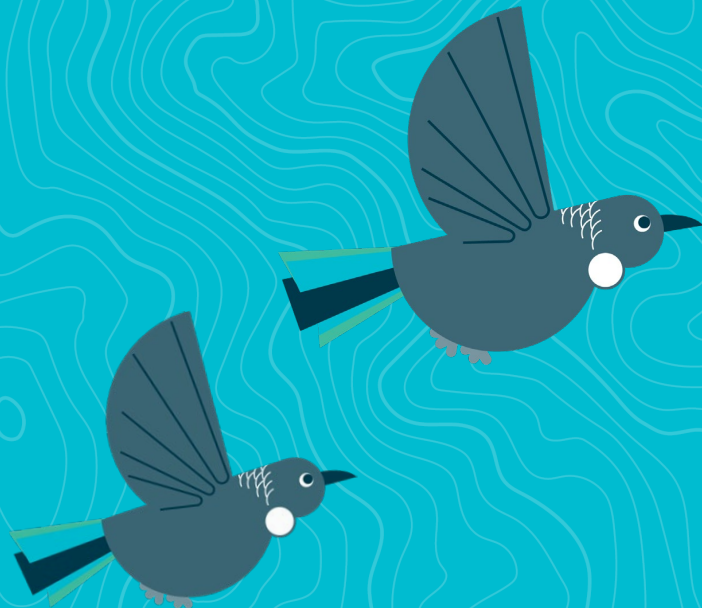


1

Highlights and Areas for Future Focus

What's this section about?

This section includes key highlights and challenges experienced this period



Ngā Pānui Hirahira Highlights

Improving Water Services

Discussions with Mana Whenua continue to shape our approach to water infrastructure, ensuring that the taiao remains central to our mahi and decisions.

Boosting Marae Resilience

Council is working with marae across Te Awa Kairangi to strengthen emergency readiness, with around \$30,000 delivered through the Resilient Communities Fund to support resilience efforts. Ongoing collaboration—especially during and after severe weather events—has helped improve early warning systems and identify marae for emergency accommodation. The Fund has now been updated to better reflect marae needs and improve access.

Te Wai Takamori: Values in Action

Mana Whenua are embedded in the Te Wai Takamori programme, with endorsed values guiding council mahi — currently shaping the City Link Bridge concept, procurement opportunities and the Streetscape strategy design.

Strengthening Partnership through Tākai Here

Refreshed Tākai Here and new operational agreements are now in place with Mana Whenua. We are continuing discussions with our partners about a joined-up approach, with the first joint hui set for August 2025.

City Strategy

The City Leadership Group includes Mana Whenua representation, ensuring their vision is embedded into our City Strategy.

Ngā Pānui Hirahira

Highlights

Amplifying Te Ao Māori Events

This year council supported 18 events across the city for Matariki Puanga as well as Te Rā o Te Raukura—strengthening Te Ao Māori visibility, whānau connection, and civic engagement. Flags, digital promotions, and themed publications helped amplify kaupapa, while the Events Strategy reflects our commitment to growing Māori-led celebrations through meaningful partnership.

District Plan Review

Mana Whenua contributed to shaping the Proposed District Plan—contributing insights, narratives, and submissions to ensure Mana Whenua perspectives are considered and integrated into future planning.

Tā i te Kawa Ceremony

Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa led the Tā i te Kawa ceremony for Te Ngaengae pool opening where Hutt City Council supported the proceedings.

A New Chapter for Moerā

Te Pātaka Kōrero o Moerā opened in March 2025, replacing Moera Library. A tikanga-informed process was followed with input from Mana Whenua, and cultural designs by a Māori artist selected by Kāhui Mana Whenua are embedded throughout the site.

Supporting Māori Participation in Elections

Council is preparing for Elections 2025 with activities designed to support Māori voter participation. Communications plans across all projects include targeted messaging and engagement tactics for Māori audiences.

Ngā Pānui Hirahira Highlights

Teaming Up for Whānau Wellbeing

Council has engaged with Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa to explore collaboration opportunities through Healthy Families initiatives—including ‘Cull to Plate’, ‘Ruku Kaimoana’, and ‘Reimagining Sport’—as well as other Hauora Māori priorities under the HFHV funding agreement.

Weaving Mana Whenua Expertise in Local Policy and Bylaws

Council collaborated with Mana Whenua to shape updates to the Heritage Grant Fund Policy and the Appearance Industries Bylaw—ensuring both reflect cultural perspectives and uphold Te Tiriti principles. Through early engagement, insights from Mana Whenua were woven into the approach, contributing to better outcomes for heritage preservation and community wellbeing.

Driving Equity through Procurement

A supplier diversity expert reviewed Council’s procurement practice, with recommendations aimed at supporting small, locally-owned, Māori and Mana Whenua businesses, and low-carbon initiatives.

Tiriti-based Urban Design

Council is working with Mana Whenua to embed cultural identity and restore tikanga in public spaces. From the reopening of wāhi tapu at Pito One Pā to the integration of Mana Whenua values in the City Centre Framework, this mahi reflects a deep commitment to partnership and place-shaping. To support future projects, Council is co-developing the Kāhui Mana Whenua Design & Engagement Toolkit—equipping teams to integrate mātauranga Māori in parks, streetscapes, and facilities through early and inclusive engagement.

Ngā Pānui Hirahira Highlights

Empowering Rangatahi Voices

Council has acknowledged the momentum behind the Rangatahi Action Plan, with progress including the launch of a Student Network and initiatives to support civic participation. Looking ahead, the focus will be on new programming, advocacy, and building collective impact—ensuring rangatahi voices continue to shape decisions that affect them.

Strengthening Hapori Māori Voice in Resident Surveys

Targeted engagement in the 2025 Resident Satisfaction Survey has strengthened Māori representation in council data—offering rich insights into life in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai.

Building Cultural Confidence and Connection

Council is strengthening internal capability through initiatives like Waiata Wednesday—drawing over 20 staff weekly—and a dedicated Te Ao Māori programme, completed by an additional 90 staff this period. These kaupapa build cultural confidence and support the application of Te Ao Māori across mahi and engagement with hapori Māori.

Collaborating for Hauora Innovation

The Healthy Families Hutt Valley (HFHV) Strategic Leadership Group—with Mana Whenua representation—acknowledged key health gains across policy, innovation, and strategic initiatives. Progress includes tackling drug and alcohol harm, boosting physical activity, enhancing mental wellbeing, addressing kai poverty, and supporting hauora for tamariki and rangatahi. The Group also endorsed the upcoming health-focused work programme.



Ngā Pānui Hirahira Highlights

Collaborating for Accessible Recreation

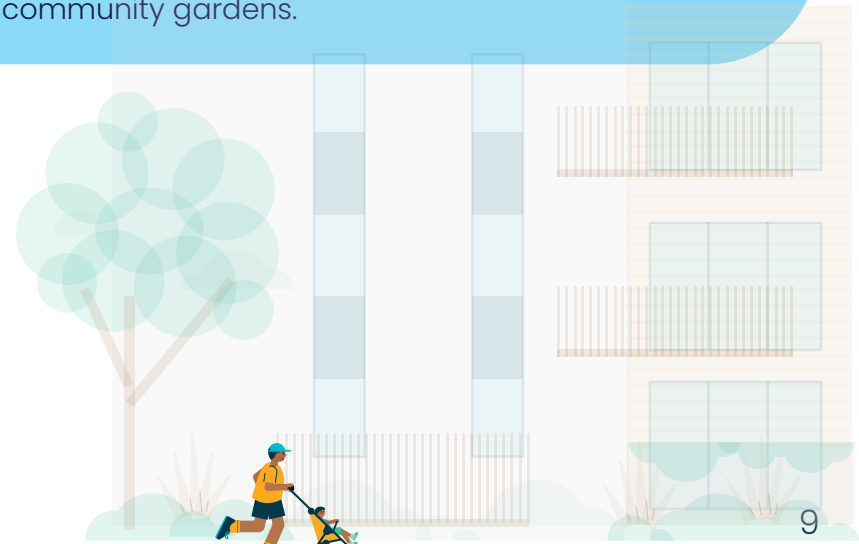
Council is reviewing how fees for grass sports fields are set and trialling new approaches through the Rec, Sport and Play Working Group—with Mana Whenua involved in shaping direction. A briefing was held in June, with a paper due in September to support community engagement on the next steps.

Nurturing Collective Strength Through Leadership

Council launched the Kahikatea Leadership Framework this quarter—drawing on Te Ao Māori to promote collective, adaptive leadership. Inspired by the Kahikatea tree, the framework will continue to be embedded across teams throughout FY25/26.

Partnering for Housing and Food Security

Council continues to partner with Tākiri Mai Te Ata to co-design kaupapa that prevent homelessness and support whānau across Te Awa Kairangi. This mahi is now guided by a newly launched Homelessness Dashboard, helping track progress and drive future action. Alongside housing support, food security is being strengthened through funding and facilitation—connecting community groups to regional strategies and embedding support through local initiatives like community gardens.



Te Pae Tawhiti

Areas for Future Focus



Ensuring Kaitiakitanga of and Accessibility to Natural Water Sources

Improving water infrastructure—especially at Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant—remains a key priority for Mana Whenua and the wider community. A regional approach to water service planning is underway across Wellington and Horowhenua to address ongoing challenges and guide future investment.

Backing Pakihi Māori for a Thriving Local Economy

We're working to elevate support for pakihi Māori through procurement, upskilling, and partnerships—aligned with our Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi Mana Whenua Values Plan goals to increase purchasing from Māori businesses. Work is underway to identify opportunities and the right providers to bring this to life.

Harnessing Māori Data Insights

We aim to make better use of Māori data insights to enhance strategic planning and reporting—supporting more informed, values-led decision-making across initiatives like Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 and the Homelessness Dashboard.

Te Ao Māori: A Growing Commitment

Council continues to embed Te Ao Māori Capability across staff culture—developing tools like Waiata Wednesday, practical guidance, and tailored learning modules to ensure the programme delivers long-term, meaningful change. Investigations into an extension programme are currently underway, further strengthening this commitment.



2

Summary of progress



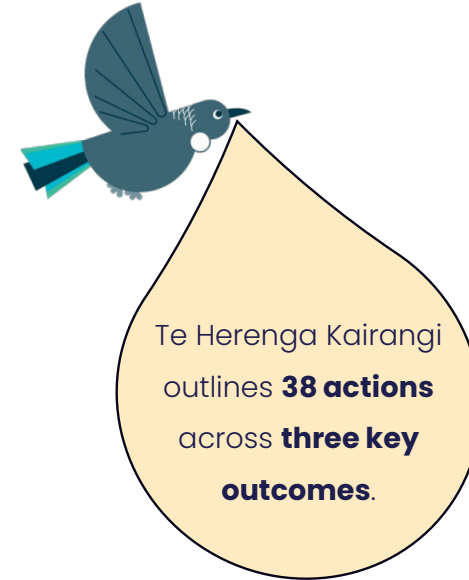
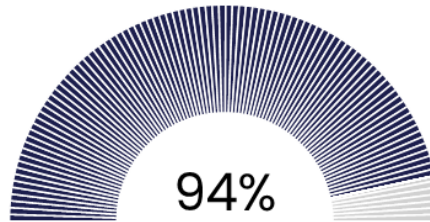
What's this section about?

This section is a dashboard summarising progress to date

He Papatohu

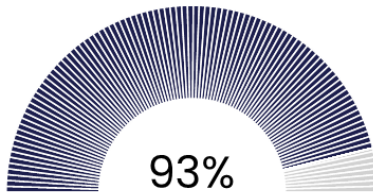
Dashboard

Overall percentage complete

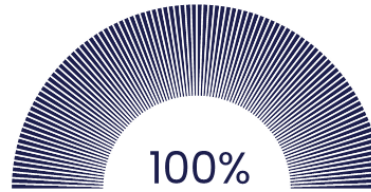


Percentage complete by outcome

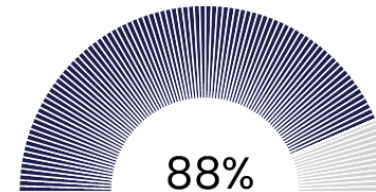
Strong and Trusting Relationships



Holistic and Economic Wellbeing



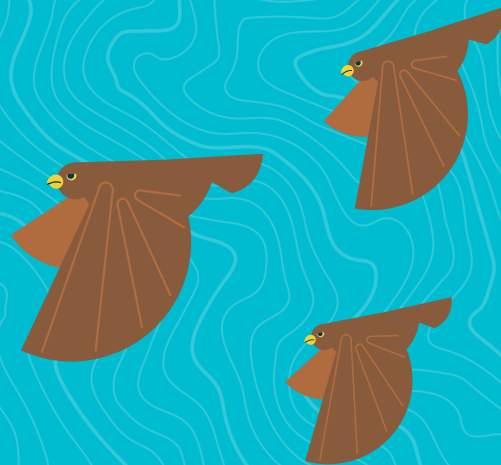
Te Ao Māori Capable Organisation





3

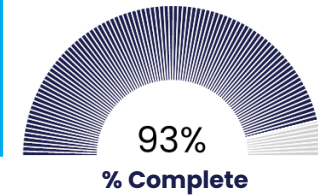
Strong & Trusting Relationships



What's this section about?

This section provides an overview of how council is strengthening relationships with our Mana Whenua partners and the wider hapori Māori

Priority 1: Honouring our Mana Whenua partners

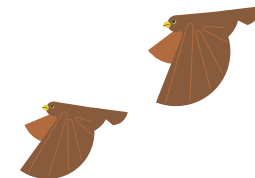


Strengthening Tiriti-Based Relationships

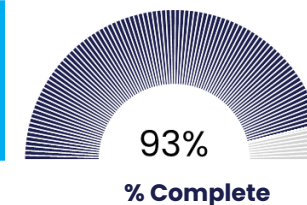
- Recent Quarterly Mana Whenua Hui focused on:
 - Draft Annual Plan 2025/26
 - Elections 2025
 - District Plan Review and implementation
 - Te Herenga Kairangi Q1-Q3 reporting
 - City Centre Framework development
 - Wellington Water updates (Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant, Local Water Done Well)
 - Strategic aspirations shared by each Mana Whenua entity
- Mana Whenua membership confirmed on the City Leadership Group through an iwi-informed process. This ensures active participation in strategy development and decision-making.
- Ongoing engagement supported through Kāhui Mana Whenua meetings and Quarterly Hui, reinforcing alignment with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and iwi priorities.

Embedding Mana Whenua Values in Council Initiatives

- Te Wai Takamori programme: Mana Whenua values plan endorsed and applied to City Link Bridge concept and Streetscape Strategy design.
- Sustainable Growth Strategy (adopted May 2025): Developed in partnership with Te Kāhui, guided by Tā kai Here principles, reflecting iwi feedback.
- District Plan Review: Mana Whenua contributed submissions, cultural narratives, and insights to Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.
- City Centre Framework (CCF): Co-designed with Kāhui Mana Whenua; Māori values now underpin the vision guiding development for the next 15 years.



Priority 1: Honouring our Mana Whenua partners



Kaupapa Māori Co-Design, Identity & Storytelling

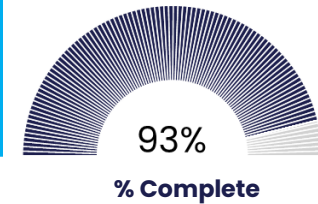
- Development of Kāhui Mana Whenua Design & Engagement Toolkit:
 - Practical guide for embedding mātauranga Māori and Treaty-based partnerships into public spaces.
 - Supports the implementation of Te Herenga Kairangi strategic priorities: partnership, place identity, sustainability, and equity.
- Te Pātaka Kōrero o Moerā (formerly Moera Library):
 - Co-designed with Māori artist selected by Kāhui Mana Whenua.
 - Followed tika process with cultural narratives built into architecture.
- Petone 2040 Initiatives:
 - Pito One Pā Landing and Hīkoikoi Landing projects embed tikanga and enhance wāhi tapu.
 - Restore access to urupā, supporting healthy, culturally supported Māori communities.

- Connected Communities engagement:
 - Collaboration with Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa for Healthy Families initiatives: 'Cull to Plate', 'Ruku Kaimoana', 'Reimagining Sport'.

Cultural Development & Recognition

- Reo Strategy development in partnership with Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa to inform HCC's future Reo Māori Policy (guided by the Mouri Reo Action Plan).
- Heritage Grant Fund engagement with Kāhui Mana Whenua ensures iwi participation in heritage conservation decisions.
- Elections 2025 campaign planning: Comms & Engagement team working with TTM to engage Māori voters through inclusive messaging and targeted outreach.

Priority 2: Engaging with hapori Māori

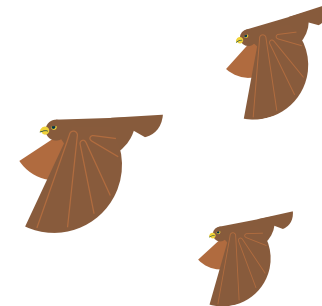


Rangatahi Leadership & Civic Engagement

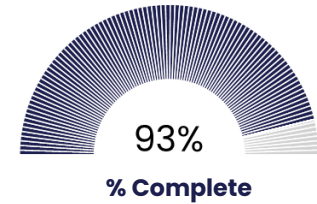
- Rangatahi Facilitator onboarded with a focused work programme aligned to four strategic priorities:
 - Uplifting Citizenship: Youth initiative stocktake, Moerā Hub planning, Streetball activation, school outreach, Student Leaders' Network design group.
 - Knowledge Uplift: Civic education workshops in schools with Elections NZ.
 - Partnering: Stronger school relationships, facility hosting, collaboration with youth service providers, digital skilling with Tūhura Tech.
 - Data-Driven Decisions: >400% increase in Rangatahi participation in RSS, contributing to future planning.
- Rangatahi Action Plan and future work programme presented to Council and supported, with emphasis on programming, advocacy, and collective impact.

Cultural Events & Matariki Puanga Celebrations

- Ongoing Council support for Te Rā including funding, planning, and a multi-team HCC stall.
- Matariki Puanga Fund launched earlier than 2024 with:
 - Direct outreach to key stakeholders
 - 18 events supported (up from 11 in 2024)
 - Promotion via flags, social media (9 themed posts), themed What's On publications, and Matariki-themed hui.



Priority 2: Engaging with hapori Māori



Targeted Māori Engagement & Satisfaction Insights

- 2025 Resident Satisfaction Survey included targeted engagement to amplify Māori participation:
 - 3,500 invitations sent to Māori Electoral Roll residents
 - Promotion via kapa haka group
 - Invitations sent through Hutt Views citizen's panel
- Ethnicity used as a key demographic in analysis, allowing comparison between Māori and general resident satisfaction.
- Quality of Life Survey also analysed to generate deeper data-driven insights on the wellbeing of Māori in Lower Hutt.

Ethical Research & Data Sovereignty

- Advice provided by Research Ethics Advisory Group (including Te Tira Māori rep) to the Arts and Culture team on Māori oral histories for the Boulcott Memorial Project.
- Privacy Impact Assessment tool updated to reflect Māori data sovereignty and cultural impacts.
- Ongoing work with Strategy & Engagement team to plan for data governance in AI and innovation actions.



4

Holistic and Economic Wellbeing

What's this section about?

This section provides an overview of how council is supporting the hauora of our hapori Māori



Priority 3: Health and wellbeing of hapori Māori



Emergency Preparedness

- Te Tira Māori collaborated with the Emergency Management team to enhance the Resilience Fund for marae, removing access barriers.
- Approximately \$30K was accessed by Wainuiomata, Waiwhetū and Kōkiri Marae through the Fund, aimed at improving the resilience and readiness of marae in emergencies.
- Emergency Management continue to collaborate with Te Tira Māori and with marae across Te Awa Kairangi to progress ambitions to improve resilience and readiness.
- Further engagement with marae occurred during and post severe weather events to provide early warning of flood risks and to identify potential marae for emergency accommodation if evacuations of affected communities was necessary.
- Ricoh Sports Centre was established as an Emergency Hub through partnership with Phoenix FC.

Event Delivery

- Over 50 Te Ao Māori-tagged* events engaged more than 700 attendees.
- Programmes for kaumātua and tamariki/rangatahi continue to thrive, with youth-focused sessions reaching 430+ participants.

Literacy Initiatives

- Early reading and literary programmes were highly successful, drawing over 600 attendees across 14 sessions.
- This included *Storyboard Hikoi* launched in Walter Nash Park, combining physical activity, literacy, and storytelling to activate public space and foster community connection.

*Tags are used on Council's online platform to help users identify and filter Te Ao Māori programmes and events.

Priority 3: Health and wellbeing of hapori Māori



Health & Play for Māori

- Programmes supporting physical health and active play drew nearly 570 participants. This included a summer module of Kī-o-rahi delivered in Wainuiomata in partnership with Kī-o-rahi ki te Upoko o te Ika, promoting Māori sport and intergenerational participation.

Equity Review

- Investment into sport and recreation is being reshaped, including:
 - Updated approach to sportsfield charges for the LTP 2027–2037.
 - Inclusive pilot models developed via Rec, Sport and Play Working Group with Mana Whenua input.
 - Community engagement planning is progressing with Council endorsement.

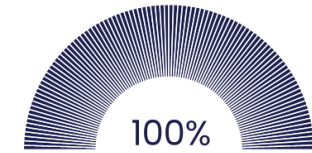
Matariki Puanga

- 18 events received backing from the Matariki Puanga Events Fund.
- Local hubs hosted 17 Matariki celebrations with over 2,250 participants.
- Promotional content included citywide flag displays, nine Facebook posts, and a themed What's On guide (~2,000 digital views)

Te Rā o te Raukura

- Continued support for Te Rā o te Raukura, a flagship whānau-focused cultural festival led by Te Āti Awa.
- Festival featured in Council's Events Strategy, alongside Matariki Puanga, for long-term growth and recognition of significant Te Ao Māori events.

Priority 4: Economic wellbeing and opportunities



% Complete

Inclusive Procurement for Māori Economic Growth

- Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi Mana Whenua Values Plan includes targets for purchasing from hapori Māori businesses. Procurement opportunities being scoped with Mana Whenua, WelTec (Tamaiti Whangai), MSD, and HVCC.
- Regional Supplier Diversity Kāhui formed with HCC, GWRC, WCC, PCC, and Amotai to promote inclusive procurement.
- Formal connection established with new CEO of Te Matarau a Maui, regional Māori economic agency driving advancement in Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui.
- Supplier Diversity Analysis completed by Mel Ahnau (Conscious Buying), funded by WellingtonNZ.
- Strategic Procurement Report (April 2025) recommends:
 - Organisation-wide supplier panel
 - Strategic procurement practices
 - Investment in procurement resources
 - Enhanced data collection
 - Improved access for Māori, Pasifika, and locally owned businesses

Homelessness Strategy & Māori-Centred Support

- Homelessness Dashboard developed and launched (May 2025) to improve visibility and inform policy decisions.
- Partnership with Tākiri Mai Te Ata (Kōkiri Marae) continues to support homelessness prevention and response, with 518 whānau supported since November 2019.
- Provider contracts are being updated to reflect obligations under the Privacy Act and Māori data protection.
- New data requirements established to improve reporting on provider performance and outcomes.



Priority 4: Economic wellbeing and opportunities



Kai Sovereignty & Food Security

- At least 5% of Council's community funding allocated to kai-related initiatives.
- Kai Community Facilitator convened citywide hui of kai growers to address shared challenges and resource access.
- Work initiated to increase visibility of māra kai on Council-owned whenua and identify support needs for sustainable operation.
- Foodbank support delivered through:
 - Mouri Ora Fund
 - Community Climate Action Fund
 - Kākano Fund
 - Facilitator-led connections to the Regional Food System Strategy
- MOUs for community gardens now embed strategic kai outcomes.
- Continued support for He Puawai Trust in Stokes Valley to strengthen māra-based community kai networks.
- Partnership with Te Whare Kura o Wainuiomata established a new coordinator to enhance impact and continuity.



5

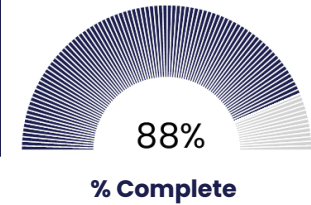
Te Ao Māori Capable Organisation

What's this section about?

This section provides an overview of how council enables and empowers staff to deliver outcomes for Māori



Priority 5: Empowering connections with Tangata Whenua



Te Ao Māori Resources & Workplace Visibility

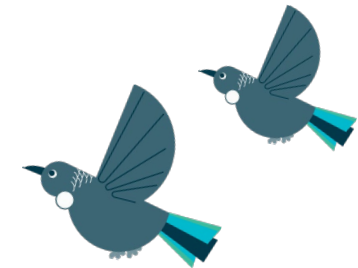
- New resources developed to grow organisational capability and visibility of Te Ao Māori:
 - Refreshed karakia posters displayed across council facilities.
 - Upgraded Kaupapa Māori landing page on Te Pātaka offering improved access to tools, guidance, and learning materials.

Staff Capability & Cultural Confidence

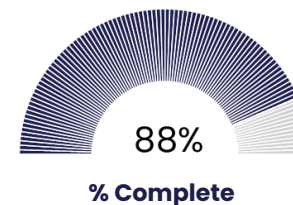
- Another 90 council staff completed Te Ao Māori Capability course, strengthening confidence and integration of Māori knowledge in daily work and engagement with Māori and Mana Whenua.

Ceremonial Support & Facilitation

- Council supported blessings and kaupapa across key community spaces, including:
 - Walter Mildenhall Park – Huringa ā nuku
 - Avalon Skatepark
 - Avalon Community Connections
 - Moerā Hub
 - Daly Street
- Partnership with Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa for Tā i te Kawa ceremony during Te Ngaengae pool opening.



Priority 6: Embedding cultural awareness



Staff Development & Cultural Integration

- Internal roll-out of Te Kawa Whakaruruhau continues with staff workshops and communication via pānui/kōrero. This resource offers foundational knowledge and best-practice guidance for engaging with hapori Māori.
- Waiata Wednesday launched successfully, with consistent weekly attendance from 20+ staff. The initiative:
 - Builds Te Ao Māori capability;
 - Welcomes staff new to TAM programming; and
 - Supports ongoing learning for TAM graduates.
- Waiata Wednesday confirmed to represent Hutt City Council at Te Konohete 2025, a public sector Māori cultural festival in Q2 FY25/26.

Engagement Framework & Strategic Collaboration

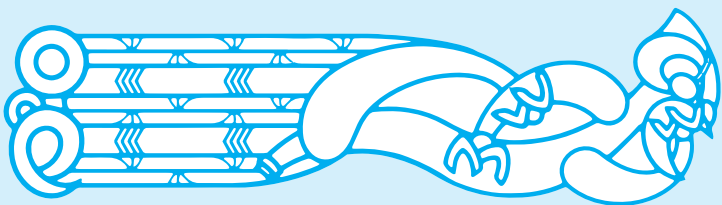
- Engagement Framework reviewed with Te Tira Māori to refine best engagement approaches.
- Further engagement scheduled with Kāhui Mana Whenua to ensure alignment and shared understanding

Inclusive Procurement with Cultural Awareness

- The procurement strategy is being refined to deliver better outcomes for pakihi Māori, Pasifika businesses, and locally owned enterprises, embedding cultural equity into decision-making.
- The Business and Economy team is leading efforts to integrate these practices across the organisation.

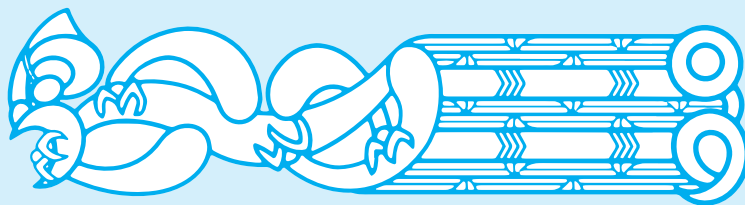
Te Herenga Kairangi – The Interwoven Ambition to Thrive





Karakia

Moe ara rā te kura nui
 Moe ara rā te kura roa
 Moe ara rā te kura taketake
 Tēnei te mai orooro, tēnei te mai aweawe.
 Ka rongo te pō, ka rongo te ao
 Ka rongohia i ngā wai taketake i Tatarua
 Ka riporipo i ngā awa o Awa Kairangi,
 o Ōpahu, o Waiwhetū, o Awamutu
 He awa tipua, he awa tawhito
 E rarau ngā tapuwae o tua
 E rarau ngā tapuwae o tata
 Huakina rā te ākau tangi
 E wawara ana i ngā hā taitai o Raukawakawa
 He kura ki tua, he ara ki tua.
 E rongo whakairi ake kia tīna
 Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e



Mihimihi

Ko ngā rārangi Mōunga i whao e tupua horo nuku, e tupua
 horo rangi tēnā te whakapuaki mai i te mōuri tupua, i te mōuri
 taketake, i te mōuri nō tua whakarere. Ko Puanga kai rau, ko
 Pōhutukawa tērā ka rewa ki te pae, ka rau mahara noa. Kei
 ngā raukura nui kua reia ki te kahu o Ranginui. He purapura
 whetū, ka pōhutu te ngākau kawa, he kawa nō aituā. Ka
 māuru te ngākau, he ngākau tūreikura. Ka uenukutia te roi i
 aku mata, ka rau mahara noa.

Tērā te huhua o ngā maioha ka tāpai ake ki runga i te mana
 e hora nei, ki runga i te ihi e wehi nei, ki runga i te raukura kua
 titia nei ki te whenua nō raurangi mā. Kei ōku tai pāhake, kei
 ōku tai pēperekou, tēnei he tātarakihi, te whāriki ake i te huhua
 o ōu ohaaki e titi kura ai ki Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi ki
 Tai.

Kei mahue i a au te tuku i ngā whakaaro nui ki ngā ahorangi
 o nāiane rangi, e whakatairanga ana i ngā pūtoi kura, i ngā
 tikitiki kura, me ngā tikanga tuku iho anō hoki. Kei ngā whītiki
 o te kī, ngā puna manaaki i te whakapapa, ngā mana kōrero
 o Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whānui, o Ngāti Toa Rangatira, e oha
 ana te manawa i te matakuituitanga o te aroha. Tēnei te
 nanaiore i ngā kura huna kei a koe, hei whāngaitanga i te
 hirikapo aroaro, i te hirikapo hiakai, e tātai ake i te anamata o
 te whenua e takoto nei.

Ngā Hua o Roto

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Te Whakapapa o te Wai

The Lineage of Water

Te Ōrokohanga

Origins

Many cultures across the world have the sky father and the earth mother as central pillars of their creation story. Similarly, Māori also recognise such origin stories in their own traditions.

Many Māori pūrākau discuss how the origin of water comes from Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother. Together they had over 70 children, including Tāne Mahuta.

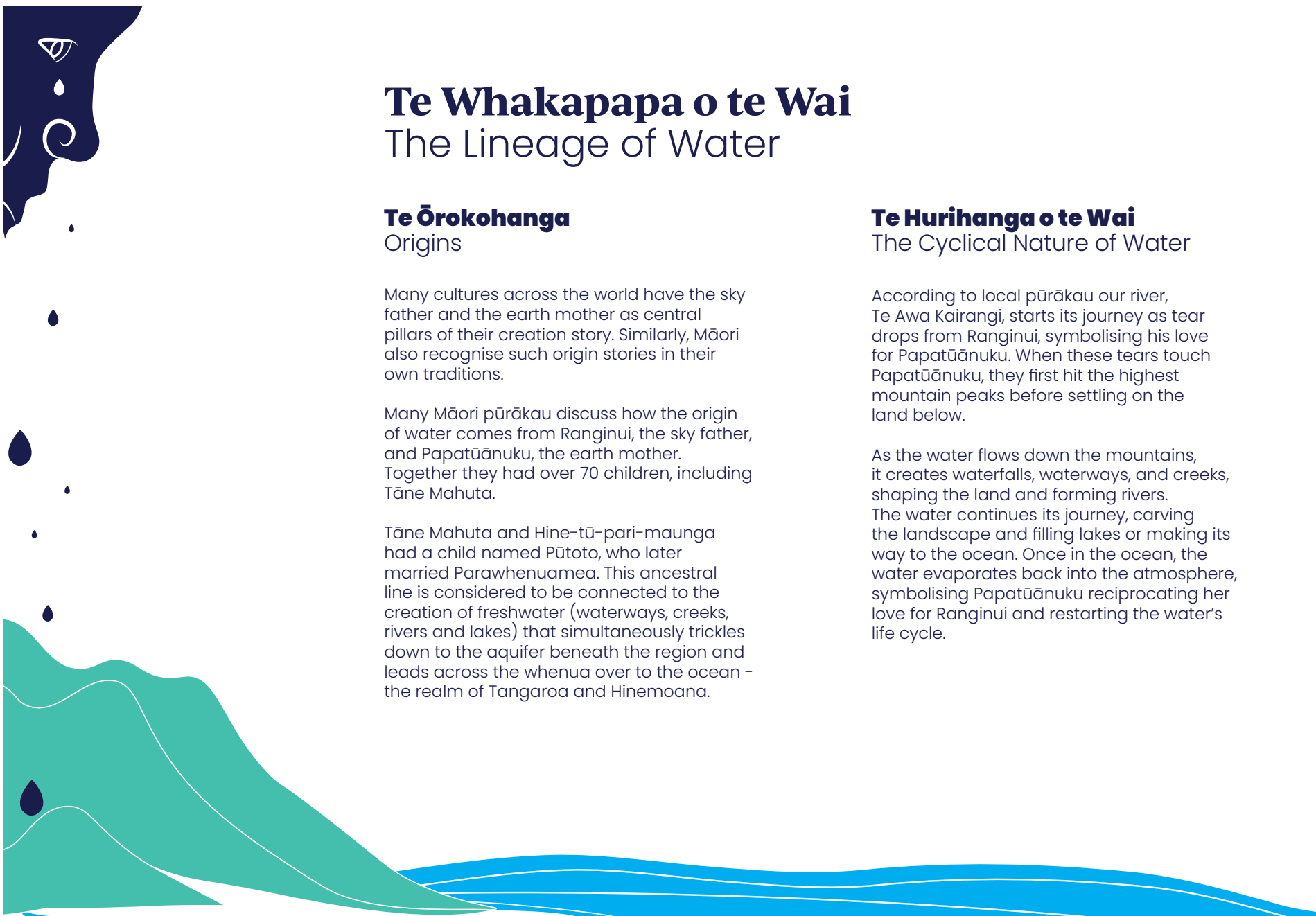
Tāne Mahuta and Hine-tū-pari-maunga had a child named Pūtoto, who later married Parawhenuamea. This ancestral line is considered to be connected to the creation of freshwater (waterways, creeks, rivers and lakes) that simultaneously trickles down to the aquifer beneath the region and leads across the whenua over to the ocean – the realm of Tangaroa and Hinemoana.

Te Hurihanga o te Wai

The Cyclical Nature of Water

According to local pūrākau our river, Te Awa Kairangi, starts its journey as tear drops from Ranginui, symbolising his love for Papatūānuku. When these tears touch Papatūānuku, they first hit the highest mountain peaks before settling on the land below.

As the water flows down the mountains, it creates waterfalls, waterways, and creeks, shaping the land and forming rivers. The water continues its journey, carving the landscape and filling lakes or making its way to the ocean. Once in the ocean, the water evaporates back into the atmosphere, symbolising Papatūānuku reciprocating her love for Ranginui and restarting the water's life cycle.

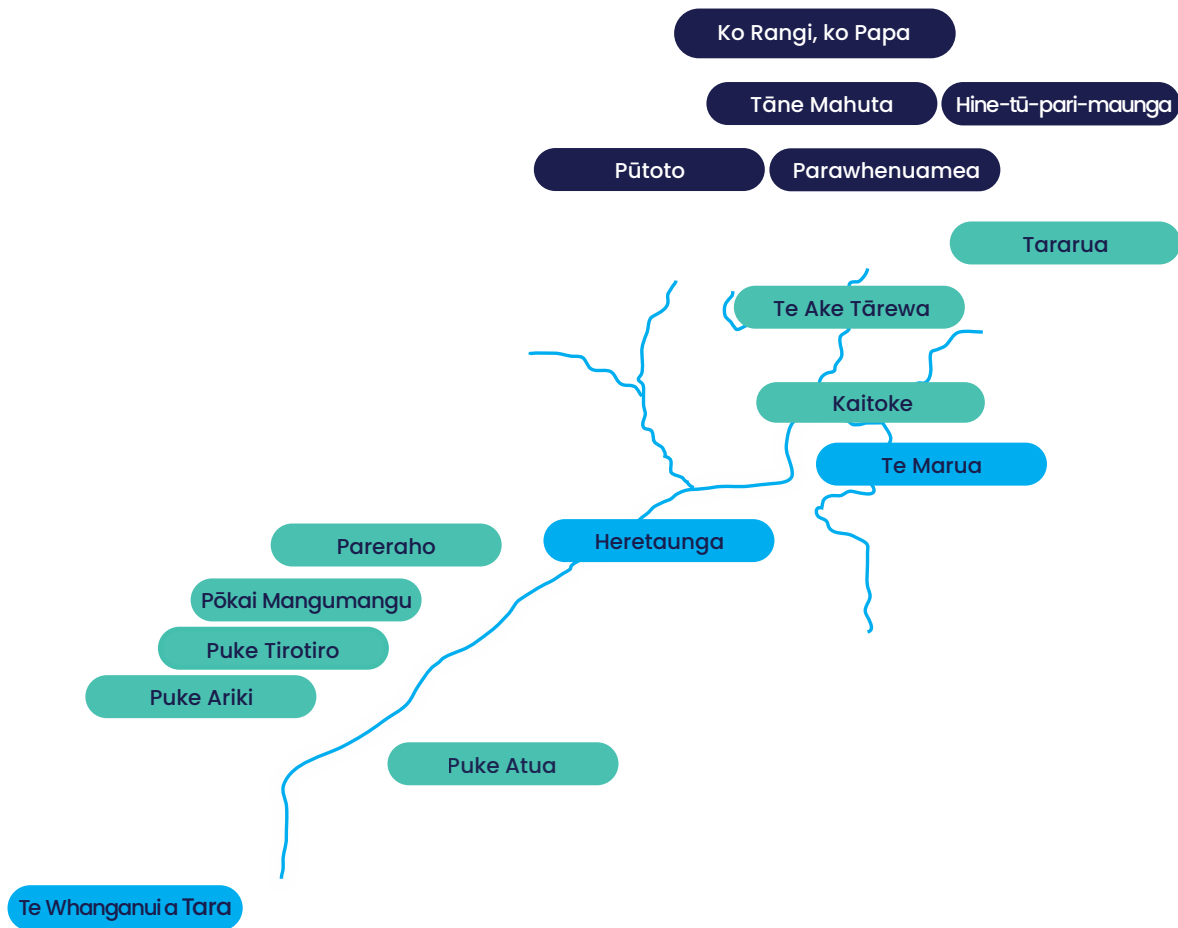


He Puna Ora

Te Awa Kairangi Springs Forth

As rain falls on the Tararua Ranges, the water travels down, forming Te Awa Kairangi – the Hutt river. Starting from Tararua, it flows through Te Ake Tārewa, continues on to Kaitoke and Te Marua, and then bids farewell to the boundary between Te Awa Kairangi i uta ki tai, Heretaunga. It passes Pareraho, Pōkai Mangumangu, Puke Tirotiro, and Puke Ariki before heading east towards Pukeatua, merging with the waters of Rotokākahi, Ōpahu, Ōkautū and, Te Momi.

Eventually, it reaches the the river mouth converging with the Waiwhetū and Awamutu streams, then finally entering the expansive harbour of Tara and completing its journey to Te Moana o Raukawa (Cook Strait).



Kupu Whakataki nā te Koromatua

Foreword

The importance of unity and partnership is vital to making our city thrive. This is articulated in the purpose of Te Herenga Kairangi – the interwoven ambition to thrive. Sheltered by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, our hāpori (community) ambitions and individual pursuits can operate in harmony with one another. This is how we embed intergenerational wellbeing and equity for our community.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi travelled down to our region and was eventually signed by Mana Whenua on 29 April 1840. Council recognises that our hāpori Māori are foundational descendants of our community, our city Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt, and Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole. Central to our work with hāpori Māori are the Tākai Here (Memoranda of Partnership) that Te Kaunihera upholds with our Mana Whenua partners. We recognise that their kaitiakitanga (stewardship, guardianship) extends beyond their own iwi interests, but also to mātāwaka and tangata Tiriti alike.

In this way, our interests are very much interwoven. We are clear that the role of local government is as kaitiaki (stewards) of place and people. Community, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. I am proud of our partnerships and I know first-hand the importance of these relationships in becoming an effective Te Tiriti partner.

In supporting and contributing to outcomes for our hāpori Māori, our city will only flourish as a result. While progress is demonstrated in the mahi that we collectively do here at Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi, I acknowledge that there is still plenty of work to be done to ensure long-term success.

I welcome the creation of Te Herenga Kairangi, our first rautaki Māori. I am proud of our hāpori as we continue to enhance our understanding and practice of becoming a Tiriti-centric organisation. I am excited to see what our shared ambitions for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt will bring, and hope that realigning our ambitions with Te Awa Kairangi will interweave our shared aspirations for our future mokopuna (grandchildren).

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga ki runga i a koutou.

Nāku iti nei



Mayor Campbell Barry
Te Koromatua o Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi

Te Herenga Kairangi

Our Cultural Narrative

Our strategy is named Te Herenga Kairangi. This name is deeply embedded in a significant element of the city, the river itself – Te Awa Kairangi. Under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Council recognises the special relationship with the whenua and the privilege our whole community holds in being able to call it home.

“Te Herenga”

‘Te Herenga’ addresses two key aspects. Historically, our awa was previously known as Heretaunga. The Māori word ‘herenga’ can also be used to describe binding or joining together. This combination of meanings acknowledges the history of our region; and in doing so, we bind together our past with our present.

“Kairangi”

The name ‘Kairangi’ also holds dual significance. Firstly, it refers to the life-sustaining water source that nourishes the majority of residents in this region. It directly flows into the river, which traverses the western side and centre of our city, merging with waters flowing from the various streams that were once plentiful and significant. The second part explores the meaning of ‘Kairangi’ in Māori culture, which can denote something esteemed or the finest variety of greenstone.

Which serves as a reminder for us to strive for success, recognising that success can vary for different people. In this context, Kairangi unites us in one’s ongoing pursuit of excellence and well-being.

With this rich context flowing throughout, the intent or purpose of Te Herenga Kairangi is the interwoven ambition to thrive. These whakaaro (concepts) are aptly connected by the ōhākī (parting words) of Te Wharepouri, a tīpuna of Te Āti Awa:

**“I muri nei kia pai ki aku taonga Māori,
taonga Pākehā, kia tae ake te haruru o tō
reo ki ahau i Te Reinga.”**

“After I have gone be good to my Māori people
and my European people, let the thunder of
your voice reach me in the spirit land.”

– Te Wharepouri, Te Āti Awa, 1842

These words speak to how Mana Whenua are always striving to protect and work alongside all within our hāpori. As we move through the rest of this document, notice how our narrative and our partners¹ are with us as we journey through the elements of the strategy that resonate with our wider hāpori.

¹This cultural narrative was informed by and developed in partnership with representatives of our Mana Whenua partners and by Council’s Tumukaki Māori – Kaanihi Butler-Hare (Te Āti Awa, Ngāi Tuhoe).

Tīmatanga Kōrero

Introduction

As a kāwanatanga entity within Aotearoa, Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt City Council) recognises and honours its obligations to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the indigenous people of the land – Tangata Whenua (Māori).

Though the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to demonstrate how it is creating better outcomes for hapori Māori, our actions are not solely driven by statute alone. We recognise our hapori Māori as an important sector of our community. Māori have a wealth of knowledge and expertise when it comes to the historical, cultural, natural, physical, economic and social environments of our region.

Council genuinely looks forward to supporting and enhancing the positive role that Māori can play in shaping the future of our community. It stands that the purpose of this strategic document is to provide an official platform for Māori and Council to work together – identify existing initiatives, highlighting gaps, planning and making relevant preparations for the future.

Te Herenga Kairangi is Council's first Māori strategy. Like the narrative that flows throughout this strategy, this is considered to be a living document.

You will see the elements that are enduring, the things that guide Council's approach to our mahi. You will also see the elements that are provisional and allow Council to meet present needs and handle change.

Overall, you can see how our strategy signals Council's intention for meaningful dialogue and partnership with Māori within our community.

For Council, this first iteration of Te Herenga Kairangi strategy sets in motion the next three years for improving outcomes for Māori in our rohe (region). Te Herenga Kairangi has been designed to interweave seamlessly with many existing Council initiatives, including our 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan.

We acknowledge that our collective aspirations extend beyond the next three years and seek to ensure that the decisions made now will be felt by our hapori Māori in 10 years' time and beyond.

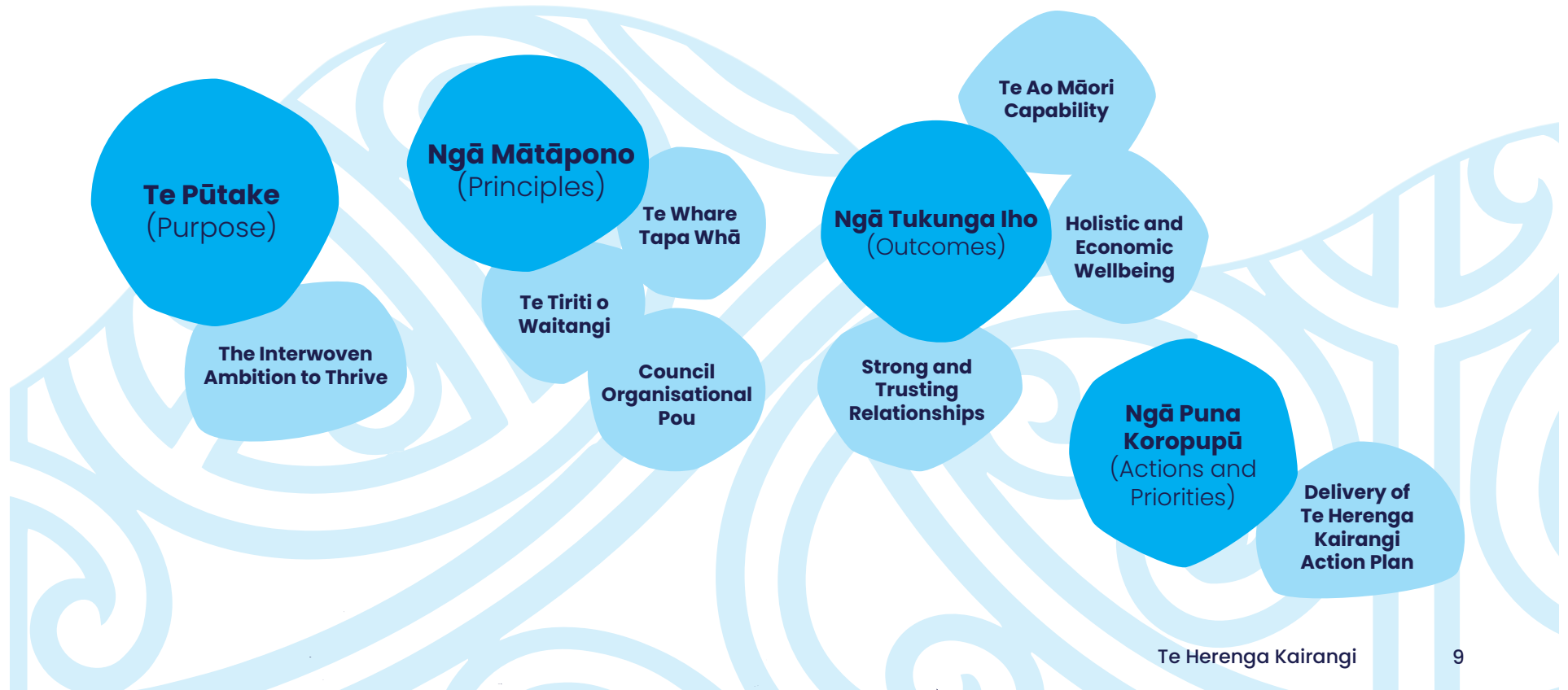
We expect that the flow-on effects of Māori outcomes in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt will enhance and enrich our city as a whole.



Mahere Rautaki

Strategic Framework

This overarching strategic framework sets out the purpose, guiding principles, outcomes, and prioritised actions for Te Herenga Kairangi. The structure was informed by good practice, but most importantly through engagement with our hapori Māori and Mana Whenua partners.



Te Pūtake o Te Herenga Kairangi

Purpose – the Interwoven Ambition to Thrive

The purpose of Te Herenga Kairangi is to interweave the collective ambitions within our hāpori to thrive in life. In this light, Council looks to the things that unite our community. Think to the lived experience that we collectively hold – as either pēpi, tamariki, rangatahi, pakeke and/or kaumātua – each perspective invites us to see the same in others.

Our purpose acknowledges that regardless of what stage in life we are in and regardless of whether one can identify as Tangata Whenua (indigenous people of Aotearoa) or tāngata Tiriti (people sheltered by Te Tiriti o Waitangi), we can all agree that everybody in our hāpori wants to thrive in life.

Council asserts that our collective hāpori ambitions can coexist autonomously, peacefully and without prejudice in the space that we here at Council facilitate within our rohe. By working in partnership with Māori ambitions, we are only adding solutions to our collective progress into the future. Council sees that the whole community will benefit from the flow-on effects of such solutions.

Ngā Mātāpono Principles

Our principles are the whakaaro (concepts) that Council uses to guide our collective approach to putting our purpose into practice and achieving its outcomes.

These are the guiding principles of Te Herenga Kairangi:



Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Council honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi by recognising and providing for the special relationships that Tangata Whenua hold with culture, traditions, land and taonga. The commitment to partnering with Māori in our rohe begins with recognising those who hold Mana Whenua status (inherited rights of land guardianship and ownership).

Council is clear that it has a relationship with Mana Whenua entities within our rohe and this is reflected in Council functions and activities. We acknowledge that these entities are perpetual kaitiaki (guardians) within our city and their wider regional remit.

Their kaitiakitanga (guardianship or protection) interests reach across all people within the rohe – mana whenua, tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti alike. Open and honest communication between Council and Māori is an important step in strengthening this relationship. It does this by enabling Māori to be an active partner in determining their future wellbeing – as Tangata Whenua – as part of the entire community.

Te Whare Tapa Whā

Te Whare Tapa Whā² is a well-respected holistic Māori health model that considers the wellbeing of a person to be multi-dimensional. Within Te Whare Tapa Whā, one is invited to view an individual or a group's collective health as a whare with four walls.

Each wall represents something different – taha tinana (physical wellbeing), taha hinengaro (mental wellbeing), taha wairua (spiritual wellbeing) and taha whānau (social wellbeing). Laying the foundation for all of these things is of course the whenua and all that it hosts (environmental wellbeing).

If any one of these five areas are compromised, then the overall wellbeing of the person is also affected. The application of this model will consider the social, mental and academic, physical, spiritual and environmental implications to our hapori Māori when striving for our outcomes here at Council. We use this principle to guide our wellbeing-related outcomes.

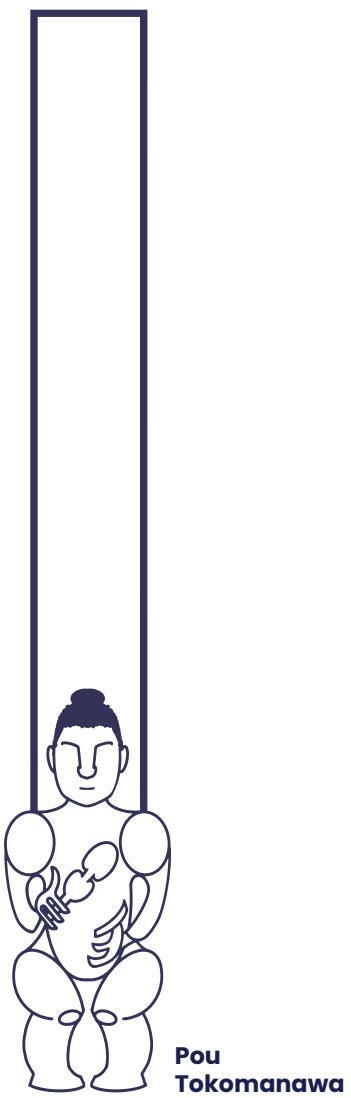
² Durie, M. (1998). Whaiora: Māori health development (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Hutt City Council Organisational Pou

Council has identified four pou that serve as a business planning tool for staff. Council uses these components to align all our mahi to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Long-Term Plan statutory requirements. This tool allows us to run our internal operations with cohesion and to apply a Te Ao Māori lens to all our activities.

The pou can be described as:

-  **Pou Tokomanawa**
Our environment and culture provide a positive employee experience that enables our people to thrive
-  **Pou Tāhū**
Our Long Term Plan is delivered enabling our city and communities to thrive
-  **Pou Tuarongo**
Our communities and their voices are at the heart of our work
-  **Pou Whenua**
Our Mana Whenua partners and their priorities, are at the core of our policies and practices



Ngā Tukunga Iho Outcomes

This section outlines the outcomes that Council aims to achieve by implementing Te Herenga Kairangi. After consulting with our hapori Māori, outcomes were prioritised on key response areas. We also balanced our operational needs, internal and external factors.

As a result, we have identified the following outcomes for our strategy:

**Strong and
Trusting
Relationships**

**Holistic and
Economic
Wellbeing**

**Te Ao Māori
Capability**

Council and Hapori Māori Have Strong and Trusting Relationships

Relationships are at the core of any change initiatives that involve hapori Māori. Actively partnering with integrity and intent will build trust, understanding, mutual respect and good will. Trust hasn't always been something that hapori Māori have experienced with local government historically. Council accepts that trust will take time, consistency and patience.

Continuity of presence is also a significant factor in relationship building among our hapori Māori. Ensuring that Council facilitates reliable forums for regular and consistent dialogue with Māori is important. We seek to maintain what works and identify what can be improved to understand what approach works best for our hapori Māori.

We are proud of the existing relationships that Council has hosted over the years to better engage with whānau Māori and work together to lead change. Council's existing Tākai Here Partnership agreements are an example of the strong and trusting relationships that are currently built between Council and Mana Whenua.

Our partners include:

- Taranaki Whānui
ki Te Upoko o Te Ika
(Port Nicholson Block
Settlement) Trust

● Te Rūnanga o Toa
Rangatira Incorporated

● Palmerston North Māori
Reserve Trust
- Wellington Tenth's Trust

● Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti
Awa ki Te Upoko o Te Ika
a Māui Incorporated

● Te Tatau o Te Pō Marae

● Waiwhetu Marae

Te Herenga Kairangi reflects components of the Tākai Here agreements between Council and Mana Whenua, while also acknowledging there is opportunity to refresh this space in the context of our current time and place. Council looks forward to applying guidance from Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and developing how we work with Tangata Whenua. We anticipate that solutions will not be one-size fits all and meaningful change may take time. However, we welcome moving forward and progressing together, united in our interwoven ambitions.



Māori are Healthy, Culturally Accepted, Sheltered and Economically Secure

Through consultation with our hapori Māori, we heard that living in a positive state of wellbeing would make the biggest difference to everyday whānau Māori lives. The wellbeing of one person (pēpi, tamariki, rangatahi, pakeke and kaumātua alike) is acknowledged to have an impact on the wider collective whānau. By extension, Council acknowledges that the health and wellbeing of our whānau Māori is felt by the wider hapori of Te Awakairangi.

During consultation wellbeing needs were described as: chronic health concerns, physical fitness initiatives, social behaviour, food insecurity, job insecurity and housing insecurity. In applying the guiding principle of Te Whare Tapa Whā, Council seeks to address holistic wellbeing outcomes.

While guidance from Te Tiriti enables Council mahi to contribute to components of the economic wellbeing of whānau Māori. Council considers that addressing these issues helps the entire population – not just Māori.

Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi is a Te Ao Māori Capable Organisation

Council is committed to becoming a Te Ao Māori capable organisation by meaningfully embracing Te Tiriti and by incorporating the Māori world view into our culture, practices and policies. This has potential for multiple applications across our operational policies, processes and resources.

Using our guiding principle of our Hutt City Council Organisational Pou, we aim for continuously improving our collective capability to better meet the cultural needs of our hapori Māori. In improving our Te Ao Māori comprehension in the workplace, we actively foster an inclusive environment in Council operations, while also creating a welcoming and familiar environment for our whānau Māori in the public services we provide such as customer service, community hubs and events.

Ngā Puna Koropupū Action Plan

Our action plan for Te Herenga Kairangi is a collection of ongoing or project-based work.

This allows us to practice consistent regulatory operations such as policy review, while also remaining flexible enough to meet the changing needs of the present day.

The actions are directly aligned to our outcomes in the next three tables. Each have been further grouped into two priority areas to help us all understand how Council can deliver the three outcomes that resonate most with our hāpori Māori.



Council and Hapori Māori have Strong and Trusting Relationships

Priority 1

Honouring the relationship that our Mana Whenua partners have with the land – Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai

Council is committed to strengthening and maintaining the priorities of our partners

Actions:

- 💧 Consistent engagement across the takiwā is developed to better accommodate time and resource capacity limitations
- 💧 In partnership with Mana Whenua, refine our Tā kai Here agreements to ensure they are fit-for-purpose
- 💧 Mana Whenua decision-making and strategic alignment opportunities are identified and developed as needed
- 💧 Council provides effective opportunities for District Plan and Spatial Plan consultation to ensure strategic alignment with Mana Whenua priorities to uphold our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- 💧 Investigate co-designing opportunities for other strategic and operational project work
- 💧 Identify and develop a cross-council approach to support Mana whenua in a region-wide Te Reo Māori strategy
- 💧 Naming Policy operational guidelines are developed in partnership with Mana Whenua

Priority 2

Identify and develop best practices for Tangata Whenua engagement

Council is committed to engaging effectively with all Māori in our community

Actions:

- 💧 Council develops and maintains relationships with the seven marae in Te Awa Kairangi
- 💧 Research Ethics Policy, Privacy Policy and Data Strategy are applied to all operational work where hapori Māori data is applicable
- 💧 Development of the Rangatahi Engagement Strategy in consultation with hapori Māori for intergenerational outcomes
- 💧 Council identifies and addresses equitable power dynamics in current/future relationships with hapori Māori
- 💧 Participation in developmental programmes such as the Tuia Programme
- 💧 Participation in and promotion of key celebratory events in the Māori calendar such as Matariki
- 💧 Rāhui and Sudden Death Policy operational guidelines and implementation are developed to ensure effective internal and external communications



Māori are Healthy, Culturally Accepted, Sheltered and Economically Secure

Priority 1

Holistic wellbeing needs are being factored into our work programmes and approach

Council considers physical, social, spiritual, environmental and mental wellbeing implications for Tangata Whenua in its work

Actions:

- Continue support of Healthy Families Partnership initiatives. Including championing wellbeing equity, reducing alcohol and smoking related harm, and reducing health barriers for hapori Māori
- Educational, academic and social support programmes are made accessible to hapori Māori through Community Hubs and Library Services
- Develop Marae Emergency Hubs support to ensure adequate resourcing for the continuation of services in Emergency Management
- Develop a Te Reo Māori policy
- Investigate the development of a Te Reo Māori digital application
- Ensure promotion of physical activities to hapori Māori through on-site communications at facilities i.e. Hubs.
- Investigate equity in community access to sport and recreation through the Review of Investment and Sport
- Ensure kaitiakitanga of and accessibility to the natural water sources within Te Awa Kairangi such as springs, fountains, beaches and rivers
- Connect whānau Māori through key Māori and/or community events such as Matariki, Te Tiriti Celebrations and kaumātua events

Priority 2

Economic wellbeing needs are identified and addressed

Council recognises that Māori economic resilience contributes to wider socio-economic effects in the community

Actions:

- Collaborate with external organisations to collectively address and mitigate issues such as homelessness, city safety, as well as food, job or financial insecurity.
- This includes:
- Implementation of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan, particularly where tangata whenua are in need
 - Assistance for local food banks to ensure accessibility for whānau Māori in need
 - Project assistance for māra kai initiatives to ensure self-sufficiency and tangible change opportunities relating to food
- Investigate opportunities to contribute to:
 - Business support services for existing and new pakihi Māori in our rohe
 - Potential housing support initiatives
 - Identify co-design opportunities with hapori Māori to create business-related outcomes for the city (including council-controlled operations)



Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi is a Te Ao Māori Capable Organisation

Priority 1

Provide Council staff with tools to maintain and strengthen our relationships with Tangata Whenua

Council recognises the need for shared relationship management responsibilities across our workforce

Actions:

- Te Tira Māori deliver a 9-week Te Ao Māori Capability programme to provide staff with a foundation in understanding cultural and site-specific Māori history
- Identify and develop engagement opportunities centred on hapori Māori best practices
- Training and educational resources are delivered via programmes and communication channels
- Investigate opportunities for Elected Members to enhance their understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Existing Translation Services are developed and promoted to staff

Priority 2

Empower our workforce capability with improved cultural awareness to increase responsiveness in our public services

Council seeks to normalise Te Ao Māori values, culture and language into business practices

Actions:

- Investigate extension of the Te Ao Māori Capability programme to ensure appropriate and contextual application of Te Ao Māori practices in the day-to-day operations of the workplace
- Engagement with hapori Māori is developed to meet best practice needs
- Grow the diversity of talent in our staff profile by identifying and exploring kaupapa Māori-related roles responsibilities
- Implement tikanga onboarding programme to empower staff to utilise approved tikanga practices
- Consult Māori staff on the Wellbeing and Belonging strategy to ensure cultural acceptance and safety is occurring
- Koha policy and operational guidelines are reviewed as needed
- Support development of business procurement policies and strategies to align with the Data Strategy, Tākai Here agreements and Kāhui Mana Whenua agreements

Te Whakaū me te Arotake

Implementation and review measures

Te Whakatinanatanga

Implementation

Given the cross-council connected nature of the actions in this strategy, the responsibility for implementation is shared across different business units in Council. Te Herenga Kairangi will be implemented as part of business as usual across Council. Implementation of the strategy will speak to the priority areas in the action plan.

