



**If calling, please ask for Democratic Services**

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## **Council**

Tuesday 27 August 2024, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, 100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

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**Quorum:** *Seven Councillors*

### **Members**

#### **Councillors**

Daran Ponter (Chair)

Adrienne Staples (Deputy Chair)

David Bassett

Ros Connelly

Quentin Duthie

Penny Gaylor

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

Ken Laban

David Lee

Thomas Nash

Hikitia Ropata

Yadana Saw

Simon Woolf

**Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council**

# Council

Tuesday 27 August 2024, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, 100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

## Public Business

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2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
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<b>Resolution to Exclude the Public</b>			
18.	<a href="#">Resolution to Exclude the Public</a>	24.442	269

**Public Excluded Business**

19.	Appointment of members to the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee	PE24.312	272
20.	Appointment of Trustee to the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust	PE24.443	287
21.	Chief Executive performance review for 2023/24	RPE24.346	300
22.	Chief Executive remuneration review for 2023/24 RPE24.347		334



**Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 27 August 2024.**

Report 24.356

## **Public minutes of the Council meeting on 27 June 2024**

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.30am

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### **Members Present**

Councillor Ponter (Chair)  
Councillor Bassett  
Councillor Connelly  
Councillor Duthie  
Councillor Gaylor  
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand  
Councillor Laban (from 9.30 am to 11.18am)  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Nash  
Councillor Ropata  
Councillor Saw  
Councillor Staples  
Councillor Woolf

Councillors Laban and Lee participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of the quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Karakia timatanga**

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

### **Public Business**

#### **1 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

## **2 Additional agenda item**

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

- 1 That under Standing Order 3.5.5, Report 24.351 – Disestablishment of the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee - is dealt with at this meeting.
- 2 This report is not on the agenda for this meeting as at the time the agenda was prepared officers were still working through matters relating to the disestablishment of the Committee.
- 3 Discussion on matters contained in this report cannot be delayed until the Council's next meeting due to the need to put in place transitional disestablishment arrangements for the Committee.
- 4 This additional report will be dealt with after item 13 on the agenda.

The motion was **carried**.

## **3 Declarations of conflicts of interest**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

The Chair accorded priority to agenda items 4 to 7 in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

## **4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Long Term Plan Committee meeting of 14 March 2024 – Report 24.127**

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Nash

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Long Term Plan Committee meeting of 14 March 2024 – Report 24.127.

The motion was **carried**.

## **5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Long Term Plan Committee meeting of 21 and 23 May 2024 – Report 24.262**

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Long Term Plan Committee meeting of 21 and 23 May 2024 – Report 24.262.

The motion was **carried**.

## **6 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting of 11 June 2024 – Report 24.316**

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Bassett

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting of 11 June 2024 – Report 24.316.

The motion was **carried**.

**7 Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 11 June 2024 – Report 24.317**

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Duthie

That the Council confirms the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 11 June 2024 – Report 24.317.

The motion was **carried**.

**8 Public participation**

Denise Hapeta, on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, spoke to agenda item 12 - National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Plan Change Work Programme.

**Strategy, policy or major issues**

**9 Adoption of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan – Report 24.314**

Zofia Miliszewska, Head of Strategy and Performance, spoke to the report.

Nosiviwe Tsofso, Audit Manager, Audit New Zealand, thanked officers for their excellent relationship with the Audit New Zealand team throughout the audit process.

Clint Ramoo, Audit Director, Audit New Zealand, spoke to the independent auditor's report and provided the audit opinion on the Long Term Plan. He advised that the opinion is a standard audit report with one emphasis of matter regarding the uncertainty of funding for the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility project (LNIRIM).

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Saw

That the Council:

- 1 Notes that Audit New Zealand will provide their Audit opinion on the 2024-34 Long Term Plan at the meeting and the opinion will be included in the document.
- 2 Adopts the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (Attachment 1).
- 3 Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor editorial changes to the 2024-34 Long Term Plan prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.
- 4 Authorises the Group Manager Finance & Risk to enter into any debt facilities or borrowing that are required to implement the 2024-34 Long Term Plan for the 2024/25 year that are in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillors Kirk-Burnnand, Staples and Woolf voted against the motion and requested that their votes against the motion be recorded.

