



**TE KOMITI ORANGA HAPORI, ORANGA
TAIAO
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES, CLIMATE AND
RESILIENCE COMMITTEE**

24 February 2026

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

Tuesday 3 March 2026 commencing at 9:30am

The meeting will be livestreamed to Council's You Tube page.

Membership

Cr A Mitchell (Chair)

Cr N Shaw (Deputy Chair)

Mayor Fauono K Laban

Deputy Mayor K Brown

Cr G Barratt

Cr P Ravi

Cr B Dyer

Cr T Stallinger

Cr C Parkin

Cr T Lewis

Cr S Edwards

Cr M Tonga-Grant

Cr TA Puketapu

Cr K Yung

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

TE KOMITI ORANGA HAPORI, ORANGA TAIAO | CONNECTED COMMUNITIES, CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Chair:	Cr Andy Mitchell
Deputy Chair:	Cr Naomi Shaw
Membership:	Mayor and all Councillors Refer to Council's Standing Orders (SO 31 Provisions for Mana Whenua)
Quorum:	Half of the membership
Meeting cycle:	Meets on an eight-week basis or at the requisition of the Chair
Reports to:	Council

Overview:

This committee supports Council in ensuring healthy, vibrant and resilient communities and the natural environment through partnerships, overseeing community wellbeing initiatives, environmental sustainability efforts and the city's climate change response.

Areas of focus:

Community Development and Wellbeing:

- Major neighbourhoods, communities, and environmental projects
- Community funding
- City and community safety
- Emergency management and community resilience
- Homelessness: needs and wellbeing
- Youth engagement
- Oversight of the Age and Accessibility Subcommittee

Culture, Heritage:

- Arts, culture, and heritage
- Arts and culture funding

Mana whenua relations:

- Relationships with the seven marae and Te Ao Māori
- Treaty partnerships

Environment and Sustainability:

- Climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience
- Oversight of Council's organisational Carbon Zero plan and the Climate Action Pathway, and other relevant environmental initiatives
- Allocate funding for community climate action
- Collaboration with Mana Whenua, residents, and businesses to decarbonise the city
- Community-led climate action and sustainability programmes
- Waste reduction, recycling, and resource recovery
- Ecology, biodiversity, forestry, and biosecurity
- Social and environmental procurement

Open Spaces and Places:

- Open spaces and community places (parks, reserves, sports, recreation, and community facilities and hubs) with a focus on activation, accessibility, wellbeing, and climate resilience outcomes (excluding asset delivery and regulatory functions, which sit with the Te Komiti Hanganga me ngā Waeture | Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee).
- Oversight of the Pito-one projects.

Purpose:

To oversee and review strategies, policies, frameworks, plans and functions that support community wellbeing (social and cultural) and environmental sustainability, with a particular focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The committee seeks to make Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai a desirable, safe and inclusive city with facilities, open spaces and services that enable healthy lifestyles. It also aims to strengthen the city's long term resilience and sustainability by increasing awareness of, and action on, climate change. Through strong partnerships with Mana Whenua, community organisations and other stakeholders, the committee promotes the cultural, social and environmental wellbeing of current and future generations.

Note: The Chief Executive and officers are responsible for preparing strategies, policies, bylaws, and other reports for consideration by the committee, and for implementing Council decisions. The committee provides governance oversight, direction, and recommendations in these areas, consistent with the separation of governance and management set out in section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Delegations for the Committee's areas of focus:

All powers necessary to perform the committee's responsibilities, including the activities outlined below.

- Oversee required strategies, frameworks and policies **and recommend draft and final versions to Council for adoption, where adoption is required under the Local Government Act 2002.**
- Monitor and review progress on the implementation of Council strategies and policies that relate to community wellbeing, environmental sustainability and climate resilience through oversight and updates from officers.
- Oversee the governance direction and outcomes of plans and programmes that promote environmental well-being, including Council's plan to reach Carbon Zero. **Note** that the Te Komiti Kaupapa Here me te Pae Angitū | Policy and Performance Committee will retain high level oversight of performance reporting on Carbon Zero progress.
- Monitor progress and provide governance oversight of major community wellbeing and environmental projects provided for in the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan.
- Monitor delivery of activities and outcomes within approved budgets under the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan, in alignment with financial reporting overseen by the Te Komiti Kaupapa Here me te Pae Angitū | Policy and Performance Committee.
- Maintain a governance overview of community-led climate action and sustainability programmes, as well as a governance overview of work programmes conducted by Council's Neighbourhoods and Communities directorate.
- Provide governance oversight and direction on matters related to climate change, including raising awareness of climate-related impacts and issues, advocating for climate change impacts, issues and actions, and supporting initiatives that reduce carbon emissions.
- Provide governance oversight and direction on matters related to ecological protection, the protection of biodiversity and biosecurity.
- Approve and monitor, at a governance level, funding within the committee's areas of focus, in line with Council's approved funding framework.
Note: The distribution of funding may be delegated to panels or other mechanisms established by Council. The committee retains oversight of overall funding outcomes and alignment with Council priorities and will continue to operate within the approved funding framework as it evolves.
- 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.
- Conduct any consultation/engagement processes required on issues before the committee.

- Approve and forward submissions. If the timing for forwarding submissions does not align with the meeting schedule, the Chair and Deputy Chair have the authority to approve submissions and report back to the committee.
- **Recommend to Council** the acquisition or disposal of assets unless the acquisition or disposal is provided for specifically in the Long Term Plan.
- Any other matters delegated to the committee by Council in accordance with approved policies and bylaws, noting the committee may provide input on the community or environmental impacts of bylaws within its areas of focus when requested. Still, responsibility for bylaw development, consultation, and adoption rests solely with Te Komiti Kaupapa Here me te Pae Angitū | Policy and Performance Committee.
- The recipients of the annual Civic Honours awards.

If a policy or project relates primarily to the responsibilities of the Te Komiti Oranga Hapori, Oranga Taiao | Connected Communities and Climate Resilience Committee and/or Te Komiti Hanganga me ngā Waeture Komiti Hanganga | Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee, the Te Komiti Oranga Hapori, Oranga Taiao | Connected Communities and Climate Resilience Committee has the power to make associated decisions on behalf of that committee. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that matters do not need to be taken to more than one of those committees for decisions.

HUTT CITY COUNCIL

TE KOMITI ORANGA HAPORI, ORANGA TAIAO CONNECTED COMMUNITIES, CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers,
2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Tuesday 3 March 2026 commencing at 9:30am

ORDER PAPER

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA KAUNIHERA

Tuia te mana akiaki	<i>Sow the seeds of courage</i>
Rarangahia te mana	<i>Weave the power of unity</i>
rangatira	<i>To grow and prosper</i>
Kia tipu, kia puāwai	<i>There are ripples in</i>
E ripo ngā wai	<i>Te Awa Kairangi</i>
O Te Awa Kairangi	<i>There are Kaitiaki on the land</i>
He Kaitiaki ki te whenua	<i>Protected environment</i>
He oranga taiao	<i>Thriving people</i>
He oranga tangata	<i>Connected, united, affirmed!</i>

Haumi e, hui e Taiki e!

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. NUKU ORA REGIONAL SPACES & PLACES STRATEGY 2025

Report No. CCCRC2026/1/18 by the Head of Connected Communities 10

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

6. **ASSETS REVIEW UPDATE AND MAUNGARAKI HALL LEASE**
 Report No. CCCRC2026/1/15 by the Head of Parks and Reserves 40
CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
 That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."
7. **DRAFT RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN HONIANA TE PUNI RESERVE**
 Report No. CCCRC2026/1/41 by the Head of Parks and Reserves 47
CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
 "That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed with a new part (5) to read:
 (5) delegates authority to the Chief Executive and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust to make any minor amendments to the Reserve Management Plan for Honiana Te Puni. ."
8. **DRAINAGE AND PLAY IMPROVEMENTS HUGH SINCLAIR PARK, WAINUIOMATA**
 Report No. CCCRC2026/1/14 by the Head of Parks and Reserves 73
CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
 "That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."
9. **SIX MONTHLY BIODIVERSITY UPDATE**
 Report No. CCCRC2026/1/16 by the Head of Parks and Reserves 98
CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
 "That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."
10. **UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE WORK**
 Report No. CCCRC2026/1/17 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability 122
CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
 "That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

11. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SIX MONTH UPDATE

Report No. CCCRC2026/1/42 by the Emergency Management Lead 130

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

12. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AGE AND ACCESSIBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON 24 FEBRUARY 2026 TO ESTABLISH THE AGE AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Report No. CCCRC2026/1/43 by the Democracy Advisor 135

13. INFORMATION ITEM

Connected Communities, Climate and Resilience Committee Forward Programme 2026

Memorandum dated 13 February 2026 by the Democracy Advisor 136

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendation contained in the memorandum 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. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

16. ASSETS REVIEW UPDATE AND MAUNGARAKI HALL LEASE - PUBLIC EXCLUDED APPENDICES

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

(A) General subject of the matter to be considered.	(B) Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter.	(C) Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.
Assets Review Update and Maungaraki Hall Lease - Public Excluded Appendices.	The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (s7(2)(h)). The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (s7(2)(i)).	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exist.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as specified in Column (B) above.”

17. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Unuhia!
Unuhia!
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui
Kia wātea, kia māmā
Te ngākau, te tinana, te
wairua i te ara takatū
Koia rā e Rongo
whakairihia ake ki runga
Kia wātea, kia wātea!
Ae rā, kua wātea!
Hau, pai mārīre.

*Release us from the supreme sacredness of our
tasks
To be clear and free
in heart, body and soul in our continuing
journey
Oh Rongo, raise these words up high
so that we be cleansed and be free,
Yes indeed, we are free!
Good and peaceful*

Jenny Young
DEMOCRACY ADVISOR

04 February 2026

Report no: CCCRC2026/1/18

Nuku Ora Regional Spaces & Places Strategy 2025

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Council's endorsement of the Wellington Regional Spaces and Places Strategy (the Strategy), noting the caveats. Note that Nuku Ora representatives will attend the meeting to discuss the Strategy.

Recommendations

That the Committee endorses the Wellington Regional Spaces and Places Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, noting the following caveats:

- a) recommendations 2.1.1 – the collaborative decision-making framework and process will provide advice, and Hutt City Council will retain self-determination around its own spaces and places;
- b) recommendation 2.1.5 – at this time, Council does not support regional collaboration and potential investment to upgrade Porirua Park to provide a regional mid-sized stadium.

For the reason that Council supports the principle of regional collaboration on spaces and places for recreation and sport to ensure best value for money for rate payers, meet current and future demand, and manage the rates burden.

Background

2. In 2025 Nuku Ora finalised the development of its Wellington Regional Places and Spaces Strategy, after previous work was stalled in 2023/2024. A copy of the Strategy is included for reference at Appendix 1.
3. The Strategy proposes a new collaborative decision-making framework for use of community sports and recreational spaces and places across the Wellington region. It aims to address the issues of duplication, inequitable access whilst also enabling the provision of more efficient and sustainable places and spaces.
4. With the refresh, Nuku Ora brought together councils (including the eight territorial authorities in the region), with the support of Sport NZ, to advise on projects and advocate for aligned planning and development that matches with the strategy's principles and goals.

5. The Strategy establishes a regional hierarchy and prioritisation framework intended to align investment decisions with participation/demand trends, equity and climate resilience. It promotes a role for a Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group, supported administratively by Nuku Ora, to provide strategic oversight, assessment and advice on local investments that support regional goals.
6. Hutt City Council is a contributing partner. Officers have provided input into the Strategy's development, participate in the steering committee and Council also provides Nuku Ora with a \$20,000pa funding contribution to support the regional coordination role.

Discussion

7. The Strategy provides a useful regional overview of current participation, trends and challenges, and builds on Nuku Ora's previous stocktakes of sports fields and indoor courts. This information, data and insight is valuable as Council considers its own approach to recreation, sport and play. The regional view will be increasingly important as work towards potential amalgamation progresses.
8. According to StatsNZ Lower Hutt's population at Jun 2025 was 114,200. Diversity across the city is growing, and our population is ageing with 65+ population increasing, and the youth population stabilising/declining. Council's Growth Strategy shows that our population is projected to grow by more than 40,000 residents over the next 30 years, which will impact Council's infrastructure and services, including its places and spaces.
9. In many areas the Strategy has implications for Council, which align with Council's current approach to various workstreams including:
10. The Strategy emphasises making the most of existing assets before pursuing new builds. This aligns strongly with Council's Asset Review work to optimise existing facilities, strategic investment and recycling investment, and where appropriate divestment.
11. The Strategy recognises the importance of Climate resilience, and its calls for proactive assessment and action align well to Council's Climate Pathway, and investment in its Sports fields Drainage Programme.
12. The Strategy's focus on equity resonates strongly its work Investment in Rec, Sport and Play – ensuring accessible/affordable opportunities to participate, increased collaboration including with schools, and greater flexibility in how spaces and places are used, including for different and new activities. Further, the Strategy links well to Council's approach to Community development, that supports traditionally underserved Communities and Neighbourhoods of Interest to better connect with Council and each other.

A call to action for the Strategy's implementation

13. Nuku Ora is seeking Hutt City Council's endorsement of the Strategy. Recognising the areas of alignment Officers recommend Council provides this endorsement, subject to two proposed caveats, being:
- a. Recommendations 2.1.1 – officers support the intention for, and our involvement in, a collaborative decision-making framework and process to ensure a regional view is taken on all investment. However, Officers propose this would provide advice to be considered in decision-making and that Councils would retain self-determination around their own spaces and places;
 - b. Recommendation 2.1.5 – currently officers do not support regional collaboration and potential investment to upgrade Porirua Park to provide a regional mid-sized stadium. Council is currently considering its own options in this respect with a focus on partnership. A fully rates-funded stadium/stadium improvement is not aligned to Council's current approach or priorities.

Options

14. The Committee has the following options:
- a. Option 1 – endorse The Strategy with the caveats outlined above and commit to being part of a collaborative regional approach to spaces and places; (recommended)
 - b. Option 2 – not endorse The Strategy but continue to work collaboratively across the region.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

15. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.
16. Climate change is ever increasing the frequency and unpredictability of extreme weather, requiring Council to monitor on an ongoing basis the sustainability risk for its assets and facilities. The Strategy recognises the importance of Climate resilience, and its calls for proactive assessment and action align well to Council's Climate Pathway.

Consultation

17. Internally the Heads of Parks and Reserves; Aquatics and Neighbourhood Hubs and Library Services (for the Walter Nash Centre) have been consulted on this report.
18. Nuku Ora who have developed the Strategy, has consulted it with the eight territorial authorities, including Hutt City Council, and Sports New Zealand.
19. Officers will include a summary of these changes, and Council's position on them, in upcoming public consultations for Council's proposed changes to its investment in Recreation, Sport and Play.

Legal Considerations

20. There are no legal considerations for this proposal.

Financial Considerations

21. There are no financial implications for this proposal. Note that as part of its current Long Term Plan, Council contributes \$20k per annum to support Nuku Ora's Spaces and Places work.

Appendices

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1 ↓	Nuku Ora Regional Spaces & Places Strategy 2025	14

Author: Adrienne Moor
Head of Connected Communities

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities



Wellington Regional
**Spaces
and Places
Strategy**
2025



Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Wellington Region Spaces and Places Steering Group (PSG) and Project Working Group (PWG) members listed below including where members were part of both groups.

MEMBER	REPRESENTING	PWG	PSG
Andrew Leslie	Nuku Ora		•
Lily Joiner	Nuku Ora	•	•
Marcus Sherwood	Nuku Ora	•	•
Nicky Sherriff	Nuku Ora	•	
Pembroke Chambers	Nuku Ora		•
Matthew Jenkins	Nuku Ora		•
Andrea Jackson	Nuku Ora		•
Zanta Jones	Sport New Zealand	•	•
Rangi Luke	Te Ātiawa	•	
Sanjay Patel	Wellington City Council	•	•
Raylene Bishop	Ngati Toa Rangatira	•	
Royce Williams	Upper Hutt City Council	•	•
James O'Connor and Melissa Stockley	South Wairarapa District Council	•	•
Cat Wylde and Rob Gulley	Kāpiti Coast District Council	•	•
Emma Paisley	Wellington Rugby	•	
Michael Langley	Wellington Hockey	•	
Damien Ekenasio	Capital Basketball	•	
Julian Emeny and Glenn Quintal	Porirua City Council		•
Kelsi Rutene and Ian Osland	Masterton District Council		•
Trevor Jackson	Kāpiti Coast District Council		•
Natu Taufale and Sukhraj Singh	Hutt City Council		•
Becks Clarke	Carterton District Council		•

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Thanks to:

The Nuku Ora Disability Action Plan Roopu, regional sports and recreation organisations, advocacy groups, school representatives, community groups, clubs, community funding organisations, and councils, who provided their expertise, local knowledge and insights to help shape this strategy. Special thanks to those who took the time to attend workshops.

Thank you also to the secondary school staff, national and regional organisations who took the time to provide valuable input by completing the online surveys.



1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Overview

The level of participation possible in sport and active recreation activities is closely connected to the availability of an accessible and functional network of spaces and places (assets and facilities). Across the Wellington region, there is a range of established spaces and places, including aquatic facilities, indoor and outdoor courts, turfs and sports fields, bike paths, skate and play facilities to support community participation. However, the future of the spaces and places network, and any improvements to it, is facing significant challenges requiring a more coherent and collaborative strategy to ensure it is future-proofed. This spaces and places Strategy and decision-making framework looks to put in place ways to turn the challenges faced into opportunities for future sustainability of the region's spaces and places network.

1.1.1 Purpose of this Strategy

This Strategy guides the approach to regional planning, provision and decision making for active recreation and

sport spaces and places (assets and facilities) in the Wellington region. It provides an update to, and replaces, the 2019 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Strategy.

1.1.2 Strategic Context

The Wellington region has a current population of about 545,000 residents. The region includes the metropolitan centre of Wellington City, New Zealand's capital, and extends across a mix of urban, suburban and rural landscapes. The Wairarapa is a large part of the region's land area and is made up of agricultural and horticultural land uses and enjoys a generally warmer climate than the rest of the region. Much of the region has ready access to the coast or natural environment.

The population of the region is forecast to grow to 720,000 residents by 2053 – an increase of 175,000 people compared to the current population. While the structure of the region's population is ageing, the population will continue to see growth across all age groupings over the next 30 years. The region's ethnic population will continue to increase in diversity, with a greater share of the population

predicted to identify of Asian or Māori descent in the future.

The greater Wellington region is overseen by one regional council (Greater Wellington Regional Council) and 8 territorial authorities (district or city councils) who are the primary service and asset providers of spaces and places in the region.

1.2 Challenges and Opportunities

1.2.1 The Affordability and Condition of the Spaces and Places Network

The condition and age of spaces and places in the Wellington region present a challenge to upkeep and maintain, as a functioning network, within current available budgets. In some parts of the region, there are identified provision gaps and pressure on the availability of spaces and places at peak times, and in other areas, there are facilities that are no longer fit for purpose and underutilised. Related factors to this challenge also include:

- The pressure on available funding sources and lower club membership rates is restricting organisations' capacity to spend on spaces and places (including maintenance, renewal and new developments).
- The changing nature of casual and non-traditional sport and recreation means demand cannot always be met by the existing network, especially at peak times.
- Decisions on space and places provision are not always making the best use of available evidence and data to align either provision or condition of facilities to demand.

1.2.2 Opportunities to Access Spaces and Places

There are shortcomings in the ways spaces and places are designed to provide access for everyone in the community to have an equal opportunity to participate. The inclusive design and availability of specific amenities (like toilets or changing rooms) are influencing factors for some in choosing to join a club or take part in sport and active recreation on a more casual basis.

Differences across the region in the way data is collected and used to inform space allocation, fees and charges and levels of service means there is inconsistent space and place availability and user experiences across the region.

1.2.3 Climate Change and Sustainability

The increasing frequency and unpredictability of weather events linked to climate change are also requiring decisions on the likely future viability of some assets and facilities. This impacts a range of decisions from types of drainage, soil and grass types, to relinquishing assets that can no longer be insurable.

Spaces and places owners are needing to put in place measures to improve sustainability (energy efficiency, waste

The population of the region is forecast to grow to 720,000 residents by 2053 - an increase of 175,000 people compared to the current population.

and emissions reduction), but funding and capability in this area make it difficult for many organisations to make the necessary changes.

1.2.4 Opportunities to Plan and Provide Differently

All these challenges present opportunities to consider more collaborative provision models. These include looking region-wide and locally for viable solutions, and to prioritise adapting and getting the most out of existing space and place investment.

Some of the specific opportunities highlighted through engagement and feedback received during the development of this Strategy include:

- Enabling more multi-use and partnering models in the provision of spaces and places, including with iwi and kaupapa Māori organisations.
- Getting the most out of existing facilities by leveraging data and insights to inform more flexible design solutions.
- Making spaces and places more appealing, useable and accessible for all members of the community.
- Enabling greater sustainability and resilience of spaces and places.

1.2.5 Spaces and Places Strategy Objectives

This Strategy outlines four objectives to allow the Wellington Region Spaces and Places network to respond to the identified challenges and opportunities. These are to:

- Prioritise making the most out of existing Spaces and Places to meet demand through both facility and non-facility solutions.

This means looking to extend the capacity of existing spaces and places to meet changing demand through direct facility improvements or non-facility choices like consistent policy, pricing or use of digital management solutions.

- Target investment and resources to address the barriers some communities are facing to participation.

This requires the design of spaces and places that support the needs of all members of the community regardless of life stage, gender, physical ability or ethnicity. Additional sub-regional challenges also demand targeted investment to address proximity and accessibility barriers. This is most likely in the Wairarapa and Kāpiti Coast.

- Implement a flexible range of delivery and funding methods to improve the future affordability of Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region.

This means broadening both the range of models and funding mechanisms to support greater choice and flexibility in space and place provision.

- Invest in new spaces and places where there is proof of need, and no alternative solution.

Being clear about what current or future gaps might exist, and for who, is an important first step before considering new space and place investment. Where a need may be proven, solutions should include looking for co-investment

opportunities with school facilities, and spaces and places that support multiple uses and offer flexibility to adapt to new or emerging demands.

1.2.6 A Move to More Collaborative Regional Decision Making

Achieving these objectives will require adapting current, or introducing new mechanisms, to support more collaborative planning and solution finding. The decision-making process accompanying this Strategy looks to put in place a way to quickly identify and support potential initiatives and solutions to implement the four objectives outlined. This process includes:

- A strategic assessment phase where a proposed solution or initiative can be readily checked for alignment to the principles and criteria applied through this Strategy.
- A more detailed review phase, including involvement and advice from subject matter experts to test the proposed solution.

This decision-making process will be supported by Nuku Ora and overseen by the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group. The existing national guidance provided by [Sport New Zealand](#) will continue to be a key reference point supporting this decision making. This process seeks to achieve improved regional collaboration and more informed and consistent local decision making.



2.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed following an assessment of a range of evidence and stakeholder engagement.

2.1 Region Wide Recommendations

2.1.1 Use of Spaces and Places Strategy and Decision-Making Framework

- (1) That each partner agency covered by this Spaces and Places Plan adopts and uses both the strategy and decision-making framework in their planning for spaces and places provision.
- (2) That the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group holds the role for ongoing review and endorsement of proposed initiatives and solutions through the collaborative decision-making framework, making recommendations to individual organisations' decision-making processes as required.

2.1.2 Backbone Support – Nuku Ora

- (3) That the process outlined in the collaborative decision-making framework, including backbone support for the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group, be led and implemented by Nuku Ora. The next steps for this implementation will be to:
 - (a) Finalise a Strategic Assessment checklist for new initiatives or solutions
 - (b) Develop and deploy a communication/education plan to help raise awareness of the strategy and the collaborative decision-making framework.
- (4) As part of this backbone support role Nuku Ora should develop and maintain an implementation plan for these Spaces and Places Strategy Recommendations (and other associated recommendations from prior indoor court and sports field assessments). This implementation plan should assign accountability, identify timing and partnership opportunities, and funding responsibility for each recommendation.

2.1.3 Assess The Impacts of Climate Change

- (5) Councils or sub-regional clusters of Councils are encouraged to assess the spaces and places assets in their area(s) which are potentially at risk of being impacted by weather related impacts of climate change (like inundation or flooding). This assessment should recommend assets or facilities that require future proofing to prepare for these impacts while maintaining appropriate level of access and provision. This future proofing should apply the spaces and places principles and consider opportunities like expanding facility usage and partnerships (e.g. water sports sharing facilities).

2.1.4 Aligned Code Regional Facility Network Planning

- (6) Complete a regional assessment of bowls facilities' needs and opportunities, including identifying any facility sharing opportunities with other potential aligned sports and recreation partners through the assessment process (e.g. croquet / pétanque and other users who may use covered bowling green facilities or share clubroom spaces).
- (7) Complete an assessment of available racquet sport facilities and needs to identify facility sharing opportunities with other potential aligned sports and recreation partners through the assessment process (e.g. tennis, pickleball, padel and other users who use similar court facilities).

2.1.5 Improvements to Mid-Sized Stadium Provision

- (8) Those short-term opportunities be progressed to provide a quality upgrade of sports fields and facilities at Porirua Park. As this provides regional benefit, opportunities for co-investment in this upgrade should be considered by the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group.

2.1.6 Improvements to Supporting Facilities

- (9) All councils and facility owners should be encouraged to proactively plan for improvements to toilet and changing rooms facilities, including ensuring appropriate quality of provision and that the opening hours for these facilities are aligned to times of public use.
- (10) That an assessment of the ownership and provision of night lighting for spaces and places be progressed.² This assessment should look to understand the benefits of Council owning and managing these lights (if they don't already) and where additional network provision can be made available as a quick win. This should be considered for sports fields, outdoor courts and turfs where capable of providing for the additional use.

and future aquatic provision. This should particularly look at provision of warm water options (like hydrotherapy) for an ageing population.

- (13) That the feasibility study for provision of additional indoor court space in the Wairarapa be progressed and provided to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to consider for endorsement (where this is a sub-regional facility).

2.3 Kāpiti Coast District Sub-region

2.3.1 Spaces and Places Network Plan

- (14) That a spaces and places needs assessment and network plan be completed for the Kāpiti Coast District sub-region to guide increased partnership and collaboration opportunities in this area including opportunities for school partnerships (sharing both Council and school facilities). This should acknowledge travel barriers to destination facilities and the need for local and easily accessible opportunities. This needs assessment and network plan should be guided by the objectives in the Spaces and Places Strategy and any other opportunities identified through stakeholder engagement.
- (15) For indoor courts in Kāpiti Coast District:
 - (a) That the business case for provision of additional indoor court space in the Kāpiti Coast district be provided to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to consider for endorsement (where this is a sub-regional facility) and;
 - (b) That network optimisation opportunities, like covering existing outdoor courts, should also be considered as a low-cost alternative to provide additional network capacity.

2.2 Wairarapa Sub-Region

The following recommendations relate to the Wairarapa sub-region.

2.2.1 Spaces and Places Network Plan

- (11) That a spaces and places needs assessment and network plan be completed for the Wairarapa sub-region to guide increased partnership and collaboration opportunities in this area, including opportunities for school partnerships (sharing both Council and school facilities). This should acknowledge travel barriers to destination facilities and the need for local and easily accessible opportunities. This needs assessment and network plan should be guided by the objectives in the Spaces and Places Strategy and any other opportunities identified through stakeholder engagement.
- (12) That either as part of (11) or separately, an aquatic needs assessment be completed to assess current

² Noting this is for spaces and places with sufficient turf quality to ensure additional utilisation can be sustained if lighting is installed or enhanced.



3.0 Introduction

3.1 Background

This is the 2nd edition of a Spaces and Places Strategy for the Wellington region. This refresh of the Strategy has been developed through collaboration between Nuku Ora, Sport New Zealand | Ihi Aotearoa, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council and for the Wairarapa sub-region, South Wairarapa District Council, Masterton and Carterton District Councils.

3.2 Purpose of the Strategy

This Spaces and Places Strategy guides the approach to regional planning and provision of active recreation and sport spaces and places (assets and facilities) in the Wellington region. It provides an update to, and replaces, the 2019 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Strategy.

This Strategy provides a high-level strategic framework to guide councils, funders and community organisations across the Wellington region in their decision-making for spaces and places planning and provision. Accompanying the strategic framework is a decision-making process that supports consistency in the assessment of spaces and places initiatives against the strategic framework. This process recognises that resources are limited, and prioritisation of future investment is critical.

While this Strategy applies to the entire Wellington region, it also acknowledges where there may be specific sub-regional challenges or requirements faced in the Wairarapa (Carterton, Masterton and South Wairarapa districts) and the Kāpiti Coast district.

This Strategy provides a high-level strategic framework to guide councils, funders and community organisations across the Wellington region in their decision-making for spaces and places planning and provision.

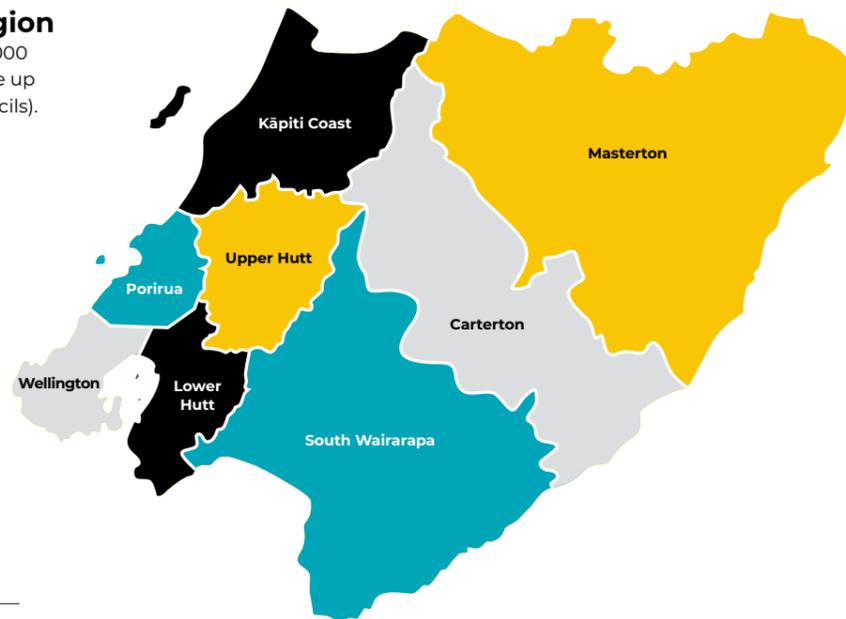


4.0 Strategic Context

4.1 The Wellington Region

The Wellington region covers an 8,000 square kilometre area³, that is made up of eight territorial authorities (Councils). A map of the region is provided in Figure 4-1.

Figure 4-1: Wellington Region and Territorial Authorities within the Region



³ Greater Wellington Region website

4.2 Demographic Overview

4.2.1 A Projected Growing Population

The population of the Wellington region is predicted to grow over the next 25-30 years. The scale and location of this population growth is less certain, with varied forecasts available. This variability is largely due to difficulty predicting population growth from migration, given the disruption to these patterns following the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2023 population of the Wellington region was estimated at 545,000, and this population is projected to grow by 32% over the next 30 years to a total of 720,000 residents by 2053⁴.

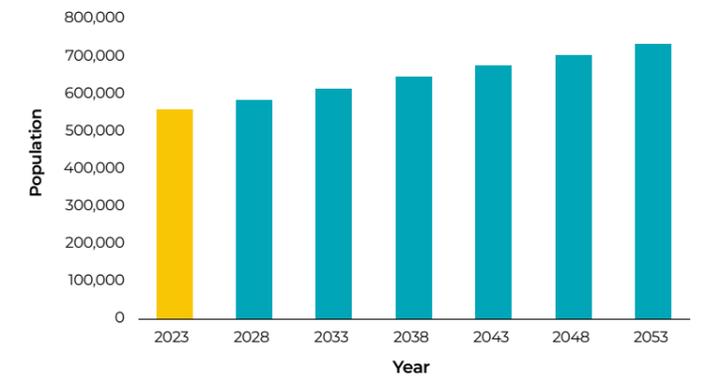
This expected growth will require facilities and infrastructure to adapt to changing demand and the anticipated increased pressure on some spaces and places at peak times.

4.2.2 Variable Projected Growth Across the Region

While the overall population of the Wellington region is expected to grow, there are differences in how this growth might be distributed. Growth forecasts for council areas range from a low of 27% (Wellington City) and a high of 45% (for both Carterton and Masterton) to 2053 (See Table 4-1). However, in absolute numbers, Wellington City is expected to see the largest population growth of 57,280 people⁵ over the 2023-2053 period, with Upper Hutt forecast to see the least growth (15,600 people).

This variability will require a better understanding of where localised population changes will occur, connected to planning that ensures the changing sport and recreation needs of a growing population can be met.

Figure 4-2 : Wellington Region Population Projection

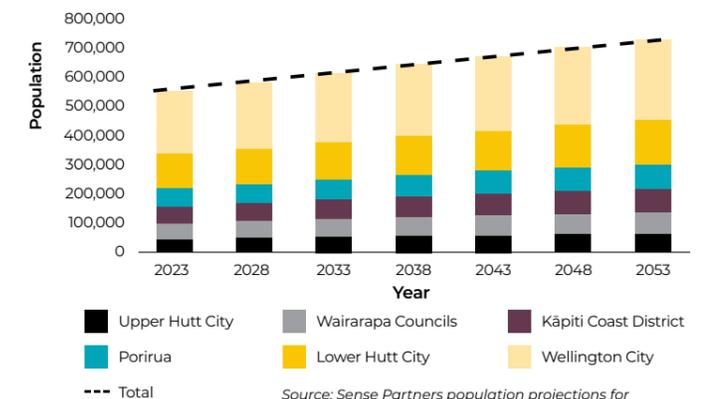


Source: Sense Partners population projections for Greater Wellington Regional Council (50th Percentile)

Table 4-1 Growth Projections for Wellington Region by Council Area 2021-2054⁶

COUNCIL AREA	2021	2030	2040	2050	2054	% change between 2021-2054 for the 50th percentile
Carterton District	10,073	11,574	13,162	14,651	15,197	51%
Horowhenua District	36,517	40,809	45,092	48,958	50,438	38%
Kapiti Coast District	57,422	63,552	71,140	78,538	80,924	41%
Lower Hutt City	112,235	121,492	133,758	145,810	150,237	34%
Masterton District	28,403	33,060	37,416	41,546	42,984	51%
Porirua City	61,158	66,705	73,680	80,820	83,432	36%
South Wairarapa District	11,612	13,075	14,695	16,088	16,606	43%
Upper Hutt City	47,326	52,218	57,458	62,395	64,238	36%
Wellington City	215,378	224,449	244,952	263,400	271,288	26%
Total Wellington Region	580,124	626,934	691,353	752,206	775,344	

Figure 4-3 Wellington Region Councils Population Projection



Source: Sense Partners population projections for Greater Wellington Regional Council (50th Percentile)

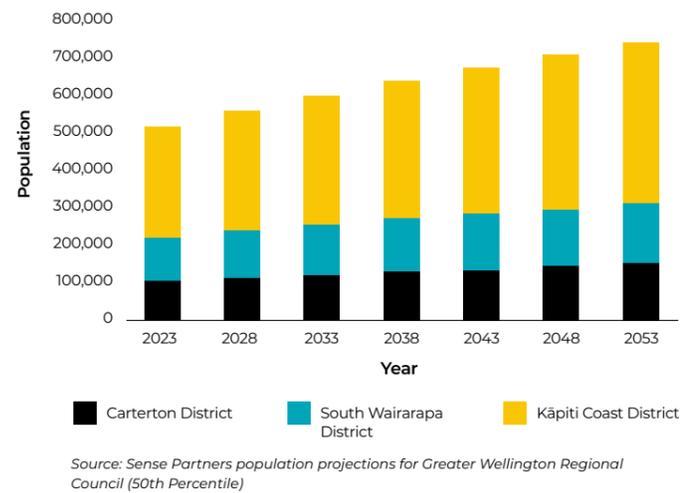
⁴ Using Sense Partners Projections

⁵ For more information about each council area please refer to Appendix 2

⁶ Sense Partners Population Forecast 2021-51 – 50th percentile projection

All Councils in the Wairarapa sub-region are forecast to grow in population (see Figure 4-4), with Masterton expected to see the greatest growth (about 13,000 new residents by 2053).

Figure 4-4 Wairarapa Councils Population Projection



4.2.3 An Ageing Population

While all age groupings are forecast to see some population growth, the highest proportion of change will be seen in those aged 75 or over (growing from 7% of the population in 2023 to 12% by 2048).

Future spaces and places will need to consider the sport and active recreation needs of the whole population. With an ageing demographic, demand for aspects such as warm, accessible facilities will increase. This may mean there is demand for more indoor recreation, social spaces, and warm water provision in aquatic facilities.