Pūrongo Arotake

Reporting

Reporting measures for Te Herenga Kairangi have been identified. These measures will ensure that:

- Te Herenga Kairangi is aligned with key Council plans, policies and strategies – such as Council’s Long-Term Plan (2024–2034)
- Activities identified in the action plan represent collaboration with relevant Māori engagement forums as outlined in relevant agreements such as Council’s Tākai Here
- Progress is biannually reported to Council by Te Tira Māori. This coincides with other operational timings and is expected to provide valuable insight to Council’s efficacy in delivering Te Herenga Kairangi and its outcomes.

Arotakenga

Review

This document is the current iteration of Te Herenga Kairangi. Council anticipates the needs of our whānau Māori may reasonably change with the climate of the time, such as the lessons learned from our post-pandemic era.

Relevant change factors include the maturity levels of Councils operational implementation, available resources and unforeseen circumstances.

Accordingly, we expect that Te Herenga Kairangi should be reviewed to reflect any changes and constantly be able to resonate with the needs of our hapori Māori. This review process will coincide with operational timings such as Long-Term Planning dates.

He kura ki tua Conclusion

As a Council we aspire for positive change when it comes to delivering better outcomes for our hapori Māori. Whether it is in 3-years or 10-years' time - we expect to be in a better position than we are today. We hope to have played a positive part in history.

We strive to have cultivated an inclusive environment that enables our hapori Māori to express their Māoritanga. We will see our hapori Māori thriving and playing a significant role in the future of Te Awa Kairangi.

Puna Maioha Acknowledgements

E rere nei ngā maioha ki te hunga i whakairo i te ātaahuatanga o te toi Māori ki tēnei rautaki, hei kai mā ngā whatu aronui.

E kore te puna whakamiha e mimiti mō koutou i toha mai i a koutou pūkenga tongarewa, e eke noa atu te kōunga o ngā kōrero.

Graphic design: Georgina Stokes (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki)

Illustrator: Whareahuru Gilbert (Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Toarangatira me Ngāti Raukawa)

Kuputaka

Glossary

Awa	River
Hapori Māori	Māori community
Kaitiaki	Guardian, steward, protector
Kaitiakitanga	Guardianship
Kaumātua	Elderly
Kāwanatanga	Governing entity
Mahi	Work
Mana Whenua	Authority over land
Māoritanga	Māori identity
Māra kai	Garden-grown food
Pakeke	Adults
Pakihi	Business
Pēpi	Baby/Babies
Pou	Pole, pillar, post
Pou Tokomanawa, Pou Tāhū, Pou Tuarongo and Pou Whenua	Specific ridge poles that traditionally support a structure
Rāhui	Temporary state of restriction for a period

Rangatahi	Youth
Rohe	Region
Taha hinengaro	Mental, emotional and academic wellbeing
Taha tinana	Physical wellbeing
Taha wairua	Spiritual wellbeing
Taha whānau	Familial and social wellbeing
Tākai Here	Memorandum of Partnership
Takiwā	Territory
Tamariki	Children
Tāngata Tiriti	People of the Treaty, non-indigenous to Aotearoa
Tangata Whenua	Indigenous people of the land (Aotearoa)
Taonga	Treasured possessions
Whakaaro	Idea, thought, concept
Whenua	Land



14 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/104

Mouri Ora Fund 2025/26 Approvals

Purpose of the report

1. For the Communities, Culture, and Partnerships Committee to consider the recommended funding allocations for Council's 2025/26 Mouri Ora Fund (the Fund).

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes there is \$776,070 available for allocation under the Mouri Ora Fund (the Fund) for 2025/26;
- (2) notes that \$193,750 is committed to community groups receiving multi-year contracts, leaving a balance of \$582,320 for allocation in the 2025/26 funding round;
- (3) agrees to the 2025/26 recommended allocations of \$582,320 as outlined in paragraph 13 of the report and detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report;
- (4) agrees to the 2026/27 recommended allocations of \$362,046, as outlined in paragraph 19 of the report, and detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report; and
- (5) agrees to the recommended applications to decline totalling \$1,237M made up of reductions to successful applications (\$771,001) and applications to decline (\$466,245) outlined in paragraph 19.

Background

2. Council works actively to make Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt a place where everyone thrives. The priorities of its Long-Term Plan (LTP) include enabling a livable city and vibrant neighbourhoods, and promoting the wellbeing of its people, businesses and visitors.
3. Council's annual community funding, and particularly its Mouri Ora Fund, plays a key role in enabling this by supporting the groups whose mahi contribute to the social and cultural outcomes our community seeks.

4. The Fund is for community initiatives that align closely with Council's vision and priorities and is promoted through Council's website and Facebook page, Council Community Hub Facebook pages, Lower Hutt official community Facebook pages, and networks of the wider Connected Communities team.
5. Funding of \$776,070 is available for allocation in 2025/26; however \$193,750 of this funding is already committed to community groups receiving multiyear contracts, leaving a balance of \$582,320 for allocation in 2025/26. The community groups receiving multi-year funding are as follows:

Organisation name	Years remaining	Amount 2025-26
Arohanui Strings	3 rd of 3 payments	\$10,000
Dress for Success	3 rd of 3 payments	\$10,000
English Language Partners	3 rd of 3 payments	\$10,000
Youth Inspire	2 nd of 2 payments	\$25,000
Lower Hutt Food Bank	2 nd of 2 payments	\$22,000
He Pūawai Trust	2 nd of 2 payments	\$22,000
Te Ngakau Kahukura	2 nd of 2 payments	\$30,000
Vibe	2 nd of 2 payments	\$38,750
Citizens Advice Bureau – Lower Hutt	2 nd of 2 payments	\$26,000
	Total commitments	\$193,750

Evaluation criteria

6. All applications received were scored through a matrix model, using the Council's funding evaluation criteria, namely:
 - a) **clearly making a difference**, benefiting a diverse group and/or a priority group;
 - b) **community ownership – community-led**, local group with local volunteers, employee/s, service provided because of an identified community need;
 - c) **demonstrated collaborative approaches** – working with others and with those who will benefit from the initiative as well as working with other organisations;
 - d) **show well-managed organisations** - financial reporting, organisation structure and evaluation;
 - e) an element of **innovation and environmental sustainability**.

7. Officers propose prioritising funding based on the initiative's score, fully funding applications scoring above 12, maintaining last year's funding levels for most returning applicants, partially funding those scoring 9.5–11 on a weighted proportional basis, and declining applications scoring below 9.5.
8. Other key assumptions guiding funding recommendations include giving strong emphasis to community-led initiatives with strong equity outcomes, local groups without access to significant central government funding, and ensuring applicants do not receive multiple Council grants for the same initiative. To promote fair distribution, large applications are capped at \$40,000.
9. This prioritisation framework ensures that limited funding is directed at initiatives that have the most impact on Council and communities' shared priorities.

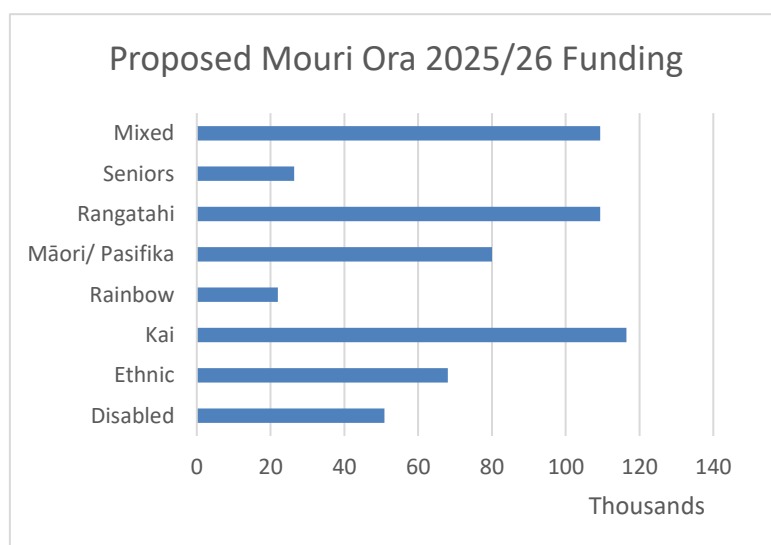
Funding recommendations

10. A total of 63 applications, totalling \$3.623M across multi-years, were received for the Fund. This is significantly more than previous years (\$2.93M 2024/25; \$1.3M 2023/24) and likely reflects growing community need, changes in central government policy and reductions in central government funding.
11. This year (as was the case last year), there are more applications overall, and there is an increase in applications from diverse communities. This growth is in strong part due to the work Council's Connected Communities team is doing with Communities of Interest to build trust and support them in applying for funding.
12. Due to the number of applications and the size of funding requests, some groups that have been funded previously may receive reduced amounts. While the work of these groups is still highly valued, funding also needs to be made available to new communities, needs and activities.

2025/26 Proposed Funding Allocations

13. In total, 42 applications, with a combined value of \$582,320 are recommended to be funded across the following Communities of Interest:

- a) **Mixed** (9): \$109k
- b) **Seniors** (2): \$26k
- c) **Rangatahi** (7): \$109k
- d) **Māori/Pasifika** (2): \$80k
- e) **Rainbow** (1): \$22k
- f) **Kai** (8): \$116k
- g) **Ethnic** (7): \$68k
- h) **Disabled** (6): \$51k

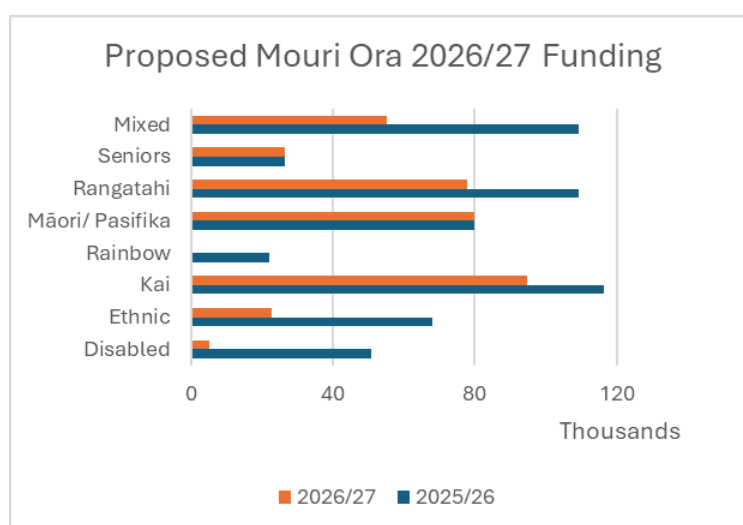


14. Applications recommended for 2025/26 funding represent a diverse range of initiatives that will deliver meaningful benefits for priority communities in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai. This includes delivering better outcomes for disabled people, ethnic and migrant communities, Māori and Pasifika, Rangatahi, Seniors, and the wider community.
15. Activities include leadership and confidence-building for people with disabilities, tailored education and wellbeing programmes for neurodiverse learners, cultural and settlement support for ethnic and migrant communities, and initiatives that build food security, resilience, and sustainable kai systems.
16. The recommendations also reflect investment in community connection, inclusion, and wellbeing. Funding will enable programmes that empower Rangatahi through sport, creative arts, and leadership opportunities; strengthen cultural identity and resilience among Māori and Pasifika; promote diversity and inclusion through events such as the Wellington Pride Festival; and provide targeted support for seniors, families, and those experiencing social or health challenges.
17. The details of 2025/26 funding allocations is attached for reference at Appendix 1.

2026/27 Proposed Funding Allocations

18. Applications to the Fund can be for multi-year funding for up to a three-year period. Council's approach to date has been to commit to multi-year funding as it can both provide more certainty to groups (which they asked for) and reduce administration. This approach, however, needs to be balanced, to ensure there is sufficient contestable funding available annually for investment in new initiatives and emerging mahi that may have significant value to the community. To achieve this balance, in this round, officers have limited multi-year funding requests to a maximum of two years. This approach also provides flexibility for the new Council to reset the focus of the fund, should it want to.
19. Officers recommend approving \$362,046 in pre-committed funding for 2026/27 as follows:

- a) **Mixed** (3): \$55k
- b) **Seniors** (2): \$26k
- c) **Rangatahi** (6): \$78k
- d) **Māori/Pasifika** (2): \$80k
- e) **Rainbow** \$0
- f) **Kai** (6): \$95k
- g) **Ethnic** (3): \$23k
- h) **Disabled** (1): \$5k



20. The detail of 2026/27 funding allocations is included in the Appendix 1 attachment.

Proposed applications to decline:

21. 21 initiatives are proposed to be declined for funding. Officers acknowledge the community impact of these initiatives, which range from disability support services and food security projects to cultural programmes for Māori, Pasifika, and rainbow communities. The range of applications demonstrates ongoing demand for support for our diverse communities, particularly in the areas of disability inclusion, kai resilience, cultural connection and youth engagement.
22. Our Community Funding Advisor will offer support for these organisations to connect to alternative funding sources they may wish to consider and will also invite them to resubmit proposals in the next funding round.

Contributions to wider Council priorities

23. Officers note the Rautaki Māori outcomes which necessitate collaboration with external organisations to discharge Council's Treaty settlements and work towards delivering better outcomes and results across priorities for Mana Whenua partners, and Iwi and Māori more broadly. Several supported initiatives are delivering strong Te Ao Māori outcomes, reaching communities where Māori and Pasifika are prominent and needs are greatest. Collectively, these projects engage young people, single parents, and local students through school-based programmes, creative workshops, and targeted whānau support. Activities include sports and leadership programmes in lower-decile schools. These wood carving workshops support cultural skills uplift, and community services in neighbourhoods experiencing some of the highest levels of socioeconomic deprivation nationally. These initiatives are helping to strengthen cultural identity, resilience, and social connection for hapori across the city.
24. Officers also note Council's Climate Change ambitions as outlined in its Climate Action Pathway. All initiatives were evaluated for their alignment with or contribution to environmental sustainability.
25. Several supported initiatives propose to deliver measurable environmental benefits and strengthen community resilience. Collectively, funded projects will divert over 309 tonnes of food and 12 tonnes of fish parts from landfill, preventing more than 810 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions. Examples include community composting that diverts thousands of kilograms of food waste each year, sewing and repair workshops encouraging clothing reuse, kai sovereignty initiatives in Naenae to build local food resilience, and the redistribution of under-utilised fish parts to reduce waste and support food security.

Next steps

26. Following confirmation of the Communities, Culture, and Partnerships Committee's decisions, all applicants will be notified of the outcome.
27. Decisions will be announced via media release and through Council's usual channels.
28. Contracts will be sent to all successful applicants, and when signed and other administrative requirements are completed, payments will be made.

Climate Change impact and considerations

29. In line with the Council's Climate Change Pathway, applicants to the Fund were asked what practical steps their organisation/project has taken to address environmental concerns.
30. The purpose of this was to enable further conversation to occur with successful applicants around environmental impacts and how this can be related to the work they do within the community.

Consultation

31. Relevant Council officers were consulted during the assessments of applications.
32. There was considerable engagement with the community/voluntary sector in designing the Council's approach to community.

Legal considerations

33. Funds must only be used for the purpose for which they were sought and/or approved.
34. Funds must be used within 12 months of the recipient being notified of their successful application.
35. Recipients are required to inform Council immediately if any difficulties arise that may compromise the service or project.
36. A complaint must be filed with the Police if any funds received under this scheme are stolen or misappropriated. Council must be notified of all such complaints to the Police.
37. The recipient must allow an audit on the use of Council's funds should Council wish to undertake such an audit.
38. The recipient must recognise the support of Council in appropriate publicity material, annual reports, and similar applications.

Financial considerations

39. There are no financial implications apart from those detailed in the report.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1	Appendix 1 - Mouri Ora Funding decisions 2025-26	65

Author: Adrienne Moor
Head of Connected Communities

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

Appendix A: Detailed Funding Proposed Allocations

Organisation name	Project name	Community of Interest (COI)	Total recommended 2025/26	Received in 2024/25	Recommended 2026/27
			582,320		
Foundation for Equity & Research NZ	Ka whai Wāhi: Disability Leadership	Disabled	21,565		
NZ Disability Karate Association	Grow Karate in Lower Hutt	Disabled	5,649		
ASD community WLG	Supporting Neurodiverse young people to build confidence	Disabled	1,490		
Autism New Zealand	Out reach services - Petone	Disabled	5,000	5,000	5,000
Hutt Valley Riding for the Disabled	Head Coach Wages	Disabled	7,500	7,500	
Thumbs Up Charitable Trust	Operational costs	Disabled	9,641	9,641	
Viet Hub NZ	Operational costs	Ethnic/Migrant	8,941		
Voice of Aroha	Empowering Youth Voices	Ethnic/Migrant	12,000	12,000	12,000
Hutt Multicultural Council Incorporated	HMC PROJECTS	Ethnic/Migrant	10,000	10,000	10,000
ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum	Supporting former refugees in the Hutt	Ethnic/Migrant	15,000	15,000	
Luo Community Wellington	Empowering Ethnic Communities	Ethnic/Migrant	7,500	7,500	
Therapin	Compassionate Connections	Ethnic/Migrant	11,250	11,250	
Waterloo primary school	English Planet (Emergent English Education)	Ethnic/Migrant	3,336		890
The Common Unity Project Aotearoa	Operational costs	Kai	40,000	12,500	40,000
New Zealand Sport Fishing Council	Kai Ika Project	Kai	20,000		
Hutt Timebank	kai resilience through Timebanking	Kai	10,000	10,000	10,000
Kaibosh	Operational costs Hutt Valley	Kai	9,654		9,654
Wesley Community Action	Wesley Rātā Village Community Innovation	Kai	10,434		10,434
Stokes Valley Foodbank	Operational costs	Kai	1,755		
Salvation Army Hutt City	Community Ministries Project	Kai	2,277		2,277
Kokiri Marae Pataka Kai	Sustaining Manaakitanga	Kai	22,344		22,344
Wellington Pride Festival	Wellington Pride Festival - Hutt Engagement	LGBTQIA+	21,933		
Te Rito Maioha TRM Training	Uplifting Whanau with Neurodiversity	Māori/Pasifika	40,000		40,000
Pomara-Taita Community Trust	Māreikura & Whatukura	Māori/Pasifika	40,000		40,000
Naenae Youth Charitable Trust	operational costs Naenae boxing academy	Rangatahi	23,817		23,817
Women of Worth Charitable Company	To build resilience and make positive change	Rangatahi	8,750	8,750	8,750
Pakai Creative Wood	Carving Classes for Rangatahi Y8-Y13	Rangatahi	4,125		4,125
Ignite Sport Trust	Engagement with rangatahi	Rangatahi	16,210		16,210
Hutt City New Life Trust	Mana O Le Nu'u	Rangatahi	31,479		
The Art of Seeing Academy	Neurodiverse photography workshops	Rangatahi	6,669		6,669
Takiri Mai te Ata Collective	Rangatahi Hub - Naenae	Rangatahi	18,254		18,254
Age Concern Wellington Region	Kōtahitanga 65+: Strength in Connection	Seniors	17,500	17,500	17,500
Social Drama for Seniors	Social Drama for Seniors	Seniors	8,941		8,941
The Family Centre	Family Therapy and Counselling Services	Mixed	28,175		28,175
Big Brothers Big Sisters Wellington	Mentoring Programme for children Age 6-12	Mixed	5,000	5,000	
Stroke Aotearoa NZ	Community stroke service delivery	Mixed	10,000	10,000	
Free Ride	operations costs	Mixed	7,500	7,500	7,500
Supergrans Charitable Trust	Mahi Maanaki	Mixed	5,490		5,490
Whānau Family Support Services Trust	Wellbeing and Resilience Programme	Mixed	26,250	26,250	
Team Naenae	Tautoko Naenae	Mixed	7,875		
Living Violence Free - Te Noho Riri Kore	Rental - Behaviour Change Programmes	Mixed	5,000	5,000	
Citizens Advice Bureau Petone	Operating expenses	Mixed	14,015		14,015

15 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/105

Te Pātaka Kōrero o Pito One | Pito One Neighbourhood Hub refurbishment

Purpose of the report

1. To provide an update on the Te Pātaka Kōrero o Pito One | Pito One Neighbourhood Hub refurbishment and seek approval for the Preliminary Design.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the information; and
- (2) approves the Preliminary Design for the Petone Neighbourhood Hub/library building attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Background

2. On 17 May 2024, the Long Term Plan/ Annual Plan Subcommittee made the following recommendation to Council in relation to the Petone Neighbourhood Hub/library building:

(4) agrees to budget \$5M in the LTP 2024-34 to repair Petone Library, noting this is a high-level estimate, and the facility is in poor condition
3. Officers scoped the project, including roof, moisture, and structural assessments. Whilst some reports, including asbestos and moisture, returned better than expected outcomes, the bulk of the investigations confirmed the poor condition of the roof, glass atrium, windows and large areas of Level 1.
4. Following the Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee (the Committee) meeting held on 30 April 2025 and the issue of the Rough Order of Cost/estimate of \$4,938,000, the Committee has agreed to proceed with the refurbishment as the cost estimate is within the \$5M budget. The project is now in the initiation stage.

5. The design was shared with the Petone Community Board on 18 August 2025 for feedback. As well as this Committee, the project is reporting into Council's Major Projects Steering Group.

Update

6. The following updates actions from the Committee approval:
 - a. Project Administration & Cost Management Services procurement has been completed, contract awarded to Morden Ltd;
 - b. Architectural services procurement has been completed, contract awarded to DGSE;
 - c. Structural and Seismic Engineering Services procurement has been completed, contract awarded to Collab Engineers;
 - d. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineering Services procurement has been completed, contract awarded to NDY;
 - e. Draft versions of the Initiate Stage project documents have been completed/updated, following review by EPMO these documents are being updated prior to issue to the Governance Board for endorsement;
 - f. Meetings have been held with and updates provided to the following stakeholders – Mark Kuiler (Senior Procurement Advisor) / Kelly-Anne Robertson (EPMO Principal Advisor) / Kaanihi Butler-Hare (Tumuaki Māori) / Joshua Ambler (Kaupapa Māori Design Officer) / Cassandra Yeo (Senior Management Accountant) / Steffan Cavill-Fowler (Health, Safety & Wellbeing Manager) / Julia Carter (Communications & Engagement Advisor);
 - g. Relocation options for the core Hub services (NZ Post, reduced library services, drop-off/pick up and internet café) on Jackson Street are being investigated, with various options being explored. As a back-up plan, the option for a portable building located on the existing library car park is being investigated;
 - h. Temporary repairs have been completed (May 2025) to various areas of the flat roof to prevent ongoing water ingress. These works have been surprisingly successful with only a couple of minor leaks that, due to location and cost to repair, will be rectified as part of the main refurbishment works;
 - i. The project was presented at the Kāhui Mana Whenua Forum held on 29 July 2025. Permission was provided to use the Cultural Narrative, the Kāhui confirmed they want to be consulted in the design process. Officers to present the Preliminary design once received.

Features of the design

7. The refurbished facility will provide a safe and compliant community hub for both staff and the public. The repair work to the building's primary structure and roof replacement will improve the NBS rating.
8. The first-floor area, which has been closed for some time, will again be a usable space for Council and the community.
9. The design aims to optimise the existing spaces and improve the visibility of the hub entrances and their link with the outside space.
10. Options for the atrium are scalable, should budget become an issue.

Major Milestones

- Prelim Design Complete – 25 August 2025
- Developed Design Complete – 22 September 2025
- Detailed Design Complete – 4 November 2025
- Construction Start – 2 February 2026
- Construction Complete – 16 December 2026

Health & Safety

11. Currently, the first floor has been closed to the public and staff via containment screens. Permitted entry is only allowed with the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Monthly air testing continues to monitor mold levels within the 'stack room' and commercial cleaning of this room, and the work has recently been completed. Testing shows that at present, the air quality is within acceptable limits, and the fungal ecology appears to be at lower levels. Importantly, no toxic moulds were detected.
12. Monthly testing will continue to the end of the year, comprehensive sampling across all areas of the occupied ground floor and moving forward will include temperature and relative humidity testing.
13. Following engineering advice, temporary propping has been installed on five external timber columns. This was required due to significant decay at the base of the columns, compromising their structural integrity.
14. Following engineering advice to the poor condition of the glass atrium and the expected low NBS%, safety netting has been installed to the underside of the atrium roof to mitigate the risk of falling glass in the occurrence of a seismic event.
15. Health & Safety Management plans have been requested from the Project Consultant team and are currently being reviewed, and feedback is being provided.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

16. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.
17. The facility is in an area that may be impacted by inundation from future extreme weather events. The repairs being undertaken will improve current weather-tightness issues.

Legal Considerations

18. There are no legal considerations.

Financial Considerations

19. Financial considerations are outlined in the report. The project has a capped budget of \$5M agreed in the LTP 2024/34. Scoping options will ensure the project can be delivered within that budget.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1 ↓	Appendix 1 - Preliminary Design for the Petone Neighbourhood Hub/library building	70

Author: Joann Ransom
Head of Neighbourhood Hubs and Library Services

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

DESIGNGROUP
STAPLETON ELLIOTT

HUTT CITY COUNCIL
PITO ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB

PRELIMINARY DESIGN - WIP

12-08-25

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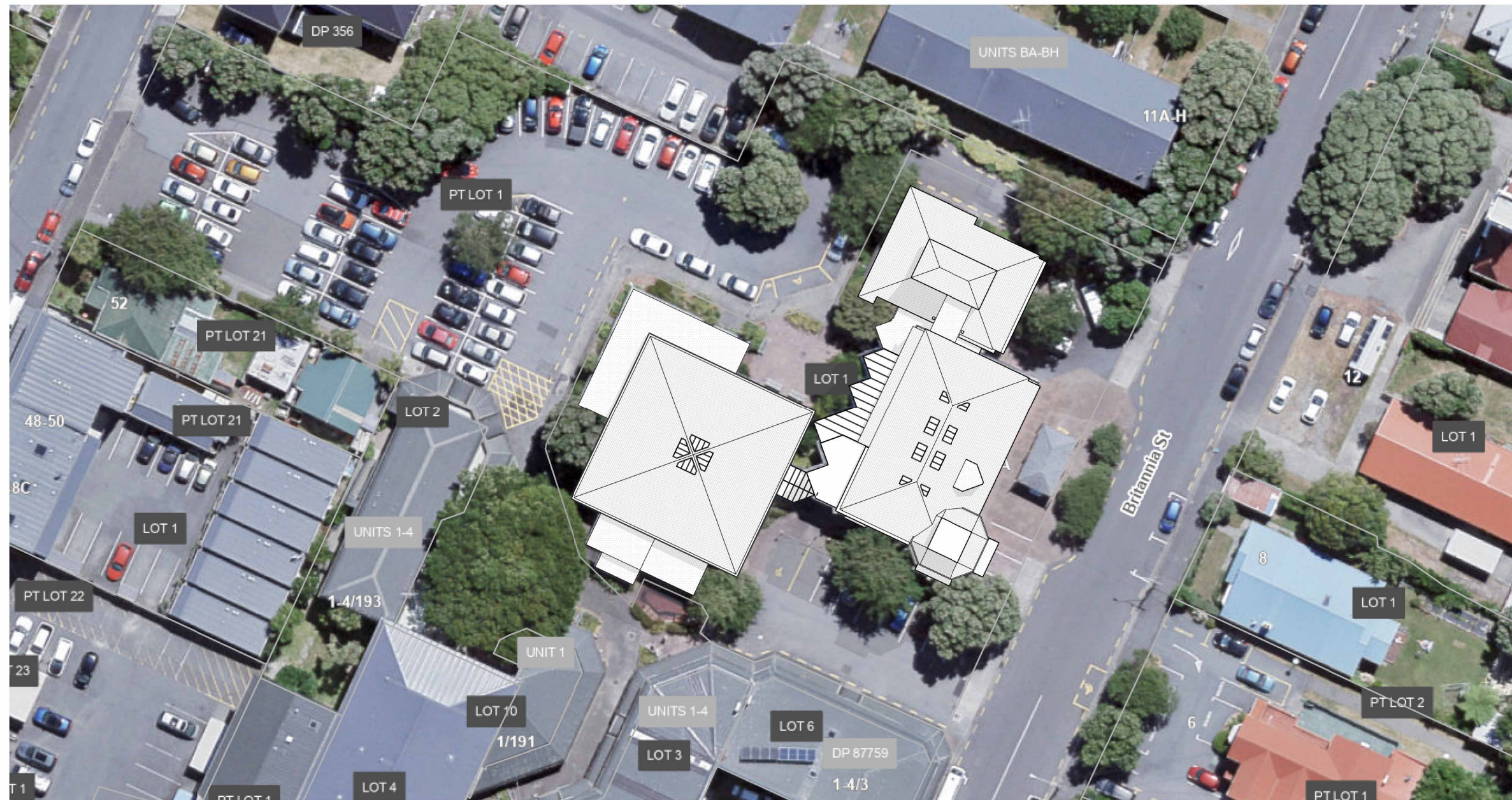
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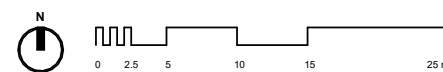


P1

TE PATAKA KORERO O PITO-ONE | PETONE NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB LOCATION PLAN



LOCATION PLAN 1-500
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 500 | SCALE @ A1 - DOUBLE SCALE



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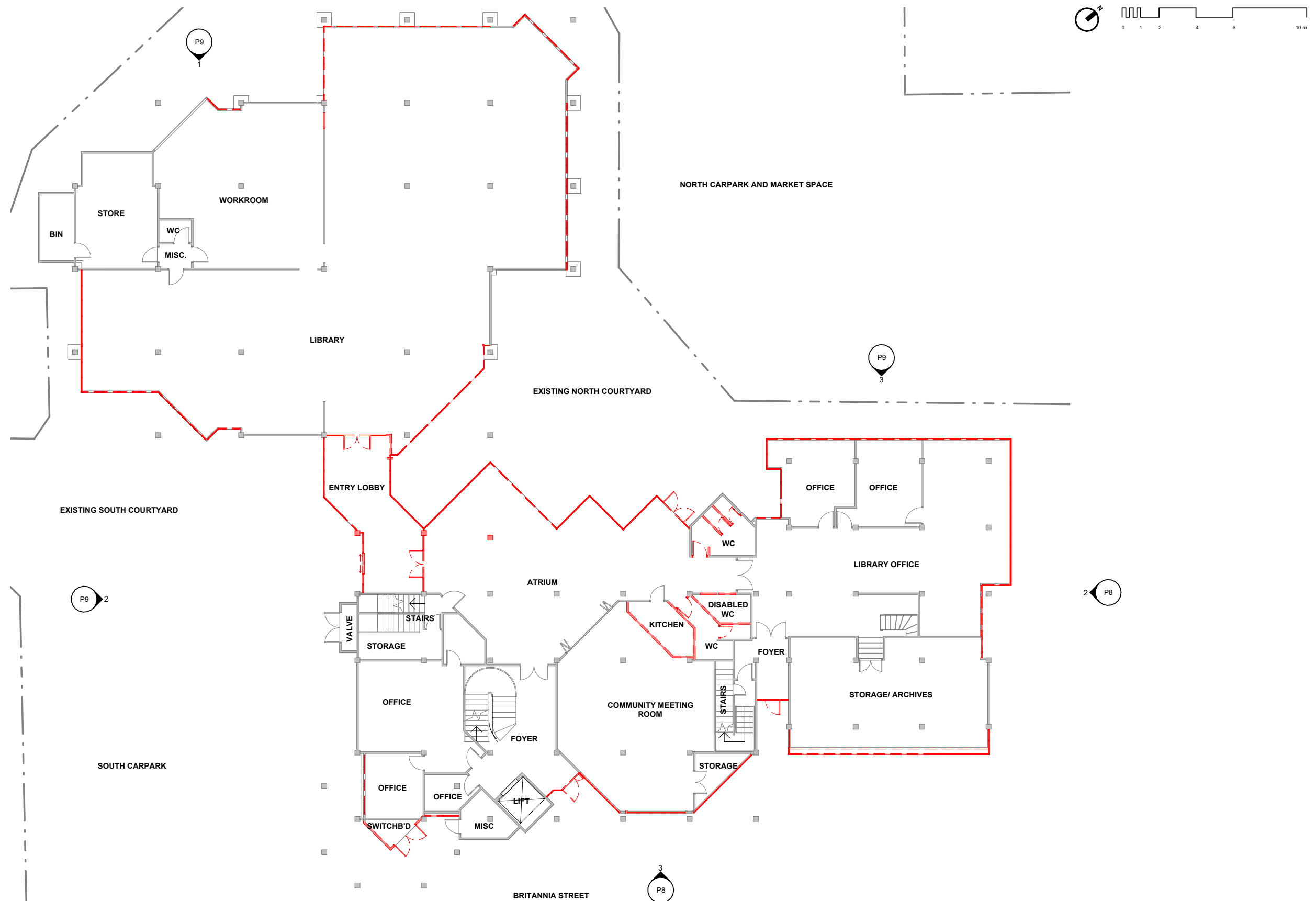
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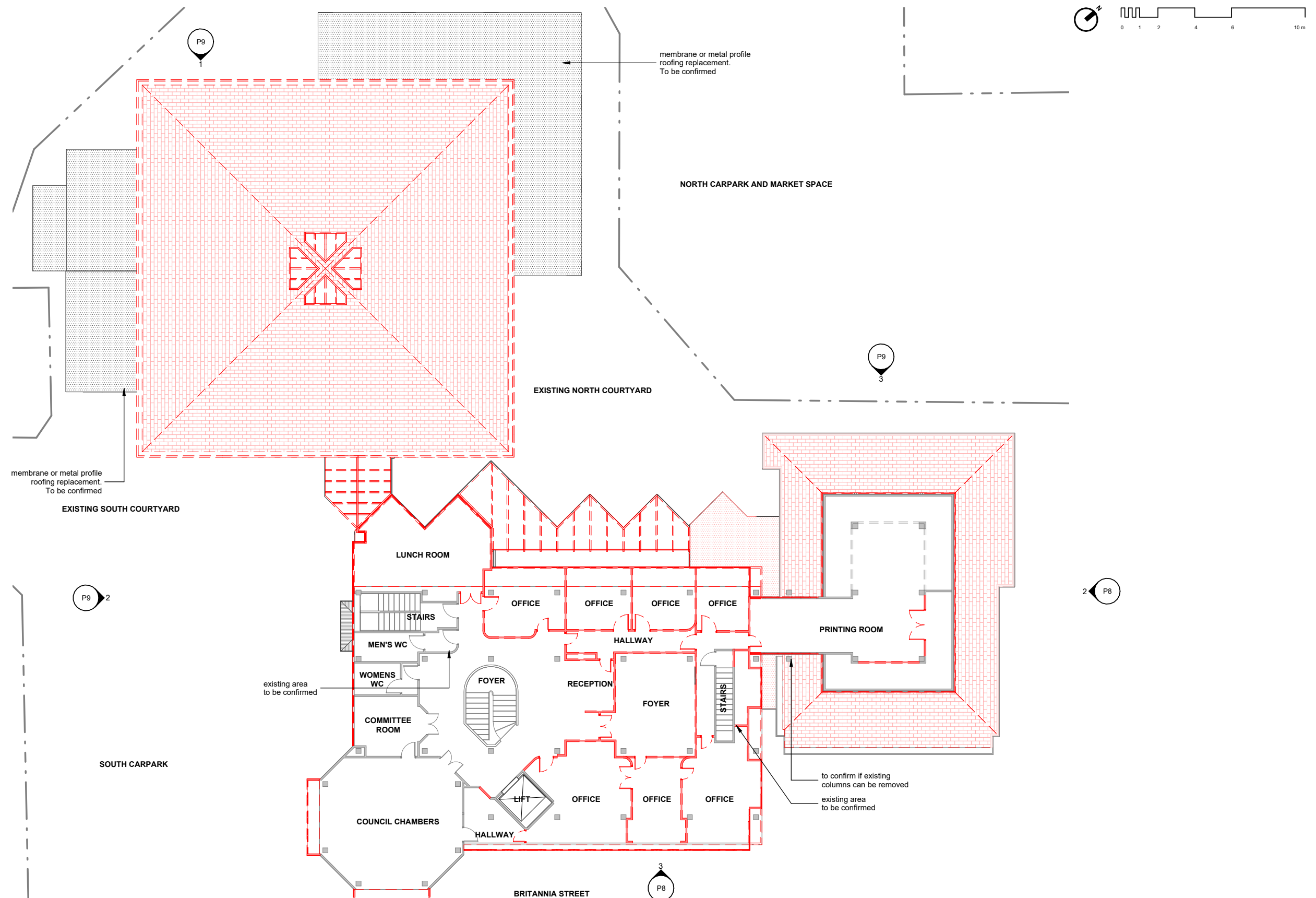
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EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN



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EXISTING LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN



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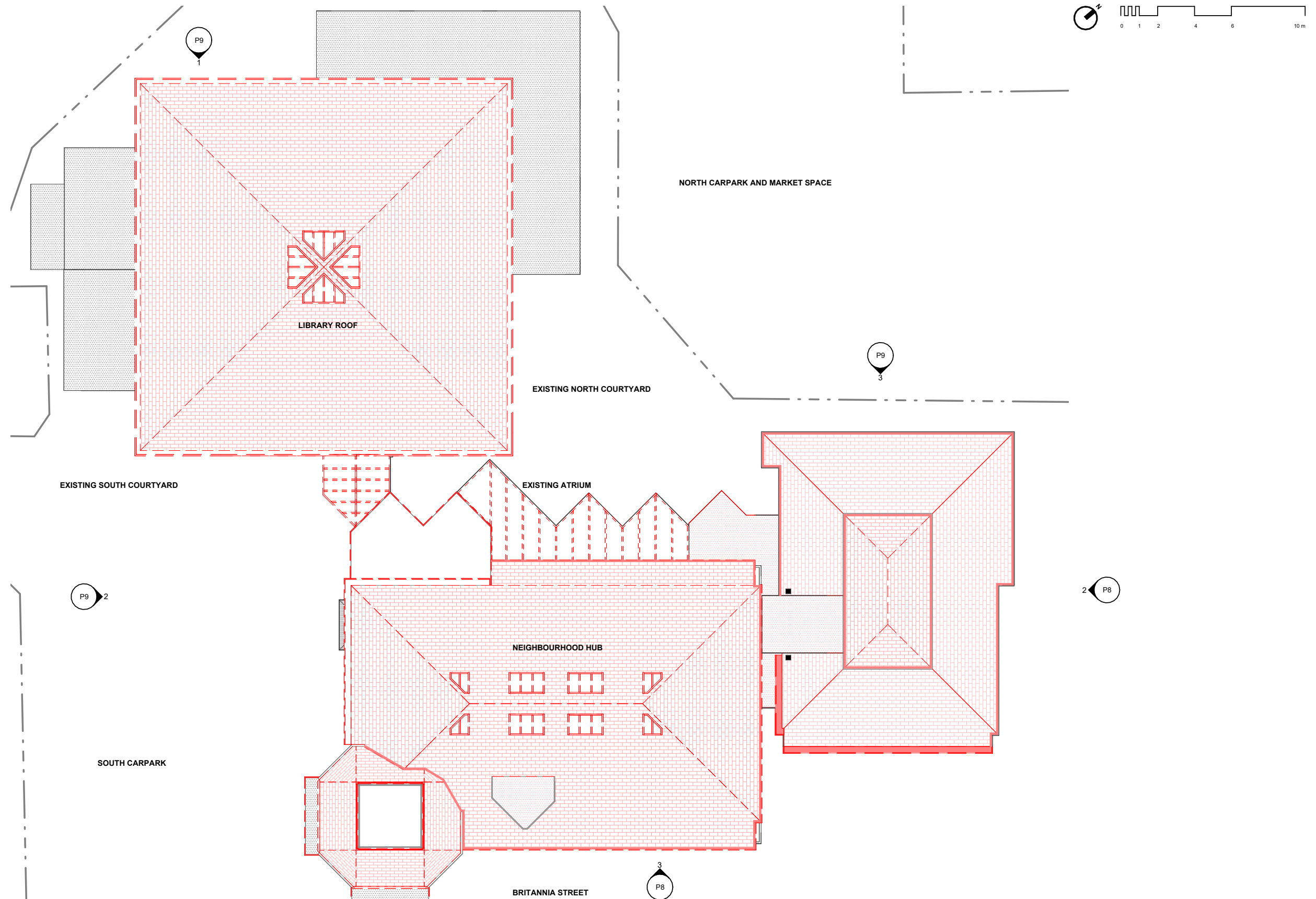
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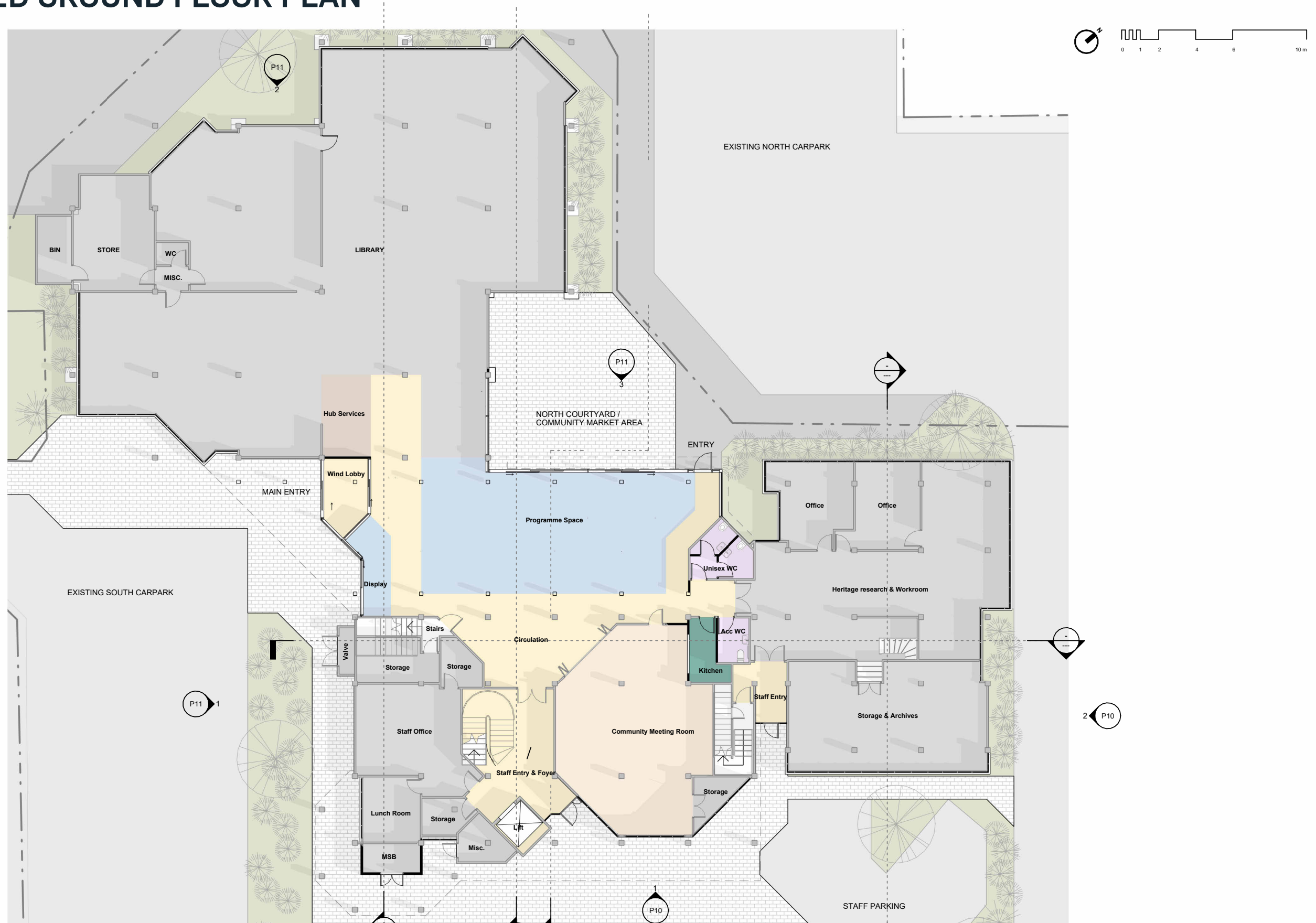
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PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN



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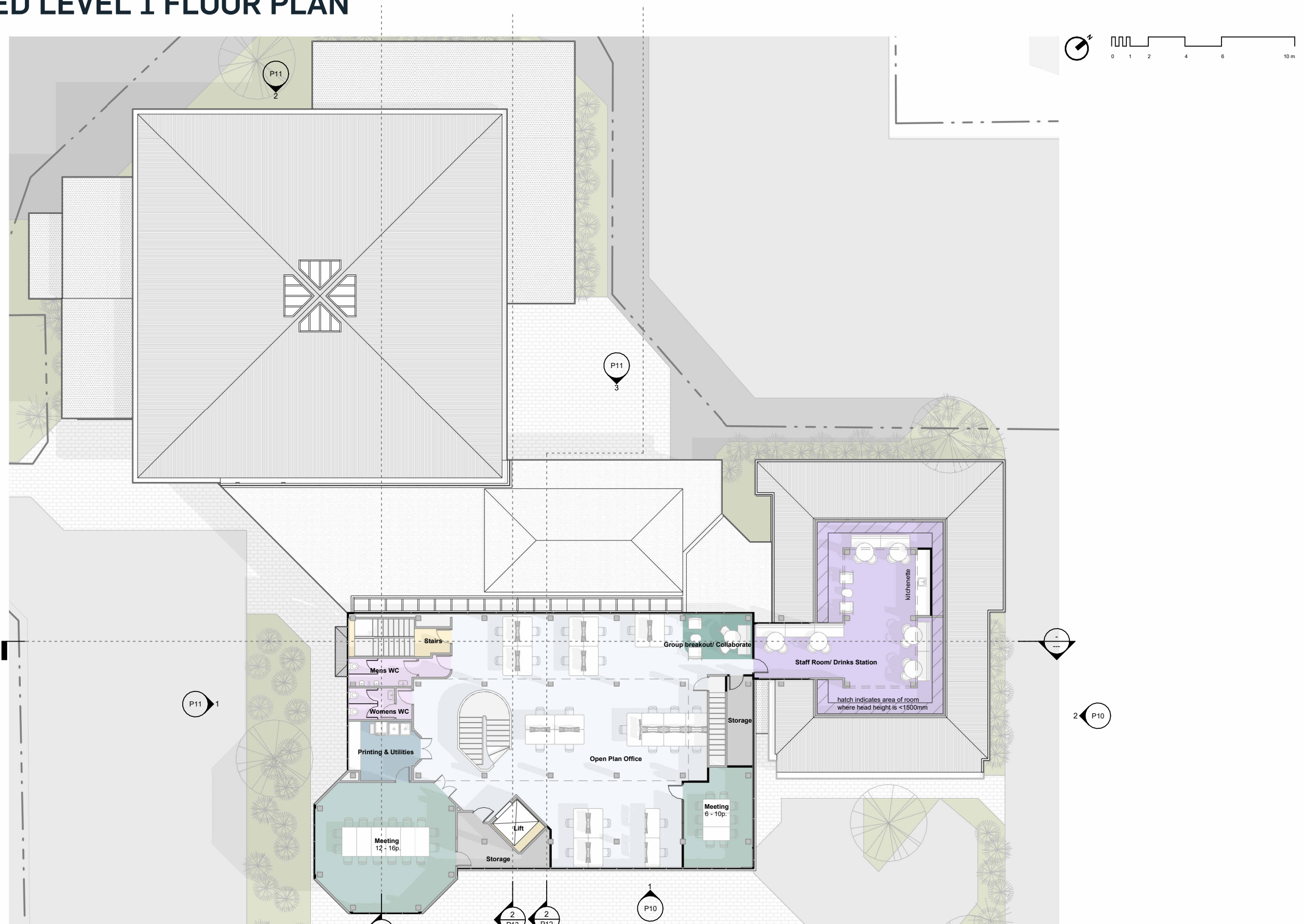
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PROPOSED LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN



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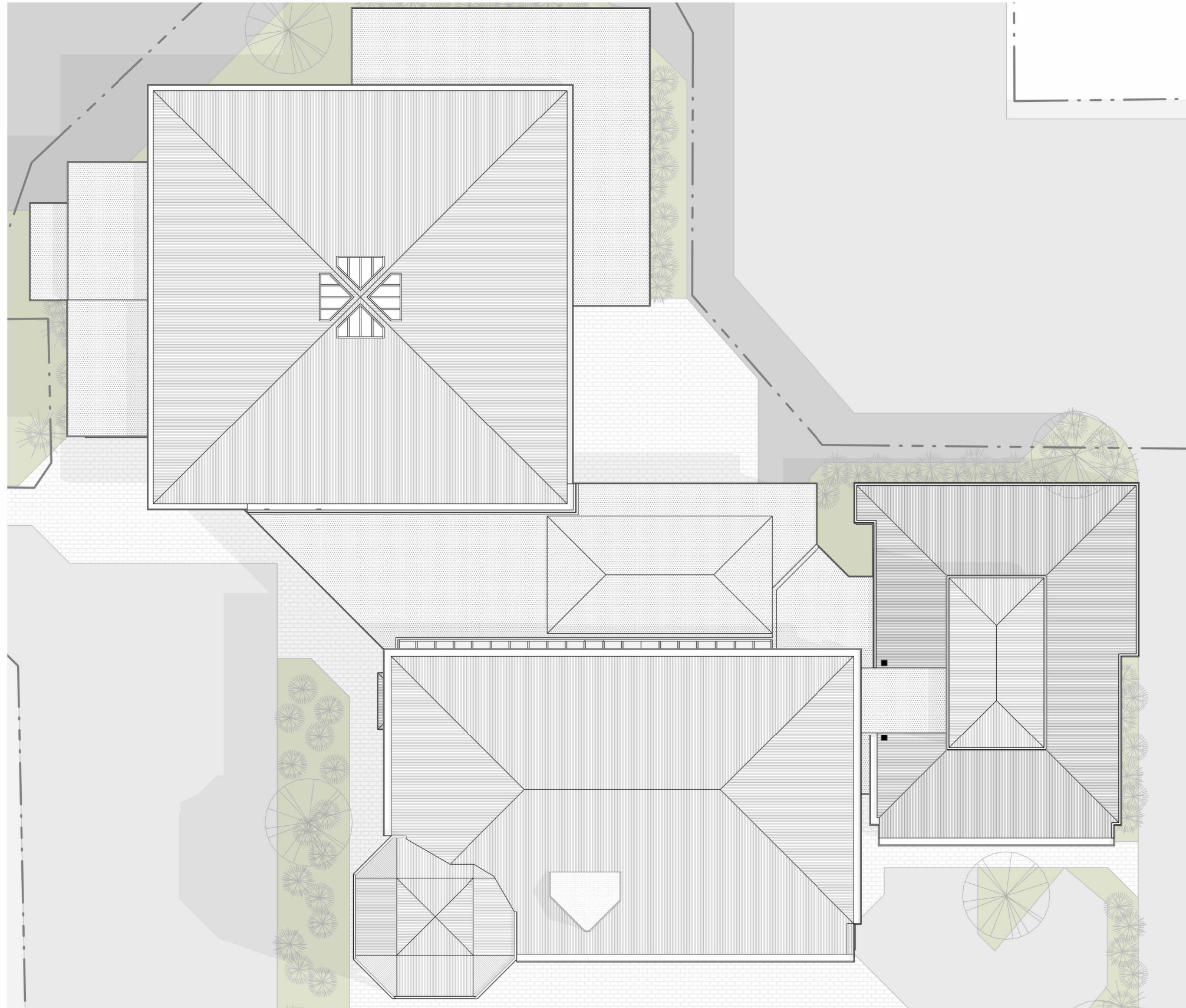
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PROPOSED ROOF PLAN



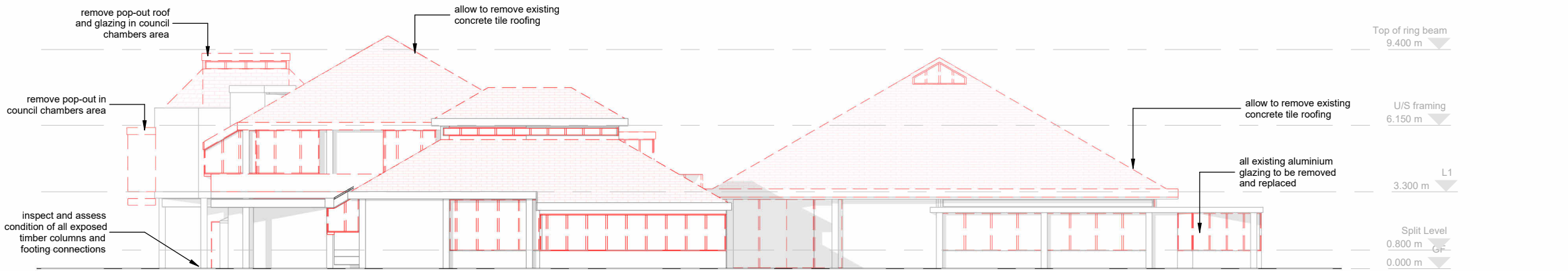
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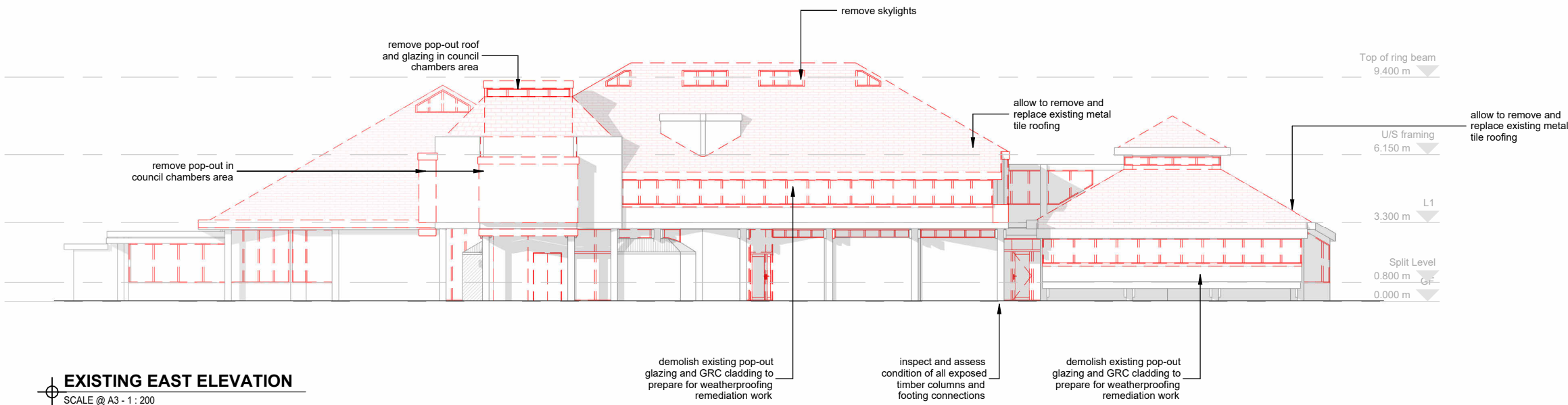
EXISTING ELEVATIONS - 01



P8



EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 200



EXISTING EAST ELEVATION
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 200

- PLEASE NOTE:
- demolition indicated on walls are mainly doors and windows. extent of wall and cladding replacement to be confirmed.
 - demolition indicated on roofs are mainly existing fascias, gutters, flashings and cladding. extent of roof structure demolition to be confirmed.

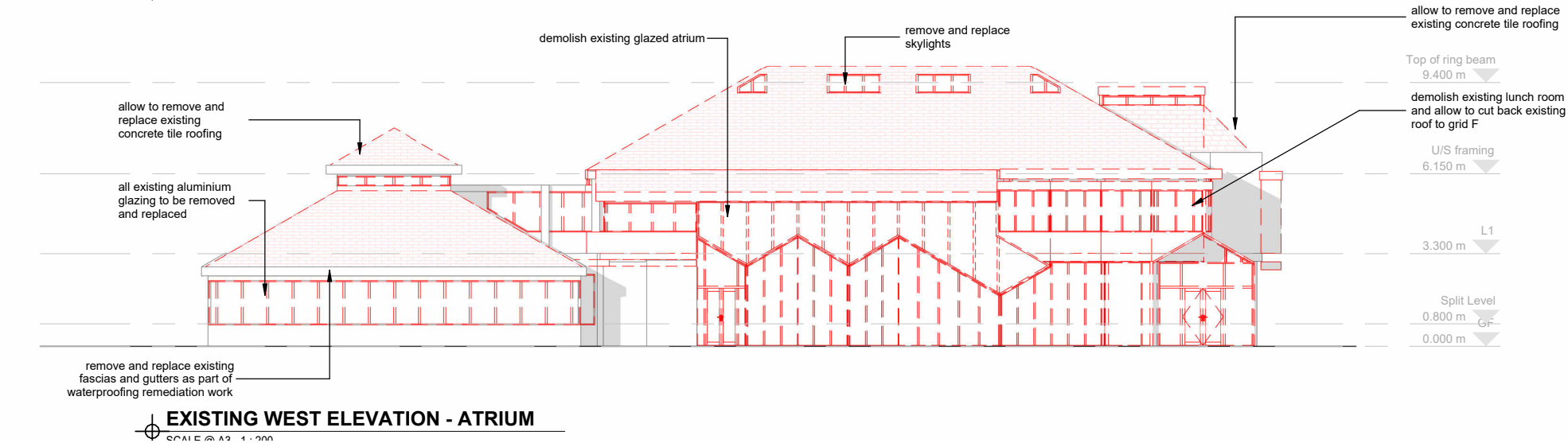
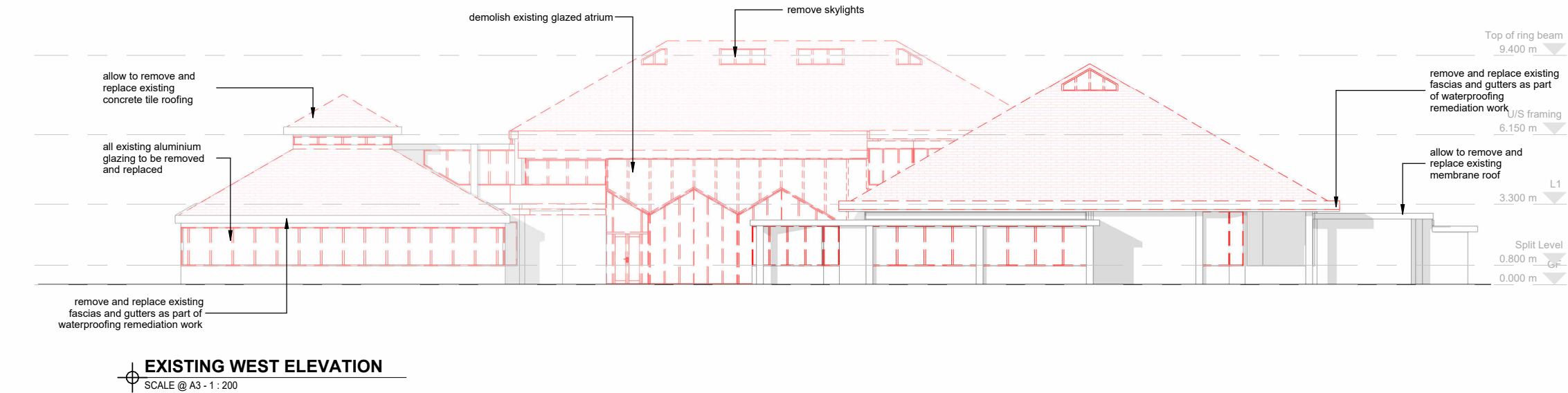
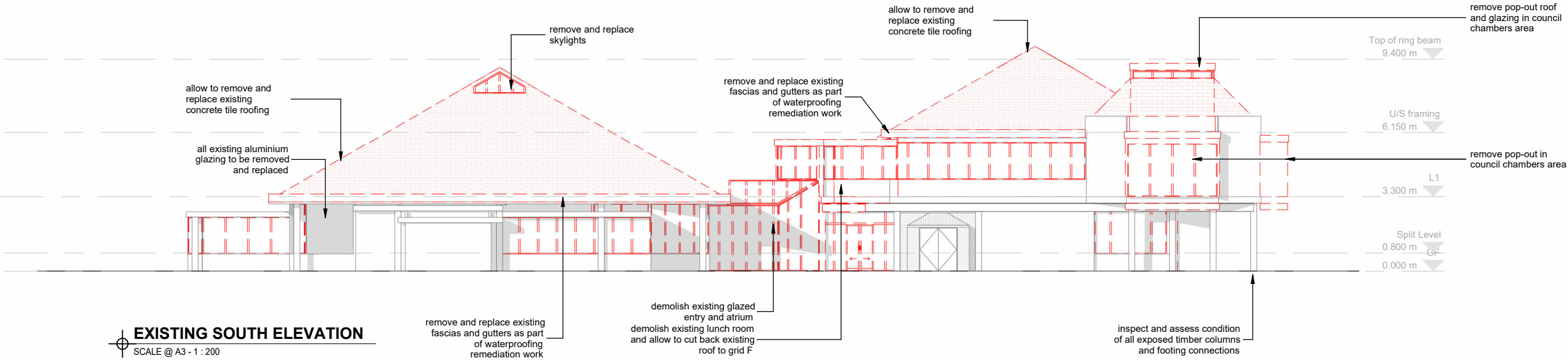
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EXISTING ELEVATION - 02



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PLEASE NOTE:

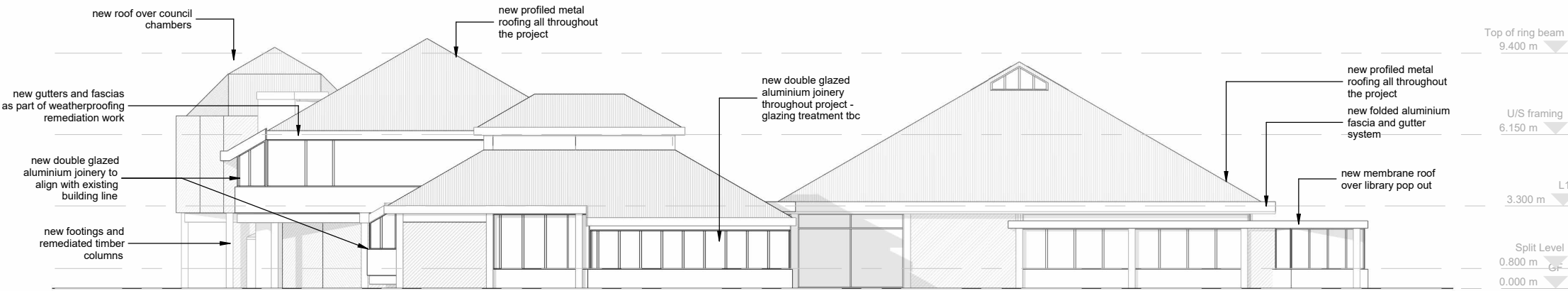
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- demolition indicated on roofs are mainly existing fascias, gutters, flashings and cladding. extent of roof structure demolition to be confirmed.