**10 Setting of Wellington Regional Council Rates for 2024/25 – Report 24.243**

Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Ponter

That Council:

- 1 Sets, pursuant to sections 23 and 24 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, the rates as set out in paragraphs 14 to 27 of this report, for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and concluding 30 June 2025, with all dollar amounts being inclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- 2 Sets the instalment due dates as set out in paragraph 28.
- 3 Resolves, pursuant to sections 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, to add penalties to unpaid rates as set out in paragraphs 28 and 29.
- 4 Requests officers to send a copy of these resolutions to all territorial authorities acting as Wellington Regional Council’s agents for rates collection, with a request that each territorial authority provides a receipt of acknowledgment for the changes to rates and the funding methods.
- 5 Requests officers to place these resolutions on Greater Wellington's website.

The motion was **carried**.

**11 Wholesale Water Levy 2024/25 and end of year adjustment for Levy 2023/24 – Report 24.301**

Ali Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance and Risk, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Connelly

That Council:

- 1 Approves the wholesale water contributions payable by constituent authorities for 2024/25, pursuant to section 91 of the Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972, as follows:

	2024/25 Levy (GST exclusive)
Hutt City Council	\$18,214,513
Porirua City Council	\$7,605,871
Upper Hutt City Council	\$7,788,821
Wellington City Council	\$34,122,161
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$67,731,366</b>

- 2 Approves, the end of year adjustment levies for 2023/24 as follows:

	2023/24 Adjustments \$ (GST exclusive)	
Hutt City Council	(\$18,599)	Refund
Porirua City Council	(\$407,883)	Refund
Upper Hutt City Council	(\$76,466)	Refund
Wellington City Council	\$502,948	To Pay

The motion was **carried**.

**12 Adoption of Resource Management Charging Policy 2024-2027 – Report 24.324**

Stephen Thawley, Project Leader, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

- 1 Adopts the Resource Management Charging Policy 2024-2027 (Attachment 1).
- 2 Delegates to the Chief Executive the ability to make minor editorial changes to the Policy prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Staples voted against the motion and requested that her vote against the motion be recorded.

**13 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Plan Change Work Programme – Report 24.244**

Lian Butcher, Group Manager Environment, Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment and Evan Harrison, Manager Knowledge, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Gaylor

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the Government has announced its intention to begin work on a replacement for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in 2024.
- 2 Notes that the Government has also amended the Resource Management Act 1991 to extend the date by which councils are required to notify freshwater plan changes by three years to 31 December 2027.
- 3 Recognises the Council’s continued partnerships with mana whenua in the ongoing development and delivery of the Whaitua Implementation Programmes.



- 4 Agrees to continue Plan Change 1 through the Schedule 1 process of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 5 Agrees to continue work to develop further plan changes to the Natural Resources Plan and Regional Policy Statement (as necessary) to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management for the following catchments (in alphabetical order):
  - a. Kāpiti
  - b. Ruamāhanga
  - c. Te Whanganui-a-Tara (water allocation)
  - d. Wairarapa Coast.
- 6 Agrees to expand the work programme for National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management related plan changes to the Natural Resources Plan and Regional Policy Statement, as funded through the adoption of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

The motion was **carried**.

**14 Establishment of Proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan: Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearings Panel – Report 24.19**

Nicola Arnesen, Manager Policy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Staples

That Council:

- 1 Establishes the Proposed Natural Resources Plan Change 1: Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearings Panel.
- 2 Delegates its authority to the Proposed Natural Resources Plan Change 1: Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearings Panel, as follows:
  - a. To hear public submissions and provide the recommendations report to Council, for Council to make the final decisions on the recommendations.
- 3 Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Proposed Natural Resources Plan Change 1: Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearings Panel (Attachment 1).
- 4 Delegates to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Council Chair, the setting of remuneration arrangements for the Proposed Natural Resources Plan Change 1: Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearings Panel.

The motion was **carried**.