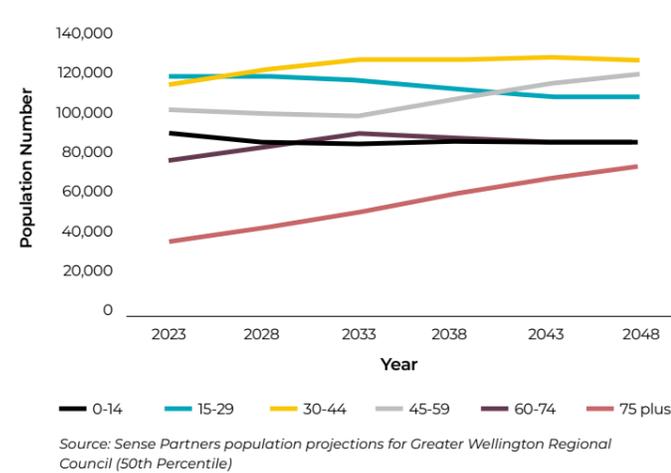
From 2033, those within the 45-59 age grouping are expected to grow at the second-highest rate (from 17% of the population in 2033 to 20% by 2048). This age grouping is likely to have different needs in a spaces and places network⁷ than older or younger age groupings. Consideration of the more specific needs of this age group will need to be factored into future space and place provision.

While there is some initial growth in younger age groups (less than 30 years of age), this age group is expected to diminish over time (from 39% of the population in 2023 to 32% by 2048). Typically,

this age group has the highest proportion of involvement in organised sports, and while still seeing growth, may require a shift in emphasis towards older age group provision than currently.

Figure 4-5 depicts the change in the expected population for different age groupings in the Wellington region to 2048.

Figure 4-5 Projected Wellington Region Age Structure 2023-2048



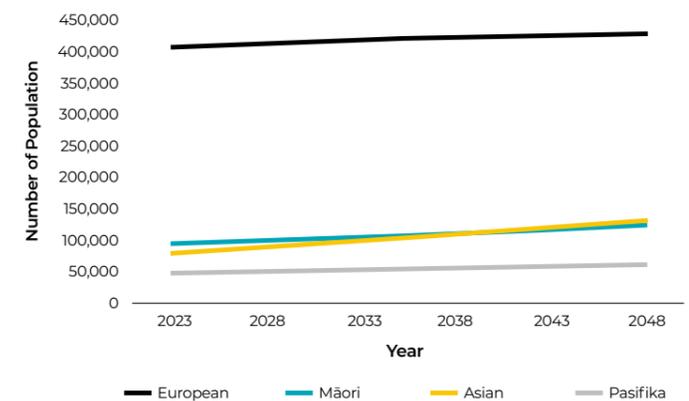
4.2.4 A More Diverse Region

The greatest proportion of the population in the region will continue to identify as New Zealand European; however, this population group will only represent 0.3% of projected annual population growth, totalling an increase of 19,000 residents by 2043 (see Figure 4-6)⁸.

Proportionally, the most significant changes in ethnicity will see those of Māori descent increase by about 28,000 (a 1.5% annual increase), and an increase in those who identify of Asian descent of about 51,000 by 2043, representing a 2.5% annual increase⁹.

Active recreation and sport participation preferences can vary significantly across different ethnic groups. Taking the time to understand the ethnic profile of an area, and the associated participation preferences will be an important step in future space and place planning.

Figure 4-6 Projected Population Across Four Highest Ethnicity Groupings

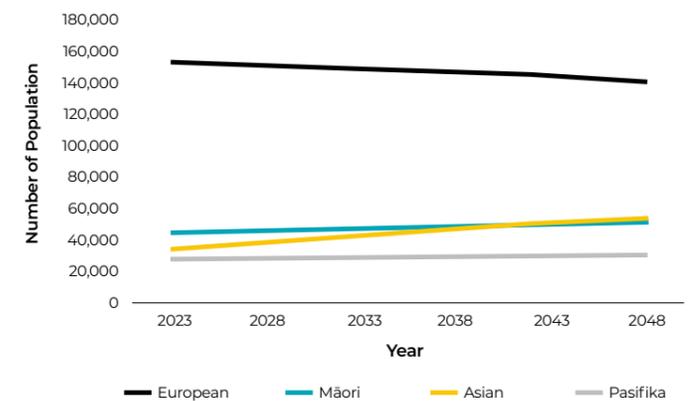


4.2.5 A Younger Age Profile Expected – for some ethnicities

While there is an expected trend towards an older population in the region, there are some notable changes in the population projected in the 0–29-year age group for some ethnic groupings.

The profile of those who identify as Asian and Māori ethnicity, within the 0–29-year age group, will increase to 2043 while those of New Zealand European descent will decrease over the same period (see Figure 4-7).

Figure 4-7 Wellington Region Ethnic Projected Profile 2023-2043 (0-29 Age Group)



⁷ An example is greater demand for aqua therapy or hydrotherapy in aquatic facilities.

⁸ Ethnic population totals may total to greater than 100% as individuals can identify as more than one ethnicity

⁹ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/subnational-ethnic-population-projections-2018base2043-update/>

4.2.6 Deprivation

The highest decile deprivation areas in the region, outside the more built-up urban areas, include parts of Masterton, Featherston (Wairarapa) and Ōtaki (Kāpiti Coast District).¹⁰ This is highlighted in Figure 4-8.

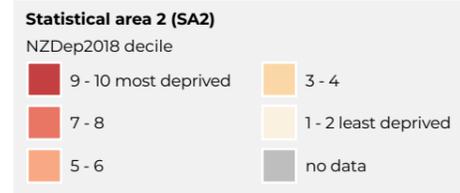


Figure 4-8 Deprivation in the Wellington Region¹¹

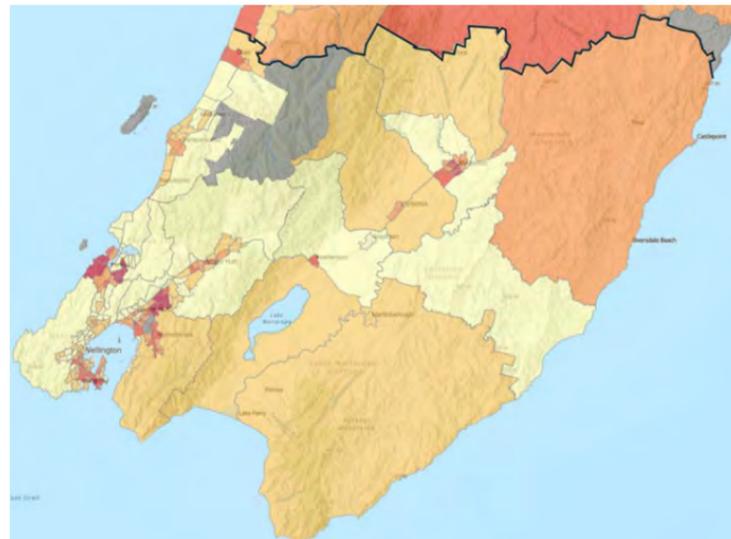


Figure 4-9 takes a closer look in more built-up urban parts of the region. This identifies the highest concentration of high decile deprivation suburbs in Porirua (Cannons Creek, and Porirua East), and in Hutt City (includes parts of Naenae / Stokes Valley / Taitā and Wainuiomata).

Nuku Ora already supports community-led initiatives in the geographical priority communities of Porirua and Hutt City (Lower Hutt). Targeted investment in space and place provision alongside community-led initiatives in these areas may also be a consideration in future investment.

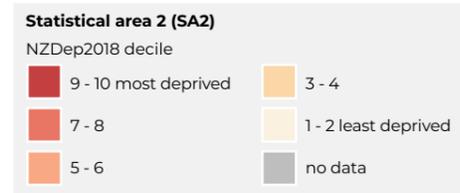
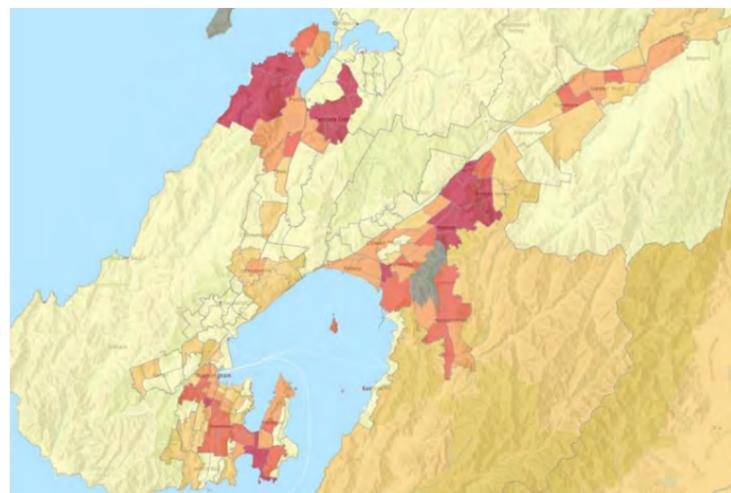


Figure 4-9 Deprivation Index – Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt City and Upper Hutt



4.3 Participation Trends

4.3.1 The Top Five Activity Behaviours

The Sport New Zealand Insights tool¹² provides data on the participation rates in sport and recreation activities across New Zealand. This insights tool has been used to provide a summary of the activity behaviour (interests and preferences)¹³ for the Wellington region.

The top five activity behaviours for the Wellington region overall and the sub-regions below (council areas) are represented in Table 4-2. This table highlights in green those activities with a significant difference from the national

participation figure (being at least 4% higher than the national figure for that activity).

Participation rates in the Wellington region are generally similar to the rest of New Zealand. Walking for leisure or sport is a behaviour with higher participation rates in Kāpiti Coast and the Wairarapa area (green highlight). These top activity preferences share common characteristics that they are typically:

- Informal or casual participation opportunities, and;
- Able to be participated in as an individual – as opposed to team-based activities.

Table 4-2 The Top Five Activity Behaviours in Wellington Region Territorial Authorities¹⁴

CITY / DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA	WALKING FOR SPORT OR LEISURE	JOGGING / RUNNING	INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT	SWIMMING	PLAYING (RUNNING AROUND, CLIMBING TREES, MAKE BELIEVE)
All of New Zealand	45.1%	25.6%	20.1%	13.1%	10.1%
Wellington Region	48.6%	25%	20.7%	13.9%	11.1%
Wellington City	48.3%	24.8%	20.4%	13.4%	10.3%
Upper Hutt	48.9%	24.8%	20.1%	13.9%	10.9%
Hutt City	47.4%	25.0%	19.7%	13.9%	11.4%
Porirua	48.5%	26.4%	20.3%	15.1%	13.2%
Kāpiti Coast	50.5%	24.3%	20.1%	14.1%	10.9%
South Wairarapa	50.8%	24.6%	20.4%	14.1%	10.8%
Carterton	50.8%	24.6%	20.3%	14.2%	10.9%
Masterton	49.6%	24.9%	19.9%	14.3%	11.4%

¹² This Tool sources data from Statistics NZ, Active NZ Survey (Sport NZ) School Sport New Zealand sports participation data, Ministry of Education, Health and Nielsen Research. See <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/>

¹³ Activity behaviours is modelled participation using combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey (last 7 Days participation rates) and Statistics NZ Census 2018.

¹⁴ Data sourced from the Sport NZ Insights Tool <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/>. Modelled participation uses combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey and StatsNZ Census 2018.

¹⁰ New Zealand Index of Socio-Economic Deprivation (NZ Dep 2023), University of Otago

¹¹ New Zealand Index of Deprivation (2023): <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=e051f62ff714474caba8348552fd7524>

4.3.2 Rounding out the Top Ten Behaviours in the Wellington Region

The next most popular activity behaviours outside the top 5 are outlined in Table 4-3 below. This shows that most popular participation/ activity behaviours (interests and preferences) in the Wellington region are typically based around informal and recreational activities.

Table 4-3 Rounding out the Top Ten Activity Behaviours¹⁵



CITY / DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA	ROAD CYCLING	PLAYING ON PLAYGROUND	GROUP EXERCISE	GARDENING	GAMES (E.G. 4 SQUARE, TAG, BULL RUSH)
All of New Zealand	10.3%	8.6%	8.1%	9.8%	8.8%
Wellington Region	9.8%	9.2%	9.1%	9.0%	8.2%
Wellington City	9.5%	8.6%	8.9%	8.9%	8.9%
Upper Hutt	9.8%	9.2%	8.9%	9.2%	8.9%
Hutt City	9.8%	9.5%	9%	9.5%	9%
Porirua	10.5%	10.7%	9.8%	8.2%	10.4%
Kāpiti Coast	10.0%	9.2%	9.1%	10.3%	8.6%
South Wairarapa	10.1%	9.2%	9%	10.3%	8.5%
Carterton	10.1%	9.3%	9%	10.3%	8.7%
Masterton	10.1%	9.6%	9%	9.6%	9.1%

4.3.3 Organised Sport Participation Rates

The activity behaviours data for the top 5 participation rates in the more 'organised'/ traditional sport category are as outlined in Table 4-4.

Table 4-4 Organised Sport Participation Rates in the Wellington Region 2024



CITY / DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA	FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL	NETBALL	GOLF	RUGBY
All of New Zealand	6.3%	4.4%	3.4%	3.7%	2.7%
Wellington Region	7.5%	4.7%	3.8%	3.2%	2.8%
Wellington City	7.3%	4.4%	3.7%	3%	2.5%
Upper Hutt	7.5%	4.4%	3.7%	3.3%	2.7%
Hutt City	7.5%	5.1%	3.9%	3.1%	3%
Porirua	7.9%	6.4%	4.4%	3.4% (5th)	3.8% (4th)
Kāpiti Coast	7.3%	4.2%	3.6%	3.4%	2.6%
South Wairarapa	7.4%	4.1%	3.6%	3.5%	2.6%
Carterton	7.5%	4.1%	3.6%	3.5%	2.6%
Masterton	7.5%	4.6%	3.8%	3.4%	2.8%

Source: Sport New Zealand Insights Tool (noting this data does not include activities with high recreation participation levels like mountain biking).

¹⁵ Data sourced from the Sport NZ Insights Tool <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/>. Modelled participation uses combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey and StatsNZ Census 2018.

4.3.4 Secondary School Organised Sport Participation Rates

The regular census of secondary school students in 2024¹⁶, identifies participation rates in secondary school students. The top 10 organised sport activities for these students in the Wellington region are ranked below:

1. Netball (outdoor)
2. Football
3. Volleyball
4. Futsal
5. Basketball
6. Rugby Union
7. Badminton
8. Cricket (outdoor)
9. Touch
10. Hockey

This information helps demonstrate the importance of spaces and places that support young people to be able to engage in a range of activities.

4.3.5 Wairarapa - Voice of Rangatahi (2024)

Sport New Zealand in collaboration with Nuku Ora surveyed Wairarapa secondary school students in 2024 to understand how physical activity is experienced within secondary school setting. The most important improvements rangatahi identified to encourage them to do more physical activity are improvements to facilities e.g. changing rooms / toilets.

4.3.6 Inactive population

There is also a high amount of 'inactivity' observed for all New Zealanders (23.4%). Within Wellington region's communities a lower level of inactivity is recorded across all sub-regions than the national figure, ranging from 20.4% in Carterton to 21.3% in Porirua. The expected inactivity for the other 6 sub-regions is 20.5%-20.7%. With inactivity a common issue for many people, the provision of spaces and places that support people to easily connect with and engage in physical activity in ways that suit them individually is very important. Finding ways to hear about the needs of non-participants when planning spaces and places investments, and responding to these in space and place design, may help reduce inactivity.



¹⁶ Sourced from: <https://www.nzsssc.co.nz/Education/School-Sport-NZ-Census-Reports>



5.0 Advantages of the Wellington Region

5.1 Competitive Advantages of the Wellington Region (Spaces and Places)

Identifying the competitive advantages in a region can help to shape where space and place investment is able to leverage these advantages (directly or indirectly). The Wellington region is made up of varied sub-regions, which can mean the degree to which each competitive advantage applies may differ. The summary of the competitive advantages attributable to the Wellington region is outlined below (Table 5-1), and where possible, sub-regional differences are identified.

There are many opportunities available to interact with the harbours, waterways, native bush and coastal features across the region.

Table 5-1 Competitive Advantages for Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE	RELATED CONSIDERATIONS
<p>Opportunities To Connect With Nature (Te Taiao)</p> <p>There are many opportunities available to interact with the harbours, waterways, native bush and coastal features across the region. The ready availability of these opportunities provides an advantage in blending built space and place provision with these natural attributes.</p>	<p>Opportunities for connecting with nature are available close to the urban centres in the region, as well as to rural communities. There are many local parks, open spaces and coastal settings which offer opportunities to connect with nature across the region. Some examples include the Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne ecosanctuary and the Paekakariki Escarpment Track.</p>
<p>A Popular and Growing Network of Outdoor Bike Tracks and Trails</p> <p>The network and choices for off-road cycling experiences have grown across the region, fuelled by the effort and advocacy of local trail groups and volunteers. These trails connect through local council boundaries and are often on land overseen by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p>	<p>There is a range of spaces and places across the region, from the international quality Makara Peak mountain bike park to sub-regional trails like the Remutaka Cycle Trail in the Wairarapa and the Waiu Park (Wainuiomata) mountain bike trails.</p> <p>Local investment in infrastructure like pump tracks enables skill development so participants can progress to more challenging trails.</p>
<p>A Central Location In New Zealand</p> <p>The Wellington Region is located centrally in New Zealand. This location advantage provides good accessibility for the hosting of international and national sport and recreation events. The network of local facilities also supports events and competitions of a local or regional nature, and at times multiple facilities in the network are used to support national-level tournaments.</p> <p>This hosting is possible with a range of spaces and places able to support these events.</p>	<p>Wellington boasts a range of international and national standard sport and recreation venues close to the international and domestic airport. These include the venues listed in the snapshot of spaces and places.</p> <p>This central location, combined with high-quality venues, makes it possible for franchises like the Wellington Phoenix men's and women's teams to locate here. This advantage is more relevant in areas closer to Wellington City, and less relevant for the Wairarapa and Kāpiti Coast.</p>

Table 4-1 continued

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE	RELATED CONSIDERATIONS
<p>High Māori Participation</p> <p>Participation rates for Māori in sport and recreation activities in the Wellington region are higher than for the broader population. These rates are notably higher again in areas of highest deprivation in the region¹⁷. Participation in sport and recreation in the region offers a strength-based opportunity for Māori rangatahi to reach their potential.</p>	<p>With a growing population of Māori anticipated in the region (including in the 0-29 age group) there continues to be an opportunity to build on the existing strength of Māori participation in sport and recreation activities in the region.</p> <p>Space and place provision that reflects te ao Māori, and design opportunities for co-governance like Te Whiti Park are examples of ways to provide settings to support Māori participation. Continuing engagement in waka ama and planning for inclusion of Tākaro in spaces and places provision continue to provide opportunities to sustain Māori participation.</p>
<p>Growing Diversity of Communities</p> <p>The population of the Wellington region is projected to not only grow over the next 20-30 years but also become more diverse. This growth will be most noticeable in Asian ethnicities, with growth also expected in Māori and Pasifika.</p>	<p>Those residents of the Wellington region who identify as Asian are predicted to increase by 50,000 to 2048. Likewise, Māori in the region will increase by 20,000 to 2048. The age profile of both Asian and Māori will typically be younger than for other ethnicities.</p> <p>This increasing diversity will likely drive demand for an increasing variety of participation opportunities.</p>
<p>Tourism and Destination Opportunities (Wairarapa)</p> <p>The Wairarapa sub-region is a popular tourist destination which offers opportunities for visitors and residents to combine engagement in the spaces and places network with other tourism activities.</p>	<p>In 2021 Destination Wairarapa published a destination management plan for the Wairarapa. The Wairarapa offers a well-regarded wine region, a small village feel iconic coastal and natural landscapes. These features along with tracks and trails like the Remutaka Cycle Trail, provide appealing opportunities to leverage the spaces and places network to support events and overall economic development of this sub-region. This, along with hosting more events, supporting iwi partnerships and tourism infrastructure recommended in the destination management plan, may support fully leveraging this competitive advantage.</p>

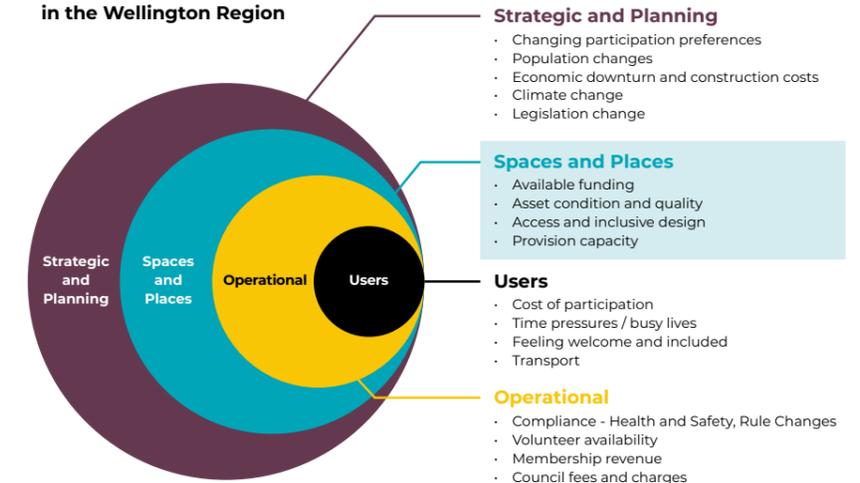
¹⁷ Sport NZ Insights Tool. Activity Behaviours – What are Our Interests and Preferences? Expected participation rates for all activities (Ethnicity Māori - Decile 8-10)



6.0 Regional Challenges and Opportunities

A range of challenges and opportunities are impacting active recreation and sport spaces and places across the Wellington region. There are differences in how directly these challenges impact the provision of spaces and places. The diagram below (Figure 6-1) separates the challenges and opportunities that have been consistently identified in research, stakeholder surveys, workshops and Project Steering Group direction by the level of impact these have on spaces and places planning and provision.

Figure 6-1 Challenges and Opportunities Relative to Spaces and Places Provision in the Wellington Region



6.1 Wellington Region Challenges and Opportunities

6.1.1 Strategic and Planning Challenges and Opportunities

The high-level strategic and planning challenges and opportunities facing spaces and places in the Wellington region are outlined in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Strategic Planning Challenges and Opportunities Currently Facing Spaces and Places in Wellington Region

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE OR OPPORTUNITY
<p>Changing Participation Preferences</p> <p>Between 2018 and 2022, there has been an increase in revenue across New Zealand for 'pay to play' activities organised by the fitness industry or through commercial events. This indicates a change in consumer preferences for these types of activities in favour of activities organised by sports clubs, fitness clubs or local councils.¹⁸</p> <p>The average membership of sport and active recreation clubs dipped during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since this time, membership rates have recovered, however, large clubs are growing and smaller clubs, mainly those with fewer than 100 members, are becoming rarer and, in some cases, closing.¹⁹</p> <p>Rangatahi (aged 12-17) club membership has seen a steady decline from 89% in 2017 to 76% in 2023.²⁰ Rangatahi have expressed a desire for more flexible, less structured activities which let them follow their own schedule.</p> <p>These changes signal evolving and changing participant preferences.</p> 
<p>Population Changes (age, growth, ethnicity)</p> <p>The Wellington region's population grew by 2.8% between the 2018 and 2023 censuses. The distribution of this forecast future population growth differs for parts of the region. On average, annual population growth is anticipated to range from 0.4% to 1.6% for different parts of the region.²¹</p> <p>The population of the Wellington region is getting older faster. Fewer births and lower immigration forecast in the short term means there will be fewer people under the age of 35, while the number of people aged over 65 is growing rapidly.²² Further information on this is provided in the demographic section of this report.</p> <p>The ethnic makeup of the region is also changing with an increasing Asian proportion of the population. There will also be noticeable growth in the Māori population of the region, with noticeable growth in rangatahi and tamariki.</p> 

Table 6-1 continued

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE OR OPPORTUNITY
<p>Economic Downturn and Construction Costs</p> <p>The post Covid-19 economic downturn in New Zealand has seen a range of impacts for the play, sport and recreation sector. In the Wellington region, the economic downturn has been compounded by recent reductions in the public sector workforce.</p> <p>There has been a reduction in revenue across the sector (2018-2022) with the biggest decrease seen for membership, participation, sponsorship and commercial activities.²³</p> <p>The impacts of pressures on household income have also been apparent, with changes in participation driven by cost sensitivity. 66% of New Zealand households are doing more free or cheap activities than a year ago.²⁴</p> <p>Many sport and recreation facility projects have seen significant cost escalations. Leading up to 2023, the construction sector saw increasing costs driven by both market inflation and building cost escalation. Costs are estimated to have increased 41% in New Zealand since 2019.²⁵</p> <p>In recent times facility operators have also faced increases in operating costs, primarily relating to utility use and insurance. Continuing to adequately make provision for the renewal of assets has also been a challenge.</p> 
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>An increase in rainfall during short-period rainfall events is predicted across the region over the next 50 years.²⁶ Equally the risk of drought is projected to increase for parts of the region like the Wairarapa overtime as the region becomes warmer and seasonal rainfall patterns change.</p> <p>The impacts of a changing climate present issues for future play, sport and recreation planning factors like drainage and other underground services caused by subsidence and increasing rainfall, and the location of assets in areas susceptible to flooding or coastal inundation.</p> 

¹⁸ Sport New Zealand and NZ Institute of Economic Research (NZIER)

¹⁹ Stronger Communities through Sport – NZ National Sport Club Survey (NZ Amateur Sport Association and AUT).

²⁰ Sport NZ – Active NZ Participation Trends (July 2024)

²¹ Sense Partners projections (March 2023 update)

²² Greater Wellington Regional Council website (Sense Partners 2023 forecasts)

²³ Sport NZ Funding for Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector Report (2023)

²⁴ Sport NZ – trends shaping the sector (2024)

²⁵ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-tackling-high-construction-costs>

²⁶ http://www.niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/Wellington_Climate_WEB.pdf

6.1.2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities

The following table 6-2 summarises stakeholder feedback received through surveys and interviews conducted during the refresh of the 2019 Spaces and Places Strategy. Where specific sub-regional feedback in the Wairarapa has been received, this is noted under a separate heading.

Table 6-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Affordability: Available Funding

Budget constraints and limits on available funding are restricting the ability to develop and maintain a regional network of spaces and places.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Challenges related to affordability and funding are the most consistent themes identified through all feedback channels.

Sport NZ research identifies a reduction in revenue from membership and participation fees, sponsorship and commercial activities. An increasing reliance on central government and Class 4 gaming funding has been recognised at a National Level.²⁷

The gap between Class 4 (gaming) grants made and the requests for this funding has widened in recent years, and there are limited sources of alternative funding available in the region.

Councils are a key funder of spaces and places; however, they are facing core infrastructure challenges in many areas, including water and transport meaning little, if any, funding is available for spaces and places.

Affordability challenges are placing a greater onus on an approach that looks to make the most of existing spaces and places before looking to develop new facilities. By way of example, some stakeholder feedback has suggested there may be a need to consider a mid-size stadium venue in the region. In this instance, continuing to explore and upgrade existing venues, like Porirua Park, is likely to provide a more affordable option, than looking to invest in a new or significantly upgraded venue.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

“There is still a heavy reliance on user pays and grant funding (for hockey) as for most venues we receive no council support.”

(Survey Response)

“A lot of trail development and maintenance depends on volunteer work. There is currently no long-term funding for trail maintenance across the region.”

(Survey Response)

“More generally, there is likely to be less investment in the community game from New Zealand Cricket moving forward, as well as less access to Class 4 Funding.”

(Survey Response)

“The cost of hiring the turfs is financially restrictive.”

(Survey Response)

“Several large city clubs have been struggling with the concept of long-term lease and rates costs of their club facility which burdens the membership.”

(Survey Response)

Table 6-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities continued

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Affordability: Asset Condition and Quality

The existing space and place network is ageing, resulting in declining asset condition, and less ability to meet user requirements or adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

A theme in the secondary school survey responses noted challenges funding facility upkeep, where there is a high use and wear and tear on facilities.

Te Awa Māpara: Wellington City Council’s community facility plan has identified a key challenge with community facilities – is that they are no longer fit-for-purpose for today and the future.

For organisations that own their own facilities, increasing insurance costs have also been identified as a pressing issue.

All Council representatives have agreed issues with asset data, and in some cases, a lack of forward planning is not helping asset condition and quality.

Wairarapa: Wairarapa Council feedback notes where there is investment in asset renewal and maintenance it is often reactive and benefits some recipients at the expense of others.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

“Grass fields e.g. Anderson Park are poor but due to the convenient location we choose to still use them.”

(Secondary School Survey Response)

“...deferred maintenance is needing to be done at the same time as scheduled asset replacements/ upgrades.”

(Survey Response)

“There needs to be an increase in all-weather facilities. Parks are waterlogged and drainage is always an issue.”

(Survey Response)

“Biggest cost for us is our insurances, particularly on the building we own.”

(Survey Response)

“The cost of maintaining a facility that is 40+ years old is significant and with no annual Council investment the sport of tennis is disadvantaged compared to other sports that have Council-owned facilities.”

(Survey Response)

²⁷ An analysis of funding of the play, active recreation and sport sector in New Zealand.

Table 5-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities continued

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Access and Inclusive Design

Some community members face additional barriers or limitations to using spaces and places – linked to transport, cultural, age, affordability and disability considerations.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Regional organisations for sports like rugby and football have indicated growth in demand for participation from women and girls in particular

Community feedback to Te Awa Māpara – Community Facilities Plan for Wellington City Council indicates the desire for better quality facilities with more inclusivity and access to a greater range of offerings rather than needing more facilities.¹

Many sport and recreation organisations are providing opportunities for diversity, equity and inclusion programmes. 93% of respondents to the regional survey acknowledged they offered Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programmes with a strong focus on women and girls.

The provision of LGBTQ policies or signage and gender-neutral bathrooms / changing rooms were rated highly as very poor or poor at space and place venues by regional survey respondents.

The availability and opening hours for public toilets were also raised as a regular challenge to being able to fully utilise spaces and places.

Wairarapa: The challenge of needing to travel long distances to practice and play was identified as a specific concern in the Wairarapa.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- “The demands of the future are likely to be different from current demands so being solely directed by current use patterns or needs may not provide for usable facilities and spaces in the future. Example of this is the huge rise in pickleball especially with older participants.” (Survey Response)
- “What works well is taking our young people to activities that their siblings and peers are going to so they have shared experiences. E.g. ice skating, pickleball.” (Regional Stakeholder Interview)
- “Often across the Wellington region our teams turn up to play and facilities such as toilets/shower blocks aren’t open.” (Survey Response)
- “The amenities for sites are often opened late if opened at all.” (Survey Response)

Table 6-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities continued

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Provision Capacity

In parts of the region, there is a shortfall in the facilities required (particularly at peak times), while in other parts there are facilities, but they are either not made available to all groups or are underutilised. Some organisations are utilising opportunities to share access to overcome this issue.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

For organisations that do not own their own facilities, they often face challenges in scheduling, influencing facility maintenance (as it is out of their direct control) and long-term certainty.²⁸

A theme in secondary school survey responses is that most school facilities are heavily booked for school use, leaving little potential for increasing community access.

A lack of lighting of fields and turfs has also been identified as a constraint on evening use for both school and Council-provided assets.

Further secondary school survey feedback noted that often school facilities were developed with Council funding to ensure community access. This is limiting availability for school teams for both training and playing.

The Regional Indoor Court study Regional Indoor Courts Report completed by Nuku Ora recognises there is sufficient indoor court space at a region-wide level when considered against national benchmarks. However, this does not factor in the widening uses of indoor court spaces for informal sport use, non-sporting activity, the growing range of physical activities that demand access to indoor court spaces, or the demand at peak usage times, which places pressure on scheduling and allocation.²⁹

Pressure at peak times from activities was also noted as a driver for user groups to adapt to changing competition and training schedules to take advantage of off-peak capacity. Stakeholder feedback has noted shortfalls in access to, or provision of, indoor courts for some codes and communities. This includes new and emerging racquet sports like pickleball.

There is uneven demand and geographical gaps in distribution. A recent assessment in Kāpiti Coast District has identified a shortage of indoor courts in that area.

There are examples of some sport and recreation activities which have similar and aligned facility requirements (like greens-based activities, or racquet sports). Where these activities are seeing declining participation, or conversely increasing and new participation, there are opportunities to plan and manage these networks more collaboratively. For greens-based activities these opportunities are likely to be initiated through bowls who have indicated a desire to look into this further.

Wairarapa: A shortfall in indoor courts in the Wairarapa has also been noted in a recent needs assessment.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- “We have found ourselves in a really dire situation, where we are competing with so many other community groups for venue space just to practice twice a week.” (Survey Response)
- “The biggest issue is cost and availability. The region desperately needs more indoor space for sports due to growth in basketball, badminton, floorball, volleyball and pickleball.” (School Survey Response)
- “We need more artificial all-weather surfaces so night sport is available.” (School Survey Response)
- “We are currently unable to deliver futsal to Primary School Age futsal players due to the full capacity at Akau Tangi Sports Centre.” (Survey Response)

A further outline of the Operational and User challenges and opportunities is provided in the reference report accompanying this strategy.

²⁸ National Sport Club Survey National Sport Club Survey, NZ Amateur Sport Association and AUT

²⁹ Regional Indoor Courts Report, Nuku Ora (2023)



7.0 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Strategy

7.1 Spaces and Places Strategy Objectives

A one-region approach to providing an accessible, fit-for-purpose regional network of quality spaces and places that support and encourage physical activity (play, active recreation, sport).

7.2 Spaces and Places Strategy Objectives

7.2.1 Getting the Most Out of Existing Spaces and Places

Objective 1: Prioritise making the most out of existing Spaces and Places to meet demand through both facility and non-facility solutions.

What this means

The development of new facilities comes with a number of risks and uncertainties. Extending the capacity of existing spaces and places to meet changing demand is often a more financially and environmentally sustainable way to meet provision gaps in the short to medium term. These include both facility and non-facility choices, such as those outlined below.

Facility Solutions:

- Quality upgrades and infrastructure investment to extend playing hours. This may be possible through the provision of lighting without needing to upgrade outdoor court, field or turf surfaces.
- Greater use of facility sharing arrangements with school facilities, where it is possible to address school concerns

around health and safety, security and scheduling challenges, and facilities are suitable.

- Consideration of council management and investment in lighting and court, field and turf upgrades to extend the hours of availability of existing spaces and places. This could include council or community / school assets. In some cases, lighting is owned by clubs, which can constrain opportunities for availability to new or a wider range of users.

Non-facility Solutions:

- Providing better data management and oversight of current bookings (and utilisation rates) to ensure transparency in availability and equity of access across user groups. This should include consideration of a consistent region-wide booking platform that can support participant needs being matched with the quality of venue available.
- Achieving regional consistency in pricing and booking can support greater equality of access.
- Forming collaborative relationships and partnerships between sport and recreation activities to share resources and achieve potential efficiencies.

Aligned Code Regional Facility Network Planning

- Investment in facilities to increase their use for multiple purposes, and across multiple organisations, offers opportunities to consolidate assets and address ongoing ageing, asset condition, and affordability challenges. There are opportunities with cross-code collaboration where codes have similar activities, participant cohorts or amenity needs (e.g. greens-based sports or racquet sports).

7.2.2 Increase Opportunities to Participate

Objective 2: Target investment and resources to address the barriers some communities are facing to participation.

What this means

Many sport and recreation activities are widening their participation base to provide for a greater range of needs. This requires the design (and re-design) of spaces and places that support the needs of all members of the community, regardless of life stage, gender, physical ability or ethnicity.

Additional sub-regional challenges also demand targeted investment to address proximity and accessibility barriers. This is most likely in the Wairarapa or Kāpiti Coast.

7.2.3 Funding and Affordability

Objective 3: Implement a flexible range of delivery and funding methods to improve the future affordability of Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region.

What this means

There are significant affordability and funding challenges facing the future of spaces and places provision in the Wellington region. Broadening both the range of models and funding mechanisms to address these problems will support greater choice and flexibility in space and place provision. The potential implications of these objectives for funding and delivery models are outlined below.

Funding

With the constraints identified on space and place funding, opportunities to diversify funding can be explored such as:

- Leveraging opportunities for targeted rates to be levied by all councils to fund both capital funding and operational funding requirements for spaces and places.
- Developing legacy giving opportunities which, over time, look to harness generosity through intergenerational wealth transfer. JB Were estimates inheritances will grow from about \$27b in 2024, to a cumulative total of \$1.6 trillion by 2050.³⁰
- Look to put arrangements in place, potentially with a community foundation or similar organisation to hold funds of clubs or organisations which may no longer be viable to continue operating.
- Exploring and establishing funding mechanisms and approaches that support joint contribution to spaces and places across the region. The degree of contribution would align to where the benefit for access to spaces and places occurs.