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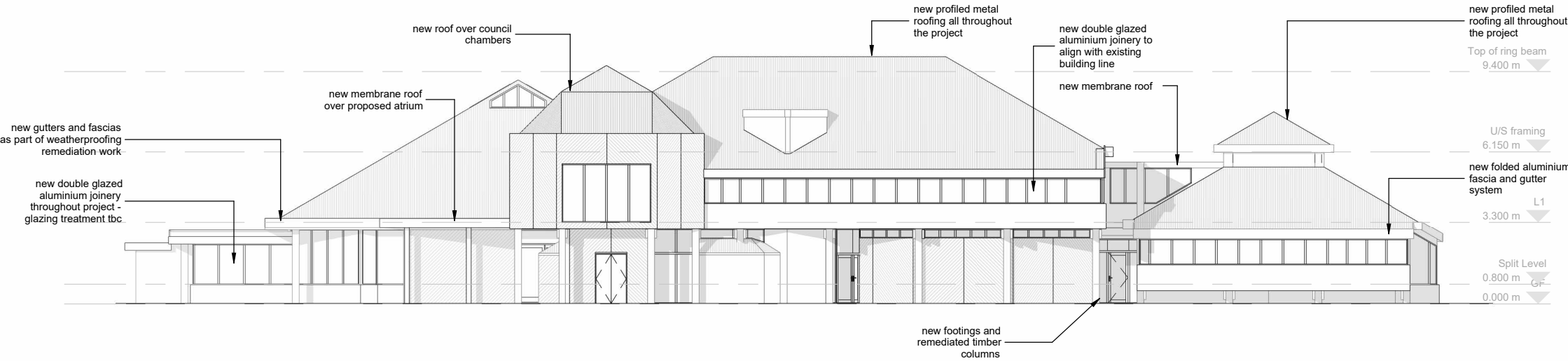
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PROPOSED ELEVATIONS - 01



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PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 200



PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 200

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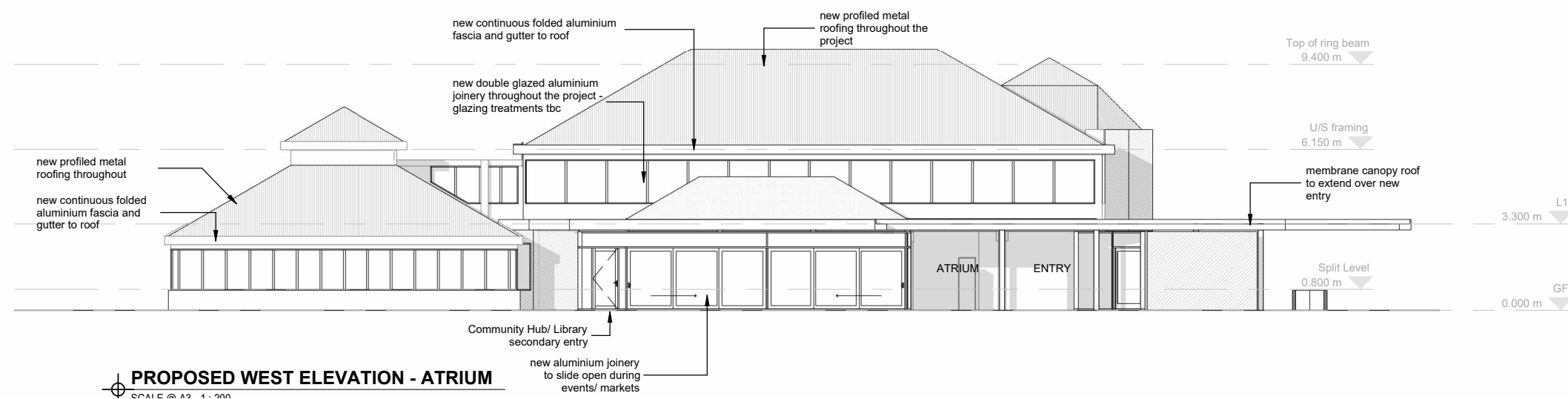
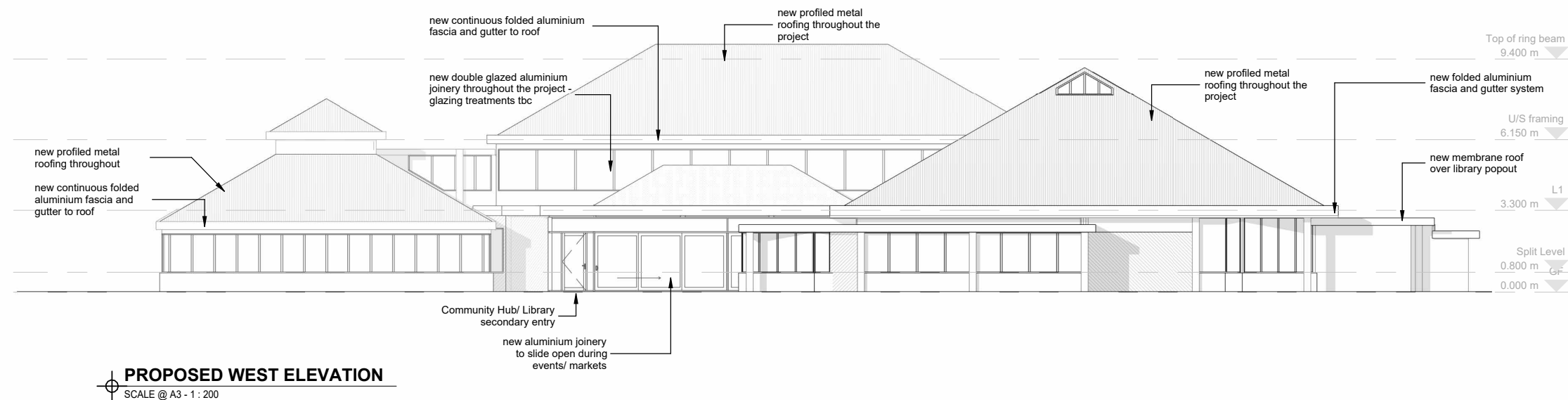
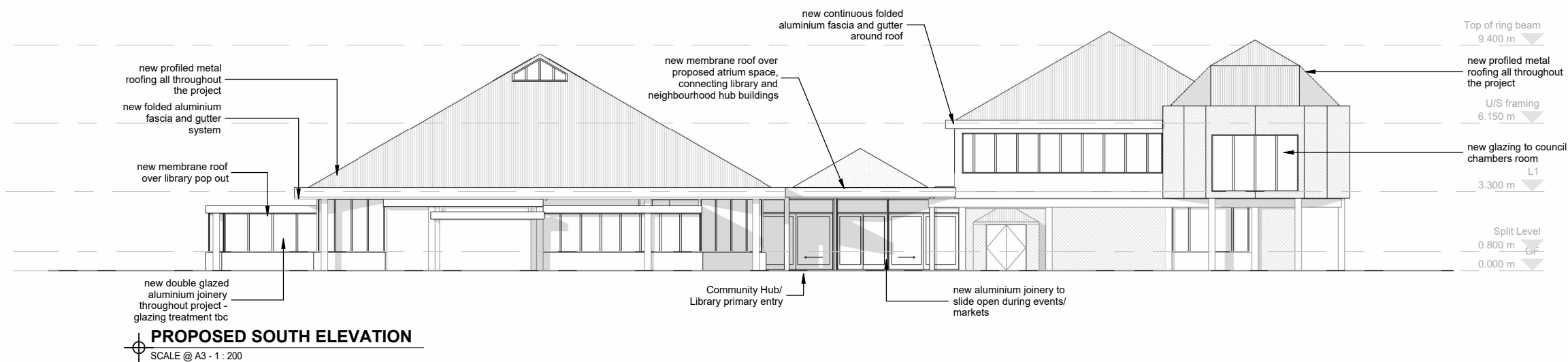
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PROPOSED ELEVATIONS - 02



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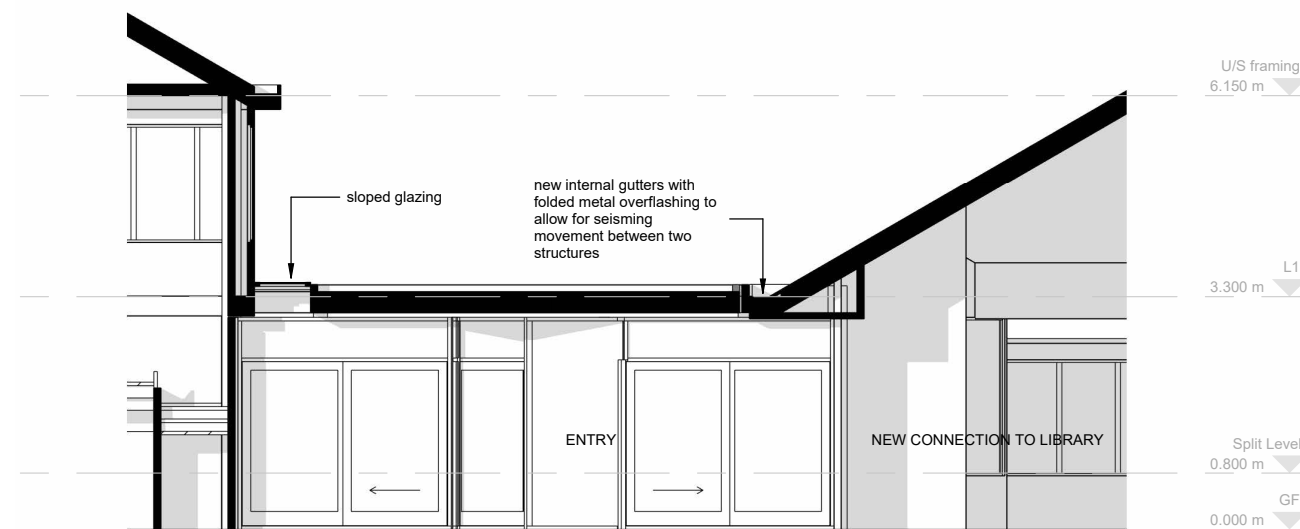
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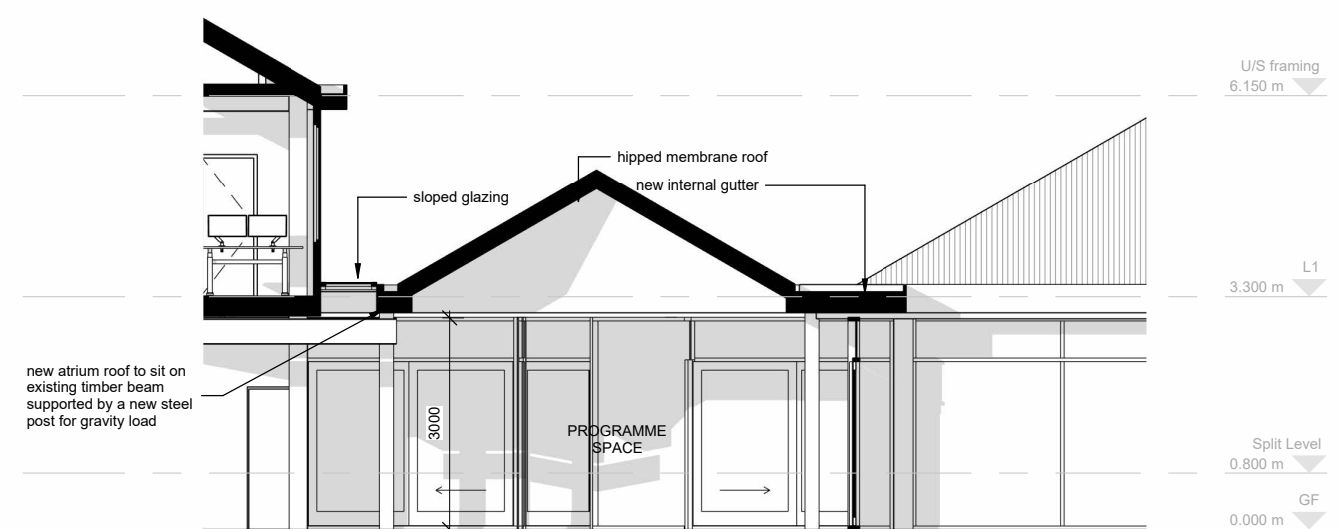
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PROPOSED ATRIUM LONG SECTION - 01
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 100



PROPOSED ATRIUM CROSS SECTION - 01
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 100



PROPOSED ATRIUM CROSS SECTION - 02
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 100

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PROPOSED SECTIONS - 01



PROPOSED CROSS SECTION - 01
SCALE @ A3 - 1 : 100



PROPOSED ATRIUM LONG SECTION - 02

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TE PATAKA KORERO O PITO-ONE | PETONE NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB PRELIMINARY PERSPECTIVES



⊕ **SOUTH ENTRANCE 3D**
SCALE @ A3 -



⊕ **NORTH ENTRANCE 3D**
SCALE @ A3 -

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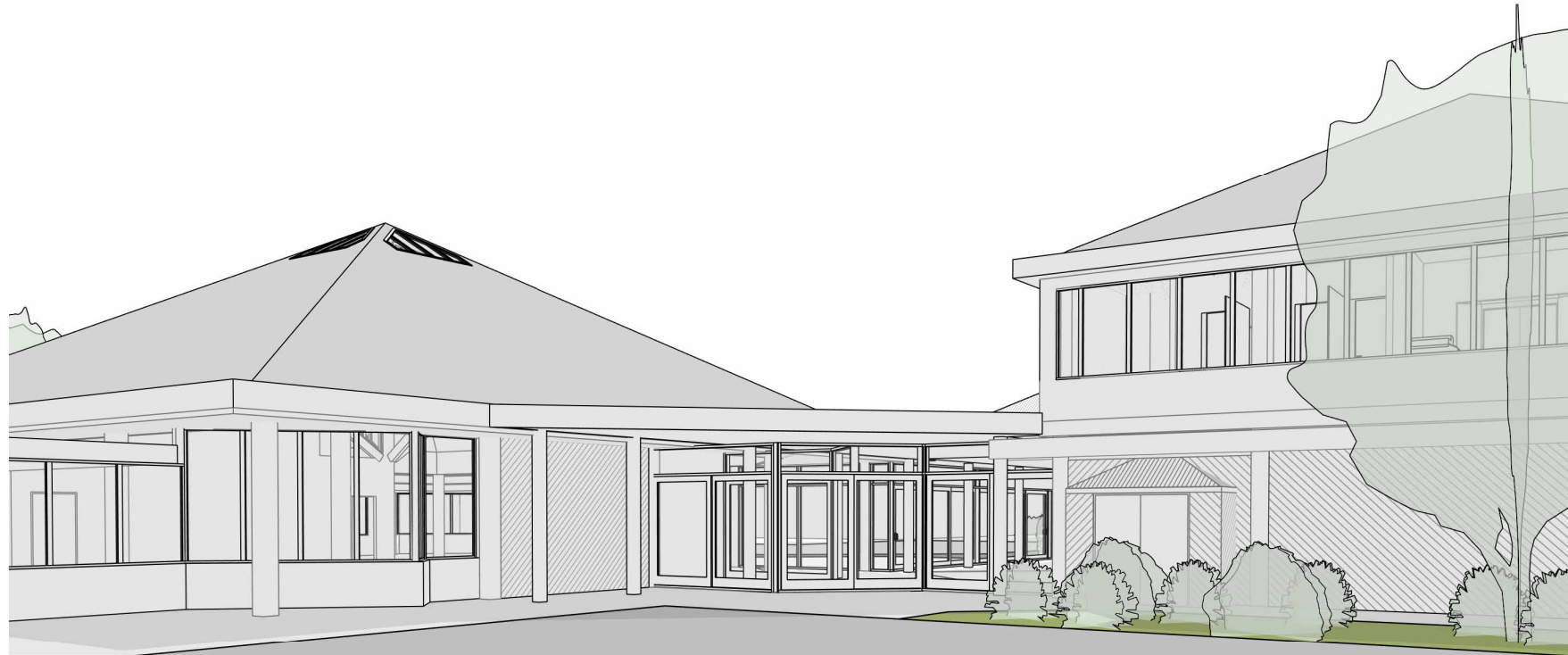
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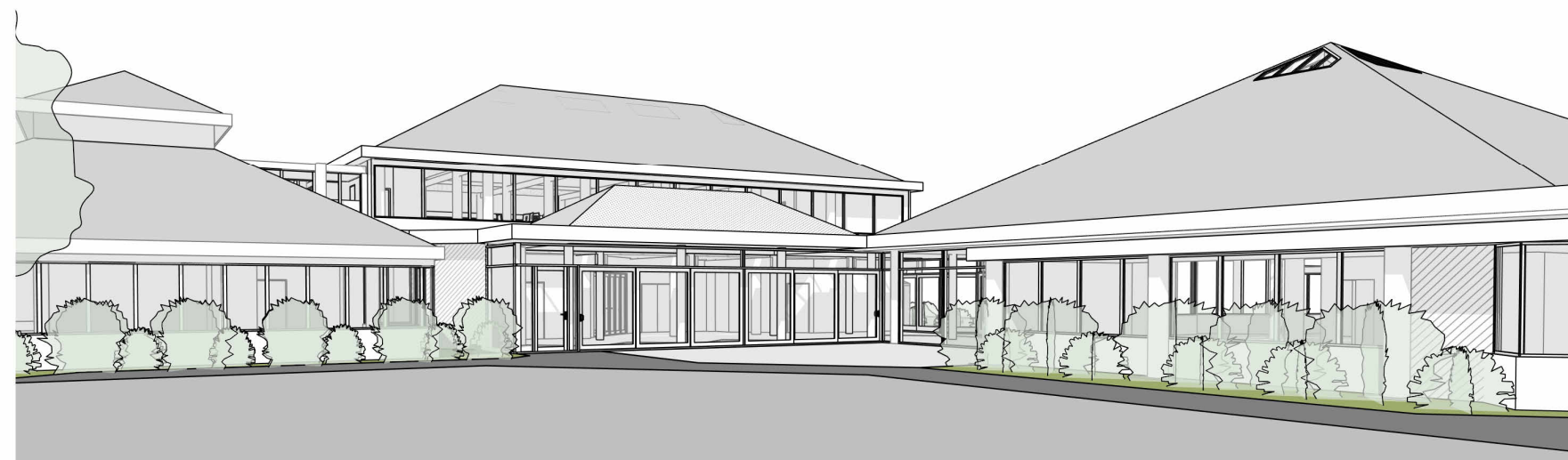
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PRELIMINARY PERSPECTIVES



⊕ **ATRIUM ENTRANCE - 01**
SCALE @ A3 -



⊕ **ATRIUM/ MARKET SPACE**
SCALE @ A3 -

25 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/261

Te Ngaengae pool and fitness- second phase funding

Purpose of Report

1. This report outlines possible additional investment opportunities in Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness, now that the project has been delivered to scope and under budget.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes that as of 30 June 2025, there is a project capital budget underspend of \$1.04M for the Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness Centre;
- (2) notes the Major Projects Steering Group's advice on solar panels as the priority for potential further investment, followed by rainwater harvesting if budget allows;
- (3) approves the investment of \$765,000 for a Solar PV system, as this will reduce ongoing operational costs;
- (4) approves the investment of \$159,000 in operational and safety enhancements that have been identified in paragraph 19 of the report; and
- (5) agrees that the remaining funds will be taken as savings..

Background

2. The Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness Centre project has been delivered to scope and on time, with the pool opening in December 2025.
3. Council approved a capital budget of \$68M for the project and received \$27M in co-funding from central government as part of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF).
4. As of 30 June 2025, there is a project capital budget underspend of \$1.04M.
5. During the project, a small number of additional items and enhancements were identified that could not be prioritised within the original scope and budget. It was agreed that these would be reconsidered at the end of the project if there was any remaining budget. These items were:

- a) Solar panels to improve sustainability and reduce ongoing operating costs (the facility design was future-proofed for the addition of a solar array up to 250kWp);
 - b) Rainwater harvesting system to improve sustainability and benefit the surrounding park and neighbouring bowling club;
 - c) Public spa pool for 12-16 persons, which was an item requested in community engagement; and
 - d) Digital scoreboard and timing system, which is an item requested by aquatic sports using the facility.
6. Council also has the option of not reinvesting the remaining Capex in this project and either taking it as a saving or allocating it to another project.
 7. In April 2025, the Major Projects Steering Group considered the options. It recommended that solar panels (first choice) and rainwater harvesting (if funding allowed) be further investigated and presented to the Communities, Culture and Partnership Committee for a decision.
 8. These options were prioritised as they would reduce the ongoing operational costs of the facility, which is considered critical in terms of future affordability.

Solar panels

9. The installation of solar panels was investigated, and the preliminary costing is \$765,000 for a 250kWp Solar PV Array. A more detailed appraisal of the potential considerations, benefits and issues of solar panels is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
10. It is estimated based on a detailed analysis of the facility's actual electrical consumption data that with a 250kWp solar array savings of \$77,500 a year could be achieved.
11. The facility was designed to accommodate a solar array of 250 kWp. Scoping of a specific system may result in additional infrastructure charges. If this increased the cost by more than 5% this would be brought back to the Committee for further consideration.
12. The aim would be to undertake procurement and installation of the Solar PV system in the first half of 2026, after work has been completed on Huia Pool. Exact timing would be dependent on any building consent and/or resource consent requirements.

13. This option is recommended by officers and supported by Council's Climate and Waste division. It aligns closely with our Green Star credentials and carbon reduction initiatives. It also aligns with Council's imperative to deliver core services as efficiently as possible to ensure future affordability. There are significant savings that can be made on energy costs, which is one of the highest operational costs for the Aquatic Centre. This is also an area that has experienced significant price increases recently, which are putting pressure on operational budgets.
14. Note that the Climate and Waste division is also considering a programme of work (yet unfunded) for implanting Solar PV at other facilities and this could be part of that programme, which may produce some efficiencies regarding procurement and roll-out.

Rainwater harvesting

15. Rainwater harvesting was investigated, and the preliminary costs are \$170,000 for system installation. No infrastructure has been built into the facility to support this, and new building and resource consents may be required. While some benefits align with the facility's Green Star credentials, previous studies suggest limited annual savings and a long payback period. There is also a lack of certainty around suitable water reuse opportunities.
16. A more detailed appraisal of the potential Considerations, Benefits and Issues of rainwater harvesting is attached as Appendix 1. Officers are not recommending investment in this initiative.

Operational and safety enhancements

17. Additionally, several operational and safety enhancements have been identified, which officers propose funding from the underspend. Some of these were identified towards the end of the construction project, but there was not enough time to have them completed as part of the build. These are:
 - Reinforcing the balustrade glass on the zoom tower, as there is a flexing movement if weight is placed against an individual panel.
 - Improvement of the drainage on the zoom stairs, as water from wet swimmer's pools on the steps and landings, and then cascades over the edges onto people standing below.
 - Installation of an upgraded panic/duress warning panel. A system was agreed and installed for people requiring assistance in the disabled change rooms. In practice, this has been found to be insufficient for the level of customer service and safety we aim to provide.
 - Reconfigure the shop area to provide better security for the staff and cash on-site, which was identified as a safety issue during a cash-handling audit.
 - Shade sails in the BBQ area for sun protection for patrons.
 - Nets to protect the windows from errant water polo balls.

18. Where there are safety issues, this work is already underway or has been completed. If not funded through the underspend, it will be funded from operational budgets, although these are already under pressure.
19. These items are costed in the table below.

Proposed Enhancement	Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate \$NZ Excluding GST	Recommended Procurement Approach
Hydro Slide Glass Balustrade Reinforcing	\$18,000	Contractor Engagement
Improvement to Hydro Slide Drainage	\$60,000	Contractor Engagement
Installation of a Panic/Duress Warning Panel	\$7,500	HCC direct supplier procurement
Reconfiguration of the Swim Shop Area	\$20,000	HCC direct supplier procurement
Installation of Protective Water Polo Nets	\$7,500	HCC direct supplier procurement
Shade Sails in Exterior BBQ Area	\$46,000	HCC direct supplier procurement
Total		\$159,000

Financial Considerations

20. Council approved an Opex budget of \$1.5M for project initiation and demolition. The facility was originally projected to be completed at a capital investment cost of \$54M. Following a risk-based assessment to quantify and manage the risks of the project, Council approved a revised capital budget of \$68M.
21. Council received co-funding from the central government as part of the CRRF, which was capped at \$27M. This agreement covered eligible costs (operating and capital costs) up to \$68M.
22. As of 30 June 2025, there is a project capital budget underspend of \$1.04M.

Project costs as at 30 June 2025		\$M
Total operating expenditure (Initiation & Demolition)	\$	1.69
Total capital expenditure	\$	66.96
Total project costs	\$	68.64

Capital budget as at 30 June 2025		\$M
Total project capital expenditure	\$	66.96
Less COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funding	-\$	27.00
HCC funded capital expenditure	\$	39.96
HCC capital budget	\$	41.00
Less HCC funded capital expenditure	-\$	39.96
HCC capital budget underspend	\$	1.04

Legal Considerations

23. There are no legal considerations.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

24. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide. The investment being recommended will enhance the sustainability of the facility and reduce operating costs.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1	Appendix 1 - further details solar power and rainwater harvesting	92

Author: Iain Brown
Head of Aquatics

Reviewed By: Jenny Livschitz
Group Chief Financial Officer

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

Appendix 1:

Issues/Considerations	Benefits
250 kWp Solar Array Installation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an initial high capital cost outlay for installation of this enhancement which would need to be established by competitive tendering. If HCC are considering a wider programme of solar installation, then there may be some cost savings achieved Structural assessment is required to confirm the suitability of the existing structure to support the selected solar array, including frame and panels An electrical assessment is also required to confirm as installed infrastructure is suitable for the selected solar array Whilst no resource or building consent implications are anticipated the final installation would need to be checked to establish that height boundaries are not impacted To maintain valid warranties and guarantees any modifications to the facility to install the solar array would ideally involve Apollo Projects and/or their subcontractors which will influence procurement approach. HCC would need to confirm if their agreement with Mercury Energy includes any pricing adjustment clause noting that solar installation would remain favourable even if this clause is present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with sustainable operations initiatives including Green Star and HCC carbon neutral aspirations Supports reduction of energy demand from the pool facility It is estimated based on a detailed analysis of facility's actual electrical consumption data that with a 250kWp solar array that electricity savings of 608,000 kWh per year equating to \$77,500 per year could be achieved. (Reference 1) The array could be installed once commercial pricing is confirmed and design checks are completed meaning benefits could be realised quickly
Issues/Considerations	Benefits
Rainwater Harvesting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rainwater harvesting would need to be retrofitted which has increased its likely implementation cost. New building consents will be required and resource consent may be required. The associated planning and design inputs will delay installation until these consents are granted Recovered water cannot be used for backwashing the pool water system due to risk of contamination as the water is not potable and treatment costs are prohibitive Potential use of recovered water was considered within the toilet flushing system but also discounted as additional filtrations required to mitigate discolouration. Additionally, toilet flushing valves are not separated from the other sanitary fixtures (e.g., showers and basins) and so water will need to be treated to a potable water standard which is cost prohibitive Rainwater supply can be intermittent and does not always align with the facility use profile. The harvesting system would therefore not fully offset water usage regardless of use. Potential disruption to facility operation during implementation of this enhancement To maintain valid warranties and guarantees any modifications to the facility would ideally involve Apollo Projects Ltd and/or their subcontractors which will influence procurement approach Previous concept studies suggested limited annual savings would be gained from implementing rain water harvesting and with a long payback period that this system would not be financially attractive (Reference 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with sustainable operations initiatives and may be beneficial to the Green Star operational rating Potential use of recovered water within the hose system. Pipework changes would not be significantly difficult, although recovered rainwater supply to these taps would be dependent on water availability which is weather dependant and seasonal.

15 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/239

Hugh Sinclair Park - Masterplan

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for a masterplan for Hugh Sinclair Park, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, to be used as a framework for proposed and ongoing improvements to the park over time.
2. To seek support for a proposal to come back to Council in March 2026 seeking increased investment in the park, via the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund, to resolve outstanding drainage issues and update/improve the playground.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the information;
- (2) approves the masterplan for Hugh Sinclair Park as a framework for proposed and ongoing improvements over time, attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (3) approves for officers to bring back a fully-costed proposal in March 2026 to resolve outstanding drainage issues and improvements to the playground; and
- (4) notes the allocation of \$771k realised as an increase in income against the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund budget (for 2024-25), could be utilised along with the existing budget (\$600k) to programme Phase 1 of the Masterplan (drainage and playground), subject to further Council approvals as described above.

For the reason that Hugh Sinclair Park was identified as a park requiring investment in the short-term to meet the Level of Service requirements for the neighbourhood in the Reserves Investment Strategy. As a centrally located park in Wainuiomata, the site is accessible and has significant potential to become a hub for high-quality recreational and leisure use.

Background

3. Hugh Sinclair Park is a large, centrally located park in Wainuiomata of around 15,000m². The site is sandwiched between the Masonic Village, a relatively newly developed retirement village and a commercial area.
4. The Reserves Investment Strategy identified Hugh Sinclair Park as requiring improvement, highlighting the following project objectives for it:
 - To enhance the reserve to meet the appropriate level of service for the neighbourhood; and
 - To meet demand by improving pathways, play areas, drainage, aesthetics, connectivity, and recreational function.
5. The work was identified as a short-term priority in the relevant project list. An initial figure of \$600,000 for park improvements was identified in 2023 through the Reserves Investment Strategy for a partial refurbishment.
6. The project was included for scoping in the Parks and Reserves work plan for 2024/25. This included initial site investigations and community engagement. Significant community engagement has been undertaken to inform the masterplan and is listed under the appropriate heading in this paper.
7. Initial investigations confirm the site is prone to significant waterlogging and exhibits a range of other characteristics which produce a sub-optimal recreational outcome. These include –
 - Poor layout and connectivity, which limit accessibility and user experience;
 - Aging play equipment that needs renewal or upgrade to meet current safety standards;
 - The signage and furniture are inconsistent and outdated; and
 - The skate park is outdated, underutilised and lacking modern features. There are also potential issues regarding current safety standards for such facilities.

Discussion

8. Given the site is prone to excessive ponding, a crucial element is to improve drainage. This has been estimated at \$920k, which is significantly higher than the existing budget of \$600k for improvements to the park.
9. For all significant Reserves (including Hugh Sinclair Park), officers are taking a long-term view on how they might be improved over a 1-to-5-year timeline to future-proof them and get the best return in terms of recreation and leisure.

10. This approach provides a framework for phased investment that optimises leisure and recreation outcomes for the limited funds available under the Reserves Investment Strategy, rather than developing one-off plans for improvements that may not offer the best long-term value.
11. As such, officers have used community feedback to develop a masterplan that can be implemented in phases and are seeking approval for this at today's committee meeting as a high-level blueprint for the future potential development of the site.
12. Officers are also proposing to come back in March 2026 with a costed proposal to complete an initial phase of works to resolve drainage issues and undertake improvements to the Playground. Future phases will be put in front of Council for a decision as they arise.
13. A copy of the masterplan document is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Options

14. **Option 1** – approve masterplan and for officers to come back to Council in March 2026 with a costed plan to resolve drainage issues and improve the playground. *This is the recommended position as it will resolve a significant cause of complaints, ensure the park can function over the winter months, and serve as a staging point for the initial and any further improvements agreed by Council.*
15. **Option 2** – approve masterplan and ask officers to work within the existing \$600k budget. *This is not recommended as whilst it might lead to some improvements in the playground area it is unlikely to resolve the significant drainage issues on site which will mean the park is not usable for long periods especially over winter and wet periods throughout summer.*
16. **Option 3** – don't approve master plan and provide guidance on preferred approach including whether to expend the current budget (600k) on playground improvements. *This is not recommended as it will leave the underlying drainage issue unresolved and is unlikely to provide a firm platform for proposed playground and ongoing improvements.*

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

17. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide and also under Council's Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy.
18. In terms of managing climate change impacts arising from increased rainfall, the proposal will mitigate the existing stormwater issues.
19. Should the proposal go ahead, it will see a series of ecological improvements over a 1-5 year timeframe.
20. Indigenous biodiversity will be supported by the establishment of riparian zones and the development of amenity planting designed to offer visual beauty and ecological value, attracting pollinators and birds.

Consultation

21. The key user groups identified were:
 - a) Residents from nearby housing and retirement villages;
 - b) Town Centre visitors, workers, and general community members;
 - c) Local students and schools, especially those commuting through the park; and
 - d) Families attending events, and users requiring accessible features.
22. A range of engagement activities was undertaken to inform the development of the Hugh Sinclair Park Masterplan. These included:
 - a) Feedback from the wider community was sought on improvements as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024–2034 consultation held from 2 April to 12 May 2024, under the Reserve Investment Strategy;
 - b) A meeting on 26 March 2025 with community representatives from the Wainuiomata area to discuss key issues, aspirations, and opportunities for the park (7 attendees). Also, a Facebook post inviting wider-community input into the redevelopment;
 - c) A series of targeted consultations throughout April and May 2025, including meetings with the Masonic Village residents (3 April), which attracted 30 participants, Kahui Mana Whenua (15 April and 6 May), and a cultural advisor (22 April) to cross-check cultural references and enhancement approaches;
 - d) Draft masterplan presentations were held with key groups in May 2025, including community representatives (14 May) and Masonic residents (15 May), which attracted 37 participants, to test and refine design directions;
 - e) A public “Have Your Say” survey was hosted on the Hutt City Council website and social media channels from 26 May to 9 June 2025 to receive feedback on the draft masterplan and identify community priorities. This received 914 visits, 135 visitors looking for further information, and 96 submissions, including one from the school children of Wainuiomata Primary School; and
 - f) Lastly, the draft masterplan was presented at the Wainuiomata Community Board meeting on 11 June 2025 for further local feedback and discussion

Legal Considerations

23. There are no legal considerations.

Financial Considerations

24. As outlined above, the existing budget is insufficient to meet the necessary outcomes identified in the Reserves Investment Strategy.
25. Should Council agree to move forward on the project, it would propose that additional funding be allocated from the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund. In 2024-25, the financial contribution recorded an increase of \$771k against budget. This could contribute towards the increased costs required to fund the initial phase of the project. This would mean no further debt funding is required for the project.
26. The fund is made up of financial contributions from subdivisions and revenue from the sale of surplus reserve land. The main purpose of the fund is to provide open space and recreational opportunities to offset the effects of land use intensification.
27. Given the recent development of the new retirement village adjacent to the site, there is a good argument to utilise the fund further to offset the effect of that housing intensification, subject to further Council approvals.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1 ↕	Appendix 1 - Proposed Hugh Sinclair Masterplan	98

Author: Arthur Nelson
Head of Parks and Reserves

Reviewed By: Jenny Livschitz
Group Chief Financial Officer

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities





Introduction_

This document outlines a transformative masterplan for Hugh Sinclair Park (and a connected portion of Frederick Wise Park) in Wainuiomata. This project is part of the broader Wainuiomata Town Centre Upgrade, and it aims to enhance the park’s functionality, accessibility, and integration with the surrounding community. The masterplan responds to key priorities, including:

- Enhancing recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.
- Addressing poorly functioning site drainage.
- Strengthening ecological and cultural values, ensuring a sustainable and meaningful landscape.
- Creating a safe, vibrant, inclusive public space that fosters community connection and engagement.

By reimagining Hugh Sinclair Park, this project supports Wainuiomata’s long-term vision, ensuring the park remains a cherished and valuable asset for both residents and visitors for generations to come.

The following opportunities and constraints have been identified prior to engagement and have informed the proposal:

Issues:

1. **Poor Layout and Connectivity:** Limits accessibility and user experience.
2. **Drainage and Contour Problems:** Requires upgrades to improve useability and prevent waterlogging.
3. **Aging Play Equipment:** Needs replacement or significant upgrades to meet safety and engagement standards.
4. **Furniture and Signage:** Inconsistent and ageing.
5. **Outdated Skate Park:** Lacks modern features, and has potential safety concerns and low user engagement.
6. **Stormwater Management Challenges:** Need for improved solutions such as wetlands and swales.
7. **Ecology:** The park is largely grassed with exotic trees. Native ecology can improve the environment and experience.
8. **BMX track:** The space is isolated without proper connectivity for successful use. Poor upkeep.
9. **Bridge:** Narrow with ageing ballustrades. No formalised drop off/connection to Frederick Wise Park.
10. **Drains:** Lack maintenance with weeds, rubbish and sediment issues.
11. **Residential Edges:** Provides passive surveillance but the interfaces and connections to the park could be improved.
12. **Motorbikes:** The park lacks measures to control access from people on motorcycles - resulting in unsocial behaviour.

Opportunities:

- **Connectivity:** Enhancing connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians.
- **New and Upgraded Play Areas:** Creating engaging, accessible, and inclusive play spaces.
- **Outdoor Fitness Equipment:** Promoting health and well-being through accessible fitness stations.
- **Improved Accessways:** Enhancing circulation and ease of movement within the park.
- **Furnishings and Shelter Upgrades:** Providing better comfort and useability for visitors.
- **BMX Area:** Revitalising the former BMX track into a modern attraction with additional features.
- **Improved BBQ or new Hangi Facility:** Encouraging social and community gatherings.
- **Diversify Play:** Provide spaces for activities such as chess, table tennis, outdoor lawn games and traditional Māori games.
- **Cultural Enhancements:** Integrating local identity and heritage to the park’s design.
- **Parking:** Plan for increased parking for all abilities to support use of the park during peak periods.



Consultation + Feedback Summary_

Consultation

A range of engagement activities were undertaken to inform the development of the Hugh Sinclair Park Masterplan. These included:

- Feedback from the wider community was sought as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024–2034 consultation held from 2 April to 12 May 2024, under the Reserve Investment Strategy.
- A meeting on 26 March 2025 with community representatives from the Wainuiomata area to discuss key issues, aspirations, and opportunities for the park. A Facebook post on the same day invited wider community input into the redevelopment.
- A series of targeted consultations throughout April and May 2025, including meetings with the Masonic Village residents (3 April), Kahui Mana Whenua (15 April and 6 May), and a cultural advisor (22 April) to cross-check cultural references and enhancement approaches.
- Draft masterplan presentations were held with key groups in May 2025, including community representatives (14 May) and Masonic residents (15 May), to test and refine design directions.
- A public “Have Your Say” survey was hosted on the Hutt City Council website and social media channels from 26 May to 9 June 2025 to receive feedback on the draft masterplan and identify community priorities. Please see Appendix 1 for a summary of the feedback recieved.
- Lastly, the draft masterplan was presented at the Wainuiomata Community Board meeting on 11 June 2025 for further local feedback and discussion.

Key Feedback

Key User Groups Identified:

- Residents from nearby housing and retirement villages
- Town centre visitors, workers, and general community members
- Local students and schools, especially those commuting through the park
- Families attending events, and users requiring accessible features

Challenges Identified:

- Accessibility & Mobility: Difficulty accessing the playground from the carpark; limited walkway provision for elderly and mobility-impaired users
- Facilities & Infrastructure: Outdated playground and skate/BMX areas; poor drainage causing standing water; lack of shade, gazebos, and seating; underused BBQs due to poor park aesthetics; limited and poorly placed bike racks; inadequate parking
- Safety & Security: Motorcycles using pedestrian paths; insufficient lighting; need for review of bollards and fencing for improved safety

Suggestions & Requests:

- New Amenities: Strong support for a splashpad; requests for an accessible swing, outdoor fitness equipment, more seating, and covered gathering areas
- Planting & Environment: Desire for native planting (particularly tōtara) to enhance birdlife and identity; less emphasis on purely functional drainage upgrades
- Cultural Integration: Support for Pou and cultural storytelling elements; incorporation of hāngī or indigenous food preparation areas as part of the park’s cultural expression

Note: Due to strong community support for a splash pad, Council has investigated the feasibility of including this amenity within Hugh Sinclair Park. However, based on technical constraints, it has been determined that the park is not a practical location. Council is now exploring alternative sites for a splash pad elsewhere in Wainuiomata.



Cultural Foundation_

In collaboration with Kāhui mana whenua and Joshua Ambler (Kaupapa Maori Design Officer for the Hutt City Council), the following information has been prepared as a cultural foundation to inform the Hugh Sinclair Park masterplan and redevelopment. The guiding principles embed tikanga Māori and reflect the values and aspirations of mana whenua in the design and future use of the park. These principles, narratives, and stories will inspire and underpin the next stages of detailed design. They have and will guide decisions around material selection, spatial layout, planting, interpretation, and public art—ensuring that the park reflects and respects the cultural identity of this whenua.

Mana Whenua of Wainuiomata

Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, including the iwi of Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Mutunga, and Ngā Ruahine, are mana whenua for Wainuiomata. Their ancestral connections to the land, water, and skies are deeply embedded in the identity and history of this rohe.

Hugh Sinclair Park lies within a wider cultural landscape known to mana whenua as Te Whata Kai o Māui – the elevated storehouse of Māui – a name that acknowledges the abundance of resources and cultural richness in the Wainuiomata valley.

Cultural Narrative: Te Whata Kai o Māui

The land we now know as Wainuiomata is understood through the narrative of Te Whata Kai o Māui, which recalls the abundant resources gifted to the area through atua and ancestral actions. This story is rooted in the atua-driven shaping of the landscape and the sacred fires of occupation lit by Te Kāhui Mounga. The land was once rich, dense with sound, and spiritually alive—an untouched storehouse of sustenance, knowledge, and identity.

This understanding connects the whenua (land) with the atua (spiritual beings), and reflects the obligation of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) carried by mana whenua.

Key Tupua: Ngake and Whātaimai

The guardians of the harbour, Ngake and Whātaimai, are tupua whose spiritual and physical journeys helped shape the wider Wellington landscape. These ancient beings gave rise to rivers, landforms, and connections to the sea.

Their legacy lives on in the natural geography and informs cultural design through concepts such as movement and transformation (currents, land uplift, waterways), spiritual presence in landscape (wairua), and dual pathways—physical and metaphysical.



Mana Whenua Design Principles

Makaurangi

Design should reflect the cultural memory of the land—embedding local narratives, place names, and ancestral presence in spatial form.

Spaces should evoke a sense of peace and spiritual resonance, connecting people to the land and its deeper meanings.

Design must recognise the intergenerational links between people, place, and environment—tracing connections across time.

Kaitiakitanga

The environment is to be protected and enhanced. Planting, water systems, and access should support ecological health and reflect our role as caretakers.

The life force of the place—its water, trees, animals, and people—should be nurtured through design that supports vitality and balance.

Connect the park’s land and water to the wider cultural and ecological landscape—through pathways, views, and planting.

Manaakitanga






Public space must be welcoming, equitable, and inclusive for all ages and abilities—spaces of generosity, support, and community connection.

Masterplan: Structure_







The following outlines the key structure and proposed initiatives to address challenges and maximise opportunities within the park. These interventions are grouped into four focus areas: Environmental, Circulation and Safety, Recreation, and Amenities.

Key/Focus Areas





Environmental:

-  Retain trees and plant new trees.
-  Buffer/bank stability/amenity planting. Remove weeds.
-  Drainage/lowland/streamside planting.
-  Waterpath and drainage points.
-  Adjusted or new mounding.





Circulation and Safety:

-  Path connections.
-  Potential connections.
-  Road realignment to facilitate stormwater path and improve access to retention basin and BMX area.
-  Bridge amendments/upgrade.
-  Boardwalks over drainage/lowland planting.
-  Tree and pole lighting. CCTV where appropriate on poles.

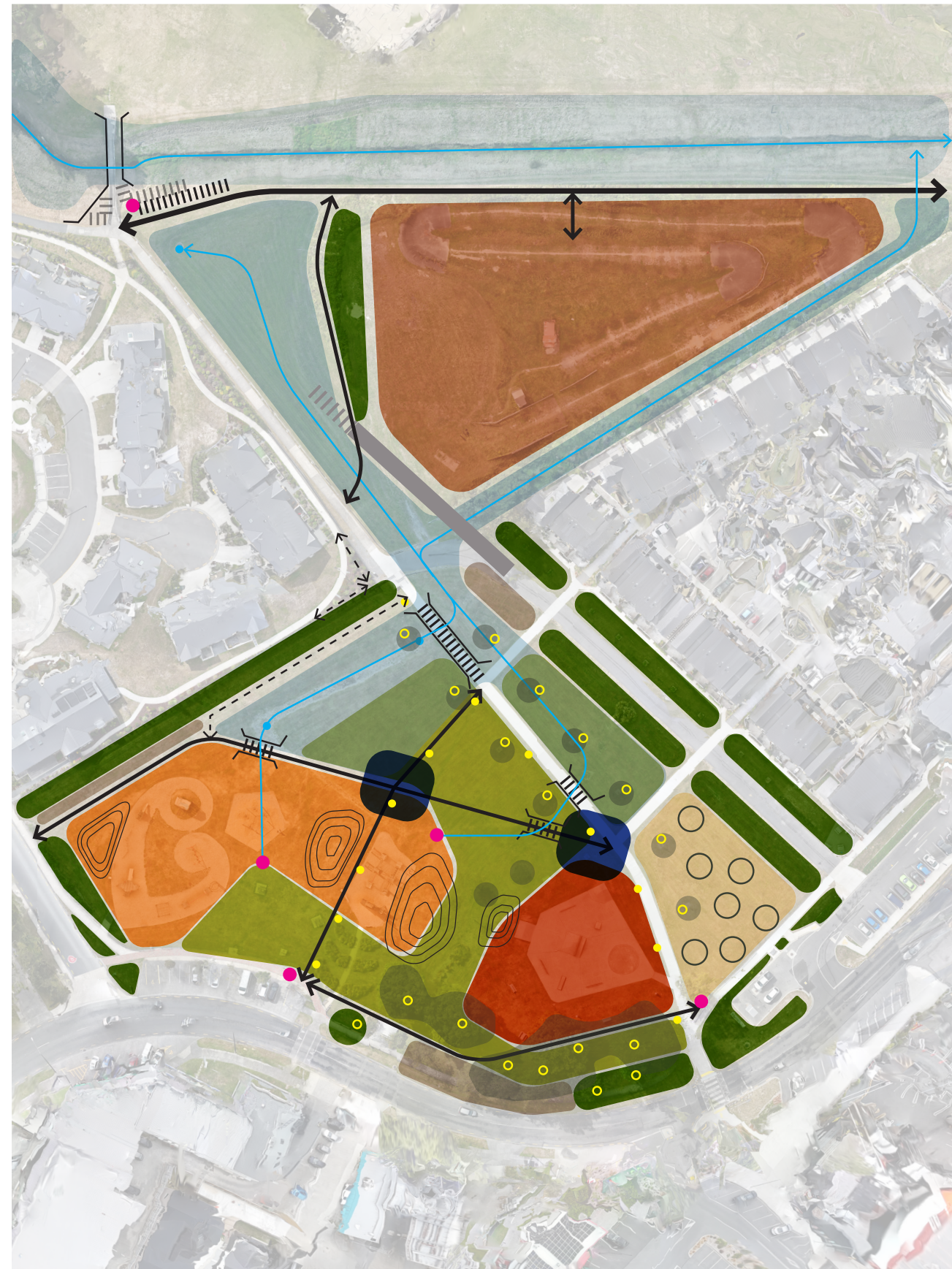
Recreation:

-  Destination play space with exercise features. Connect and upgrade playground including surfaces.
-  Upgrade/expansion to skate park.
-  Mixed-use games area (traditional Māori games, pétanque, table tennis, chess etc.)
-  BMX site improvements to be considered in future work.

Amenities:

-  Upgraded/new shelters and furnishings.
-  Future parking areas for increased capacity.
-  Streamside timber platforms.
-  Culturally inspired art/sculpture.

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The Masterplan_

The following outlines the vision for the redevelopment of Hugh Sinclair Park. The key interventions that form the masterplan are grouped into four strategic focus areas, which are explained in more detail on the following pages.

Key/Focus Areas

Environmental:

- 1 Retain trees and plant new trees.
- 2 Low to medium buffer/bank stability/amenity planting. Remove weeds.
- 3 Drainage/lowland/streamside planting.
- 4 Regrading swales/defining waterpath and drainage points.
- 5 Turf repair, aeration/drainage improvement and overseeding.
- 6 Adjusted or new mounding.

Circulation and Safety:

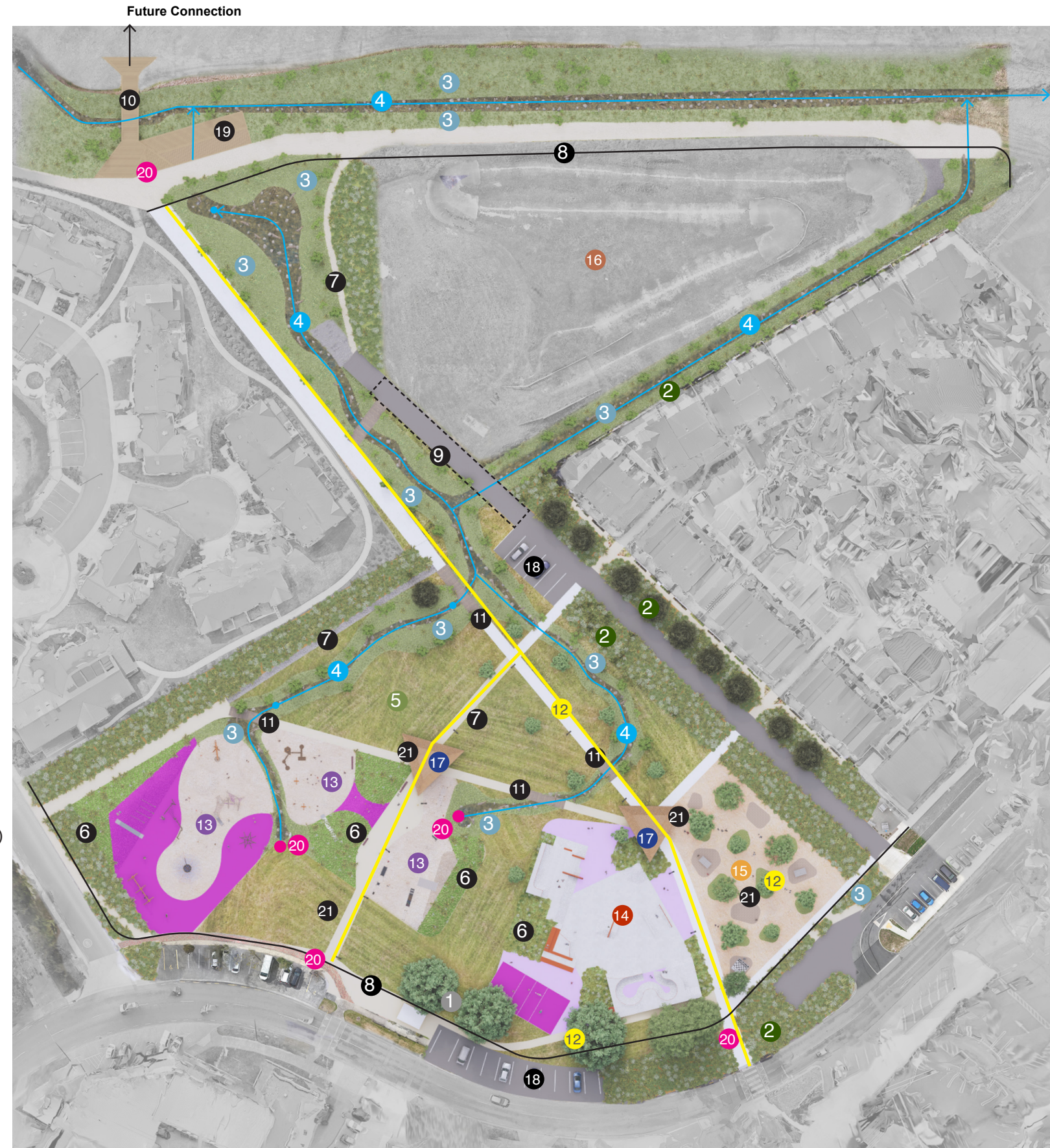
- 7 Formal and informal path connections.
- 8 Low barriers (timber post and rail, wide planted areas or low walls).
- 9 Road realignment to facilitate daylighted water path and improve access.
- 10 Bridge amendments/upgrade.
- 11 Boardwalks over drainage/lowland planting.
- 12 Tree and pole lighting. CCTV where appropriate on poles.

Recreation:

- 13 Destination play space with exercise features.
- 14 Upgrade/expansion to skate park and volley ball/ multi-use court.
- 15 Mixed-use games area (traditional Māori games, pétanque, table tennis, chess etc.)
- 16 BMX site to be considered in future work.

Amenities:

- 17 Shelters and furnishings.
- 18 Future parking areas.
- 19 North-facing streamside timber platforms.
- 20 Culturally inspired art/sculpture.
- 21 New furnishings (seating, tables, bike stands, BBQs, water fountain etc.)



Masterplan: The Vision_

The masterplan for Hugh Sinclair Park envisions a vibrant, connected, and environmentally resilient space that enhances recreation and community life. Ecological restoration will include tree retention and planting, buffer planting for bank stability and to improve residential interfaces, improved drainage, and lowland planting to support biodiversity and water management.

Improved circulation and safety will feature new pathways, bridge upgrades, boardwalks, and enhanced lighting, ensuring accessibility and security. A revitalised recreation area will include a destination play space, an expanded skate park and a mixed-use games area for diverse activities.

New amenities such as shelters, seating, streamside platforms, and culturally inspired sculptures will create inviting gathering spaces. This transformation will ensure Hugh Sinclair Park remains a thriving, inclusive, and valued community asset for generations to come.



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Masterplan: Focus Areas_

Amenities:

New shelters and furnishings will enhance comfort and useability, with future parking areas planned for better access. Streamside timber platforms will provide scenic gathering spaces, while culturally inspired art and sculptures will celebrate the site's identity and heritage.

Recreation:

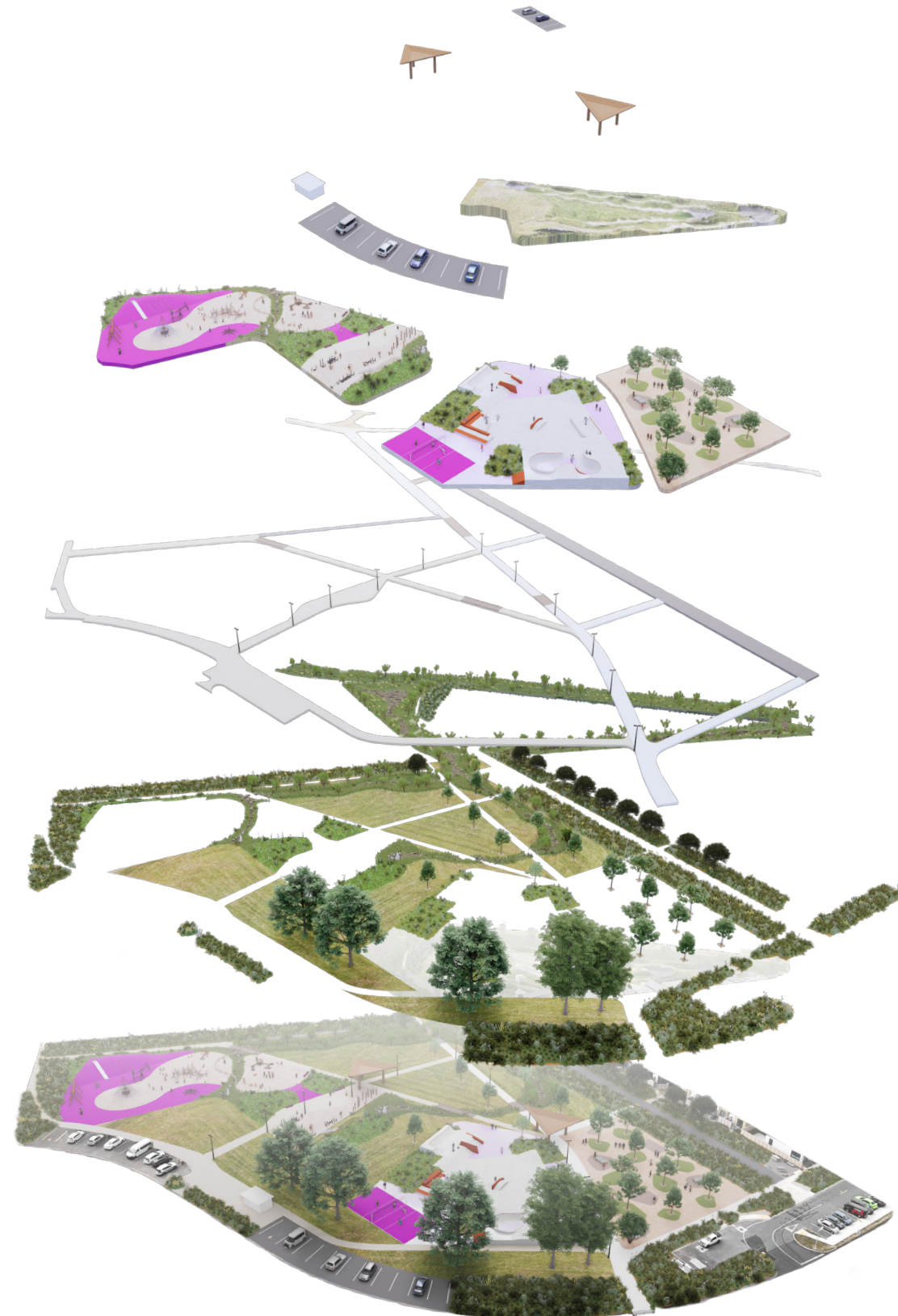
A destination play space will be developed, connecting to an upgraded playground with improved surfaces. The skate park will be expanded, and a mixed-use games area will be introduced, incorporating traditional Māori games, pétanque, table tennis, and chess. The BMX area and its future will be subject to further investigation.

Circulation and Safety:

Improving connectivity and safety is a key focus, with altered, new, and upgraded path connections, an informal stream crossing, and bridge enhancements. Road changes will improve access, while boardwalks will allow movement over drainage areas. Tree and pole lighting will enhance visibility, with CCTV installed where appropriate to improve security.

Environmental:

The masterplan prioritises ecological enhancement by retaining and planting new trees, improving bank stability and residential edge conditions with buffer planting, and removing invasive weeds. Reuse of land for drainage and lowland planting will support water management and ecology, while water paths and drainage points will be introduced for better flow. The landscape will be shaped with terracing, retaining walls, and adjusted mounding to enhance both function and aesthetics.



Focus Area_Environmental

The masterplan prioritises ecological enhancement by retaining existing trees and planting new trees, improving bank stability and residential edge conditions with buffer planting, and removing invasive weeds. Reuse of land for drainage and lowland planting will support water management and ecology, while water paths and drainage points will be introduced for better flow. The landscape will be shaped and adjusted with mounding to enhance both function and aesthetics.

Key:

- 1

Retain trees and plant new native trees.
- 2

Buffer/bank stability/amenity planting. Remove weeds.
- 3

Drainage/lowland/streamside planting.
- 4

Waterpath and drainage points.
- 5

Turf repair, aeration/drainage improvement and overseed.
- 6

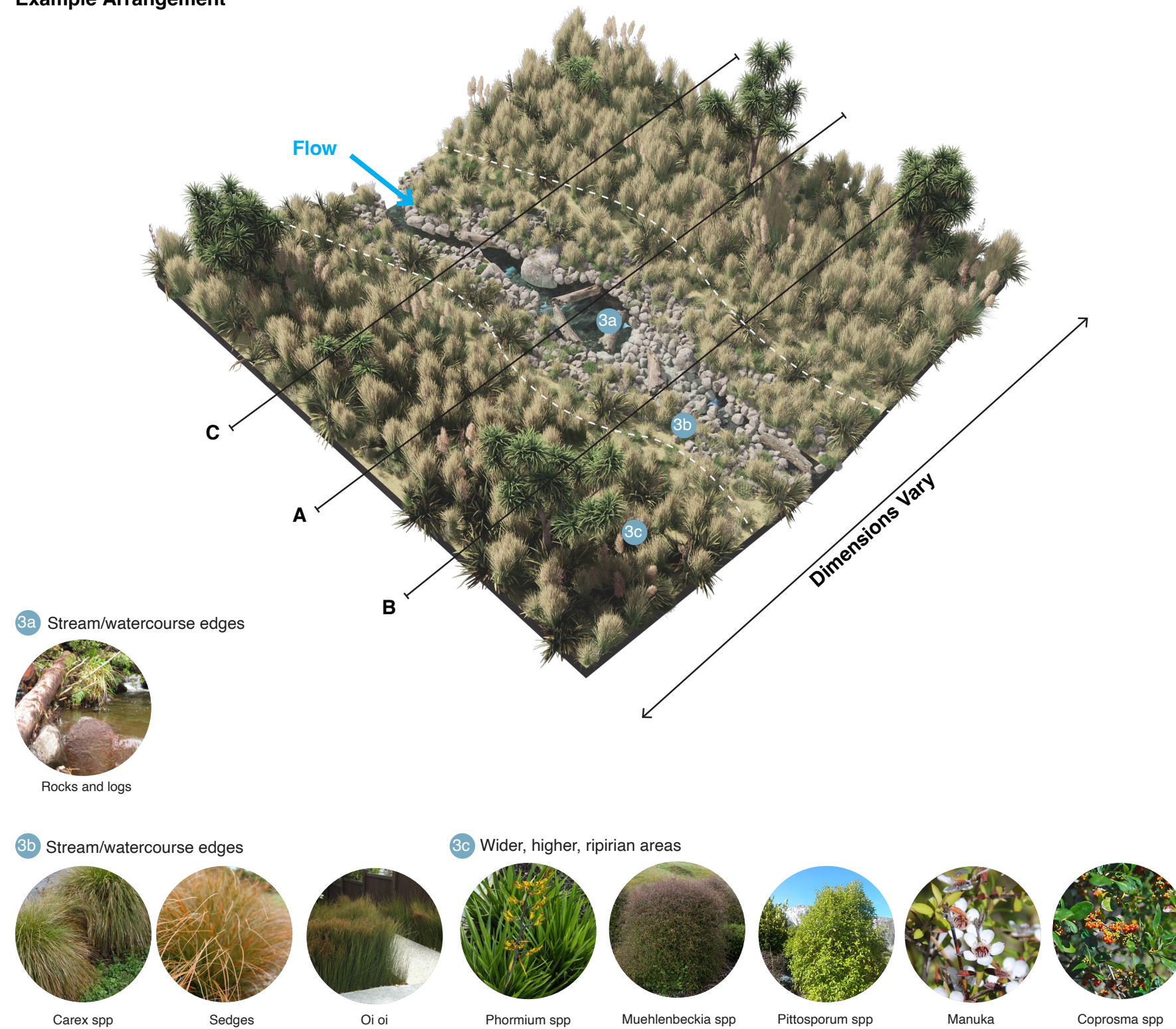
Adjusted or new mounding.