**15 Disestablishment of the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee – Report 24.351**

Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee has completed its substantive tasks, with a small number of wrap-up events scheduled before the end of 2024.
- 2 Determines that the honorarium payable to eligible external members of the Committee shall cease effective on 28 June 2024.
- 3 Determines that external members who were previously eligible to receive the honorarium shall be eligible to be paid Greater Wellington's standard meeting fee, (plus mileage and reimbursement of public transport costs) for the Committee's remaining wrap-up events.
- 4 Disestablishes the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee, effective on 1 November 2024.

The motion was **carried**.

**16 Disestablishment of Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Reference Group – Report 24.311**

Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Duthie

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Reference Group's Terms of Reference provide that the Reference Group shall exist until 30 June 2024, but may be extended following a review by Council in June 2024.
- 2 Notes that the Reference Group has completed its specific responsibilities, and that other engagement approaches are being established for Whaitua Implementation Programme implementation.
- 3 Agrees, as an outcome of its review, that the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Reference Group shall be disestablished on 1 July 2024 consistent with the Reference Group's terms of reference.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 10.43am and resumed at 11.01am.

**17 Adoption of Strategic Public Transport Asset Control Strategy – Report 24.315**

Tim Shackleton, Senior Manager Commercial, Strategy and Investment, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

- 1 Notes that on 24 August 2023, the Council approved the Proposed Public Transport Asset Control Strategy (Proposed Strategy) for:
  - a. Presentation to public transport operators in the Region for their comment

- b. Formal consultation as part of the Long Term Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 requirements.
- 2 Notes that the Proposed Strategy was:
  - a. Presented to public transport operators in the Region for their comment
  - b. Included as a matter for public consultation in the Consultation Document for the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.
- 3 Notes that:
  - a. Two of the four bus operators provided feedback on the Proposed Strategy
  - b. Following deliberations on the Draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034, the Long Term Plan Committee recommended that Council adopt the Proposed Strategy.
- 4 Notes that taking into account the responses received by the operators, no change is recommended to the Proposed Strategy
- 5 Adopts the Public Transport Asset Control Strategy as set out at Attachment 1 to this report.

The motion was **carried**.

**18 Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi – expected impacts on public transport – Report 24.334** [For Information]

Luke Troy, General Manager Strategy, Emma Hope, Senior Strategic Advisor, and Bonnie Parfitt, Senior Manager Network and Customer, spoke to the report.

**19 Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting – Report 24.296**

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Ropata

That Council:

- 1 Approves the attendance of Councillors Ponter, and Staples, and Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, at the 2024 Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting.
- 2 Appoints Councillor Ponter as the Presiding Delegate for the voting on behalf of Council at the 2024 Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting.
- 3 Appoints Councillor Staples and Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, as Alternate Delegates for voting on behalf of Council at the 2024 Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting if Councillor Ponter is absent.

The motion was **carried**.

**20 Finance Update – May 2024 – Report 24.340** [For Information]

Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, spoke to the report.

## Resolution to exclude the public

### 21 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 24.342

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Gaylor

That the Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Proposed Natural Resources Plan Change 1: Appointment of Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearing Panel – Report PE24.20

Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Shareholders' Agreement Update and Appointment of Director – PE24.341

Appointment of Member to the Farming Reference Group – Report PE24.319

Appointment of Member to the Public Transport Advisory Group – Report PE24.325

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 11 June 2024 – Report RPE24.318

Chief Executive Performance Indicators for 2024/25 – Report RPE24.328

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

<b>Proposed Natural Resources Plan Change 1: Appointment of Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearing Panel – Report PE24.20</b>	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>Information contained in this report will include personal and identifying information about proposed candidates for appointment. Release of this information prior to Council's decision is likely to prejudice the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for appointment on the Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearings Panel and nomination to the Freshwater hearings panel.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>

<p>the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
<p><b>Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Shareholders' Agreement Update and Appointment of Director – PE24.341</b></p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about the proposed candidate for appointment. Withholding this information prior to Council's decision is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration as a Director of the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WellingtonNZ).</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>
<p><b>Appointment of member to the Farming Reference Group – Report PE24.319</b></p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about a proposed candidate for appointment. Release of this information prior to Council's decision is likely to prejudice the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2) (a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for appointment to the Farming Reference Group.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>