Delivery Models

A shift to ensure fewer single-use spaces and places and increase flexibility of these spaces and places to provide for a range of uses. This may require new ways of doing things, such as:

- Factoring in adapting to increased casual and pay to play models in the future.
- For areas like the Wairarapa, support with more joined-up planning has been identified to encourage moving from single-use to multi-use facility solutions.
- Include models of council, community, school, iwi and user group partnership and collaboration arrangements.
- Support community organisations to explore changes in delivery models. An example of this would be codes changing training and competition schedules to ensure capacity is available for others, not having a “my sport first” viewpoint to obtaining facility bookings.

³⁰ <https://www.jbwere.co.nz/news-and-insights/the-bequest-report-2025>

7.2.4 New Provision

Objective 4: Invest in new spaces and places where there is proof of need and no alternative solutions.

What this means

Being clear about what current or future gaps might exist, and for who, is an important first step before proceeding with consideration of new space and place investment. Where a need may be proven, solutions should include looking for co-investment opportunities with school facilities, and spaces and places that support multiple uses and can adapt to new or emerging demands.

The Seven Stages in the Lifecycle of Spaces and Places provides a robust process for considering new spaces and places provision.

7.3 Enablers of Objectives

To fully achieve the objectives contained in this Strategy, it is important to identify there are a range of other enablers that will support these objectives including:

- Additional planning and investigation to apply the objectives at a more specific sub-regional or activity level.
- Collaborative decision-making mechanisms and forums between councils, funders and sport and recreation organisations.
- Strengthening local and regional evidence to understand existing provision and utilisation.
- Asset and user data consistency.
- Improving pricing and cost allocation understanding.
- The availability of known facility partnership opportunities, including with schools and iwi.
- Leveraging technology and digital opportunities to manage demand across the spaces and places network.



7.3.1 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Priorities

Through the identification of challenges and opportunities, and Spaces and Places objectives, there are two priority areas identified where a region-wide collaboration and decision-making process would have most benefit. These priorities and their connection to the challenges, opportunities and strategy objectives are outlined in the diagram below (Figure 7-1).

Figure 7-1 Logic for Collaborative Decision Making – Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region

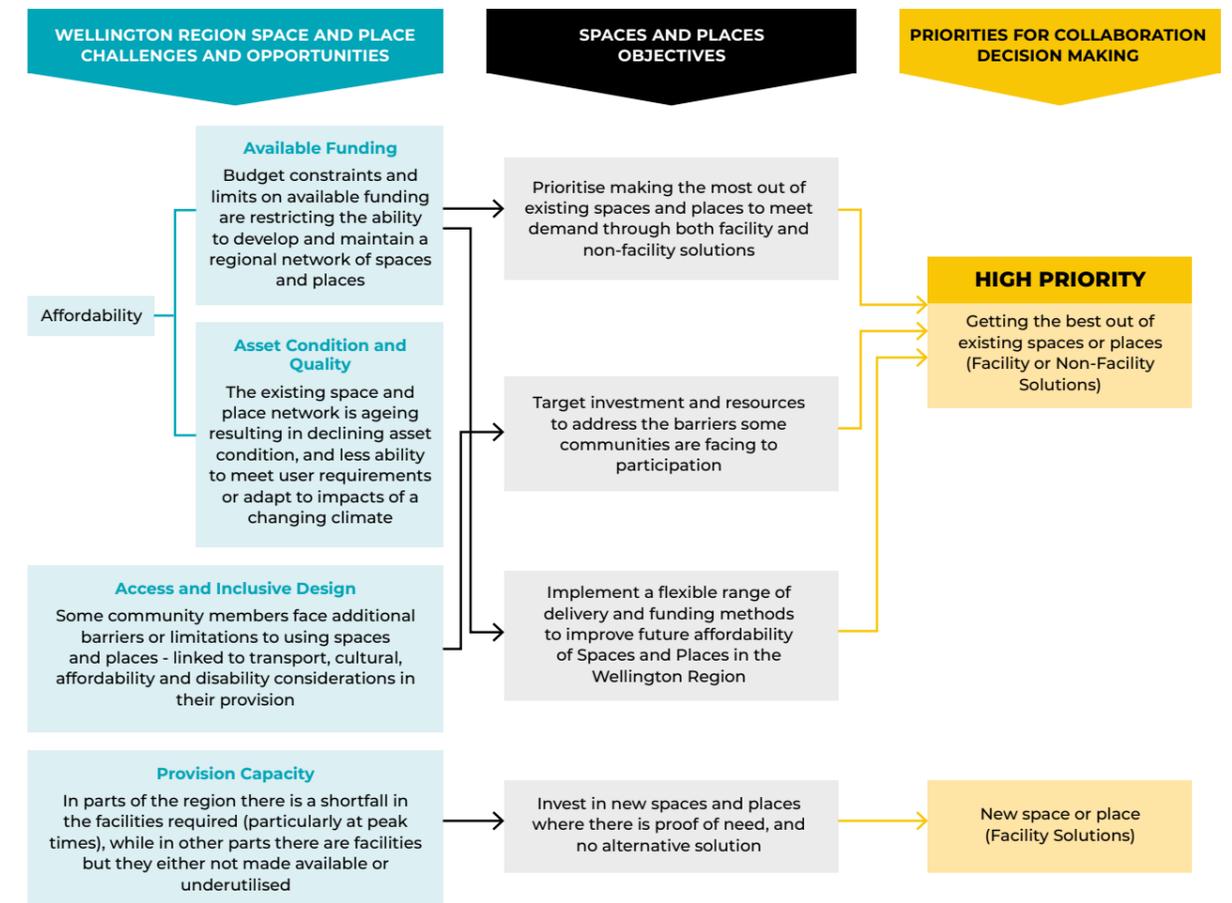
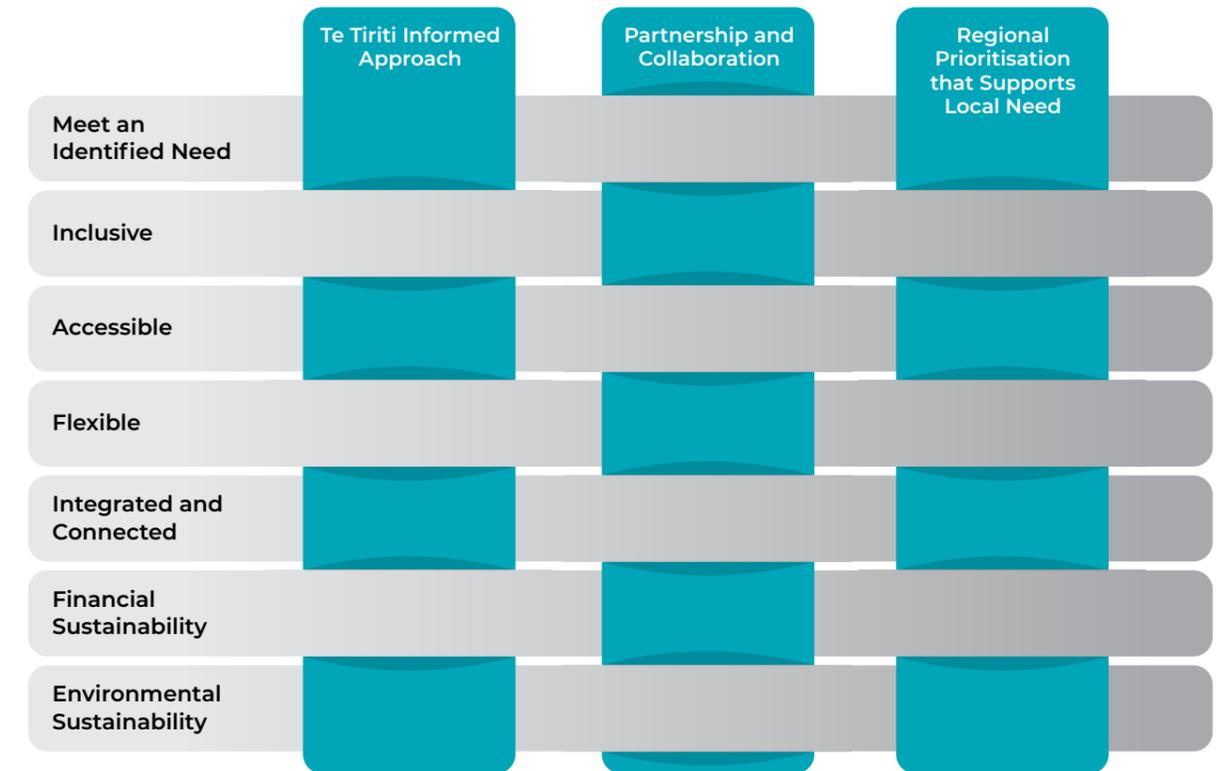




Figure 8-1 Spaces and Places Principles – Interrelationships



Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Informed Approach

The mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is recognised when providing strategic guidance and planning, developing and operating facilities and active environments. This will include taking opportunities to reflect the cultural narrative of the area, when planning future sport, active recreation and play spaces and places.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships and collaboration across the region lead to well-used facilities and active environments that maximise the return (social and financial) on investment and avoid duplication. This partnership approach will look to leverage shared provision approaches with schools, Iwi and the private sector in arrangements which genuinely share value and risks between partners. To achieve this a locally-led process to plan, design and operate facilities through a co-design approach is recommended.

Regional Prioritisation that Supports Local Need

Take a regional planning and prioritisation approach to get best use out of spaces and places by spreading demand across a regional network regardless of local boundaries. Balance this regional approach with the needs of local communities including recognising the differences between rural and urban areas. Listen to the voices of whānau and communities through ongoing engagement to maximise utilisation both locally and regionally.

Meet an Identified Need

Understand current and future supply and demand for spaces and places, including factoring in changing community profiles and participation trends. Investment decisions weigh up strategic fit based on the existing network and strategies or plans that clearly evidence future need. Diverse community use and wellbeing will be at the forefront of spaces and places investment.

Inclusive

Spaces and places support diverse groups by developing safe, collaborative environments where everyone can participate and thrive. People of all income, ethnicity, gender and physical ability feel welcome and confident to use spaces and places with dignity. The objective of this approach is to help spaces and places be more welcoming and culturally inclusive by reflecting local pūrakau and sense of place.

This includes a particular focus on creating spaces that are gender-neutral, and inclusive of young people, tangata whaikaha (disabled people), low-socioeconomic communities, women and girls, and ethnic minorities.

Accessible

Spaces and places are useable and able to be accessed by everyone regardless of ability or affordability. Facilities are located where connections to transport are best and apply both universal design principles and accessible design practice. Everyone benefits from fully accessible facilities.

8.0 Regional Planning Framework

8.1 Spaces and Places Planning Principles

8.1.1 Planning Principles

When considering the upgrade, development or decommissioning of spaces and places to align to play, active recreation and sport needs, it is fundamental that spaces and places are developed in a robust and planned way. The planning principles have been distinguished by those principles which are relationship and collaboration-based, from those which are aligned to design, investment and use of spaces and places. The raranga weave (Figure 8-1) highlights how these principles need to work together to achieve the vision for spaces and places in the region.

Flexible

The best, long-term, outcomes are achieved by designing facilities in ways that enable them to be adapted, developed and extended to meet future demands. Flexible spaces and places can be easily adapted to changing circumstances and emerging play, active recreation and sport trends over time. Flexible spaces and places can be used to enhance play opportunities and provide a range of community benefits and uses including health, education, cultural and civic activities.

Integrated and Connected

Multiuse facilities or hubs optimise use across a range of users at peak and off-peak times. This includes co-locating with other sport and recreation, community, education or transport facilities and infrastructure. This can support more diverse revenue streams and achieve higher utilisation rates.

Financial Sustainability

The ongoing financial sustainability of facilities requires consideration of the ongoing operating and maintenance costs over expected life of a facility and identifying funding to meet these costs.

Environmental Sustainability

The environmental sustainability of a facility ensures measures are in place to manage energy efficiency, carbon emissions and minimising waste over the lifetime of spaces and places. Spaces and places that are resilient and environmentally sustainable will reflect the historical and changing landscape, and apply sustainable operational, design and construction methods.

8.2 Facility Hierarchy

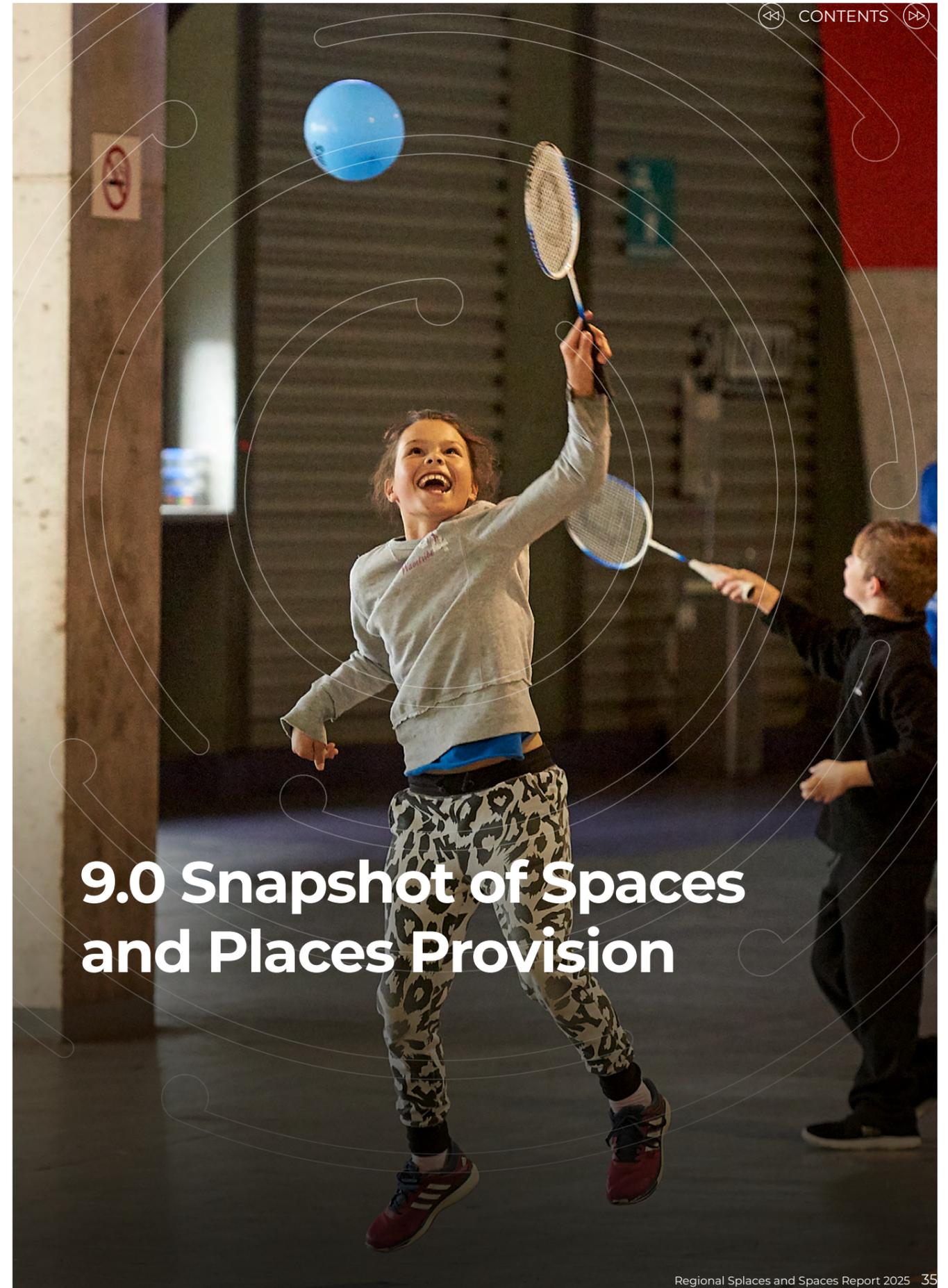
The following general facility hierarchy definitions (Table 8-1) have been used to differentiate between different spaces and places in this strategy and framework. The hierarchy allows us to distinguish the different types and levels of activity that can be run within facilities. Note: It is important to understand that a facility at a higher hierarchy level may

also meet the needs all the way to a local level. Each facility is classified based on its highest capability; for example, if it can hold a regional representative competition, it is classed as national, even if its most regular use is to support local or sub-regional competitions and training.

Table 8-1 Explanation of Facility Hierarchy³¹

LOCAL	SUB-REGIONAL	REGIONAL	NATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL
A facility that provides community participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood, town or city catchment. Local facilities often facilitate people's introduction to sport and recreation within their local community.	A destination facility with the ability to provide participation opportunities for training, competition or other unique participation experiences. Often supporting a whole territorial authority (TA) district and drawing people from across adjacent areas.	A facility with the ability to host regional competitions (including North Island wide), serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across TA boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment.	A facility with the ability to draw participants from across NZ, host national competitions and events (including pro and semi pro franchise competitions involving teams from outside New Zealand) or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes.	A facility with the ability to host international competitions and events (i.e. between nations) or draw participants from outside NZ.
EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cannons Creek Pool ✓ Naenae Park Cricket Pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wairarapa Netball Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trentham Rifle Range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trust House Turfs - Carterton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sky Stadium

³¹ Noting this hierarchy is for the Wellington Spaces and Places network and will not always align to alternative hierarchies which are specific to National Sports Organisations plans or strategies or the National Sports Facilities Strategy (not yet released).



9.0 Snapshot of Spaces and Places Provision

The following Table 9-1 identifies a summarised view of the sport and recreation spaces and places across the Wellington region, their position in the facility hierarchy and the council boundary they fall within.³²

Table 9-1 Distribution of Spaces and Places across the Wellington Region

	WELLINGTON CITY	PORIRUA	HUTT CITY	UPPER HUTT	KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT	WAIRARAPA
INTERNATIONAL	1 Stadium (Multi-Use Venue) 1 Cricket Oval 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Indoor Courts Venue	1 Indoor Courts Venue	1 Bowls Venue	1 Golf Course 1 High Performance Training Venue	1 Golf Course	
NATIONAL	1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Indoor and Outdoor Tennis Venue 1 x Artificial Turf Venue (rugby / football) 1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Mountain Bike Park 1 BMX Track	1 Stadium / Sports Fields Venue (Rugby / Football)	1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Softball Venue 1 Indoor Aquatic venue 1 Squash Venue 1 Sports Fields venue			1 Hockey Turf Venue ³³ 1 Equestrian Venue
REGIONAL	1 Playground 1 Shared Path 1 Skate Park (in development) 1 Cycling Velodrome 1 Athletics Venue 1 Squash Venue 2 Badminton Venues 2 Cricket training facilities (indoor) 1 Indoor roller sports facility 1 Outdoor Courts venue (Netball) 1 Outdoor Water sports venue (marina) 1 Cricket Venue 1 Softball Venue 1 x Sports Fields Venue (Football) 4 x Artificial Turf Venues (rugby / football)	1 Playground 1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football) 1 Mountain Bike Park	1 Playground 2 Outdoor Water Sports Venues (Marina and Rowing/ Waterski) 1 Outdoor Courts Venue (Netball) 1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Gymnastics Facility 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Artificial Turf Venue (rugby / football) 1 Golf Course 1 Mountain Bike Venue 1 Shared Path	2 Playgrounds 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Shooting Venue 1 Wheel Based Facility (Skate / Pump Track) 1 Sports Fields Venue (Multi-use) 1 Shared Path	1 Playground 1 Hockey Turf Venue	1 Cricket Venue 1 Shared Path 1 Mountain Bike Venue 1 Playground
SUB-REGIONAL	1 Table Tennis Venue 1 Gymnastics Facility	1 Outdoor Water Sports Venue (Rowing, Boating, Waka Ama, Kayaking) 2 Sports Fields Venues (Multi-use) 1 Aquatic Facility	1 Outdoor Tennis Venue 1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Badminton Venue 1 Table Tennis Venue 3 Sports Fields Venues (Multi-use) 1 Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football) 1 BMX Venue	1 Sports Fields Venue (Multi-use) 1 x Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football)	1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Outdoor Courts Venue (Netball) 1 Sports Fields Venue (Multi-use) 1 Softball Venue 1 Skate Park 1 Aquatic Facility	1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Outdoor Water Sports Venue (Waka Ama, Dragon Boats) 2 Outdoor Courts Venues (Netball) 1 Outdoor Tennis Courts Venue 2 Multi-Use Indoor Court Venues 4 Sports Field Venues (Multi-use) 1 Mountain Bike Park 1 Softball Venue 1 Skate Park 1 x Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football) 1 Athletics Venue 2 Bowls Venues

Further detail on these spaces and places is provided in **Appendix One**.

³³ The categorisation of this turf as a national facility is based on previous games hosted at that level.



10.0 Collaborative Decision-Making Framework

10.1 Outline

The collaborative decision-making framework summarised in Figure 10-1 and Figure 10-2 outlines the steps to consider new solutions or initiatives which are put forward to respond to spaces and places challenges and opportunities. The following section explains this process in more detail.

Figure 10-1 Summary Collaborative Decision Making Framework (Strategic Assessment)

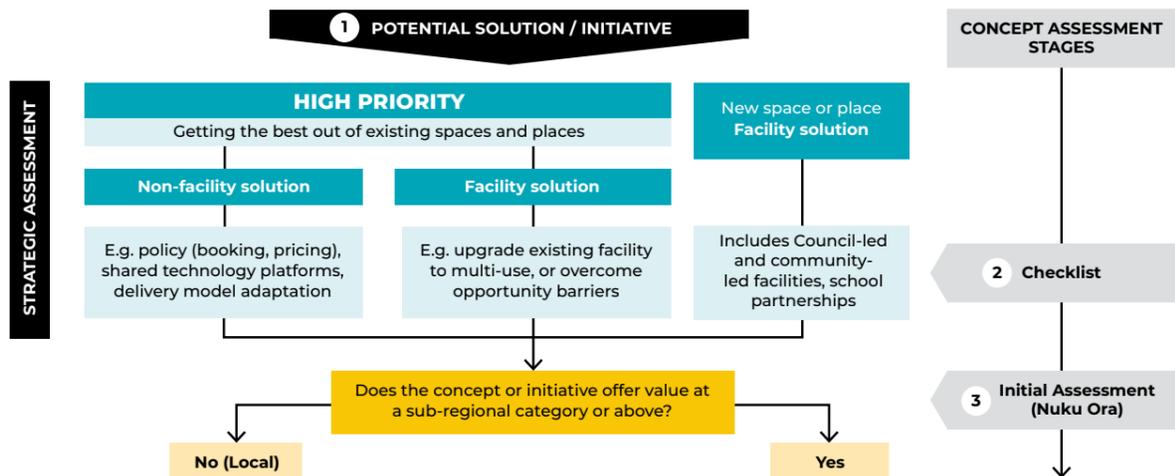
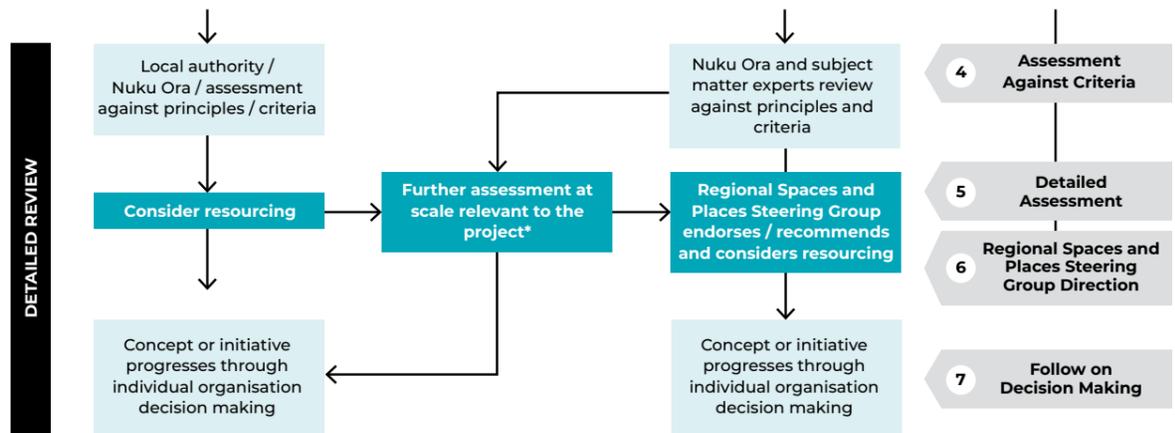


Figure 10-2 Summary Collaborative Decision Making Framework (Detailed Review)



* Independent assessment may be required for major concepts / initiatives

10.1.1 Collaborative Decision-Making Framework Guidance

This Spaces and Places Strategy provides guidance on the highest priority objectives to respond to the identified challenges and opportunities facing space and place planning and provision in the Wellington region. These objectives are to:

- Make the most out of existing spaces and places to meet demand through both facility and non-facility solutions.
- Target investment and resources to address the barriers some communities are facing to participation.
- Use a wide and flexible range of delivery and funding methods to improve the future affordability of spaces and places in the Wellington region.
- Invest in new spaces and places where there is proof of need.

Potential solutions/initiatives to address gaps and challenges and achieve these goals can be either a built or facility solution, like an upgrade to an existing facility, or consideration of the construction of a new facility. They may also include a non-facility solution like a pricing or booking policy, a technology platform or a change in the delivery model for a code or programme that influences facility demand (likely initiated by user groups).

As part of this spaces and places framework a decision-making process has been developed to provide clarity on how potential solutions/initiatives will be considered and where aligned, supported to progress. This decision-making process is made up of two parts to offer a phased assessment approach that avoids detail before it is needed and provides an off-ramp for local solutions or initiatives. These phases are outlined below.

10.1.2 Strategic Assessment Phase

This phase includes a checklist for the proposer of a solution or initiative to complete. This includes information on the problem the solution or initiative is addressing, and high-level aspects of the proposal. When this checklist is submitted, Nuku Ora will confirm whether there is sufficient information, the solution or initiative has high-level merit to progress and determine whether it meets value at a sub-regional level or above. This phase will also include assessment against any regional or national plans for the activities proposed.

The abovementioned checklist will need to be developed as a follow-on stage and should include consideration of alignment with the planning principles.

At this stage, proponents of spaces and places solutions or initiatives will be encouraged to explore the full range of options that could be implemented to achieve the desired outcome, rather than narrowing in on one solution. This part of the process ensures there has been a broad consideration of options, and that there is enough information and clarity regarding a solution or initiative prior to it progressing to a more detailed review.

10.1.3 Detailed Review Phase

This phase sees a more detailed review of a proposal against the planning principles by way of considering how it fits with the essential criteria (which a proposal must meet), and additional criteria a proposal is encouraged to demonstrate alignment with.

For facility solutions, the detailed assessment is guided by the seven stages of spaces and places lifecycle included in the *Sport New Zealand national guidance*. For all solutions, further detailed assessment may be required by subject matter experts. These experts may sit within councils or with independent organisations, depending on the scale of the proposed solution.

The scale of a proposed project will determine the depth of independent assessment required (if any) to provide assurances to decision makers. Where the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group considers it appropriate, an independent assessment of a concept may be progressed to determine whether to proceed or not. Figure 10-3 outlines this process.

The three independent assessment phases outlined in Figure 10-3 can be combined in some instances, and there is likely to be some overlap in information gathered and utilised. For example, in many cases, a Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study can occur simultaneously (for small-scale projects). A project should only proceed to the next phase once the previous phase(s) has been successfully completed and need and feasibility have been confirmed.

10.2 Explanation of Roles and Responsibilities

10.2.1 Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group

The proposed decision-making process calls for the senior representatives on the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to oversee the process and overall implementation of the Strategy. Subject matter experts would support this group, on a project-by-project basis, from within relevant organisations, depending on the sub-regional area a proposed project falls within. The group will need to develop an agreed way of working together to implement the spaces and places framework process. Regular, formalised engagement needs to occur between these parties to maximise collaboration and connection opportunities.

10.2.2 Spaces and Places Lead

A key assumption of this process is that Nuku Ora has the capacity to provide backbone support for this process through the Spaces and Places Lead. This role is a critical “go between” or connector for spaces and places owners, operators, funders, and user groups. The Spaces and Places Lead will work alongside groups to help them understand the process and requirements.

The Spaces and Places Lead also has a role to play in testing concepts against the principles of this Strategy, as well as looking for connections, partnerships, and collaborations and across boundary opportunities that may not initially be apparent for those proposing an idea.

10.2.3 Subject Matter Experts

Each organisation has the opportunity to use internal (or external) subject matter experts (SMEs) to assess any concept against the principles and criteria of this Strategy. The Nuku Ora Spaces and Places Lead can coordinate the required SMEs.

SMEs play a critical role in providing advice and recommendations to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group.

10.2.4 Project Working Group

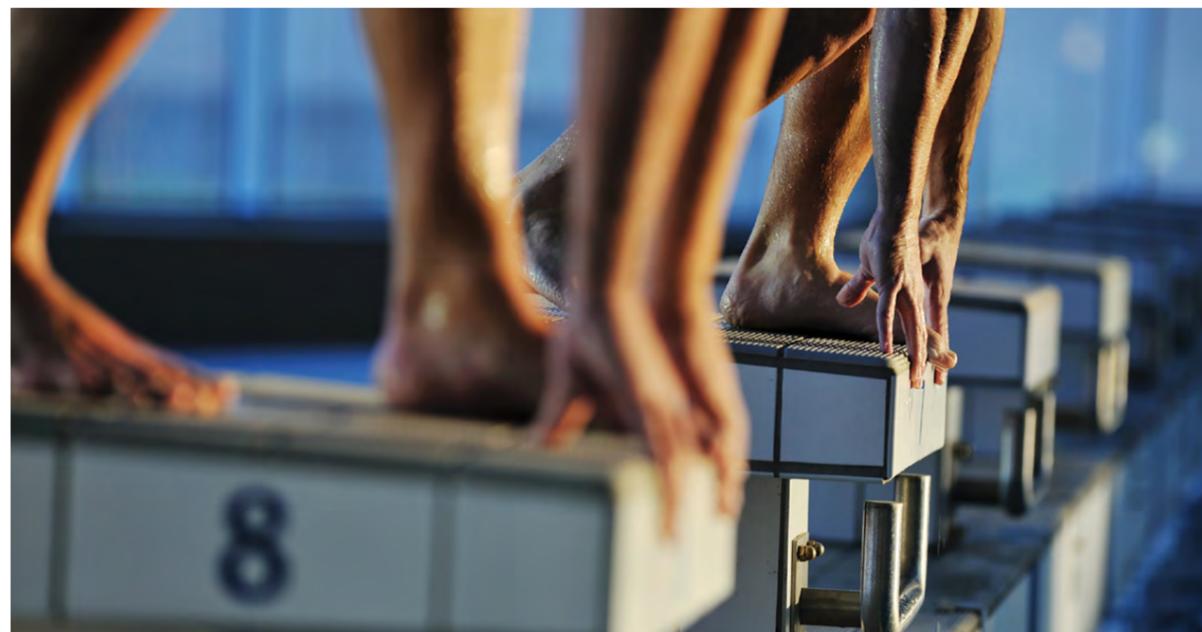
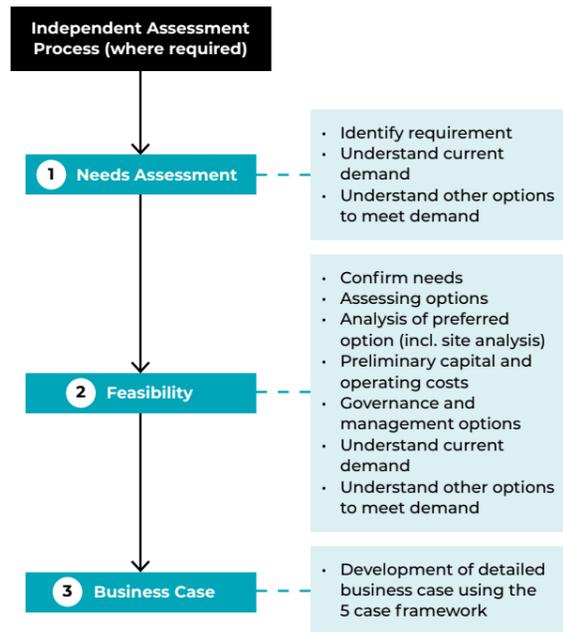
A project working group can be formed for each relevant project, facilitated by the Nuku Ora Spaces and Places Lead based on the project or concept being assessed. Relevant subject matter experts would come together to provide advice and recommendations for the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to consider.

For any sub-regional or above category of solutions, the outcome of this detailed review is provided to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to provide a concluding endorsement or alternative recommendation to the proposer. This may include a recommendation not to proceed.

Following the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group recommendation, the concept or initiative progresses through the decision-making process of individual organisations. This will include consideration of funding and resourcing.

Each decision-making organisation, including proponents, councils and funding organisations, will still have autonomy over their own decision-making.

Figure 10-3 Independent Assessment Process



10.2.5 Essential Criteria – Which all proposed initiatives or solutions must meet

RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES	
PLANNING PRINCIPLE(S)	CRITERIA
Te Tiriti O Waitangi informed approach	Enables the principles of Partnership, Protection, and Participation through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genuine, authentic and involvement of tangata whenua. Considers and reflects the cultural narrative of the area.
Partnership and Collaboration	The proposed space or place project includes and supports a range of organisations and activities or explores opportunities to partner or collaborate to increase use. <i>and/or</i> The proposal optimises an existing space or place through partnerships or collaboration to increase use.
Regional Prioritisation That Supports Local Need	The space or place will complement rather than compete with other spaces and places in the network and prioritise community participation outcomes. The type and scale of the proposed space or place is appropriate for the role it will play in the regional spaces and places network.

DESIGN, INVESTMENT AND USE PRINCIPLES	
PLANNING PRINCIPLE(S)	CRITERIA
Environmental Sustainability	Environmental awareness is demonstrated with planning that mitigates against climate risks and applies sustainable design principles. Reflects the historical landscape and local pūrākau.
Financial Sustainability	Demonstrates value for money, economic viability, and operational sustainability for the whole of life (both CAPEX and OPEX).
Inclusive and Accessible	Located appropriately to benefit a broad spectrum of the community. Supports accessibility and equity for all through cultural inclusivity and the application of universal design principles.
Meeting an Identified Need and Flexible	A clear need has been defined and supported with appropriate evidence, including community insights. Alternatively, a need may no longer be identified. Matches projected needs by addressing under or over provision and avoiding duplication. A range of community voices have informed the planning, and a range of community needs will be met through the proposal. Flexibility to adapt to changing community needs means multi-generational benefits will be achieved. Community hauora (wellbeing) and participation will be positively impacted. Supported by research, consultation, stakeholders, and the wider community.

10.2.6 Criteria to demonstrate alignment

While not essential to meet all these criteria, solutions and initiatives should demonstrate clearly how they address these criteria.

PLANNING PRINCIPLE(S)	CRITERIA
Te Tiriti O Waitangi informed approach	Māori participation will be positively impacted, which may include through by Māori for Māori opportunities.
Environmental Sustainability	The proposal will apply sustainable operational (including energy and water consumption) and construction methods.
	The proposal fosters connection with the environment (taiao) and minimises impact on the environment (taiao).
	The degree to which the proposal provides mitigation for a space or place at risk of or already experiencing climate change impacts.
Financial Sustainability	The organisation involved has a history of robust asset management planning and/or has demonstrated awareness of the need for asset management planning going forward.
	The scale, complexity and standard of the space or place is appropriate to the identified community need.
Inclusive and Accessible	Investment will help support communities of greatest need, such as low socio-economic communities, provide diverse opportunities for older adults, different ethnicities, genders, and those with disabilities.
	The degree to which the proposed space or place will support and encourage community safety.
Meet an Identified Need	Degree of alignment with relevant national, regional, and local strategies and strategic drivers.
	Reflects good practice in location, design, and operations.
	The degree to which the proposal maximises existing spaces and places (before building new).
	Any national or international project will demonstrate clear benefit to the Wellington region spaces and places network at a scale and standard that is appropriate in the regional and New Zealand context, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
Integrated and Connected	Clear evidence of operational and/or capital partnerships and collaboration between multiple stakeholders, which will maximise the community benefit and return on investment.
	Optimisation of spaces and places through clear evidence of partnerships and collaboration to increase use and enhancements to make them more fit-for-purpose. Supports multi-use, multi-code, and cross-sector collaboration.
Regional Prioritisation that Supports Local Need	Investment will help create balance and spread in the regional network.
	The proposal will help reduce unnecessary facility duplication while retaining appropriate local accessibility.