1 Retain trees and plant new native ones

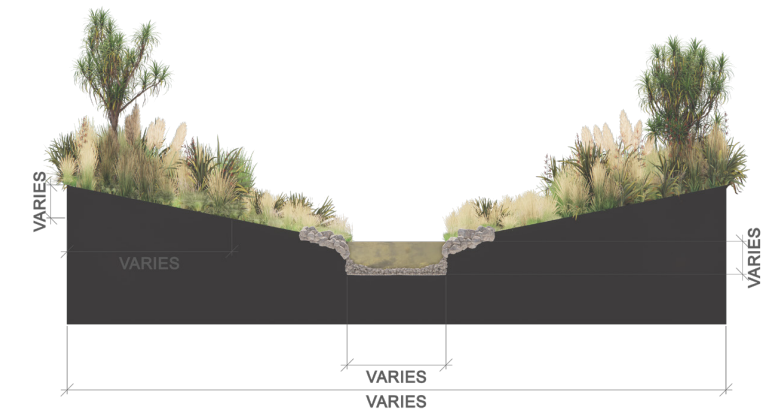


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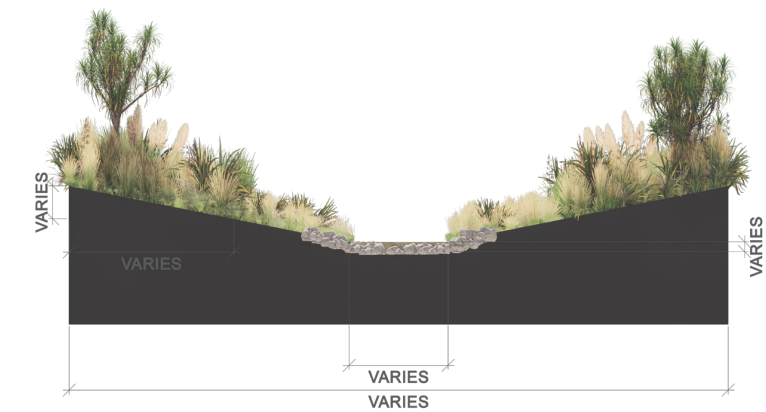
Example Arrangement



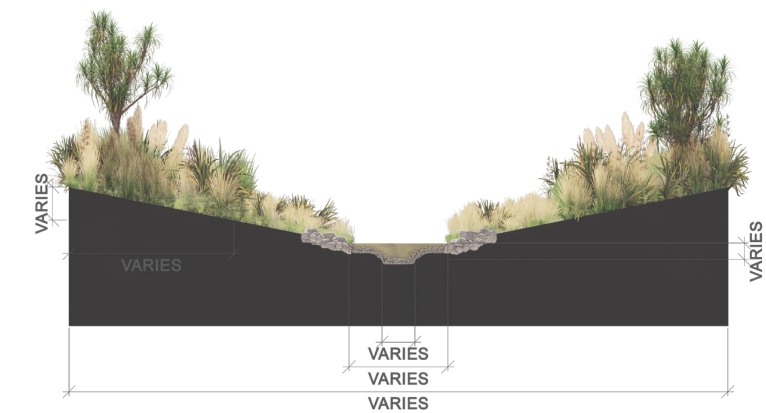
Typical Cross Section A: Pool



Typical Cross Section B: Riffle or Dry Channels

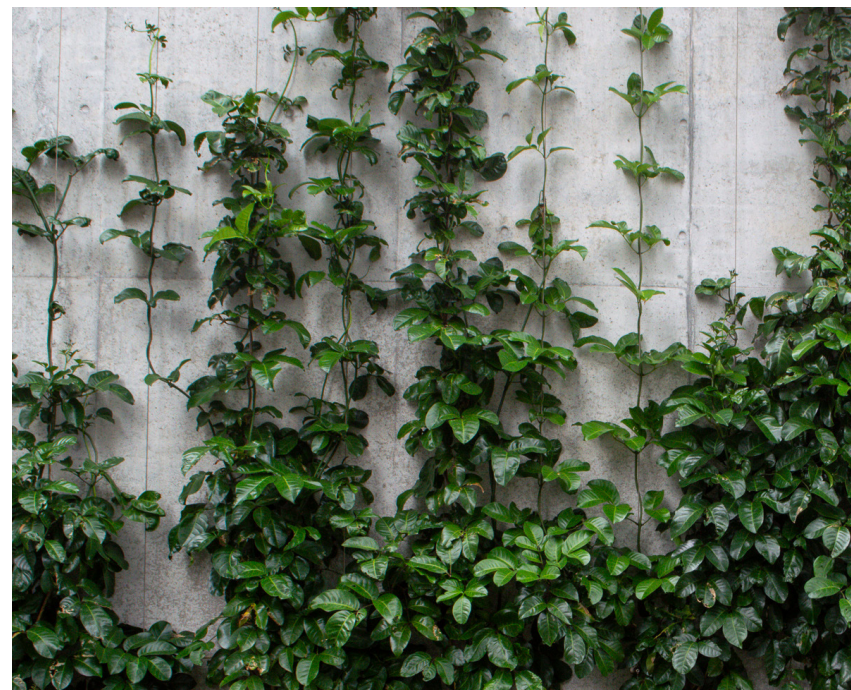


Typical Cross Section C: Run



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2 Examples of amenity planting.



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2 Buffer/bank stability/amenity planting.



Focus Area_Circulation and Safety

Improving connectivity and safety is a key focus, with altered, new, and upgraded path connections and bridge enhancements. A realignment to the road will allow for a daylight swale connection and improve access into this area of the site, while boardwalks will allow movement over drainage areas. Tree and pole lighting will enhance visibility, with CCTV installed where appropriate to improve security.

Key

- 7

New path or shared connections.
- 8

Low barriers (timber post and rail, wide planted areas or low walls)
- 9

Road realignment.
- 10

Bridge amendments/upgrade.
- 11

Boardwalks over drainage/lowland planting.
- 12

Path down lighting and tree uplighting. CCTV.

7 Brushed concrete with cultural patterning and inground signage



8 Low barriers (timber post and rail, wide planted areas or low walls)

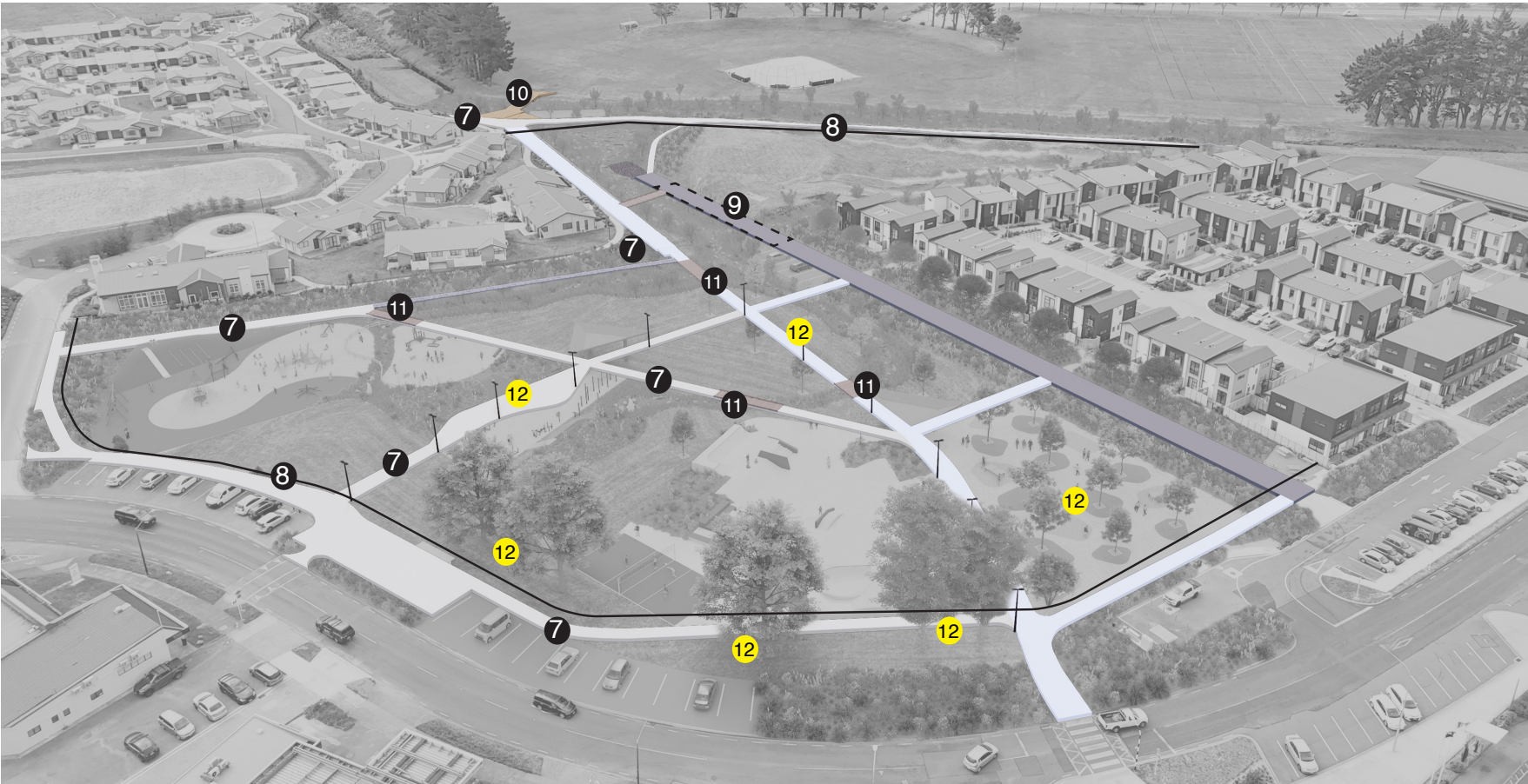


9 Road realignment



— Current alignment ← Connected stormwater

11 Timber crossings



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10 Bridge amendments/upgrade



Credit: Boffa Miskell



12 Path down lighting and tree uplighting.



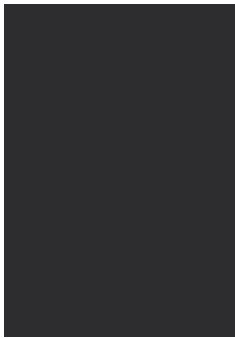
3000k Lighting colour



LED



Pole colour - Matte Black



Tree uplight



Focus Area_Recreation

A destination play space will be developed, connecting to an upgraded playground with improved surfaces. The skate park will be expanded, and a mixed-use games area will be introduced, incorporating traditional Māori games, pétanque, table tennis, and chess. The BMX area and its future will be subject to further investigation.

Key

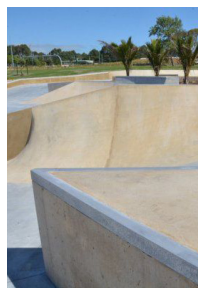
- 13 Destination play space with exercise features.
- 14 Upgrade/expansion to skate park and volley ball/ multi-use court.
- 15 Mixed-use games area (traditional Māori games, pétanque, table tennis, chess etc.)
- 16 BMX site to be considered in future work.

Surfaces

Resurfaced concrete



Coloured concrete



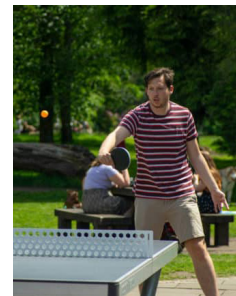
Engineered hoggins



Softfall - rubber pour surface and padded faux lawn



Safety bark surface

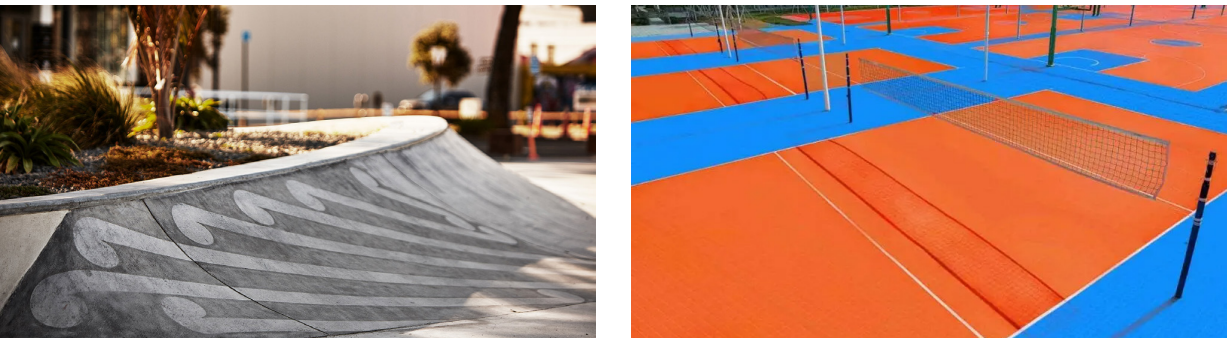
15 Mixed-use games areas

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13 Natural play and exercise equipment with a focus on using timber, rocks, galvanised steel and rope-based features with cultural elements.



14 Upgrade/expansion to skate park with cultural elements and proposed volleyball/ multi-use court.



Focus Area_Amenities

New shelters and furnishings will enhance comfort and useability, with future parking areas planned for better access. Streamside timber platforms will provide scenic gathering spaces, while culturally inspired Māori art and sculptures will celebrate the site's identity and heritage.

Key

- 17

Shelters
- 18

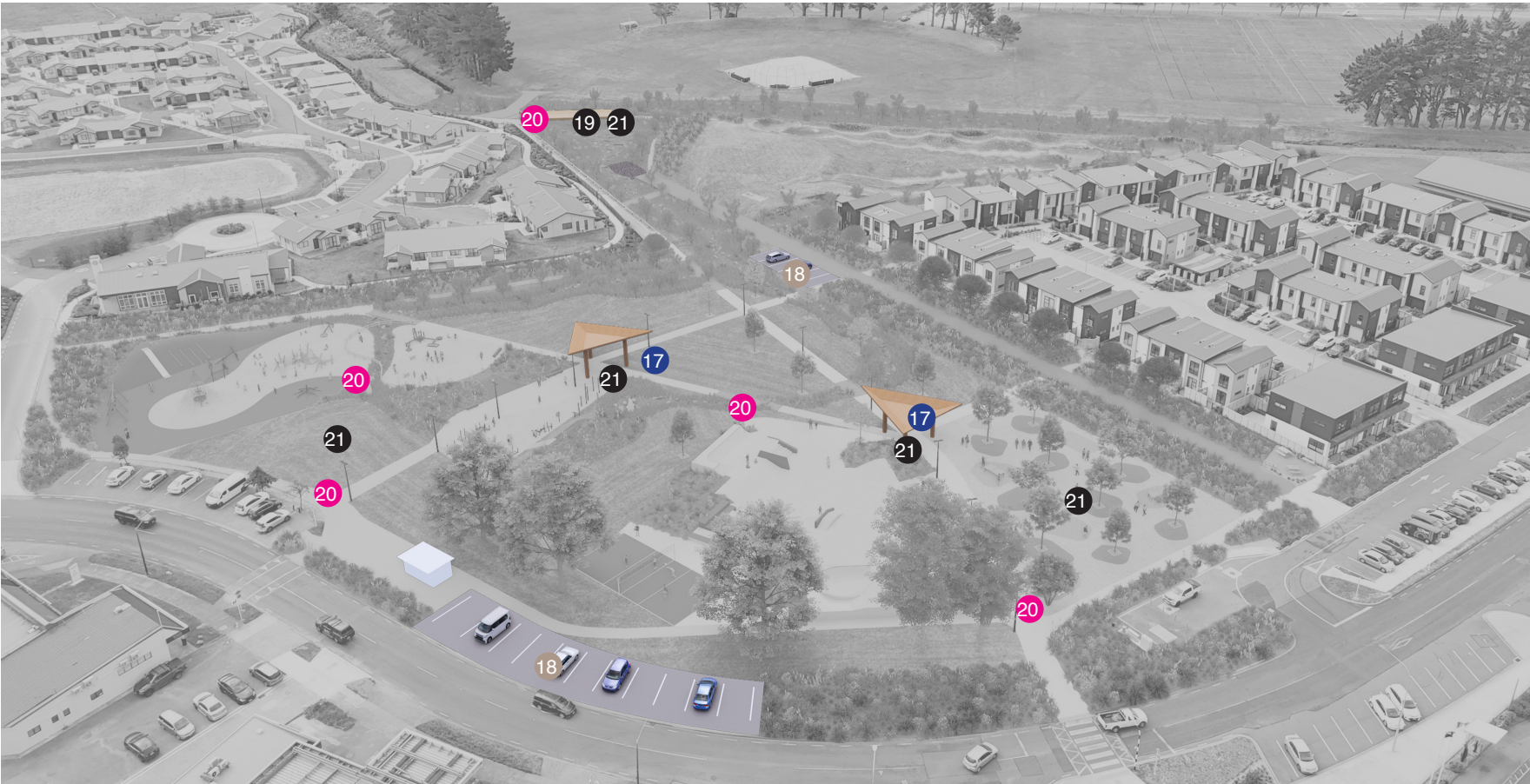
Parking areas.
- 19

Streamside timber platforms.
- 20

Gateway culturally inspired art/sculpture.
- 21

New furnishings (seating, tables, bike stands, BBQs, water fountain etc.)

17 Shelter Examples



19 Streamside platform to crossing 20 Gateway culturally inspired art/sculpture examples



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21 New furnishings (seating, tables, bike stands, BBQs, water fountain etc.)



Reclaimed materials available for repurpose

Furniture examples





Appendix 1: Draft Masterplan Consultation

„Help Shape the Future of Hugh Sinclair Park“

Hugh Sinclair Park Draft Masterplan was issued for feedback via the Council’s website during May–June 2025 under the banner of “Help Shape the Future of Hugh Sinclair Park”. Below summarises the key information received. The full summary reports can be obtained from Council.

Engagement Snapshot

- 95 survey respondents
- 92% live in Lower Hutt
- 88 respondents live in Wainuiomata
- Mix of regular users, parents with tamariki, and retirees
- Majority between 25-44 years
- Predominantly NZ European, followed by Māori, Samoan, and Cook Islands Māori

How the Park is Used

- Most people use the park weekly or occasionally
- Very few never visit, suggesting high community connection

Sentiment on the Draft Plan

- Most gave a score of 3 or 4 (out of 5)
- 18% gave the highest rating (5)
- A small group rated it low, mostly due to cost or insufficient features

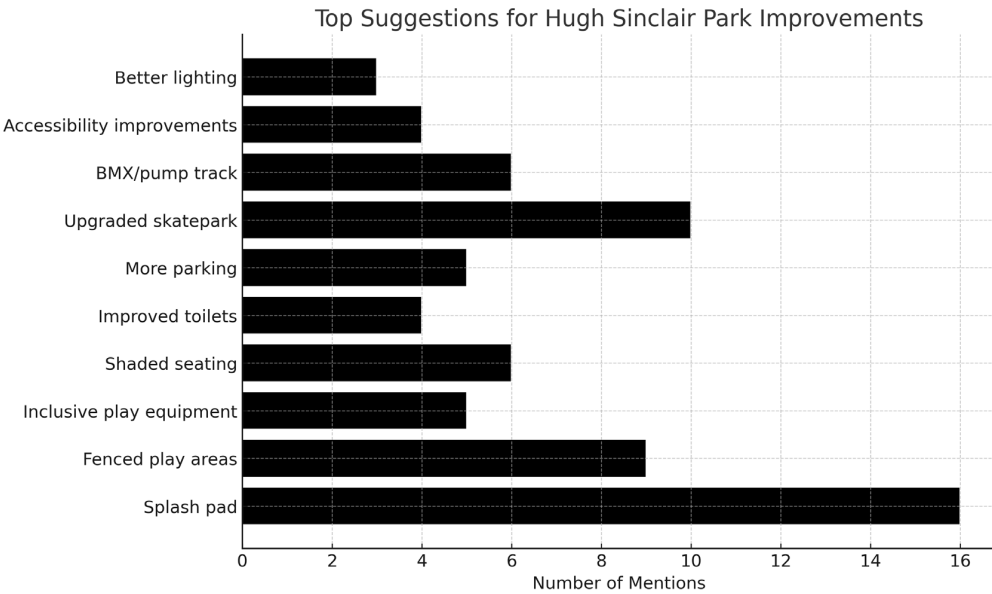
What People Liked

- Upgraded playgrounds for a range of ages
- Skatepark renewal and support for BMX and pump tracks
- BBQ stations and picnic spots
- Improved drainage, paths and lighting
- Inclusion of natural play and local identity

Suggestions for Improvement

- Add a splash pad or water play area
- Fencing around play zones for child safety
- Improve accessibility (e.g. for prams and mobility needs)
- Include shaded seating and drinking fountains
- Upgrade or ensure public toilets

- Add inclusive play equipment (e.g. wheelchair swing)
- Provide more parking, especially near BMX/skatepark



Sample Comments

- "A splash pad would be amazing. It’d mean we don’t have to travel to Porirua."
- "Make sure there is fencing. It’s stressful with multiple kids and no boundaries."
- "Great to see a skatepark upgrade. Just make sure the right builders are used."
- "Please think about safety at night. More lighting will help."
- "There should be more to do for under-5s."

Summary

The community supports the upgrade and sees it as a long-overdue improvement. Most want more investment in inclusive, active, and family-friendly infrastructure. Requests were practical and centred around safety, shade, water play, and a desire to create a fun and welcoming hub for all ages.





Appendix 2: Action Plan

Projects, People, Budgets and Procurement

The following action plan outlines the proposed projects and their suggested sequencing and delivery timeframes. It identifies the lead Hutt City Council (“HCC”) department, the design professionals required, and the recommended procurement method for the implementation for each project. A preliminary budget has been provided for each item, reflecting a high-level conservative estimate.

FOCUS AREAS	PROJECT	LEAD	DESIGN PROFESSIONALS	DELIVERY METHOD	BUDGET*	2025	2026	2027 - 2030
Environmental (refer page 10)	Stormwater improvements + planting	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Civil Engineer	Tender (with road adjustment)	\$700k			
	Buffer planting to residential edges	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect	Council contractor	\$120k			
	Black Creek planting (next to site)	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect	Council contractor	\$100k			
Circulation and Safety (refer page 14)	Pathway connections + crossings	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect	Council contractor	\$500k			
	Lighting + CCTV	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Lighting Designer	Tender	\$200k			
	New/upgrade to Black Creek Bridge	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Structural Engineer	Tender (with sitting platforms work)	\$200k			
	Road adjustment/parking	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Civil Engineer	Tender (with stormwater improvements)	\$100k			
	Low barriers/planting	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect	Council contractor	\$70k			
Recreation (refer page 16)	Destination play space with exercise.	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Playground Supplier	Design and build	\$1 million			
	New/upgraded skatepark	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Skate Park Designer	Design and build	\$750k			
	Mixed-use games area	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect	Tender	\$450k			
Amenities (refer page 18)	Shelters	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Structural Engineer	Tender	\$300k			
	New parking area - The Strand	HCC Roothing	Landscape Architect + Civil Engineer	Tender	\$100k			
	Black Creek sitting platforms	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Structural Engineer	Tender (with bridge upgrade)	\$80k			
	Gateway sculptures	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect + Selected Artist	Direct appointment	\$150k			
	New furnishings	HCC Parks	Landscape Architect	Selected tender	\$200k			

*All project budgets are estimates only, based on supplier quotations, market rates, and comparable previous projects at the time of preparing this document. A contingency allowance should be applied to reflect the absence of detailed design and the potential timeframe for project delivery. Blac ltd accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the stated budgets.



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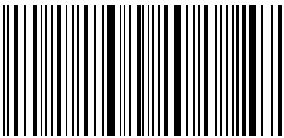


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18 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/243

Oversight Advisory Group 2025 Report on Homelessness

Purpose of Report

1. To present to the Community, Culture and Partnerships Committee (the Committee) the second Oversight Advisory Group (OAG) report on progressing Council's Homelessness Strategy.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes the progress being made against Council's Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan;
- (2) notes the updates from the Oversight Advisory Group and Council's providers, attached as Appendices 1-6 to the report; and
- (3) asks officers to report back to the new Council in 2026 on options for the future direction of this work.

Background

2. In 2019 Council published its Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan, with a focus on preventing homelessness, improving the supply of accommodation and affordable housing, ending rough sleeping and building a better understanding of homelessness in the City.
3. In September 2024 the Committee considered the first report of Council's OAG. It noted the OAG's establishment and purpose, and progress against homelessness prevention, housing supply, and data and insight, including the development of a Homelessness Dashboard.
4. In November 2024, the Committee noted an update from Council's Homelessness providers - Tākiri Mai Te Ata (homelessness prevention), Tuatahi Centre (support into settled accommodation) and Community Law (legal housing advice and advocacy). The report noted key trends, successes and challenges for each of the providers.

5. In April 2025, the Committee approved the content and steps for publishing the Homeless Dashboard, that is now publicly available on Council's website: <https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/about-our-city/homelessness-in-te-awa-kairangi-ki-tai/homelessness-and-housing-dashboard>

Wider context and trends

6. Between September 2024 and September 2025, New Zealand experienced a marked increase in homelessness, particularly among unsheltered individuals, with a 37% increase in this cohort since 2018. This growth is driven by systemic housing shortages, rental inflation, tightening eligibility for emergency housing, cost of living pressure and gaps in mental health and addiction services.
7. The June 2025 Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homelessness Insights, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, confirms a continued rise in rough sleeping, particularly among people with complex needs, including severe mental health conditions, methamphetamine addiction, and histories of family violence. Local councils, including Lower Hutt, report growing numbers of whānau living without shelter, in makeshift dwellings, or cycling through emergency housing. National data, and more locally provider data, is showing that Māori and Pacific peoples are disproportionately represented in homelessness statistics, highlighting ongoing equity gaps.
8. Recent research shows that permanent housing with wrap-around support significantly reduces interactions with hospitals, police, and the justice system. This approach improves outcomes and reduces long-term public costs.
9. Locally, the City Safety team has recorded 33 homelessness-related incidents in 2025 to date, up from 28 in all of 2024. Providers report increasing complexity in the cases they support, with barriers to accessing immediate housing worsening due to policy changes such as the 13-week stand-down for 'self-caused' homelessness. Emergency and transitional housing remain constrained, and the new social housing supply is not keeping pace with demand.

Update on work programme

10. The OAG has continued implementing its work programme with a strong emphasis on driving early intervention, increased access to stable housing, and providing advice and advocacy.
11. The OAG's progress report is attached as Appendix 2 to the report and shows progress over the past year has been made in the following areas:

Governance and Oversight:

12. **Strengthened governance:** OAG's Terms of Reference have been formalised with regular meetings of the group to steer and monitor the work.
13. **Clarified delivery responsibilities:** OAG has retained Council's Strategy and Policy unit with leadership responsibility for the overall strategy. Council's Connected Communities unit has assumed operational responsibility for Council's homelessness response under the strategy and action plan.
14. **Built and maintained cross-sector relationships:** through attending cross-sector hui, forums, and leading direct engagement with central government partners.

Policy and Partnerships:

15. **Housing Collaboration:** OAG continues to support the work of Urban Development teams to drive ongoing collaboration through Council's Urban Development Team with Urban Plus Ltd and Community Housing Providers to deliver new social and affordable housing.
16. The Urban Development team has implemented a new development contribution remissions policy (up to 60%) for qualifying community housing projects.

Provider Governance

17. **Contract Management:** all provider contract KPIs have been met or exceeded.
18. **Contract Review:** the OAG is also in the process of reviewing contracts with Takiri Mai te Ata, Tuatahi Centre, and Community Law, working with Council's privacy, legal, and procurement teams, and iwi partners. The review confirmed all services met or exceeded targets, improved reporting and invoicing processes, enhanced data capture and identified opportunities to adapt service models to better meet emerging needs. These insights will inform both the proposed crisis outreach enhancements and the refresh of the Action Plan.

Data and Insights:

19. **Housing and Homelessness Dashboard:** launched May 2025, integrating data from Ministry of Social Development (MSD), HUD, Stats NZ, and providers. The Dashboard was positively received by the Committee at their April 2025 meeting.
20. The Dashboard will be updated quarterly, with provider data and crisis pathway mapping to be added by December 2025.
<https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/about-our-city/homelessness-in-te-awa-kairangi-ki-tai/homelessness-and-housing-dashboard>

Provider Impact Summary

21. In 2024–25, the three contracted providers – Tākiri Mai te Ata, Tuatahi Centre, and Community Law – collectively supported over 400 whānau across the City. Their summarised reporting is attached as Appendix 1, with their detailed reports attached as Appendices 3 to 6.
22. Providers have maintained a focus on tenancy sustainment and prevention. These efforts reduced pressure on emergency housing systems and protected vulnerable households from further crisis.
23. Combined provider reporting shows a strong emphasis on supporting people from diverse cultural and demographic backgrounds. This culturally responsive approach helps to ensure that services meet the unique needs of diverse homeless whānau in the community.
24. All three services provided holistic support beyond immediate housing needs. This wrap-around approach supported clients to secure housing, build resilience and lift confidence for accessing broader wellbeing supports.
25. Case studies provided by our providers show the benefits of their services both for housing goals, and wider benefits for improved safety, social belonging and wellbeing.
26. All three providers report increasing demand, greater case complexity, and significant challenges securing suitable housing for clients.

Challenges

27. Wider central government reporting, insight from our providers and Council's own data is indicating that Homelessness is increasing both nationally, and across the City.
28. Recent data from the HUD confirms that homelessness, particularly rough sleeping, has been increasing nationwide, with Māori and Pacific peoples disproportionately affected. Locally, City Safety reports more incidents in 2025 than in the whole of 2024, while providers are seeing higher demand and more complex cases. This convergence of national, sector, and Council data shows that the issue is worsening across multiple fronts, reinforcing the urgency of coordinated and well-resourced interventions.
29. **Rising demand outpacing housing supply, especially for one-bedroom and accessible dwellings:** Population growth, stalled Kāinga Ora developments, and limited private sector output have all contributed to an acute shortage of smaller and accessible homes. Demand from single adults, older people, and those with mobility needs is increasing faster than supply, leaving many unable to secure housing that meets their basic requirements. This mismatch exacerbates both homelessness and housing stress, with longer waiting times and increased competition for a small number of suitable properties.

30. **Emergency housing access is increasingly constrained, with 32% of applications declined nationally in March 2025:** Access to emergency housing is tightening, with HUD data showing a sharp rise in application declines — up from just 4% a year earlier to 32% in March 2025. Declines often stem from stricter eligibility criteria and perceptions of “alternative” options, even where those options are unsafe or unsuitable. Providers report that these constraints leave some whānau without shelter, relying instead on makeshift arrangements such as vehicles, overcrowded homes, or unsafe environments.
31. **Increased prevalence of clients with high and complex needs (mental health, addictions, chronic health conditions):** A growing proportion of people experiencing homelessness present with multiple, overlapping challenges, including untreated mental health conditions, substance dependencies, and serious chronic illnesses. Providers note that these complexities make it harder to secure and sustain housing without intensive, wrap-around support. The result is a cycle where individuals are more likely to remain in homelessness for extended periods and require higher-cost interventions from health, justice, and social services.
32. **Policy changes create additional barriers to housing access:** Recent policy shifts, such as the introduction of a 13-week stand-down for those deemed to have ‘self-caused’ their homelessness, have made it harder for some of the most vulnerable people to access public or emergency housing. The reintroduction of 90-day no-cause evictions also significantly reduces housing security for renters. Providers report that these rules can penalise people already in crisis, prolonging their time without safe accommodation. The higher thresholds for needs assessments also mean that some individuals with significant, but not “highest priority,” needs are excluded from housing support.
33. **Ongoing cost of living pressures affecting whānau stability:** Inflation, rising rents, and increasing utility and food costs are pushing more households into financial distress. Many whānau are spending well over 50% of their income on housing, leaving little buffer for unexpected expenses. This financial pressure increases the risk of eviction, arrears, and housing instability, with flow-on effects for employment, education, and health outcomes. Providers highlight that even small cost increases can tip vulnerable households into crisis.

Discussion

34. Considering the latest national reporting, local data, and feedback from providers, the homelessness challenges facing Lower Hutt are evolving and intensifying. Council’s current programme delivers valuable outcomes, but all agencies involved are struggling to respond to the increased need.
35. Rough sleeping and crisis homelessness are rising sharply in Lower Hutt, with more people experiencing homelessness for the first time and others becoming entrenched in unsafe living situations. Current response systems, while effective for those already engaged with services, often move too slowly to intervene at the earliest and most critical stages of a housing crisis.

36. As a result, individuals can remain without shelter for extended periods, increasing the risk of harm, worsening health outcomes, and making eventual recovery more difficult and costly. Our last weather emergencies have also shown our Homeless whānau, particularly those inhabiting around the foreshore, are particularly vulnerable to the growing number of weather and flooding-related civil emergencies across the City.
37. Evidence from HUD shows a 24% increase in rough sleeping in Wellington over the past year, alongside national declines in emergency housing approvals and ongoing pressure on social housing supply. Locally, Council's City Safety team and contracted providers are reporting more frequent cases, greater complexity of need, and clear gaps in rapid-response capacity. Providers stress that the absence of dedicated crisis navigation and mobile outreach limits their ability to engage with rough sleepers at the right time and place, leading to missed opportunities for early intervention.
38. There is currently a gap in immediate crisis-focused services for homelessness. Some outreach work was previously undertaken by Council's Safe City Ambassadors during their other activities and continues via the current City Safety team and other staff. However, the extent of the problem is now beyond what can be addressed in this way.
39. In the next triennium, the new Council will have the opportunity to consider its future work programme, including its role and investment in homelessness. Council is facing an affordability challenge, and hard decisions will need to be made to reduce the future rates burden. As part of those considerations, officers will provide information on the impact of the current approach and future options in this space, noting there are contracts in place with the current providers.

Options

40. There are no options as this is a noting only report.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

41. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.

Legal Considerations

42. There are no legal considerations other than those noted in the report regarding contracts for services.

Financial Considerations

43. The financial considerations are noted in the report.

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Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Homelessness insights

June 2025



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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Introduction

This report aims to provide insights into homelessness using a range of data and observational reports. The focus of this report is on those living without shelter, however, where possible we have included information regarding all categories of homelessness. Where available, data has been presented to March 2025, however some data sources have a lag.

Homelessness is defined as living situations where people with no other options to acquire safe and secure housing: are without shelter, in temporary accommodation, sharing accommodation with a household or living in uninhabitable housing¹.

The most robust estimates of homelessness are severe housing deprivation estimates from the five-yearly Census¹. These suggest there were at least 112,500 people who were severely housing deprived on 7 March 2023, including 4,965 people estimated to be living without shelter.

Key messages

- The most robust estimate we have of those living without shelter is the 2023 Census estimate¹ of 4,965. However, the data and observations we have collated from around the country indicate this has increased. It is not possible to quantify the exact size of this increase however it appears to be greater than our three percent population growth.
- People living without shelter are the smallest category of homelessness, they can be very transient and their circumstances may change from night to night. This combined with a history of trauma that leaves many with a distrust in authority, means that it can be very difficult to quantify this group.
- 2023 Census severe housing deprivation estimates suggest that people living without shelter are more likely to be older, with 55 percent males and 44 percent females. Data and observations do not suggest any significant change in these characteristics.
- Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) service-use data indicates a likely decrease in the number of people living in temporary accommodation, however, we do not currently have further information on this group from other sources.
- Looking at what people receive in the 60 days following a household exiting emergency housing, allows us to understand the support received by 85 percent of households who exited in December 2024. Thirty-seven percent were housed in social

¹ The actual number may be higher, as undercounting is likely to affect all categories of severe housing deprivation.

housing, 29 percent went into transitional housing and 19 percent received the accommodation supplement². Some of the remaining 14 percent may be living without shelter, however, this cannot be confirmed. From May 2024 to March 2025, 972 households were housed through the Priority One Fast Track, including 2,055 children.

- It is not possible to determine the extent to which changes described in this report reflect existing trends and broader economic and social contexts or are attributable to policy changes.
- A number of programmes and supports are in place to respond to homelessness and connect people with the health and social services they need, including community navigators, housing brokers, and ready-to-rent courses, along with financial supports to secure and maintain accommodation.

Living situation	Number of people			Prevalence per 10k people		
	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023
Roofless or rough sleeper	30	207	333	0.1	0.4	0.7
Improvised dwelling	1,425	1,347	1,116	3.4	2.9	2.3
Mobile dwelling	2,667	2,070	3,516	6.3	4.5	7.1
Total	4,122	3,624	4,965	9.7	7.8	10.1

Common themes we've heard from councils

From February to April 2025 we spoke with staff working in homelessness-relevant areas at Auckland Council, Christchurch City Council, Dunedin City Council, Hamilton City Council, Hutt City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Porirua City Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, Tauranga City Council, Wellington City Council and Whangārei District Council.

- Increased numbers of people living without shelter this summer, compared to the last summer.
- Cross-agency groups are collaborating on approaches and/or data.

² Regarding exits from emergency housing: 1) One percent of those who exited in December 2024 were classified 'Other', which includes those who have left Aotearoa New Zealand or are deceased (figure 3); 2) the 'unknown' category includes those who may now be experiencing homelessness and those who may have gone on to other suitable housing options; 3) this is a monthly figure that looks at spells ended across the month.

- Concern that planned Kāinga Ora dwellings/complexes/units have been paused/stopped.
- They also described concerns that have been raised in other forums:
 - the threshold for mental health assessment being too high
 - Corrections releasing people into 'no fixed abode'
 - people who do not trust government – won't engage with MSD and/or Police.

2023 Census living without shelter estimates

Living situations that provide no shelter, or makeshift shelter, are considered as 'without shelter' (Stats NZ, 2015)³. These include situations such as living on the street and inhabiting improvised dwellings (for example, living in a garage, a shack or a car). This is measured as either:

- living as a roofless or rough sleeper with no other address
- living in an improvised or mobile dwelling with no other address and a low dwelling income (under \$43,000 equivalised).

We have insufficient data to draw any conclusions as to whether the numbers of those sharing someone else's private dwelling, living in uninhabitable housing, or homelessness overall have increased, decreased, or remained stable since the March 2023 Census.

Demographic breakdowns of those living without shelter

- The median age was 55 years.
- 1,293 were aged 65 years and over (26.0 percent).
- 603 were under 15 years old (12.1 percent).
- There were 2,748 males, 2,166 females and 54 people of another gender.
- 1,308 were Māori (26.3 percent).
- The territorial authorities with the highest rates per 10,000 population were Buller (84.0), Far North (74.2), Westland (60.9) and Ōpōtiki (56.8).
- The three territorial authorities with the highest numbers were Auckland (747), Far North (525) and Whangarei (237), these were followed by Christchurch, Western Bay of Plenty and Tasman (171, 168, 165 respectively).

³ Ibid, page 2

New insights from the 2023 severe housing deprivation estimates

- Two-thirds (67.9 percent) of all people estimated to be severely housing deprived in 2023 were living in the same place for a year. This indicates that living in severe housing deprivation is not a temporary situation for many people.
- The prevalence of severe housing deprivation for single parent families was 488.4 per 10,000 people in households.

Observations from the sector

Concern regarding:

- the upcoming winter months, noting increases in people and families rough sleeping, living in cars, garages, overcrowded or uninhabitable conditions and couch surfing.
- increasing levels of hopelessness, alongside increases in clients with complex needs due to methamphetamine use, anti-social behaviour and severe mental health concerns.
- a greater supply of housing needed to support those who are homeless (privately owned housing pulling out of Housing First programmes and an increase in insurance rate for CHPs to house those with chronic/complex needs resulting in them housing fewer people with these needs).

PARS (Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Services) Taranaki describe “unsustainable couch surfing is those who are more vulnerable than our actual rough sleepers, as their bodies are transactional (whether through sexual acts or used to commit crimes on behalf, etc)”.

Figures from around the country

These figures are all indicating upwards trends in people living without shelter and related reports from the public (underlined).⁴

Figures from Auckland Council's latest quarterly update shows that as at the end of May 2025, the 6 providers with outreach capacity were working with 809 unsheltered clients⁵ who were sleeping in cars, streets and local parks, up from 653 in January this year, and 426 in September 2024.

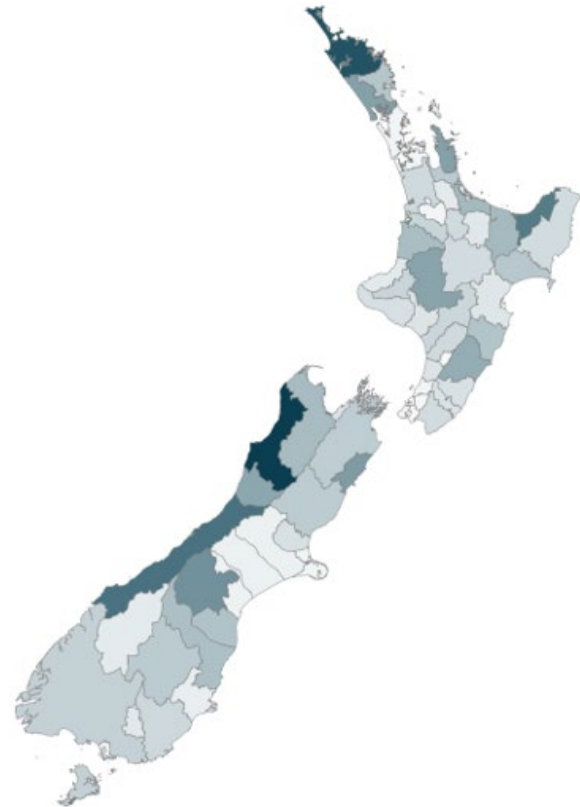
Tauranga City Council call centre data shows they had 619 homelessness-related reports from the general public in 2024, up from 423 in 2023. From January to mid-April this year there have been over 250 reports.

PARS Taranaki's 6-monthly snapshot of clients showed they had an increase in those living without shelter from 10 in June up to 35 in December.

Taranaki Retreat have estimated the current number of rough sleepers in New Plymouth is 30 to 35 individuals.

Porirua City Council initiated quarterly Point in Time Audits for rough sleepers from June 2024 with a total of four audits conducted to up to March 2025. These audits have reported 7, 11, 13, and 18 rough sleepers respectively.

Whangārei District Council has seen an increase in the number of public reports related to homelessness from 680 in 2023 to 1066 in 2024, at the current rate, they're forecast to reach over 1,200 reports in 2025. They have a current rate of 32.8 percent of activities associated with homelessness involving antisocial behaviour in the first four months of 2025, up from 29.6 percent in 2024.



Map shading presents 2023 Census estimates of living without shelter per 10,000 population, darker shades mean higher rates

⁴ We appreciate that there are high 2023 estimates of those living without shelter in the West Coast of the South Island. We are reaching out to the sector to better understand this.

⁵ Auckland Council's providers note that their numbers are under-reported as many homeless people are in cars, transient or hidden from sight.

Wellington City Council averaged 28 public reports of homelessness per month for 2023, this average was 42 for 2024 and currently sits at 37 for January to March 2025.

Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) in Wellington detailed that for the January to March 2025 period, 328 people were recorded as homeless, a five percent increase on the same period a year prior (312 people). Of these 141 people were recorded as rough sleeping for January to March 2025, a 24 percent increase on the same period a year prior (114 people).

Christchurch City Mission – outreach workers engaged with 270 new clients in the 6 months to the end of March 2025, up from 156 in the prior 6 months.

Limited data from other parts of the sector show:

- As at the end of March 2025, the Department of Corrections estimate at least 350 people were serving post-release orders with no fixed abode.
- An upwards trend in patients presenting at hospital emergency departments for whom no address was recorded from 34 in the month of November 2023 to 64 in the month of November 2024.

Ministry-funded outreach services

For the outreach clients we have the information for from September 2023 to March 2025:

- over half the client households (55.6 percent, about 300 client households) were living without shelter when they were initially engaged, a further 8.0 percent were living in temporary accommodation, 18.5 percent were sharing someone else's private dwelling and 17.9 percent were in another situation, such as overcrowded housing or insecure tenure.
- the most common reason for clients being homeless was a family or relationship breakdown (30.5 percent). Other reasons include loss of employment or income (11.1 percent), legal issues or incarceration (9.1 percent), mental health and addiction (6.6 percent), domestic abuse (4.7 percent), and being previously homeless (2.7 percent), other housing related reasons made up 18.7 percent.

Specialist mental health and addictions

Preliminary data about specialist mental health and addictions⁶ from Te Whatu Ora⁷ describing quarterly accommodation check-ins with clients indicates:

- Comparing the October to December quarter in 2024 with 2023, there was a 10.1 percent increase in clients who were homeless (1,915 to 2,109), a 4.9 percent increase for those in supported accommodation (4,750 to 4,984) and a 7.8 percent increase for those living independently (28,898 to 31,139).
- For most months from June to December 2024, there was an increase in the number of people receiving mental health and addiction services who were homeless, when compared with 2023 (see figure 1 below).
- There were 660 people receiving mental health and addiction services who were homeless in December 2024, up from 572 in December 2023. These included 326 Māori in December 2024, up from 255 a year earlier.
- An increase was also evident in the number of nights spent in mental health and addiction facilities for people reported as homeless from July to December 2024 when compared with the same period in 2023. In December 2024 there were 954 total nights stayed by those reported as homeless, up from 669 nights in December 2023.

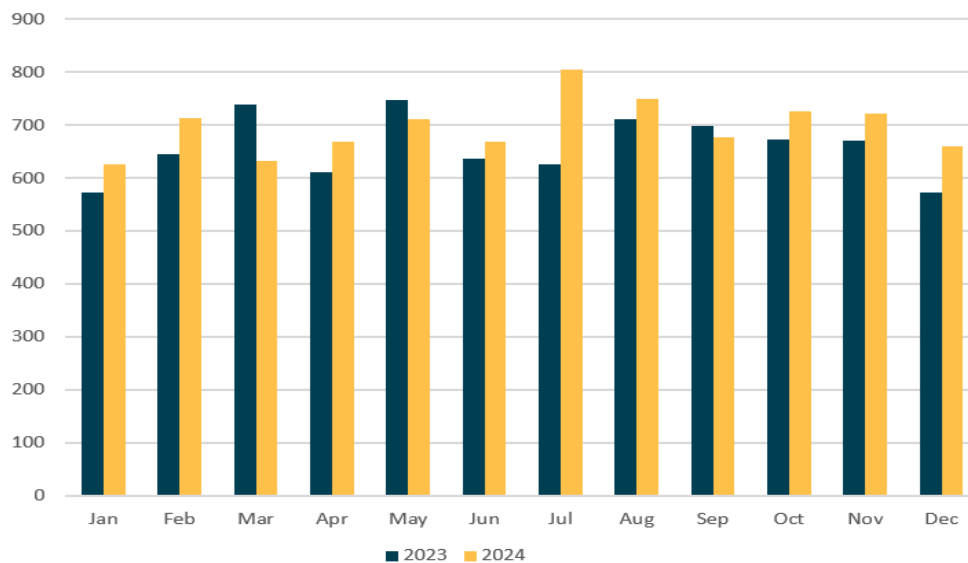


Figure 1: People receiving mental health and addiction services who reported 'homeless' as their Supplementary Consumer Record Accommodation status, collected 1 January 2023–31 December 2024

⁶ Caution is required when drawing conclusions about homelessness from service data (for example, emergency housing grants, housing register, transitional housing data, provider data). Service data is sensitive to operational and administrative changes (such as changes to management of the housing register) and reflects the number of people accessing a service. Service data does not measure the number of people experiencing homelessness.

⁷ Data from Te Whatu Ora is not a reflection of actual levels of homelessness of people accessing health services, rather the information that can be identified via the National Collections.

Rangatahi supported through Oranga Tamariki

Oranga Tamariki analysis⁸ of narrative reports from December 2024 noted young people leaving care or custody were finding it increasingly difficult to access emergency accommodation. However, they also raised safety concerns regarding emergency housing, that it is oversubscribed, under-resourced and predominantly established to support adult clients.

Reports highlighted the difficulties rangatahi face moving on to more permanent accommodation due to challenges accessing public and private rentals, including:

- affordability
- extra challenges with signing a tenancy agreement under the age of 18
- not being prioritised for public housing, high wait times to access Kāinga Ora homes
- limited options for rangatahi with bail conditions
- not being able to access accommodation due to substance use but not being able to access support programmes without a fixed abode.

2023 Census Severe Housing Deprivation estimates show that 15- to 29-year-olds are more likely than other age groups to be living in temporary accommodation or sharing someone else's private dwelling.

Emergency housing

Emergency housing⁹ is a last resort and only used when there is a genuine, immediate housing need.

Across March 2025, 32 percent of applications for emergency housing were declined (up from 4 percent in March 2024, see figure 2). The leading reasons¹⁰ that people were declined an emergency housing grant were: 'The need can be met another way' (34.3 percent), 'Circumstances could have been reasonably foreseen' (22.5 percent, this includes where the household is determined to have contributed to their emergency housing need), 'Not eligible for a grant' (16.7 percent) and 'Not an emergency situation' (14.7 percent).

⁸ Oranga Tamariki. (2025). Oranga Tamariki Transition Support Services insight document: Thematic trends from Transition to Adulthood and Supported Accommodation returns relevant to housing for Transitions Young People. [Unpublished].

⁹ Ibid, page 8

¹⁰ The system used to administer emergency housing grants is the system used for all hardship grants administered by MSD. While specific emergency housing grant decline reasons have been added to the system, staff can also select other reasons which may be more relevant to other hardship types. There is also a possibility for human error (for example, clicking the wrong reason).

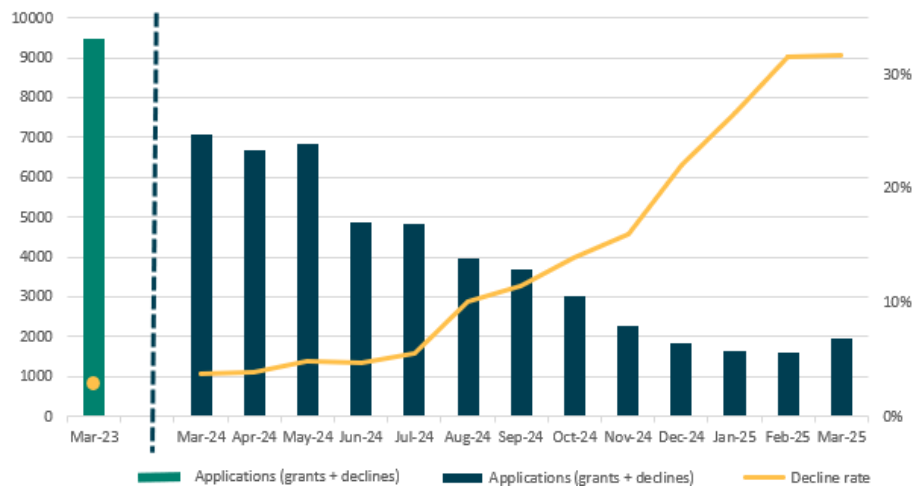


Figure 2: Total emergency housing grant applications and percentage of applications declined¹¹, by month

Where people are declined emergency housing assistance, MSD may provide other options, such as a referral to Transitional Housing, or Housing Support Products that provide financial assistance, including rent and bond support to help people access and sustain suitable accommodation.

With Māori making up 60 percent of emergency housing clients¹², the number of households with a Māori primary client granted emergency housing was approximately 380 client households granted to 260 client households declined (a ratio of 1.46, compared to 1.06 for all applicants). This indicates that Māori households may be slightly more likely to have an immediate housing need that meets the eligibility for emergency housing.

There were 60 Pacific peoples' households¹³ in emergency housing in March 2025, while 75 Pacific peoples' households were declined emergency housing (a ratio of 0.80).

¹¹ An emergency housing grant decline represents an application that has been processed and considered ineligible. The number of declines should not be considered representative of unmet demand for services, as we do not know the level of need that does not progress to a processed application (figure 2). A household may be granted emergency housing and declined emergency housing in the same month.

¹² Ethnicity comparisons are based on primary client rather than household data. There could be a household of Pacific peoples, but if the primary applicant identifies as Māori that will be recorded.

¹³ Ibid, page 10.

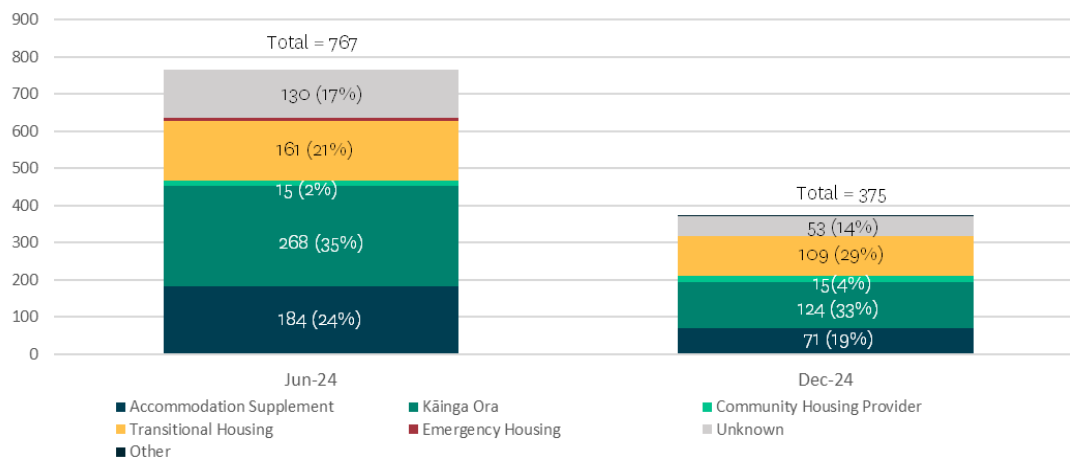


Figure 3: Numbers and proportions of people who access housing services after exiting emergency housing (up to 60 days)¹⁴

Analysis of data for 60 days following a household exiting emergency housing, shows that from June to December 2024, there was an increase in the proportion of households entering transitional housing (from 21 percent to 29 percent), a decrease in the proportion accessing an accommodation supplement (24 percent to 19 percent) and the proportion going into social housing remained the same (37 percent, see figure 3). The proportion for whom their housing situation remains unknown reduced to 14 percent.

Average length of time spent in emergency housing is about six months, the same as it was a year ago.

About three-fifths of households in emergency housing are there for the first time, this is gradually increasing.

Transitional housing

From April 2024 to March 2025 transitional housing¹⁵ has seen:

- a decreasing trend in the percentage of households whose primary reason for entering transitional housing was that they were living in temporary accommodation (from 35.9 percent to 27.5 percent), this is likely due to fewer people entering from emergency housing (Figure 4).

¹⁴ Regarding exits from emergency housing: 1) One percent of those who exited in December 2024 were classified 'Other', which includes those who have left Aotearoa New Zealand or are deceased (figure 3); 2) the 'unknown' category includes those who may now be experiencing homelessness and those who may have gone on to other suitable housing options; 3) this is a monthly figure that looks at spells ended across the month.

¹⁵ Ibid, page 8.

- a steady increase in single adult households (to 2,201) and a decrease in single parent households (to 1,674), resulting in a slight decrease in the total number of people in transitional housing nationally (from 11,735 in April 2024 to 11,565 in March 2025)
- 60.2 percent of households who exited transitional housing in February 2025, exited into long-term accommodation, while 9.1 percent moved in with family/whānau and 11.5 percent were removed by their provider.

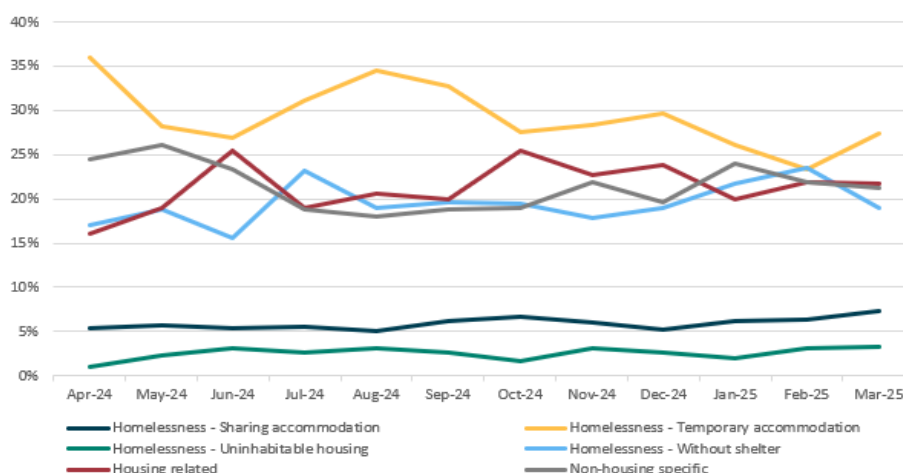


Figure 4: Percentage of households entering transitional housing, by reason, April 2024 to March 2025

Housing register

From March 2024 to March 2025 the social housing register¹⁶ decreased by nearly a quarter.

There have been slight decreases in the numbers of households living in private housing (including boarding, private rentals and own home – from 16,187 to 14,506), sharing someone else's private dwelling (2,451 to 2,149) and living without shelter (2,508 to 2,261, see figure 5)¹⁷. However, the number living in temporary accommodation has nearly halved (9,045 to 4,598). This means the proportions of households by living situation has shifted, with those in temporary accommodation making up just under a fifth (19.2 percent), while those in private accommodation made up three-fifths (60.7 percent) in March 2025.

There were 9,554 households with children on the social housing register in March 2025, down from 13,563 in March 2024. The priority one fast track means 972 of these

¹⁶ Ibid, page 11.

¹⁷ When a household enters the register, MSD staff select the client's living situation from 22 options. For simplicity, this report has used the Stats NZ homelessness definition to create higher-level categories where possible (without shelter, temporary accommodation, sharing someone else's private dwelling, private housing). Private dwelling is mostly made up of those who are renting or boarding. There may be some error due to variation in how MSD staff assign accommodation type (figure 5).

households who were previously in emergency housing have been housed since May 2024, including 2,055 children.

The largest decreases in total numbers of households were seen in Auckland (2,042 fewer households), Waikato (874 households), Bay of Plenty (677 households), and Canterbury and East Coast (660 households each). The steepest decreases were seen in Waikato (29.3 percent), East Coast (26.4 percent), Bay of Plenty (25.0 percent) and Central (24.6 percent).

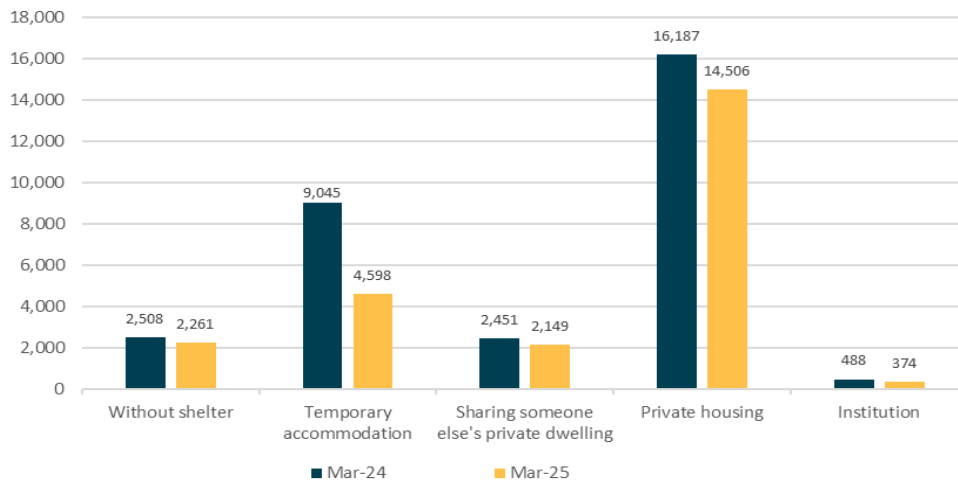


Figure 5: Number of primary applicants on the social housing register by living situation at the time of entry (or latest update)

Housing First – waiting to be housed

Housing First supports people living without shelter, with high or complex needs, to access and maintain stable housing and address trauma and other challenges.