<b>Appointment of member to the Public Transport Advisory Group – Report PE24.325</b>	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal information provided by an applicant for appointment to the Public Transport Advisory Group. Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as holding this part of the meeting in public would release information that is private to the individuals concerned.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>
<b>Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 11 June 2024 – Report RPE24.318</b>	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>The information contained in these minutes relates to Greater Wellington’s financial support of CentrePort Limited. Release of the information contained in this report would be likely to prejudice Greater Wellington and CentrePort Limited’s commercial position as the report identifies interest rate margins.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override this prejudice.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded in accordance with section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Act to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.</p>
<b>Chief Executive Performance Indicators for 2024/25 – Report RPE24.328</b>	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>This report contains information relating to the current Chief Executive’s performance agreement. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of the Chief Executive, by disclosing</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of</p>

<p>information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council.</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the Chief Executive's privacy.</p>	<p>natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>
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This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Laban left the meeting at 11.18am and did not return.

The public part of the meeting closed at 11.18am.

Councillor D Ponter

**Chair**

Date:



**Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 27 August 2024.**

**The matters referred to in these minutes were considered by Council in Public Excluded business. These minutes do not require confidentiality and may be considered in the public part of the meeting.**

Report 24.357

## **Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 27 June 2024**

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 11.18am

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### **Members Present**

Councillor Ponter (Chair)  
Councillor Bassett  
Councillor Connelly  
Councillor Duthie  
Councillor Gaylor  
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Nash  
Councillor Ropata  
Councillor Saw  
Councillor Staples  
Councillor Woolf

Councillor Lee participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of the quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Public Excluded Business**

#### **1 Proposed Natural Resources Plan Change 1: Appointment of Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearings Panel – Report PE24.20**

Nicola Arnesen, Manager Policy, spoke to the report.



Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Bassett

That Council:

*For the Freshwater Hearings Panel*

1. Notes under the Resource Management Act 1991 it is Greater Wellington's obligation to forward all of the mana whenua nominations to the Chief Freshwater Commissioner for consideration.
2. Notes the Chief Freshwater Commissioner appoints the Freshwater hearings panel and its chairperson.
3. Notes the remuneration for the Freshwater hearings panel is set by the Minister for the Environment.

*For Standard Schedule 1 Hearings Panel:*

4. Agrees that the same mana whenua/tangata whenua nominees, Greater Wellington nominees, and freshwater commissioners appointed on the Freshwater hearings panel are appointed to the Schedule 1 hearings panel.
5. Agrees that the standard Schedule 1 hearings panel has the same delegation powers as the Freshwater hearings panel. This is as follows:
  - a. To hear public submissions and provide the recommendations report to Council, for Council to make the final decisions on the recommendations.

The motion was **carried**.

**2 Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency shareholders' agreement update and appointment of director – Report PE24.341**

Sarah Allen, Head of Company Portfolio and Economic Development, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Gaylor

That Council:

1. Approves entering into the Shareholders' Agreement as contained in Attachment 1.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial amendments and sign the Shareholders' Agreement.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive to agree and sign any subsequent updates to the Shareholders' Agreement that give effect to administrative changes, or non-material changes arising from relevant Council resolutions.
4. Appoints Janet Holborow, as the appointee from Greater Wellington Regional Council, as a director of Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd until the triennial election in October 2025.
5. Authorises the Chief Executive to take all actions, and execute all documents, necessary or desirable to give effect to the appointment.

The motion was **carried**.

**3 Appointment to the Farming Reference Group – Report PE24.319**

Jack Mace, Director Delivery, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Nash

That Council appoints Gavin Bruce as a member of the Farming Reference Group.

The motion was **carried**.

**4 Appointment to the Public Transport Advisory Group – Report PE24.325**

Jaime Hayden, Manager Community Engagement, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Ponter

That Council:

1. Notes that the Public Transport Advisory Group’s Terms of Reference provides for Council to appoint up to 30 persons to represent stated perspectives.
2. Notes an appointment process, including consideration of the candidate by the Nominations Evaluation Group, occurred in accordance with Council’s Policy on the Appointment of Non-elected Members to Committees, Subcommittees and Advisory Groups.
3. Notes the Nominations Evaluation Group recommends one appointment (Attachment 1).
4. Appoints Jamin Fountain to the Public Transport Advisory Group.
5. Notes that Greater Wellington continues to seek further applications for the following perspective:
  - a. Employers.