10.2.7 The Seven Stages in the Lifecycle of Spaces and Places³⁴

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGE	Work with a diverse range of stakeholders and mana whenua (as determined by them) to clearly identify what the challenge or opportunity is and ensure that all initial options in response are explored, including modifying delivery and optimising the existing network. Look at how the project aligns with local priorities, and/or regional and national strategies. This is a gateway decision point before proceeding to further analysis.
PROOF OF NEED	Use evidence to confirm the need for a facility or space and develop a strategic case for developing it, ensuring the solution options are appropriate for the challenge you are trying to solve. Apply a network view. Identify potential partners or collaborators and further establish mana whenua relationships as determined by them. Build in escalation costs to the initial budget estimate.
PROOF OF VIABILITY	Assess a range of options to meet the need and determine feasibility of the preferred option. Consideration should be given to the location options; ownership and governance; operations and activation; funding plan; and establishing sustainability ambitions. Develop the capital and operational budget at this time. Take account of whole-of-life costs when moving on to develop a business case and analysing the cost benefit and social return on investment of the proposed project. This is a gateway decision point to proceed to design or not. If proceeding, and the project is funded in part or whole by a local authority, update funding in the LTP to cover escalation to align with delivery timeframe.
DESIGN	Develop the functional and spatial requirements of the facility ensuring it's fit for purpose and future-proofed (go back to initial challenge you are solving and the sustainability and inclusiveness vision for the project). Explore inclusion and accessibility, connections, opportunities for play, environmentally sustainable and technology solutions, undertaking a life cycle assessment of design options. Details are confirmed and estimates finalised.
BUILD	Construction of facility or active environment.
OPERATE	Manage and maintain the facility or space to ensure it delivers an ongoing quality experience, including developing the most effective and efficient operating model, asset management plan, information accessibility, activation, and programming. Embed accessibility awareness, cultural, and environmental sustainability system training into all roles.
IMPROVE	Evaluate performance of the facility or space against the project vision and outcomes including feedback from users. Measure performance against inclusion and environmental sustainability goals set at the beginning. Identify areas for improvement across all aspects of the facility or space. Identify any future upgrades or redevelopment needed.

³⁴ New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework, Pou Tarāwaho mō ngā Wāhi o Aotearoa.

11.0 Appendix One: Summary of Spaces and Places

The below Table 11-1 provides a current inventory of spaces and places in the region at the sub-regional level and above (i.e. local spaces and places are not included).

Table 11-1 Summary of Spaces and Places facilities in the Wellington Region – Aligned to the Facility Hierarchy³⁵

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
INDOOR SPACES AND PLACES - COURTS				
Indoor Courts	Hutt City	Walter Nash Centre	5 sprung basketball courts also marked for 5 netball, 6 volleyball, 2 futsal, 2 floorball, 2 handball, 5 dodgeball, and used for various other indoor sports; 4 meeting rooms, library, offices and cafe. 1 outdoor basketball half court. Adjacent to Hutt Valley Netball Centre which provides 11 hardcourt netball courts.	National
	Hutt City	Hutt Indoor Sports	Commercial provider, 5 courts marked for: 5 Indoor Netball, 5 Indoor Soccer and 5 Indoor Cricket courts	Regional
	Masterton	Trust House Recreation Centre	1 solid wooden floor multi-use Indoor Court, marked out for 1 basketball, 3 volleyball, 1 netball, 4 pickleball, 1 futsal, bleacher seating on either side of court, digital score board and retractable basketball hoops, with 4 meeting rooms, changing facilities, and kitchen/dining areas.	Sub-Regional
	Porirua	Te Rauparaha Arena	Part of Te Rauparaha Arena. 3 sprung courts- full international standard size courts Grandstand seating for 3,000 people, can be split into 3 separate courts or one large space. Caters for conferences, dinners, sporting events, expos. Can combine with NZCT Stadium.	International
	Porirua	NZCT Stadium	Part of Te Rauparaha Arena. 1 community basketball/netball court.	Regional
	Wellington	Ākau Tangi Sports Centre	12 sprung floor courts, multiple uses (basketball/netball/floorball/volleyball/pickleball etc). Largest indoor facility regionally, has a community sport focus, but can host larger tournaments /events. 3 meeting room and 4 changing rooms.	National
	Wellington	TSB Arena	Large, flexible facility with a sprung timber sports floor providing 1 indoor court suitable for regional to international level centre court sport. Retractable tiered seating provided.	International
Squash	Wellington City	Club Kelburn	8 squash courts, fitness gym and multipurpose area.	Regional
	Hutt City	Hutt City Squash – Fraser Park	5 squash courts with moveable walls to allow for regulation doubles courts.	National
Badminton	Hutt City	Naenae Badminton Hall	5 Badminton Courts, meeting room, spectator seating and change facilities.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington City	Wellington Badminton Centre	8 badminton courts and pro shop. Base for multiple clubs.	Regional
	Wellington	North Wellington Badminton Centre	6 Badminton courts, meeting room, spectator seating and change rooms.	Regional

³⁵ Information outlined in this table is based on the best and latest information made available by strategy partners.

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
INDOOR SPACES AND PLACES - COURTS				
Table Tennis	Wellington	Wellington Table Tennis Stadium (Newtown)	8 permanent table tennis tables. Venue owned by Table Tennis Wellington Incorporated.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Empire Table Tennis	16 permanent table tennis tables.	Sub-Regional
Gymnastics	Wellington	Capital Gymnastics	Two indoor spaces, one hosting community programmes and one performance based. Used by two clubs and hosts sub-regional competitions.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Hutt Valley Gymnastics Centre	Large indoor space with two gymnastics floors, and separate tumbling, parkour and cheerleading areas. Hosts regional competitions.	Regional
Specialised indoor venues	Wellington	Basin Reserve Indoor Cricket	INDOOR TRAINING: Indoor cricket training facility at international standard cricket venue.	Regional
	Wellington City	Kilbirnie Recreation Centre	ROLLERSPORTS: Large hall dedicated to indoor roller sports, located by the Wellington Aquatic Centre; Toitū Poneke Sports Hub and Kilbirnie Park sports fields. Few dedicated venues in the region, with some hire-use of sports gyms and halls for events. Regional status here due to its uniqueness as dedicated venue. Requires earthquake strengthening.	Regional
	Wellington City	Renouf Tennis Centre	TENNIS: 6x indoor courts (plus 14 outdoor courts see below). The Renouf Tennis Centre is the most significant tennis facility in the lower North Island.	National
	Wellington City	Westpac Stadium Indoor Cricket	INDOOR TRAINING: Indoor cricket training facility at international event venue.	Regional
	South Wairarapa	Featherston Stadium	Badminton, gymnastics, floorball, indoor hockey.	Sub-Regional
OUTDOOR SPACES AND PLACES - COURTS				
Tennis (outdoor)	Wellington	Renouf Tennis Centre	14 outdoor courts (floodlit) (adjacent to the indoor courts). The combination of indoor and outdoor courts makes the Renouf Tennis Centre the most significant tennis facility in the lower North Island.	National
	Hutt City	Mitchell Park	12 outdoor astroturf courts with lights. 4 currently being covered.	Sub-Regional
	Masterton	Masterton Tennis Centre	11 outdoor astroturf courts, three courts recently resurfaced.	Sub-Regional
	South Wairarapa	Martinborough Tennis Club	8 grass tennis courts. Holds an annual Wairarapa regional tournament.	Sub-Regional
Netball courts (outdoor)	Hutt City	Netball Hutt Valley - Taita	11 outdoor hardcourt netball courts adjacent to Walter Nash Centre which provides 5 x indoor courts.	Regional
	Kāpiti	Netball Kāpiti Centre	11 netball courts, clubrooms, changing facilities.	Sub-Regional
	South Wairarapa	Kuranui College	6 netball hardcourts, 1 x astroturf for training. Indoor gymnasium currently being built.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Hataitai Park	14 synthetic netball courts (also used for tennis).	Regional
	Masterton	Netball Wairarapa Courts	A key facility for netball with 3 covered outdoor hard courts (marked for netball, basketball and tennis) and 9 un-covered outdoor courts. 3 of the uncovered courts are also marked for tennis and basketball. Large clubrooms facility (accommodates approximately 80 people) with change rooms, commercial kitchen and 10-seat meeting room.	Sub-Regional

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
AQUATIC SPACES AND PLACES				
Indoor Aquatic Centres	Wellington	Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre	50 m heated indoor pool, diving pool, toddlers' pool and spray water-play area, hydrotherapy pool, spa, saunas.	National
	Masterton	Trust House Recreation Centre	Indoors - 1 x 7 lane 25m pool, 1 x 5 lane 25m pool, 1 Toddlers learn to swim pool, 1 recreation 'river run' pool, 1 hydro-slide, 1 spa pool and 1 sauna. Outdoors - 1 Lido Pool with steel slide, 1 Dive pool.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Huia Pool	Indoor 25m, 7 lane pool with moveable floor suitable for regional swimming, water polo and underwater hockey. Includes learners pool, programmes pool and fitness gym.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Te Ngaengae Pool & Fitness	Indoor 50m 10 lane pool with 2 moveable bulkheads and moveable floor suitable for national swimming, water polo, canoe polo and underwater hockey. Includes leisure pool, water slides, meeting rooms and fitness gym.	National
	Kāpiti	Coastlands Aquatic Centre	25m pool with moveable floor that hosts some regional aquatic events	Sub-Regional
	Porirua	Te Rauparaha Arena-Arena Aquatics	25m 7 lane heated indoor pool, leisure pool with waves, lazy river, hydro slide, toddlers' pool, 2 x spas, sauna room and steam room.	Sub-Regional
Outdoor water sports	Hutt City	Seaview Marina	Marina with 300+ berths, hardstand, boat launching and small craft sailing area. Complementary businesses also co-located.	Regional
	Wellington	Chaffers Marina	Floating marina in Central City. Deep-water site with large berths and a comprehensive range of facilities and amenities. Adjacent to Clyde Quay Boat Harbour.	Regional
	Hutt City	Honiana Te Puni Reserve	Rowing and Water Ski hub and launching bay. Hosts regional competitions.	Regional
	Masterton	Henley Lake	Waka Ama, Dragon Boating.	Sub-regional
	Porirua	Onepoto Park	Launching area and clubrooms for Rowing, boating, waka ama, kayaking.	Sub-Regional
OUTDOOR SPACES AND PLACES				
Stadia	Wellington	Wellington Regional Stadium Sky Stadium	1 multi-use field (all codes). Premiere Regional venue. Also, includes an indoor training facility with 5 lane nets (managed by Cricket Wellington).	International
	Wellington	Basin Reserve – Cricket Oval (and Indoor)	International standard play/practice facility, Indoor 2 lane training facility used for representative, club and school training (managed by Cricket Wellington). Major outdoor upgrade works underway, including consideration of lighting.	International
	Porirua	Porirua Park	4 fields. 2 higher grades and 2 lower grade landfill caps (unsuitable for capital development), training areas with lights. #1 field is international standard (sand carpet) with grandstand.	National
Sports fields	Masterton	Trust House Memorial Park	2 grassed rugby fields in winter or 1 x cricket block in summer, changing facilities linked to Club (Marist).	Sub-Regional
	Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park -Sports Ground	1 rugby field, 2 soccer fields in winter and 1 cricket block in summer, changing facilities linked to Clubs (Pioneer & Douglas Villa).	Sub-Regional
	Upper Hutt	Trentham Memorial Park	7 football pitches, 6 rugby pitches, 6 cricket pitches (2 artificial strips), 1 grass athletics track, 1 long jump pit, two times cricket nets, 1 woodchopping arena. 2 toilet and changing facilities.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Newtown Park	2 football fields, condition grade 1. Grandstand, floodlights, clubrooms.	Regional
	Porirua	Ngāti Toa Domain	4 fields. Field 1: Topsoil A, Higher grades Field 2: floodlit training, Topsoil B, lower grades, junior, training Field 3: Topsoil B, junior, lower grades, training Field 4: Topsoil B, lower grades, junior training. softball lime, base for Diamonds Paremata Plimmerton Softball Club. More refinements for training and field consolidation planned. Cricket Artificials x2 Quarter training. 4 acrylic club competition courts.	Sub-Regional
	Porirua	Bothamley Park	Throwing circle. 3 rugby/league fields plus large training area. Floodlights and changing facilities. Used for touch and kilikiti in summer.	Sub-Regional
	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Park	2 sand carpet rugby fields. Includes indoor training turf, 3 multi-use indoor spaces, clubrooms and spectator grandstand, adjacent to destination skate park, pump track and playground.	Regional

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	
Sports fields continued	Hutt City	Petone Recreation Ground	5 Cricket Pitches (Clay), 3 junior Cricket pitches, 6 touch fields, 3 full size rugby fields, 1 reduced size rugby field, 4 junior rugby fields, changing rooms, Grandstand (Currently closed due to seismic).	Sub-Regional	
	Hutt City	Hutt Recreation Ground	3 Cricket Pitches, 1 x grass athletic track, 2 throwing circles, Long Jump (Hard surface with sand pits on both sides), Artificial Field for training and junior sport, 3 Rugby Pitches, 1 Junior Rugby Pitch, 2 training areas for rugby, Grandstand, changing rooms and toilets.	Sub-Regional	
	Hutt City	Fraser Park	4 Rugby fields, 7 football fields, 1 artificial diamond (infield), 3 grass diamonds, 3 skin (lime based) diamonds, 4 artificial cricket strips, 3 cricket blocks, 3 lane cricket practice nets. Cricket practice nets owned by club.	National	
	Hutt City	Hutt Park	4 senior football fields (2 sand based), 2 junior football fields, training areas, 1 Aussie Rules field, 8 senior touch fields, 4 junior touch fields. Changing rooms, clubrooms, floodlights.	Sub-Regional	
	Upper Hutt	NZCIS	TRAINING VENUE: 2 sand carpet high quality football/rugby fields for national and international training. Linked to high performance training centre.	International	
	South Wairarapa	John Gray Pavilion	cricket field, football field, new clubrooms for swimming, cricket and football.	Sub-Regional	
	Carterton	Carrington Park	3 football fields, 1 artificial and 1 grass cricket wicket, by playground and Tennis Club. 400m grass athletics track - 2 long jump pits, concrete shot and discus circles. Asphalt walking track. Concrete skate park and BMX track. Exercise equipment placed around circumference of playing fields. Basic changing rooms and toilets.	Sub-Regional	
	Kāpiti	Mazengarb Park	5 football fields, 7 touch fields in summer, events usage (i.e. Kāpiti Food Fair).	Sub-regional	
	Cricket	Wellington	Karori Park	5 grass wickets and 6 junior wickets, 3 lane nets, clubrooms and café. Considered potential back-up first class venue for region.	Regional
		Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park (QEII Oval)	No. 1 cricket ground with grandstand. Wairarapa regional representative cricket played here.	Regional
Softball	Hutt City	Fraser Park	1 artificial, 2 skin, and 3 grass diamonds.	National	
	Kāpiti	Te Atiawa Park	2 skin diamonds.	Sub-Regional	
	Wellington	Hataitai Park	2 skin and 1 grass diamonds, viewing stands.	Regional	
Hockey turfs³⁶	Masterton	South Park	Permanent skin diamond, and provision for a second grassed diamond through summer, provision for junior football if required in winter, toilet facilities - Giants Softball Club	Sub-regional	
	Hutt City	Fraser Park	1.5 floodlit hockey turfs managed by Wellington Hockey. Floodlit with changing rooms and small meeting room.	Sub-Regional	
	Carterton	Trust House Turfs	2 national standard hockey turfs at the Wairarapa A&P Clareville Complex. Floodlit with large changing rooms, viewing and meeting facilities. Hockey Wairarapa based there. Has been used for international games.	National	
	Kāpiti	Coastlands Kāpiti Sports Turf	Hockey water turf with flood lights and pavilion facility with viewing deck. Used for hockey, football and rugby. Some national hockey events. Adjacent to Mazengarb sports fields so both facilities sometimes used for big school events etc.	Regional	
	Porirua	Elsdon Park	1 full artificial hockey turf, full competition and training lights.	Regional	
	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Park	1 full artificial hockey turf, lights, electronic score board.	Regional	
	Wellington	National Hockey Stadium	3 full size hockey turfs - the 3rd turf opened in 2017.	International	
Artificial football/ rugby turfs	Hutt City	Memorial Park (Petone)	1 full size football turf with lights. Owned/managed by Capital Football.	Regional	
	Hutt City	Fraser Park	1 full size football turf with lights managed by the Phoenix.	Sub-Regional	
	Masterton	Trust House Memorial Park	1 Rugby/Football Turf, with lights, changing facilities and grandstand- Managed by Wairarapa Bush Rugby Football Union.	Sub-Regional	
	Porirua	Ascot Park (Bernie Wood)	1 full artificial field for rugby/football, full competition and training lights.	Regional	

³⁶ It should be noted that the most recent Hockey NZ Spaces and Places Strategy does not specifically categorise turfs using a hierarchy approach. This is a deliberate strategy to avoid over-specification of surfaces as there are sufficient higher specification turfs in New Zealand to meet current and foreseeable future demand.

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Artificial football/ rugby turfs continued	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Park	1 full artificial field with lights and adjacent clubrooms with viewing deck & changing rooms below, used mainly for football. Small warm up turf and electronic scoreboard.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Alex Moore Park	1 full artificial field with lighting, used mainly for football and softball.	Regional
	Wellington	St Patrick's College	1 full size field mainly used for football, rugby and junior cricket.	Regional
	Wellington	Te Whaea	1 full artificial field mainly used for football and rugby.	Regional
	Wellington	Wakefield Park	2 full size artificial fields - mainly used for football and touch.	National
	Wellington	Wellington College	1 artificial rugby/football field, also separate artificial multiuse surface with 4 tennis courts, lighting.	Regional
Athletics tracks	Masterton	Colin Pugh Sports Bowl	Synthetic athletics track, doesn't currently offer hammer throw as an option, and centre turf utilised by football in winter, clubroom building and changing facilities, areas of track being repaired in Oct 2025	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Newtown Park	This is the only synthetic athletic track in Wellington City and Region (excluding Wairarapa). There is some lobbying from the athletic community for another synthetic athletic track in the Region.	Regional
Golf	Hutt City	Boulcotts Farm Golf	24-hole private golf course.	Regional
	Kāpiti	Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club	18-hole premiere links course, clubrooms, bar, restaurant.	National
	Upper Hutt	Royal Wellington Golf Club	Two courses -18-hole championship Heretaunga Course and 9-hole Terrace Course. World class practice facilities. Swimming pool onsite.	National
Bowls	Hutt City	Naenae Bowls Centre	Includes Naenae and Park Avenue Bowling Clubs, Naenae RSA and Park Avenue Pétanque Club. Developing as a regional centre for bowls. 3 outdoor grass and 1x indoor green. No lights. By other sports facilities on Walter Mildenhall Park.	International
	Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park Sports Club	Amalgamation of 2 Bowls Clubs, 2 Cricket Clubs and 1 Pétanque Club, offers 2 bowling greens, 1 Pétanque pitch, clubrooms and changing facilities	Sub-Regional
	Masterton	Masterton Bowling Club	2 bowling greens, clubrooms and changing facilities.	Sub-Regional
Bike	Hutt City	Wainuiomata BMX Track	BMX: Full size competitive track with starting ramp on Hugh Sinclair Park.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Waiu Park MTB Park	MTB: MTB park with numerous tracks from beginner to expert, skills course, links to longer tracks.	Regional
	South Wairarapa/ Upper Hutt	Remutaka Cycle Trail	SHARED PATH: The approximately 50km section of the Rimutaka Cycle Trail between the Remutaka Rail Trail Summit and the Wainuiomata Coast Road at Orongorongo.	Regional
	Upper Hutt/ Hutt City	Hutt River Trail	SHARED PATH: Approximately 40km biking and walking track from Petone to Rimutaka. Links Te Ara Tupua to Remutaka Cycle Trail.	Regional
	Wellington/ Hutt City	Te Ara Tupua	SHARED PATH: Soon to be completed shared harbour cycling and walking trail from Wellington City to Petone and continuing through to Eastbourne.	Regional
	Wellington	Hataitai Park Velodrome	TRACK: Old concrete outdoor velodrome. Receives regular use by PNP Cycling Club but use is relatively low. Facility may receive higher status if track is upgraded and bike use increases.	Regional
	Wellington	Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park	MTB: Major MTB Park/network - bike skills, tracks, links to longer tracks. Signature Trail in the Regional Trails Framework.	National
	Wellington	Ian Galloway Park BMX Track	BMX: 400m UCI international-level BMX track with start gate and bike skills area.	National
	Porirua	Rangituhi MTB Park	MTB: Trail network built on Colonial Knob by local biking community. Proposals for further trail-building through a commercial development ('Porirua Adventure Park') which could raise its status.	Regional
	South Wairarapa	Rivenrock Mountain Bike Park	Privately owned facility, participates in Wellington Enduro Series.	Sub-regional
	Shooting	Upper Hutt	Trentham Rifle Range Reserve	Hub for shooting sports. Cluster of 4 different ranges (including Seddon Range) and nearby clubroom facilities for National Rifle Association NZ, Trentham Rifle Club, Heretaunga Pistol Club, Trentham Archery Club, Karori Rifle Club, Petone Rifle Club.

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Equestrian	Carterton	Clareville Showgrounds	Hosts Equestrian Sports NZ events.	National
Skate	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Max	A large facility that caters for transition and street style use from beginner to advanced riders. The layout has different zones of skate within one large flowing layout allowing many users to safely utilise the space at once with lighting for nighttime activation also. As well as the skatepark there is a pump track, basketball courts	Regional
	Masterton	Masterton Skate Park	Located in Queen Elizabeth Park, it is a recently redeveloped, national-level facility that caters to skaters, scooter riders, and rollerbladers of all levels. The park features a variety of elements, including a large bowl, a mega ramp, and a pump track with more ramps and a more complex design than the old park.	Sub-regional
	Kāpiti Coast	McLean Park	A large destination facility that caters for transition and street style use from beginner to advanced riders. The layout has various different zones of skate within one large flowing layout allowing many users to safely utilise the space at once with lighting for nighttime activation also. As well as the skatepark there is a basketball half-court, extensive playground, and complementary amenity.	Sub-regional
	South Wairarapa	(In development) Te Papa Ora o Mōroa – Greytown Skatepark	Recently developed facility for skateboards, scooters, and other wheels, including pump track and basketball half court. The park fosters improved pedestrian entry and connectivity between Greytown Park and the Woodside Trail entry. The skatepark within the facility comprises a long street section connected to a raised flow bowl of varying heights, with extensions, catering to skaters of different skill levels.	Sub-regional
	Wellington City	(In development) Kilbirnie Park	A destination skatepark & youth space precinct that delivers contemporary skate and recreation design, catering for street and transition style use from beginner to advanced riders. The layout will combine bowls, street features, and social spaces within a cohesive precinct, with lighting for night-time activation. Alongside the skatepark there will be new active recreation facilities, shade, and supporting infrastructure, creating opportunities for everyday use as well as large-scale events. Passive areas will provide for spectators and social interaction, while the design celebrates the local landscape and cultural identity to ensure the precinct is safe, family-friendly, and inclusive.	Regional
Destination Playground	Wellington	Botanical Gardens		Regional
	Hutt City	Avalon Park	All ages destination playground, duck pond, mini-golf, miniature train, skate park, bike skills area, fitness equipment and events pavilion.	Regional
	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Max	All ages destination playground, skate park and pump track.	Regional
	Upper Hutt	Harcourt Park	Adventure playground, water play park, sound shell, frisbee golf and bike skills track.	Regional
	Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park	Adventure playground, mini-golf, lagoon, aviaries, miniature train and skate park.	Regional
	Kāpiti	Maclean Park	Adventure playground and skate park.	Regional
	Porirua	Aotea Lagoon	Adventure playground, lagoon, spray park.	Regional

About RSL Consultancy

RSL Consultancy undertakes projects and offers strategic advice throughout Aotearoa to enable community well-being. We support organisations to make informed decisions when it comes to people, facilities, places and spaces. RSL carries out a range of pre-planning work from needs assessments and feasibility reports to business cases. We also work on a range of organisational strategic and operational projects.

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18 February 2026

Report no: CCCRC2026/1/15

Assets Review Update and Maungaraki Hall Lease

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on work happening as part of the ongoing Asset Review work, seek a decision to progress a new lease for the Maungaraki Hall and seek confirmation of the decision to demolish two assets.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes the update on the Assets Review work;
- (2) notes progress against increased revenue budgets;
- (3) notes the changes required to a small number of community leases where there is a commercial sub-letting arrangement as outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the separate public excluded report;
- (4) agrees to the issuing of a new lease for the Maungaraki Hall under the terms described in points .24 and .25;
- (5) notes and confirms Council's previous decision to demolish Gibbes Watson Conservatory (Riddiford Garden) and Hardwick Smith Lounge (Belmont), due to no viable community divestment options being identified as outlined in Appendix 2, attached to the separate public excluded report.

For the reasons that Council has an agreed approach to managing community assets that ensures they are optimised and affordable into the future, which is further reinforced by the Target Operating Model work.

Background

2. As part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034, Council agreed to under-budget (\$2M over 10 years) for the maintenance and renewals of built and green assets and agreed on a new approach that would enable officers to manage these assets in line with allocated budgets. The approach includes:
 - (a) Optimisation of existing assets (to meet demand from our growing populations and new groups and activities)
 - (b) Greater cost recovery (within existing Revenue and Finance Policy guidelines)
 - (c) Divestment of assets (repurpose, gift, sell or demolish)
 - (d) Strategic future investment.
3. Implementation of the approach, in particular following through on divestment/demolition, is critical to ensure budgets can be used for priority assets and that Council does not perpetuate its past approach of under-investment, through which several assets have fallen into disrepair and been closed.
4. A cross-Council project group was established to lead the work, the Community Asset Oversight Group, and they meet quarterly to review progress on the work programme, ensure alignment of activity and manage risks.
5. As part of the LTP, fees and charges for leasing and hiring Council assets were increased, and a Fixed Term (18 month) role was established in the Parks and Reserves team to focus on the renewal of expired leases at the increased charges.
6. As assets come up for significant renewal or agreements/leases expire, they are now being reviewed to consider value for money and community need, and where needed, adjusted to align with the new approach, around optimisation and cost recovery.
7. This approach has been further reinforced by current work on a Target Operating Model, which considers rationalisation of assets as an option for managing financial challenges.

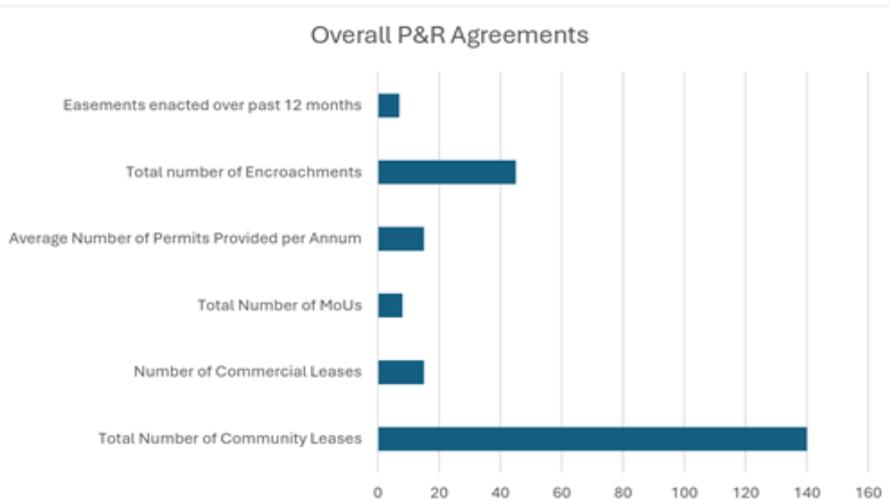
Progress on the work programme

Leases

8. The Leasing Coordinator is working to improve the process, database and record keeping for leases and is undertaking an audit of the 140 active leases, many of which are due or overdue for renewal.
9. Despite making good progress, an estimate suggests that 30% are non-compliant either with the Reserves Act, District Plan, policy or other Act/legislation. It is important to improve compliance levels to avoid legal and reputational risk to Council.

10. Of those compliant, it is estimated 85% require some further action, whether that be renewal, rent review, variation or some other aspect of lease management. Urgent requirements are triaged as necessary, other needs actioned as capacity allows.

Image 1: *Overall P&R Concessions/Agreements*



11. To date:

- (a) Around 20 renewals or new long term lease agreements have been processed and agreed by Council, with fees at the increased level agreed in the LTP. As these are primarily heavily subsidised Community Leases, there is limited opportunity for significant revenue impact. However, two have been commercial leases returning an additional \$15,000 income per annum.
- (b) Council has approved five significant easements to establish lawful reserve long-term reserve land use or occupation. Officer time in processing these has been recovered.
- (c) 10 Licences to Occupy have been issued, including the Locky Docks project, which will provide bike storage for people using the new shared pathways. A new Telecommunications licence has also been issued, realising around \$7,500 per annum.
- (d) Around 25 new mobile traders (eg food trucks) have been provided the opportunity to trade on reserve land on a short-term basis (generally three month trials). These agreements help activate the reserve network, support small businesses, and generate additional revenue (around \$5,000). An online portal for mobile traders has been developed with Council's Business Team, significantly reducing officer time spent processing applications.
- (e) Five Memorandum of Understanding have been enacted with local community groups through working with the Community Facilitator, primarily in relation to community gardens and kai in reserves.

Challenges and opportunities

12. An initial power audit of leased sites indicates a number of lessees have not to this point been paying for power despite it being a requirement of their leases. Officers will work with those groups over the next three-six months to apportion electrical charges where they should rest (lessees). It is anticipated this will save around \$75,000pa on Council's power costs. However, there may be a need to purchase and install smart meters before the savings are realised.
13. Through this process, officers have also become aware that a small number of groups benefitting from subsidised rents as community leases have then sublet to commercial operations, thereby profiting from the exclusive nature of their arrangements with Council and not returning the appropriate level of income.
14. Officers are working with each of the groups identified to enter new lease arrangements (attached as Appendix 1 to the separate public excluded report) that are legally correct for each activity, increase cost recovery to an appropriate level, and enable the business activities valued by the community to continue. This may create a challenge for community organisations that have been relying on this income to support their operating models, and officers will also work with them to consider options for their future viability, in line with the principles of the Assets Review.

Bookable online booking system

15. In November 2024, Bookable was introduced as the new online bookings tool. This tool enables easier application of the new approach to bookable spaces and associated rates.
16. Revenue from community halls and neighbourhood 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 were transferred from the old system to Bookable. In the current financial year, officers expect to achieve a 30% increase in revenue.
17. Work is currently underway to consider which other services can be moved to Bookable in the future. This potentially includes bookings for parks and reserves.

Divestment/demolition

18. To prioritise the limited funding available for asset maintenance and renewals, Council agreed to divest or demolish a small number of assets listed in Appendix 2, attached to the separate public excluded report. They had all reached the end of life, required significant investment or no longer met their original purpose.

19. This includes the Gibbes Watson Conservatory in Riddiford Garden and Harwick Smith Lounge in Belmont. The current Council decision for these assets is demolition, unless the structures can be divested to a community group to be repaired and repurposed, on the basis that there are no ongoing costs to Council. While community groups have expressed interest in both assets, and a proposal for the Conservatory was put forward, no viable options have been identified. Officers have scheduled the demolition of both assets.
20. Up until divestment or demolition, facilities have standing and opportunity costs. Standing costs, such as depreciation and insurance, add to the cost of retaining defunct buildings. There may be other costs related to legislation, such as the Building Warrant of Fitness (BWOFF) and associated specified systems (automatic doors, generators, lifts, etc.). All these costs are operational, so they directly impact rates.
21. The majority of land owned by Council, together with the buildings on it, is also subject to rates. Rates are payable whether the facility is in day-to-day use.
22. Given that a number of these facilities have been identified for disposal for three years or more, standing costs are likely to have been somewhere around the \$800,000 - \$1,000,000 in total for the last three years.
23. Opportunity costs relate to the delay in the realisation of capital receipts, but also the loss of local GDP or improved community outcomes, had the decision been made earlier.

Community owned assets

24. Additionally, the Community Asset Oversight Group has been working with a number of community groups who are either seeking to find spaces or struggling to run their own assets due to increased cost (rates, insurance, utilities etc) and decreased revenue streams (membership, grants, sponsorships).
25. Some groups are seeking to gift their assets to Council, as has happened in the past. Given Council's agreed approach to managing assets, it is unable to take over these assets, but officers can support by providing advice on new operating models and connections to other groups who may be able to share use and costs.
26. In June 2025, the Communities, Culture and Partnership Committee turned down a community request to take over ownership of the historic Eastbourne Police Cell, as this did not align with the new approach and would have increased costs.

Increased fees and charges

27. As well as the increases approved as part of the LTP 2024-2034, in the Annual Plan 2025/26, new fees have been introduced to improve cost recovery for the officer time involved in the management of new leases and licences, a processing fee (\$335.00) and handling charges (\$65.00/hr beyond five hours).

Decisions

Community halls

28. In February 2025, the Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee agreed to align future management of Council's eight Community Halls and similar facilities with the principles. Three of the halls have bespoke agreements with community groups and were not achieving the same optimisation or cost recovery as the others, which Council manages. The three community groups impacted all spoke at the Committee meeting and, while there was some disappointment at the proposed change, accepted that the historic agreements provided them with a significant benefit which was not sustainable.
29. Conversations are either underway or about to get underway with the three groups to reset the operating models. This will ensure the current users are appropriately catered for, and that halls are better optimised, providing greater cost recovery in the future.
30. Maungaraki Hall has been mutually and successfully resolved in principle with a new three year lease, which officers are now seeking the Committee's approval for. The school will manage bookings and pay for cleaning and utilities. Hire rates will be increased to match those of all other Council-owned community halls.
31. The previous lease was for \$100 or 50% of revenue, whichever was the greater (although this was not collected). The new lease is for \$24,000 in year one, plus 3% increases in years two and three.

Options:

32. The Committee has the option to:
 - (a) approve the new lease arrangements for Maungaraki Hall; OR
 - (b) not approve the new lease arrangements and provide guidance for officers

Consultation

33. The community were consulted on the Assets Review as part of the 2023/27 LTP consultation. Individual groups involved in Council assets are being consulted as appropriate.

Financial considerations

34. The new approach to managing assets included some financial levers to make it more financially sustainable in the long-term. These levers include increased revenue recovery, decreased operating costs, and future capital investment. At the end of Year One, the following financial observations can be made.

35. Increasing revenue recovery:
- (a) Leases: Incremental revenue recovery of leases was set at \$0.39M for Year 1. This was a 50% increase compared to the prior year's budget. At the end of Year 1, actual revenue recovery achieved was \$0.268M, a shortfall of \$0.12M. The target may be too aggressive and cannot be achieved in the short term, as it can only eventuate when leases expire and are renewed. Currently, no adjustments to this revenue recovery are being considered, and officers will endeavour to find offsets.
 - (b) Bookable spaces: Incremental revenue recovery by optimising bookable spaces achieved at the end of Year 1 is \$0.29M. This represents a \$0.04M increase against the prior years' average and exceeded the budgeted revenue recovery set for Year 1.
36. In relation to divestment, delays result in the rapid deterioration of these assets as they are deemed low priority for investment and budgets have been removed in many cases.
37. Success in these projects will result in future savings in capital investment as well as operating costs of maintaining these assets and depreciation.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

38. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.
39. Impacts of climate change are considered when considering investment in assets.

Legal Considerations

40. Leases are legal documents, meaning that often changes can only be made to leases at agreed review points.

Appendices

There are no appendices for this report.

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Reviewed By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

Approved By: Jo Miller
Chief Executive

09 February 2026

Report no: CCCRC2026/1/41

Draft Reserve Management Plan Honiana Te Puni Reserve

Purpose of Report

1. To bring to that Committee's attention the draft Honiana Te Puni Reserve Management Plan, confirm whether it meets the requirements of Section 41 of the Reserves Act, and its gazetted purpose, and provide options for Council to consider in respect of its role as the administering body of Honiana Te Puni Reserve.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the report;
- (2) notes the draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for Honiana Te Puni (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) is aligned with the reserve's gazetted classification as a Local Purpose (Cultural and Community Facilities) Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, as described under its long-term vision Ngā Matāpono;
- (3) agree to Option 1, that being "Adopt in principle the draft RMP for public consultation"; and
- (4) notes that officers will continue to work with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust to consider and progress a governance model for Honiana Te Puni Reserve, consistent with Council's commitment to partnering with iwi and one that recognises the intent of the recent treaty settlement and ongoing statutory requirements.