As at the end of March 2025 there were 985 Housing First clients waiting to be housed. These clients receive support from providers as efforts are made to secure the right dwelling to meet their needs. Including time prior to entering the programme, around three in ten Housing First clients waiting to be housed have been homeless for 1-to-2 years (32.4 percent of those in Auckland, and 27.6 percent of those in other areas), with close to 4 in 10 Housing First Clients waiting to be housed having experienced homelessness for 3 years or more (37.8 percent).

- 30.8 percent have experienced four or more episodes of homelessness.
- As at the end of March 2025 there were 49 households where the primary client was 65 years or older.

- Nearly 70 percent (68.7 percent) of Housing First households waiting to be housed outside of Auckland have a primary client who is Māori. In Auckland nearly half the Housing First households waiting to be housed have a primary client who is Māori¹⁸, while over a quarter (26.7 percent) are Pacific peoples.

Broader system insights that may be affecting homelessness

Lack of employment

Lack of employment can add to household and relationship stress. We are currently seeing reduced numbers of people in paid employment, alongside rising unemployment (5.1 percent in March 2025, up from 4.4 percent in March 2024).

[Unemployment rate | Stats NZ](#)

Population growth

Population growth can put pressure on our housing supply. In October 2023, net migration reached a peak (135,529 people) greater than the previous peak of March 2020 (91,680). Since then, net migration has steadily decreased (26,349 in March 2025, Stats NZ).

[Net migration eases to under 30,000 | Stats NZ](#)

Rental inflation

Rental inflation reduced to 1.0 percent in November 2024 after it peaked at 7.2 percent in September 2023 (). While this largely aligned with strong wage growth, affordability worsened for those who lost income or did not benefit from average wage increases. For these people, the cost of securing 6 weeks rent (4 weeks bond and 2 weeks rent in advance) may be prohibitive.

[Selected price indexes November 2024 | Stats NZ](#)

Availability of appropriate housing

Availability of appropriate housing, such as for one-bedroom units, which dominate the Housing Register, as well as housing for those needing accessible homes and intergenerational families requiring larger dwellings.

¹⁸ Ibid, page10.

Residential construction

Residential construction provides greater supply, this has fallen from its peak but has remained steady since late 2024 with 33,600 consented dwellings in 2024 (Stats NZ). This is still above pre-COVID levels.

[Building consents issued March 2025 | Stats NZ](#)

Family violence

Family violence can lead to people needing to urgently seek safety elsewhere. In 2024, 2.3 percent of people in permanent private dwellings were victims of family offences, an estimated 101,000 people. This is not statistically significantly different from the 1.6 percent in 2023 (70,000) people.

[New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey](#)

Alcohol, drugs and other substances

Alcohol, drugs and other substance addiction and abuse can be a barrier to accessing and sustaining a tenancy. Of particular note, the latest New Zealand wastewater analysis showed an unprecedented 96 percent increase in methamphetamine consumption in 2024 (1434kg nationally) when compared with 2023 (732kg), with consumption increasing across all sites.

[Wastewater 2024 annual overview | NZ Police](#)

How the system is responding to homelessness

Increases in homelessness at any time are a concern, particularly when people are living without shelter, and we acknowledge the impact of this. We have programmes and services in place which aim to prevent this occurring, and to support people when this does happen.

We need appropriate and affordable housing, but as homelessness is driven by structural and system failures (for example, poverty, undersupply, and access to employment, health care and other services) and is triggered by a range of circumstances (eg, family breakdown, loss of employment or income, discrimination and intensifying health conditions) there are other needs that must also be addressed.

The Going for Housing Growth programme will bring about system level change by increasing housing supply and putting downward pressure on housing costs. This will take time and there will continue to be a need for government to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Social housing of the right type, in the right place – matched to housing need – provides safe and secure housing for people who can't afford or access private rental housing. We

are focused on social housing being provided in the places and to the people that need it most through our new investment approach and the review of the social housing system.

Amongst other things, Budget 2025 creates a new flexible fund for between 650 and 900 social housing and affordable social rentals for delivery from 2027 and commits new funding for up to 550 social homes in Auckland in 2025/26. Kāinga Ora has around 2,650 places under construction for delivery in the next two years, and Budget 2024 provided funding for community housing providers for a further 1,500 places. Since the end of 2023 nearly 1,000 affordable rental homes are planned for delivery by Māori housing providers.

Significant investment has been made in programmes and services which directly prevent and respond to homelessness. In 2024/25 and 2025/26 over \$550 million in funding through Vote Housing and Urban Development has been targeted to programmes including outreach, transitional housing, sustaining tenancies, housing first, and rangatahi supported accommodation. Budget 2025 also confirmed \$100m over four years to relieve cost pressures for ongoing social housing for households supported by the Housing First and Rapid Rehousing programmes.

We are focused on ensuring these programmes and services are targeted appropriately and are effective in providing the right housing support at the right time to respond to and prevent homelessness. We are also working across Government to prevent homelessness before it occurs, identifying opportunities for early intervention.

MSD's needs assessments determine eligibility for employment, income and housing support, such as emergency housing grants, housing navigators, ready to rent courses, housing brokers, and financial assistance to help secure or maintain stable accommodation.

Research and reports of interest

[Denied: The growing cost of denying young people access to shelter](#)

This report was released by Kick Back, Auckland Action Against Poverty and Action Station. A collation of case studies and quotes from young people (supported by Kick Back) describing the barriers they have faced accessing emergency housing through MSD.

[Counting Ourselves: Findings from the 2022 Aotearoa New Zealand Trans & Non-binary Health Survey](#)

Published in late February 2025, this report includes questions exploring trans and non-binary experiences of homelessness and emergency housing.

The Salvation Army provided a briefing for ministers with a summary of observations and data from non-government organisations working with people experiencing homelessness and the barriers they've faced accessing services.

[The impact of transitions from emergency housing to public housing in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

A journal article authored by researchers at He Kāinga Oranga Housing and Health Research Programme, University of Otago, Wellington. This analyses the transition from emergency housing to public housing among individuals experiencing homelessness in Aotearoa New Zealand.

[The truth behind New Zealand's housing crisis](#)

Released by the Auckland Housing First Collective summarises 50 OIA requests to local government and central government agencies describing data related to homelessness.

Kathie Irwin and Associates have been contracted by the Coalition to End Women's Homelessness to develop a Gender Analysis Tool from a te ao Māori lens. This will include:

- analysis of research in the area, including any gaps
- conceptual frameworks
- recommendations for use.

Appendix B: OAG Work Programme Update

	Action	Strategic Priority/objective ⁱ	Roles and Responsibilities	Progress and Next Milestones	On track (Yes/No)
1	Continue current outreach actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention to prevent homelessness • Increased access to settled housing • Advice and advocacy 	Prevention (1) Improving support (2) Ending rough sleeping (3)	<p>Reviewing the current contracted services to explore possibilities for growth and innovation over the remaining period of the contracts to 2031.</p> <p>Relationship management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector including Lower Hutt Housing and Homelessness Network, Homelessness Research Network and Wellington Region Healthy Homes Group. • Kaupapa partners (Tuatahi centre, Tākiri Mai Whanau Collective, Hutt Valley and Wellington Community Law). <p>Contract management with Kaupapa partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quarterly reporting. • invoicing/Payments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2024-Present: The OAG worked alongside privacy and legal teams at council to coordinate contract review with our Kaupapa partners (Tuatahi centre, Tākiri Mai Whanau Collective, Hutt Valley and Wellington Community Law). Discussions are ongoing with, and contract expected to be signed in 2025. <p><i>Next Milestones:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next LTP: Performance expectations for 3 contracts will remain the same until next LTP (2026). Update and review on the measures can be made if needed in time for the next LTP in 2026 (for LTP 2027-2030) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2025: Kaupapa partners have been consulted in the process of developing the homelessness and housing dashboard and their insights integrated into the dashboard launched in May 2025. • Ongoing: Regular communication including in person hui with Policy team and Connected Communities have been taking place on a regular basis with our partners to ensure consistency in engagement and address any issue or changes encountered at both ends. • Quarterly hui (3): The OAG attended quarterly hui for Lower Hutt Housing and Homelessness Network, Homelessness Research Network and Wellington Region Healthy Homes Group. At each quarterly hui, the OAG presented updates to the sector on ongoing work and next steps from council on homelessness. The Lower Hutt Housing and Homelessness Network hui is now disestablished. The OAG attended the last hui on 06 August 2025 and connections with the network members will be kept through the updated list of contacts (foreseen to be sent by Tākiri Mai Te Ata Whanau Collective before end of August) <p><i>Quarterly reporting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2024-July 2025: Quarterly reports received from providers and reporting sheet updated for invoicing • June 2024-July 2025: Meeting and communication with providers were organised where needed to follow-up and discuss provided reporting. • July 2025: KPIs target numbers were updated in Opal 3 by the Policy team as part of yearly reporting on performance expectation requirements from Kaupapa partners. Targets were successfully achieved and exceeded for all three Kaupapa partners (more details are provided in this report as part of the yearly update from providers). <p><i>Next Milestones:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2025-July 2026: Quarterly reporting from providers on quantitative data and narrative report (qualitative) aligning with council financial year timeframes (June 2025-July 2026) as part of contract review. <p><i>Invoicing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2025: Transition from Policy team to Connected Communities team finalised • June 2025: Blanket PO number for next financial year (2025-2026) raised and sent to all providers. 	Yes
2	Develop and operationalise homelessness and housing dashboard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including crisis response information 	Improving data (5)	Supporting the dashboard working group to develop and operationalize a housing and homelessness dashboard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2024: Dashboard working group was established in with support of the OAG. • May 2024 - April 2025: Dashboard working group met monthly. • September 2024: Dashboard working group developed and received approval from CCP on the proposed approach and methodology for the homelessness dashboard. • September 2024-April 2025: Dashboard was developed by the dashboard working group. • May 2025: Dashboard operationalised and delivered with no delay in time deliverable. The dashboard was approved by CCP, launched and accessible through the Hutt City Council website in May 2025. <p><i>Next Milestones:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing: Quarterly update of public sources data in dashboard (including sources from Infometrics, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Social Development, Stats NZ, Tenancy Services and Headway systems Ltd). • December 2025: Local data from providers included into dashboard after contract review is finalised. • December 2025 onwards: Update of data from providers in dashboard each quarter. 	Yes

	Action	Strategic Priority/objective ⁱ	Roles and Responsibilities	Progress and Next Milestones	On track (Yes/No)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 2026: Expand to new data after the pilot period (potentially as part of next LTP). December 2025 onwards: Crisis response has been discussed, and OAG has identified the need for developing a mapping of homelessness crisis pathway scenarios with relevant contact details and who to contact in each scenario. September 2026: Yearly reporting on dashboard by OAG through OAG progress report. 	
3	Formalise and operationalise an Oversight Advisory Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Terms of Reference Advocate to central government 	Prevention (1) Improving support (2) Increasing supply (4) Improving data (5)	Reporting against Action 3 as part of overseeing the action plan implementation including reporting on behalf of Oversight Group to the Committee.	<i>Quarterly reporting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 May 2024: Terms of Reference for the Oversight Advisory Group reported to CCP May 2024-Present: Monthly or quarterly meeting as required. Policy team leading OAG until March 2025. Connected Communities leading OAG since April 2025. September 2025: Yearly progress report to CCP for approval. This document is the second progress report from the OAG No new advocacy action to central government undertaken on behalf of Hutt City Council by centralising the Council's voice as contributor to the quarterly hui: Lower Hutt Housing and Homelessness Network, Homelessness Research Network, Wellington Region Healthy Housing Group (WRHHG) Quarterly update from Hutt Valley Hoarding Working Group provided no new cases of hoarding in relation to homelessness <i>Next Milestone:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next progress report from the OAG is in September 2026 	Yes
4	Work with Urban Plus to find opportunities to improve access to accommodation	Increasing supply (4)	Reporting against Action 4 on ongoing work being carried with Urban Plus Ltd. to find opportunities to improve access to accommodation.	<i>Quarterly reporting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Plus is continuing to find opportunities to partner with Community Housing Providers who can provide accommodation. End of 2024 Calendar year: Statement of Expectations approved by Council and issued to UPL. <i>Next Milestone:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early 2026: submission of draft Statement of Intent from UPL early 2025. September 2026: Update on progress through OAG progress report September 2025 	Yes
5	Development Contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore lowering/removing development contributions for developers of affordable homes 	Increasing supply (4)	Reporting against Action 5 including overseeing a review of Council system and processes on exploring ways to incentivize the building of affordable homes.	<i>Quarterly reporting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the 2024 LTP, Council has agreed to remissions on development contributions for CHP developments. Council's <i>Development Contribution Remissions and Rebates for Community Housing Providers Policy 2024</i> provides for a 40% remission or rebate (capped at \$150k per development), which can be increased to up to 60% where additional broader outcomes are met (capped at \$225k per development). <i>Next Milestone:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2025: This action is now complete but ongoing monitoring of the remission utilisation will provide information on the effectiveness of the policy. Monitoring will be evaluated at each OAG yearly update (next one in September 2026) 	Yes
6	SMART measures established and operationalised for each of the above actions	Improving data (5)	Overseeing the development of SMART indicators for each action in the action plan (Action 6), alongside the dashboard working group and report against it to Council (starting September 2024).	<i>Quarterly reporting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2024-August 2024: The OAG alongside the dashboard working group developed SMART indicators for each action in the action plan September 2025: Report to CCP on SMART measures <i>Next Milestones:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2026: Next reporting from OAG on SMART measures' implementation as part of yearly progress report to CCP (each September). This includes updating SMART measures as needed overtime as part of yearly progress update to CCP. 	Yes

ⁱ Strategic Priorities:

1. Preventing homelessness
2. Improving the supply of suitable accommodation and support for people experiencing homelessness

-
3. Ending rough sleeping – help people who are street homeless or living in their cars move into and retain settled accommodation
 4. Increasing the supply of affordable homes to rent and buy
 5. Improving data on homelessness and housing in Lower Hutt

Appendix A: CCP Consolidated Provider Reporting

1. Overall Reach Across All Services

Across the three services, the collective reach for the year has been significant, with hundreds of individuals and households supported through direct intervention. The Tuatahi Centre assisted 82 clients (including 32 children), while Tākiri Mai te Ata supported 170 whānau in housing crisis during the past 12 months, and 54 clients were supported by Community Law between April and June 2025. Combined, these services helped well over 300 households and individuals facing housing insecurity across Lower Hutt, supporting their access to stable housing and essential support.

2. Focus on Tenancy Sustainment and Prevention

A major success across all three services has been sustaining and securing tenancies to prevent homelessness. The Tuatahi Centre successfully sustained 50 households' tenancies over the past year, while Tākiri Mai te Ata achieved 211 tenancies being sustained and 83 new tenancies established for discharged whānau. Community Law tenancy advice service resolved or progressed complex tenancy rights and tribunal cases for 54 clients, often resulting in tenants avoiding eviction or unfair rent increases. These efforts reduced pressure on emergency housing systems and protected vulnerable households from further crisis.

3. Diversity and Inclusivity in Service Delivery

The combined reports show a strong emphasis on supporting people from diverse cultural and demographic backgrounds. Community Law supported clients from European/Pākehā (20), Māori (12), Pacific (2), and other ethnicities, with clients spanning all age groups from 18 to 65+. Tuatahi Centre reported that 50% of households supported in Quarter 4 identified as Māori and 44% as Pacific peoples, while Tākiri Mai te Ata continued to operate a kaupapa Māori, mana-enhancing framework. This culturally responsive approach ensures that services meet the unique needs of whānau across the community.

4. Wrap-Around Support

All three services provided holistic support beyond immediate housing needs. Tuatahi Centre helped clients connect with mental health services, tenancy application processes, and family violence support. Tākiri Mai te Ata offered financial mentoring, housing navigation, and referrals to mental health and addiction services. Community Law provided in-depth tenancy advice, tribunal representation, and education on tenancy rights. This wrap-around approach empowered clients not only to secure housing but to build resilience and access broader wellbeing supports.

5. Customer Outcomes and Success Stories

Success stories illustrate the significant impact of these services for whānau. Tuatahi Centre's advocacy helped a single mother of eight secure stable housing after months of uncertainty. Tākiri Mai te Ata supported a 73-year-old kaumatua at risk of eviction to secure Kainga Ora housing and helped a survivor of domestic violence re-establish a safe and independent life. Community Law resolved multiple tribunal cases and bond disputes, allowing tenants to remain in their homes. These outcomes show that the services deliver not only housing but also safety, and improved wellbeing.

6. Impact on Wellbeing and Community Stability

The services collectively reported improvements in client confidence, health outcomes, and financial stability as a result of housing security. Whānau were able to focus on education, employment, and reconnecting with communities once their housing situations were stabilised. These interventions reduced the stress and trauma associated with homelessness and prevented further community disruption by reducing the need for emergency housing and other crisis interventions.

7. Looking Ahead

Looking forward to the 2025/26 year, the services anticipate continued high demand. Tākiri Mai te Ata plans to support at least 135 whānau through tenancy sustainment and outreach, while Tuatahi Centre will continue to focus on sustainable housing outcomes. Community Law will maintain its tenancy advice services to address complex cases. Collectively, these services will remain important to preventing homelessness, protecting tenancy rights, and supporting vulnerable and homeless individuals and whānau.

‘Moving into the 2025/26 financial year, the service anticipates ongoing challenges due to rising demand, housing shortages, ongoing cost of living pressures and whānau health and mental wellbeing. Planned efforts include supporting at least 135 whānau across sustaining tenancies, emergency housing, and outreach services, and seeking additional funding to expand rough sleeping outreach. Tākiri Mai te Ata remains committed to its kaupapa Māori, mana-enhancing approach, ensuring whānau receive the culturally responsive support needed to achieve housing stability and rebuild their lives.’

Tākiri Mai Te Ata

1. Overall Service Reach

Tākiri Mai te Ata Homelessness Prevention Service continued its extensive support for whānau in housing crisis. Since November 2019, 555 whānau/households have been supported under the HCC Homelessness Prevention Service. 103 whānau against a target of 75 households, have been assisted this year alone. This reflects the growing demand for the service, especially as systemic housing pressures persist in Te Awa Kairangi and across Aotearoa.

2. Household and Family Composition

There has been a noticeable increase in whānau experiencing housing crisis and homelessness as well as an increase in the acuity of the whānau presenting. Namely many whānau are presenting with issues that include mental health, alcohol & other drugs, domestic violence & financial crisis. Many of these whānau do not have stable whānau relationships which they can turn to for support.

3. Demographics

Ethnic groups supported through the contract can be summarised as follows:

Takiri Mai te Ata Homelessness Prevention Data	
Ethnicity Data	Total # of whānau
Māori	394
Pacific Peoples	81
New Zealander	55
Asian	8
European	14
MELAA	3

4. Financial and Advisory Support

Tākiri Mai Te Ata place strong emphasis on financial mentoring and housing navigation, with 341 whānau accessing financial mentor support since the start of the programme. These supports have been key to helping whānau retain tenancies and navigate increasingly complex housing processes. The highest number of whānau being discharged remains the same as previous years with whānau receiving support from Tākiri Mai to stay within their current tenancies resulting in their discharge of the service. Wrap-around support services included access to mental health, addictions, and whānau trust services to strengthen household resilience.

4. Outcomes Achieved

170 whānau have been referred to Tākiri Mai Te Ata in the past year alone. Of those 170 whānau 53% were homeless in a home, 35% were homeless, 6% were in emergency housing, 5% were in transitional housing & 1% were couch surfing.

When whānau are referred into Tākiri Mai they are provided Initial wrap around support through Tākiri Mai Te Ata Whānau Ora Collective Services including but not limited to Kaumatua Services and Programmes, Homelessness Prevention Services, regional stop smoking and Whānau Ora Kaiārahi Services.

Several case studies illustrate the service's success in changing lives. One client escaped an abusive relationship overseas and, with intensive wrap-around support from Tākiri Mai, they now live safely and independently in Kainga Ora housing.

An elderly client (73-year-old kaumatua) who, after facing eviction and significant health issues, was successfully housed and is now thriving in a Kainga Ora property under Tākiri Mai sustaining tenancies contract. They have joined local community kaumatua groups and are looking forward to participating in further community events & activities.

These two stories show the impact of holistic, culturally responsive wrap around support.

5. Impact on Whānau Wellbeing

Tākiri Mai Te Ata's holistic approach has improved client wellbeing and strengthened community connections. Many whānau reported reduced stress and improved health outcomes once stable housing was secured. Examples include solo parents reuniting with children after securing homes and whānau able to focus on employment and education opportunities. Feedback from kaumatua participants also emphasised the emotional support and sense of belonging created through the service's outreach and community activities.

6. Challenges

Challenges have been identified with the increasing number of whānau experiencing housing crisis & homelessness in Te Awa Kairangi especially those presenting with issues including mental health, alcohol addictions, domestic violence and financial crisis.

There is continued pressure on emergency/social housing demand and supply:

- The removal of emergency housing is exacerbating homelessness in the City.
- Immediate housing support is harder to access, with a sharp increase in whānau being declined housing support.
- The introduction 13-week stand down period to whānau who 'have caused their own homelessness' is a further contributing factor.
- There is currently a waitlist of 440 people in Te Awa Kairangi on the housing register, 166 lower than previously reported. However, this reduction seems more due to changes to eligibility criteria (e.g., 13-week stand-down, higher needs assessment thresholds) than whānau finding stable housing.
- Housing wait time is currently 206 days which is an increase of 3-days from March 2024 – March 2025.
- 151 New public houses built in the last year (March 2024-25). The number of new builds does not match the levels of need that has been seen over the last 18/36 months, and more work on housing supply is needed.

Tuatahi Centre

1. Overall Service Reach

During this past year Tuatahi Centre has supported a significant number of clients facing housing insecurity. This year 82 clients entered the service, against a target of 50, including 16 clients in Quarter four alone. This consistent intake highlights the Centre's role as a critical support hub for vulnerable whānau. Tuatahi has successfully sustained tenancies for 50 households during the year, including 13 in Quarter four, demonstrating tangible outcomes in maintaining stable housing for clients.

2. Household and Family Composition

The report highlights the diversity of households supported, reflecting the broad scope of need. In Quarter four, Nine clients (69%) have tamariki including six clients (46%) being single parents with tamariki. Four clients (31%) are single. Tuatahi remains committed to supporting whānau and children, who make up a substantial proportion of the clients served.

3. Demographics and Referral Sources

Tuatahi works closely with Central Government agencies. In Quarter four, the ethnic breakdown of households included 50% Māori, 44% Pacific peoples, and 6% Middle Eastern, acknowledging that some individuals identify with multiple ethnicities. Clients primarily entered the service through self-referrals (6 households) and referrals from external agencies such as MSD, Oranga Tamariki, and Corrections (7 households).

4. Living Situations at Entry

Overcrowding, couch surfing, eviction, mental health challenges & domestic violence are some of the complexities the centre is seeing in their clients, and these situations are a daily reality for many homeless whānau. In Quarter four, clients were primarily living with whānau (5 households), in private housing that had become unsustainable (3 households), or at friends' homes (2 households). Others came from emergency housing and living in vehicles. These statistics reflect the ongoing housing crisis and the Centre's ability to provide immediate, practical interventions to provide stable housing.

5. Outcomes and Sustained Tenancy

When clients enter Tuatahi centre they are given practical support to meet their needs, this includes finding emergency accommodation, assisting with tenancy applications, connecting whānau with mental health services or helping whānau escape unsafe environments.

Clients come to Tuatahi centre with a range of backgrounds & challenges. Some arrive after enduring years of housing instability, where others come in after a sudden event including a job loss, separation and or a threat to their safety.

Tuatahi centre is not only supporting housing stability but also in supporting whānau to rebuild & reclaim hope.

6. Customer Stories and Impact

Tuatahi Centre has made life changing impact to whānau, including a single mother of eight who, after months of housing instability and rent increases in private rentals, was supported through advocacy & support from the centre to secure a home that met her whānau needs and allowed the whānau to start to rebuild.

They were also able to support a couple with health conditions and with Tamariki, who had been living in their car for several months, to find stable housing after facing multiple barriers, including past trauma & criminal history.

These two stories show not just housing outcomes, but also Tuatahi's role in helping clients rebuild their lives and reconnect with their communities.

Community Law

1. Client reach & delivery

In 2024–25, the service supported 186 clients face-to-face and remotely, engaged 502 people in housing matters, and delivered 25 education sessions to 313 attendees, including youth at the Trentham Youth Development Centre.

2. Advocacy & education

Activities include Thursday drop-in clinics, community outreach, agency referrals, Tenancy Tribunal representation, and tailored tenancy rights education in partnership with libraries, community centres, and NZ Defence Force.

3. Legal environment changes

The 2025 amendment to the Residential Tenancies Act reinstated no-cause evictions, increasing tenant vulnerability; Community Law has seen a rise in 90-day termination cases with limited legal remedies.

4. Case outcomes

Notable wins include preventing evictions, recovering significant bond and rent arrears, securing removal of unconsented renovations, ensuring family violence withdrawal rights, and clarifying rent increase obligations.

5. Client demographics

Clients represented a wide ethnic diversity, with significant Pacific and Māori engagement, and issues most commonly involving tenancy rights, terminations, and Tribunal enforcement.

6. Systemic impact

Beyond individual cases, the service strengthens community capacity to address housing insecurity, advocates for policy improvements, and supports partner agencies through training and responsive legal advice.

Tākiri Mai te Ata
Whānau Ora Collective

Homelessness Prevention Service
Report 01.04.2025 to 30.06.2025



Report Summary

ME MAHI TAHI TĀTOU, KA ORA AI TE IWI
It is about working together as one,
working in unison for the prosperity of whānau,
the wellbeing of our community, the sustainability of our nation.

At a glance

Tākiri Mai te Ata Homelessness Prevention Service at a glance - Nov 2019 to Jun 2025						
whānau/household who have been supported under HCC Homelessness Prevention Service Nov 2019 – June 2025	555	Nov 2019 – June 2024	452	July 2024 – June 2025 (not including any returned whanau)	103	
Whānau/household who have accessed Financial Mentor	341	Number of whānau discharged	428	Whānau / household discharged from wrap around discharge results	Complex Case Referred to other service	4
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					Wellbeing / Tenancy plan on-going - other service	12
					Whanau deceased	3
					Whanau did not engage	51
					Whanau stopped engaging	29
					Budget created with whanau	11
					Other	4
Total					428	

Updates**From Previous Proposal of May 2025...**

Council currently provides funding to Tākiri Mai te Ata Homelessness Prevention Service (Tākiri Mai) as part of the response to homelessness under the Lower Hutt Homelessness Plan.

- Homelessness prevention programme – kaupapa Māori strengths based and mana-enhancing approach to supporting households to retain homes in the private rented sector, Kainga Ora and Whānau Trust sector; with
- Financial Mentor support, Housing Navigation Support and access for these whanau to Mental Health and Addictions and the wider services provided under the umbrella of the Tākiri Mai te Ata Whanau Ora Collective; for 75 households per contract year;
- Since 14.11.2019 to 5.5.2025 Tākiri Mai has provided services and supports to 532 homes under this contract.

The housing crisis in Aotearoa and more specifically Lower Hutt is often because of global impacts such as pandemics, rising cost of living, housing stock shortages and more recently Government Policy impacting the availability of emergency or transitional housing for whanau experiencing housing crisis. In New Zealand the demand for Social or Community housing significantly outstrips available supply – the cost-of-living crisis exacerbates this for many whanau.

Today Government Policy that includes the removal of Emergency Housing and an introduced 13-week standdown period if whanau have 'caused their own homelessness' is heavily impacting homelessness in our community.

In addition housing wait times currently at 209 days (+3 days for the March 2024 to March 2025) on the social housing register, whanau are experiencing increased delays with only 151 new public houses built in the last year (March 2024-25), with a wait list of 440 on the housing register in the Lower Hutt area the number of those in acute need is still high with work still needing to be done.

- <https://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/the-government-housing-dashboard/key-stats-by-tla#tabset>

While the total number on the Housing Register has decreased by 166 the building of new public housing has been set to a reduced level by the current government so the number of new builds will not match the levels of need that we have seen over the last 18/36 months.

- <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/540903/kainga-ora-turnaround-plan-govt-looking-into-sale-of-200-homes-worth-about-2m-each>

Tākiri Mai have since 1.7.2024 received referrals for 170 whanau in housing crisis. These include the following: -

- 2 Couch surfing
- 10 Emergency Housing
- 59 Homeless
- 91 Homeless in Home
- 8 Transitional Housing.

Whanau enrol from 1 July 2024 and tenure on entry											
Contract	Boarding	Couch surfing	EH	Homeless	Homeless in home (Private Rental)	Kāinga Ora	Other	Private Rental	TH	Whanau Trust	Total
AOD			1	10	4	12		2			29
EH	3		8	9	26						46
EPU	1			1	1	29					32
HUD	1	1		0	6	35		3	1		47
LIPF	2			2	24	2			7		37
MH	1		1	2	7	10	1				22
OUT	1	1		35	5			1			43
TM	5				18	20	2	40		1	86
Totals	14	2	10	59	91	108	3	46	8	1	342

Moving into the 2025/2026 financial year our contracting from HCC, MHUD and MSD will allow us to support whanau mainly from a Sustaining Tenancy lens as follows:

- 40 whanau Sustaining Tenancies MHUD
- 75 whanau Sustaining Tenancies – Homelessness Prevention HCC
- 15-20 whanau Emergency Housing MSD
- 20-30 whanau Outreach MHUD

We are concerned that we will not be able to offer the Lower Hutt community what it needs due to the limitations within this contracting – i.e. a large number of sustaining tenancy funded services. What we know is that the numbers of whanau experiencing housing crisis and homelessness is increasing. We are also experiencing an increase in the acuity of the whanau presenting. Namely many whanau are presenting with issues that include mental health, AOD, domestic violence, financial crisis as well as not having stable whanau relationships in place to turn to for support.

What we Propose from 2025 financial year

We propose a 2-pronged approach.

Adjustment of criteria on existing contract funding

- Adjustment of the tenure required in the contracting for Sustaining Tenancy – Homelessness Prevention support. Enable the current contract to enrol whanau in housing crisis and/or with a tenancy (private or social) i.e. all tenures that include, Homeless in Home, Emergency and/or Transitional Housing, Couch surfing, Homeless, Private Rental; Social Housing and Kainga Ora:
OR
- Split the contracting criteria to include 40 sustaining tenancies and 35 housing crisis.

Additional funding to enable rough sleeping outreach for the homeless

Tākiri Mai has in place already 2 x MHUD funded FTE for outreach of homeless. The entry criteria for this service is whanau who are homeless or within 24 hours of being homeless. This service is at capacity due to the nature of acuity of referrals into the service.

We propose that we receive additional funding to provide outreach support, and links to further support services, for households who are at the sharp end of the housing continuum. These situations include:

- sleeping rough,
- living in cars,
- improvised shelter
- whānau about to be homeless within 24 hours.

The Outreach and Social Support Service (outreach service) would encompass 1 to 2 FTE dependant on funding availability. These FTE will engage whānau on referral who are experiencing homelessness in Lower Hutt. It is anticipated that this service will be able to assist approximately 40 - 45 whānau (with 2 funded FTE), however this will depend on the level of support required and complexity of each situation and as such this number is for guidance only.

Outreach strategies require an understanding of the individual circumstances and needs of each whānau, as well as cultural barriers that may prevent whānau from accessing services. The service will work alongside government agencies and community organisations identifying homeless whānau and open trusted pathways for referrals. Through whānaungatanga we will engage whānau and seek their consent to being housed. Once they receive this consent the outreach service will provide social support to secure housing. This may be in the form of emergency housing, transitional housing or permanent housing solutions depending on the immediate and long-term need for the whānau and the capacity in the system to house them.

Tākiri Mai has the capability the expertise and experience to support whānau who are identified via the outreach. Current services include community mental health support, emergency and transitional housing navigation, sustaining tenancies navigation, housing advice, housing and financial management training, financial management support and navigation, and housing first. Its important to note that this service is not the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff and will still operate a 9-5 Monday through Friday service model. Police and Health still have a role to play in the safety of the Hutt Community and will still need to be called upon to attend to incidents in the community where whānau are unsafe to themselves and the people around them.

We look forward to being able to discuss this further with you.



Lynda Ryan

Manager

Tākiri Mai te Ata Homelessness Prevention Service

CASE STUDIES**Case Study – Safe Now!****Who they are – their household/homelessness.**

C was referred to our service by Kokiri Marae Health and Social Services on December 3, 2024. She recently returned to Aotearoa, New Zealand, in October 2024, after living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, USA. C had initially been stranded overseas due to international lockdowns brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Causes of their situation

During her time in the United States, C endured an extremely abusive relationship in which she suffered repeated physical, psychological, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse. She was effectively held captive without access to resources or a means of escape. With resilience and the support of members within the local Indigenous community, C was able to formulate an escape plan. She earned funds for her airfare by undertaking large-scale house decluttering and internal painting work. She told her ex-partner that she was visiting Aotearoa for a short holiday to see her whānau and address urgent medical needs.

Their living situation and how long they have been there.

C was residing in transitional housing in Lower Hutt for 6 months. Due to past traumatic incidents involving emergency services and feeling unsafe in her current situation, C prepared a contingency plan in which she sleeps in her car in the transitional housing underground car park when feeling unwell believing it increases her chances of survival in a crisis, and if an ambulance is called she only needs to walk 10-15 steps to open the shutters on the carpark building. There was an issue being locked out of her apartment one night due to health issues, and all the doors to the building were locked. The afterhours phone number wasn't being picked up by anyone from the transitional housing and C could only manage going down one flight of stairs. The doors were not unlocked until the morning and C was left in the stairwell in a very bad way. One of the other residents found her on the stairwell and called an ambulance for her.

Impact on the household/homeless e.g. financial, health etc

C has significant anxiety, high blood pressure and heart-related medical conditions. Upon her return, it became clear that C required extensive medical attention, including dental care for eight broken teeth that caused prolonged pain and infection over the past two years. She also suffers from a range of chronic physical health issues, including hip and back injuries, damaged fingers, and an ongoing foot and ankle condition. C's mental health has also been significantly impacted by her experiences, and she is actively seeking the support of a culturally responsive counsellor.

C is engaged with Elderwell counselling services on a weekly basis as part of her ongoing healing journey. She also participates in weekly Kokiri kaumātua group gatherings and outings, which have been instrumental in helping her reconnect with her culture and community. Additionally, she maintains regular medical appointments and works closely with the wrap around services of Kokiri Marae and Tākiri Mai Te Ata Whanau Ora Services.

The effect of the service provided on the household/homelessness

Despite these immense challenges, C has demonstrated extraordinary resilience and commitment to her wellbeing and cultural identity. C has always gone above and beyond in trying to help herself by actively making appointments with MSD, and visiting Kainga Ora, and also going to the Hutt City Council asking questions around housing and finding out about other projects that are happening in the Lower Hutt area. C is feeling more reconnected to her whakawhānau and enjoys being a part of the Kaumatua group that meets up twice a week through Kokiri Marae.

C is now housed and living safely and happily in her 1-bedroom Kainga Ora home. She is eager to remain in the Lower Hutt area and live independently in a one-bedroom home. While she is not originally from the Wellington region, she has begun to establish strong connections and is committed to making Lower Hutt her permanent home.

Case Study- Kaumatua - Homeless in the Home

Who they are - their household/homelessness

Miss T is a petite small framed 73-year-old who suffers from asthma and hypertension. She has worked limited hours as a Food Court Supervisor once she reached retirement age and, officially retired in June this year. Miss T is the proud Mother of her only son and has two mokopuna who all live in Australia. She has the support of her niece and nephew who live in Nelson and, has a trusted friend who lives nearby.

Miss T had a traumatic upbringing, being made a ward of the state at a very young age due to her mother passing away to thyroid gland complications. Miss T disclosed that she witnessed her alcoholic father beat her mother repeatedly while she was alive. She now has abandonment issues due to being placed in care and not feeling wanted. She is socially isolated and usually confines herself between her room and her mahi.

Cause of their situation

Miss T was being evicted from her home of over 20 years, her and her long-term partner were separated but Miss T was still living in the house to ensure she could receive her share of the property.

Miss T's niece and nephew have witnessed a lot of instability because of Rose's long-term relationship, including a previous event when her ex-partner kicked her out of their home 14 years previous to this event and coerced her to sign legal documents without the opportunity to seek her own legal advice.

Their living situation and how long they have been there

Due to becoming overwhelmed trying to navigate systemic processes and, the fear of becoming homeless, Miss T presented at our Kōkiri Marae Health and Social Services Hauora with the support of her trusted friend at the end of May 2024. It was very difficult for Miss T to reach out for support considering she had been independent her whole life.

It seemed unbelievable to Miss T that her ex-partner would do this to her considering, she was the one who provided the deposit and had excellent Credit so they could purchase the house in 2005, her ex-partner had tried and was declined. Her ex-partner is younger than her and had also moved his Foster Mother into the house for the last year or so, making the environment at home hostile at times.

During the last year or so, Miss T discovered her ex-partner had put the house under his name only, effectively meaning that Miss T was homeless and without any financial support to move into her own place.

Impact on the household/homelessness

Initial wrap around support was put in place with Referrals to Tākiri Mai Te Ata Whānau Ora Collective Services including Kaumatua Services and Programs, Homelessness Prevention Services and Whānau Ora Kaiārahi Services.

When our services became involved she was very sad and emotional, the sense of defeat and hopelessness in her voice was evident. Miss T was often reduced to tears when explaining what had happened to her and, would repeatedly apologise for 'being a burden' to others.

Our Homelessness Prevention team worked tirelessly to arrange Emergency Housing with MSD Lower Hutt and a week later Miss T was placed in Transition Housing because of collaborating with local TH Providers. Although there were delays, all services involved supported Miss T until she was finally moved into her own newly built 1 bedroom apartment in the Lower Hutt area.

The advice or service provided

- While in Transitional Housing Miss T had access to our Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma and Research Trust, providing healthcare support for her respiratory issues.
- Transport and advocacy was provided for medical and legal appointments, Miss T preparing for surgery to remove the now very present cyst on her neck and, also prepare for her long legal battle in Family Court to reach a settlement under Division of Relationship Property.
- Miss T also kept working, the routine helped her to keep connected with others and have a sense of purpose throughout her weeks, especially during the stressful times when systemic processes seemed to create more barriers and delays than expected.

The effect of the service provided on the household/homelessness


The wrap around support provided by Tākiri Mai Te Ata Whānau Ora Services, allowed for regular check ins and engagement with Miss T to ensure her health and wellbeing was not negatively impacted by her situation.

Although there were times when she needed hospital care due to the ongoing stress and existing health conditions, Miss T has developed strong relationships with her support network and has become more comfortable accessing support when needed. Her surgery was successful.

Miss T is now housed with Kainga Ora and under our Sustaining Tenancies contract and now that she is retired is looking forward to participating in Community Events and Activities based at the Eponi Precinct Community Hub. This also includes a health clinic, drop in community space and kitchen. She has recently attended a Movie Event for Kaumatua from the Eponi and Oxford precincts and was able to make new friends.

Noticeable changes in Miss T's mauri from a year ago - her sense of humour is shining through, and she is laughing and enjoying this stage in her life more, this is evident with her decision to finally retire. When situations come up, she has a 'can do' attitude and focusing on reclaiming her independence.

Direct Whānau Feedback:

*"Thank you, Lynda, for today your kaimahi were awesome and looked after us young ones  really well. On behalf of us kaumatuas thank you thank you much appreciated oops the movie was great some parts hit home for me and I'm picking other kaumatuas as well
Thank you once again to you and your beautiful staff, ngamihi nui"*

Case Study-Homeless in the Home

Who they are - their household/homelessness/living situation

Whanau is a solo mother of 5 tamariki ages 3-15 years old, this whanau has been homeless in the home for 2 years, they have been living between 2 halfway homes, one that belongs to her mum and dad and the other belongs to her whangai mum and dad – each of these tenancies were put at risk with the number of extra whanau staying in the home. Whanau come and go totalling to 16 whanau at once some nights. They were sleeping on the floor on a mattress in the lounge, she called this marae styles.

Causes of their situation

Whanau had a home previously, she was living in a Private Rental for 4 years with her tamariki and their dad, however the dad was incarcerated, and this had left the whanau with no choice but to move in with her whangai parents, due to the struggle of paying the rent. Sometimes whanau will deal with breakdowns in the whare with other whanau that are coming and going, so they will move to her biological parent's whare, then the same will happen there so she will move back to her whangai parents. Sometimes she would sleep in her vehicle just to get away from the noise. There was a lot of back and forth with no stability in sight.

Impact on the household/homeless e.g., financial, health etc

Whanau just recently gave birth via c-section and had complications afterwards where she was in a lot of pain and having seizures. Sleeping on the floor in cramped conditions was very hard on her back.

The hardest decision she made, was to whangai her pepe out to her younger brother because she didn't have a stable home. She also noticed whenever she was stressed about their living situation, she was more prone to having the seizures. This was when she realised, she needed to get a whare for her Tamariki and reached out to her kaimahi from Naku Enei Tamariki, who put the referral through to our Homelessness Prevention Service.

Whanau was very emotional at our first hui because she felt like she was failing her tamariki by not providing them with a stable whare. I reassured her that I will do my best to get her housed into a Kainga Ora whare, working alongside the whanau and her other kaimahi from Naku Enei Tamariki

She also talked about not being able to feed her tamariki properly because whanau that would come and go will just help themselves to the kai she brought for her Tamariki. I really felt the mamae coming from this wahine.

The advice or service provided

Firstly, I have asked the whanau if she would be interested in Mental Health Support after all the trauma she has been through. Whanau advised that she has supports through her doctors already. I have mentioned that I will ask her again later to see if she still needs the extra support.

Whanau was already on the Social Housing Register, her score was A14. I have advised to get a doctor's letter, and I will do a budget referral to the budgeters in our team to help raise the score.

Once this was complete, I have completed a Placement Referral to Kainga Ora. Not long after, she was asked to go in for a Pre Housing Conversation, this was less than a month from our first hui. The whanau was really overwhelmed feeling like things were finally fitting into place and her main goal was finally within reach.

After 5 weeks from our first hui, whanau went for a viewing and accepted the whare, she is now able to focus on her health without the worry of having a stable home for her Tamariki.

The effect of the service provided on the household/homelessness

The effect of finally having a stable forever home after 2 years of couch surfing and sleeping in her waka, has been hugely beneficial for their wellbeing. They don't have to live in overcrowded homes where they are cramped up in the lounge with no privacy and worrying about their kai being eaten.

Whanau is forever thankful and is now focusing on her health and her Tamariki.

Case Study – Financial Mentor – Housing Navigator**Who they are - their household/homeless**

A Single father who was homeless in the home couch surfing with his five-year-old daughter.

Causes of their situation

Dad was living in a private rental where previously his tenancy had lapsed because he was arrested and incarcerated for twelve months due to outstanding warrants.

Their living situation and how long they have been there

Our whanau was living with his Aunty in Wainuiomata in her private rental for two years, the house is overcrowded in a 3-bedroom where. Our whanau is not able to apply for private rental properties with bad credit, and he was blacklisted.

Impact on the household/homeless e.g. financial, health etc

This has caused a lot of stress and anxiety for our whanau and financial hardship as well as our whanau health.

The advice or service provided

A referral to our Homelessness Prevention/Financial Mentor services we have managed to support our whanau with a Social Housing Assessment with MSD and provide documentation to be able to secure a tenancy in Kainga Ora and provide a budget for our whanau to lift his housing Score from A13 to A17.

The effect of the service provided on the household/homelessness

Now our whanau has been given a secured tenancy in a 2-bedroom Kainga Ora property in Lower Hutt with the support from all our wrap around services this has had a big impact on our whanau safety environment and wellbeing.

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Performance

Takiri Mai Te Ata Trust
For the 3 months ended 30 June 2025

Contract is HCC 22-31.

	APR-JUN 2025
Trading Income	
Hutt City Council	89,500.00
Total Trading Income	89,500.00
Gross Profit	89,500.00
Operating Expenses	
Operating Expenses	68,660.53
Flexi Fund	6,631.92
Facilities & Overheads	3,836.12
Administration & Office	3,516.80
Vehicle & Equipment	2,762.66
Programme Delivery & Direct Costs	1,968.16
Total Operating Expenses	87,376.19
Net Profit	2,123.81

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					Whanau deceased	3
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					Budget created with whanau	11
					Other	4
					Total	428



Te Whare Ture Hapori
Community Law

HOUSING ADVICE & LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE

TE AWA KAIRANGI - LOWER HUTT

1 JULY 2024 - 30 JUNE 2025

"Those with the least have the same or better
access to justice as those with the most."



**BECAUSE
HOUSING IS SO
VITAL TO OUR
MANA AND**

**WELLBEING,
IT IS A HUMAN
RIGHT**

-

**TE KĀHUI TIKA TANGATA
THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

@ Te Whare Ture Hapori

☎ 0800 119 749

✉ housing@wclc.org.nz

INTRODUCTION



He mihi maioha tēnei ki a koutou ō Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi.

We would like to acknowledge the Hutt City Council for partnering with us to deliver specialist housing legal advice.

We also welcome Adrienne Moor into her role as Head Of Connected Communities at Te Kaunihera.

Te Whare Ture Hapori Community Law Wellington and Hutt Valley provides a range of legal advice and education services in Te Awa Kairangi and Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

Since 2019, Community Law Wellington and Hutt Valley and the Hutt City Council have partnered to provide a service to support whānau in Te Awa Kairangi with housing legal issues.

The Housing Legal Service provides free legal advice on matters such as evictions, rent increases, tenancy repairs, Tenancy Tribunal applications, disputes with landlords and Kāinga Ora, MSD social and emergency housing applications and new legal changes.

@ Community Law

TE MAHI WHAT WE DO



Oscar Upperton

Rōia Kāhika - Senior Lawyer



The Housing Legal Service provides free legal advice, support and education to communities in Te Awa Kairangi.



Free Legal Advice

The core of the Housing Legal Advice Service is our Thursday drop-in sessions where clients access free legal advice.



Remote Advice

Community Law continue to provide legal advice remotely by phone and email.



Community Engagement

Community Law has been part of the Homelessness Prevention Network and is sad to see this collaboration end.



Community Education

Community Law partners with libraries, Tuatahi Centre and the NZ Defence Force to deliver tenancy education.



Housing Advocacy

Community Law participates in community events and advocates for better housing in Te Awa Kairangi.



Representing Clients

Community Law represents clients in the Tenancy Tribunal at the Lower Hutt District Court.

@ Te Whare Ture Hapori

☎ 0800 119 749

✉ housing@wclc.org.nz

MĀTOU OUR TEAM



Lauren Yates

Kaitautoko - Kāinga
Housing Advocate

Kia ora koutou katoa,

I'm the housing advocate for the tenancy team, and work to assist the lawyers in anything they need; writing letters, researching questions, making documents etc.

Previously I was a lawyer on the team so have a lot of tenancy law knowledge to share.

“

I am passionate about using my education to ensure everyone in our community has access to justice.

Laura Drew

Rōia Hapori - Kāinga
Housing Lawyer

He kākano ahau i ruia mai i Ūropi ki Te Moananui-a-Kiwa.

After four years in the Housing Service at Community Law the biggest issue I see is still landlords intentionally not complying with tenancy law and housing standards.

I was drawn to this mahi by my own experiences with injustice and homelessness.

“

Recent law changes that have tipped the balance against tenants again have been concerning for us at Community Law to see.

Clair Caird

Rōia Hapori - Kāinga
Housing Lawyer

Kia ora koutou!

I've been a volunteer at Community Law since 2021 and I am very happy to now be working in the housing team.

I am passionate about access to justice, and the role we play in helping tenants stand up for their rights.

“

This mahi is crucial in helping disrupt the power held by landlords by empowering tenants to exercise their rights.

HOUSING SERVICE OVERVIEW

The Housing Team has been busy with increased case work and responding to changes in tenancy law.



The Past Year

We are proud to have supported **186 clients** kanohi ki te kanohi, including 31 clients through our remote process.

In an exciting change at Community Law, the Thursday legal advice sessions are now supported by Everard Halbert, a kaimahi from our Pou Whirinaki Services to Māori team. This has increased our capacity to support whānau Māori in Te Awa Kairangi.

In the legal sphere, we are still focused on increasing penalties in the Tenancy Tribunal and have had some success with this as described in the case studies below. Another area the team have upskilled and had success in is civil enforcement. We have assisted tenants to navigate the enforcement of Tribunal decisions against landlords.

There have been many changes to how we collect and report on client data this past year. As a result, we are currently unable to provide a breakdown by suburb and income/eligibility for this report. There may also be a discrepancy between quarterly data and the annual data in this report.

We are working with our partners at Community

Law Centres Aotearoa and ActionStep to resolve these issues and hope to have more consistency in the upcoming year.

We look forward to continuing to support whānau in Te Awa Kairangi to advocate for their rights and prevent homelessness.



Youth Education

In partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force, Community Law have continued to provide legal education to young people at the Trentham Youth Development Centre. In the past year we educated 110 young people.

The training empowers cadets with skills and knowledge to advocate for themselves and their whānau. Many of them are about to start renting for the first time.

ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Community Law continues to engage with community organisations to provide education and legal support.



Tenancy Law

In 2025, the government amended the Residential Tenancies Act so that tenants have less housing security. The amendment reintroduced no cause evictions giving landlords the power to terminate any periodic tenancy with only 90-days notice – without requiring them to give a reason. This has given landlords even more power in an already unequal power dynamic.

It is still unlawful for landlords to evict a tenant for asserting their legal rights, but retaliatory termination has become a lot more difficult to prove in the current legal environment.

We have seen an increase in tenants coming to Community Law for assistance with 90-day terminations. Unfortunately, there are usually no legal remedies for tenants in these circumstances.

Our most common issue for tenants relates to tenancy rights. Reducing their rights means removing housing security for children, families, students, and the elderly.



Community Links

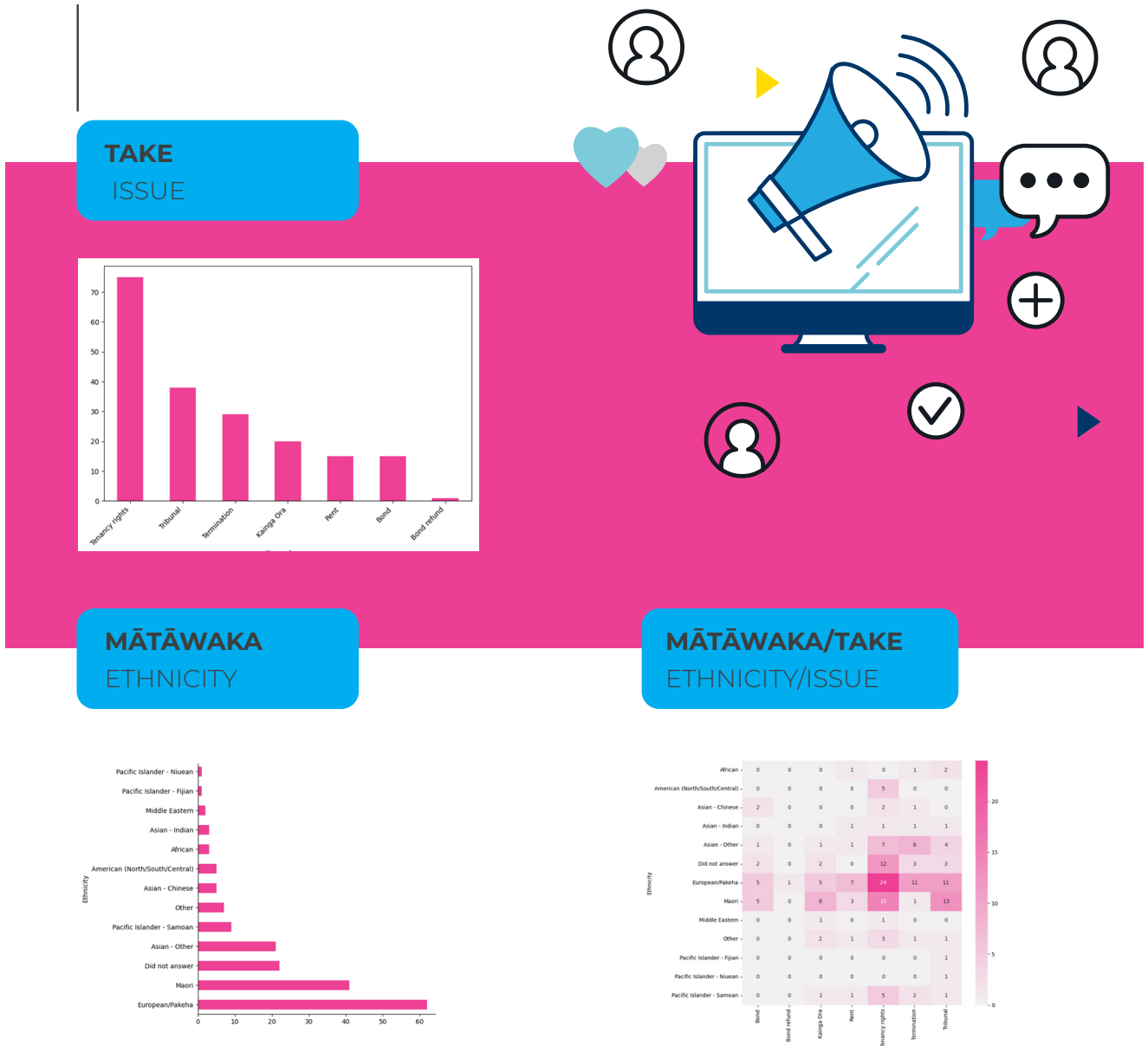
We have enjoyed the regular catch ups with agencies working in the housing space at the Homelessness Prevention Network hui. With the final Network hui scheduled for the beginning of August, we look forward to supporting any efforts at Te Kaunihera to develop a housing network.

Community Law is still available and responsive to urgent requests for advice from some community organisations. Tuatahi Centre and Tākiri Mai know that we can assist their whānau. We frequently meet with and take on clients from these organisations.

We have also had a number of referrals directly from staff at the Tenancy Tribunal, WINZ and Kāinga Ora. Many of the interactions with agency staff are not recorded but it is estimated that we have assisted more than twenty clients through these relationships.

Community Law has provided housing advocacy training to a number of organisations in Te Awa Kairangi, including CAB, Te Kākano o Te Aroha Marae and He Herenga Kura.

NGĀ KIRITAKI OUR CLIENTS



186

Clients advised

155

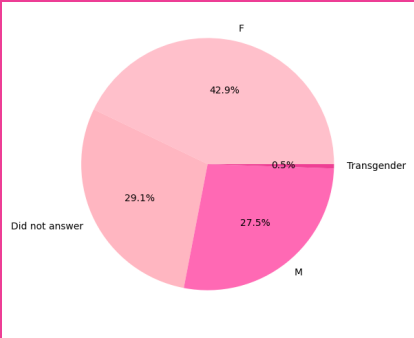
In-person clients
advised

40

People contacted via
the Housing line

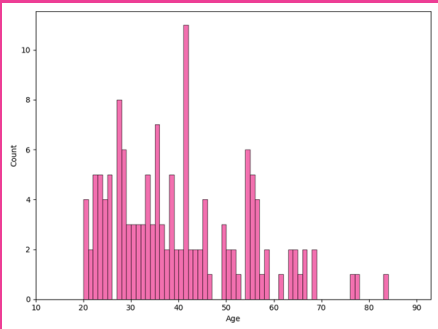
IRA

GENDER



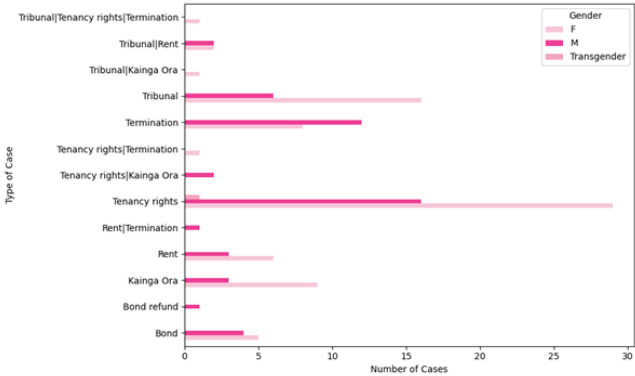
TAU

AGE



IRA/TAKE

GENDER/ISSUE



502

People in housing supported

25

Education sessions

313

Education attendees

WHĀNAU IN FINANCIAL STRESS

BECKY

Becky is a sole tenant on the tenancy for the whānau home. She was unable to work due to sickness and whānau members didn't have income to pay their share. The landlord wanted to end the tenancy due to accruing rent arrears.

01.

**Clarify the law
around rent
arrears**

02.

**Connecting
Becky with a
support worker**

03.

**Legal support in
advance of the
Tenancy Tribunal**



ISSUES

Becky and her family were facing the termination of her tenancy, and the landlord was unwilling to consider further payment plans which would allow them to stay. Work and Income was also uncooperative with paying for the existing arrears without a guarantee the tenancy would be able to continue.

- Client facing termination
- Lack of support from WINZ
- Stress and overworking to get arrears paid



OUTCOMES

We helped Becky to connect with a support worker and prepare for her Tenancy Tribunal hearing. We negotiated rent arrears payment with Work and Income. At the hearing Becky's landlord agreed the whānau could stay.

- Outcome in Becky's favour in Tribunal
- Support worker now helping whānau
- Whānau able to remain in their home

YOUNG WHĀNAU IN MOULDY HOME

AALIYAH AND MARCEL

Aaliyah, Marcel and their 1 year old child had a private rental in Te Awa Kairangi which had extensive condensation and mould issues. Upon moving out, the property manager withheld a large portion of the bond for cleaning costs.

01.

**Clarify the law
around bond**

02.

**Assist with
communication
with the property
manager**

03.

**Legal support
at the Tenancy
Tribunal**



ISSUES

Aaliyah and her whānau moved out of the property into emergency housing. They wanted as much of the bond back as possible, and the property manager was not willing to negotiate.

- Financial concerns
- Unsuitable housing
- Concerns around liability for cleaning



OUTCOMES

Community Law supported Aaliyah with a claim in the Tenancy Tribunal, and represented her at the hearing. Aaliyah received a significant proportion of her bond back.

- Favourable outcome at the Tribunal
- Reduced stress due to feeling supported
- Whānau aware of their tenancy rights going forward

UNLAWFUL PREMISES IN GARAGE

LUCY AND WHĀNAU

Lucy is a migrant and single parent. She was living in leaky garage with an unconsented kitchen and bathroom and the floor had been removed during winter. She sought help after her tenancy was unlawfully terminated.

01.

**Property brought
to attention of Te
Kaunihera**

02.

**Representation
at Tribunal**

03.

**Enforcement of
Tribunal order**



ISSUES

Lucy was in secure housing when she engaged Community Law about the atrocious living conditions her family had endured at the property. She wanted to ensure the landlord couldn't take advantage of future tenants. Community Law identified there were unconsented renovations.

- Language barrier
- Difficulty navigating the legal system
- Unconsented renovations creating unlawful residential premises



OUTCOMES

Te Kaunihera engaged with the landlord to have unconsented renovations at the property were removed. The Tenancy Tribunal ordered the landlord to refund Lucy's bond, pay exemplary damages and refund over \$30,000 in rent.

- Clarified landlord cannot terminate fixed-term tenancy
- Unconsented works removed
- Charging order to enable enforcement of the decision

UNLAWFUL PREMISES IN HOUSE

LI

Li is an international student. She lived in the main house alongside Lucy and her family. Li's tenancy was for a modified living room with an unconsented bathroom and kitchen. There were problems with plumbing and roof leaks.

01.

Procured supporting evidence to make her claim

02.

Secured return of bond

03.

Enforcement of Tribunal order



ISSUES

Li lost her phone and had little evidence about to support her claims. We joined her application with Lucy's to allow her evidence to support both claims. Li had relocated to Tāmaki-makaurau Auckland and was unable to appear in person.

- Insufficient evidence to support a claim
- Distance a barrier to self-representation
- Renovations creating unlawful residential premises at the property



OUTCOMES

Lucy's evidence was sufficient support for most of Li's claims. The Tenancy Tribunal ordered the landlord to refund Li's bond and pay exemplary damages and over \$10,000 in rent.

- Clarified rights to 90-day notice period
- Unconsented works removed
- Charging order to enable enforcement of the decision

FAMILY VIOLENCE WITHDRAWAL

LENNY

Lenny needed to end her tenancy due to violence from a family member she was living with. She wanted to know how to leave her tenancy safely while the perpetrator remained living there.

01.

**Advised on
family violence
withdrawal
process**

02.

**Support
communicating
with property
manager**

03.

**Liability for rent
ended**



ISSUES

Lenny needed to withdraw from her tenancy due to family violence. When she tried to do this, the property manager refused to accept the withdrawal unless she provided a police report number to prove her situation. Lenny was stressed about ongoing liability for rent and damage at the property.

- Family violence situation in the tenancy
- Property manager ignorant of the law
- Concern around ongoing liability for rent



OUTCOMES

Community Law clarified the family violence withdrawal process. Lenny returned when her property manager refused to adhere to the law. We emailed her property manager, and ensured the withdrawal was accepted.

- Lenny removed from the tenancy and away from the violence
- Property management company now aware of the law
- Ongoing liability for rent and damage ended

KĀINGA ORA RENT ARREARS

TO'E

To'e's rent has increased after he found steady employment. He had missed the rent increase letter, was over \$10,000 in rent arrears to Kāinga Ora and at risk of losing his tenancy. To'e didn't think this was fair.

01.

**Clarified the law
on rent increases
and service of
documents**

02.

**Encouraged
negotiation with
Kāinga Ora**

03.

**Advised on
Tribunal options**



ISSUES

To'e felt he was being punished for Kāinga Ora not communicating effectively. He was initially unwilling to pay the arrears or negotiate with Kāinga Ora despite the risk of losing his tenancy. Kāinga Ora had taken preliminary steps to terminate the tenancy.