The motion was **carried**.

The Public Excluded part of the meeting closed at 11.31am.

Councillor D Ponter

**Chair**

Date:



**Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 29 August 2024.**

**The matters referred to in these minutes were considered by Council in Public Excluded business. These minutes do not require confidentiality and may be considered in the public part of the meeting.**

Report 24.358

## **Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 27 June 2024**

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 11.31am

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### **Members Present**

Councillor Ponter (Chair)  
Councillor Bassett  
Councillor Connelly  
Councillor Duthie  
Councillor Gaylor  
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Nash  
Councillor Ropata  
Councillor Saw  
Councillor Staples  
Councillor Woolf

Councillor Lee participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of the quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Restricted Public Excluded Business**

- 1 Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 11 June 2024 - Report RPE24.318**

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Bassett

That the Council confirms the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 11 June 2024 – Report RPE24.318.

The motion was **carried**.

**2 Chief Executive performance indicators for 2024/25 – Report RPE24.328**

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

That Council adopts the Chief Executive key performance indicators for 2024/25 (Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

**Karakia whakamutunga**

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The Restricted Public Excluded part of the meeting closed at 11.32am.

Councillor D Ponter

**Chair**

Date:



**Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 27 August 2024.**

Report 24.404

## **Unconfirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 30 July 2024**

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.30am.

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### **Members Present**

Councillor Ponter (Chair)  
Councillor Bassett  
Councillor Connelly (from 9.34am)  
Councillor Duthie  
Councillor Gaylor  
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand  
Councillor Laban  
Councillor Nash  
Councillor Ropata  
Councillor Saw  
Councillor Staples  
Councillor Woolf

Councillors Connelly, Duthie, Gaylor and Ropata participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of the quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Karakia timatanga**

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

### **Public Business**

#### **1 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

## 2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

## 3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

## Strategy, policy or major issues

### 4 Approval of the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2021: 2024 Mid-Term Review – 24.380

Grant Fletcher, Head of Regional Transport, and Shan Lu, Principal Strategic Advisor, spoke to the report. An update to page 36 of the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2021: 2024 Mid-Term Review (Attachment 1) was tabled.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That Council:

- 1 Approves the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 2021: 2024 Mid-Term Review, as set out in Attachment 1, as updated.
- 2 Agrees to the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2021: 2024 Mid-Term Review being forwarded to New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA).
- 3 Delegates to the Chief Executive authority to approve any minor editorial amendments to the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2021: 2024 Mid-Term Review prior to it being published.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Connelly joined the meeting at 9.34am via MS Teams, during questions on the above item.

## Karakia whakamutunga

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 9.49am.

Councillor D Ponter

**Chair**

Date:

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.407**



**For Decision**

## **MĀORI CONSTITUENCY MATTERS**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. This report brings forward Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti recommendations to Council to affirm Council's 26 October 2023 resolution to establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 and 2028 triennial local elections.

### **He tūtohu**

#### **Recommendations**

That Council:

- 1 **Notes** that in 2023 Council voted unanimously to put in place a Māori constituency for the Wellington Region.
- 2 **Notes** that the unanimous decision by the 13 directly elected regional councillors reflected the best interests of the Wellington Region as well as the views of the communities represented by those regional councillors.
- 3 **Notes** that the unanimous decision of Council came following unanimous support from the six mana whenua groups in the Wellington Region.
- 4 **Notes** that no formal objection to a Māori constituency was received from the public at the time Council made its decision.
- 5 **Agrees** that the Government has taken an unfortunate approach with its recent legislative amendment which overrides the Council's democracy and adds significant cost for ratepayers.
- 6 **Disagrees** with the need for a poll on the Māori constituency that it has already democratically agreed to.
- 7 **Affirms** its resolution of 26 October 2023 to establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 and 2028 triennial local elections, subject to the outcome of any further engagement with mana whenua prior to the 27 August 2024 Council meeting.
- 8 **Notes** that the proposed name of the Māori constituency – “Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency” has previously been communicated to mana whenua (March 2024) with no alternative name having subsequently been received.
- 9 **Adopts** “Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency” as the name of the Māori constituency in its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.