For the reason that the draft Reserve Management Plan aligns with the local purpose classification for Honiana Te Puni Reserve and whilst it is considered that Council cannot lawfully delegate administration of Honiana Te Puni Reserve to an external board without formal Ministerial appointment under section 30 of the Reserves Act 1977, officers will continue to discuss governance options with the organisation.

Background

2. On 19 August 2008, Taranaki Whānui executed a Deed of Settlement with the Crown in settlement of a number of historical claims relating to the Port Nicholson Block. The settlement came into force on 2 September 2009.
3. Fee simple title of the Honiana Te Puni Reserve is vested in the trustees of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) as part of the Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika settlement.
4. The primary legislation in respect of managing green space in New Zealand is the Reserves Act (the Act). The Reserve Act discusses all aspects of land management gazetted as Reserve in New Zealand.
5. Part 3 of the Act deals with classification of Reserve which can be Recreational; Historic; Scenic; Nature; Scientific; Government Purpose; or Local Purpose Reserve. There are no other Reserve types under the provisions of the Act. However, Reserve Status can be revoked or changed subject to clarification with the Minister.
6. Each Reserve type has individual requirements as to its treatment, how it might be used and whether specific actions are allowed. Honiana Te Puni Reserve is classified as a Local Purpose Reserve under the relevant gazette notice.
7. For Honiana Te Puni Reserve, the specified local purpose is cultural and community facilities, meaning the land must be managed consistent with that purpose – e.g., for facilities, activities and uses that benefit the local community and reflect the cultural values identified in the settlement legislation.
8. This purpose reflects the Treaty settlement context and the return of whenua as redress, requiring management approaches that recognise mana whenua leadership and long-term cultural outcomes.
9. Section 26.1 of the Reserves Act states.

For the better carrying out of the purposes of any reserve (not being a government purpose reserve) vested in the Crown, the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, vest the reserve in any local authority or in any trustees empowered by or under any Act or any other lawful authority, as the case may be, to hold and administer the land and expend money thereon for the particular purpose for which the reserve is classified.
10. Section 28, 29 and 30 of the Act deal with the detail of vesting reserves to a local authority; voluntary organisation; and board respectively (for the purpose of administration).
11. While fee simple title is held by PNBST, Honiana Te Puni Reserve is vested for administration and control under the Reserves Act 1977 in Hutt City Council. It (Council) therefore holds statutory responsibility for control, management, and compliance with the Act in accordance with the reserve's classification and purpose.

12. Section 41 of the Reserves Act requires administrators of Reserves to complete a Reserve Management Plan for the consideration and approval of the Minister. The general responsibilities of Council under section 41 in respect of Honiana Te Puni reserve is to –
 - a) Prepare a Reserve Management Plan (RMP) within five years of following its appointment;
 - b) Keep the management plan under continuous review so that the plan is adapted to changing circumstances;
 - c) Prior to adopting a management plan give public notice of its intention to prepare the plan and seek submissions from interested parties, which are to be given full consideration prior to any decisions on the plan.
13. The Reserve Management Plan for Honiana Te Puni Reserve is currently the Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan which was adopted by the Strategy and Policy Committee on 17 April 2002.

Discussion

14. Given the current RMP (Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan) precedes the subsequent settlement in favour of Taranaki Whanui and vesting of the title with the PNBST there are clear imperatives to update the RMP given the requirement that the administrator (Council) keep the plan under continuous review in the face of changing circumstances.
15. To this effect, Council agreed that the PNBST should lead the development of the RMP as owners of the Reserve with a view to bringing it back to Council for adoption. The draft RMP attached to this report is the outcome of that process.
16. Officers have reviewed the draft management plan and confirm that in general it follows the requirements of the local purpose of Honiana Te Puni Reserve that being to make provision for facilities, activities and uses that benefit the local community and reflect the cultural values identified in the settlement legislation. This assessment assumes implementation through a partnership approach between Council and PNBST, consistent with the intent of the settlement.
17. Under the Reserves Act 1977, the 'administering body' is the entity appointed or vested to control and manage a reserve. In this case Council. Section 40 imposes duties on the administering body to administer, manage, and control the reserve in accordance with its classification and the purposes of the Act.
18. Should the Committee adopt in principle the draft Plan, public consultation will be undertaken, and the proposed final plan will come back to the next Committee meeting for adoption.

Future considerations

19. While the draft RMP recognises Hutt City Council as the administering body, the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST), as the fee simple owner of the Reserve, has articulated a clear strategic intent to progressively enhance its governance and management role. This includes working alongside Council to consider funding mechanisms, and potential investment approaches. Representatives of PNBST advised Councillors on this direction in early 2025.
20. A partnership delivery model to support the long-term development and sustainability of Honiana Te Puni Reserve is considered an effective approach, whilst other governance models can be considered.
21. It has asked to explore the setting up of a board called Ngā Kaitiaki ō Honiana Te Puni and is seeking Council to delegate its administrative powers to the board/body, which would then become the administering authority.
22. Section 30 of the Act empowers the Minister of Conservation to appoint a board to control and manage a reserve. Where such an appointment is made, the board becomes the administering body for the purposes of the Act. The notice vesting administrative control in a board will also contain details around the structure of the board.
23. Section 10 permits the Minister to delegate ministerial powers but does not enable an administering body (in this case Council) to delegate its own statutory responsibilities to a board or entity such as the proposed Ngā Kaitiaki ō Honiana Te Puni entity.
24. However, nothing in the Act prevents Council from entering into a partnership, advisory, or operational arrangements with PNBST pending any future application and Ministerial decision
25. Consequently, Council may delegate operational or advisory functions internally or through committees under the Local Government Act 2002. However, Council cannot divest itself of statutory responsibilities under the Reserves Act by delegating administration to an external board unless that board is formally appointed as an administering body by the Minister under section 30.
26. Should Council seek to give effect to passing its responsibilities as administrator to the proposed Ngā Kaitiaki ō Honiana Te Puni entity it would need to request the Minister to cancel the current vesting in it (Council) under section 27.1.
27. This would result in the Reserve reverting back into the crown whereupon Ngā Kaitiaki ō Honiana Te Puni could seek the Reserve be vested in it as a board under section 30 of the Act, whereupon it would become legally responsible to administer the reserve in line with the Act. Any reverting process would need to be carefully managed to avoid undermining the intent and integrity of Treaty settlement redress.

28. In summary, Council cannot lawfully delegate administration of Honiana Te Puni Reserve to an external board without a formal Ministerial appointment under section 30 of the Reserves Act 1977. Therefore, Council remains legally responsible for compliance under the Act unless and until such an appointment is made.
29. The draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for Honiana te Puni Reserve attached recognises Council as the administrative body for the Reserve, but will see it carry out its statutory duties in partnership with the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST).
30. Council and PNBST acknowledge that adoption of the RMP represents an interim governance arrangement, with both parties open to considering enhanced mana whenua governance over time.
31. This will allow officers to publicly notify the plan, seek and respond to submissions, and, following due process, adopt the plan should it be the preference of Council. It will also provide a platform for officers and PNBST to prepare a development plan that meets the overarching principles of the RMP and to seek funding through the annual and long-term plan processes.
32. Officers will continue to discuss with PNBST alternative administrative models as a separate process, which may include the setting up of an independent body to administer and manage the reserve (with the appropriate Ministerial agreement). Any such future proposals will be placed in front of Council for a decision as they arise.

Options

33. The Committee has two main options in relation to the draft RMP.
 - a) Option 1: Adopt in principle the draft RMP for public consultation.
 - b) Option 2: Do not adopt the draft RMP and provide guidance to officers on preferred next steps.
34. Adopting the draft RMP in principle (Option 1) enables Council to meet its statutory obligations under the Reserves Act, provides certainty for public consultation, and establishes a clear framework for partnership with PNBST, including the consideration of funding mechanisms to support the long-term development of Honiana Te Puni Reserve.

35. Not adopting the draft RMP (Option 2) would delay statutory compliance and public engagement, extend reliance on an outdated management plan that predates the Treaty settlement, and defer opportunities to progress partnership-based development, investment planning, and governance alignment for the Reserve.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

36. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.
37. The land in question will be subject to significant impacts from climate change in future years, and this will be considered in future work programmes.

Consultation

38. Consultation has been extensive with Taranaki Whanui, having authored the original draft RMP through the PBNST.

Legal Considerations

39. Should Council in future seek to divest itself of the administration of Honiana Te Puni Reserve it would need to make application to the Minister to cancel the current vesting (with Council), in favour of the proposed Ngā Kaitiaki ō Honiana Te Puni or equivalent entity applying for the Reserve to be vested in it, as a board, under section 30 of the Act.
40. Moving forward with the intention of divesting its responsibility to the proposed Ngā Kaitiaki ō Honiana Te Puni or equivalent entity without the arrangement being agreed by the Minister would lead to a range of legal issues, including:
- a) Legal risk: Decisions made by an unauthorised board may be ultra vires and open to judicial review.
 - b) Statutory non-compliance: Failure to meet section 40 obligations may result in breaches of the Reserves Act.
 - c) Treaty and relationship risk: Inappropriate governance arrangements may undermine relationships with mana whenua.
 - d) Reputational risk: Perceived governance failures may erode public and stakeholder confidence.
 - e) Operational risk: Unclear accountability may lead to inconsistent or unlawful decision-making.

Financial Considerations

41. There are no implications for current budgets arising from the RMP. Any additional funding would be proposed through future Annual Plan/Long Term Plan processes.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1↓	Honiana Te Puni Reserve Management Plan (v.3)	54

Author: Arthur Nelson
Head of Parks and Reserves

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

HCC Edits 12.02.2026

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

Honiana Te Puni Reserve

PORT NICHOLSON SETTLEMENT BLOCK TRUST on behalf of **TARANAKI WHĀNUI KI
TE UPOKO O TE IKA** (“PNBST”)

and

HUTT CITY COUNCIL (“HCC”)

Collectively (“**the Partners**”)

Dated APRIL 2024

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Title of the Honiana Te Puni Reserve (the Reserve) is vested in the trustees of Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) and has been returned under the Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust) Settlement.
- 1.2. As the administering body, Council is committed to managing Honiana Te Puni in partnership with PNBST for the common benefit of Taranaki Whānui and the other people of Te Awa Kairangi.
- 1.3. Honiana Te Puni is a significant place for Taranaki Whānui. Like all aspects of our takiwā, it is a taonga tuku iho – a treasure to be handed down through generations. This Plan is designed to reflect this fundamental premise.
- 1.4. This Reserve Management Plan and partnership approach represents a new era in the governance and management of the Reserve, and ensures that Ngā Matāpono o Taranaki Whānui, as set out in our 2024 Strategic Plan as well as continued public access weave together into a unified and cohesive long term care plan. In short, this plan (RMP) has been developed to act as the foundation for how the Reserve will be valued, protected, restored, and managed in the present for the future generations to come.
- 1.5. This RMP has been prepared in compliance with section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 (the 'RA') and approved by HCC and PNBST.
- 1.6. This Plan:
 - (a) Outlines the Long-Term Vision for the Reserve. This RMP is supported by **Ngā Whanonga Pono**, which act as values, an underpinning framework for the care and protection of Honiana Te Puni. Ngā Huanui are the pathways which give tangible expression to each of these values, leading towards the achievement of the TMP.
 - (b) Sets the direction for the protection, restoration, enhancement, and use of Honiana Te Puni;
 - (c) Replaces the former reserve management plan for Honiana Te Puni (The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan, 2002);
 - (d) Provides for and ensures the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, preservation, and development as appropriate for the reserve purposes for which it is classified; and
 - (e) Outlines the conditions, policies, and processes which relate to Honiana Te Puni Reserve.

2. HISTORY

- 2.1. During the 1820s and 1830s, Te Āti Awa and other tribes from Taranaki migrated southward in significant numbers, establishing themselves along the Kāpiti Coast and Wellington Harbour. This migration was driven by both the search for new opportunities and the pressures from intertribal conflicts in their ancestral lands.
- 2.2. The original inhabitants of Pito-One Pā were predominantly from the Ngāti Te Whiti and Ngāti Tawhirikura hapū of Te Āti Awa. These groups have maintained a continuous presence in the Wellington region and have strong connections to the land and waterways, particularly through Te Tatau o Te Po Marae.
- 2.3. In the early 19th century, following musket wars and significant migrations, Te Whanganui a Tara (Wellington Harbour) was reoccupied by northern Taranaki iwi, including Ngāti Tama and Ngāti Mutunga. These groups established their presence and later transferred their land interests to their Te Āti Awa kin before migrating to the Chatham Islands.
- 2.4. Pito-One Pā was a prominent Te Āti Awa settlement, playing a central role in early interactions with European settlers, including the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Despite its decline due to disease and migration, its historical significance remains, especially in its contributions to the establishment of Wellington as a colony.
- 2.5. The Reserve, named after Te Āti Awa chief Honiana Te Puni, holds cultural significance due to its historical connections to Pito-One Pā. Once a rich source of mahinga kai, the area has been heavily impacted by industrial activities and land reclamation projects.
- 2.6. The Honiana Te Puni Reserve is of great cultural and historical importance to Te Āti Awa-Taranaki Whānui, specifically the hapū of Ngāti Te Whiti and Ngāti Tawhirikura. The Reserve is part of the broader Pito-One Pā environs, encompassing traditional gardens and burial grounds.
- 2.7. The Korokoro Stream, known both as Te Korokoro-o-Te-Mana and Te Korokoro-o-Te Ika Nui, holds immense cultural and ecological importance to the Te Āti Awa people. Historically, this stream was a vital resource for the uri of Pito-One Pā, providing a rich source of freshwater and thriving habitats for tuna (eel), kokopu, piharau/korokoro (lamprey), and inanga (whitebait). The name Te Korokoro-o-Te-Mana, meaning "throat of Te Mana", a Chief of Te Āti Awa who held mana over this area. " The alternative name, Te Korokoro-o-Te Ika Nui, translates to "the throat of the great fish of Maui," linking it to the story of Maui fishing up the North Island, emphasising its cultural importance.
- 2.8. Over time, the Korokoro Stream has faced environmental degradation due to industrial activities and urban development. Despite these changes, the stream remains a symbol of resilience and cultural heritage for Te Āti Awa. Historically, it supported diverse aquatic life and was central to the community's mahinga kai (food gathering) practices.
- 2.9. Currently, the Honiana Te Puni Reserve is an open space with areas designated for various recreational activities, including water sports like rowing, kayaking, waka ama, and water skiing. Existing facilities include the Wellington Water Ski Club rooms and the Wellington Rowing Association storage shed, which will be replaced by a new integrated clubs building as part of the Te Ara Tupua project.

3. ADMINISTERING BODY

- 3.1. Council will administer Honiana Te Puni reserve in partnership with PNBST recognising the connection between Taranaki Whānui and the land, and its importance to all peoples from Te Awa Kairangi.
- 3.2. The fee simple title for the land was vested in the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) as representatives of Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika in their settlement act. The Hutt City Council was the body authorised to act as the administering body under the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.3. The Partners have agreed to govern the implementation of this Plan and fulfil the purpose and functions as prescribed under the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.4. The Partners will commit to further consider the optimum Governance framework of the Reserve under this Reserve Management Plan accordance with the Strategic Plan's vision to be guided by our Tūpuna towards a Mokopuna focused future
- 3.5. The Council and PNBST will work jointly on a development plan which establishes the framework for ongoing improvements. Any proposed expenditure must first be provided for through the Council's long-term plan or annual plan processes.

Role of Hutt City Council

- 3.6. HCC is responsible for the day-to-day management of Honiana Te Puni under advice from PNBST as well as the operational costs necessary in order to carry out its functions as administering body
- 3.7. To facilitate an annual operational hui to include:
 - (a) Discuss the relevant long-term vision and annual plan funding process for the following year.
 - (b) Discuss and agree a plan for the operational management of the reserve by the Council for the following year;
 - (c) Discuss any particular operational management initiatives or issues that need to be addressed.

4. LEGAL AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

- 4.1. This RMP has links to a range of statutory requirements and Council plans and strategies. Producing and implementing this RMP makes contributions towards achieving the Council's Integrated Vision.

Reserve classification

- 4.2. The land comprising Honiana Te Puni is owned by PNBST in fee simple title and is subject to the Reserves Act as a local purpose reserve. Refer to **Appendix 1** for the land parcel and maps showing its location.
- 4.3. Under section 60 of the Settlement Act, the land comprising Honiana Te Puni is classified as a local purpose reserve for the purposes of cultural and community facilities. On the eastern side of the reserve sits the new club buildings for the Wellington Rowing Association and Wellington Water Ski Club, which opened on 24th February 2024.

- 4.4. The new carpark alongside Waimarino is open to the public with a path connecting through to the Tāwharau Pods which are being used as the community information centre and cultural building. A permanent shared path for walking and cycling through the east side of the reserve has also been completed.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe

- 4.5. If at any time in the future, the Parties decide to enter into a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement under the RMA, this plan may constitute part of that agreement in relation to the management of reserves.

Links to other statutes

The Treaty of Waitangi

- 4.6. Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires administrators of land protected under the Reserves Act 1977 to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in particular when formulating and implementing the Council's reserves management policy.
- 4.7. In the context of this RMP, these principles include (but are not limited to):
- (a) To act reasonably and in good faith;
 - (b) To make informed decisions;
 - (c) To consider whether active steps are needed to protect Māori interests;
 - (d) To avoid actions that would prevent the redress of claims;
 - (e) Tangata whenua, iwi and hapu will be consulted and issues or concerns raised will be reflected in decision-making by the Partners where activities are likely to disturb or impact on cultural activities;
 - (f) The Partners will recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, Wahi Tapu and other taonga, in the management of the reserve.

The Local Government Act 2002

- 4.8. The purpose of the Local Government Act (LGA) is to provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities. Under Section 3, the LGA:

'Provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach.'

- 4.9. Under Section 10 of the Act the purpose of local government is:

(a) To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities;

and

(b) To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future.'

- 4.10. The LGA also provides for the decision-making, consultation and community outcomes along with the financial management processes.
- 4.11. The Act places restrictions on the disposal of parks and reserves (Section 138) and also enables policy relating to the collection and use of development contributions for reserves (Section 106).
- 4.12. Part 8 of the LGA allows the Council as administrators to adopt and enforce bylaws.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA)

- 4.13. The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- 4.14. Under Section 5 (2) of the Act, sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while:
 - (a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;
 - (b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
 - (c) Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.
- 4.15. District Plans are prepared by the Council to give effect to the purpose of the RMA 1991.

Other Legislation

- 4.16. The policies of this RMP must also take into account the relevant provisions contained in the following Acts:
 - (a) Historic Places Act 1993
 - (b) Health Act 1956
 - (c) Pesticides Act 1969
 - (d) Litter Act 1979
 - (e) Building Act 1991
 - (f) Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992
 - (g) Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act 1975

Links with planning instruments

- 4.17. This RMP takes into account and, where possible, responds to a range of Hutt City Council and PNBST plans, strategies and policy documents.

TARANAKI WHĀNUI STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision

- We are guided by our Tūpuna towards a Mokopuna focused future,

Purpose

- Guided by Tūpuna wisdom, Taranaki Whānui is focused on nurturing all aspects of well-being for our people and taiao, ensuring a prosperous future for all generations.

Our principles include

- Te Mouri o te Taiao, where we protect and enhance our whenua, moana, and awa for future generations;
- E Kore e Piri te Uku ki te Rino, where we remain steadfast in upholding and expressing our tikanga, kawa, and mana motuhake;
- Te Kahu o te Raukura, where we are guided by the philosophies of the raukura, aroha, and rongomou; and
- Poua ki Runga, Poua ki Raro, where our whakapapa connects us from the land to the sky, and sustainable solutions are sought to restore environmental balance.

Our goals include

- actively preserving and sustaining our lands and waters,
- being strong and confident in our identity and knowledge,
- thriving in our culture and language, and
- being leaders in whānau health and well-being.

Our priorities are

- Te Oranga o te Whānau, where the health and well-being of our people are prioritized, nurtured, and resourced;
- Te Matauraur me te Reo, focusing on the reclamation and intergenerational transmission of our knowledge, our reo, and our tikanga;
- Ngā Rawa o te Āpōpō, ensuring all investment decisions are tupuna-guided, mokopuna-focused, and sustainable; and
- Te Kaha me te Āheinga, building capable and collaborative Taranaki Whānui entities that support whānau and mokopuna success

HUTT CITY - TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

- 4.18. The '2024-2034 Long Term Plan', outlines the fundamental principle of Council's strategic approach is to promote the well-being of all people in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai with a focus on social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community.

- 4.19. Underscoring this approach are Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai's neighbourhoods and communities which need to be safe, connected, healthy, inclusive and resilient. Council is further dedicated to activating Te Tiriti o Waitangi by engaging and collaborating with Mana Whenua to enhance health, education and employment opportunities for a steadily growing population of Māori.
- 4.20. The levers that Council will enable to achieve this are: providing future fit infrastructure; enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods; and supporting and enhancing the environment.
- 4.21. The management and development of Honiana Te Puni Reserve will contribute to the achievement of Council's underarching principles.

HUTT CITY DISTRICT PLAN

- 4.22. Honiana Te Puni is within the Special Recreation Activity Area of the District Plan as part of Area 1 – the Petone Foreshore. Area 1 consists of the Petone Foreshore from the Korokoro Reclamation to the eastern end of Marine Parade, between Mean High-Water Spring and The Esplanade.
- 4.23. In the District Plan there are a number of topics which have common issues, objectives and policies but rules which are specific to each activity area. These are grouped together in this General Rules Chapter. These rules relate to matters such as car and cycle parking, signs, noise, significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources, trees, natural hazards, earthwork and temporary activities. Rules which relate specifically to the Special Recreation Activity Areas can be found under Chapter 7B of the Plan.
- 4.24. All activities, such as any proposed development of the reserve and its buildings, should be assessed in terms of the requirements of each activity area to be permitted, and the general rule requirements to determine whether or not any resource consents are required.

BYLAWS

- 4.25. Hutt City Council Bylaw – Parks and Reserves (2017) contains a number of sections relating to access to reserves (Part 1), prohibited and restricted activities in reserves (Part 2), organised events in reserves (Part 3) and other matters (Part 4). This bylaw will be applied in the management of the park along with other relevant Council bylaws, including:
- (a) Dog Control Bylaw (20255)
 - (b) Public Places Bylaw (2016)
 - (c) Other Council bylaws that may have some role can be viewed on the Council website.

STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

- 4.26. The application of this Plan should include the consideration of the following existing Strategies and Policies:
- (a) Hutt City Council Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan;
 - (b) Hutt City Active Recreation and Sport Strategy;

- (c) Hutt City Events Strategy;
- (d) Walking Strategy;
- (e) Cycling Strategy;
- (f) Urban Forest Plan;
- (g) Environmental Sustainability Strategy;
- (h) Hutt City community arts and culture policy;
- (i) Heritage Policy;
- (j) Encroachment and Disposal Policy on Reserve

5. FUTURE SHARED, LONG-TERM VISION FOR HONIANA TE PUNI

- 5.1. Emerging from the conversations from the Te Ara Tupuna project, plans and visions for the future of Honiana Te Puni were agreed between Taranaki Whānui, HCC and Waka Kōtahi NZTA.
- 5.2. The Te Ara Tupuna Project includes construction activities on Honiana Te Puni Reserve which are supported by PNBST. These activities include the relocation of two club buildings, being the Wellington Rowing Association and Wellington Water Ski Club, including car parks. The old buildings will then be demolished.



Tāwharau Pods

- 5.3. The Tāwharau Pods are two small, relocatable buildings at the eastern side of Honiana Te Puni Reserve. This will be their temporary location until Te Ara Tupua is complete. Designed to provide a more active Taranaki Whānui presence at the reserve, they host a studio that is being used by iwi Māori artists working on Te Ara Tupua, and a Te Ara Tupua project information centre. Later, they will be shifted to the west side of the Reserve, once the shared path is complete.

Waimarino

- 5.4. Waimarino is the new purpose-built building that will accommodate both the Wellington Water Ski Club and Wellington Rowing Association at the eastern end of the reserve. Both clubs have been closely involved in the design process which includes storage, a new clubroom facility, new publicly accessible parking spaces, and access to the harbour for both clubs.

Sculptures

- 5.5. The existing Honiana Te Puni pou will be reinstated and a new sculpture, will be placed to the west of Korokoro Stream. A second new sculpture, Te Parororangi, will serve as the gateway to Honiana Te Puni Reserve from Te Ara Tupua.

New whare

- 5.6. Approved plans include a site for a whare to the west of Korokoro Stream providing a future opportunity to further bring Taranaki Whānui's cultural identity to the heart of the reserve.

6. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- 6.1. In keeping with the significant role that Honiana Te Puni plays in the past, present and future lives of Ngā Mana Whenua, as well as the purpose of the reserve classification to enable cultural facilities, the following cultural activities may be granted:

- (a) Erection of removeable pou or flags;
- (b) Hīkoi;
- (c) Wānanga, hui or pōwhiri;
- (d) Rāhui;
- (e) Events which celebrate Honiana Te Puni;
- (f) Events which mark or celebrate the history of Aotearoa, Waitangi Day, or Matariki;
- (g) Events which celebrate the ancestral association, or exercise the mana of mana whenua over Honiana Te Puni;
- (h) Events which celebrate mana whenua in a collective capacity, as well as constituent iwi, hapū or whānau groups;
- (i) Gathering of traditional plants in accordance with tikanga;
- (j) Limited collection of other materials in accordance with tikanga;
- (k) Hāngi;
- (l) Nohoanga;
- (m) Rongoa activities;
- (n) Activities that enable mana whenua to exercise their kaitiakitanga or manaakitanga, including overnight occupation and adherence to the

maramataka subject to legal requirements, consents and any other relevant legislation; and

- (o) Any other cultural activity in line with the aims, objectives and policies of this RMP agreed by the partners.
- 6.2. The degree and extent of any activity will be subject to restrictions imposed by the administering body in line with the contents of this Plan, the purpose and powers under the Reserves Act 1977, and any other relevant legal enactment.
- 6.3. Nothing in this Plan prevents from the restricting or closing of public access to Honiana Te Puni for the carrying out of cultural activities within the framework of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 6.4. The terms and conditions of any restriction or closure of public access will be in accordance with the legislation this plan and subject to notification. The partners (HCC & PNBST) will honour commitments made in the Te Ara Tupua Agreement that there will be no objections to the four regatta events held by the Wellington Rowing Associations per annum or the two events held by the Wellington Water Ski Club as long as they are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner.
- 6.5. Approval for the carrying out of a cultural activity can only be made if:
- (a) The activity will comply with other relevant legislation and bylaws such as the Resource Management Act 1991, the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and the Health Act 1956 (note, that this list is not exhaustive);
 - (b) If an activity involves the erection of 1 or more structures, that the structure is moveable and temporary;
 - (c) The activity will comply with the relevant provisions of this management plan, including any terms and conditions prescribed in the plan in respect of the activity or an activity of that type.

7. EXISTING CONDITIONS

7.1. The existing structures on the land are :

- (a) Tāwharau Pods;
- (b) Waimarino;
- (c) Sculptures;
- (d) New whare;

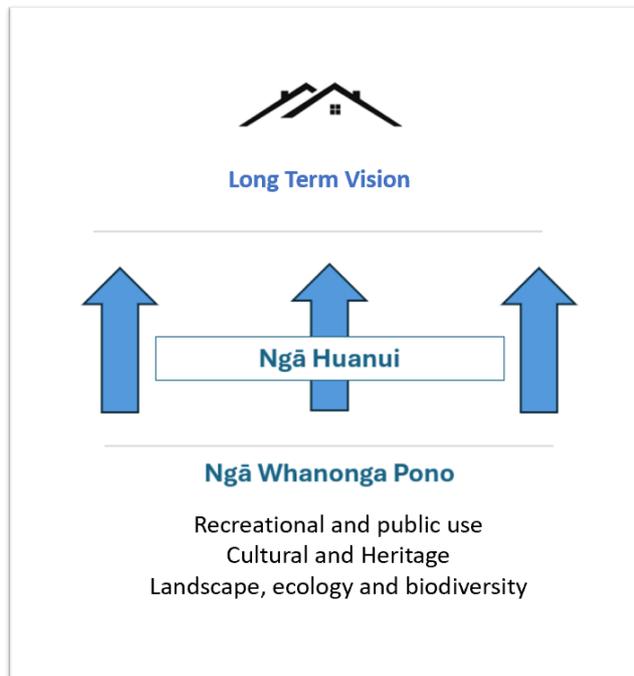
7.2. Several roads and tracks also exist on the land. This includes a section that comprises the Te Ara Tupuna cycleway.

8. NGĀ MATĀPONO ME NGĀ ARA

8.1. Ngā Matāpono (Values) are expressed in this section and integrate with mana whenua worldviews and the diverse connections that all peoples have with Honiana Te Puni.

- 8.2. Ngā Matāpono are followed by Ngā Ara (Pathways) which give expression to each value, and the ways in which the values are followed in the management of Honiana Te Puni.
- 8.3. These measures set the direction for achieving the Long-Term Vision for Honiana Te Puni.

Figure 2: the framework for achieving the long-term vision for Honiana Te Puni



Ngā Matāpono are as follows:

- Manaakitanga - Recreation and public use;
- Taonga tuku iho - Culture and Heritage;
- Oranga taiao - Landscape, ecological and biodiversity values.

Manaakitanga - Recreation and public use:

Enable Honiana Te Puni to become a site where the recreational and amenity needs of Te Awa Kairangi are met.

Manaakitanga is a core value in Te Ao Māori. Freedom of entry, use and access is also a key part of enabling the reserve purpose of providing community and regional recreation. As a public reserve, Honiana Te Puni will be carefully managed to ensure the community can continue to use and access the reserve as well as balancing the practical benefits of public access against the fulfilment of cultural activities and development. In fulfilling the recreational purpose of the reserve, the Partners will be guided by these objectives of free access and the matāpono of manaakitanga in harmony with the other management values identified in this plan.

Manage and preserve Honiana Te Puni for existing and future recreational activities

1. Existing pathways and structures will be maintained and protected in order to allow the continued use of the reserve. This includes:
 - Sealed and non-sealed paths;
 - Road edges;
 - Bridges;
 - Pou;
 - Seawalls;
 - Lawn edges and gravel beaches.
2. Ensure that the development of any new facilities supports the vision for the reserve, increases its usability for recreational activities, and reflects the corresponding cultural and ecological values of this plan.
3. Maintain and improve existing functionality and structures now and in the future, as the case may be.
4. Continue to provide high quality and sustainable facilities which contribute to the future of the reserve as a local and regional resource.
5. Apply 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' principles in the development of the reserve.
6. Apply and practise cultural and environmental sustainability, including in alignment with tikanga and mātauranga Māori, when designing and developing recreational facilities in the park. This includes ensuring that the vision and values of mana whenua are reflected.
7. Investigate the provision of picnicking and barbeque areas.
8. Encourage the leasing of the reserve, or parts of the reserve, for recreational and community activities as long as they are culturally and environmentally appropriate. Future leases entered into will stipulate that the lessee will not conduct activities that are culturally and environmentally inappropriate, at the ultimate discretion of the Partners.

Encourage recreation which respects the land

9. Recreational use of the Reserve must respect the value of the land. This means that activities must be culturally appropriate and enable the preservation and use of the reserve to continue.
10. Where possible, the Partners will ensure that recreational activities and cultural activities can co-exist, ensuring that both are reflective and respectful of the other.
11. By agreement between representatives, the partners may temporarily manage public access to the reserve in order to allow for the carrying out of cultural activities such as the issuance of rāhui in the event of death or drowning. Where these decisions are made, the respective partners to this agreement may agree to carry out activities which will encourage compliance by members of the public.
12. Protect, maintain and enhance the amenity values, open space and natural characteristics of the park to the extent that it is not incompatible with the overall proposed function of the park. This includes the preference of indigenous plants in any replanting efforts and the maintenance and making good of lawns after any construction work or events such as carnivals and fairs (inter alia).

Encourage informal, accessible and inclusive activities

13. Continue to provide and manage public access to the reserve that enables access for wheelchair users or people with limited mobility or disabilities. This will include, where necessary, the development of further sealed pathways, and the erection or replacement of seats or benches.
14. Coherent, consistent, effective and meaningful interpretation and signage will be provided within the reserve. The aspiration (subject to funding) will be that all signage and any written material on the reserve will be bilingual. The practical approach will be to foreground the Te Reo Māori interpretation in line with the Gazetted purpose of the reserve *“for facilities, activities and uses that benefit the local community and reflect the cultural values identified in the settlement legislation.”*
15. Shared spaces should avoid air access activities such as paragliding, restrict drone flying, and restrict access via cars and motor bikes.
16. Users should be encouraged to keep dogs on leashes at all times while in the reserve. This has been given effect to in the most recent dog control bylaw.
17. The Reserve may be closed or access restricted to the reserve, or any part thereof, from time to time, where the health and safety of the public or the physical condition of the reserve may otherwise be compromised. Closure would need to reflect the requirements of the Reserves Act.

Encourage activities that exist in harmony with other management values

18. The recreation reserve will be managed with due recognition of the historical and recreational significance of Honiana Te Puni and of the reserve as a peaceful environment for retreat and reflection.
19. Opportunities for new or enhanced access must be considered where appropriate with standards of track construction implemented to provide levels of service that reflect pedestrian volume and the need to provide access to those members of the community with mobility issues.

Taonga tuku iho - Culture and Heritage

Recognise, uphold, and protect the cultural value of Honiana Te Puni

Taonga tuku iho is a core value in Te Ao Māori. Recognizing, upholding, and protecting the cultural value of Honiana Te Puni is essential to preserving its heritage for future generations. Honiana Te Puni will be carefully managed to honour its cultural significance, ensuring that the reserve's heritage is celebrated and protected. This includes balancing the benefits of cultural activities and development with the practicalities of public access. In fulfilling the cultural and heritage purpose of the reserve, the partners will be guided by these objectives of cultural preservation and the mātāpono of taonga tuku iho, in harmony with the other management values identified in this plan.

Restore, recognise, and empower the relationship between Honiana Te Puni and Taranaki Whānui:

20. Acknowledge and enable the living connection between the people and the land. The importance of Honiana Te Puni as a site of cultural significance to Taranaki Whānui is recognised and the relationship between Taranaki Whānui and the whenua is restored. This is shown by Taranaki Whānui reconnecting with their stories, traditions and history with Honiana Te Puni.
21. Establish an authentic presence of mana whenua that can be seen visibly on the landscape.
22. Ensure that decisions with regard to Honiana Te Puni are made in accordance with tikanga and are reflective of a Te Ao Māori worldview.
23. Inform visitors of respectful conduct on Honiana Te Puni. This includes a zero-littering policy, no consumption of alcohol or smoking on any part of the reserve without permission. The overriding principle is to encourage visitors to “tread lightly and leave only footprints” so as to maintain the reserve for future generations.
24. Where possible and appropriate, the partners will actively consider ways in which proceeds generated from the reserve through leases and other income streams, might be used to fund cultural activities on the reserve by mana whenua.

Wairuatanga and kaitiakitanga are intertwined

25. Remove obstacles to mana whenua exercising their kaitiakitanga.
26. Recognise and empower mana whenua to carry out traditional kaitiaki activities on the land in accordance with tikanga. This includes in the process of exercising indigenous planting and environmental monitoring.
27. When making decisions, take into account and give effect to all ngā whanonga pono values, rather than individual whanonga pono in a vacuum.
28. Enable opportunities to educate and empower communities and visitors to cherish, revere, and nurture Honiana Te Puni.

Treat the reserve as taonga tuku iho – treasures handed down the generations

29. Inspire all peoples to be proud of Honiana Te Puni and to hand the motu to the next generation for safe guarding.

30. Empower understanding of activities and behaviour which reflect ngā whanonga pono and mana of Honiana Te Puni including protocols, practices and customs in accordance with tikanga.
31. Give visibility to and celebrate the significance of original mana whenua names for the motu and its features.

Encourage compliance through telling the story of Honiana Te Puni

32. Investigate and implement ways that visitors can learn about the pre and post-1840 story of Honiana Te Puni and the surrounding area. This includes the provision of signage at entrances to the reserve and the commissioning of art by local artists that reflect the story of the area.

Restore customary practices and associated knowledge

33. Empower mana whenua to carry out preservation practices in accordance with matauranga and tikanga Māori. Recognise and trust that kaitiakitanga obligations and whanaungatanga relationships with Honiana Te Puni reflect the need to protect, preserve, and respect the reserve now and into the future.
34. In the event of discovery of kōiwi or other artefacts, the protocols contained in this plan will apply in conjunction with the provisions of any relevant law (including bylaws and plans) will apply.

Oranga taiao - Landscape, ecology, and biodiversity.