- Feeling the process had been unfair
- Misunderstanding the law around rent increases
- Poor communication from Kāinga Ora



OUTCOMES

Though he didn't like the advice he was given, To'e felt we had understood his position and clearly explained the potential consequences for his whānau of the rent arrears.

- Clarified legal rights and obligations regarding rent
- Encouraged To'e to negotiate with Kāinga Ora
- Advised on options at Tenancy Tribunal

He mihi maioha
tēnei ki a koutou
ō Te Kaunihera o
Te Awa Kairangi.



YEAR 5: QUARTER 4 REPORT (April 2025 – June 2025)

1. Summary results to date

Table 1.0 illustrates the progress by quarter against agreed annual target and baseline

Items	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Clients entered service	32	15	19	16	
Sustained tenancy	17	9	11	13	50

Key breakdown

2. Household type

Household type	Number
Single person	4
Single parent with children	6
Couple with children	3
Extended	0

3. Families with children/Number of dependent children (under 18)

SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN PLACED

SINGLE COUNTS • Count for Year 5

Qtr. 4 is 32 children.

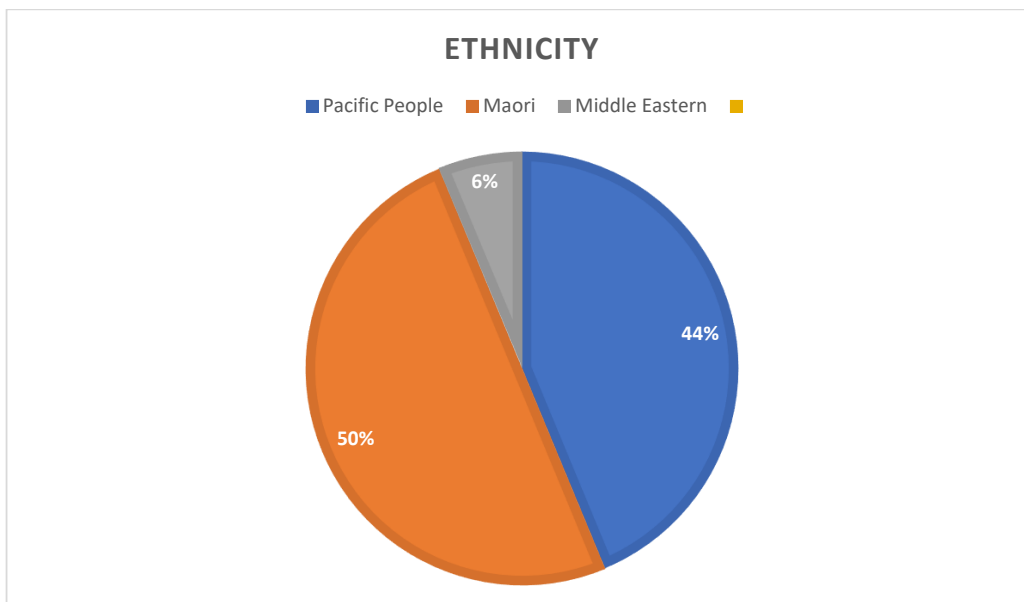
4. Gender

Of the 13 households, the results are as follows:

- Count Year 5:
- QTR4: Children: Male: 17
Female: 15
- QTR4 : Adults: Female: 10
 - Male: 6

5. Ethnicity

Of the 13 household, the ethnic breakdown is as follows:



Note 1: The ethnicity count is double counted in some cases. The reason being is that a single client may identify themselves in multiple ethnic groupings. For example, client will identify themselves as Maori and Samoan or Tokelauan and Samoan. This client is counted twice.

6. Referral source

Referral source	Number	Comments
Self-referral	6	
Whanau or friend	0	
Religious group	0	
Other	7	MSD, OT, Corrections

Living situation when they get in touch with Tuatahi Centre

Situation	Number	Comments
Sleeping on the streets	0	
Car	1	
Van/caravan/campervan	0	
Emergency housing	2	
public housing	0	
private housing	3	
Temporary accommodation	0	
With whānau	5	
Friend's place	2	
other	0	Inadequate home, NGO, Couch surfing, Hospital, Respite

Trends

Although the patterns of housing need remain familiar, the underlying issues that lead whānau/aiga to seek support continue to be deeply distressing. We are not seeing new trends emerge—but what persists is just as urgent. Overcrowding, couch surfing, eviction, relationship breakdowns, mental health challenges, family conflict, domestic violence, homelessness, and life in vehicles are not rare exceptions. These are daily realities for many in our communities, reflecting a housing system under immense pressure.

Each whānau/aiga we meet is navigating their own journey—there is no single story or dominant issue, but rather a convergence of complex, interwoven challenges. Some arrive after enduring years of housing instability, while others come to us after a sudden event—a job loss, a separation, or a threat to their safety—that has left them without secure shelter. Often, they are tired, anxious, and unsure of what comes next.

Our approach is grounded in empathy, listening, and practical support. We meet whānau/aiga where they are—whether that means finding emergency accommodation for someone sleeping in their car, assisting with tenancy applications, connecting them with mental health services, or helping them escape unsafe environments. Every interaction is shaped by dignity, respect, and a commitment to walking alongside people as they work toward a stable future.

Housing is more than just a roof—it is the foundation for wellbeing, security, and opportunity. Behind every request for help is a story of resilience. Our role is to support whānau/aiga not only in crisis, but as they rebuild, reclaim hope, and move toward sustainable housing solutions.

Success Stories

Single Mother of 8

A single mother of eight had been living in a private rental that, for a time, was manageable within her limited budget. She worked hard to keep her family stable, carefully managing her finances and doing everything she could to ensure her children had a safe and secure place to call home. However, when her landlord significantly increased the rent, the situation quickly became unsustainable. Despite her best efforts—exploring every avenue to increase her income and seeking support from extended whānau—she found herself with no viable options. With no financial assistance available beyond what she was already entitled to through government agencies, she made the difficult decision to give notice and leave her home, knowing she could no longer afford to stay.

This was not a case of someone giving up or failing to plan—this mother was resourceful, persistent, and determined to find a solution. But the reality is, there were simply no affordable or suitable housing options available that could accommodate a large family like hers. The current levels of government housing support do not align with today's rental market, leaving families like hers caught in a system that doesn't reflect the true cost of living. For four long months, she searched tirelessly, facing rejection after rejection—not due to any fault of her own, but because the market had no place for them. Eventually, through advocacy and support, we were able to help secure a home that met the needs of her whānau—a place where they could finally begin to rebuild and breathe again. Her story is not unique, but it is a powerful reminder of how broken the system is, and how urgent the need for change remains.

Couple with children

Since January, client and her partner have been living in their car, parked under the carport at client's mother's home. It was never meant to be long term, but with limited income, no rental history, and few support networks, it became their only option. The situation was especially hard on client's partner, who suffers from asthma and needs regular medication, and on client herself, who lives with anxiety that has been worsened by the stress of instability and constant uncertainty. Despite doing all they could to find a place, they were met time and again with rejection and barriers that so many in similar circumstances face.

Both have experienced deep trauma in their lives. client was uplifted by Oranga Tamariki in 2008 due to domestic violence in her home and remained in her aunt's care until 2012. Her partner also grew up in a volatile environment—adopted as a child, then sent back to his biological parents when the adoptive family could no longer cope. He was physically abused by his older brother and exposed to further violence throughout his youth. Though he once relied on cannabis, he made the decision to stop during the COVID lockdown, inspired by the needs of his unwell baby daughter. He has five children in total, including two in Wellington, and is now trying to rebuild those relationships. As part of gaining visiting rights, he is required to complete a "Living Without Violence" course—something he's actively pursuing.

While they've both faced stigma—particularly around the partner's criminal history, which includes three prison sentences, the most recent in 2023 for a probation breach—they have also shown genuine commitment to changing their lives. What they lacked was an opportunity. The shortage of affordable and suitable homes, combined with the weight of past trauma and complex needs, left them stuck. But with the support of Tuatahi, we were finally able to secure a home that met their needs. After months of uncertainty, they now have a safe, stable place to call their own. It's more than just a house—it's a chance to heal, reconnect, and move forward.

18 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/244

Emergency Management Six Monthly Update FY 2024/25

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of Emergency Management (EM) activities for Council between 1 April and 6 August 2025.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes that there was one event during the last four months that required activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC);
- (2) notes that the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) and the Joint Committee have approved the Wellington Region CDEM Group Strategy 2025-2035, attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (3) notes an improvement in the assessed capability of the EOC from Basic to Defined;
- (4) notes the new Emergency Assistance Centre site located at the Ricoh Sports Centre, 237 Taitā Drive, Avalon;
- (5) notes reduced levels of staff engagement over the last four months and its impact on emergency response competency levels;
- (6) agrees that Emergency Management will collect data relating to Emergency Management staff engagement models around the country over the next six months; and
- (7) notes that this data will be used to generate recommendations for leadership regarding an Emergency Management engagement model that Council could adopt.

Background

Executive summary

Hazards

2. In the last four months, there was one event that required activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). This was in response to a Red Strong Wind Warning on 1-2 May 2025.
3. Over 39 staff coordinating the response across three shifts. Other monitored hazards included several strong wind watches, heavy rain warnings, heavy swell warnings, a moderate earthquake, and partial lifeline failures.
4. EM staff deployed to the Nelson-Tasman Region from 13-19 July 2025 to support the emergency response during a declared state of emergency.

People

5. Staff numbers have seen small changes in the last four months. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff numbers have decreased by six, predominantly from the Logistics and Operations Functions, bringing the total EOC roster to 128 staff. EAC staff numbers have increased by eight, bringing the total EAC roster to 50 staff.
6. Engagement in training activities and competency levels has reduced overall. Staff participation in training and operational activities remains a significant challenge.
7. Attendance at Exercise Wai Riri was significantly lower than exercises conducted last year. This may reflect a degree of activation fatigue, noting that Exercise Wai Riri closely followed the 1-2 May 2025 operational EOC activation.

Platforms

8. New technology is being introduced to the EOC, including AI assistants. These will improve planning processes during the initial phases of emergencies.

Partnerships

9. Several educational workshops, training sessions, committee meetings, and advisory groups occurred because of local and regional partnerships during this quarter.
10. The Resilient Communities Fund (RCF) successfully allocated all its funds to three projects across the community. Once completed, these projects will improve water security, infrastructure resilience, and flood response capabilities.

Plans and Procedures

11. Local river flood and catchment activation guides and the Local Emergency Response Plan (LERP) continue to be updated. Both documents are being rewritten to make them more accessible to Council staff.

12. CEG and the Joint Committee have approved the Regional Emergency Management Strategy that was proposed by the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO). This will guide the development of the new Wellington Group Plan.

Hazards

13. On 1–2 May 2025, Council activated its EOC in response to a Red Strong Wind Warning. Over 39 staff coordinated the response across three shifts, focusing on public safety and communication. Impacts were minimal – mainly relating to road closures, fallen trees, and power outages.
14. EM was deployed to the Nelson-Tasman EOC from 13–19 July 2025. During this time, they supported the emergency response in a number of roles, including Operations Manager, Logistics Manager, and Recovery Intelligence Manager.
15. During the last four months, the hazards listed in Table 1 were observed and responded to as required.

Table 1: Hazards Impacting Council between 1 April 2025 and 6 August 2025.

Hazard	Occurrence	EM Response
Strong Wind Watch (Yellow)	6 Events	Advanced notice provided to Communications and Transport Teams. Weather monitored.
Strong Wind Warning (Orange)	4 Events	Advanced notice provided to Communications and Transport Teams, as well as Function Managers, Call Centre, NZRT18, and Offices of the CE and Mayor. Weather monitored.
Strong Wind Warning (Red)	1 Event	Advanced notice provided to Communications and Transport Teams, as well as Function Managers, NZRT18, and Offices of the CE and Mayor. Weather monitored. EOC activated in response to deteriorating weather, including wind gusts reaching 130kph.
Heavy Rain Watch (Yellow)	8 Events	Advanced notice provided to Communications and Transport Teams. Weather and local rivers monitored.
Heavy Rain Warning (Orange)	4 Events	Advanced notice provided to Communications and Transport Teams, as well as Function Managers, Call Centre, NZRT18, and Offices of the CE and Mayor. Local Marae notified as appropriate. Weather and local rivers monitored. Localised flooding events are managed in coordination with various agencies and council teams.
Earthquake	2 Events	Two regional earthquakes, both resulting in weak shaking across Lower Hutt. Situation monitored with no damage reported.
Heavy Swell Warning (Orange)	2 Events	Advanced notice provided to Communications and Transport Teams, as well as Function Managers, NZRT18, and Offices of the CE and Mayor. Weather and coastal areas monitored. During one event, EOC was activated in response to deteriorating weather, including waves rising to six meters and significant coastal inundation.

Hazard	Occurrence	EM Response
Lifeline Failure	2 Events	There were two instances of partial failures of internet services across the North Island. Varying impacts in Lower Hutt. Situation monitored with a regional multi-agency call scheduled during one event.
National Tsunami Activity	1 Event	An 8.8 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Russia generated a national tsunami advisory and tsunami waves in many areas of the Pacific. National assessments found a significant risk associated with the New Zealand tsunami red zones. EM provided notifications and updates to Communications, Transport, and Welfare Teams, as well as Function Managers, Call Centre, NZRT18, and Offices of the CE and Mayor. EM coordinated public messaging, identification of red zone structures, door knock and tsunami flyer delivery by RT18 to 50+ locations, and overnight monitoring of coastal areas. Safer Cities Team and Police delivered warnings to areas in the red zone frequented by rough sleepers, freedom campers, and truck drivers. Tsunami waves approximately 20cm in height entered the Wellington Harbour, causing strong and unusual currents from 31 July to 1 August. No loss of life, significant injuries, or property damage reported.

Future Hazards and Risks

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

16. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been successfully eradicated in Otago and movement controls on the Mainland Poultry Farm have been lifted.

Measles Outbreak

17. On 1 July 2025, a small outbreak of measles occurred in the Wairarapa which spread to Fielding. At the time of this report eight cases have been documented. EM have liaised with Council's Health and Safety Manager and are monitoring this situation.

Quarterly Workstreams

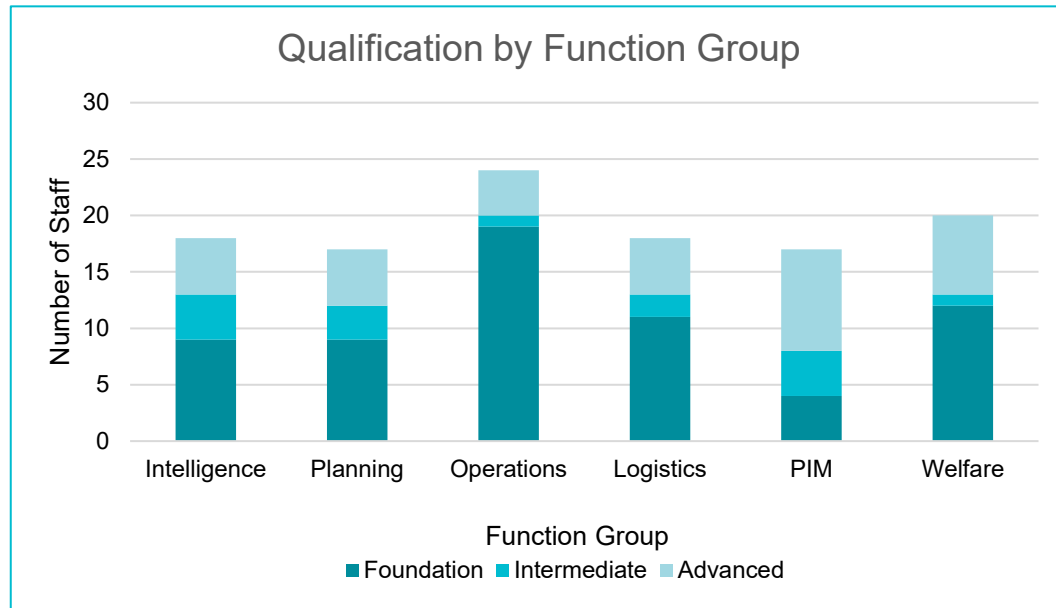
18. The content below provides a structured update across the four workstreams of Council's current Emergency Management Strategy:
- People;
 - Platforms;
 - Partnerships; and
 - Plans and procedures.

People Workstream

EOC Personnel

19. EOC staff numbers have decreased over the last four months, with a net decrease of **six staff**. This has been predominantly from the Logistics and Operations Functions. The total EOC roster currently sits at **129 staff**. Table 2 details the current qualification levels by function group in the EOC.

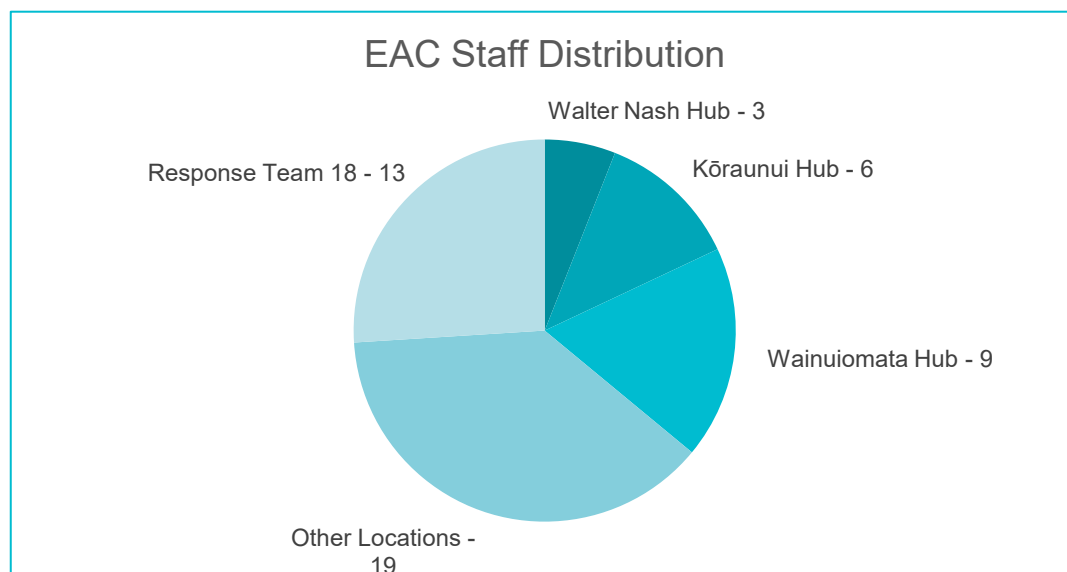
Table 2: Qualification levels in EOC by Function Group.



EAC Personnel

20. EAC staff numbers have increased over the last four months with a net increase of **eight staff**. This includes the addition of several Response Team 18 volunteers. The total EAC roster currently sits at **50 staff**. Table 3 details the distribution of EAC-trained staff.

Table 3: Council EAC Staff Distribution.



Training and Development

Exercise Summary

21. There have been six training exercises over the last four months, which are shown in Table 4. Ex Wai Riri was one of two major EOC exercises conducted each year, which saw two 'shifts' practice an identical scenario over two days. A comprehensive after-action review of performance was undertaken, which resulted in an uplift in assessed capability from Basic to Defined.
22. Exercise Wai Riri was attended by 39 staff over the two days, with many staff attending both days. This is significantly less than Exercise Rū Whenua in November 2024, which saw 68 staff participate over one day. This may be a consequence of the proximity of Exercise Wai Riri to the 1-2 May 2025 Severe Weather Event, which resulted in an EOC activation.
23. During Q3, the Ricoh Sports Centre was assessed as likely being suitable to act as an EAC site. On 10 June, a tabletop EAC exercise (see Table 4 below) was conducted at this site, confirming the venue's suitability for use in a significant emergency.

Table 4: Council EM Exercises between 1 April 2025 and 6 August 2025

Exercise	Date	Comments
Reconnaissance Exercise	28 April	Tabletop reconnaissance exercise attended by 33 people representing Council, WREMO, Response Teams, FENZ, and Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA).
EAC Course/Tabletop Exercise	16 May	EAC course and tabletop exercise at Koraunui-Stokes Valley Community Hub. Attended by six local hub staff.
Exercise Wai Riri	21-22 May	EOC exercise to develop Council EOC-trained staff, emergency services liaisons, and community stakeholders. Scenario based around a severe weather event similar to what was experienced on 1-2 May 2025. Attended by 39 staff with representation from the National Public Health Service, Corrections, WFA, Police, and NZRT18. Exercise dates were respectively aligned with the regional Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) to allow for training coordination.
EAC Tabletop Exercise	10 June	EAC tabletop exercise and site survey of new potential EAC location (RicoH Sports Centre). This was attended by Council Function Managers, EAC Supervisors, UHCC, NPHS, and Citizens Advice Bureau.
EAC Course/Tabletop Exercise	17 June	EAC course and tabletop exercise at Wainuiomata Community Hub. Attended by three local hub staff.
EAC Course/Tabletop Exercise	26 June	EAC course and tabletop exercise at Naenae Community Hub. Attended by six local hub staff.

Function Recruitment

24. In the aftermath of the 1-2 May 2025 Severe Weather Event, managers from both Connected Communities and Transport have voiced a desire to train more of their respective staff to work in the EOC. EM have offered to schedule bespoke foundation courses and is hoping to progress this next quarter.
25. Work is underway to address the current gap in the EOC Safety Function, which ensures the health, safety, and wellbeing of all response personnel in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and CIMS 3 requirements. Currently, this training pathway is not formally supported by the Wellington Emergency Management Office (WREMO) or the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).
26. Health and Safety Representatives across Council have been invited to volunteer for Safety Function roles in the EOC and EACs, with several signing up for foundation training. Regional collaboration is underway to share best practice risk management approaches, and discussions are progressing on the need for Councils to co-develop suitable training resources to fill this critical capability gap.
27. EM is currently working with People & Capability to determine how to incorporate EM courses better and training into Council development pathways for staff. This will provide clarity and guidance to people managers across Council.

Function Courses

28. Last year, an analysis of staff training identified a critical gap in function-specific training. Over the last six months, EM have strongly promoted function courses to EOC staff, resulting in 13 Council staff completing them. After attrition, this represents a net increase of eight staff. EM will continue to promote and host function courses locally as per demand.

Function Huddles

29. Six EM Function Huddles were conducted by EM for Council staff during this period. These included a severe weather event workshop in the lead-up to Exercise Wai Riri, and a series of Local Emergency Response Plan (LERP) workshops to gather feedback from staff on the new version's processes and information.

Platforms Workstream

Artificial Intelligence

30. Custom AI assistants for Tsunami Response and Mass Evacuation have been developed for EOC staff to use during emergency activations. These will provide additional support when EM Advisors are not available and reduce capability gaps for shifts with lower experience levels. EM is advocating for these tools to be built into the regional WREMO SharePoint for improved access.

31. EM are investigating AI tools that would provide real-time situational awareness and decision-support capabilities. This support would mitigate some of the staffing and knowledge limitations currently experienced by the EOC Intelligence Function and significantly increase response times during the first few hours of an emergency event.

Radio Networks

32. In June 2025, repair work on the Maungaraki Reservoir by Wellington Water contractors resulted in the damage and dismantling of the local radio transmitter. This resulted in the failure of approximately 30% of the Lower Hutt Community Emergency Hub (CEH) radio network.
33. Once the cause of this failure was isolated and identified, contractors working for EM liaised with Wellington Water Ltd to facilitate rapid repairs. The entire network is once again operational and will be maintained by WREMO as required.

Needs Assessment Platform

34. WREMO have continued to progress the development of the new Wellington Region Welfare Needs Assessment Tool. This will replace the older Āwhina tool, which is no longer supported by NEMA. The work conducted in recent months has included a privacy impact assessment and a draft implementation obligation document. The new platform is expected to be introduced to Council from August 2025.

Partnerships Workstream

Agency Partnerships

Wellington Region Emergency Management Office

35. WREMO staff evaluated Council EOC performance during both days of Exercise Wai Riri. Applying the WREMO Capability Assessment Tool, the EOC was assessed as largely performing at *Defined* levels. This reflects an increase from appraisals last year, which rated EOC capabilities at *Basic* levels.
36. WREMO staff from the Community Resilience and Recovery (CRR) and Operational Readiness and Response (ORR) Teams are assigned to the EM Team.

37. In the last four months, CRR staff undertook several activities on behalf of Council. These are summarised below in Table 5.

Table 5: Summary of CRR Activities between 1 April 2025 and 6 August 2025.

Activity	Frequency	Comments
Supporting WREMO Annual Campaign	Ongoing	Support and promotion of the Community Emergency Hub campaign.
NGO Business Continuity Workshop	1 x April 2 x May	April workshop conducted at the Walter Nash Centre with medical centres well represented. Discussions and advice around the delivery of medical care in emergency settings. May workshops hosted by Lower/Upper Hutt Chamber of Commerce.
School & ECE Business Continuity Workshop	2 x April 1 x May	Lower attendance which reflects a regional trend. Significant confusion among ECEs around response actions and reunification processes.
Household Preparedness Planning Session	2 x April 3 x May	Classroom session that raises awareness around methods to improve individual and household emergency preparedness. Recipients included Te Awa Kairangi Health Network, Grey Power, Team Naenae Trust, and Shona McPharlane Retirement Village.
Community Response Plans	2 x May 2x June	Four additional plans updated. 31/31 community response plans have been updated within the last two years. Extra Hub Kit delivered to Lowry Bay residents.

38. In the last four months, ORR staff undertook several activities on behalf of Council. These are summarised below in Table 6.

Table 6: Summary of ORR Activities between 1 April 2025 and 6 August 2025.

Activity	Frequency	Comments
EM Foundation Course	1 x April	Delivered at the Council EOC building.
EM Logistics Function Course	1 x April	Delivered at the Council EOC building. Attended by 13 people.
EOC ICT Readiness Check	1 x April 1 x May 1 x June 1x July	Software updates and functionality checks of EOC laptops and phones.
Reconnaissance Exercise Planning	April	Development of exercise injects and timelines in support of Reconnaissance Tabletop Exercise.
Exercise Wai Riri Planning	April - May	Development of exercise injects and timelines in support of Exercise Wai Riri.
EM Operations Function Course	1 x May	Delivered at the Council EOC building. Attended by two people from Council.
Regional Hazardous Substances Meeting	1 x May	Hosted by FENZ.
Regional CDEM Radio Checks	1 x May 1 x June	Functionality checks of CDEM radios.
EAC Exercise Planning	May - June	Development of exercise injects and considerations in support of Ricoh Sports Centre EAC Exercise.
Exercise Wai Riri After Action Report	May - June	Collated staff and assessor feedback. Drafted exercise report including key findings and areas for improvement.

Hutt Valley Emergency Services Coordination Committee

39. The Hutt Valley Emergency Services Coordination Committee met on 11 June 2025. Key points from this meeting included:

- a. Agency updates were provided with limited staffing being noted. Several partner agencies are also investing in staff CIMS training.
- b. The HCC Primary Controller spoke on the 1-2 May Severe Weather Event and key lessons that were learned.
- c. Most attending agencies voiced a desire to review the CDEM Geospatial Common Operating Platform (G-COP), with a view of contributing data or building a similar capability.

Severe Weather Technical Advisory Group

40. On 26 June, EM participated in the second meeting of the regional Severe Weather Technical Advisory Group (SWTAG). This was attended by Council EM, WREMO staff, Upper Hutt City Council EM, Porirua City Council EM, Wellington City Council staff, the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Flood Team, and MetService.
41. There were continued discussions around revising MetService weather warning criteria for the Wellington Region, and specifically urban areas and the Tararua Range.
42. All parties supported the concept of raising the orange rainfall warning criteria for the Tararua Range. MetService have advised that this will result in fewer, more accurate warnings each year and reduce warning fatigue.
43. EM has requested that the GWRC Flood Team factor ground conditions into flood assessments to mitigate the risk of localised flooding that may not generate an orange warning in the future. These flood assessments can be used alongside MetService updates to trigger EM notification processes to the wider Council.
44. MetService will further review urban rainfall warning criteria, and this will be discussed again at the next SWTAG meeting.

Other Agency Engagements

45. EM took part in several other agency engagement activities including:
 - a. **Porirua EOC Exercise** – On 7 May EM travelled to the Porirua EOC to observe how they conducted Exercise Wai Riri. Their use of CCTV, Starlink devices, and radios was of particular interest.
 - b. **Hono Network Meeting** – EM met with the Hono Māori Emergency Management Network on 4 April at their facility on Massey University Campus. The Hono strategic vision was discussed, along with opportunities for collaboration.
 - c. **Ambulance Mapping Resources** – EM have met with counterparts from Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA) and reviewed current digital and paper mapping resources. This has helped WFA as they develop their own capabilities.
 - d. **Policy Feedback** – EM provided feedback for the development of the Regional EM Strategy, the new EM legislation, the NEMA-led national G-COP project, and a response regarding assessment of decision-making processes for local waterways for the EM Minister.
 - e. **Seaview Marina** – On 25 July 2025, the memorandum of understanding with Seaview Marina was renewed, ensuring barge access during emergency events.

Community Partnerships

Hutt Valley Welfare Committee

46. The Hutt Valley Welfare Committee (HVWC) met for the second time on 25 June 2025. Attendance included Council EM, WREMO, Upper Hutt City Council EM and Welfare staff, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Corrections, Ministry of Education, and Lower Hutt Neighbourhood Support. This was hosted by Upper Hutt City Council at their EAC site at Maidstone Park.
47. A collaborative SharePoint space has been set up and was introduced to the committee. This will include key documents, contact lists, and a training calendar.
48. Discussions around the vulnerabilities of rest homes, schools, and early childhood education facilities occurred with emphasise on identifying responsible agencies and potential welfare needs during emergency events.

Resilient Communities Fund

49. The RCF has closed for FY25. During the inaugural year, all \$30,000 of the fund has been allocated to three projects being run by Wainuiomata, Waiwhetu, and Kōkiri Marae.
50. These projects will provide water security, infrastructure resilience, and flood response capabilities to their respective communities. This represents an important step towards developing a “community-led” emergency management approach in Lower Hutt.
51. In FY26 the RCF will not begin advertising and accepting applications until November, after the election cycle. As noted in the previous CCPC report, next year the RCF will open to a wider range of community organisations and groups.

New Zealand Response Team 18

52. NZRT18 was deployed at the request of EM in response to the 1-2 May Severe Weather Event. Activities conducted by the team included ground reconnaissance, supporting road closures, monitoring river levels, and assisting with voluntary evacuations. EM acknowledges the support that NZRT18 continues to provide to Council during significant events.

Kōkiri Marae

53. On 23 June 2025, EM visited Kōkiri Marae. Activities during this visit included:
 - a. A site survey and briefing by local staff on current flood risks and patterns.
 - b. Discussions on previous interactions between various EM groups and Kōkiri Marae, and areas where this could be improved.
 - c. Identifying opportunities for EM to share hazard information with the local community.
 - d. Agreeing to a tsunami evacuation tabletop exercise to review current evacuation plans and how Council can provide local welfare support if required.
 - e. Extending an invitation to Kōkiri Marae to join the HVWC.

54. This meeting was the result of a large amount of preparation and relationship building. EM acknowledges the assistance and work of Te Tira Māori in support of this progress.

Plans and Procedures Workstream

River Catchment Guides

55. The GWRC Flood Team continue to update catchment and flood activation guides. On 7 May EM took part in a workshop with the Flood Team to provide feedback on guides for the Hutt River, Waiwhetu Stream, and Wainuiomata River.
56. EM recommended some adjustments to alarm levels to better reflect triggers for operational actions such as road closures. In many instances EM also requested that EOC activation prompts be moved to earlier phases to reflect the time taken to activate the EOC outside of business hours.

Local Emergency Response Plan

57. Updates to the Council LERP have continued over the last four months, with initial drafts of the Context, Hazard Profile, Response Timeline, and Function sections having been completed.
58. The draft function sections have been reviewed by Council EOC volunteers, and feedback has been captured to guide the development of the new document.

Wellington Region CDEM Group Strategy 2025

59. The CEG and Joint Committee approved the Regional Emergency Management Strategy proposed by WREMO (see Appendix 1 attached to the report). This will now guide the development of the new Wellington Group Plan and many local documents.

Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan

60. Work will commence in FY 2025-26 to complete the Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan.

Options

61. There are no options as this is a noting only report.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

62. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.

Consultation

63. Consultation is not required.

Legal Considerations

64. There are no legal considerations.

Financial Considerations

65. There are no financial considerations.

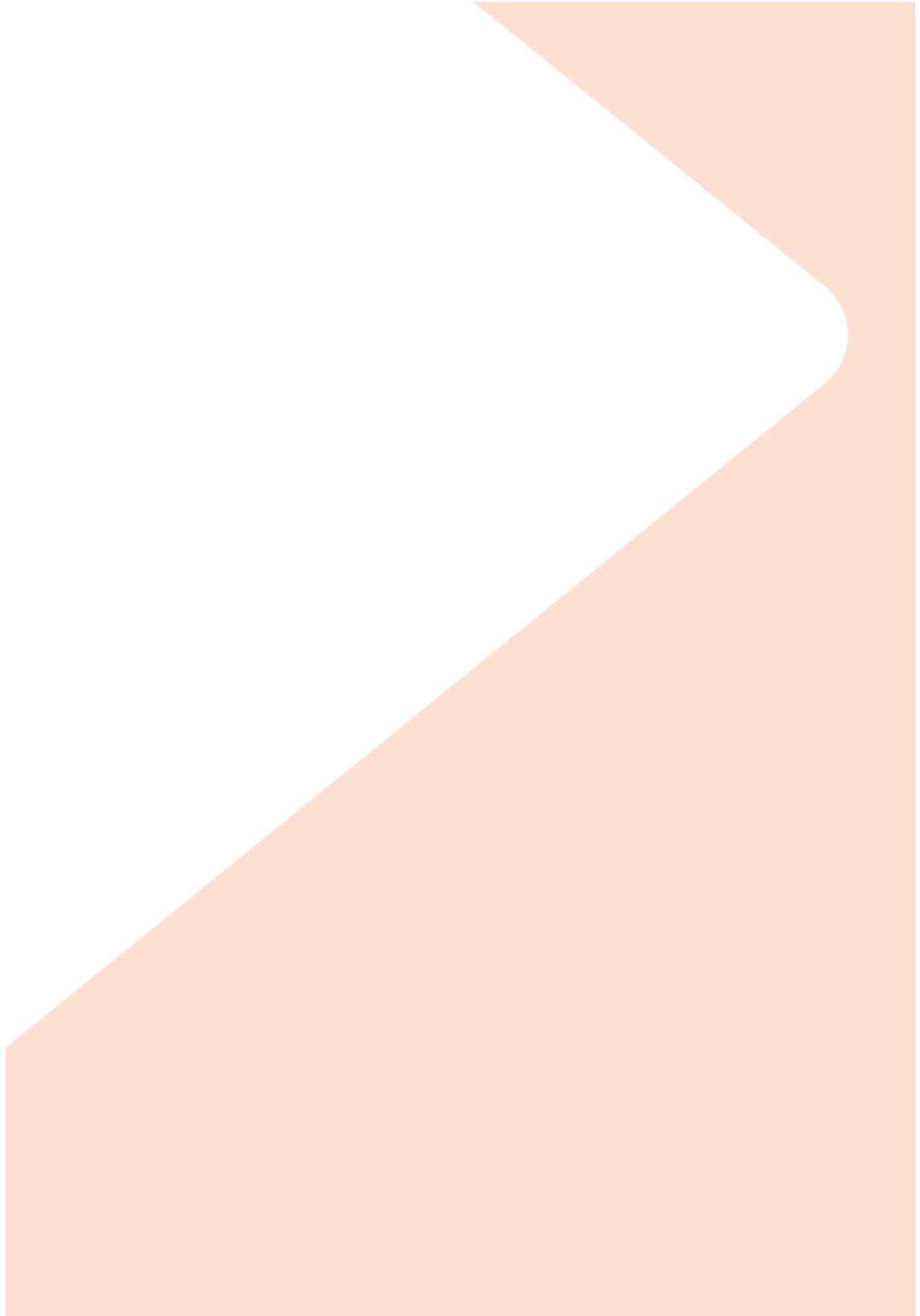
Appendices

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Author: Nick Ridley
Emergency Management Advisor

Approved By: Jarred Griffiths
Director Strategy and Engagement





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Introduction

This strategy sets out the path for the communities of the Wellington Region to become better connected, capable and ready not just to survive disasters, but to face them together with confidence and thrive through adversity.

This strategy is designed to maintain and build on the resilience momentum that has been progressed to date. While the Wellington CDEM Group has already made significant progress and improvements over the last decade, more must be done to prepare for what lies ahead. It brings together the collective capacity of our local communities, councils, iwi, emergency services, and partner agencies, to answer a key question: how can we effectively work together to ensure we do everything we can to preserve life safety, wellbeing and the prosperity of our communities.

The disaster risk landscape is changing, and we need to change with it. Lessons from past events – like the Canterbury earthquakes, the Kaikōura earthquake, and more recently Cyclone Gabrielle – show us where our gaps are, what we need to strengthen, and importantly, how we need to work together to bring about the necessary changes.

This strategy is more than improving our emergency response and recovery. It's about building an Emergency Management system for our region that is grounded in trust, equity, good data, and a shared sense of purpose. It's about an Emergency Management system that is considered a normal part of daily life and a core business to every organisation.

“

The challenges we face require all of us to **radically collaborate** in ways we haven't done before. None of us has the ability to manage these risks by ourselves and a siloed approach won't cut it in the future.

Lianne Dalziel

Former Christchurch Mayor

How the Strategy was Developed

This strategy was developed through a collaborative, multi-stage process involving governance, leadership, and partner agencies from across the Wellington region. It began with a workshop in March 2025 bringing together the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Joint Committee and the Coordinating Executive Group, where the collective vision, strategic direction, and regional priorities were established. This foundational workshop ensured alignment at the highest level and set the tone for the region's 10-year resilience ambitions.

Following this, a series of targeted workshops were held with councils, iwi, lifeline utilities and partner agency representatives. These sessions explored key focus areas, identified opportunities for system-wide improvement. The final strategy reflects the insights, experiences, and aspirations gathered across these engagements, ensuring it is contextualised for our region, shared accountability, and a commitment to collaboration.

Alignment with Emergency Management Reforms

This strategy has been developed in the context of the proposed Emergency Management Bill, which signals a significant shift in how emergency management will be structured and delivered across New Zealand. The Bill reinforces the need for stronger governance, clearer roles and responsibilities, greater inclusion of iwi and Māori leadership, and improved community resilience. These priorities align closely with the direction of this strategy. Our focus on system maturity, inclusive partnerships, community-led response and recovery, and culturally grounded resilience is consistent with the intent of the reforms.



Who We Are

The Wellington Region CDEM Group

This strategy belongs to the entire Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group – a partnership comprising councils, iwi/Māori, emergency services, health agencies, lifeline utilities, government departments, NGOs, and community organisations. It reflects the collective responsibility we all share for building disaster resilience across the region.

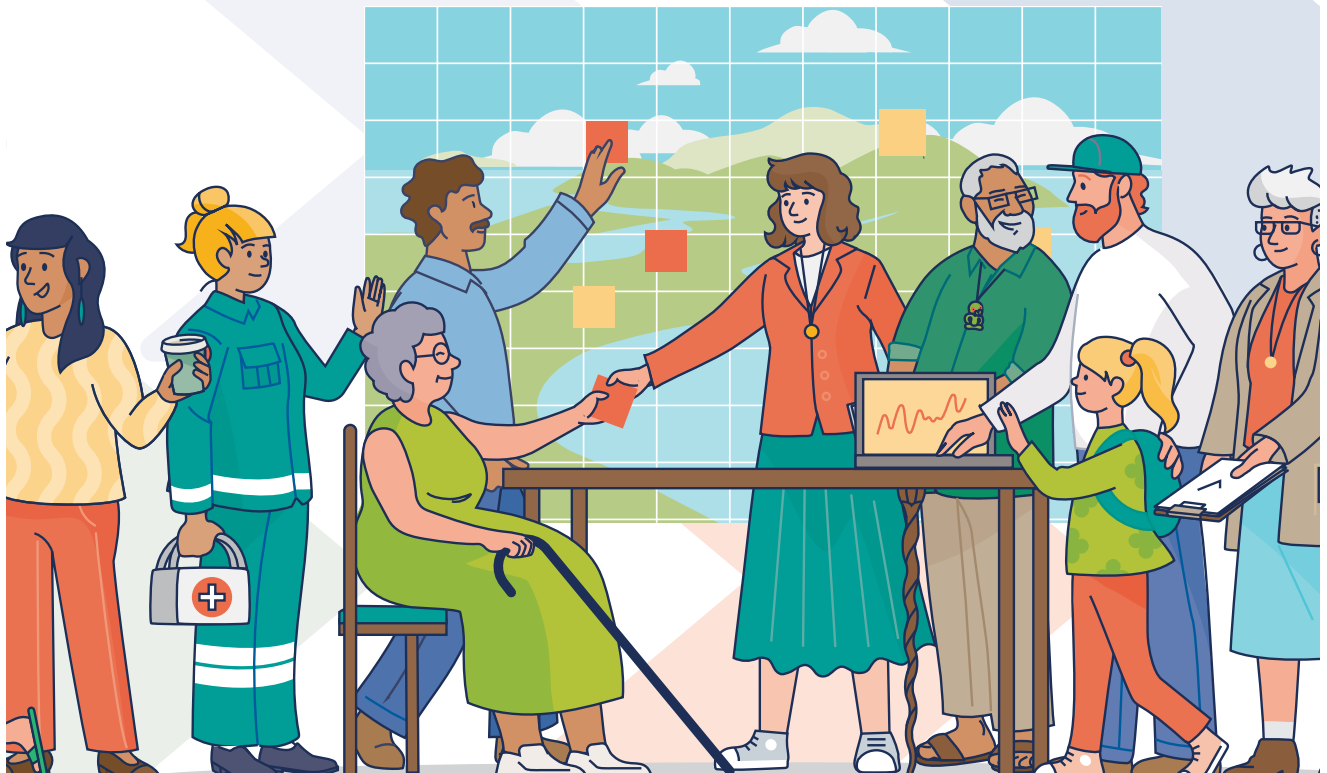
While individual organisations each have their defined roles, none of us can do this work alone. Every organisation, community group, and individual has a part to play in delivering this strategy and strengthening the system we all depend on.

As former Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel put it at the Wellington CDEM Group strategic planning workshop in March 2025 when reflecting on her decade of leading through disasters:

“The challenges we face require all of us to radically collaborate in ways we haven’t done before. None of us has the ability to manage these risks by ourselves and a siloed approach won’t cut it in the future.”



Collaboration and deliberately breaking-down traditional silos are at the very core of this strategy so that we can achieve better outcomes. How CDEM Group members work with and support each other will define what we do and what we achieve together. Without deliberate collaboration based on trust and reciprocity, the objectives of this strategy will not be achieved. Our Emergency Management capacity as a region and as a country is extremely limited. We must work together to bring about the changes required to improve the system to meet the challenges of the future.



What We're Up Against

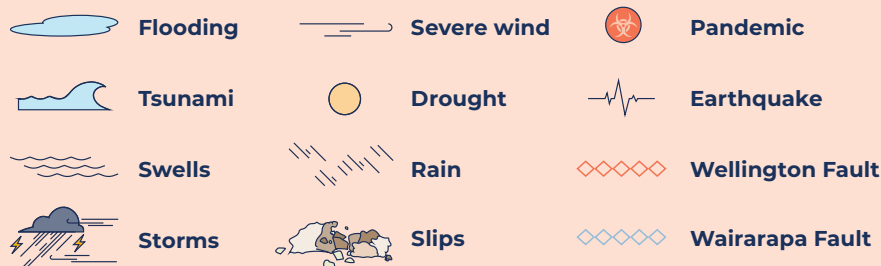
Our Risk Landscape

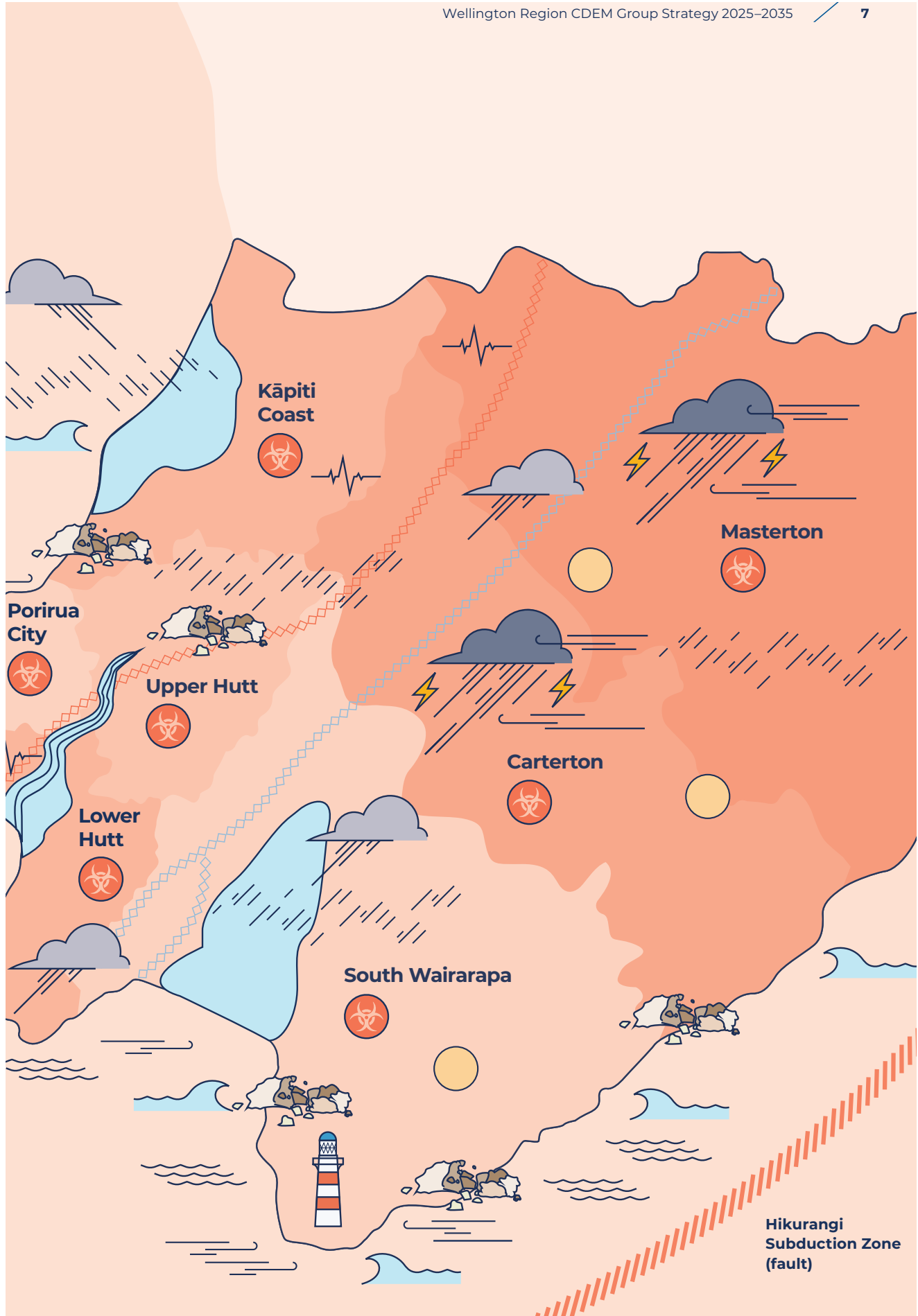
The Wellington Region is exposed to a wide range of natural and human-made hazards. Our history reminds us of this – major earthquakes in 1848, 1855, 1942, and 2016 have all left deep marks on the region.

Over the last decade, **emergency events in the Wellington region have increased by 330%** and while across the country declared states of emergency have nearly quadrupled.

Climate change is exacerbating disaster risk, with increasing frequency and severity of events. Treasury estimates show an **80% chance of another Cyclone Gabrielle-scale event within 50 years**, with a potential price tag of up to \$14.5 billion. We also face a **75% chance of a rupture along the Alpine Fault** and a **25% likelihood of a major Hikurangi Subduction Zone earthquake** within the same timeframe – events that could irreparably devastate lives, infrastructure, and local economies.

Community initiatives like Tsunami Blue Lines, Community Emergency Hubs and, the sale of nearly 40,000 household emergency water tanks still do not address the level of risk we face. Many people continue to believe that government agencies will immediately be there to support them during a significant emergency. While there is good knowledge that Community Emergency Hubs are activated and operated by members of the public, household preparedness surveys show moderate levels of preparedness, with key gaps in knowing the natural warning signs for tsunami and flooding, having sufficient amounts of emergency water stored and insufficient planning for people most commonly affected by emergency events.





Where We Stand Today

Aotearoa New Zealand's emergency management system categorises incidents as minor, moderate, major, or severe. For the purpose of this strategy, we use the terms:



Most Likely

These are minor events that happen regularly, such as small-scale flooding or localised slips. The system can generally manage these events with existing local resources.



Most Likely Plus

These are moderate events that require significant regional coordination, such as a large storm or cyclone similar to Cyclone Gabrielle. While they are not everyday occurrences, they are considered highly probable over the next few decades.



Most Dangerous

These are severe, catastrophic events of national significance, such as a Hikurangi Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunamis. These events are rare but would cause devastating impacts and long-term consequences across the entire country.

Currently, the Wellington Region's emergency management system is only equipped to handle **Most Likely** events effectively. It could manage some aspects of a **Most Likely Plus** event for a limited time, but the challenges seen in other regions during Cyclone Gabrielle would likely be repeated here.

Given that there is an 80% chance of another Cyclone Gabrielle-level event within the next 50 years, we must recognise that a significant regional emergency is not just possible – it is highly likely.



Our current system is not yet prepared to safely and effectively respond to and recover from such a **Most Likely Plus** event, let alone to the scale of a **Most Dangerous** disaster.

Preparing for a **Most Likely Plus** Event

In shaping this strategy, the CDEM Group has focused on strengthening the region's ability to manage a **Most Likely Plus** event – for example, another major cyclone like Cyclone Gabrielle. While events such as a Hikurangi Subduction Zone earthquake remain a real possibility with catastrophic consequences, they sit at the extreme end of the risk spectrum and are harder to plan for in detail over the next ten years.

By focusing on improving the systems, partnerships, and capabilities needed for the **Most Likely Plus** event, we can significantly and measurably increase our overall disaster resilience. These improvements will not only enhance our ability to respond to and recover from high-probability events but will also lay the essential groundwork for facing the rarer, but catastrophic disasters.

Strengthening the system for the **Most Likely Plus** makes us ready for the most probable and stronger for the worst.

Our Biggest System Challenges

The Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) identified eight core system challenges as part of an environmental scan of the region's hazards and system challenges:



Increasing Exposure to Hazards

Climate change, urban growth, aging infrastructure, and our unique geography all amplify disaster risks.



Lack of True Partnership with Māori

Our systems do not fully reflect Te Ao Māori values, leadership, or knowledge. Genuine partnership is critical.



Insufficient Community Preparedness

Barriers like cost, time, cultural gaps, and low risk perception are holding communities back.

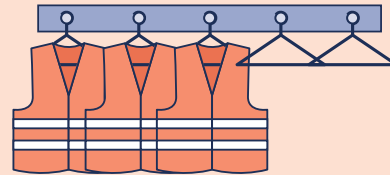


Immature Risk Management Systems

We lack a coordinated, mature approach to identifying, tracking, and managing risks across the region.

**Funding and Resource Constraints**

Demand on the system outpaces the resources we currently have.

**Limited Response and Recovery Capacity**

While the Group can handle small, short-term events, we are underprepared for long, complex emergencies.

**Unrealistic Public and Political Expectations**

The system is expected to deliver more than it is currently resourced or designed to do, particularly for large-scale or concurrent events.

**Limited Progress on System Improvements**

Past government inquiries and reviews have identified gaps, but progress has been slow due to fragmented governance.

**Resilient**

means the ability to anticipate, resist, minimise, respond to, adapt to, and recover from disruptive events.

**Communities**

means a group of people connected by geography, shared interests, or collective identity. This involves the people we serve and the people working within the emergency management system.

**Connected**

means partnerships that are based on trust and reciprocity across councils, iwi, agencies, marae, schools, and neighbourhood groups

**Capable**

means we have trained, diverse, and scalable teams, practiced plans, robust infrastructure, and prepared communities.

**Ready**

means everyone knows their risks and has plans in place to respond and recover.

Our Three Strategic Goals

Managing Risk

We actively and consistently manage risk across the region through aligned frameworks, shared data, and a forward-looking risk culture.

1

Effective Response and Recovery

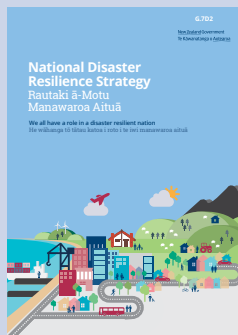
We have an effective and efficient end-to-end emergency management system that delivers on the CDEM Group's collective requirements and responsibilities.

2

Community Resilience

We enable, empower and support communities to prepare, respond and recover with confidence and to act for themselves and others during an emergency.

3



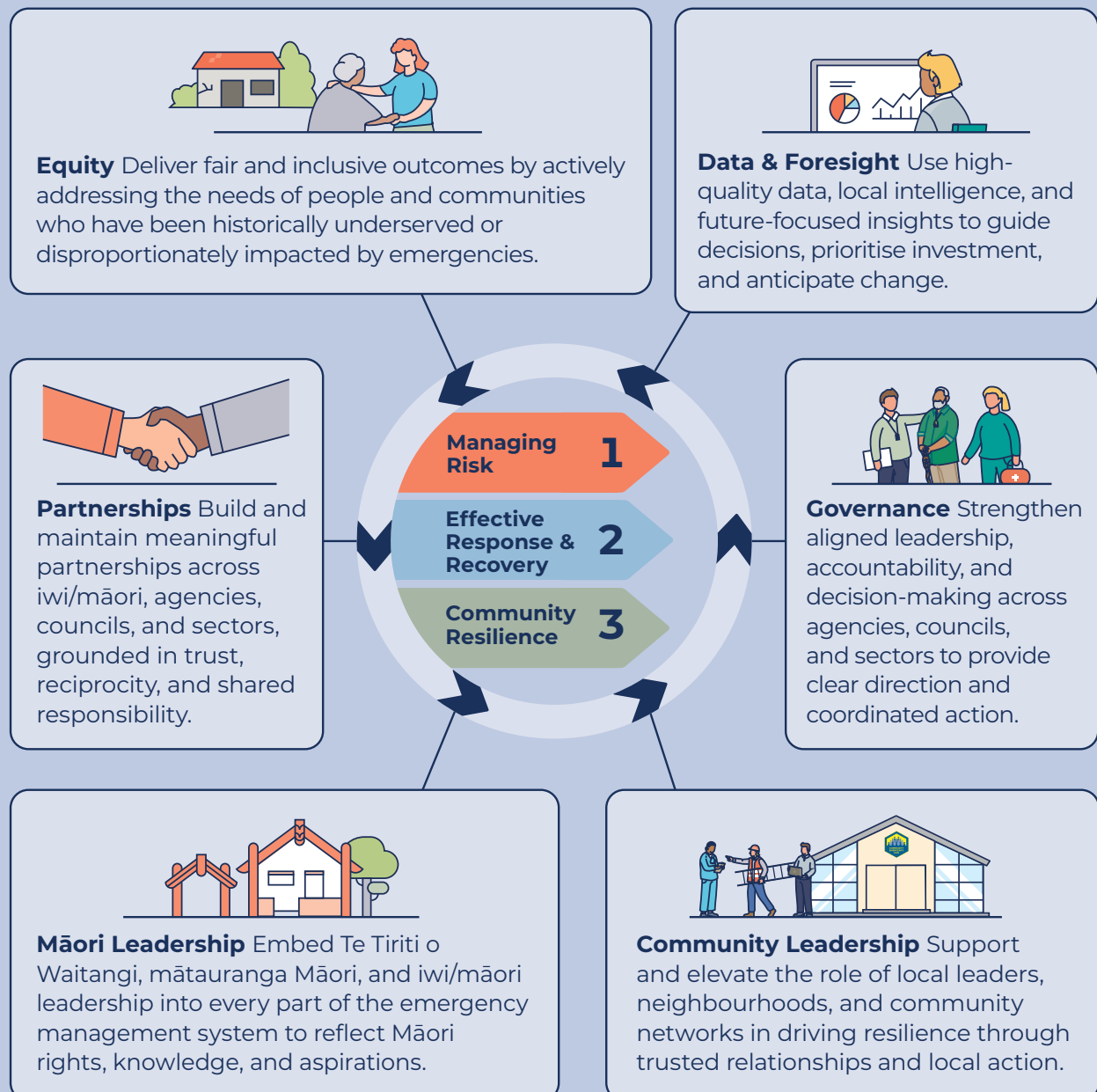
How We Align Nationally

Our strategy directly supports the National Disaster Resilience Strategy, by using the same three goals:

- 1 Managing Risks
- 2 Ensuring Effective Response and Recovery
- 3 Strengthening Community Resilience

Strategic Framework 2025–2035

Each of the three goals identify a key focus area to drive long-term change. The shared foundations below highlight the universal enablers that connect all three goals:



How We Work

Our Shared Principles

Our values guide how we lead, collaborate, and respond – not only in times of calm, but especially when emergencies test our systems, relationships, and resolve.

These principles underpin our collective efforts to build resilient communities that are connected, capable and ready.

➤ **Pono me te Tika (Integrity)**
We operate transparently, stay true to our purpose, and hold ourselves accountable in every stage of emergency management.

➤ **Mahitahi (Working Together)**
We plan, act, and recover together – sharing responsibility and recognising that no single agency or group can do it alone.

➤ **Kaitiakitanga (Stewardship)**
We act as guardians of our region – protecting lives, taonga, and the environment now and for future generations.

➤ **Whanaungatanga (Relationships)**
We build strong, trust-based relationships that enable fast, effective collaboration when it matters most.



Governance of the Strategy

The governance of this strategy sits with the Wellington Region CDEM Group Joint Committee which includes the Mayors of the region's eight city and district councils, the Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council, and the Chairs of Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira and Te Āti Awa, providing overall leadership, oversight, and accountability for emergency management across the region.

The Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) is made up of senior leaders from the member councils, partner agencies, and iwi/māori, is responsible for steering and implementing the strategy. Together, the Joint Committee and CEG will ensure the strategy remains aligned to regional needs, is well-governed, and delivers on the stated outcomes for the people of the Wellington Region.

- **Manaakitanga (Care and Hospitality)**
We place people at the centre of our actions, upholding their dignity and wellbeing throughout crisis and recovery.
- **Kotahitanga (Unity)**
We coordinate as one system – across agencies, communities, and partners – to provide seamless support before, during, and after emergencies.
- **Māramatanga (Insight)**
We make informed, thoughtful decisions under pressure – guided by understanding, reflection, and the lessons of past events.



What is Our Focus?

We are committed to building a proactive, inclusive, and integrated emergency management system – one where communities actively partner with government structures. This is not the responsibility of one council, agency, or group alone. It requires coordinated effort across all of society to create the conditions for deep, sustained collaboration.

Over the next 10 years, we will transform our partnerships, systems, and collective readiness to deliver an effective response and recovery to a Cyclone Gabrielle-scale event. This strategy outlines the high-level objectives needed to drive this transformation. These objectives will be further detailed across the two Wellington Region CDEM Group Plans¹ and used to guide future investment decisions.

A number of system-wide themes have emerged following a thematic review informed by:

- The environmental scan,
- Insights from previous event reviews,
- Feedback gathered through regional workshops, and
- Alignment with strategic plans and legislation.

These themes reflect why progress has been slow in some areas and why certain challenges continue to reoccur. They represent the key areas where change is most needed – and where governance will provide focused stewardship over the coming decade.

¹ The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 mandates that all CDEM Groups develop and approve a CDEM Group Plan. Each of these Group Plans span a five-year period.



Clearer Roles & Responsibilities

Seeing clarity of roles, responsibilities, and expectations to reduce overlaps and confusion.



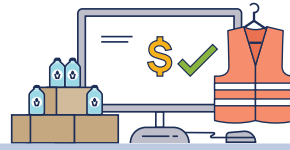
Increased Innovation & Flexibility

More innovation, creative problem-solving, and flexibility in processes, moving away from rigid structures.



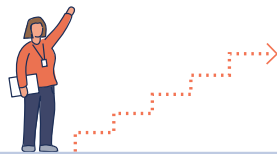
Improved Culture & Morale

Need for a positive, respectful, and supportive culture that boosts morale and retains talent.



Enhanced Support & Resources

Desire more tools, resources, and infrastructure that enable both CDEM staff and the community to do their jobs effectively without bottlenecks.



Focus on Professional Growth & Development

Strong emphasis on opportunities for learning, upskilling, and clear career progression paths.



Better Communication & Collaboration

Clearer communication, more open dialogue, and improved teamwork across organisation, levels, and functions.



Better Decision-Making Processes

Decisions need to be more transparent, timely, and inclusive decision-making mechanisms.



Stronger Leadership & Accountability

Requirement for both governance and response and recovery leaders to step up – showing more decisive leadership, being accountable, and acting as role models.



Greater Stakeholder & Community Impact

Ensure actions make a meaningful difference not just within and across organisations, but most importantly to our communities.



Increased Efficiency & Reduced Bureaucracy

Streamlining processes, cutting red tape, and reducing unnecessary complexity are recurring themes.

Our Future

The table below outlines the nine key system themes identified to drive long-term improvement across the emergency management system. These themes reflect areas where governance must provide deliberate and sustained stewardship to ensure meaningful and measurable change over the next decade.

GOAL 1

Managing Risk

Today

What might it look like today if we were faced with a Cyclone Gabrielle type event?

The change

What does the change look like?

The future

What might it look like in the future if we were faced with a Cyclone Gabrielle type event?

Clearer Roles & Responsibilities

Confusion over who was responsible for what led to duplicated efforts in some areas and gaps in others. Many agencies operated in silos or waited for direction.