## **Consideration by Committee**

2. Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti considered the matters for decision in this report on 15 August 2024 (Report 24.406 – Māori Constituency Matters) and its recommendations to Council are included in this report.

## **Te horopaki**

### **Context**

3. On 26 October 2023, following a recommendation from Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti, Council resolved (Report 23.539 – Opportunity to Establish a Māori Constituency) to:
  - Establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 triennial local elections onwards, noting that the Māori constituency is supplementary to and not a replacement for Council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations with mana whenua.
  - Note that the establishment of a Māori constituency will inform the full representation review scheduled for 2024.
4. Council's decision was unanimously supported by mana whenua who as partners were integral to our engagement on the proposed establishment of a Māori constituency.
5. The Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 (the Amendment Act 2024) alters the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the LEA), which governs the conduct of triennial local elections. The Amendment Act 2024 took effect on 30 July 2024.
6. Mana whenua partners were again integral to our engagement on the legislative requirement for Council to affirm or rescind its resolution to establish a Māori constituency.

### **Legislative requirements**

7. Under the amended Schedule 1 to the LEA and the Local Government Commission's guidelines:
  - a Council is a Group 2 local authority (as it has resolved to establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 triennial local election) (clause 10(1))
  - b Council must, by 6 September 2024, actively resolve either to affirm or rescind its resolution to establish a Māori constituency (clause 29(1))
  - c There are no specific criteria for Council to consider when making this decision, and the special consultative procedure under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 does not apply to the decision under clause 29(1) (clause 30)
  - d Council should consider the principles in section 4 of the LEA that relate to representation, abide by its *Significance and Engagement Policy*, and take into account the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002



- e Following a resolution to affirm, Council must:
  - i Hold a binding poll of electors at the 2025 triennial local election, using the First Past the Post electoral system, with the poll result having effect for the 2028 and 2031 triennial local elections (clause 39)
  - ii Undertake a shortened representation review to the timeframes stated in the Amendment Act 2024
- f Following a resolution to rescind, Council:
  - i Must undertake a shortened representation review to the timeframes stated in the Amendment Act 2024
  - ii May, at any time, consider afresh a decision to establish a Māori constituency at the next triennial election, with the earliest possible election being the 2028 triennial local election.

***Waitangi Tribunal urgent report***

8. On 17 May 2024, in anticipation of the Government's introduction of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill 2024 (the Bill), the Waitangi Tribunal released its urgent report on the *Māori Wards and Constituencies Inquiry*<sup>1</sup>.
9. Māori have long been under-represented in local government. The 2021 amendment to the LEA to remove the poll provisions resulted in a significant increase in Māori representation through local authorities resolving to establish Māori wards and constituencies. In the view of the Waitangi Tribunal, reinstating binding polls through the Bill would make establishing Māori constituencies or wards insurmountable.
10. The Waitangi Tribunal found that the Bill breaches the Treaty principles of:
  - a Partnership (which includes the duties of active protection and to act reasonably and in good faith)
  - b Equity
  - c Mutual benefit; and
  - d Options.
11. The Waitangi Tribunal also considered that these proposed legislative changes would raise human rights issues under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

<sup>1</sup> [Maori Wards W.pdf \(justice.govt.nz\)](#).

## **Te tātaritanga**

### **Analysis**

12. Officers' advice considers the Local Government Commission's *Guidelines for local authorities undertaking representations reviews*<sup>2</sup> and *Guidelines for local authorities making decisions on Māori wards and Māori constituencies*<sup>3</sup>.
13. The Council Chair, Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti Chair and officers have now met with all six of Greater Wellington's mana whenua partners to discuss the matter of the Māori constituency.
14. Mana whenua partners encourage Council to continue with the establishment of the Māori constituency, whilst acknowledging that some mana whenua partners encourage Council to progress but also note the anguish and harm the expected negative publicity around a poll at the 2025 election is likely to cause hapū, iwi and Māori communities.
15. A Māori constituency is a significant mechanism for enabling Māori representation at the Council table. In addition to the establishment of the Māori constituency, Council is committed to exploring all options that provide for mana whenua / Māori representation in decision-making processes.
16. As required under the Local Government Act 2002, officers have identified a range of advantages and disadvantages for Council to consider when deciding whether to resolve to affirm or rescind its resolution to establish a Māori constituency (see the 'Options' section below).