Restore, nurture, and preserve the landscape, ecology, and biodiversity of Honiana Te Puni

Honiana Te Puni, along with the rest of the Hutt Valley and Wellington region, was once a place teeming with life. Its hills and gullies supported groves of native bush and animals and it was a sustainable place to live for mana whenua as the resources were plentiful. After European arrival, most of the forest and animals along the peninsula had gone. In particular, the Wellington harbour was adversely affected by increasing numbers of settlers. Industrial activity at Petone soon began polluting the harbour. With the development of the Hutt Valley in 1930, the River and its estuaries became heavily polluted. This is the background and context for the oranga taiao values in this Plan.

While the primary purpose of the reserve is to be for the provision of recreational and cultural activities, such things are not easily demarcated in Te Ao Māori. In fact, the preservation of the land enables the responsible use of the land and its resources by the people, including generations into the future. For Honiana Te Puni to be cherished by the community as a site of recreation, the land must be maintained and preserved. This reflects the responsibility of the administering body as kaitiaki over this special place.

In balance with the use of Honiana Te Puni for cultural and recreational activities, it is the vision of the partners to redevelop and preserve the ecological value and biodiversity of the reserve. This includes investigating options for the planting of indigenous plants and shrubs, enabling activities which maintain the amenity and good order of the reserve, and ensuring that traditional practices under tikanga and mātauranga Māori are followed when preserving the landscape values of the park.

Protect and restore the biodiversity of Honiana Te Puni

35. Native trees and flora will be protected and retained where appropriately located in relation to other features. Exotic trees and plants will be assessed for their contribution to the ecological value and biodiversity of the motu.
36. The partners will investigate a programme of indigenous planting subject to funding that will sustain the landscape. Planting should prioritise native species including endemic local species unique to Whānganui-a-Tara and the Hutt Valley. Planting can include, but not limited to, māra kai, rongoa gardens and pa harakeke. The Partners will work with existing groups, Taranaki Whānui and NGO's to carry out this work. All planting efforts will be eco-sourced from the region where possible.
37. Planting should be ecologically and culturally appropriate, and not come into conflict with existing recreational and cultural use.
38. Develop and implement an ongoing weed and pest management plan (subject to funding) as part of the planting efforts in order to protect the environment into the future.
39. Implement Council's Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy and apply it in a local context to Honiana Te Puni Reserve, that reflects traditional concepts in kaitiakitanga.
40. This strategy should be appropriate for the underlying use and purpose of the reserve and focus on appropriately supporting the natural environment and ecosystems, which may involve reintroducing and attracting indigenous species. The strategy should focus on the outcomes of:
 - protecting remaining taonga;

- recovering what has been lost; and
 - building lasting solutions for the future.
41. Integrate, where possible, revegetation and ecological restoration such as the repopulation of plant-life that has a corresponding benefit for native birds, reptiles and insects.

Restore the role of kaitiakitanga in the management of Honiana Te Puni

42. As part of the mechanisms under this programme, a kaitiaki regime will be developed which ensures that strategies and actions have a basis that is rooted in Te Ao Māori. This regime will be developed in consultation with appropriate tikanga experts or pukenga, and will be designed to ensure knowledge is passed on to future generations.
43. Access to areas of the marine and coastal area for the carrying out of cultural rights and activities shall be maintained.
44. Recognise that kaitiakitanga and wairuatanga are intertwined.
45. Where fences or barriers are used to mark boundaries and edges, including around the perimeter of the reserve, they should be in sympathy with the overarching principles of this plan and the existing landscape and should follow crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles.

Encourage activities that respect the natural and indigenous landscape

46. Identify appropriate areas within the reserve to erect public information signage in order to increase public awareness on the protection of wildlife.

Appendix 1: Honiana Te Puni Location



04 February 2026
Report no: CCCRC2026/1/14

Drainage and Play Improvements Hugh Sinclair Park, Wainuiomata

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's endorsement of a request to allocate additional funding from the Purchase and Development Fund to undertake the first tranche of improvements at Hugh Sinclair Park (the Park) in Wainuiomata.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the information in this report;
- (2) notes that at its meeting in September 2025, the Communities Culture and Partnerships Committee approved the masterplan for Hugh Sinclair Park and directed officers to bring back a fully-costed proposal to resolve outstanding drainage issues;
- (3) notes that 600k has already been allocated to the project in the Reserves Investment Strategy (RIS) approved by Council as part of the current Long Term Plan;
- (4) agrees that a further 900k (total \$1.5M) is allocated from the Reserves Purchase and Development fund in 2026/27 to complete drainage works and playground area improvements; and
- (5) notes that officers will reprioritise the RIS work programme so that no changes to budgets are required.

For the reasons that the improvements to Hugh Sinclair Park were detailed in the initial Reserves Investment Strategy, which gained Council approval at the meeting of Communities, Culture and Partnership Committee (25 June 2025); and

As an area of high growth in Lower Hutt, Wainuiomata will require investment in public space to ensure it can meet local demand and does so at an acceptable Level of Service. As a significant park in Wainuiomata, Hugh Sinclair Park is currently sub-optimal with drainage and renewal issues that constrain its ability to deliver high recreational and leisure outcomes for the community.

Background

2. Council's Reserves Purchase and Development fund arises primarily from Developer contributions and is anticipated to be \$31.5M (as at 30 June 2026). The Reserves Investment Strategy provides guidance on investment of the fund. The associated funded project list is due to be re-set as part of the next Long Term Plan and officers will provide an initial briefing on this in May 2026. Officers are seeking an earlier decision through this report to ensure this project is not delayed unnecessarily.
3. The Reserves Investment Strategy identified the following project objectives for Park:
 - To enhance the reserve to meet the appropriate level of service for the neighbourhood
 - To meet demand by improving pathways, play areas, drainage, aesthetics, connectivity, and recreational function.
4. The work was identified as a short-term priority in the relevant project list and a 600k budget to undertake the works was proposed.
5. Officers have completed work on a masterplan for the site, which is attached as Appendix 1 attached to the report. It envisions a vibrant, connected, and environmentally resilient space that enhances recreation and community life.
6. Given the site is prone to excessive ponding a crucial element is to improve drainage. This alone has been estimated at 900k which is significantly higher than the existing budget. There is as such a need to consider with some urgency the existing budget.
7. This project 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.
8. By reimagining the Park, this project supports Wainuiomata's long-term vision of ensuring the park remains a cherished and valuable asset for both residents and visitors for generations to come. It puts a significant recreational asset which is accessible and developed to modern standards at the heart of Wainuiomata. The Masterplan includes additional elements which would be the subject of future budget considerations.

9. At its meeting in [September 2025, the CCP Committee](#) approved the masterplan for the Park and directed officers to bring back a fully costed proposal to resolve outstanding drainage issues and improvements to the playground.

Discussion

10. Drainage is of a very poor standard at the Park which often means there are several centimetres (50-150mm) of standing water on the reserve following moderate rainfall. This is problematic in that it precludes play for long periods of time.
11. The masterplan identifies \$900,000 is required to manage stormwater ponding on site and officers are seeking to retain the original \$600,000 to complete the first phase of playground renewals which will be targeted to the children's play area.
12. The play equipment is sub-standard, prone to damage, and insufficient for purpose at the current time given significant changes in both how children play and safety requirements.

Options

13. Option 1: Agree to allocate additional funding of \$900k to complete Phase one of the masterplan by improving drainage and renewing the Children's Play area. (recommended).

Advantages

- *The proposal is already a project under the Reserves Investment Strategy.*
- *Completing the drainage works and playground will enable a much-valued play space to be improved for a much longer season including over the winter months.*
- *Given Wainuiomata has been identified as a high growth area under the Sense partnership assessment (500-999 new residences) which will see (as in other Council neighbourhoods) an increase in medium and high-density housing, good-quality, well-functioning, public space becomes a priority due to a reduction in private green space.*
- *The proposal has been very highly consulted on both with the local community and Iwi and has received strong support.*
- *There are a number of other projects proposed for Wainuiomata which will have a positive effect on the community. Improvements to Hugh Sinclair Park would become an integral part in those projects to lift the overall attraction of Wainuiomata as a green and very liveable neighbourhood which would underscore its proposed growth scenario.*

Disadvantages

- *An increase in the budget for Hugh Sinclair Park may see other schemes reduced in scope. However, there is significant funding available in the remaining fund and Councillors will have the opportunity to reconsider and re-set the project list as part of the next LTP.*
14. Option 2: Do not agree to additional funding and direct officers to undertake priority works within the existing \$600k budget.

Advantages

- *Priority work would focus on drainage to enable a much-valued play space to be improved for a much longer season including over the winter months.*
- *Completing only the drainage works would be cheaper and have less impact on other projects in the Reserves Investment Strategy.*

Disadvantages

- *Drainage work only would still require an uplift in the existing budget of 300k and drainage works alone would not meet the requirements of the existing Reserves Investment Strategy in terms of improvements.*
- *Completing the drainage only would not address the need for better public green space arising from the increase in medium and high-density housing.*
- *The proposal has been very highly consulted on both with the local community and Iwi and has received strong support. A change in delivery outcomes may result in some pushback from the community which is looking for a much-improved play – space.*

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

15. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.
16. 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.

Consultation

17. Consultation has been extensive, including with Wainuiomata key stakeholders and residents of the Masonic Village; Mana Whenua via Kahui Mana Whenua; Wainuiomata Community Board and the Communities, Culture and Partnership Committee. There was also a direct approach to local schools and an open day at the park.

Legal Considerations

18. There are no specific legal considerations.

Financial Considerations

19. Budget for the initial 600k of the work is currently part of the existing Reserves Investment Strategy.
20. This report seeks an increase in budget for the first stage of the work of 900k to complete the necessary drainage work.
21. An increase in this budget will be set against other projects flagged in the current Reserves Investment Strategy. All projects both existing and new have been assessed against key criterion to develop a priority rating.
22. The work required for the Park has been assessed as a priority, which will potentially impact those schemes flagged as secondary priorities.
23. The proposal therefore is cost neutral and represents a reappportionment of the funding available in the Reserves Purchase and Development fund set against the current Reserves Investment Strategy program. Council will be able to discuss the priority one and two lists as part of the upcoming Long Term Plan in which the RIS Project list is reset.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1↓	Hugh Sinclair Masterplan	78

Author: Arthur Nelson
Head of Parks and Reserves

Approved By: Andrea Blackshaw
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities



Hugh Sinclair Park Masterplan

DRAFT - 14.05.25

WAINUIOMATA, WELLINGTON.

Prepared by Blac Ltd for Hutt City Council



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.

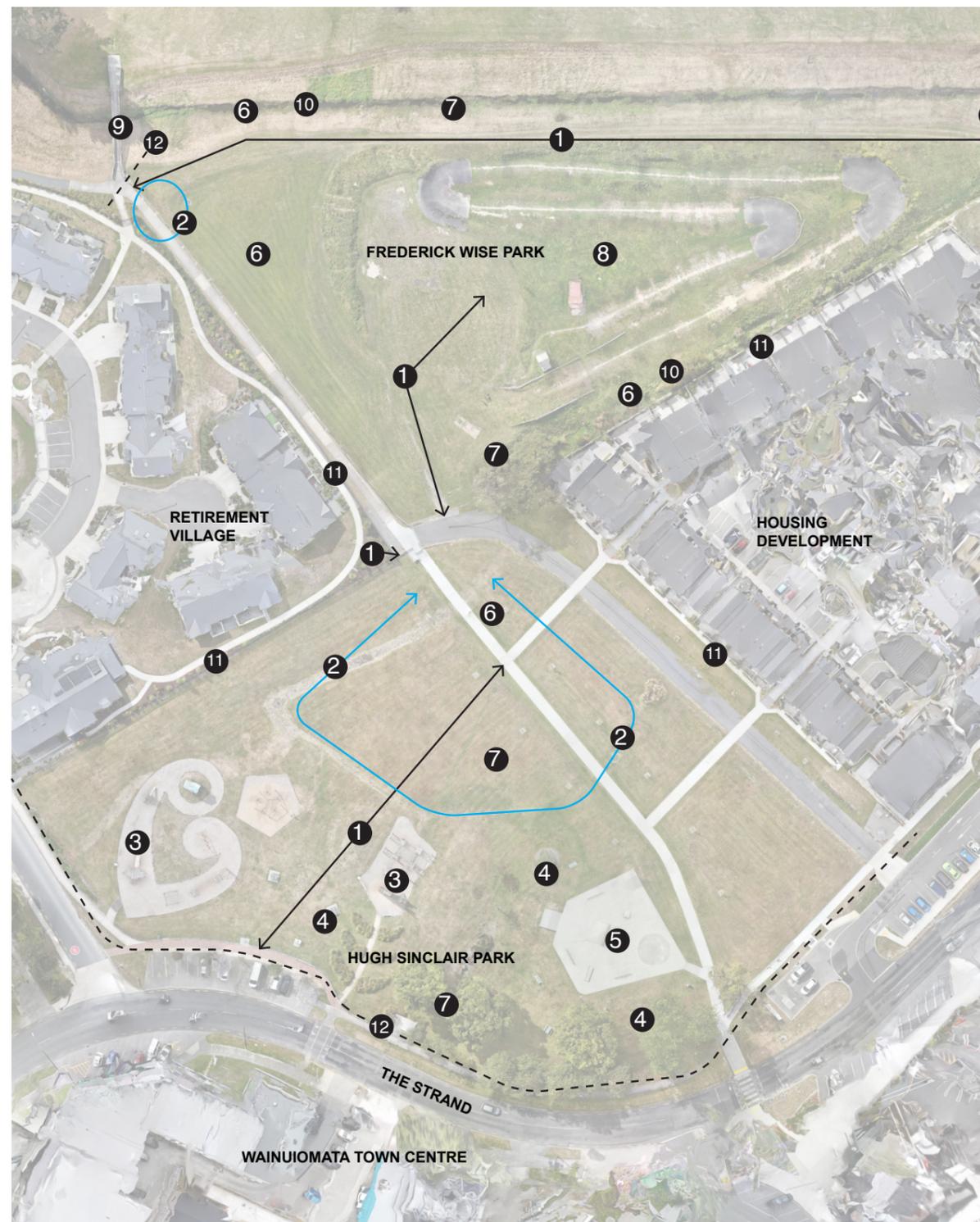
The following opportunities and constraints have been identified prior to engagement and have informed the proposal:

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:

- **Integration with the Wainuiomata Cycleway:** 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.



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 Mouna. 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.

Community Aspirations_

On 26 March 2025, officers from the Hutt City Council met with the Wainuiomata Community Group to discuss the issues and aspirations for Hugh Sinclair Park and how the masterplan could address those. A Facebook post was also made on the same date, reaching out for ideas for the redevelopment of the park. Below is a summary of the feedback recieved.

Key Feedback

Key User Groups Identified:

- Residents of new housing and retirement villages
- Town centre visitors and workers
- Local schools and students (commuting through or engaged in the park)
- Families attending community events
- General community members and those needing accessibility features

Challenges Identified:

Accessibility and Mobility:

- Difficulty accessing park/playground from the carpark
- Inadequate walkways for elderly and mobility-impaired users

Facilities and Infrastructure:

- Poor condition of existing playground and skatepark/BMX track
- Drainage issues causing standing water on pathways
- Lack of shaded/covered seating areas and gazebos
- Under-utilised BBQ area due to poor park aesthetics
- Insufficient and poorly located bike racks
- Inadequate parking provision

Safety and Security:

- Concerns about motorcycles on paths and BMX track
- Need to review bollards and fencing for security
- Lighting issues

Suggestions and Requests:

New Features Desired:

- Splashpad (noted as a popular online request)
- Accessibility swing
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Open space for gazebos
- More seating and covered areas

Planting and Environment:

- Preference for native species (e.g. Totara) rather than exotic species - in order to attract birdlife. Totara planting was specifically mentioned.
- Less focus on drainage-only upgrades

Cultural Integration:

- Incorporate Pou structures, iwi stories, legends, and local history
- Kai time cooking (hāngī/indigenous food preparation) as a cultural feature



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.



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:

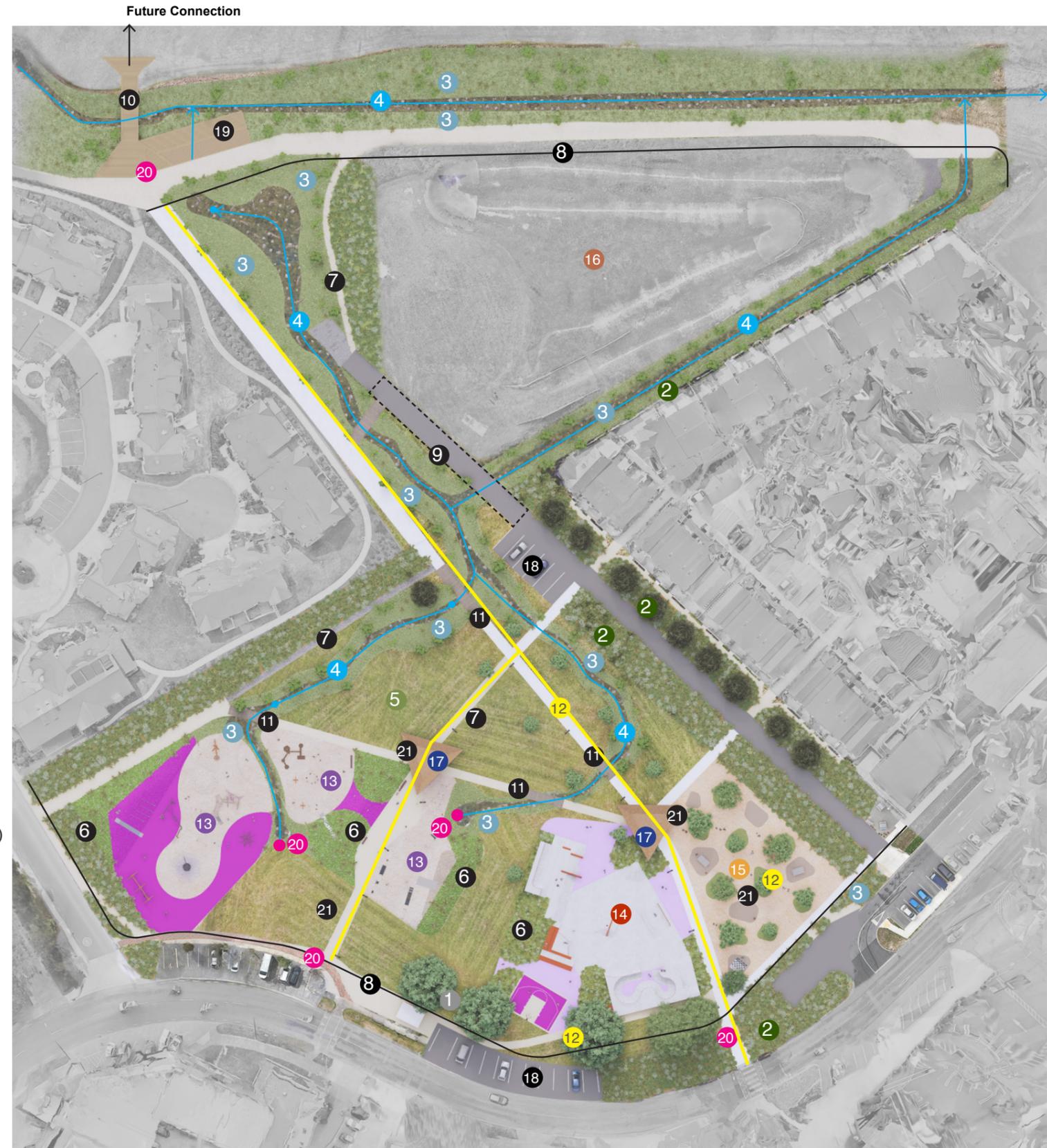
- 7 Formal and informal path connections.
- 8 Low barriers (timber post and rail, wide planted areas or low walls).
- 9 Road realignment to facilitate daylighted water path and improve access.
- 10 Bridge amendments/upgrade.
- 11 Boardwalks over drainage/lowland planting.
- 12 Tree and pole lighting.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

Recreation:

- 13 Destination play space with exercise features.
- 14 Upgrade/expansion to skate park.
- 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:

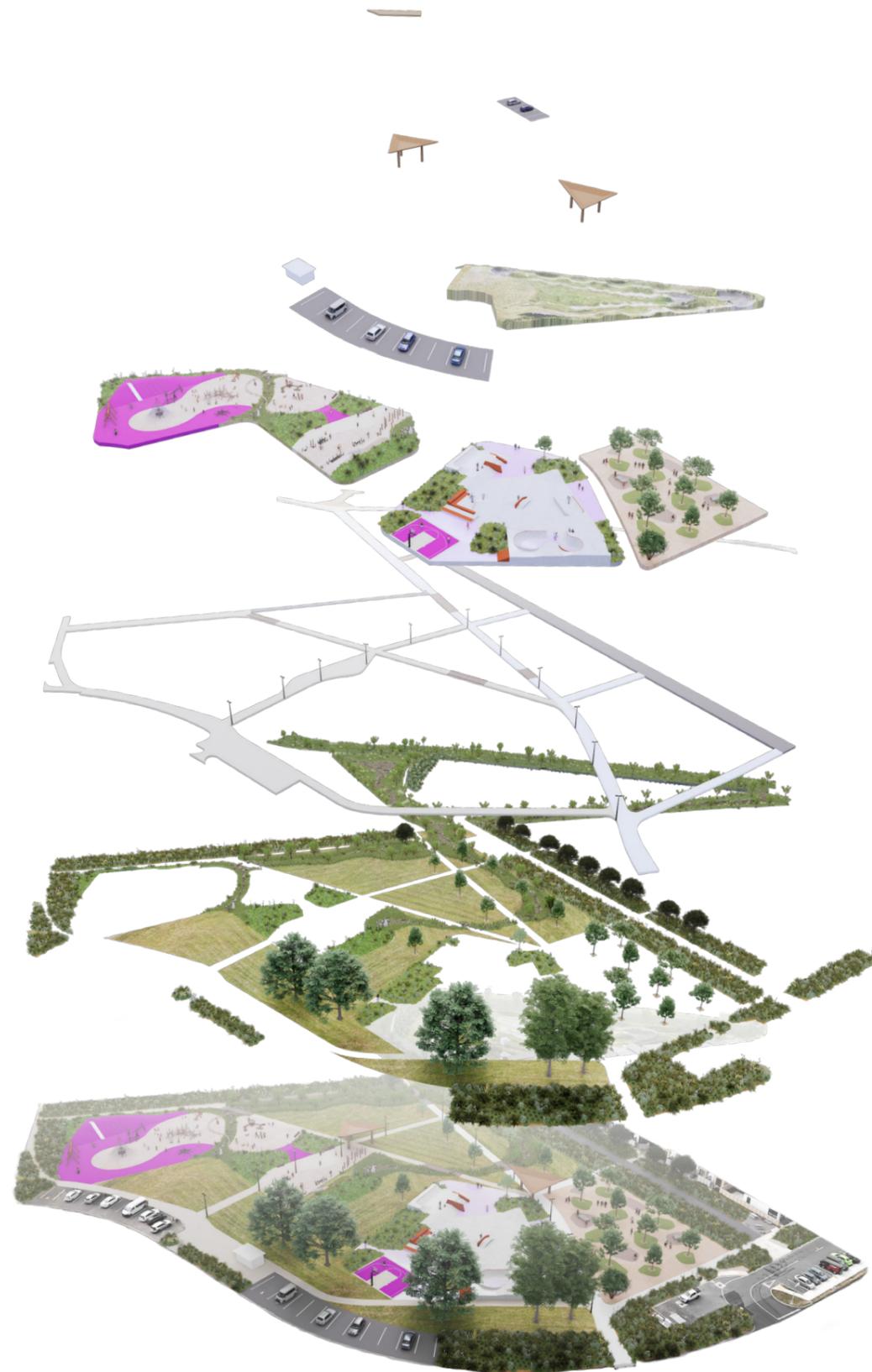
A destination play space will be developed, connecting to an upgraded playground with improved surfaces. The skate park will be expanded, and a mixed-use games area will be introduced, incorporating traditional Māori games, pétanque, table tennis, and chess. The BMX area and its future will be subject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

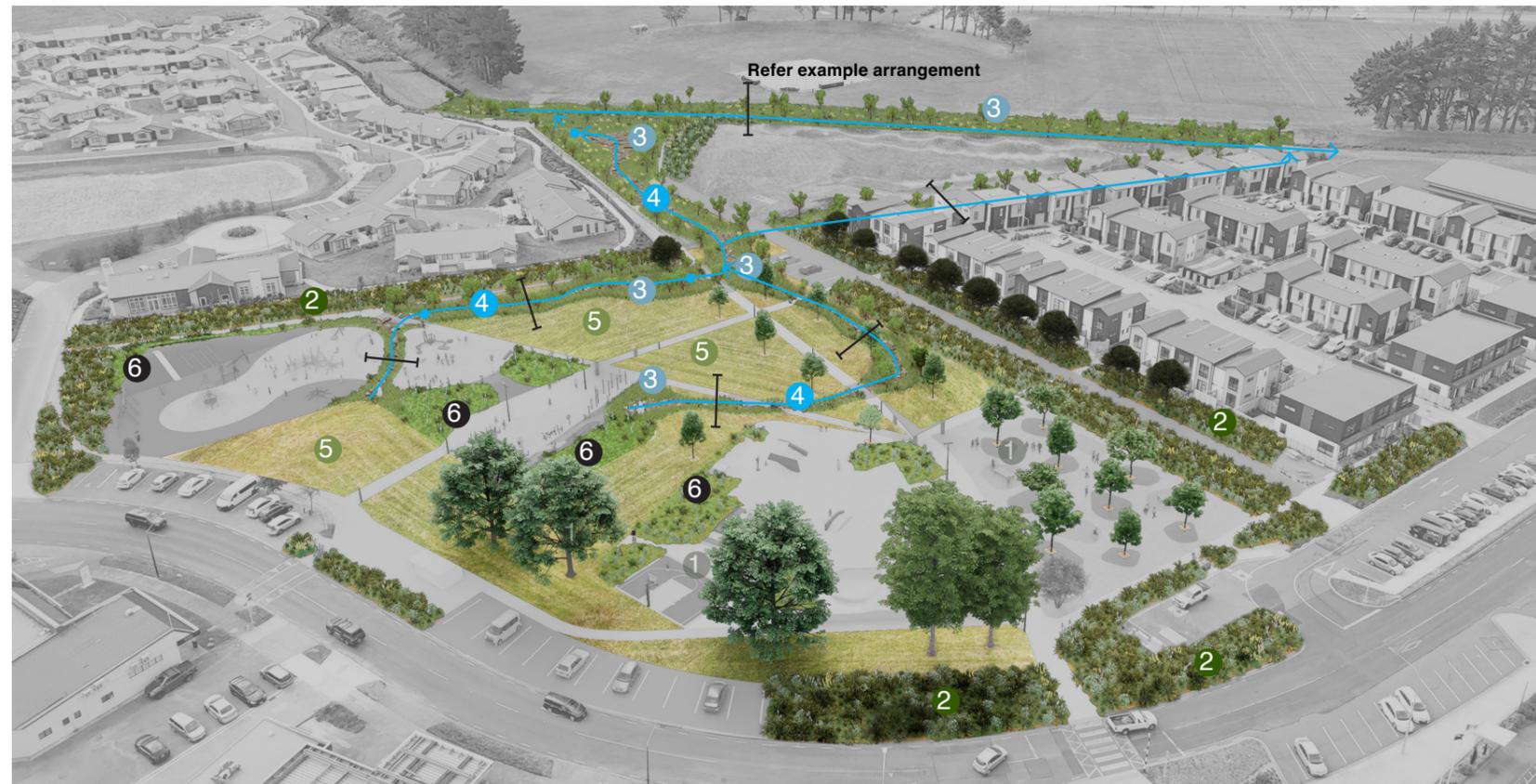


Focus Area_Environmental

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

Retain

New



Weeping Willow trees

Alder trees

Totara



Cottonwood trees

Oak trees

2 Buffer/bank stability/amenity planting. Refer to pages 12-13 for amenity planting.

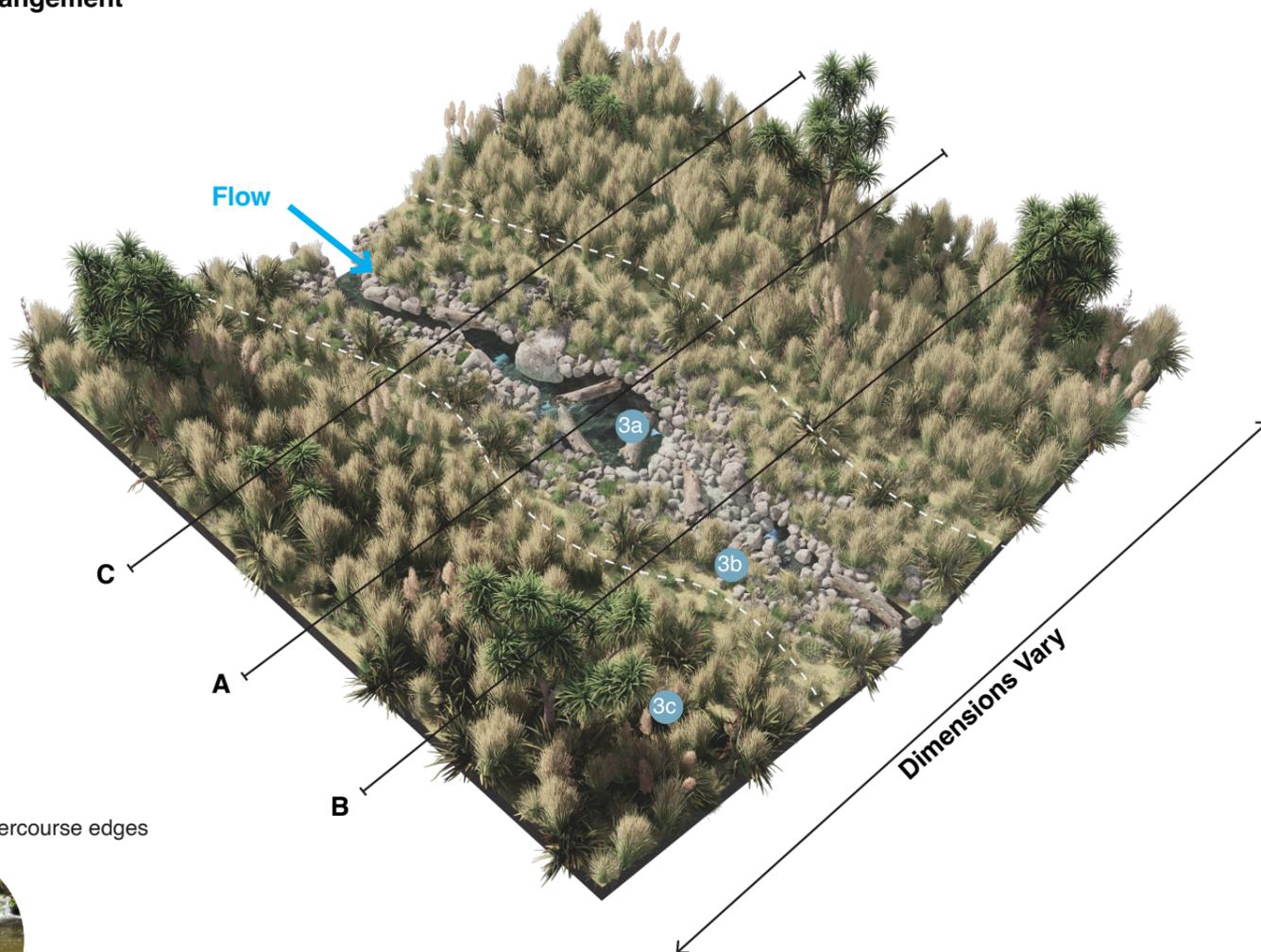
6 Planted mounds



5 Turf repair, aeration/drainage improvement and overseed.



Example Arrangement



3a Stream/watercourse edges



Rocks and logs

3b Stream/watercourse edges



Carex spp



Sedges



Oi oi

3c Wider, higher, riparian areas



Phormium spp



Muehlenbeckia spp



Pittosporum spp

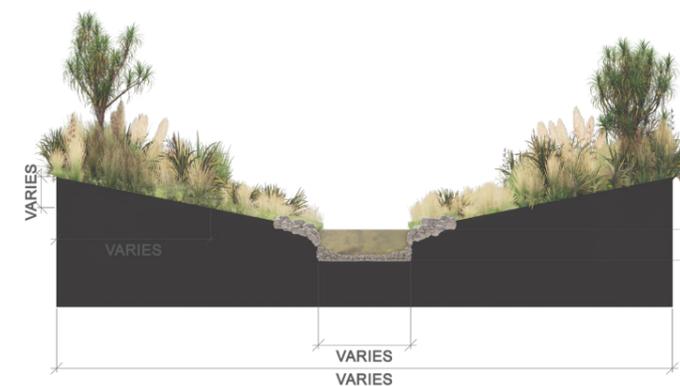


Manuka

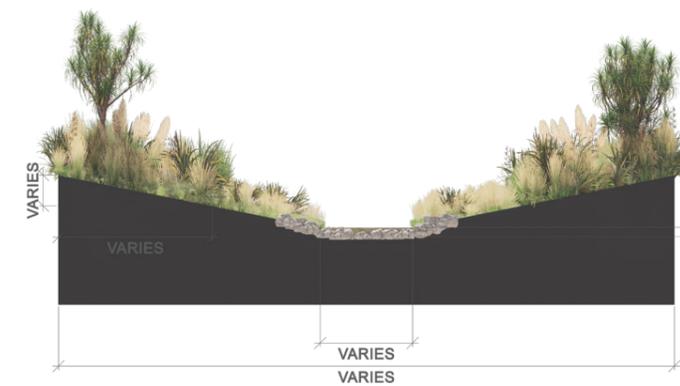


Coprosma spp

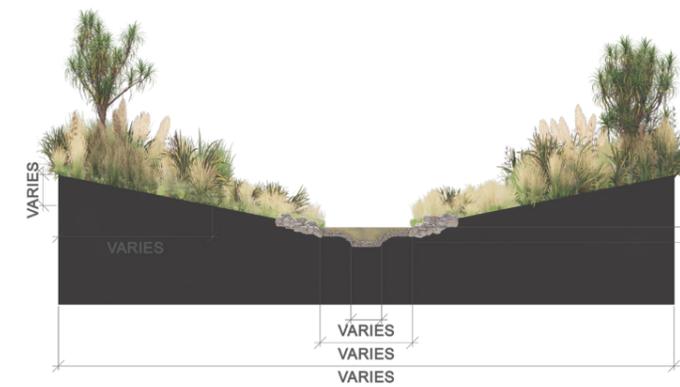
Typical Cross Section A: Pool



Typical Cross Section B: Riffle or Dry Channels

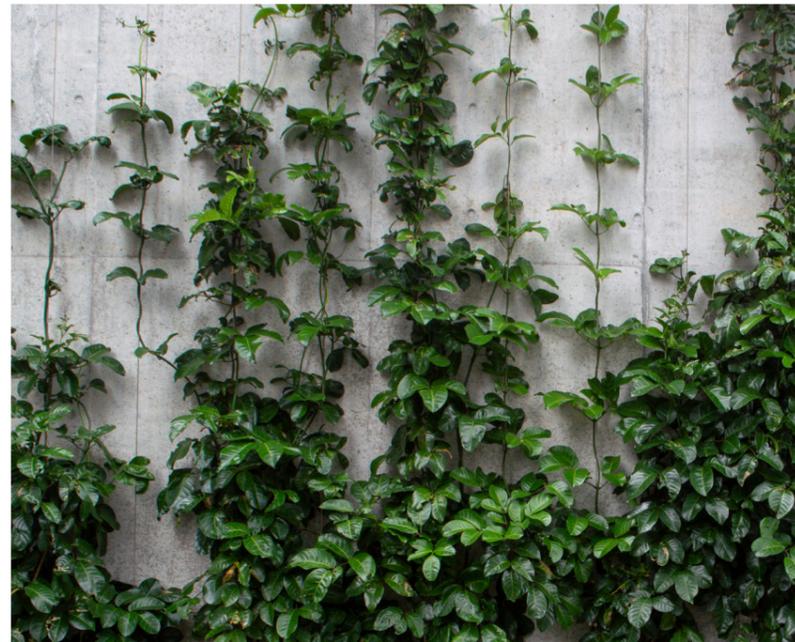
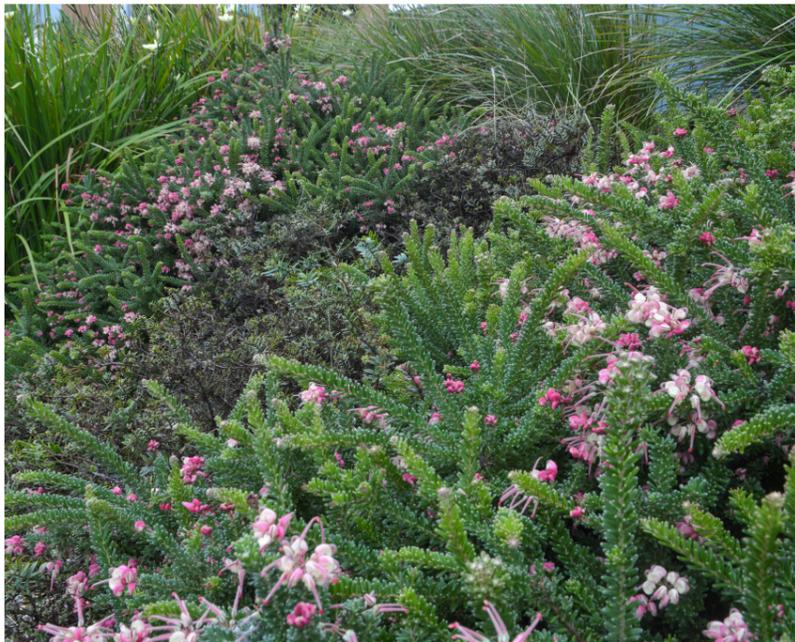