Everyone in the system understands their role in risk management, planning, and governance – from households right through to governance.

Instead of duplicated or missed responsibilities, agencies and the community can act swiftly with role clarity – reducing delays and confusion.

Better Decision-Making Processes

Key decisions were delayed due to unclear processes and misalignment between agencies. Information bottlenecks slowed timely responses.

Risk-related decisions are timely, transparent, and guided by shared data across agencies.

Strategic decisions (like evacuations or resourcing) happen faster, backed by clear triggers and protocols – not hesitation or misalignment.

Increased Innovation & Flexibility

Many responses followed rigid procedures not suited to the fast-changing nature of the emergency. Ideas generated from the community or on-the-ground struggled to be heard or actioned.

Risk is managed dynamically. New tools, adaptive planning, and feedback loops are normal practice.

Response and recovery evolves as the situation does. Communities see creative, tailored solutions in real-time – not delayed, rigid top-down actions that do not meet their needs.

➤ **GOAL 2**

Effective Response and Recovery

Today

What might it look like today if we were faced with a Cyclone Gabrielle type event?

The change

What does the change look like?

The future

What might it look like in the future if we were faced with a Cyclone Gabrielle type event?

Enhanced Support & Resources

Many staff were stretched thin, with critical shortages of resources. Sustained operations became difficult to maintain.

Staff and systems have the resources and capacity to scale up – not burn out.

Essential response and recovery operations don't stall due to staffing or supply shortages. Systems are designed to sustain long, complex responses.

Increased Efficiency & Reduced Bureaucracy

Response actions faced delays due to unclear processes, approval bottlenecks, and fragmented communication systems.

Barriers to action are removed – approvals, communication lines, and funding flows are streamlined.

Immediate response isn't held back by red tape. People can act on needs quickly – with trust and agility.

Improved Culture & Morale

Staff were under intense pressure, with morale impacted by poor support and high emotional demand.

There's a culture of respect, trust, and care across the system. Staff and communities feel valued.

Morale stays high under pressure. People step up – because they know their contribution is meaningful.

Focus on Professional Growth & Development

Many staff lacked training or confidence in their emergency roles. Reliance on a few experienced individuals created fragility.

Everyone – from community volunteers to CDEM staff – has access to skills development and ongoing learning.

People act confidently and competently in their roles. Communities don't need to be micromanaged – they're ready.

➤ GOAL 3

Community Resilience**Today**

What might it look like today if we were faced with a Cyclone Gabrielle type event?

The change

What does the change look like?

The future

What might it look like in the future if we were faced with a Cyclone Gabrielle type event?

Stronger Leadership & Accountability

Leadership was fragmented in parts of the system. Confusion over who was in charge undermined trust and delayed action.

Leadership is proactive, visible, and coordinated across the system – with clear accountability for outcomes.

Communities feel confident in who's in charge. Leaders are on the ground early, guiding and empowering, not reacting late.

Better Communication & Collaboration

Many communities reported receiving limited or delayed information. Messaging was inconsistent or unclear.

Information flows freely across the system – community, council, iwi, agencies – in both directions.

Communities are informed, coordinated, and already in motion when an emergency occurs – not waiting passively.

Greater Stakeholder & Community Impact

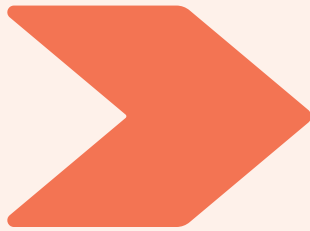
Many community leaders were unable to contribute to formal decision-making. Response and Recovery felt imposed rather than collaborative.

Community voices are included when decisions are made – collaboration is the norm.

Response and Recovery is locally driven. Community leaders are visible and empowered – people feel ownership and can contribute to their response and recovery.







GOAL 1

Managing Risk

What is this and why are we addressing it?

Managing risk is about understanding and acting on our exposure to hazards before a disaster occurs.

Our region faces a wide range of both natural and man-made hazard threats, a changing climate, and aging infrastructure. Current risk reduction work is fragmented and under-coordinated, and existing levels of preparedness do not reflect the scale of our exposure. We must lift our regional risk maturity and build a forward-looking, active, and collaborative culture of risk management.

Key areas of concern



Lack of visibility and coordination of risk reduction activities

Risk reduction work across the region is fragmented, with limited visibility across agencies or alignment of efforts.



Fragmented and inaccessible risk data

Risk-related data is held in silos and is not consistently shared, limiting evidence-based decision making.



Inconsistent hazard modelling and planning frameworks

The region lacks consistent modelling tools and frameworks, making it harder to plan effectively.









Inadequate integration of Mātauranga Māori, priorities and practices

Te Ao Māori perspectives and practices are not consistently embedded in planning and decision-making.



The following identifies the strategic objectives and the intended outcomes:

 Strategic Objective	 Outcome Statement
Integrate emergency management-related risk data into strategies and operational planning.	 CDEM Group members make informed decisions based on evidence-based risk frameworks using locally relevant hazard and risk information.
Deliver consistent and accessible regional risk communication through local channels, platforms, and partnerships.	 People receive timely, clear, targeted and trusted information that enables action before, during, and after emergencies.
Strengthen regionally consistent risk information to guide investment in resilience.	 CDEM Group members have a shared understanding of risk that enables more coordinated and targeted resilience spending, particularly in infrastructure and achieves the best returns on investment.
Embed Te Ao Māori values and mātauranga Māori in local hazard, risk, and resilience planning across the region.	 Regional risk planning is informed by Te Tiriti and incorporates Te Ao Māori knowledge and practices.
Strengthen cross-boundary CDEM governance to align priorities and share risk planning resources.	 Wellington Region risk planning is cohesive, efficient, and mutually reinforcing across council boundaries.



GOAL 2

Effective Response and Recovery

What is this and why are we addressing it?

An effective response and recovery ensures that when disasters occur, our systems work together smoothly, and communities are active partners. Gaps in emergency planning, communication, leadership capacity, and operational capability continue to threaten our ability to manage medium-to-large-scale emergency events. Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted the urgent need for interoperability, collaborative planning, and a scalable response and recovery system.

Key areas of concern



Low levels of confidence in who leads and how

Uncertainty and inconsistency in leadership roles during emergencies can delay or weaken response.



Overreliance on central government without clear protocols

Local systems assume support from central agencies, but lack the structures and agreements needed to coordinate effectively.



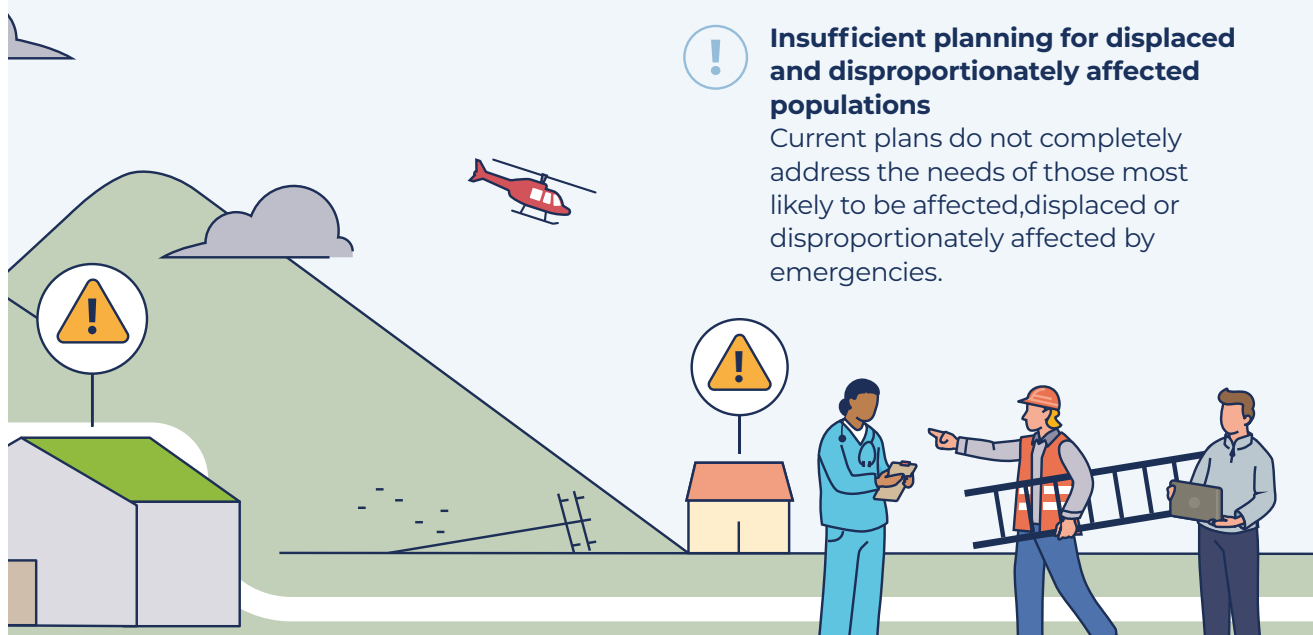
Critical workforce gaps

The region does not currently have the required people capability and capacity needed to respond to large or complex emergencies.



Insufficient planning for displaced and disproportionately affected populations

Current plans do not completely address the needs of those most likely to be affected, displaced or disproportionately affected by emergencies.



The following identifies the strategic objectives and the intended outcomes:

Strategic Objective

Outcome Statement

Strengthen community-led emergency response and recovery across the region.



Wellington Region communities are active partners in response and recovery, not passive recipients of help.

Build a regionally capable, interoperable, and scalable emergency management workforce.



The Wellington Region has the operational depth, flexibility and professional capability to effectively respond to and recover from a **Most Likely Plus** emergency event.

Embed mana whenua partnerships and Te Ao Māori principles into local and regional response and recovery systems.



The regional Emergency Management system reflects a true partnership with iwi/Māori, which is represented by practices that are informed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, co-production, and equitable outcomes.

Embed comprehensive and people-focused pre-disaster recovery planning.

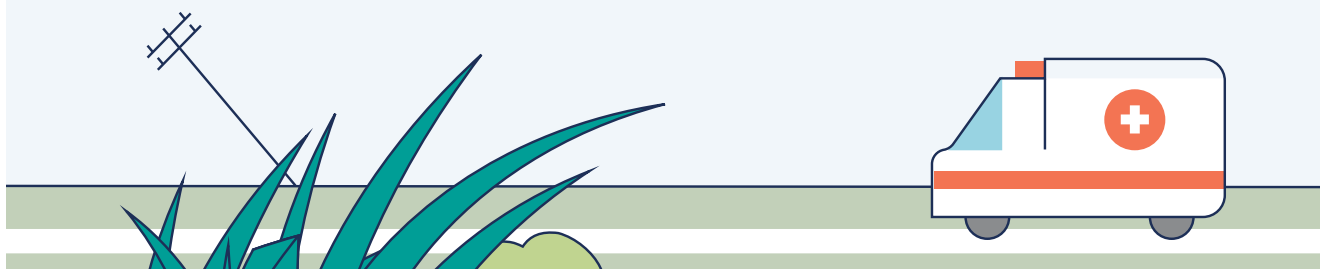


People's wellbeing is restored effectively and efficiently after a disruption with their mana preserved throughout the process.

Use locally driven evidence and after-action processes to learn and continuously improve the region's emergency systems.



The Wellington CDEM Group is a learning region where emergencies lead to improvement, not repetition of the same mistakes.





GOAL 3

Community Resilience

What is this and why are we addressing it?

Resilient communities are those that are informed, connected, and capable of taking action.

Across the region, community resilience varies by geography, demographics, and socio-economic factors. Despite successful initiatives, community preparedness remains below necessary levels to effectively address the risks we face. The ability to prepare, respond and recover starts with community networks and local leadership.

Key areas of concern



Persistent inequities in resilience across communities

Some communities are consistently less prepared and more vulnerable due to a number of factors.



Insufficient levels of household preparedness

Households are not as prepared for emergencies as they need to be relative to the risk our region faces.



Limited community understanding of actions to take in an emergency

There are uncertainties about what to do before, during, and after some emergency events, particularly the need to immediately evacuate from tsunami risk areas.



Underinvestment and uncoordinated efforts in social cohesion

Efforts to build strong, connected communities are not sustained or strategically aligned across the region.



The following identifies the strategic objectives and the intended outcomes:

Strategic Objective	Outcome Statement
Support and enable social cohesion among people and communities.	There are high levels of measurable social capital in every suburb across the region.
Iwi and Māori communities lead culturally grounded resilience initiatives in collaboration with Emergency Management.	Māori communities across the Wellington Region lead resilience planning in ways that reflect their rangatiratanga, mātauranga, and tikanga.
Facilitate capacity building initiatives that enables individuals, whānau, businesses, NGOs and community groups to be ready to respond and recover.	People in the Wellington Region understand their risks, take preparedness actions, are capable to respond when needed and have agency to shape their recovery.
Increase household readiness through evidence-based public education and support access to relevant resources that enable preparedness.	Wellington households can survive the first seven days of an emergency because they have plans in place and can connect to neighbourhood resources for additional support.
Improve the resilience of disproportionately affected communities to respond and recover.	Disproportionately affected communities have targeted support in readiness and are not adversely impacted during or after an emergency event.



Connecting to the CDEM Group Plan

This strategy sets the long-term direction for disaster resilience in the Wellington Region – but it is only the starting point. The detailed actions and programmes that will bring this vision to life will be outlined in the Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan, which is reviewed and updated every five years. The first Group Plan supported by this strategy will be completed in 2026.

2025

Group Plan 2026

Group Plan 2031



The Group Plan will translate these strategic goals into practical, measurable programmes of work, ensuring we make steady progress and remain accountable to our communities.

Together, the Strategy and each of the Group Plans will ensure that over each five-year cycle, we are collectively building the systems, relationships, and capabilities needed to enable our region to be connected, capable and ready for what lies ahead.

2035





wremo.nz

13 August 2025**Report no: CCPC2025/4/242**

Reviewing investment in Recreation, Sport and Play

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to respond to the KPI set by Council to review its approach to investment in Sport and Recreation and provide options for the Long Term Plan 2027-37.
2. The report provides background on Council's current approach, notes the outcomes and outputs of three previous briefings to Council on this work and provides a proposed approach to future investment, to be tested and further developed at a series of community hui in late 2025.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes that officers were asked to review Council's approach to investment in Sport and Recreation and provide options to consider for the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2027-37;
- (2) notes that data and information to inform this have been shared in three briefings previously and that elected members have taken part in a workshop to shape draft principles;
- (3) notes the further data and information provided in this report;
- (4) notes the financial challenges now facing Council and community around rates affordability and the current work to review services, which may also need to be considered;
- (5) notes and endorses for community engagement the proposed principles attached as Appendix 4 to the report;
- (6) notes and endorses for community engagement the proposed approach to setting fees for grass sports fields in paragraphs 42-48 of the report;

- (7) agrees for officers to proceed to a series of community hui in October to December 2025 to understand community priorities for investment in recreation, sport and play, and to test the proposed approach and potential trade-offs;
- (8) notes a wide range of stakeholders will be invited to the hui, including sporting codes;
- (9) notes a report on this engagement will come to the appropriate committee of the new Council in March/April 2026, along with further advice on options for the LTP 2027-37; and
- (10) notes that the next report will include detailed information on the financial impact of any change and how that can be phased to strike a balance between rate payers and asset users.

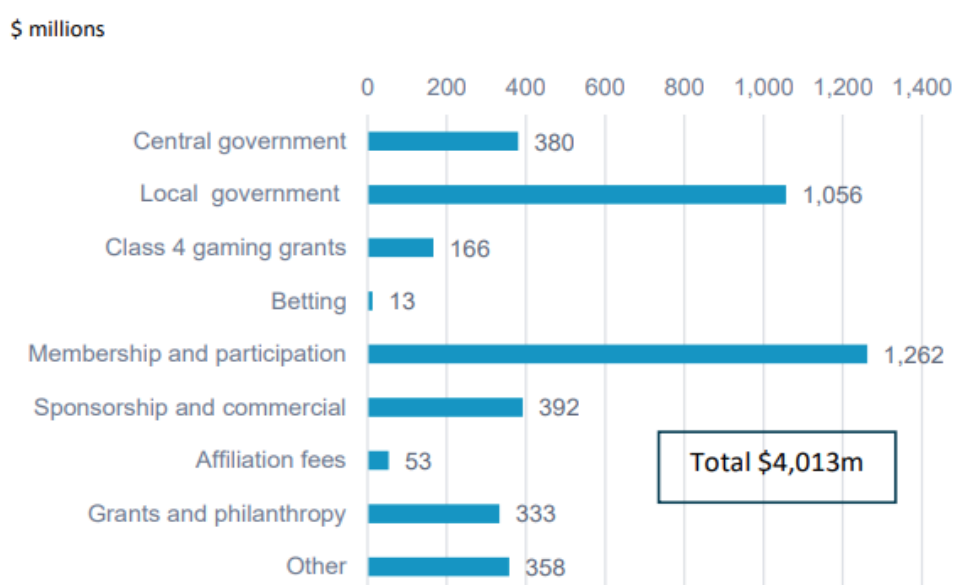
For the reason that Council's investment approach has not been reviewed since 1993 and going forward Council needs to ensure every investment is achieving the desired outcome and providing good value for money as well as appropriate cost recovery.

Background

- 3. Officers have been asked to review Council's approach to investment in sport and recreation and propose a new approach for the 2027-37 Long Term Plan (LTP) which ensures good value for money for ratepayers and provides trade-offs and choices.
- 4. Council last reviewed its approach in 1993. Since then, there have been significant changes to the sport and recreation sector, including a decline in participation in organised sport and a decrease in several funding sources.
- 5. When this work started in 2023, the focus was on ensuring existing investment in sport and recreation was returning the best value for money. It was anticipated that the level of investment would remain at current levels, given it is a core service and the significant evidence around community benefit. It was also anticipated that any increases to fees could be phased in over time to enable a transition.
- 6. However, Council and community now face a significant rates affordability challenge, and the new Council will need to consider priorities and trade-offs to help reduce the impact of future rate increases. Council will need to consider changes to its operating model, including reviewing core services, cost recovery and service levels to determine what is affordable and where savings can be achieved.
- 7. The approach proposed in this report is scalable to respond to this as required.

Current legislation

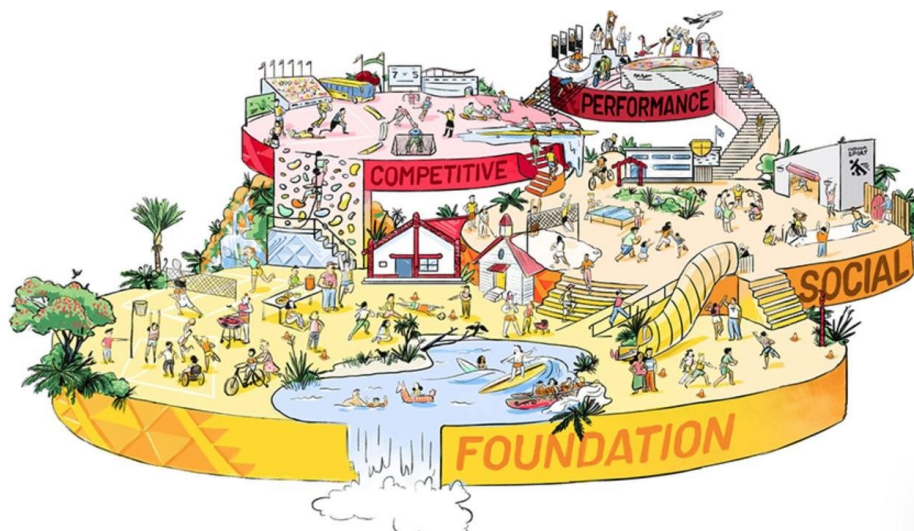
8. The Local Government Act 2002 'identifies reserves, recreation facilities and other community infrastructure as core services and requires local authorities to have particular regard for the contribution they make to the community.' Beyond this, the level and direction of investment is at Council's discretion.
9. The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill, which reports back to Parliament on 18 November 2025, includes a new section 11A to be inserted detailing core services to be considered by local government in performing its role. This includes 'libraries, museums, reserves, and other recreational facilities', so should the bill proceed, sports fields will continue to be considered a core service by central government.
10. Annually central government provides around \$74 million to support high performance sport, which is invested in National Sports Organisations (NSOs) (eg, Rowing NZ, Cycling NZ) and elite athletes. It also provides around \$29 million annually for other sport and physical recreation, which is mostly invested in NSOs, Regional Sports Trusts and programmes targeting specific communities.
11. The table from an NZIER Report for Sport NZ shows the funding sources of the sector, with the largest source of revenue being from membership and participation, followed by local government. This underlines local government's significant contribution to the sector, and the sector's reliance on local government funding. (Note in the report, no value is attributed to volunteering, which provides significant resources to the sector).

Table 1 – NZIER table

Source: NZIER

Categories of participation

12. The Sport Pathways Framework (Sport NZ) diagram below shows the four core categories of participation – Foundation, Social, Competitive and Performance. These descriptors will be used throughout this report. The majority of participation in Lower Hutt is in the Foundation, Social and Competitive categories.



Synergies with the Assets Review

13. There are synergies between the work to review investment in sport and recreation and Council's Asset Review, undertaken as part of the 2024/34 LTP.
14. The Assets Review was carried out in response to a significant budget shortfall for the operations and maintenance of Council's built and green assets and resulted in a new approach focused on optimising existing assets, realigning cost recovery to current Council policy settings, and considering divestment or demolition when assets reach end of life and are no longer required for their initial purpose.
15. The Assets Review resulted in increases to both fees for bookable spaces and land leases, impacting groups with facilities on public land, including some sports organisations.
16. Like the Assets Review, the sport and recreation investment work intend to optimise existing assets (sports fields), realigning cost recovery to current Council policy settings and ensure a good return on the investment of rates funding. Also, like the Assets Review, the approach would be implemented over time to ensure those impacted have time to adapt and transition.

The value of investing in recreation, sport and play

17. Evidence shows that investment of rates funding in recreation, sport and play can provide a good return in terms of community wellbeing. Sport New Zealand's Value of Sport Study (<https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/the-value-of-sport/>) cites the following evidence on the benefits of physical activity:
 - a) Reduced incidence of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, some forms a cancer, depression and dementia;
 - b) Eliminating inactivity could avoid 12.7% of deaths and take \$200M off the national health bill;
 - c) Participation in sport at secondary school is linked to higher academic performance and attendance rates, and less lateness and standdows;
 - d) Builds social/life skills including leadership, teamwork and resilience; and
 - e) Builds social cohesion, sense of identity and belonging.
18. A Sport NZ Report on Social Return on Investment in sport and recreation found that 'for every \$1 spent, there was a social return of \$2.12 to New Zealand meaning that the value of the wellbeing outcomes is greater than the costs of providing these opportunities, thus making recreational physical activity a potentially cost-effective investment'.
19. That report included foundation, social, competitive and performance sport and the \$2.21 figures represents an average, so within that there are investments that will return a much higher ratio, particularly activities that are low-cost and target communities with barriers to participation. This is important in terms of determining the value for money of Council's investment.
20. A similar study in Western Australia found investment in 'organised club sport' returned \$7.10 (A) for every \$1(A) invested. A study in England found that for investment in physical activity and community sport the return was £3.28 for every £1.

Rates of physical activity and participation in sport and recreation

21. Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of data on physical activity and participation in sport and recreation.
22. It shows that nationally, physical activity levels for adults and rangatahi continue to decline, while rates for tamariki look to be holding steady.
23. In terms of sport and recreation, adult participation and club membership both declined significantly between 2000 and 2016 but have since plateaued. However, for rangatahi club membership has declined by 15% over the last seven years.
24. Local data and projections suggest Lower Hutt mirrors the national profile.

Discussion

Challenges facing the sport sector

25. Several recent reports and reviews have detailed the challenges facing the sport sector. Further information on this and links to the reports are attached as Appendix 2. In summary, the challenges include the following:
- a) Approximately \$4 billion of revenue flows into the system each year but inflation means that revenue has declined significantly in real terms in recent years (14%). Organised sport has been particularly hard hit, down around 20%. With local government under continuing financial pressure, this is unlikely to improve in the short-term, while climate change will exacerbate financial challenges.
 - b) Research shows changes to the way people want to be active with preferences for more flexible options. Many households, particularly those in middle-income brackets, are switching to free or lower-cost activities.
 - c) There are inequities in participation for disabled people, women and girls, and those from lower socio-economic groups and evidence suggests that cost-of-living pressures are changing the participation behaviours of those on low incomes. There is a risk that existing inequities will be exacerbated, and more whanau will have limited choices in how they are active.
 - d) A report from NZEIR in 2024 (Funding of Our Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector) concluded that ‘since 2018 the sector has become more reliant on central and local government funding and Class 4 gaming grants. Those funding sources have grown over that time (despite sinking lid policies), while the funding generated by organisations through membership, participation, sponsorship and commercial activities have all decreased’.
 - e) A recently released report Stronger Communities Through Sport from the NZ Amateur Sports Association, who carry out an annual national survey of clubs, found that 72% of clubs are concerned about long-term financial sustainability, with many relying on just one or two core funders.
 - f) The 2024 Wellington City Council led Review of Sports Fees and Facilities in the region looked at different Councils’ levels of cost recovery. (Attached as Appendix 3) There are more than 300 different fees and charges in the region which makes it complex for users, particularly for sports organisations who manage fixtures across the region and must deal with multiple Councils. The Review found that no Council in the region is currently achieving the cost recovery set out in its own policies, including Hutt City Council (Revenue and Finance Policy set cost recovery at up to 20%. Current levels of recovery are estimated at 11%).

Hutt City Council's current approach to investment in sports fields

26. At the June 2023 briefing officers reported that in the 2023/34 LTP Council was set to invest around \$68M (OPEX and CAPEX) in recreation, sport and play, mostly through the provision of fields, hard surfaces and facilities. Annually Council spends \$3M on the maintenance (including preparation) of sports fields.
27. Historically, Council's investment has focused on the organised sport system and meeting the demands of a variety of traditional summer and winter codes. Parks and Reserves officers work with Regional Sports Organisations (RSOs) to allocate fields and hard surfaces for organised sport and with local clubs on the provision of spaces for training. They are given first priority and other activities or events can then book spaces that have not been allocated. Codes are occasionally asked to change bookings to accommodate significant events and tournaments and are usually co-operative.
28. Council's current approach to setting fees was developed as part of the 1993 Sports Fields Review. The Review said, 'it was clear prior to the review that different sports within the City enjoyed different levels of support from Council' and it sought to provide a more level playing field. It concluded that Council's role in supporting sport and recreation 'should focus primarily on providing basic opportunities for participation' and that 'Council's effort and resources should be focused on ensuring that those who wish to play field sports can'.
29. The Review introduced a matrix outlining different levels of subsidy for different codes and choices of service levels, as outlined in the table below. At the time Council was achieving 13% cost recovery, and the matrix sought to maintain this. Cricket and Croquet received a greater subsidy as the grounds were more expensive to prepare. This matrix is used in the current LTP fees and charges.

Table 2: HCC Sports fields charging matrix

<u>Subsidy rates %</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Level 4/Training</u>
Sports	70	80	90	95	95
Cricket/ Croquet	75	85	90	95	95

30. Historically, Council had provided a range of additional amenities including three grandstands (Hutt Recreation Ground, Petone Recreation Ground and Fraser Park, since demolished) and a number of changing facilities. As well as providing a more consistent approach to fees, another driver of the 1993 Review was the increasing cost of maintaining these assets as they reached end of life and required significant renewals – a problem Council is still grappling with today. The Review proposed that going forward Council should recover the full cost of sporting-created operating costs for ancillary services other than public toilets. However, since that time consecutive Council has continued to fund or co-fund a range of ancillary services.

31. It appears the cost of provision has not been regularly reviewed over time, and fees adjusted to reflect this. Instead, fees have been increased by inflation each year. This means while the matrix is still being used, current fees are likely out of step with the true cost of provision.

Current Situation

32. In considering a future approach, Council will need to strike a balance between what is reasonable to ask ratepayers to fund (outlined in the Revenue and Financing Policy), and the needs of codes that provide the backbone of organised sports participation in our community.
33. While participation in organised sport is declining, it still provides considerable value to our community in relation to health and social outcomes. However, based on current trends, costs for organised sport are likely to continue to rise, and participation will continue to decline. To achieve value for money Council needs to consider other ways to invest in sport and recreation.
34. One of the key challenges identified with the current approach is that Council does not provide guidance or set limits on what codes can charge for people to take part in competitions taking place on sports fields. Council's ability to influence this is limited, given national sports organisations have jurisdiction over local clubs and often play a part in setting fees. This means that while sports fields are provided at a very high subsidy to make them accessible, the cost of joining clubs and teams has become a barrier for many people and is contributing to the decrease in participation in organised sport.
35. As well as Council's ground fees, subscriptions for club sport can include a levy from the national body, a levy from the regional body, a levy for reps/talent development, the cost of equipment and a contribution towards the club's cost for any assets it owns eg: clubrooms and lights.
36. At the same time, many clubs are struggling with decreased revenue, reduced grants and sponsorships and increased costs. For those who own assets (buildings, lights etc) there is also pressure from the cost of renewals and the increased cost of insurance, rates and utilities. Any significant change in fees would likely make it difficult for some local clubs to continue to operate.
37. Another challenge of Council's current approach is that it responds to demands from codes to meet their specific needs, which often prioritise competitive and performance sport. It also provides a higher subsidy for cricket and croquet on the basis that the fields cost more to prepare.
38. Future considerations for a future approach include the changing priorities for land use, the need to accommodate new residents and new activities, the impact of intensification (fewer people with backyards) and climate change, including the impact of increased extreme weather events.

Options

Option 1 – new approach

39. Over the past 18 months, there have been three briefings with elected members, which have considered information and data on the imperative for investment, value for money, the past approach and a potential new approach.
40. At a 2024 workshop, elected members provided the following guidance for the development of proposed principles for future investment in recreation, sport and play:
 - a) Focus on enabling community participation for health and social outcomes;
 - b) Community-led (rather than prioritising sports codes);
 - c) Consistent cost recovery and alignment with policy (over time);
 - d) Incentivise affordable opportunities for some groups (both to make them accessible and encourage lower-cost models of participation);
 - e) Users should report back on performance (without being overly onerous), and allocation of resources would be regularly reviewed based on optimisation; and
 - f) Users would make a commitment to carbon reduction.
41. Attached as Appendix 3 are proposed principles which follow this guidance and include recommendations from some of the reports that have informed this work, including the Nuku Ora Regional Sports Field Report and Regional Indoor Courts Report ([Nuku Ora - Rauemi | Resource Hub](#)). These guidelines were reviewed by elected members in June 2025 and include:
 - a) Council partnering with community sports and other groups who deliver opportunities for physical activity to ensure fields and courts respond to community need, are optimised and support activities which are widely affordable; and
 - b) Council working with the community to adapt, innovate and share use of assets to meet future demand from population growth and new activities.
42. In line with Council's Revenue and Finance Policy, a new charging system for grass sports fields is proposed, which recovers a percentage of activity-created maintenance costs for playing surfaces. It aims to:
 - a) Optimise existing assets to meet growing and changing community need (by shifting from meeting the demands of codes to facilitating the sharing of existing assets);
 - b) Ensure cost recovery that provides fair return on investment and is in line with policy (rates funded v individual benefit); and

- c) Incentivises more affordable opportunities (as they are likely to provide the most value for money).

43. The new charging system for grass sports fields is outlined in the table below. It includes grade 3 grass fields being provided for free for under 10s where the cost of participation is 'affordable'. This aligns with Council's initiative for under 10s to swim free in whanau with a community services card:

Table 2: Proposed charging system

	Current	Proposed	Comment
Juniors under 10	5%	1 - General - 5% 2 - Affordable - Grade 3 grass fields and pitches will be provided free of charge where the activity is not commercial and the cost for participation is considered affordable (eg: not more than \$50 per child for a season – 26 weeks)	This responds to the principle of incentivising affordable opportunities for targeted groups (tamariki).
Juniors over 10 and College Sport	5% - 10%	1 - General - 10% 2 - Affordable - Grade 3 grass fields and pitches will be provided with a negotiated discount where the activity is not commercial and the cost for participation is considered affordable.	No change for College Sport Affordable aims to incentivise development of, or transition to, lower-cost models of participation. Sport NZ, Nuku Ora and Council officers will support this transition.
Senior, other	5-30% 7 grades of field	1 - General – 20% Three grades of field 2 - Affordable - Grade 3 grass fields and pitches will be provided with a negotiated discount where the activity is not commercial and the cost for participation is considered affordable.	This responds to the recommendation of reducing the number and complexity of charges (fewer grades of field and one general charge of 20% rather than 5-30%). Cost recovery will be higher for activities with higher costs and higher levels of service. Affordable aims to incentivise development of, or transition to, lower-cost models of participation.

44. This charging system aims to incentivise the development of, and transition to, more affordable opportunities to participate in the Foundation and Social categories. It aims to retain the current level of cost recovery and, over time, improve it better to reflect the guidance in the Revenue and Finance Policy. Requiring a higher level of cost recovery immediately would have a significant negative impact on codes, who would likely need to pass some or all the cost on to participants, making some sports even less affordable.
45. Changes will need to be phased in in a way that enables transition and adaptation. These conversations will need to involve national and regional sports organisations that have an interest in local fee setting. Sport NZ and Nuku Ora will also provide support to groups needing to transition and adapt.
46. Where these changes create a significant (more than 20%) cost increase for particular codes or groups, the increase will be phased in over three years to enable operating models to be adapted.
47. Even with the proposed phased approach, there is a risk that codes pass the cost onto participants, rather than national and regional bodies considering how they can reduce costs. Rather than being seen as a reason not to make this change, this underlines why the change is necessary.
48. Groups using sports fields will be asked to report back on this investment annually, including participation trends, fees, adaptation and broader outcomes (e.g. carbon reduction, number of volunteers). Reporting will enable better analysis of use and optimisation, and inform future resource allocation.
49. Officers also plan to evaluate Affordable initiatives so that growth and trends in participation can be tracked and compared.

Option 2 – status quo

50. Council can choose to stick with the status quo and stay on the current path of investment. In line with the Revenue and Finance Policy, the cost of provision would be updated, and this would likely see sports fields fees increase for all users. There would be no incentive provided for affordable options.
51. Given this increase and the other financial pressures outlined in this paper, it is likely that some codes and clubs will still struggle and potentially fold, as is currently happening. Council is regularly approached by groups in the organised sport system seeking financial support to continue to operate. With many funding sources in decline, further costs may be passed on to participants, which would make cost a barrier for more of the community. (as outlined in the Sport NZ research)

Next steps

52. A series of community hui is planned for Oct-Dec 2025 to understand community priorities for investment in recreation, sport and play, test the proposed approach and consider what affordable opportunities could look like. A wide range of stakeholders will be invited, including codes.
53. A report on this engagement will come to the appropriate committee of the new Council in February/March 2026, along with further advice on options for the LTP 2027-37. This will include detailed information on the financial impact of any change and how that can be phased.

Aligned initiatives

54. At the outset of this work, elected members were advised of other work happening in parallel, which provides the opportunity to test a shift to investment in community-led sport and recreation. A Working Group has been formed, including Sport NZ, Nuku Ora, mana whenua partners Te Atiawa and Council officers (Rec, Sport and Play and Healthy Families HV), to pilot affordable sport offerings. Two projects were identified:

Wainuiomata Marae – Wise Park partnership

This project involves partnering with Wainuiomata Marae and other stakeholders to develop plans to activate Wise Park for accessible, whanau-based physical activity, as a step towards creating a health ‘hub’.

Satellite competitions

This project involves partnering with traditional codes to develop satellite junior competitions in Wainuiomata, which remove the barrier of travel, reduce carbon and are low-cost.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

55. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council’s Climate Change Considerations Guide. Priority for land use and the impacts of climate change, in particular increasing extreme weather events, are considerations for Council’s future approach.

Consultation

56. A series of community hui are planned for Oct-Dec 2025 to inform this work. Consultation on changes to fees would happen during the consultation for the draft LTP 2027-37.

Legal Considerations

57. There are no legal considerations other than those outlined in the report.

Financial Considerations

58. These are outlined in the report. The proposed approach aims to improve cost recovery for sports fields over time, within the policy guidelines.

59. However, given the current rates affordability challenges, this approach can be scaled should overall investment be reduced or if faster increase in cost recovery is sought.

Appendices

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2	Appendix 2 - Further information on challenges facing the sport sector	251
3	Appendix 3 - Regional cost recovery levels for sports fields and courts	253
4	Appendix 4 - Draft Principles to guide investment in sport and recreation	254

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Appendix 1: Summary of current rates of physical activity and participation in sport and recreation

Nationally, physical activity levels for adults and rangatahi continue to decline.

According to the New Zealand Health Survey, in 2022/23, 46.5% of adults met physical activity guidelines (did at least 2.5 hours of activity in the past week). This is a decline from 51.3% in 2021/22. One in 7 adults (14.0%) did little or no physical activity.

For rangatahi (12-17 years) there was a decline from 57% to 46% over the six years prior to 2023, while physical activity levels for tamariki increased over that time from 60% - 62%.

In terms of participation in sport and recreation (at least once a week), Sport NZ's 2023 Active NZ Survey shows:

- i. For tamariki (5-11) participation had largely bounced back since Covid-19 to 92% (including PE).
- ii. For rangatahi (12-17), participation was trending down from 56% in 2017 to 46%, and the proportion of inactive rangatahi was at an all-time high of 13 percent, compared to 7 percent in 2017.
- iii. For adults, a mixed picture with around 80% participating at least once a week, still below pre-COVID levels.
- iv. Overall, an obvious drop in participation in organised sport due to the impact of Covid-19.

Local data and projections suggest Lower Hutt mirrors the national profile. For the Wellington region, of those who are regularly active, two thirds of adults took part in only non-competitive sport and rec; a quarter in a combination of both non-competitive and competitive sport or rec and 3% participated in exclusively competitive sport.

Nationally club membership declined by 7.7% between 1998 and 2014, and has plateaued since for adults, however for rangatahi, club membership has declined by 15% over the last seven years. Gym membership for adults and rangatahi is trending up.

The research also shows that people in high deprivation areas have lower levels of participation in all leisure time activities, with cost, a lack of leisure time and transport being key barriers.

Sport NZ points to the COVID-19 pandemic as a significant disruptor to participation and says the effect continues. It says 'following a period of similar activity levels for tamariki and rangatahi pre-COVID-19, a divergence has occurred whereby tamariki are faring well and rangatahi are deteriorating. This is reflected in several long-term attitudinal trends among rangatahi, including a weakening relationship with sport and weakening engagement with high performance sport and the benefits of being active'.

<https://sportnz.org.nz/research-and-insights/surveys-and-data/active-nz/>

Further information on challenges facing the sport sector

1. A 2024 Sport NZ report into how the sector is changing ([trends-shaping-the-sector-report-2024.pdf](#)) found that the organised sport sector, and groups within it, are facing significant challenges. A summary is attached as Appendix 2. The challenges include the following:
 - i. Approximately \$4 billion of revenue flows into the system each year but inflation means that revenue has declined significantly in real terms in recent years (with almost \$600 million less funding in real terms available in 2022 compared to 2018). The organised sport sector has been particularly hard hit with a decline of approximately 20% compared to the overall decline of 14%. Self-generated income⁷ in the sporting sector (revenue from membership and participation, and sponsorship and commercial sources) has declined particularly rapidly.
 - ii. With major funding sources, in particular local government, under continuing financial pressure, this situation is unlikely to improve in the short-term. Issues such as climate change are likely to exacerbate existing financial challenges in the coming years with the costs of adapting facilities and delivering events likely to rise.
 - iii. Research over the last few years has shown changes in the way that people say they want to be active with preferences for more flexible options. This trend appears to have been accelerated by Covid and, more recently, by increases in the cost of living with many households, particularly those in middle-income brackets, saying they are changing how they participate in physical activity by switching to free or lower-cost activities.
 - iv. There are inequities in participation rates for particular demographic groups (for example, disabled people, women and girls, and those from lower socio-economic groups) and the evidence suggests that cost-of-living pressures from recent years are changing the participation behaviours of those on low incomes. There is a risk that the decline in overall revenue for the system, coupled with increases in the cost-of-living, could heighten existing participation inequities. This could mean a greater proportion of the population having increasingly limited choices in how they and their whānau are active due to reduced discretionary income and/or increasing participation and/or overall funding pressures leading to a reduction in the funding that is available for new, innovative approaches to activities to address existing inequities.
2. A report from NZEIR in 2024 ([Funding of Our Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector](#)) concluded that 'since 2018 the sector has become more reliant on central and local government funding and Class 4 gaming grants. Those funding sources have grown over that time (in spite of sinking lid policies), while the funding generated by organisations through membership, participation, sponsorship and commercial activities have all decreased⁸’.
3. There are also concerns in the sports sector that the government’s current draft Online Casino Gambling Bill, which is seeking to regulate online casino gambling operated by offshore businesses, will exacerbate funding issues as it doesn’t require operators to return a share of their profits to the community.

4. A recently released report [Stronger Communities Through Sport](#) from the NZ Amateur Sports Association, who carry out an annual national survey of clubs, found that:
 - 72% of clubs are concerned about long-term financial sustainability, with many relying on just one or two core funders.
 - Volunteer numbers have dropped by 28% since 2018 – placing increasing pressure on club and coaches.
 - Climate resilience is emerging as a key theme, with nearly one in five clubs reporting disruption from extreme weather events in the past two years.

Councils seek to recover different levels of cost for different facilities and types of users

The table below shows the cost-recovery levels targeted by councils in the Wellington region. The table compares the level of cost recovery (and rates funding) for fields, recreation centres, and swimming pools. In general, sports fields are funded by a higher proportion of rates than other recreation facilities provided by councils.

Table 2. Cost-recovery levels targeted by councils

Wellington City Council			
	Recreation Centres	Pools	Sports fields
Rates	75%	70%	85%
Fees and Charges	25%	30%	15%
Porirua City Council			
	Recreation Centres	Pools	Sports fields
Rates	75 – 85%	60 – 70%	90 – 95%
Fees and Charges	15 – 25%	30 – 40%	5 – 10%
Hutt City Council			
	Recreation Centres	Pools	Sports fields
Rates	40 – 60%	40 – 60%	70 – 95%
Fees and Charges	40 – 60%	40 – 60%	5 – 30%
Upper Hutt City Council			
	Recreation Centres	Pools	Sports fields
Rates		55%	80%
Fees and Charges		44%	20%
Kāpiti Coast District Council			
	Recreation Centres	Pools	Sports fields
Rates		70 – 75%	95 – 100%
Fees and Charges		25 – 30%	0 – 5%

Draft Hutt City Council Principles to guide investment in Recreation, Sport and Play - fields and hard surfaces**Council's role**

1. In relation to recreation, sport and play, Council's role is to provide affordable and accessible spaces for our community to be physically active. This includes fields and hard surfaces, parks, playgrounds and open spaces, shared paths, tracks and trails and pools.
2. In relation to fields and hard surfaces, our focus, efforts and resources will be directed towards ensuring there are basic grass sports fields and hard surfaces to support community participation in formal and informal recreation, sport and play.
3. Council will partner with community sports and other groups who deliver opportunities for physical activity to ensure these spaces respond to community need, are optimised and support activities which are widely affordable.
4. Council will provide a range of outdoor and indoor playing surfaces and facilities and will work with the community to adapt and share use to these to meet future demand from population growth and new activities. This includes:
 - i) Investing in a programme of drainage improvements across our network of sport fields with a focus on enabling community participation (2024-34)
 - ii) Regularly reviewing and adjusting code allocations and code use schedules for all space to ensure new activities can be supported
 - iii) Exploring shared, multi-code usage of what are currently single-code facilities
 - iv) Seeking partnerships with others including schools and community/private groups.
 - v) Prioritising access and affordability for local people over meeting requirements for regional, national or international events and participants.
 - vi) Working with codes and other groups on innovative, future-focused solutions including:
 - a. shifting some weekend activity to mid-week where there is capacity, especially juniors and social leagues
 - b. make seasonal adjustments such as moving traditional winter codes to summer where there is capacity and better weather
 - c. reconfiguring local competition structures (especially juniors) to reflect 15min neighbourhoods to reduce both a barrier of travel and carbon emissions
 - d. using outdoor hard surfaces as an alternative for grass training fields
5. Council will also work alongside Sport NZ and Nuku Ora to help codes and groups adapt models in response to the impacts of climate change including increasing and more extreme wet weather events, higher temperatures and water and land shortages.
6. Council will endeavour to provide and maintain public toilets and/or changing rooms at significant reserves. The cost of all other ancillary services (changing rooms, clubrooms, lights, seats, scoreboards) and any ongoing maintenance should be provided/funded by codes.
7. Future Council investment in new, renewed or redeveloped grounds and facilities will aim to further enable and future-proof community participation – eg: shared, multi-sport and all-

weather facilities. It is expected that some codes will need to change their model or introduce new models to utilise these.

8. Council has a secondary role in enabling a higher level of provision for elite sport predominantly through making land available. Any co-investment by Council would require an evidence-based business case and higher levels of cost recovery.

Charges – seasonal/regular bookings (from 1 July 2027)

9. In line with Council's Revenue and Finance Policy, Council will have a charging system which recovers a percentage of activity-created maintenance costs for playing surfaces. The following fees apply to natural grass fields:

	Current	Proposed	Comment
Juniors under 10	5%	1 - General - 5% 2 - Affordable - Grade 3 grass fields and pitches will be provided free of charge where the activity is not commercial and the cost for participation is considered affordable (eg: not more than \$50 per child for a season – 26 weeks)	This responds to the principle of incentivising affordable opportunities for targeted groups (tamariki).
Juniors over 10 and College Sport	5% - 10%	1 - General - 10% 2 - Affordable - Grade 3 grass fields and pitches will be provided with a negotiated discount where the activity is not commercial and the cost for participation is considered affordable.	No change for College Sport Affordable aims to incentivise development of, or transition to, lower-cost models of participation. Sport NZ, Nuku Ora and Council officers will support this transition.
Senior, other	5-30% 7 grades of field	1 - General – 20% Three grades of field 2 - Affordable - Grade 3 grass fields and pitches will be provided with a	This responds to the recommendation of reducing the number and complexity of charges (fewer grades of field and one general charge of 20% rather than 5-30%). Cost recovery will be higher for

		negotiated discount where the activity is not commercial and the cost for participation is considered affordable.	activities with higher costs and higher levels of service. Affordable aims to incentivise development of, or transition to, lower-cost models of participation.
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10. Where these changes create a significant (*more than 20%*) cost increase for particular codes or groups, the increase will be phased in over three years to enable operating models to be adapted.

11. Codes will be asked to report back on this investment annually including on participation trends, volunteer numbers, adaptation and broader outcomes (eg carbon reduction, number of volunteers). Reporting will inform future resource allocation.

Charges – seasonal/regular bookings (same as current)

12. One off or single day non-commercial bookings will be charged at the rate of 10% (of the season charge) per game or where the activity lasts longer than 3 hours 15% of the season charge per day.
13. Charges for commercial and non-seasonal activities will be by negotiation to allow the merits of each to be taken into account.

13 August 2025

Report no: CCPC2025/4/245

Neighbourhoods and Communities Director's Report

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on work across the Neighbourhoods and Communities team.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the information.

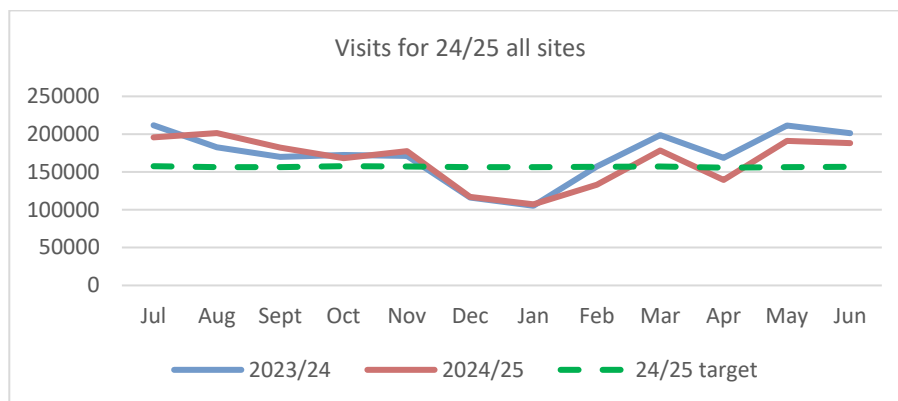
Highlights

2. In the last financial year, our teams have enabled an incredible 6,928 events and activities across the city to support community wellbeing.
3. In the last quarter, which included a number of Matariki events, two very popular sessions with Suzy Cato and HuttFest 2025, which drew over 38,00 young performers and more than 25,000 attendees across four days.
4. There were also positive end of year results for neighbourhood, library loans, museums and our bookable spaces. Visits to hubs for the year are 5.2% above target, with four sites exceeding their target by more than 15%. Library loans increased by 22% and digital resources are now our second most-used 'site'.
5. Our bookable spaces are showing a significant increase in revenue, mostly due to the impact of the Assets Review changes.
6. And following its successful introduction for Neighbourhoods and Communities programming, Solus has now been adopted as the council-wide What's On platform for event listings and programme reporting. This modernises and aligns Council's event promotion and data collection practices.
7. Case Studies that demonstrate the impact of Council led, enabled or supported initiatives on the social and cultural outcomes that Council is seeking to achieve is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Neighbourhood Hubs

Visits

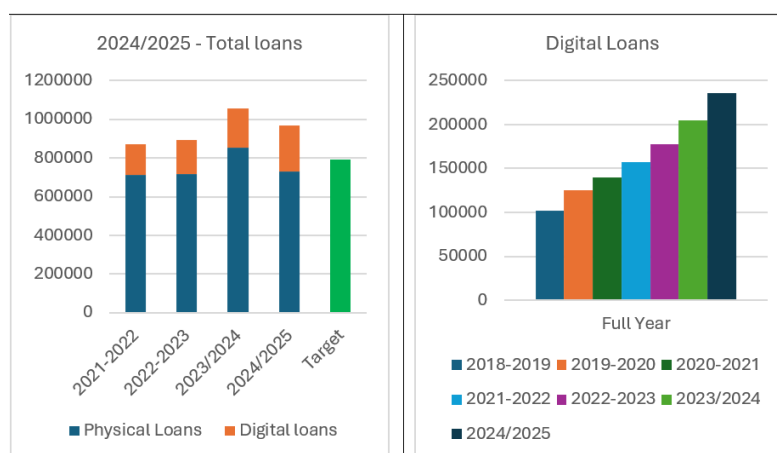
8. Visits to neighbourhood hubs for Q4 were 10% above target and 5.2% above target for the full 24/25 year. Of note, 4 sites exceeded their visit targets by more than 15%: War Memorial by 17%, Eastbourne by 22, Koraunui Stokes Valley by 27% and Moerā by 226% - 40,727 visits against a target of 12,500.



Library Services

Loans

9. Q4 Library loans were 6% above target and 22% above FY 24/25 as a whole.



Digital Resources

10. Digital resources continue to play a vital and growing role, complementing the physical collection. The digital library is now the second most-used 'site' in our network, rising from 9% of total loans in 2018/2019 to 24.4% in 2024/2025.
11. An increased uptake of streaming services probably reflects financial pressures in the community, with residents turning to free, high-quality library platforms as alternatives to paid subscriptions like Netflix. ePukapuka, our core eLending platform, grew by 12% while Kanopy usage rose 29.6%, reflecting strong interest in its film and documentary content.

12. Support for multicultural and multilingual communities also expanded. LOTE (Languages Other Than English) usage grew by 33%, reinforcing our commitment to equitable access across Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai. The IELTS (International English Language Testing System) online platform saw substantial growth: general logins increased by 271%, and academic logins by 296%.
13. Also valued by non-English speakers is PressReader, which provides access to full-text online newspapers from around the world; usage increased across all metrics: sessions (13%), issues read (17%), articles read (26%) and unique users (14%). StoryBox Library, a children's storytelling platform, saw a 25% increase, highlighting its strong uptake by families and educators. LinkedIn Learning, which offers online courses from industry experts, remains a valuable tool for adult lifelong learning and supporting businesses to upskill their staff.

Heritage Services

14. Hutt City Heritage Centre has temporarily relocated to the Walter Nash Centre in Taita while its Petone base is refurbished. The Centre is open to the public weekdays from 10am to 4pm with staff onsite to assist with enquiries and by appointment at weekends.
15. All services and heritage materials provided at Petone are available at the new location, which was widely promoted for Family History Month. This included a research day on Saturday, 23 August 2025, as one of the 23 events across the hub network.



Community Impact Survey

16. In November 2024, Public Libraries NZ conducted its first Community Impact Survey to evaluate the impact of New Zealand public libraries on local communities.
17. Hutt City was one of 9 libraries that achieved the minimum number of responses for statistical significance at the local level, which means we can compare our result with the national data. The comprehensive national report with the social, cultural, environmental, and economic impacts of public libraries has now been published: <https://loveyourlibrary.org.nz/libraries-in-action/reports/community-impact-report-2024> and below is a snapshot of how Hutt City participants responded:

HUTT CITY LIBRARIES | 2024 IMPACT SURVEY

Community Impact Score by Area

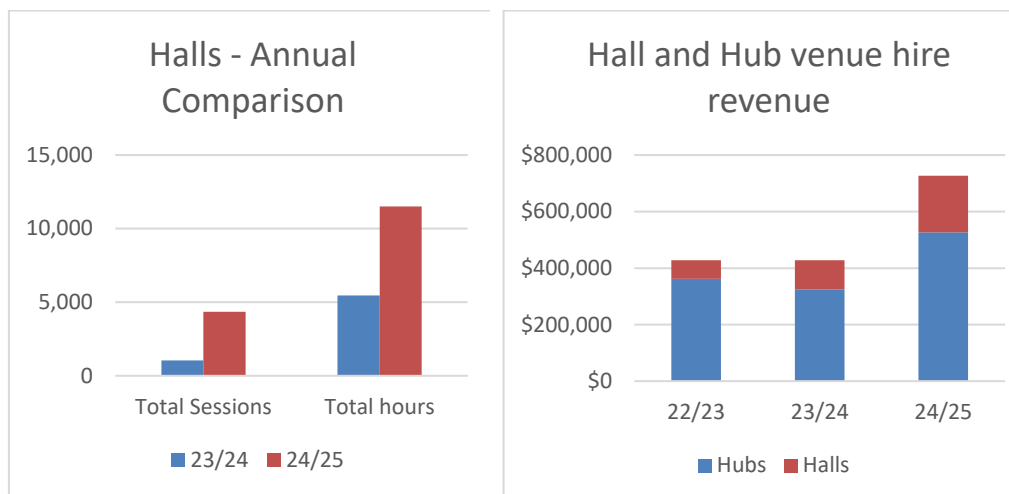


Percentage of survey participants who agreed that the public library has:



Bookable Spaces

18. Community Hall bookings have changed significantly over the 2 years that we have been collecting good data, due mostly to the changes introduced through the Assets Review. In 23/24, the new fees and charges schedule was introduced, and mid-way through 24/25, the new online Bookings tool was introduced.



19. The chart on the right above shows revenue from halls and hub venue hire has increased by 70% from 22/23 to 24/25. This is in part due to the increased charges and in part due to a one-off adjustment (recovered income) when bookings transferred from the old system Intelli to the new online Bookings tool. The current financial year will be accurate and given the sessions and hours booked we expect to achieve the desired 30% increase in revenue.
20. For bookable spaces in our Hubs, the introduction of the new fees and charges schedule has had little effect on the number of sessions or hours booked. 'No charge' hours remain steady at 45% reflecting community led activity delivered in partnership with Council. Previously, the remaining 55% of usage was at community rate. This has now reduced to 30% due to the new 'Individual Benefit' and 'Commercial' rates (accounting for 20% and 4% respectively).

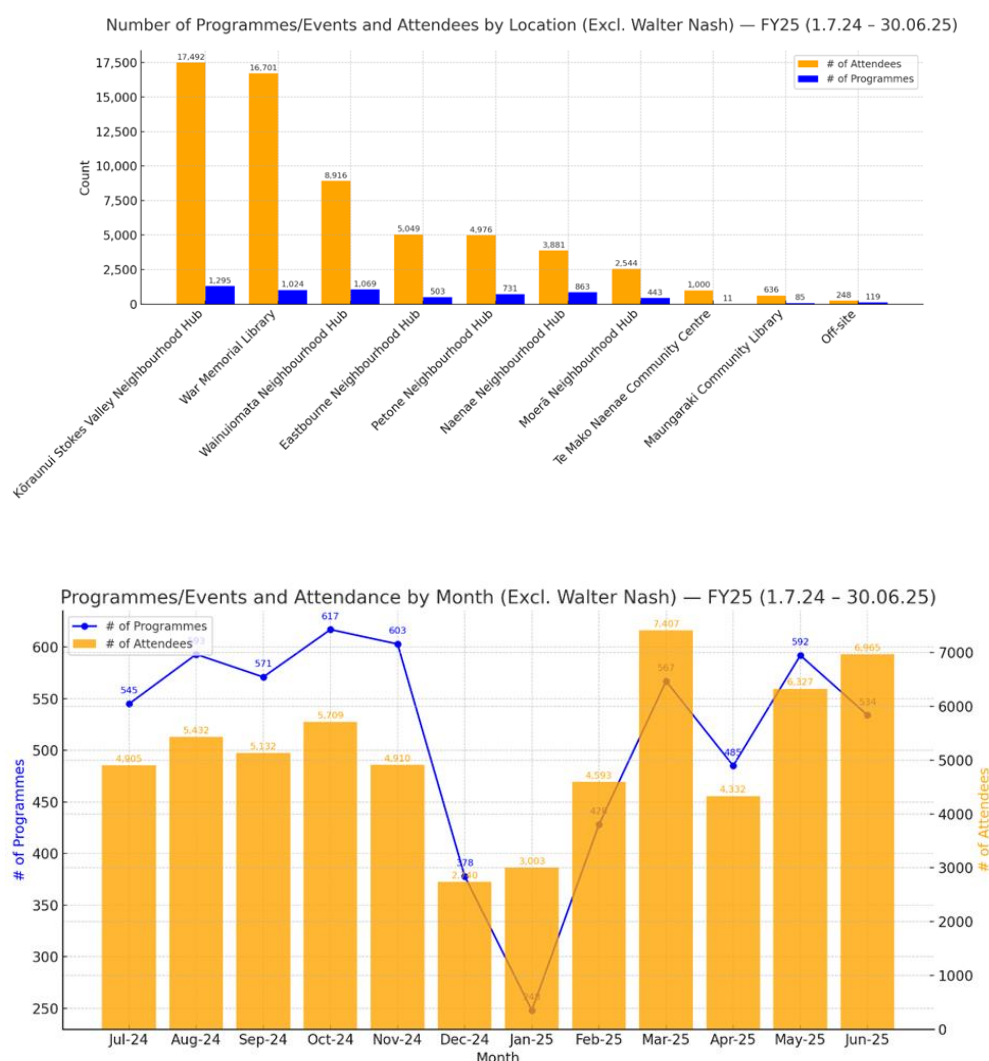
Programming overview

21. Council's new What's On digital platform (Solus) has recorded 6,928 events for the year, with 104,797 attendees. Programme delivery remains geographically spread across the city, with attendance trends demonstrating significant concentration at high-performing sites. Walter Nash Centre, Kōraunui Stokes Valley, and War Memorial Library continue to deliver the strongest results. While monthly programme counts are consistent, October and November 2024 reflect exceptional spikes in attendance linked to large-scale public events.

22. Walter Nash Centre is unique among the other sites as it is a regional stadium and attracts hirers for events which we include in Solus in order to promote them to our community. Major public events including *The Worst. Pop-Culture Fair. Ever., the Wellington Orchid Society Spring Show, Rail Ex*, and the *Rose Show* illustrate the facility's capacity to function as a regional event destination.
23. Kōraunui Stokes Valley Hub maintained high programme volumes and solid attendance, driven by a diversified offering across fitness, tamariki programming, and community engagement events.
24. War Memorial Library continues to demonstrate strong engagement with whānau and young children through consistent delivery of early literacy initiatives such as *Baby Bounce*, complemented by broader community offerings like *Family Play Morning*. The Multi-Cultural playgroup is a regular highlight attracting 30 people most times.

Programme Composition and Trends

25. Early-years movement and literacy remain the most attended programme categories, with Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Storytime, Korikori Kids, and Ready. Steady. Balance. leading participation. Note off-site programming remains under-represented in attendance data.



26. Sites incorporating physical activity and/or large-scale public events exhibit significantly higher attendance-per-programme ratios, indicating higher reach and audience efficiency.

Changes to What's On

27. Following its successful introduction for Neighbourhoods and Communities programming, the Solus platform has now been adopted as the council-wide standard for event listings and programme reporting. This modernises and aligns Council's event promotion and data collection practices. As part of this change, the production of the printed What's On publication has ceased.
28. This transition is aligned with the strategic objectives outlined in the Events Strategy, and supports:
- Improved efficiency, engagement, and audience reach.
 - Greater visibility and reporting consistency across council venues, including The Dowse, Pools, and community facilities.
 - Enhanced data integrity through more accurate attendance capture and streamlined category tagging.
 - Increased collaboration across teams in content development and promotions.
 - This shift represents a significant milestone towards real-time, centralised, and collaborative reporting of community programmes and events across Hutt City Council.

Services and Activities to support community wellbeing

Matariki 2025

29. Neighbourhood Hubs marked Matariki with a vibrant programme of more than 24 events, centred around the core themes of remembrance, celebration, and aspiration for the future.
30. Staff collaborated to deliver a diverse range of activities, including bilingual Baby Bounce and Rhyme and storytimes, arts and crafts workshops, whānau-friendly sports and games, themed book discussions, and interactive sessions exploring whakapapa resources and Te Ao Māori resources.
31. A highlight of the celebrations was the community gathering at Speldhurst Park, where the Koraunui Hub team joined over 2,000 attendees for a day of unity, remembrance, and cultural celebration, featuring free kai and live entertainment that reflected the diversity of the community.
32. War Memorial Library held a special Matariki event which brought together 120 guests for performances by the Hutt City Council Waiata Group and the Hutt Valley High School Kapa Haka group, followed by shared community kai that fostered whakawhanaungatanga (connection).