## **Nga kōwhiringa**

### **Options**

#### ***Option 1: Affirm Council's resolution to establish a Māori constituency***

17. Under this option:
  - a The Māori constituency will be in effect for the 2025–28 Council triennium
  - b Council is required to hold a binding poll of electors at the 2025 triennial local election, with the poll result having effect for the following two triennial local elections.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Resources-Representation-Review/Representation-Review-Guidelines-2023-v2.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Resources-Representation-Review/Maori-ward-supplementary-guidelines-2024.pdf>.

18. The advantages of this option are that it:
- a Gives effect to Council's resolution of
  - b Signals to the Wellington Region's electors the commitment of Council and mana whenua partners to dedicated Māori participation in Council's decision-making processes
  - c Upholds Council's Treaty obligations and also aligns with the position of the Human Rights Commission.
  - d Upholds the integrity of Council in resolving to establish the Māori constituency and aligns with the wishes of our mana whenua partners
  - e Enhances Council's decision making for the Wellington Region through the inclusion of Māori perspectives
19. The disadvantages of this option are that it:
- a Exposes mana whenua partners, Māori and the community to potentially significant publicity and lobbying from those opposing dedicated Māori representation in Council's decision-making processes
  - b May distract Greater Wellington significantly due to this publicity and lobbying
  - c Could become a primary election platform for candidates standing in the 2025 triennial local election, giving rise to a negative, single issue pre-election period
  - d Could contribute to elector confusion due to the increased number of voting decisions required at the 2025 triennial local election (e.g., the potential for most of the Wellington Region's electors to consider decisions on both a poll on a regional Māori constituency and a poll on a territorial authority Māori ward(s) in the same voting pack)
  - e Results in unbudgeted and unfunded costs for Council (see the 'Financial Implications' section below).

***Option 2: Rescind Council's resolution to establish a Māori constituency***

20. The advantages of this option are:
- a Avoids the unbudgeted and unfunded costs for Council outlined in the 'Financial Implications' section below
  - b Enables the 2025 triennial local election to be unencumbered by potential negative issues relating to the Māori constituency that may arise in the pre-election period and candidate campaigns
  - c Enables Council to consider this matter afresh at a later time, with the possibility of a Māori constituency being established for the 2028 and 2031 triennial local elections. A new resolution to establish would be subject to the right of five percent of the Wellington Region's electors (currently 19,620 electors) to demand a poll on the matter, rather than the mandatory poll at the 2025 triennial local election that is required if Council resolves to affirm.

21. The disadvantages of this option are that it:
  - a Undermines the decision-making process undertaken by Council with mana whenua, which runs contrary to the Council's Treaty obligations and, depending on the approach taken to the decision, is likely to raise process issues
  - b Would likely have a significant negative impact on our relationships and partnerships with mana whenua and our reputation.

**Ngā hua ahumoni**  
**Financial implications**

22. If Council affirms its resolution to establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 triennial local election onwards, the:
  - a Amendment Act 2024 requires a binding poll of electors at the 2025 triennial local election on whether the region should have a Māori constituency
  - b LEA provides that, in the event that the Māori constituency seat remains unfilled (e.g., due to the potential, where the binding poll result is 'no Māori constituency', that the seat will not exist from the 2028 triennial local election), Council must hold a by-election until the related vacancy is filled.
23. Greater Wellington's Electoral Officer estimates the related costs as \$350,000 (GST exclusive) for the poll and \$95,000 for each by-election. Both these costs are unbudgeted and unfunded; the cost of the poll would need to be included in Council's Annual Plan for 2025/26.

**Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori**  
**Implications for Māori**

24. As Māori have been traditionally under-represented at the Council table, the creation of a Māori constituency is the only available mechanism ensure a Māori voice at that table a key opportunity to ensure decisions are more reflective of Māori interests.
25. The establishment of a Māori constituency does not replace the partnerships with mana whenua of the Wellington Region; rather it will enable a wider perspective to be brought to the table alongside the views and aspirations of Greater Wellington's six mana whenua partners.