Typical Cross Section C: Run



0011 >>>

2 Examples of amenity planting.



2 Buffer/bank stability/amenity planting.



Ribbonwood



Tawhiwhi



Rewarewa



Button fern



Red Beech



Wandering iris



Puriri



Akeake



Koromiko



Sand coprosma



Puawhananga



Totara



NZ iris



Rengarenga



Hen and chickens fern



New Zealand lilac



Creeping fuchsia



Horoeka



Small-leaved hebe



Panakenake



Libertia grandiflora



Lobelia angulata



Cabbage Tree



Mountain Flax



Phormium 'Emerald Gem'



Coprosma Taiko



Phormium 'Surfer Green'



Turuturu



Mingimingi



Parahebe 'Snow Cap'



Oioi



Coprosma 'Dark Cloud'

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)

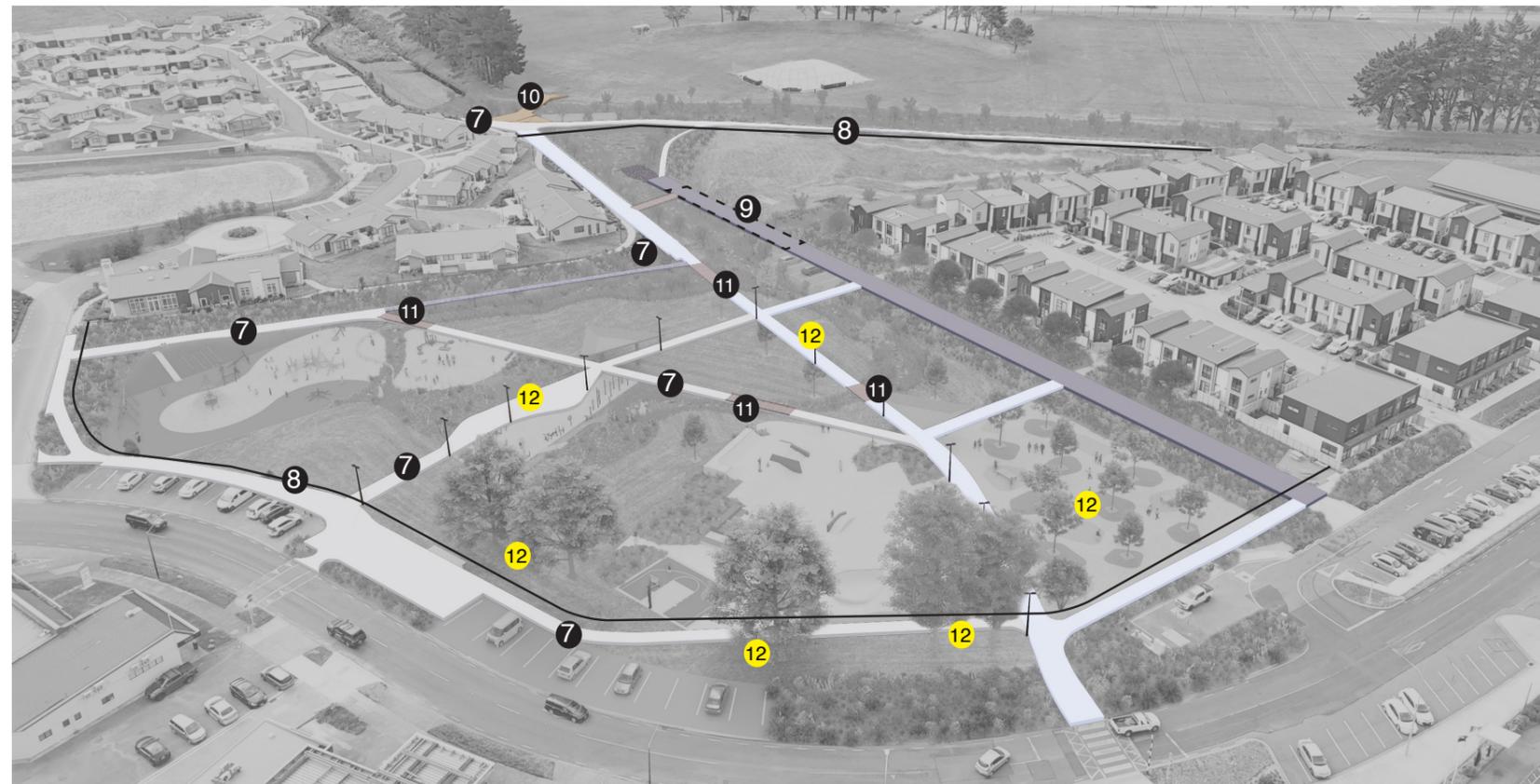


9 Road realignment



— Current alignment ← Connected stormwater

11 Timber crossings



blac.

10 Bridge amendments/upgrade



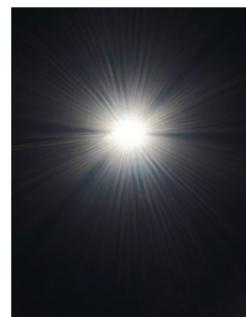
Credit: Boffa Miskell



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.
Upgrade/expansion to skate park.
- 14 Mixed-use games area (traditional Māori games, pétanque, table tennis, chess etc.)
- 15 BMX site to be considered in future work.
- 16

Surfaces

Resurfaced concrete



Coloured concrete



Engineered hoggin



Softfall - rubber pour surface and padded faux lawn



Safety bark surface



15 Mixed-use games areas



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 half court for basketball.



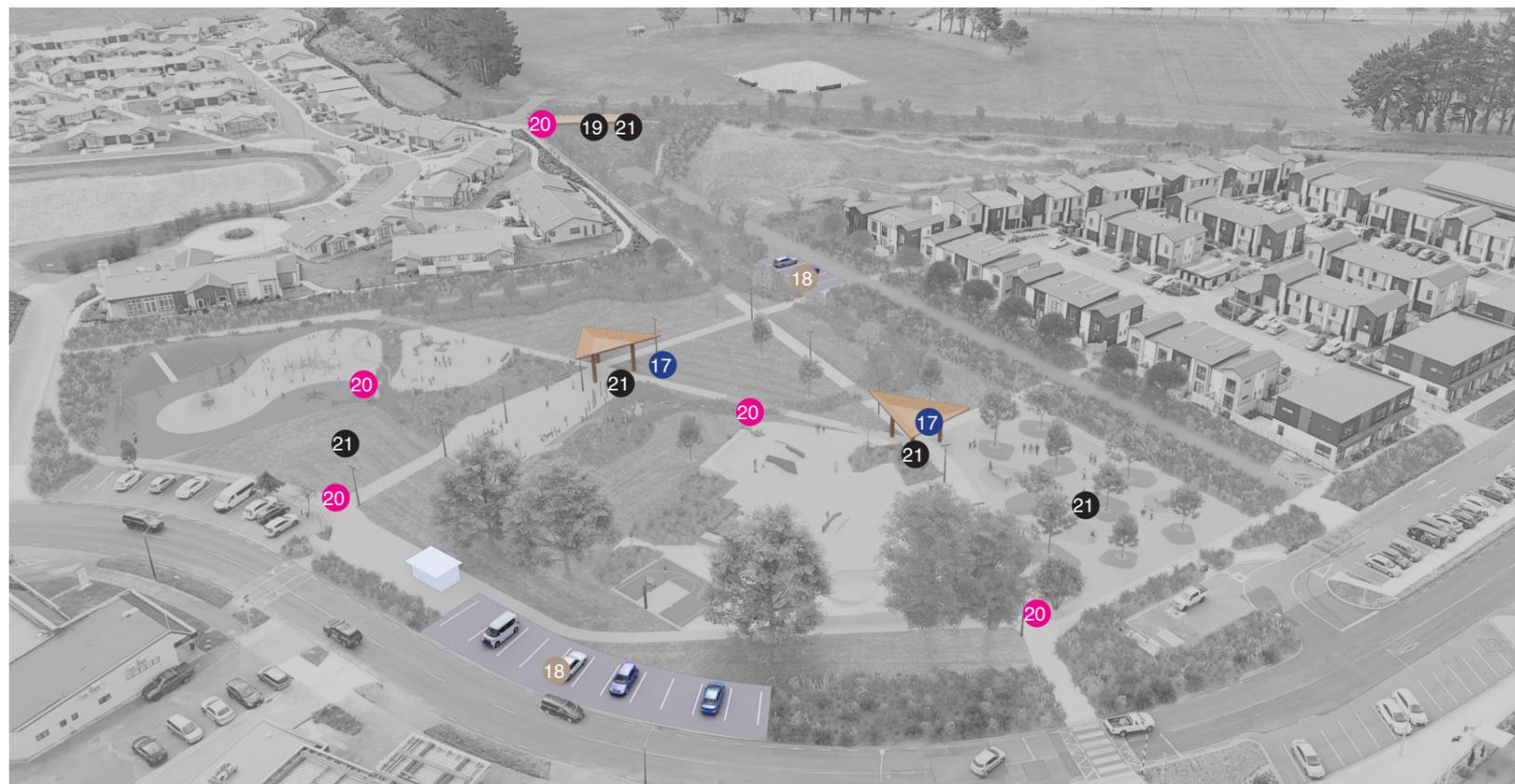
Focus Area_Amenities

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



blac.

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



Reclaimed materials available for repurpose

Furniture examples





BLAC.

BLAC - Brad Landscape Architecture Collective is a landscape architecture studio that collaborates with registered architects, engineers, planners, ecologists, and design professionals.

Ngamotu/
Taranaki

Wellington/
Te Whanganui-a-Tara



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04 February 2026

Report no: CCCRC2026/1/16

Six Monthly Biodiversity Update

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on works undertaken as part of the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the report; and
- (2) notes the projects detailed in this report, which could potentially be funded through the Reserves Investment Strategy funding, which Council will review as part of the Long-Term plan.

For the reason that Council has made a strategic investment in the biodiversity action plan, and that the proposed fence will have a significant and positive impact on the control of deer and other ungulates, leading to improved outcomes across a number of the focus areas.

Background

2. Council adopted its Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy in late 2023 following an in-depth consultation with iwi and the community. The Strategy sets a framework for how Council, Mana Whenua, and the broader community can work together to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity.
3. While Council produced the Strategy, many people were involved in its development - Mana Whenua partners, community groups and ecological stakeholders, who gave their time, expertise, and honest opinions to develop a vision for this mahi, along with goals and focus areas that can be worked on together.

4. The Strategy has eight focus areas:
 - a) Waka Houruatanga (Partnership with Mana Whenua);
 - b) Whakamana hapori (Enabling Community);
 - c) Te whakahaumarū wai me ngā arawai (Protecting water and waterways);
 - d) Te whakahaumarū pūnaha hauropi, momo Māori me ngā nōhanga (Safeguarding ecosystems, species, and habitats);
 - e) Te whakaaroturu ki me te whakahaere riha (Pest monitoring and management);
 - f) Āhuarangi hurihuri (Climate Change);
 - g) Whakapiki hauora tūmatanui (Improving public health); and
 - h) Te whakatautohu, te whakaaroturu ki, te whakaarotake me te whakatiaki (Identifying, monitoring, evaluating biodiversity).
5. The Strategy provides a framework against which Council can assess its progress in delivering against improvements in biodiversity and address issues around climate resilience.

Discussion

Focus Area 1 & 3: Waka Houruatanga (Partnership with Mana Whenua) & Te whakahaumarū wai me ngā arawai (Protecting water and waterways)

6. The Parks and Reserves team is supporting Mana Whenua and Greater Wellington Regional Council in the development of the Waiwhetū Integrated Catchment Plan Project (Waiwhetū Catchment Master Plan).
7. This work is being progressed in partnership with Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa (with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust), Greater Wellington Regional Council and Hutt City Council, and aims to improve water quality, environmental health, biodiversity, and supporting infrastructure across the catchment.

8. Hutt City Council has been involved in the early planning for the project through wānanga and key planning meetings. Our involvement to date has included:
- Initial meetings with GWRC and Te Rūnanga to support early scoping of the project
 - Participation in Wānanga 1 on 10 October, focused on Mana Whenua priorities and outcomes (represented by Parks and Reserves)
 - Pre-meetings for Wānanga 2, contributing to the development of engagement materials, including a presentation (with input from Urban Development, Planning, Climate, and Parks and Reserves teams)
 - Te Rūnanga presenting to the Hutt Central Regeneration Steering Group on 19 November 2026 (and invited on an ongoing basis)
 - Participation in Wānanga 2 on 28 November 2026.
9. This work supports the direction of Council's Reserve Investment Strategy and reinforces the collaborative approach with key partners to help inform future catchment outcomes that reflect ecological priorities and local community use.
10. Members from the team attended Te Rā o te Raukura on 31 January 2026, where Parks and Reserves contributed as part of a Waiwhetū Awa stall in the Mātauranga Tent.
11. This event provided an opportunity for officers to hear from people about their current use, enjoyment, and perception of the Waiwhetū Stream area, helping capture a community pulse to inform future thinking and planning across the reserves we manage. The key findings were –
- a) Waiwhetū Stream is a highly used local corridor, with nearly three-quarters of respondents visiting weekly or more.
 - b) The most valued attributes (wildlife, native vegetation, water movement, natural character) are directly threatened by the most disliked issues (pollution, rubbish, wastewater discharge, smell, and concrete channelisation).
 - c) Community stewardship is strong: people are already participating in planting, weeding and volunteering, signalling readiness for co-delivered improvements.
 - d) Signage and cultural storytelling emerged as both a strength and a gap: whakapapa/history is valued, but respondents identified a lack of information, wayfinding and interpretation.
12. This involvement is for engagement and information-gathering purposes only and does not indicate any commitment to Council funding or delivery of works at this stage. The full document is attached as an appendix.

13. When the project is further progressed Council would have the opportunity to consider whether it would contribute funding through the Reserves Investment Strategy funding.

Focus Area 2: Whakamana hapori (Enabling Community)

Mouri Tupu Roundup

14. Over 120,000 plants were planted/ gifted by September 2025 to mark the completion of the Mouri Tupu campaign. The project caught the community's imagination, enabling them, through the programme, to make a definitive, local contribution to mitigating climate change. In total between 2022-2025: -
- 31,577 plants were gifted to multiple community groups across Lower Hutt
 - 6,000 plants were gifted to over 1,000 Lower Hutt households during weekend giftings
 - 6,036 plants were gifted to over 30 schools and Early childhood centres
 - 46,083 were planted across HCC Parks and Reserves
 - 29,433 plants were planted as part of other projects such as Te Ngaengae pool, Avalon Skate Park, Williams Park etc
 - 1,160 plants were gifted to new citizens at Citizenship ceremonies
15. All the plants were New Zealand native species, with the vast majority being eco sourced from the Wellington region. Some of the species used included Kowhai, Flax, Ribbonwood, Kanuka, Manuka, Toetoe, and coastal species such as Pingao and Spinifex, Carex grasses, Griselinias, and more.
16. Over 15,000 tonnes of CO2 is expected to be removed from the atmosphere after 30 years from the 120,000 native trees and shrubs planted.
17. The project is estimated to have cost something in the region of \$300,000 over the two-year period it has been running. This equates to a cost of around \$1.31 per resident per year, which, given the high interest in the project, would suggest it was money well spent.

Predator Free Hutt Valley

18. Council's Biodiversity Ranger attended the Predator Free Wellington Regional Hui in November 2025 with some of the Predator Free Hutt Valley volunteers, supported. The hui presented updates on the Predator Free 2050 strategy and gave volunteers a burst of motivation to continue their goal of reducing predators across Lower Hutt.
19. Workshops were available to volunteers on the second day of the event, which helped strengthen predator control skills and knowledge base.

20. Council will host a Predator Free Lower Hutt hui later in March 2026 to discuss a collective strategy for predator control across Lower Hutt going forward.

Image 1: *Predator Free New Zealand Conference*



Focus Area 4: *Te whakahaumaru pūnaha hauropi, momo Māori me ngā nōhanga (Safeguarding ecosystems, species, and habitats).*

Deer Fence project

21. To hold deer numbers steady and reduce environmental damage, at least 30% of the population must be removed each year to offset reproductive rates. Since 2020/21, an average of ~60 deer have been removed each year.
22. However, migration of deer into the Eastern Hills from the Orongorongo Valley rapidly replenishes the deer population, prohibiting sustained suppression. To permanently remove deer, inhibiting migration is required. As officers have previously advised through this report, this would be achievable through the construction of ungulate exclusion fencing.
23. This project is being considered as an option for funding as part of the reset of the Reserves Investment Strategy for the next Long-Term Plan. Council will be briefed on this in May and will have the opportunity to make changes to the list of projects to be delivered from 2027/30. Projects will be scored against a broad matrix of outcomes.
24. Limiting deer access should also allow for more efficient culling, giving a reduced area, and may discourage further migration, given the increased competition between animals in the reduced browsing area.

25. There are three viable options for deer fencing, which are detailed in Appendix 2. All three routes primarily follow firebreaks, allowing vehicle access for construction and maintenance. Only one fence is required, as the Wainuiomata Road and urban areas provide additional barriers. The fencing would not restrict pedestrian or cycling access to any official HCC tracks. Vehicle access would be maintained using gates where required.
26. The three fence options are primarily contained within HCC reserve, however, as they also cross private land, permissions and easements will be required. Two quotes have been received for the construction of the deer fence. These are quoted on a per metre basis and exclude any gates that may be required for vehicles or pedestrians. Estimates put the fencing cost between \$45-48 per meter. An additional \$100,000 should be budgeted for fence repairs and equipment to monitor success and incursions.
27. There will be some limited access by deer through the lifestyle blocks in Wainui, and the longer the fence, the less impact will be experienced. However, in discussion with our hunters who deliver the practical means of control and other experts, there will still be clear gains in prevention.
28. In addition, deer passage will occur in predictable patterns with deer following favourable routes and habitat. 4G cameras will be used to send digital images over a cellular network to monitor incursions and facilitate targeted reactive hunting. The outcome will clearly not be zero deer, but the ecology team is confident that numbers will be constrained at low enough numbers to have a negligible impact on forest regeneration.
29. Greater Wellington Regional Council are currently fencing the water catchment area, which may result in some benefit as it would remove a source population that can migrate into the Eastern Hills.
30. The greatest impact would be achieved by running the fence to Stokes Valley, which would protect all Naenae, Fairfield, and a good amount of Stokes Valley. The unprotected section of Stokes Valley would benefit as the hunting resource can be redirected from the protected area. The cost to do this would be ~\$500k.

Focus Area 5: Te whakaaroturuki me te whakahaere riha (Pest monitoring and management)

Pest weeds

31. Control is ongoing in areas of high ecological value, such as Haywards Reserve, East Harbour Northern Forest, and Belmont. Good progress is being made to reduce the extent and impact of climbing asparagus, pampas, and old man's beard.

Image 2: Clearance of Climbing Asparagus in East Harbour (Northern Forest)



32. The clearance of Climbing Asparagus in East Harbour (Northern Forest) will result in increased light penetration, and the reduced canopy of Climbing Asparagus will encourage forest regeneration.

Pest trees

33. With the success of Council's wilding pines removal program, priority this financial year has shifted to controlling Taiwan Cherry trees in the Western Hills. Extensive control has taken place in Belmont, Maungaraki, and Korokoro. Future steps include drone survey work to improve efficiency and highlight other areas requiring control.
34. The Taiwanese cherry (*Prunus campanulata*) is considered a major environmental weed and high-priority pest plant in New Zealand because it is highly invasive, spreads rapidly, and outcompetes native vegetation. While introduced as a popular ornamental tree for its bright pink, winter-blooming flowers, it has escaped cultivation and is threatening indigenous ecosystems across regions, including Wellington.

Deer culling

35. Culling occurred in November 2025, and reactive shooting on private property continues on an ongoing basis. The next cull is scheduled for April 2026. Culling is completed in partnership with GWRC. It is expected that approximately 60 deer will be removed this financial year.
36. Reports from the community restoration groups indicate less deer damage to planting areas than in previous years, indicating successful suppression in some areas.
37. In other areas, heavy damage is evident due to deer abundance, including bare earth patches from vegetation clearance, bark stripping, and deer tails (Image 1).

Image 3: *Evidence of Deer Damage.*

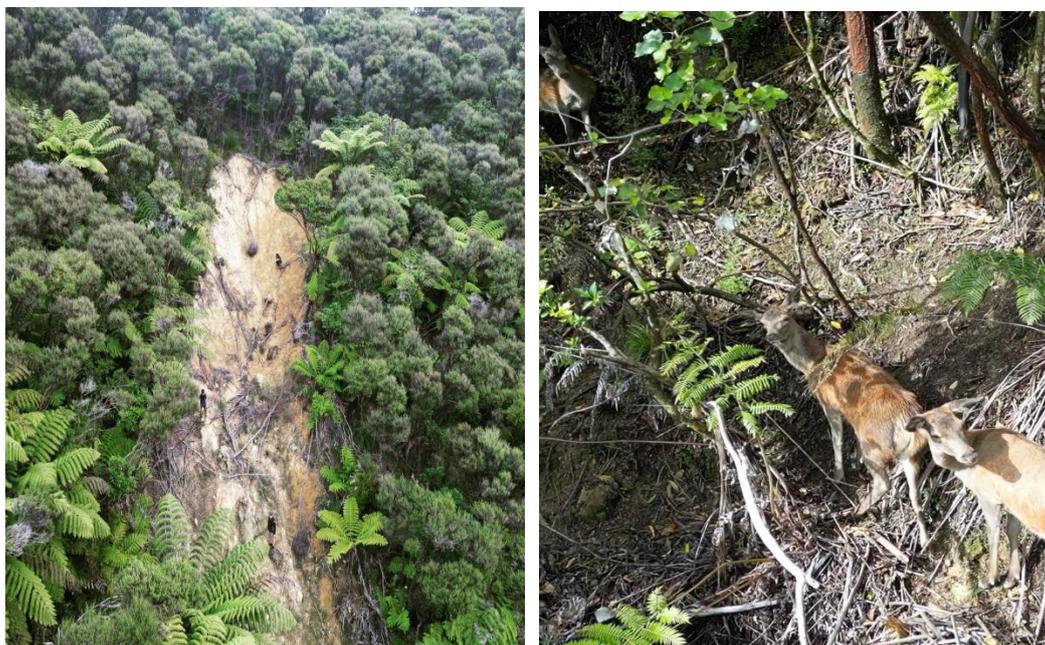


Focus Area 6: Āhuarangi hurihuri (Climate Change)

Slips

38. In addition to the loss of habitat created by deer browsing the loss of vegetation and soil trampling contributes to slips in some areas.
39. This is essentially due to higher volumes of run-off during heavy rain events. Trampling reduces the soil soakage capacity and vegetation stripping means the water volume is neither intercepted nor diminished. Flows are therefore more concentrated and have higher velocity which creates a risk for the environment, and private property in such areas.

Image 4 & 5: *Slip contributed by Deer browsing and drone footage of Deer immediately adjacent to slip.*



40. To better manage the impacts of climate change on the environment, biodiversity and private property there is a need to adopt a multi-pronged approach that deals with the root causes. In the context of slips Deer management is one item that requires a multi-faceted approach that will need to include monitoring, ongoing management of the population through culling, and the increased use of other physical means such as the proposed Deer fence.

Carbon generation/sequestration

41. Each deer emits around 375kg of CO₂ per year through respiration and other physiological processes. Each deer also consumes the vegetation equivalent of ~0.9–1.8 t CO₂. The total impact of a single deer on carbon emissions and sequestration is estimated to range between 1.25 – 2.18 tonnes of CO₂ each year.
42. An average of 60 deer is removed annually through the HCC deer control programme, that is a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 75 – 131 tonnes of CO₂ each year. Since the deer programme began in 2019, between 4,200 – 7,325 tonnes of CO₂ emissions have been avoided. This does not factor in additional breeding of those deer had they not been culled. To put this in context, a typical petrol car emits ~3–4 tonnes of CO₂ per year.
43. Detectable carbon-stock gains from herbivore control are usually small in the short-to-medium term, because most biomass is already in mature trees and only a small fraction of total carbon is directly affected by browsing. Consequently, in intact mature forest, deer browsing is more likely to be a long-lag risk (reducing future replacement and resilience) than an immediate, large per-hectare reduction in measured net sequestration.
44. Predicting outcomes of deer control on sequestration outcomes are expected to be greatest in regenerating scrubland, which is the current vegetation type through much of the Eastern Hills.

Focus Area 7: Whakapiki hauora tūmatanui (Improving public health)

Tracks

45. The Wellington Region Spaces and Places Strategy completed by Nuku Ora in 2025 indicates that 45.1% of New Zealanders walk for the purpose of sport or leisure. This figure increases to 48.6% for the Wellington region and the activity for sport and leisure for Hutt City is around 47.4%.
46. On this basis there is a clear leisure demand for tracks in Hutt City. Tracks allow urban populations to both engage in healthy exercise and given tracks are predominantly in natural areas (Scenic and Nature reserves) commune with nature for well-established mental health purposes.
47. On this basis Officers have recently reviewed and are in the process of providing good quality signage to the entrance of a number of tracks and furthermore completing way-finding signage.

48. Council has a total of 54km of Track within Lower Hutt some of which crosses private land as with the Rata Street Loop. Officers are in the process of trying to negotiate formal access to these areas with the landowners concerned for the benefit of the community.
49. Officers will be considering the current network of tracks in the next 6-12 months to best provide an integrated network that is manageable in terms of ongoing budget constraints. A report and recommendations will be provided to Council for consideration.

Focus Area 8: Te whakatautohu, te whakaaroturuki, te whakaarotake me te whakatiaki (Identifying, monitoring, evaluating biodiversity).

Kororā Sanctuary Update

50. In early November 2025, officers were contacted by Leigh Bull, a Kororā specialist, who has been guiding the establishment of the Kororā Sanctuary at Port Road. Leigh visited the site in November to assess progress.
51. It was encouraging to observe a bird occupying one of the newly installed nesting boxes, along with signs of activity at three other boxes. Although Leigh was unable to confirm whether the bird was incubating, there was clear evidence of nesting material present.
52. Installation of the permanent fence and gate has been put on hold until March to avoid disturbing any nesting birds. In the meantime, temporary fencing has been installed to deter people and dogs from entering the area and disturbing the Kororā.
53. The Kororā sanctuary was installed as a direct requirement of the consent application to demolish Point Howard Wharf which was completed in 2024-2025.
54. Throughout the project, Dr. Leigh Bull and Charlie Rudd provided expert guidance to the contractors, ensuring that the sanctuary was designed and constructed in a way that offers the highest standard of protection for the Kororā.

Image 6: *Evidence of Kororā Activity*



Banded Dotterel Population

55. In December 2025, officers helped arrange a media release for the Banded Dotterel nesting project at Robinson Bay Beach in Eastbourne. The release raised awareness of the threatened species and promoted the volunteer group that supports the population during nesting season.
56. The release helped educate the public about the vulnerabilities the birds have at the beach and promoted responsible dog ownership in time for the holiday season. As an addition to the media release, social media posts were also put out to reach more of the Lower Hutt community.

Image 7: *Banded Dotterel Chicks*



57. In December 2025, a breeding pair of Kārearea/ New Zealand Falcon were reported to have been nesting in Haywards Reserve. Signage was created to inform track users about nesting birds.

Image 8: *Kārearea Warning Signage*



58. The signage warned track users of the unfavourable protective behaviours the birds can display when nesting. A social media post was also put out to alert the public.
59. The New Zealand Falcon is only found in New Zealand and was last year's Bird of the Year. This bird has the conservation status of Recovering, so it is important we help ensure their success during the nesting season.
60. The breeding pair in Haywards Reserve successfully fledged two chicks. Officers support the predator control carried out by Greater Wellington Regional Council in the reserve, which contributes to the birds' nesting success by reducing mammalian predators.

Image 9: Kārearea/New Zealand Falcon



Summary Expenditure

61. The table below indicates the summary expenditure on the range of matters included in this report.

Table 1: Summary Expenditure Biodiversity budget.

Biodiversity budgets	
Pest weed control	\$59,754
Pest trees	\$29,656
• Pine and Taiwan Cherry	
Key Native Ecosystem services	\$55,620
• Pest plants and predator control	
Deer culling	\$30,000
Brown kiwi contribution	\$10,000
Pest animal control	\$8,544
Community restoration groups	\$8,455
Planting maintenance	\$32,924
New planting	\$40,840

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, and significant challenges and benefits are noted throughout.

Consultation

63. Consultation about the matters raised in this report is ongoing with the local community, iwi and other stakeholders (DoC, GWRC, etc).

Legal Considerations

64. There are no specific legal considerations.

Financial Considerations

65. This report includes reference to two projects which could potentially be funded through the Reserves Investment Strategy funding, which Council will review as part of the Long-Term plan.

Appendices

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1	Whaiwhetu Stream Vibe Check	112
2	Deer Fence Options	118

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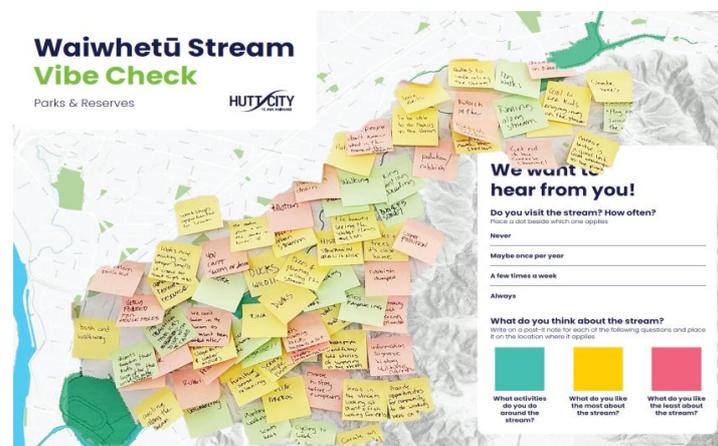
Waiwhetū Stream Vibe Check – Insights and Cross-check Summary (February 2026)

1. Overview

In February 2026, Hutt City Council Parks & Reserves delivered a “Vibe Check” engagement activity with the Waiwhetū Stream community as part of **Te Rā o Te Raukura**. Approximately **30 residents and neighbours** living near Waiwhetū Stream contributed feedback by placing post-it notes on two engagement maps and responding to questions about:

1. how they use the stream
2. what they value most
3. what they like least / barriers to enjoyment

This summary consolidates key themes and provides cross-check insights across all responses.



2. Key Findings (Summary)

1. **Waiwhetū Stream is a highly used local corridor**, with nearly **three-quarters of respondents visiting weekly or more**.
2. The **most valued attributes** (wildlife, native vegetation, water movement, natural character) are directly threatened by the **most disliked issues** (pollution, rubbish, wastewater discharge, smell, and concrete channelisation).
3. **Community stewardship is strong**: people are already participating in planting, weeding and volunteering, signalling readiness for co-delivered improvements.
4. **Signage and cultural storytelling** emerged as both a strength and a gap: whakapapa/history is valued, but respondents identified a lack of information, wayfinding and interpretation.

3. Community Use and Engagement Snapshot

Visitation frequency (proportion of respondents)

Frequency	Share
Never	1%
Maybe once per year	24%
A few times a week	30%
Always	45%

Interpretation: Visitation rates indicate Waiwhetu Stream functions as a **high-frequency local asset**, likely due to its convenience and role as a walking/nature corridor.

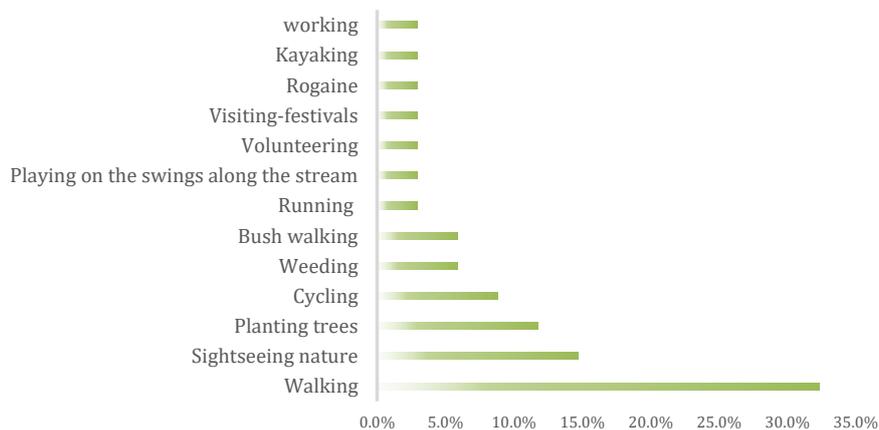
3.1 Common activities reported

Respondents described Waiwhetu Stream as a place for:

- walking (including dog walking)
- nature observation / wildlife viewing
- planting, weeding, volunteering
- informal recreation (including children engaging with the stream)
- cycling / commuting connections (where applicable)

Question recorded and results.

What activities do you do around the stream?



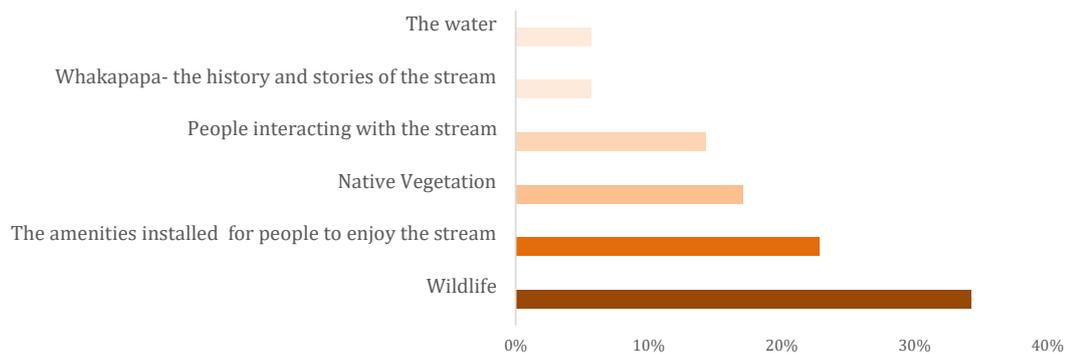
3.2 What People Value Most

The most common “likes” themes included:

- **Wildlife** (e.g., birds, ducks, tuna/eels)
- **Native vegetation and planting**
- **Water movement and stream character**
- **An “urban nature corridor” close to home**
- **People interacting positively with the stream**
- **Whakapapa and storytelling** (e.g., grandparents’ stories of swimming in the stream)
- **Existing amenities** that support enjoyment of the area

Question recorded and results.

What do you like the most about the stream?