33. Naenae Neighbourhood Hub launched Kēmu Kōrero, a new weekly programme designed to build community connection through play. This relaxed and inclusive initiative uses kēmu (games) to spark conversation and engagement, creating a fun and welcoming space for all.
34. Our online Libraries spaces -website and social media- were rich in content, with of a series of book recommendations, both fiction and non-fiction, that explored the traditions, stars, and stories of Matariki mā Puanga.



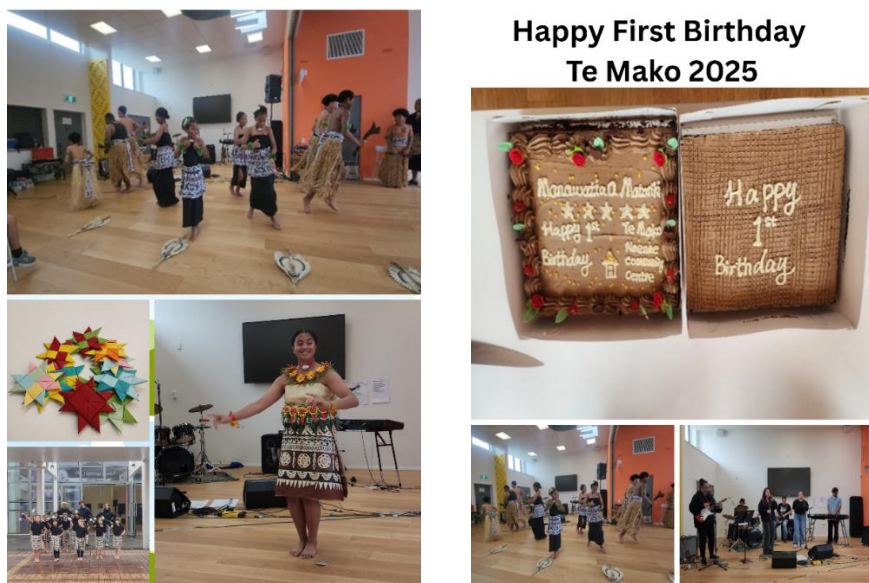
Figure 7. Matariki celebrations at Speldhurst Park, Stokes Valley



Figure 8. Most libraries had special displays of Matariki books.

Matariki and Te Mako's First Birthday celebration 2025:

35. Matariki 2025 at Te Mako was a celebration steeped in community leadership — led and delivered by Team Naenae Trust, the operator of Te Mako under lease and operating grant agreements with Hutt City Council. Since opening in June 2024, Team Naenae has shaped Te Mako into a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming community hub.
36. Matariki marked the first birthday of Te Mako and brought together diverse whānau for crafts, kapa haka, kai, and reflection. Around 700 attendees enjoyed performances, hangi, and community connection.
37. Over the past year, the Trust has delivered regular programs including hosting the impactful Knitting Natters group — one of the first community groups based at Te Mako — donating thousands of knitted items back into the community from this space.



Celebrating Matariki with English Language Partners at War Memorial Library

38. In June, Council partnered with English Language Partners (ELP) to host a special Matariki-themed visit at War Memorial Library for a diverse group of newcomers. This initiative reflects our growing relationship with ELP and ongoing commitment to fostering cultural connection and inclusion.
39. The event included kōrero about the cultural significance of Matariki and over 50 Participants learned about Matariki as a time for reflection, remembrance, and renewal, gaining valuable insight into te Ao Māori.
40. Following the kōrero, Council's Community Arts Facilitators led a whetū (star) making workshop, providing a creative and hands-on way for participants to engage with Matariki traditions. Attendees proudly took home their handmade stars as a memento of the experience.
41. The visit concluded with participation in Council's Waiata Wednesday kapa haka session, where learners joined in singing simple waiata and performing actions. For many, it was their first opportunity to engage directly with Māori culture in a shared community space.



STEMM Challenge

42. The Hutt Valley STEMM Student Challenge 2025 was held in July with library staff once again lending their expertise as judges. This annual event is now under the stewardship of the House of Science following the transition from Hutt Science and is dedicated to enhancing scientific literacy among rangatahi.
43. Marking its 11th successful year, the challenge continues to ignite curiosity and celebrate the scientific and technological ingenuity that Lower Hutt is renowned for. This year's event drew 400–500 participants from across the region, both primary and secondary students, organized into 40 teams per division demonstrating their expertise across Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Manufacturing.



Suzy Cato performances

44. A recent highlight at our hubs was Suzy Cato who delighted over 500 people of all ages at War Memorial Library and 200 at Wainuiomata. Suzy shared a mixture of new and old songs plus a story session for kids of all ages. Suzy delivered an engaging show with many adults remembering songs from their childhood and joining in with the singing and dancing. The audience was made up of a variety of people from our community - tamariki, mums with babies, Teens, Grandparents and big groups of whānau. Suzy was generous with her time and spent an hour posing for photographs after the show.



Figure 1. Suzy Cato at War Memorial Library



Figure 2. Bi-lingual French story time at Moerā Neighbourhood Hub

Bi-lingual French story time at Moerā

45. This event was best described in this letter from one attendee:

"I bought my 10yr old daughter along with her two best friends. Juliette did such a fantastic job of reading to the children and adults in French and English, alternating page by page. She had the audience, young and old alike, engaged and entertained. I'd have counted 35 plus people attending. Most people seemed to linger after for long chats and browse books. What I loved the most was how animated and engaging she was with her tone and enthusiasm as she read the stories. She also thoughtfully included some simple French songs that some of us adults were familiar with and sang along with.."

46. This turn out is not as unexpected as one might think. Thirty percent of Moerā residents speak 2-4 languages (including 14% who speak Spanish), 31% were born overseas and 17.5% migrated here only recently.
47. Naenae Neighbourhood Hub recently hosted 'Linen and Literature' a mixed media/performance artwork by Geraldine Brophy, the actress, and her sister Marie Lotz. Audiences were treated to a reading of Geraldine's poetry each day, along with tales and mementos of their childhood. Over 90 people from around the region enjoyed the exhibition which included much-loved books and textiles.

Hutt Fest

48. HuttFest 2025 showcased the strength of community-led cultural programming, drawing over 38,00 young performers and more than 25,000 attendees across four days. The festival provided a rare, inclusive platform for tamariki and rangatahi to express their cultural identities, supported by schools, whānau, and wider community.
49. This year marked a shift in Council's role, moving beyond facility access to active, relational involvement. Support included targeted funding, venue coordination through the Walter Nash Center, and strategic engagement and coordination through Council's Taitā Pōmare Neighbourhood Facilitator. This unified approach added significant value for the organisers, enabling smoother delivery, greater responsiveness to community, and deeper trust.
50. Key reflections highlight the value of investing in culturally affirming spaces and youth development, while reinforcing that strong partnerships must be built on shared purpose, not just goodwill. Council's role in enabling – not leading – was an important element to the event's success, offering a model for how local government can support sustainable, community-led initiatives that build connection, pride and long-term impact.



ETKA Blanket distribution

51. In July, Council partnered with Ekta to support their annual blanket distribution and shared kai event, offering the use of War Memorial Library's ground floor space. Ekta is a Wellington-based organisation focused on building social cohesion through practical support and shared food experiences.
52. The event was promoted through foodbanks, pātaka kai, support services and community networks to ensure it reached people experiencing financial hardship who would most benefit from the warm winter blankets and socks provided by Ekta. War Memorial Library was chosen as a central, accessible, and welcoming location, close to other key services and public transport.
53. Approximately 70 people attended, with strong cultural diversity reflected among those present. Many attendees commented that the highlight was not just receiving goods, but sitting down to share kai and conversation with others in a warm, inclusive setting.



Dementia Wellington Public Talk

54. In June, War Memorial Library hosted a free public talk presented by Sheena Farquhar from Dementia Wellington. Titled "What is the Difference Between Dementia and Alzheimer's?", the session attracted a small but engaged audience and sparked thoughtful discussion during the Q&A.
55. Several library staff attended and found the session valuable, prompting plans for internal training to deepen their understanding and enhance community support. The event marked the growing partnership with Dementia Wellington, focused on raising awareness and providing accessible information to our community. Through this collaboration, we aim to empower Lower Hutt residents with knowledge about dementia and a compassionate, informed approach to both mental and physical wellbeing.



Hikoikoi Kaumātua Rōpū,

56. Council staff have re-engaged with the Hikoikoi Kaumātua Rōpū, offering renewed support to enhance digital literacy among kaumātua. A team of library and hub staff from across the city now attend fortnightly sessions, creating space for whakawhanaungatanga while helping answer technology-related questions. These sessions not only build trust and confidence with devices but also respond to the evolving digital needs of the group.
57. Staff present on relevant topics and recently helped the rōpū connect with guest speakers, including representatives from the Electoral Commission. This session provided valuable information about local election enrolment and clarified the options around the Māori Electoral Roll, empowering kaumātua to make informed civic decisions.



Neurospicy Parents Group

58. In Wainuiomata, a passionate local mum recognised a need within the community through her own experience of navigating neurodiversity. Realising that if she felt isolated, others likely did too, she took the initiative to create a supportive space for parents on similar journeys.
59. The Neurospicy Parents Group now meets every Monday morning at the Wainuiomata Neighbourhood Hub. It offers a welcoming, non-judgemental environment where neurodiverse parents and parents of neurodiverse children can come together to share their stories, challenges, and wins. The group also connects through an active Facebook community, where members offer each other advice, encouragement, and solidarity.

ASD Community WLG

60. ASD Community WLG is a social group created by and for autistic people, offering a space to connect, unwind, and be themselves. Previously meeting in both Petone and Johnsonville, the group found themselves without a venue when their Johnsonville space became unavailable. They reached out to Hutt City Council for support, and found a new home.
61. The group now meets monthly at War Memorial Library, making the most of the extended Wednesday evening hours. Their first gathering in June brought together eight participants for a relaxed night of board games and connection. The organisers expressed appreciation for the manaakitanga shown by library staff, and the use of Council-supplied board games.

Wheels and Canes at Traffic Subcommittee

62. On 19 June 2025, three members of the Wheels and Canes disability advocacy group presented under public comment to Hutt City Council's Traffic Subcommittee. After much preparation and anticipation, the group were proud to have their voices heard and their lived experience recognised in a formal civic setting.
63. Their efforts were rewarded when the subcommittee voted in favour of their recommendation: to extend the enforcement of Lower Hutt's mobility car parks to apply 'at all times'. This change supports greater accessibility for residents and visitors with mobility needs and represents a significant advocacy milestone for the group.



FERNZ CAG: Matariki Gathering

64. On Sunday 22 June 2025, the FERNZ Hutt Valley Community Action Group (CAG) hosted its first Matariki celebration at the Naenae Bowling Club with support from Hutt City Council's Matariki Events Fund.
65. Disability advocates from across the region gathered for the event, with representation from CAGs based in Porirua, Karori, Wairarapa, Kāpiti, and the Hutt. The aim was to build stronger connections across the regional network and create a culturally inclusive, accessible space for people with disabilities to learn and share together.
66. Guest speaker Taki Peeke, Kaiarataki Māori at FERNZ, introduced the group to the meaning and significance of Matariki. For many, it was their first opportunity to engage with mātauranga Māori in a way that felt welcoming and inclusive.
67. NZSL interpretation was provided, and the venue was fully accessible. Council's Community Facilitator also attended and supported facilitation throughout the day. Participants appreciated the Council's involvement, noting the value of having staff present and engaged for the full event.



Aroha Afternoons at Te Awa Kairangi

68. In May, Council partnered with Catholic Social Services, St John, and Aroha Afternoons to launch a new initiative building connection and belonging across Lower Hutt's diverse communities. The inaugural Aroha Afternoons event was hosted at War Memorial Library, offering a warm, inclusive space for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together through storytelling.
69. Participants shared personal experiences, challenged cultural stereotypes, and reflected on identity in a safe and welcoming environment. Storytelling was used as a powerful tool to build understanding and bridge social and cultural divides.
70. Over 45 people attended, representing a wide range of ethnic, age, and social backgrounds. Attendees expressed a strong desire for the kaupapa to continue, with several offering venues for future sessions – a clear sign of community ownership and the value of such initiatives.

Welcoming Communities Stage 1 Accreditation

71. In July 2025, Hutt City Council achieved Stage 1 Accreditation under Immigration New Zealand's Welcoming Communities – Te Waharoa ki ngā Hapori programme. This milestone recognises our commitment to creating an inclusive, respectful and supportive community for all newcomers.
72. Officers are now formally recognised as a Committed Welcoming Community, joining 26 other councils across Aotearoa. This accreditation highlights the collaborative efforts of our Council, ethnic communities, and mana whenua – particularly Te Āti Awa – in building a city where everyone can participate and thrive.
73. Officers received commendation from Immigration New Zealand for our work in:
 - Facilitating civic engagement for first-time participants from newcomer communities.
 - Celebrating diversity through high-impact cultural events.
 - Strengthening relationships between ethnic groups and mana whenua.
74. Our partnership with Waiwhetu Marae and Te Āti Awa continues to deepen. While the formal funding period has ended, the Marae remains a dedicated partner in our Welcoming Communities kaupapa.
75. Key developments:
 - Co-hosting of two pōwhiri at Waiwhetu Marae with Upper Hutt City Council.
 - Reciprocal event participation with Te Āti Awa.
 - Matariki event with English Language Partners highlighting te Ao Māori and cultural storytelling.

Rangatahi and Local Body Elections

76. Over the last few months, HCC's Rangatahi Community Facilitator has been focused on trying to improve rangatahi understanding of the upcoming local election. By working with the Electoral Commission, they have used a fake election as an engagement tool to increase civic participation amongst our younger community members. Piloted at Naenae College and delivered at the Chamber of Commerce's Career Fest 2025, this has resulted in over 300 rangatahi being engaged in an activity all about voting. It has also directly resulted in 46 enrolment/registration forms being completed and sent to the Electoral Commission.
77. The activity consisted of a ballot with various cartoon characters as candidates. This ballot was based on other similar faux FPP election ballots, and the characters included were chosen by local rangatahi. They could vote for one mayor, two ward councillors, and six general councillors. At Career Fest, 160 ballots were completed and counted. From there, the RCF took the results to Taitā College and Hutt Valley High School and ran sessions with students around how their votes could have swayed the "election". The conversations that have coincided with these engagements were even more impactful than the activity itself, as a number of students had never even interacted with Council, let alone considered voting on Council.

Zeal/HVHS LUPE Graduation

78. On 25 July 2025, Zeal and Hutt Valley High School celebrated the work of 10 young photographers by having their works displayed in the Dowse Museum. This was one awesome evening to showcase the mahi they had created over a 15 week course. With around 50 attendees, the rangatahi who were graduating were able to see their work on the walls of a well-established art museum, and the room was filled with excitement.
79. LUPE is a photography program run by Zeal Wellington in collaboration with professional directors and photographers. It was designed to support Pasifika youth in navigating their mental health, with a strong focus on suicide prevention. This was the first time Zeal ran this program through a school, and it was a major success. Feedback from both HVHS and Zeal indicates that they would be looking to replicate the success of this intake again in the future, and the Hutt will be all the better for it.



Free of Alcohol Signage – Wainuiomata Sports Fields

80. A community-led initiative in Wainuiomata has resulted in the successful installation of WHĀNAU FRIENDLY FREE OF ALCOHOL signage at local sports fields that are not currently designated as alcohol-free zones. Initiated in response to growing concerns around alcohol-related harm in spaces where tamariki and whānau gather, the project has been supported by Healthy Families Hutt Valley (HFHV) and Council.
81. Wainuiomata Rugby League and Wainuiomata Rugby Club have been key partners in advancing this kaupapa, with a shared vision of creating safer, more inclusive environments that reflect community values. Council teams worked closely with both clubs to co-design signage that reinforces a whānau-friendly culture and shifts social norms.
82. This initiative reflects a broader community-led movement in Wainuiomata to reduce alcohol harm and de-normalise alcohol consumption in public places.
83. This collaboration shows the value of enabling community leadership, backed by Council support, to create healthier public spaces and influence long-term systems change.



84. In response to increasing kai insecurity, six new community-led Pātaka Kai are being installed and three existing sites upgraded in neighbourhoods of interest, with support from Healthy Families Hutt Valley and local community partners. This expansion strengthens locally driven food resilience efforts and reflects strong alignment with Council's priorities of wellbeing, equity, and community empowerment. Building on the success at Walter Nash Park, the Pātaka Kai offers free, accessible food grounded in kaupapa Māori values like koha and manaakitanga. Alongside the installation of the Pātaka Kai, a printed and digital map is being created to help the community locate the Pātaka Kai and educate the public on how they can access and support this project.

85. This initiative moves beyond charity- it focusses on enabling dignity, reciprocity, and whānau-led solutions. Council's support - through partnerships, resource connections, and early planning engagement - has enabled community ownership while aligning with strategic priorities in Health and Wellbeing, Cultural Connection, and community-led development.



Rec, Sport & Play

Hutt City Council, Sport NZ, Nuku Ora Tripartite Plan

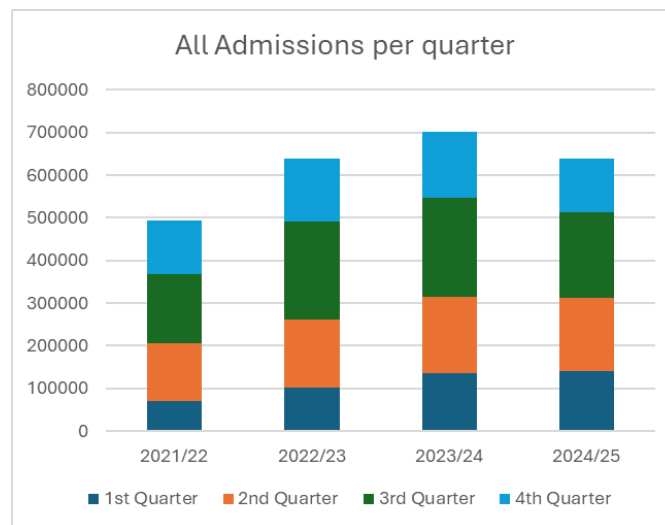
86. In June, the first of several monthly meetings were conducted to shape the development of a Tripartite Plan between Sport NZ, Nuku Ora (The Wellington Regional Sports Trust) and Hutt City Council. The initial meetings were to scope what a potential 3-way plan could look like. Understanding the needs of our communities of interest, identifying gaps, and as a collective, how best we can optimise our resources for Rec, Sport and Play in our city.
87. The first piece of collaborative work has been to prioritise projects of interest between Nuku Ora and HCC and identify relevant funding sources.

Community Funding

88. **The Mouri Ora Fund** is Council's largest community fund, designed to support community organisations deliver their services and initiatives to hapori across Te Awa Kairangi ki tai. A separate paper has been presented to the Committee on this.
89. **The Community Climate Action Fund** currently has \$240,000 available funding. Community Boards and the Fund's Panel unanimously agreed to run another funding round, that closed in mid-July. 11 applications were submitted this funding round, requesting a total of \$218,000. Funding decisions are scheduled to be determined by the Eastbourne and Wainuiomata Community Boards at their August 2025 meetings, and also by the CCAF Panel at their meeting later in August.
90. **Community Arts & Culture Fund** has a current allocation of \$43,538. In the upcoming September 2025 funding round, 16 applications have been received. While the total requested amount is yet to be confirmed in detail, early indications suggest that the combined funding sought will likely exceed the available budget.

Aquatics

91. Pool attendance:



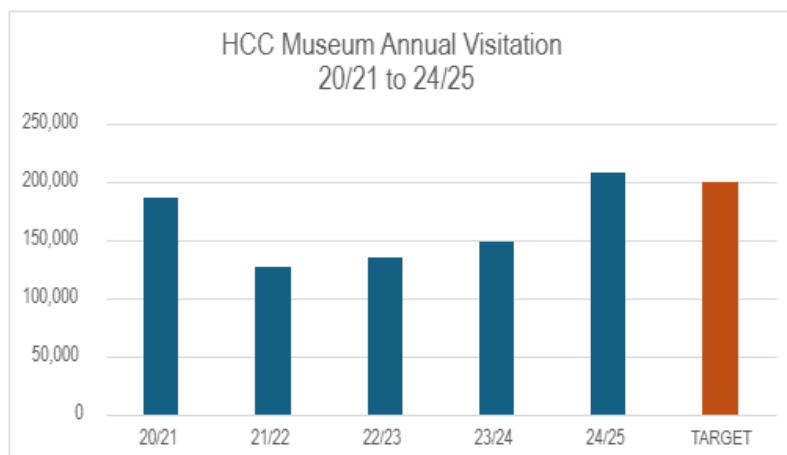
92. Pool attendance for 2024/25 was lower than the previous year with the main influences on those numbers being the very cold start to summer impacting outdoor pools as well as the regional *Cryptosporidium* outbreak in Q 3.
93. Numbers at Te Ngaengae have stabilised at what would seem to be our winter threshold for that pool. The number, when combined with the remaining Hydro space at Huia aligns with what we would expect for this time of the year.
94. Waterworld (below) made its first appearance at Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness Centre in our last school holidays. It was set up for a day in Stokes Valley and then three days at Te Ngaengae. The benefit of hosting the inflatables at Te Ngaengae was that the other end of the 50-meter pool was available for the public to use.



Arts and Culture

Museums Visitation

95. Total annual visitation for 24/25 was 214,000, up 64,424 on the previous financial year and 14,000 more than annual target. This is primarily due to the inclusion of visitor numbers to out touring exhibitions in other venues.



EOY results

96. In 24/25, the officers conducted nearly 3000 visitor surveys to the Dowse providing a strong data sample. Based on this data we know that our audience is evenly spread in age range with 20% aged 30-40 years old, and 64% female and 5% non-binary. 64% are local or from the wider Wellington Region and of those that visit locally they are most often from Wainuiomata, Petone, Stokes Valley and Naenae. Nearly 40% of those surveyed will spend over an hour at the gallery and over 60% said that visiting the Dowse was the main reason for their visit to central Lower Hutt. 95% of those surveyed said they would visit again and 90% said they would recommend the Dowse to others.
97. The Dowse has over 60,000 users across its digital platforms (Website, IG, FB) which is an increase of 14,000 on the previous financial year.
98. Museums exhibited over 300 collection items in 24/25 including lending nearly 100 works to external art galleries and museums in New Zealand and internationally.
99. In 24/25 the officers conducted nearly 800 visitor surveys to Petone Settlers Museum. 65% were local or from the wider Wellington region and over 90% visited with friends and family. Over 40% of those surveyed came to learn about the history of the area.

Programmes

100. Since the last report the Dowse opened 2 exhibitions:

101. *Flaming Star* exploring connections between queer and non-queer contemporary interpretations of cowboy and western themes (opened 12 July). The opening had over 220 in attendance reflecting the growing participation of the LGBTI+ community and supporters across HCC programming.



The opening event of Flaming Star exhibition

102. Wayne Youle: *Back in Five* at Suter Gallery, Nelson featuring a survey of sculptural works by the artist (opened 29 June). This exhibition will show at The Dowse in 2026 and reflects a new approach to partnership with other institutions to help share resources and capacity.



The opening event of Wayne Youle: Back in Five exhibition with Dowse Senior Curator Chelsea Nichols giving the opening address

103. *Whakahokihoki: Jewellery from the Dowse Collection* showcasing over 60 works from the Dowse collection (opened 2 August). This exhibition re-showed a number of works that were sent to Munich, Germany in March 2025 as part of Munich Jewellery Week.



Collections

104. In July 2025, officers received an unsolicited offer of a donation of \$20,000 from a former supporter of The Dowse who had seen the jewellery collections online and wanted to assist with making them more accessible for lending and research. This funding will support a fixed term contract to load and image all of the jewellery collection online.
105. The public art collection is now mostly searchable online via the City Art Walk App. The Arts & Culture team have been working on loading new works as time and capacity allow.

Boulcott Memorial

106. As reflected in the previous reports, based on strong feedback from the kaipurākau, the Boulcott Memorial Project team have needed to reassess the approach to the final outcomes and timeframes of the project once again.
107. After correspondence with all of the kaipurākau involved, it was agreed that a wānanga to bring all of the groups together would be held on 13 August 2025 at Te Tatau o Te Pō. This wānanga would be jointly delivered by the Boulcott Project team, Te Tira Maori and the Arts & Culture team.
108. This wānanga will dictate the programme of work, but the plan below outlines some indicative timing.

Workplan

Kaipurākau hui – reengagement with Stage 2	August – September 2024	Complete
Visitor goals and project parameters confirmed	August - September 2024	Complete
Kaipurākau hui - open brainstorm visual ideas/ artist input/digital solutions	October – November 2024	Complete
Residential Community and internal council engagement	December – January 2025	Ongoing
Graphic Designer contracted	December – January 2025	Complete
Stakeholder wānanga	August 2025	
Artist wānanga	September 2025	
Scope delivery, get quotes and begin design work	September - December 2025	
Kaipurākau check-in on progress	October 2025	
Residential Community and internal council check-in on progress	October-November 2025	
Final deliverables	March – May 2026	

Parks and Reserves

Anti-Social Behaviour

109. Following complaints about speeding motorbikes driving on the walkway between Hinau Grove and the Strand in Wainuiomata, barriers have been installed at both ends of the walkway. The barriers have been designed to slow down speeding motorcycles but allow the passage of prams and mobility scooters.

Image 1 & 2: Hinau Grove Walkway Barriers.



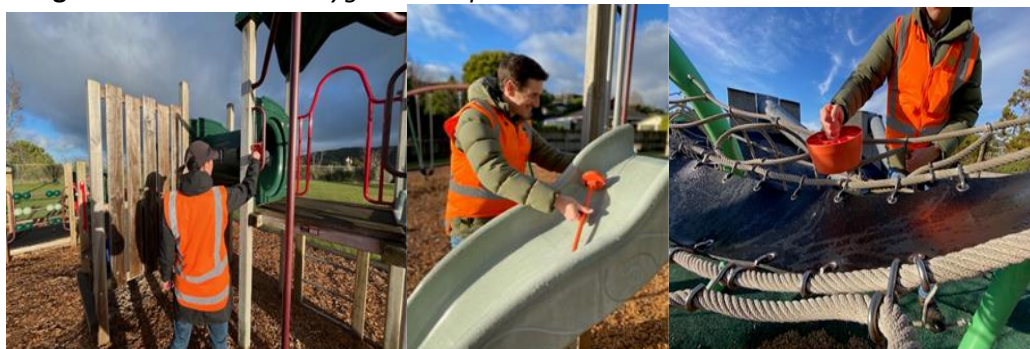
Sportsfields

110. On Saturday, 2 August 2025, Hutt Recreation Ground hosted the Wellington Rugby League Grand Finals across three senior grades: Premier Women's, Premier Men's, and Premier Reserve Men's. A Lower Hutt club featured in each of the three senior finals, reflecting the strength of our local rugby league community.
111. Te Whiti Park also hosted the WRL Youth Grand Finals for the Under 14 and Under 16 boys' and girls' divisions. Five Lower Hutt clubs were represented across the four youth finals, highlighting the depth of talent and participation in our city.
112. Both sportsgrounds saw strong attendance, with a good number of visitors throughout the day. Despite the heavy use, the grounds held up well and supported a successful day of finals league.
113. A new sump has been installed on the croquet lawn at HW Shortt Park to improve stormwater management. Previously, rainwater from the lawn was directed to the roadside via a visible surface pipe, which discharged water onto Oroua Street.
114. This work was carried out in response to concerns raised by local residents about flooding and drainage issues along the street. The new sump helps capture and retain stormwater on site, reducing the croquet lawn's contribution to surface water on the road.
115. In addition, work has begun on the adjacent sportsground to reduce its stormwater runoff into the street, further supporting efforts to improve conditions along Oroua Street.

Playgrounds

116. Contractors were recently engaged to conduct a Level 3 playground inspection. This is a comprehensive audit conducted by a certified RPII Level 3 Playground Inspector. This inspection ensures compliance with NZS5828:2015/EN1176 standards, identifies any safety risks, and provides recommendations for maintenance and repairs.

Images 3-5: Level Three Playground Inspections



Trees

117. As part of the Reserve maintenance contract, Downer is responsible for the ongoing management and care of trees across our reserves. This is a critical aspect of the contract, with arborists continuously monitoring and maintaining tree health to ensure the safety, resilience, and aesthetic value of these green assets.
118. The arborist team plays a vital role in proactively identifying and mitigating potential risks, helping to preserve the structural integrity and vitality of our tree stock. Their work ensures that trees remain healthy and pose minimal risk to the public and surrounding environment.
119. During the recent severe storm, only two large trees came down across the reserve network. Considering the intensity of the weather event, this minimal impact is a testament to the exceptional preventative maintenance and care delivered by Downer's arborist team. Their proactive approach is clearly contributing to a safer and more resilient reserve environment in terms of the urban tree canopy.

Tracks

120. The Eastern Hutt Road section of the Soil Bureau Track was recently cut back helping change the track from being impassable to users to now wide enough for a vehicle to access. This maintenance work helps support the tracks use and its connection to the Stokes Valley Ridge Track.

Image 6: Soil Bureau Track - Before

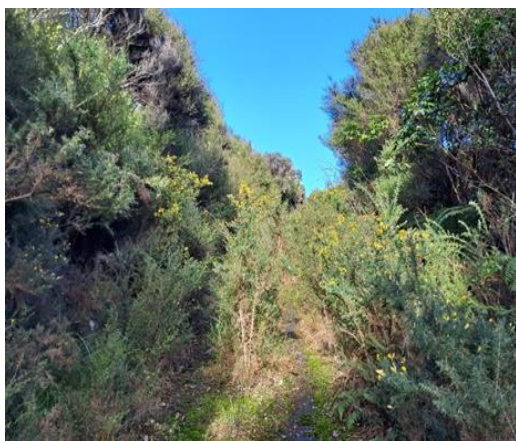


Image 7: Soil Bureau Track -After



121. Recently, with help from the Hutt Valley Tramping Club, track markers have been installed along the Stokes Valley Ridge Track to help with way finding. This effort will also benefit the user experience of the track and the track users' connection to the lower Soil Bureau Track which leads to Taita.

Environmental Restoration and Biodiversity

122. Lower Hutt's Environmental Restoration Groups have been busy planting. There are currently 9,285 native plants which have been planted in HCC reserves so far out of 10,590. Groups have been successful in hosting community planting days in their local reserves, planting hundreds of plants at a time.
123. This financial year P&R have shifted to ordering more plants from local Lower Hutt-based suppliers (not all species can be easily propagated here). For large orders, nurseries were happy to deliver directly to community planting sites, rather than to HCC storage as has been done previously. This has resulted in reduced costs, reduced workload for HCC officers, and a lower carbon footprint.

Image 8 & 9: Community Planting Events



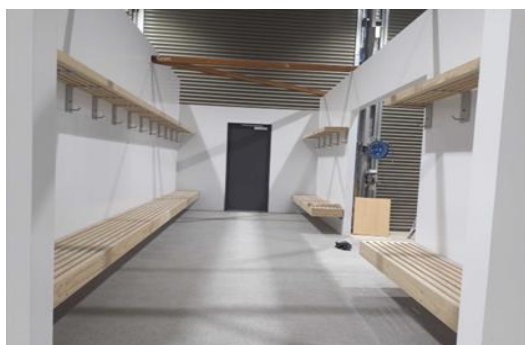
124. Parks & Reserves continues to support the Predator Free Hutt Valley community groups by hosting the PFHV website, and providing advice, traps, and bait. Peanut butter remains the tried-and-tested standard lure for trapping rats. As rats are unable to vomit, they avoid consuming poison by being fussy eaters.
125. To get the best trapping results, high quality peanut butter without additives should be used. Parks & Reserves officers applied for a peanut butter donation from Pics and have received 1344 jars of high-quality peanut butter to distribute to predator free groups.

Image 10: *Peanut Butter from Pic's***Image 11:** *P&R Team Distributing the Butter*

Facilities Renewals Program

Frederick Wise New Amenity Block

126. A pre-fabricated building is being finalised at the Permaloo facility at Gisborne delivery to site forecast for mid August 2025 (weather dependent). The building is being fabricated in four separate units consisting of 4 x public toilets (Section 1); 2 x changing rooms (Sections 2 & 3); and a shower unit (section 4). The building in production at Gisborne is shown below.

Image 17: *Changing Room Production***Image 18:** *Toilet Cubicles in Production*

127. The related services have been established on site . The utilities (power, water, and sewage) required 300m of trenching which has increased establishment costs.
128. Stormwater is collected by a rain harvesting system which is utilised to flush the toilets. Excess stormwater is carried off site by an overflow pipe.
129. The building foundations are scheduled for week starting 11. August, with completion of the work and hand over of unit scheduled for 2nd week September 2025.

Belmont Park Toilet Renewal

130. The existing toilet in Belmont Domain had been constructed in the 1950's as part of the development of the tennis courts and was no longer fit for purpose. A new Exeloo style toilet has been constructed in a more appropriate location – closer to the car park and the children's playground.

Image 21: Foundation for Belmont Toilet **Image 22:** Toilet Craned into Place



131. A raised crossing and path connecting to the Te Awa Kairangi river trail was also installed so the block can service river walk users as well as Domain users. The new footpath is approximately 85m in distance.

Image 23: New Footpath to the River Trail



Hard Surface Renewals

132. Work has continued over the past month on resurfacing of Council hard surface assets in parks. The following sites have been completed:

Car Park Muritai Road/Pencarrow Road (Eastbourne)

133. This road/car park in this area was in poor condition due to age and had seen various repairs. The area had also been impacted by the recent storms. Significant gravel/storm debris was cleared from the site, the subsurface was repaired and potholes patched, then the entire site was resurfaced.

Image 24: *Pencarrow Road Pre-work***Image 25:** *Pencarrow Road Post-work*

134. The original surface at this site had degraded significantly. The site was relevelled to direct surface runoff to existing stormwater drains, then the site was resurfaced in asphalt.

135. The small unsurfaced area at the side of the road is used for the storage of Dinghies and will be edged with wooden board and filled with gravel to improve the performance and aesthetic of the site.

Image 26: *Hikoikoi Reserve Pre-work***Image 27:** *Hikoikoi Reserve Post-work*

136. The western end of the car park at Frederick Wise Park had deteriorated, in particular the area where recycling facilities had been previously located. The surface of the area was milled and repaired and then then resurfaced with asphalt and line marked. This includes two disabled car parks in preparation for the new amenity block which is currently being constructed.

Image 28: *Frederick Wise Pre-works***Image 29:** *Frederick Wise Post-work*

Fraser Park Squash Club – Demolition and Installation of Car-park.

137. The old Fraser Park squash club has now been demolished and Officers are currently seeking a resource consent to excavate the site in preparation of laying the proposed car-park foundations. It is estimated the new car-park will be in place by the end of August 2025.

Avalon Park

138. The playground renewals budget this year will be focused on replacing the non-compliant safety surfaces at Avalon Park and other sites that are not currently compliant. Contractors were engaged to test the surfaces which have been identified as being non-complying. Priority renewals will be given those sites which attract the most families.

Images 32 - 34: Avalon Park Impact Testing



Playgrounds - Sladden Park Playground Consultation

139. Community feedback is currently being sought regarding Sladden Park Playground, which is nearing the end of its functional life and is scheduled for renewal. There is a proposal to relocate the playground closer to the carpark and playing field area. If feedback indicates support for this relocation, plans include upgrading the surface to rubber matting instead of the existing woodchip, as it is more resilient to flooding.
140. The new location would also improve visibility from the sports fields, potentially making supervision easier for families attending games. Feedback submissions closed on Sunday, 17 August. The scope of works will now be determined before proceeding to design and tendering.

Bollards and Furniture Renewals

141. New seating has been installed at William Jones Park, replacing older seats that were due for renewal. In addition, a new pedestrian gate has been added to improve access for the local community into the sportsground.
142. These upgrades contribute to a more welcoming and accessible space for park users and support the ongoing use of the facility for sport and recreation.

143. The barrier renewal project at Naenae Park has been completed. The new barrier will also serve as informal seating and is expected to be well utilised once summer sport resumes, following the completion of the drainage project.

Sportsfield Capital Work

144. New training lights have been installed at the southern end of Fraser Park to improve the usability of the field for evening sports training and other activities. This upgrade supports increased use of the park during the winter months and enhances the overall functionality of the space for local clubs and community groups.
145. The team is currently in the procurement phase for drainage upgrades at Petone Recreation Ground, Te Whiti Park, and Frederick Wise Park. These sites were prioritised based on condition assessments completed in 2023.
146. Work is scheduled to begin after the 2025 winter season and is expected to be completed by early next year. These improvements are similar to those recently carried out at Hutt Park, Richard Prouse Park, and Naenae Park, and will enhance surface performance and field resilience, supporting more reliable year-round use.

Reserves Investment Strategy

147. Work continues on the projects identified in the Reserves Investment Strategy with a focus on ensuring neighbourhood parks are accessible, safe, and relevant.
148. All reserve investment projects are fully consulted with the community served by the park. This is to ensure that Councils spend this valuable budget resource in a way that aligns most with the community's aspirations.

Te Whiti Pathway

149. The second stage of the Te Whiti Park path has now been completed. This new section connects the recently constructed path along the Waiwhetū Stream to both the northern and southern pedestrian bridges. The path has also been resurfaced from the southern pedestrian bridge through to Waiwhetū Marae.
150. In addition, work has been carried out to extend the new path beyond the southern pedestrian bridge, providing a better connection to the footpath along Riverside Drive. This improves access to the park from Waiwhetū Marae, the Te Māori building, and the surrounding area.
151. The latest work completes the path by adding sections connecting the new path to the bridges at both ends, repairing the bridge retaining walls, installing bollards and widening the path linking through to the Marae.
152. The path meanders alongside the Waiwhetū Stream and has already seen high usage with just the first stage completed. With the new connections now in place, we expect usage to increase even further.

Images 35-37: Te Whiti Pathway*Meadowbank Redevelopment*

153. This project has efficiently replaced and extended the existing pathway within the reserve. All scheduled works have been completed, and the area remains fenced off until the grass establishes and the pathway sufficiently dries after recent rainfall, allowing for compaction.
154. This process is expected to take approximately five weeks. A bench located at the highest point of the path provides visitors with a comfortable seating area and scenic views of the surroundings.

Images 38-40: Meadowbank Footpath

155. The redevelopment is progressing as planned, and despite less favourable weather conditions, contractors have largely remained on schedule. The footpath from Hall Cres to Witako has been constructed and is in place. The hard surface and picnic table have also been installed, and concrete cuts are complete.
156. The basecourse for the nature play area has been prepared, and the pump track is now installed. Upcoming work includes installation of the tunnel and nature play elements, further surfacing, the pendulum swing, mound formation, rebound wall, pathway to Mitchell, seating, and bollards at Witako and Mitchell.

Image 41: *Footpath Hall Crescent***Image 42:** *Pump Track*

157. Significant progress has been achieved on the development of the Kororā Sanctuary at Port Road Beach. This initiative reflects our commitment to enhancing indigenous biodiversity and providing a safe habitat for the kororā (little blue penguins).
158. To mark the beginning of the project, a blessing ceremony was conducted by Aunty Ali Houpapa, Te Karanga, and Charlie Rudd. The event was attended by key project stakeholders, including Tim Lidgard, Manager of Seaview Marina. The ceremony served to acknowledge the cultural and environmental significance of the site and to set a respectful tone for the work ahead.
159. Throughout the project, Dr. Leigh Bull and Charlie Rudd provided expert guidance to the contractors, ensuring that the sanctuary was designed and constructed to the highest standard of protection for the kororā. Their involvement has been instrumental in aligning the work with best-practice conservation principles.
160. The final stage of the project involves the installation of a protective fence with a secure gate. This will serve both to safeguard the sanctuary from disturbance and to clearly define access, reinforcing the importance of the area as a dedicated refuge for the kororā.

Image 43 & 44: *Location of Nesting Sites*

Images 45 & 46: Stone battering to Protect Nesting Sites



161. Steady progress continues on the development of Honiana Te Puni Reserve, forming a key part of the Te Ara Tupua project.
162. At the eastern end of the reserve, construction is nearing completion. The large open space has been shaped and is now approaching the final stages, with topsoil to be laid shortly and grassing to follow. This will complete a significant milestone in transforming the area into a welcoming and functional public space.
163. On the western side of the reserve, early-stage work is now underway. Demolition of the former water ski club has been completed, and preparations are progressing for the installation of the Tahata pods, with foundational works already in motion.
164. We continue to work closely with our project partners — Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, and KiwiRail — to advance the process for future asset handover. This collaboration ensures alignment on responsibilities, maintenance, and long-term stewardship of the reserve.

Walter Mildenhall Park Development

165. The project is currently within the timeline. There are outstanding designs required for the play area, the skate park, and the covered BBQ area. The project has been comprehensively consulted on with the local community, who have contributed through fundraising and advice.
166. The montage below shows -
- An aerial of the park development (top left);
 - Children's sensory garden (top right);
 - BBQ area (bottom left); and
 - Pendulum swing (bottom right).

167. Community planting day (schools) scheduled for 25 August 2025. The construction completion is scheduled for the end of August 2025 with opening day scheduled for 20th September 2025 (karakia on 18 September).

Images 47-50: *Montage of photographs Walter Mildenhall Park*



Mouri Tupu 2025

168. So far, we have planted/gifted over 93,000 plants for Mouri Tupu and counting. Looking at reaching our target of 114,000 plants by September.
169. Officers have collaborated closely with the GWRC EnviroSchools Community Facilitators to engage with over 30 schools & kindergartens across Lower Hutt on their interest for acquiring native species to improve the biodiversity and amenity across their school greenspaces.
170. This year, officers and the GWRC community facilitators have delivered approximately 4,838 plants to 32 schools/kindergartens over the last couple of months.
171. Approximately another 900 plants are being gifted to a group of other schools in Wainuiomata that are doing riparian planting along Black creek in the next two weeks (approved by Wellington Water).

Image 51-54: *Maranatha Christian School, Taita College, Arakura School, Wilford School (L-R, top- bottom)*



Image 56: *The P&R team loaded up with plants for school gifting, day one*

172. These plant donations aim to inspire students' curiosity and passion for native conservation, while also encouraging a deeper connection with their environment.

173. Doubling our efforts from the 2024 community gifting of 2,000 plants, this year officers have just completed four days, two weekends of approximately 4,000 plant giftings to approximately 800 Lower Hutt residents that registered for up to five plants each to plant at their homes.
174. Nine species were specially selected for the public to choose from when they arrived, giving them options of low growing species, to medium sized shrubs and medium sized trees, most of which can be easily trimmed and maintained within an urban property.
175. There was only positive feedback from the residents, sharing their plans on which gardens at home they were going to plant, and asking officers for more guidance on species to select that would best suit their home environment. From the officer's point of view, these gifting days have to be one of the highlights of the year in terms of working with the community, especially when finding out that they have just the place on their property to green up with their new plants and aims to encourage birds and bees to their gardens.

Images 57-60: Montage of photographs from Avalon Park and Hikoikoi Reserve weekend gifting days.



176. Below are dates for upcoming public planting events:

- Te Whiti stream planting with Rangitira: September 10th from 10:00am. Only 170 plants, and the 114,000 plants would have already been met by this date.
- Eleven other parks/reserves are currently being planted by planting tender awarded contractor Downer Greenspace, aiming to have all completed by September.

Percy Glasshouse

177. The installation of new Alpine green houses and associated cooling systems at Percy's Reserve has now been completed. These upgrades are essential to supporting the health and longevity of the nationally significant Alpine Collection housed at the Reserve.

178. Percy's Reserve is home to what is considered the largest and most comprehensive alpine plant collection in Aotearoa New Zealand, with approximately:

- a) 250 species of alpine plants
- b) 50 species classified as endangered
- c) 2 species that are functionally extinct in the wild

179. The facility plays a critical role in national conservation efforts, including active collaboration with the Department of Conservation (DOC) to propagate and eventually reintroduce functionally extinct species back into their natural habitats.

Images 61-62: *Percy Reserve New Alpine Houses, and Alpine Plant Collection*



Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1 <u>d</u>	Impact story templates	293

Author: Arthur Nelson, Head of Parks and Reserves

Author: Joann Ransom, Head of Neighbourhood Hubs and Library Services

Author: Karl Chitham, Head of Arts and Culture

Author: Iain Brown, Head of Aquatics

Author: Adrienne Moor, Head of Connected Communities

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

CASE STUDY - IMPACT STORY Matariki & Te Mako's First Birthday 28 th June 2025		
Outcome area/s in Council Social and Cultural Outcomes Framework	Social connection, local identity	
Strategic alignment	Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods	KPIs – Target 3000 activities and events to support wellbeing
Why we did it – what was the spark, problem, opportunity or gap?	<p>Matariki 2025 at Te Mako was a celebration of the Māori New Year and Te Mako's first birthday – a moment that brought the community together to reflect, connect, and look ahead. The event also took was supported with funding from Hutt City Council for local Matariki events, aligning with the wider kaupapa of community-led activation in Naenae.</p> <p>This celebration is part of the ongoing work to activate Hillary Court through community leadership, creativity, and collaboration. It reflects the goals of our formal partnership with Team Naenae Trust, the operator of Te Mako under a lease agreement with Hutt City Council. Together, we support a vision of Te Mako as a welcoming, and a community centre for to use.</p>	
Who was the target audience, who were our partners?	<p>Local identities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local - whānau, tamariki, kaumatua and kuia • Naenae residents, cultural groups, and marketgoers • Refugee and migrant communities <p>Partners and support services and groups included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Naenae Trust – lead organisers and operators of Te Mako • Te Puna Manawa – hosted tamariki craft activities and refugee group • Kokiri Marae Naenae Hub – hosted kaumatua/kuia space • Whitireia Music Programme – performances by students with local ties • Local schools and cultural groups – contributed performances • MG Hangis – provided hangi • TEAM Naenae refugee group – made fried bread • Hutt City Council Events Team – provided funding support 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hutt City Council Neighbourhood Facilitator – worked alongside Team Naenae to support planning and connections
What did we do, enable, support? (event/ programme/ hui)	<p>As a community-led, co-created event, Matariki at Te Mako offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A warm space for kaumatua and kuia, with free hangi and a cup of tea, coffee and cold drinks • Live performances by tamariki, rangatahi and cultural groups • Tamariki activity space with Matariki-themed crafts and learning • Interactive remembrance and aspiration boards • Cultural food stalls, including fried bread and hangi • Held in and around Naenae Village Market, blending market energy with cultural celebration
Outcome – who took part? What was their experience? (quant and qual)	<p>Despite cold and wet weather, around 700 people attended. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and reflected a deep sense of local pride and belonging.</p> <p>"We love this place."</p> <p>"Te Mako is such a lovely wee place."</p> <p>"It's so cool our community has this place."</p> <p>The event reinforced the value of Te Mako as a locally governed, community-operated hub where people feel welcome and represented.</p>
What were out learnings/reflections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event showed the strength of community leadership and collaboration • Team Naenae Trust's role as Te Mako operator continues to support culturally engagement inclusive programming • Hutt City Council's supporting role, via funding and neighbourhood facilitation, strengthens rather than directs local action • The partnership approach allows Council to enable rather than lead, respecting and resourcing community capability
What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matariki will continue as an annual event, grounded in local leadership • Planning is already underway for future events that further strengthen collaboration among market vendors, local services, businesses and cultural groups

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal birthday morning tea for Te Mako Community Centre took place in July 2025 an Invitation went out to Hutt City Council, local supported services, groups and local schools that came together and enjoyed korero and kai. • Hutt City Council will continue to support Team Naenae through the lease partnership and neighbourhood facilitation, helping to grow a resilient, community-led in Naenae
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CASE STUDY - IMPACT STORY Ekta NZ		
Outcome area/s in Council Social and Cultural Outcomes Framework	Social connection - support	
Strategic alignment	Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods	
Why we did it – what was the spark, problem, opportunity or gap?	Ekta NZ is a Wellington based community organisation focused on promoting social cohesion by providing kai and other meaningful support, bringing diverse communities together. Council is in the early stages of building a relationship with Ekta as they look to expand their activities into Lower Hutt. An opportunity arose to support the delivery of their annual blanket distribution event, which they were planning to host in the Hutt for the first time. The event presented an opportunity to support vulnerable communities, strengthen partnerships, and activate a central community space for inclusive, needs-based programming.	
Who was the target audience, who were our partners?	The event targeted adults facing financial hardship, including those experiencing homelessness or using foodbanks. Ekta led the initiative, with support from Connected Communities and War Memorial Library staff (WML).	
What did we do, enable, support? (event/ programme/ hui)	Council enabled the event by: Facilitating access to the War Memorial Library venue, supporting communications and outreach to the target audience via local providers and community networks, providing staff support and equipment on the day to ensure smooth delivery. Ekta led the blanket and sock distribution and prepared a shared lunch, welcoming attendees to eat together prior to receiving goods.	

Outcome – who took part? What was their experience? (quant and qual)	Around 70–80 people attended, reflecting strong cultural diversity. While attendees appreciated the goods, many highlighted the shared meal and conversations as the most meaningful aspect. Several people signed up for or renewed library memberships, with some engaging with the space for the first time. The event fostered social connection and welcomed new people into a key Council facility. ***
What were out learnings/reflections?	Kai remains a powerful connector that helps create inclusive, welcoming spaces. This event highlights the value of using community facilities in flexible ways that meet local needs. Partnering with organisations like Ekta in a reciprocal way enables Council to support community-led action and needs based programming.
What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build the relationship with Ekta and explore opportunities to support their mahi in the Hutt • Facilitate additional community kai events, including a community potluck for Welcoming Week • Strengthen collaboration between Connected Communities and Hubs and Libraries to support inclusive, community-led initiatives

CASE STUDY – IMPACT STORY: FERNZ CAG: Matariki Gathering		
Outcome area/s in Council Social and Cultural Outcomes Framework	Social connection, equity	
Strategic alignment	Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods	
Why we did it – what was the spark,	The aim was to build stronger connections across the regional network of Communication Action Groups and create a culturally inclusive, accessible space for disabled people to learn and share together.	

problem, opportunity, or gap?	
Who was the target audience, who were our partners?	Disability advocates from across the region, with representation from CAGs based in Porirua, Karori, Wairarapa, Kāpiti, and the Hutt. The event was organised and facilitated by the FERNZ Community Coordinator
What did we do, enable, support? (event/ programme/ hui)	Council provided Matariki Events Fund support, without which the event could not have happened. The Community Facilitator attended and supported the facilitation.
Outcome – who took part? What was their experience? (quant and qual)	25 attendees from all six CAGs across the region participated. Participants expressed delight that such an event existed and praised the presence of Council's Community Facilitator throughout. One Māori attendee noted, there was strong interest in making it an annual event.
What were our learnings/reflections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affirming, culturally inclusive spaces are rare and deeply valued by disabled communities - NZSL access and venue choice were critical - Presence of Council staff built trust and mana - Future events should embed both te ao Māori and disability-led values
What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support future Matariki gatherings as an annual tradition - Explore co-design opportunities for a regular regional hui

CASE STUDY – IMPACT STORY Career Fest + Follow Up Elections Kaupapa		
Outcome area/s in Council Social and Cultural Outcomes Framework	Employment, education and training	
Strategic alignment	Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods	
Why we did it – what was the spark, problem, opportunity or gap?	<p>The Chamber of Commerce's Career Fest is an annual opportunity for employers to showcase their mahi for students of the Hutt Valley. Hundreds of rangatahi make their way through the 5 hour event, and every year Council has a stall.</p> <p>With elections coming up, it was the perfect opportunity to try and familiarise rangatahi with the process of Local Elections. This was done by running a second stall side by side with our usual recruitment focused stall. This way, rangatahi were introduced to both the democratic, and organisational sides of local government.</p>	
Who was the target audience, who were our partners?	The event was planned and run by the Hutt City Chamber of Commerce. It targeted rangatahi from 14 schools/education providers around the Hutt, looking to enter the workforce.	
What did we do, enable, support? (event/ programme/ hui)	<p>HCC provided the spaces for the event. Hosted at the Lower Hutt Events Centre and Town Hall, the Mayor opened the day with a speech to stall holders. We had two stalls set up side by side, participating in the actual event. One to educate rangatahi on Council as an employer and organization, and one to introduce students to the electoral process.</p> <p>At these stalls, we ran a number of engagements, one of which was a fake election. Faux ballots were handed out to students with various cartoon characters as candidates, and staff collected the completed ballots throughout the event whilst discussing the process of local elections with students.</p>	

Outcome – who took part? What was their experience? (quant and qual)	<p>Around 1500 students attended, from all around the Hutt Valley. Throughout the event, they interacted with various employers introducing them to opportunities and organizations from around the country.</p> <p>160 students participated in the fake election engagement (by the number of ballots counted) but even more stopped for casual discussion. From this engagement, we were able to enrol 11 new eligible voters for this upcoming local election, and register 15 that will be eligible for next years general election.</p> <p>The results from the fake election have been used to run further elections workshops and kaupapa at Taitā College and Hutt Valley High School. During these sessions, the Rangatahi Facilitator walks through the results and discusses the importance of voting. Through these kura sessions, the RCF has collected 15 more completed enrolment forms, and provided the schools with resources to distribute to students and staff. This brings the total amount of additional registrations/enrolments from these engagements to 41 completed before the 1 August.</p>
What were out learnings/reflections?	This was an easy model to replicate and develop further. Later in the month we took the same elections kaupapa to the Weltec/Whitireia Student Expo and it was well received. However, due to the expo being smaller in scale, there were fewer engagements.
What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with schools to further educate rangatahi on the electoral process. • Streamline the "Fake Elections" kaupapa to be easily redelivered in future engagements. • Work with the Chamber of Commerce to improve our stalls for the years to come.

CASE STUDY – IMPACT STORY Zeal and HVHS - LUPE Graduation	
Outcome area/s in Council Social and Cultural Outcomes Framework	Diversity and inclusion, identity

Strategic alignment	Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods	g
Why we did it – what was the spark, problem, opportunity or gap?	Zeal Wellington is a prominent rangatahi organisation from Central Wellington. They have indicated that they would like to build more of a presence out in the Hutt Valley, but unfortunately due to funding and other restraints they are often unable to prioritise kaupapa specifically in the Hutt. However, HVHS and Zeal collaborated on the LUPE Program, which focused on platforming young Māori/Pasifika creatives, with a focus on suicide prevention. The team at Zeal reached out to HCC for support with a venue for their graduation ceremony. This was an opportunity for HCC to be a key part in celebrating young local artists, as well as building and strengthening relationships with stakeholders, including an organization that has been actively trying to establish themselves in Lower Hutt.	
Who was the target audience, who were our partners?	10 students from Hutt Valley Highschool took part in Zeal's LUPE Program. This event was a celebration and showcase of the work they had created. The rangatahi involved, their tutors from Zeal, friends, whanau and teachers were all invited to celebrate on the 25 th of July.	
What did we do, enable, support? (event/ programme/ hui)	HCC partially funded the booking of the Dowse for this celebration. Our Rangatahi and Community Arts Facilitators also helped with the installation of the artworks at the Dowse.	
Outcome – who took part? What was their experience? (quant and qual)	Around 50 people attended to support the kaupapa. The meeting space at the Dowse was transformed into a gallery showcasing hundreds of photos taken by rangatahi from the LUPE program. Parents and siblings got to walk through hours of hard work, and the rangatahi who took those photos got to see their mahi on the walls of the Dowse. It was an incredible night with a lot of laughs and a few tears shed.	
What were our learnings/reflections?	The value of access to our places and spaces - Not only did these rōpu appreciate removing barriers to accessing a space like the Dowse for this specific kaupapa, but the whānau of the students did as well. There are not many rangatahi that can say they had their artwork displayed in a space like the Dowse, and now 10 local, Māori and Pasifika whānau can. On the night, many of the families that attended said that they had never set foot in the Dowse even though they lived right around the corner. This event brought	

	down barriers for members of our community who originally felt as though that space was not made for them.
What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to strengthen HCC's relationship with Zeal and Hutt Valley High School. Work with the Dowse to encourage more kaupapa like this in the future.

CASE STUDY – IMPACT STORY: Free of Alcohol Signage in Wainuiomata			
Outcome area/s in Council Social and Cultural Outcomes Framework	Physical and mental health		
Strategic alignment	Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods	KPIs	
Why we did it – what was the spark, problem, opportunity or gap?	There is an increasing desire from local sports clubs to create safer, whanau friendly environments for their players and community. Over the past 4 years Wainuiomata sports clubs have expressed a desire for their grounds to be designated alcohol free zones which was presented to Council during their 3 yearly Local Alcohol Policy Review process in 2024. With no change coming about from the submission process a more formalised collective approach was initiated feeding off the practice the clubs had applied over the 3 seasons.		KPIs – T support
Who was the target audience, who were our partners?	<p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whānau and tamariki who frequent community sports fields Broader Wainuiomata community Sports clubs and their supporters <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wainuiomata Rugby League and Wainuiomata Rugby Clubs Healthy Families Hutt Valley (HFHV) Hutt City Council – Parks & Reserves 		

What did we do, enable, support? (event/ programme/ hui)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-designed and installed new signage that reflects the clubs desire and intention for creating a whānau friendly space for the community at their sports fields. • Supported and amplified the proactive work of the clubs in leading alcohol harm prevention by sharing this story through local and national articles. • Facilitated community-led advocacy as part of Hutt City Council's policy review on local alcohol regulations. • Incorporated community voice into submissions by HFHV calling for more alcohol-free public spaces, such as school zones and parks
Outcome – who took part? What was their experience? (quant and qual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs felt empowered and supported in creating positive change. • The initiative validated community aspirations for safer public spaces. • The impact of this initiative was acknowledged at a national Alcohol in Sport hui, where a committee member from Te Kao (Far North) commended Healthy Families Hutt Valley and the leadership shown by the Wainuiomata community - highlighting the potential for this model to inspire similar actions across the motu.
What were out learnings/reflections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community leadership is key: Change is most impactful when driven by those directly affected and passionate about their spaces. • System support matters: Institutional backing (from Council and HFHV) helps amplify and sustain community-led actions. • Even without immediate policy change, community advocacy can lay groundwork for future shifts. • Symbols matter: Signage is more than informational—it becomes a visual representation of collective values and intent.
What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue advocacy for expanded alcohol-free zones, particularly in spaces used by children and families. • Support community-led initiatives that align with alcohol harm prevention and healthy environments. • Monitor and evaluate impact of signage on behaviour and perceptions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-engage in policy kōrero, using the learnings from this initiative to inform future submissions and strategies. • Amplify the voices of local champions through storytelling and shared learning across the region.
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CASE STUDY – IMPACT STORY: Pātaka Kai		
Outcome area/s in Council Social and Cultural Outcomes Framework	Cultural Connection, Health and Wellbeing	
Strategic alignment	Ref N and C framework, Community-led development	KPIs Pou Tāhū Pou Tuarongo Health and Wellbeing Cultural connection and physical activities delivered within our Neighbourhood
Why we did it – what was the spark, problem, opportunity or gap?	<p>There is an increasing level of kai insecurity and reliance on informal food support across Lower Hutt communities.</p> <p>Flowing on from the success experienced at the Walter Nash Pātaka Kai site there is the opportunity to expand this initiative across other communities throughout Te Awa Kairangi.</p> <p>The Pātaka Kai approach provides a dignified, community-owned solution to food insecurity. Rather than relying on traditional charity or emergency food systems, this initiative addresses the gap by promoting community driven food sharing and resilience.</p>	
Who was the target audience, who were our partners?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Audience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whānau experiencing food insecurity ○ Broader neighbourhoods across Taita, Naenae, Epuni, and surrounding communities ○ Anyone in need or with surplus kai to share 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local schools ○ Community champions and volunteers ○ Local businesses ○ Building and material donors ○ Healthy Families Hutt Valley (HFHV) ○ Local food banks
What did we do, enable, support? (event/ programme/ hui)	<p>HFHV is currently supporting the development and installation of six new Pātaka Kai and upgrading three existing sites in neighbourhoods of interest. Planning and coordination is underway in collaboration with local partners.</p> <p>Key activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting site development through partnerships with schools, businesses, and volunteers • Coordinating a sponsorship and donation plan to source building materials and labour • Creating a printed and digital map to help locate shelves and educate the public on how to use or support them • Embedding kaupapa Māori principles such as <i>manaakitanga</i>, <i>koha</i>, and <i>whanaungatanga</i> into daily practice • Initiating policy conversations with Hutt City Council to explore long-term planning support • Amplifying a systems-change narrative that centres community governance and wellbeing
Outcome – who took part? What was their experience? (quant and qual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community identified the need for additional Pātaka Kai through local engagement and surveys. • Survey responses guided the selection of neighbourhoods and specific Pātaka Kai locations. • The process empowered whānau to lead decision-making and ensured the Pātaka Kai reflect local priorities. • Community participation demonstrated strong support and ownership of the kaupapa. • Feedback highlighted the community's appreciation for being heard and actively involved in shaping local solutions.

What were out learnings/reflections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reframing food relief through the lens of community and dignity is powerful - people are more likely to engage when they feel respected. • Tikanga Māori values serve as a strong foundation for collective wellbeing and systems change. • Decentralised, community-led governance fosters stronger ownership and sustainability. • Formal food relief systems can be complemented—and even challenged—by more resilient, local, grassroots models.
What are the next steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise community governance models at each site to support long-term sustainability. • Develop mechanisms to capture and analyse usage data, restocking trends, and community contributions. • Integrate Pātaka Kai into local and regional infrastructure planning via continued engagement with Council and urban design teams. • Host a Pātaka Kai wānanga for site champions to share learnings, strengthen relationships, and co-create future vision. • Support replication of the model in new areas, such as Upper Hutt, using shared templates, mentoring, and community-to-community learning.