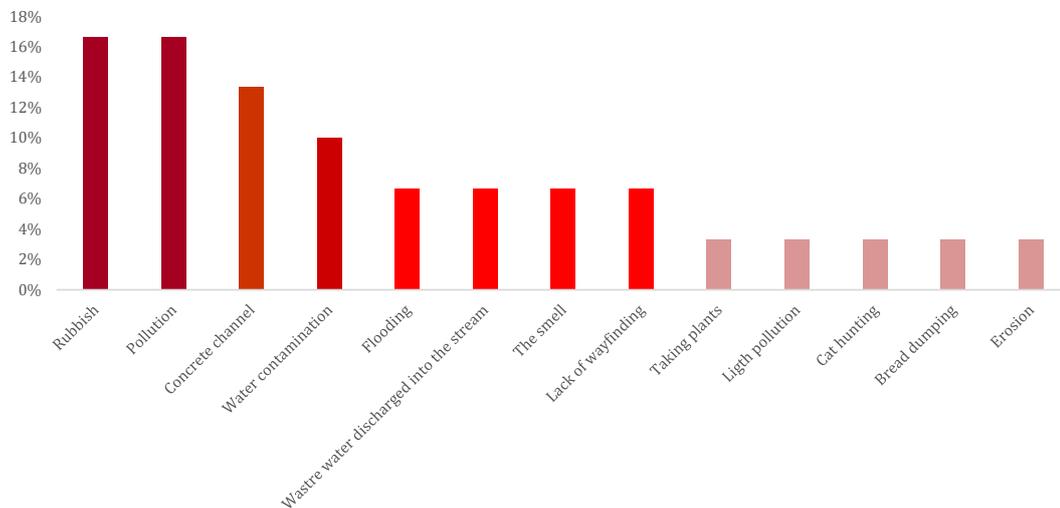
3.3. What People Like Least (Barriers / Issues)

The most common “least liked” themes included:

- **Pollution and water contamination**
- **Rubbish and dumping**
- **Wastewater discharge into the stream**
- **Smell**
- **Flooding risk**
- **Concrete channelisation** (perceived as unnatural)
- **Erosion/outfalls**
- **Lack of information, signage and wayfinding**
- **Damage or removal of planted trees**
- **Light pollution**
- **Cats hunting birds**
- **Poor feeding practices** (e.g., bread dumping for ducks)

Question recorded and results.

What do you like the least about the stream?



4. Integrated Cross-check Insights (Triangulated)

4.1. Waiwhetū Stream is a high-use local asset despite environmental issues

A significant proportion of respondents visit frequently (**45% “always” and 30% “a few times a week”**) even while describing the stream as polluted (wastewater discharge), smelly, and rubbish affected.

What this means:

This pattern suggests strong local attachment and convenience (“close to home”) are driving use. It also indicates **high latent value**: improvements are likely to deliver an **outsized uplift in satisfaction** because people already rely on the space.

4.2. People’s activities align strongly with what they value

Most reported activities are low-impact recreation (walking, nature viewing), and the most valued attributes relate to ecology and natural character (wildlife, vegetation, water).

What this means:

The stream is already functioning as an **urban ecological corridor**. Enhancing and protecting the ecological health will directly improve the primary user experience, their satisfaction and visitation included.

4.3. The strongest narrative is “protect what people value”

Feedback clearly shows that what people love and what they dislike are closely connected: the dislikes are the threats to the likes.

Direct threat mapping:

What people value	What threatens it	Opportunity
Wildlife (birds, ducks, tuna/eels)	cats hunting birds; pollution; poor feeding practices	predator management messaging; water quality improvements; behaviour-change signage
Native vegetation / planting	trees being taken/damaged; rubbish	plant protection; stewardship support; targeted litter response
Water movement / stream health	wastewater discharge; smell; pollution	investigate discharges; water quality programme; communications on improvements
Whakapapa / stories	lack of information/signage	interpretation panels; cultural narrative integration

What this means:

This provides a clear and compelling message from the community knowing what Waiwhetū Stream could be — and they want to protect it and restore it.

4.4. Stewardship is not a side theme — it is a delivery opportunity

Responses include planting, weeding, volunteering, and community working bees.

What this means:

This activity is not simply a list of complaints and positive thoughts. It demonstrates an active base of residents willing to contribute. Council actions can be designed to **enable and scale** that stewardship (Kaitiaki).

Key Insights (recommendations as result of this analysis)

- **Quick win:** Targeted rubbish and pollution management is the clearest high-impact improvement area.
- **High use despite issues** indicates strong attachment and convenience; improvements will generate noticeable gains quickly.
- **Stewardship signals** suggest readiness for co-delivery with community (planting, weeding, clean-ups, working bees).
- **Interpretation and signage** are not cosmetic: they respond directly to community need and can support behaviour change (e.g., discouraging duck feeding with bread, preventing dumping, improving wayfinding and cultural connection).

5. Appendix – Other Comments (Additional Ideas Raised)

Community suggestions included:

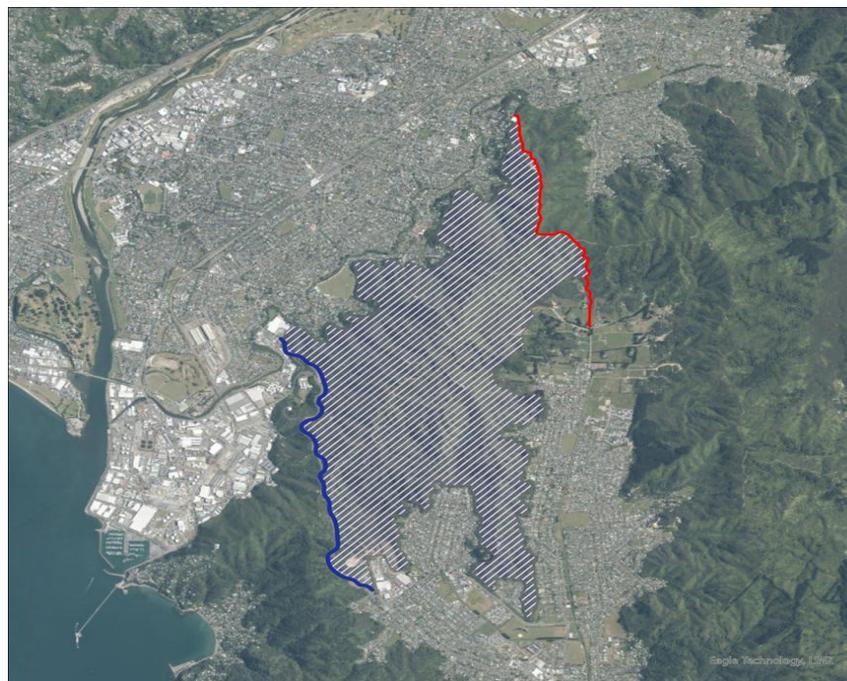
- marae history and pre-European narrative
- environmental play elements (e.g., “environmental playground” concept)
- opportunities for community working bees
- accessibility improvements (wheelchair/blind accessible pathways)
- workshops as learning opportunities
- pest weed management
- improved signage and wayfinding (including the stream name)
- ability to safely swim / do manus in the stream
- Pataka Kai

Fence options

Option 1: Upper Fitzherbert Road to Summit Road

1. The route from Upper Fitzherbert Road to Summit Road extends approximately 2.8km. This fence would protect 585ha from large herbivore browsing. This includes one of the Hutt City Key Native Ecosystem sites, an approximately 120ha area of high ecological value.
2. This route runs primarily through HCC reserve land. However, it does cross through a small section of forested private land at 22B Woodvale Grove Fairfield. Therefore, an easement may be required. The total cost of construction for this fence is estimated between \$127,000 and \$140,000.

Image 11: Option 1, Upper Fitzherbert Road to Summit Road



Legend

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

- Wainuiomata Hill Road
- Deer fences
- Deer exclusion zones

Option 2: Upper Fitzherbert Road to Wilkie Crescent

3. This fence would run for ~5.05km and protect ~770ha, including the 585ha contained within Fence 1.
4. This fence would require permission and easements to cross one private property. The total cost of this fence is estimated at \$229,000 – \$252,000.

Image 12: Option 2, Upper Fitzherbert Road to Wilkie Crescent



Option 3: Upper Fitzherbert Road to Stokes Valley Road

5. The last fence option is ~7.04km long and would protect ~1,283ha of HCC reserve eligible land.
6. This fence would require the same easement as Fence 2. The cost of this fence is more difficult to estimate, as 1.1km would need to be hand-laid as there is no vehicle access.
7. Assuming a rate consistent with the vehicle accessible routes the fence would cost approximately \$323,800. Factoring in the 1.1km without vehicle access, a cost basis closer to \$450,000 is realistic.

Image 13: Option 3: Upper Fitzherbert Road to Stokes Valley Road



0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

Legend

- Wainuiomata Hill Road
- Deer fences
- Deer exclusion zones

8. The view of officers is that option 3 will provide the greatest benefit. Ecologically, it protects a large contiguous area which will greatly enhance forest recovery and biodiversity. This fence will also protect the most residential properties from deer damage.
9. The current hunting operational area is 2,000ha (Image 14). Of this, 1,283ha is contained within the area protected by Fence 3. By clearing and fencing this area, hunting resource can be reallocated to provide more intensive control outside of the fenced area leading to higher efficiencies, a potentially higher cull and better outcomes within the existing budget.

Image 14: Deer Control Area



19 February 2026

Report no: CCCRC2026/1/17

Update on Council's climate change work

Purpose of Report

1. Officers provide a regular update on key climate change work to implement Council's organisational carbon target and [Council's Carbon Reduction and Climate Resilience Plan \(CRP\) 2021-31](#), facilitate a reduction in city-wide emissions in line with the [Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway](#), and address climate change impacts.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

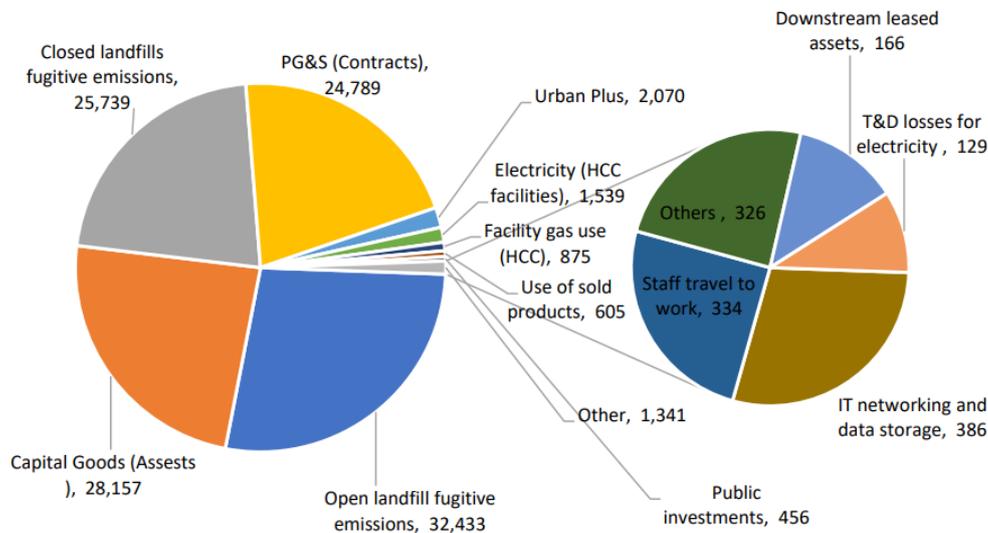
- (1) notes the update on climate change work streams currently underway; and
- (2) notes that updates are only provided for those projects or activities where significant progress has been made, or where significant changes have occurred since the [previous full annual update on 3 September 2025](#).

Reducing Council's organisational carbon emissions

Greenhouse Gas Inventory report for 2024/2025

2. In 2018, Council set a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 (measured from its 2016/17 baseline year). Council agreed to an [Emission Reduction Plan 2021-31](#) that sets out the initial steps to achieve these goals.
3. Council produces an annual greenhouse gas inventory report to assess progress against its carbon targets and actions.
4. In December 2025, Council's greenhouse gas inventory report for the period July 2024 to June 2025 was completed, and Council's total carbon footprint for that year has been estimated at 118,004 tCO₂-e. Figure 1 below shows emissions by source.

Figure 1 – Emissions profile by category



5. When reporting emissions in line with international standards, they are broken down into three scopes. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by an organisation (eg fuel combustion from gas and diesel, landfill emissions), Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions caused by the generation of energy consumed by the organisation (eg purchased electricity), and Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions that occur in the upstream and downstream activities of an organisation (eg purchased goods and services). Scope 3 emissions tend to be the hardest to influence as this requires changes from third parties.
6. For the 2024/25 reporting year, various changes have been implemented. The most significant change involved how Scope 3 emissions associated with contracts and services were estimated. Previously, those emissions were estimated based only on those contracts with a value of over \$250,000 per year. Now, emissions associated with all operational and capital expenditures have been included, down to the last dollar.
7. As a result of this, the estimated emissions for 2024/25 are significantly higher and cannot be compared to previous reports or the original baseline from 2016/17.
8. Figure 2 shows past results, whereas Figure 3 shows the results for 2024/25 and the recalculated emissions profiles for the previous two years. This is to enable at least some comparison.

Figure 2 – HCC emissions – old method

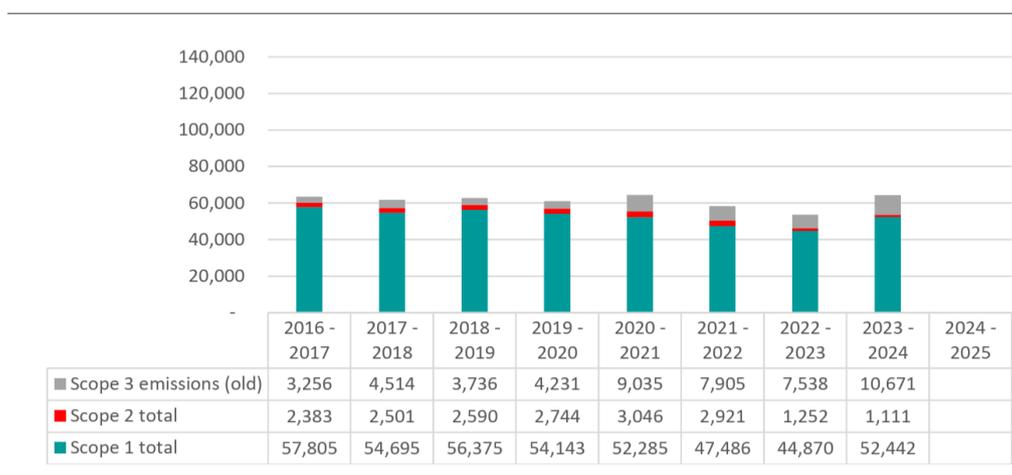
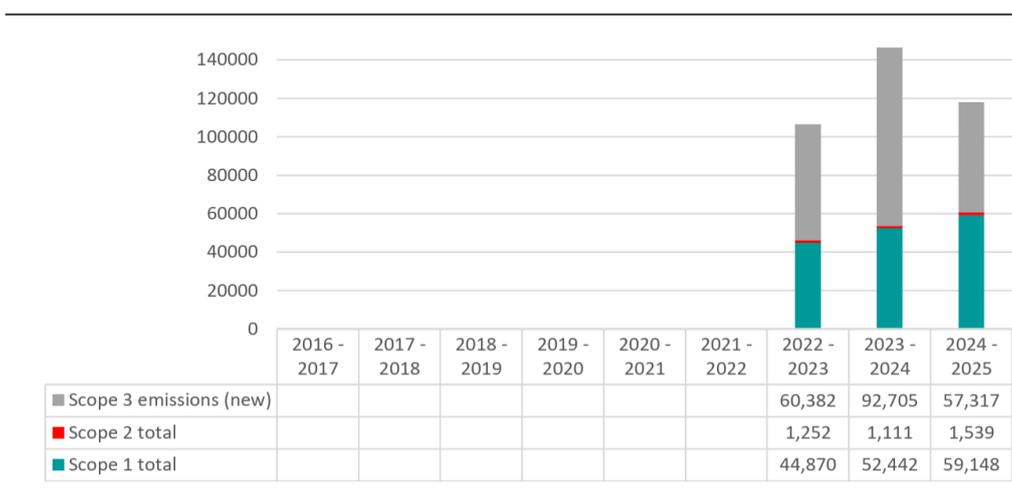


Figure 3 – HCC emissions – new method



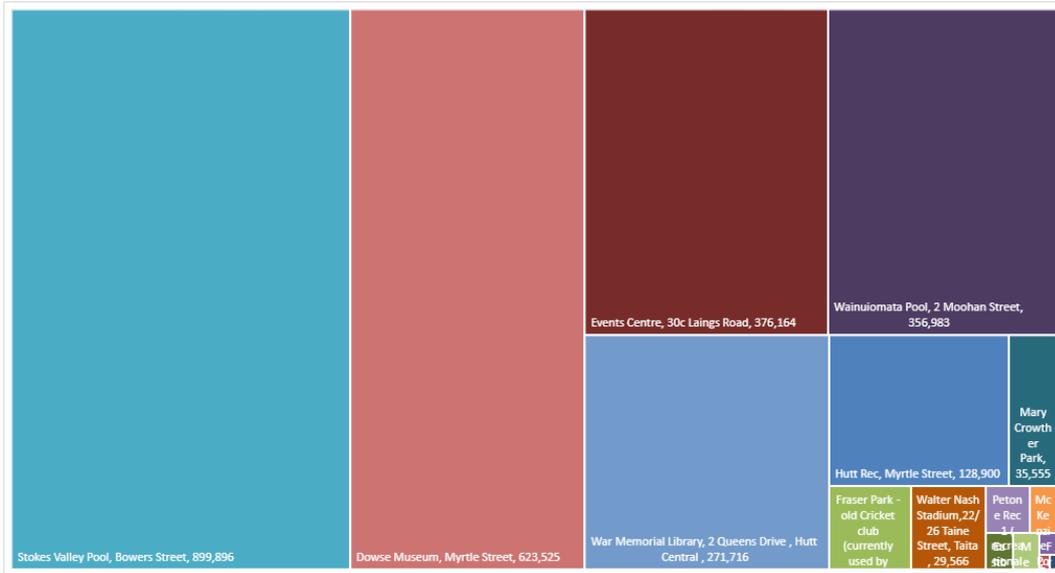
9. Notably, Scope 3 emissions make up a significantly higher portion of Council's organisational emissions than previously understood. While the emissions from open and closed landfills are still the biggest source, the combined emissions associated with contracts and capital goods are similar in magnitude. Contracts include Council's various operational contracts (eg kerbside collection, street cleaning, etc), and costs associated with Wellington Water's operations. Capital goods include various projects such as Wellington Water's network renewals, Tupua Horo Nuku Eastern Bays, the Te Ngaengae Pool & Fitness rebuild, landfill construction, and roading network renewals.

10. The combined emissions from landfills, contracts and capital goods make up about 91% of the footprint and are relatively challenging to affect, as Council does not have direct control over them (eg contracts, services, waste disposed at landfills) or there may be technological limitations (eg closed landfills). In addition, due to the scale of these four emission sources, any movements in these can overshadow progress occurring within smaller emission sources in the footprint (e.g., fleet electrification, gas phase-out programme).
11. The full greenhouse gas inventory report can be found on the [Council's website](#).
12. Going forward, the key focus areas for affecting Council's footprint will be
 - a. improving Council's procurement practices, to embed carbon reductions at the time when assets or services are tendered, and
 - b. making or facilitating system changes, to enable the community and businesses to reduce the amount of waste that requires disposal in landfills. Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023-29 states its current objectives and targets in this regard.
13. Considering the significant scope changes since Council's targets were set, and the upcoming establishment of Tiaki Wai, it is no longer possible to compare Council's current footprint with the original baseline. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to track progress against Council's overall target. Hence, it will be necessary to review Council's baseline and targets during 2026.

Council facilities

14. Gas was permanently shut down at Huia Pool in Q2, and the refurbished pool is scheduled to open in February (then fully electrified). A toilet and changing room facility at 1022 Taita Drive, Fraser Park, has also been changed from gas to electricity.
15. In terms of overall progress, Council's estimated overall gas consumption for 2025/26 will likely be 59% lower than in 2018/19.
16. Looking ahead, the biggest emission savings can be made by targeting the facilities with the largest remaining gas consumption (in kWh of gas used), as illustrated in the figure below. In that context, heating plant changes are being investigated or are scheduled for most of the facilities that still utilise gas.

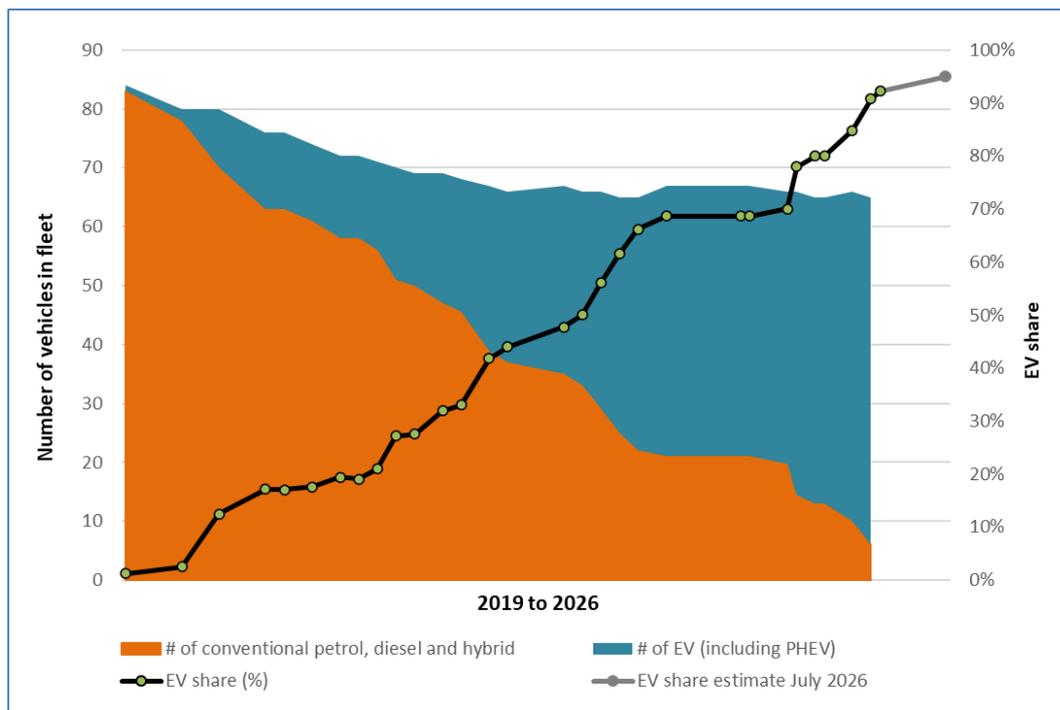
Figure 4 – Remaining gas users by consumption in kWh



Vehicle fleet

- 17. Council Group’s vehicle fleet is now 92% electric, across a total of 64 vehicles. There are five diesel utes remaining: one at Seaview Marina, one at UPL, and three at Council. At least two of them will likely swap to electric alternatives within the next 3-6 months.
- 18. The fleet is also significantly smaller than it was in early 2019, by about 24%. At the time, Council operated 84 vehicles.

Figure 5 – HCC’s fleet electrification journey



19. With the transfer of some functions (Trade Waste, Development Engineering) to Tiaki Wai later this year, fleet size is expected to reduce to about 61 vehicles.

New Heavy EV Charging Hub

20. Construction of the Heavy EV Charging Hub at Silverstream Landfill was completed in 2025, and the hub was officially opened on 3 February 2026. Waste Management (WM) is now operating a 20t electric loader on site, and two kerbside trucks utilise the hub daily for overnight charging.

Image 1 - Ribbon cutting at charging hub opening ceremony.



21. A further two EV charger satellites are due to be installed by April 2026, to enable charging of an additional two kerbside trucks. Officers are working with WM to consider the next tranche of on-site machinery and/or vehicles due for electrification.

Reducing city-wide carbon emissions

Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCA Fund)

22. There are limited levers available to Council for influencing city-wide emissions. The Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) fund was [established](#) to accelerate decarbonisation across the city. The LCA fund uses proceeds from the sale of carbon credits from council owned forests to support projects. It is not rates funded. More information about the fund can be found on [Council's website](#).
23. Round #3 of the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCA Fund) is set to open between 1-31 May 2026, with decision making in June/July 2026.

24. The decision-making process for this fund is scheduled to be altered following an organisation wide review of Council's support funds and their decision-making processes. A council paper on this was tabled at the Council's meeting on 16 December 2025, with a further implementation paper to be considered by Council on 27 February 2026.
25. By way of summary, decision making panel members will no longer individually score each application, instead they will receive an officer's recommendation report along with applications to support their decision-making process. The panel will still ultimately be responsible for all funding decisions.
26. Note that the funding criteria, funding envelope and funding mechanism remain largely the same as outlined and agreed in the [14 November 2023 committee paper](#).

Climate Action Pathway

27. The [Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway](#) aims to facilitate a reduction in city-wide emissions and address climate change impacts. Since its development, a community-led group Te Ara Whakamua has aimed to drive the implementation of the Pathway. The group was originally formed out of the [Lead Group, which co-designed the Pathway](#), and included community representatives and the chairs of Council's previous Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.
28. At the end of 2025, Te Ara Whakamua decided to formally cease to operate as a group, considering the constraints it faced in achieving its reach and achieving change. However, various other community groups and organisations continue to drive the implementation of the Pathway, either directly or indirectly. For example, [Electrify the Hutt](#) organised a very successful expo on 4 October 2025, and it has further events and work planned to encourage electrification across the city.
29. Hutt City Council also continues to support the implementation of the Pathway through its own work, including through the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund.

Adapting to climate change

Regional adaptation project (led by GWRC)

30. Work is progressing on a Geospatial Resilience Information Tool, the aim of which is to present existing hazard information across the region on a consistent basis and in one place.

Hutt City Proposed District Plan

31. Council had received an exemption to allow the majority of the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan to continue through the statutory process and has formally withdrawn all other parts of the Plan.
32. The exemption allows most of the Proposed District Plan process to continue, including for chapters on risks associated with natural hazards and climate change.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

33. This report responds directly to the need to reduce carbon emissions and respond to climate change by providing a regular update on Council's key carbon reduction and climate change response initiatives.

Consultation

34. There are no consultation considerations.

Legal Considerations

35. There are currently no legal considerations.

Financial Considerations

36. There are currently no financial considerations.

Appendices

There are no appendices for this report.

Author: Miriam Randall
Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

Reviewed By: Jörn Scherzer
Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery

Approved By: Jarred Griffiths
Director Strategy and Engagement

18 February 2026

Report no: CCCRC2026/1/42

Emergency Management Six Month update

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Connected Communities, Climate and Resilience Committee (the Committee) with a summary of Emergency Management activities at Council between 1 July and 31 December 2025.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes Emergency Management coordinated responses in Lower Hutt to several events and threats during the period, and that response plans and systems worked well;
- (2) notes that Council's Corporate Leadership Team have considered how Council might respond to a landslip scenario like that experienced by Tauranga City Council, including our low risk tolerance and proactive approach to forecasted severe weather events; and
- (3) notes the work being undertaken to review Council's Crisis Management Plan and associated documents and systems.

Background

2. Under section 64 of the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act), local authorities are required to plan and provide for civil defence emergency management within their district. A local authority must ensure that it is able to fully function, even though this may be at a reduced level, during and after an emergency.
3. The recent Government proposal to change the Act has clearly positioned emergency management as a core responsibility of local authorities.
4. As a result of the changing climate, communities are experiencing an increase in the number and intensity of weather-related events. For example, only two Red Severe Weather Warnings have been issued by MetService for the Wellington region. Both were issued in 2025.

5. Recent catastrophic disaster events in New Zealand, including the Mt Maunganui landslide and the February 2026 weather event that affected much of the country (including Lower Hutt), highlight the need for territorial authorities to maintain high levels of resilience and response capability to manage disaster response effectively.

Discussion

Response to hazards and events

6. Between 1 July and 31 December 2025, two events required Council to lead significant emergency management coordination:
 - a. On 30 July 2025, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake occurred off the coast of Kamchatka in Russia. Emergency Management coordinated physical checks of residents, buildings, and rough sleepers within the Tsunami Red Zone, public messaging, surveillance of coastal areas, and preparedness to address the inundation of coastal roads. No adverse impacts were reported.
 - b. A Strong (Red) Wind Warning issued on 23 October 2025 triggered activation of Council's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Impacts included property damage and the temporary closure of the Wainuiomata Hill Road.
7. In July 2025, the Nelson-Tasman Region experienced two major flood incidents in rapid succession. In response to a request for external support, Council deployed its Emergency Management Advisor to the region to lead the regional Logistics, Operations, and Intelligence Function Groups throughout the deployment. In addition, three members of the Hutt Emergency Response Team (NZRT18) were deployed to the region ahead of forecasted severe weather on 27 July 2025. This was coordinated through NEMA and part of a wider ongoing national level external support effort.
8. Most recently, between 12 and 17 February 2026, a major storm front battered the country. In Lower Hutt, Council activated the EOC in response to localised flooding, fallen trees causing damage, power outages, slips, and blocked roads. Activities included:
 - a. the coordination and management of staff and contractors to respond to the most significant disruptions;
 - b. opening three welfare centres (10 members of the public were evacuated to Memorial Library);
 - c. coordinating clear public messaging to advise the community of the situation, including road closures and advice for self-managing issues;
 - d. supporting the mayor, councillors and senior officers with up to date information and speaking notes for media interviews;
 - e. coordination and contingency planning with marae for support if the event escalated; and
 - f. transition and recovery planning to move Council smoothly back to BAU functions.

9. In all cases, Council's emergency management systems operated well; the EOC was activated, and staff responded to the events in a timely and effective way. The coordination of response activities and appropriate messages out to the public resulted in timely and effective management of the events.
10. Debriefs held after each event have identified practices that worked well and opportunities for improvement. These have been incorporated into Council's processes to drive continuous improvement.
11. Following the tragic slip in Mt Maunganui that killed ten people, Council's Corporate Leadership Team have considered how Council might respond to a similar landslide scenario in Lower Hutt. Noting that this Council operates with a low risk tolerance and proactive approach to forecasted severe weather events, officers will incorporate learnings from the Mt Maunganui disaster into our response planning.

Emergency management workstream updates

12. Table 1 outlines progress made during the period against Council's emergency management strategy.

Table 1 Progress against Emergency Management workstreams

Workstream	Activities	Comment
People	Maintain appropriate levels of trained staff for EOC operations	In the event of a prolonged "most likely" scenario, Council is currently at 100% strength, with enough trained staff to roster four rotating shifts of 22 staff. Four training exercises were held during the reporting period. Function course completion across the EOC roster currently sits at 32%.
Platforms	Artificial Intelligence	Officers have developed Custom GPTs (for holistic consequence analysis support and financial tracking assistance) and live data collation tools that are used for response management and environmental hazard scans.

Partnerships	Wellington Region Emergency Management office (WREMO)	Coordination with WREMO on regional exercise planning Supported the development of WREMO's group plan
	Community partnerships	Emergency management worked closely with NZRT18 to support their training and deployment during events. On 14 August 2025, officers visited Wainuiomata Marae to discuss the roles and services provided at this location and opportunity to integrate and support the marae during events.
Plans and procedures	Crisis management planning	Officers have initiated the development of a Crisis Management Plan and review of Business Continuity Plans to further boost Council's capability and capacity to lead the response to emergency events.

Next Steps

13. If agreed, Emergency Management will bring its next six month update (for the period 1 January to 30 June 2026) to the Committee on 15 September 2026. This will include the Crisis Management Plan and an update on the progress of the Emergency Management Bill through parliament.

Climate Change Impact and Considerations

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

Consultation

15. This report presents no issues for consultation.

Legal Considerations

16. Council's emergency management responsibilities are outlined in the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002.

Financial Considerations

17. This report presents no financial considerations for the committee.

Appendices

There are no appendices for this report.

Author: Anthony Robinson
Emergency Management Lead

Reviewed By: Richard Hardie
Head of Strategy and Policy

Approved By: Jarred Griffiths
Director Strategy and Engagement

17 February 2026

File: ()

Report no: CCCRC2026/1/43

Recommendation from the Age and Accessibility Subcommittee meeting on 24 February 2026 to establish the Age and Accessibility Advisory Group

RECOMMENDED: (Cr Barratt/Cr Parkin)

Minute No. AAS 26101

“That the Subcommittee recommends the Committee agrees to the establishment of an Advisory Group and the proposed process to appoint members to the group as outlined in paragraphs 19-21 of the officer’s report attached as Appendix 1.”

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1↓	Appendix 1: Implementation of the Age and Accessibility Subcommittee and establishment of the Age and Accessibility Advisory Group report - 24 February 2026	136

Author: Jenny Young
Democracy Advisor

Approved By: Kathryn Stannard
Head of Democratic Services



Age and Accessibility Subcommittee Meeting

02 February 2026

Report no: AAS2026/1/1

Implementation of the Age and Accessibility Subcommittee and establishment of the Age and Accessibility Advisory Group

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to operationalise Council's new Age and Accessibility Subcommittee (Subcommittee) including the establishment of an Age and Accessibility Advisory Group (Advisory Group).

Recommendations

That the Subcommittee recommends that the Connected Communities, Climate and Resilience Committee:

- (1) notes and receives the report;
- (2) notes the current progress on the 2017-2027 Plan and possible next steps set out in Appendix 4 attached to the report;
- (3) agrees with the establishment of an Advisory Group and the proposed process to appoint members to the group as outlined in paragraphs 19-21 of the officer's report;
- (4) notes that Age and Accessibility Subcommittee will consider applications and select up to eight members to be invited to be part of the Advisory Group for this triennium; and
- (5) asks officers to report back at the next meeting on the development of an updated draft Age and Accessibility Plan, for consultation with the Advisory Group.

For the reasons that Council supports focus on older and senior communities as identified communities of interest, to ensure Council's policies, programmes and investments continue to support an age-friendly and accessible City.

ur Reference

TO: Chair and Members
Connected Communities, Climate and Resilience Committee

FROM: Jenny Young, Democracy Advisor

DATE: 13 February 2026

SUBJECT: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES, CLIMATE AND
RESILIENCE COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2026

Purpose of Memorandum

1. To provide the Connected Communities, Climate and Resilience Committee (the Committee) with a Forward Programme of work planned for 2026.

Recommendation

That the Forward Programme for 2026, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be received and noted.

Background

2. This Committee supports Council in ensuring healthy, vibrant and resilient communities and the natural environment through partnerships, overseeing community wellbeing initiatives, environmental sustainability efforts and the city's climate change response.
3. The Forward Programme for 2026 provides a planning tool for both members and officers to coordinate programmes of work for the year. The programme is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Overview

4. The Forward Programme is a working document and is subject to change on a regular basis.
5. The Forward Programme is indicative at this stage and will be updated ahead of the final agenda to reflect confirmation from report writers and any necessary adjustments to timing or sequencing.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1↓	Connected Communities and Climate Resilience Committee Forward Programme 2026	138

Author: Jenny Young, Democracy Advisor

Approved By: Kathryn Stannard, Head of Democratic Services

Connected Communities and Climate Resilience Committee Forward Programme 2026

Description	Author / Business Unit	Cycle 1 3 Mar	Cycle 2 5 May	Cycle 3 30 Jun	Cycle 4 15 Sep	Cycle 5 25 Nov	Pending
Committee Forward Programme	Democracy Advisor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Regular update on climate change work	Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
RMP Honiana Te Puni Reserve: Draft plan for public consultation	Parks & Reserves	✓					
Asset Review update: Approve lease/s (Maungaraki) as needed, updates on other work	Neighbourhoods & Communities	✓					
Hugh Sinclair Park	Parks & Reserves	✓					
Six-monthly update on implementation of Biodiversity Strategy	Parks and Reserves	✓					
Whakatapu Ngaengae Update	Economy & Development		✓	✓	✓		
Neighbourhoods and Communities focus area Programming	Neighbourhoods & Communities		✓	✓	✓		

Description	Author / Business Unit	Cycle 1 3 Mar	Cycle 2 5 May	Cycle 3 30 Jun	Cycle 4 15 Sep	Cycle 5 25 Nov	Pending
City Safety Update (six monthly update)	City Safety Manager		✓		✓		
Private Use of Public Land	Head of Parks and Reserves		✓				
Pito-One projects Overview	Neighbourhoods & Communities		✓				
Te Herenga Kairangi - Rautaki Māori	Senior Policy Advisor				✓		
Homelessness Update (six monthly update)	Head of Connected Communities		✓		✓		
Homelessness Oversight Advisory Group; Homelessness Strategy SMART indicators; Homelessness Strategy Proposed Methodology.	Head of Connected Communities		✓		✓		
Rangatahi/Youth Engagement Update	Community Facilitator – Rangatahi		✓				
Mouri Ora Fund	Head of Connected Communities				✓		
Smokefree Outdoor Public Places Policy	Policy Advisor		✓				

Description	Author / Business Unit	Cycle 1 3 Mar	Cycle 2 5 May	Cycle 3 30 Jun	Cycle 4 15 Sep	Cycle 5 25 Nov	Pending
Regular update on solid waste management and minimisation work streams	Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery		✓	✓	✓		
Te Ara Whakamua Group work update	Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery		✓		✓		
Retrospective approval for the Call for evidence: National Climate Change Risk Assessment submission	Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery		✓				
Annual report on progress against the Climate Action Pathway, Council's Carbon Reduction Plan and WMMP Local Action Plan	Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery		✓				
Parks and Reserves WorkPlan	Parks and Reserves			✓			
Emergency Management Update (six monthly update)	Emergency Management			✓	✓		
Food and green organics collection and processing (to be presented to LTP/AP Subcommittee before returning)	Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery						✓