**Ngā tikanga whakatau**  
**Decision-making process**

26. The decision-making process is prescribed in the Amendment Act 2024. The application of these provisions is addressed in the 'Background' and 'Analysis' sections.

**Te hiranga  
Significance**

27. Officers consider the matters for decision to be of medium significance in terms of Council’s *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington’s *Decision-making Guidelines*. The matter of Māori representation is of high community interest, and the impacts of this decision on Māori rights and interests is significant.

**Te whakatūtakitaki  
Engagement**

28. Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti Chair, the Council Chair and officers have engaged with Greater Wellington’s mana whenua partners on the matter of the Māori constituency. Mana whenua feedback is stated in the ‘Analysis’ section.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei  
Next steps**

- 29. If Council affirms, it must complete the Representation Review to the shortened timeframe stated in the Amendment Act 2024 (see Report 24.149 – Initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election<sup>4</sup>). Officers will work to provide the public with clear, neutral, and accessible information on the required poll question to support electors in making an informed decision.
- 30. If Council rescinds, officers will prepare an initial representation proposal that reflects that decision and schedule a further Council meeting (before 13 September 2024) to consider the related report.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Writers	Will Ogier - Kaitohutohu Matua   Principal Advisor Democratic Services Brett Cockeram – Hautū Hua Māori   Director Māori Outcomes
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Uringi, Manapori   Head of Governance and Democracy Monica Fraser – Te Pou Whakarae   Group Manager Māori Outcomes Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki   Group Manager Strategy

<sup>4</sup> This report assumes, based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti’s recommendation of 15 August 2024 to affirm, that Council will accept that recommendation.

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></b> Council has statutory responsibility for decisions on its representation arrangements.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> The decisions in the report do not contribute to Council’s or Greater Wellington’s key strategies, policies and plans.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> Finance and Risk has been informed of the potential unbudgeted and unfunded costs related to the mandatory binding poll and any by-elections to fill a vacant Māori constituency seat.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> If Council affirms its resolution to establish a Māori constituency, there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financial risks of unbudgeted and unfunded costs as noted in the Financial Implications section</li><li>• Resourcing risks as Council must, where the binding poll result is ‘no Māori constituency’, undertake another representation review in 2027 for the 2028 triennial local election (rather than in 2030 for the 2031 triennial local election)<sup>5</sup>.</li></ul>

<sup>5</sup> As required by the Amendment Act 2024.

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.129**



**For Decision**

## **INITIAL REPRESENTATION PROPOSAL FOR THE 2025 TRIENNIAL LOCAL ELECTION**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To advise Council on:
  - a Adopting its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election
  - b Establishing a committee to consider submissions on Council's initial representation proposal, and to recommend to Council any amendments for its final representation proposal.

### **He tūtohu**

#### **Recommendations**

That Council:

##### ***Māori constituency***

- 1 **Notes** that as an outcome of Council's resolution of 26 October 2023 to establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 and 2028 triennial local elections, the application of clause 4 of Schedule 1A to the Local Electoral Act 2001 provides for a single Māori constituency member to be elected from one Māori constituency covering the area of the Wellington Region.
- 2 **Determines**, for its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election, that there is one Māori constituency named Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency, comprising the entire area of the Wellington Region and electing a single Māori constituency member.

##### ***General constituencies***

- 3 **Agrees** that the seven general constituency scenarios outlined in Attachment 4 and the Analysis section of this report represent the range of reasonably practicable options for consideration.
- 4 **Notes** that any resolution to change Council's existing representation arrangements must include an explanation of the reasons for the proposed change.

- 5 **Adopts** its general constituency arrangements, for inclusion in the initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election, by specifying:
  - a The proposed number of general constituencies
  - b The proposed name and boundaries of each general constituency
  - c The number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each general constituency.

#### ***Representation Review Committee***

- 6 **Notes** that, where Council receives submissions on its initial representation proposal, Council must consider each submission and adopt its final representation proposal based on that consideration of submissions.
- 7 **Resolves** to establish the Representation Review Committee (the Committee).
- 8 **Adopts** the proposed terms of reference for the Committee (Attachment 3).
- 9 **Appoints** Councillors Bassett, Connelly, Duthie, Gaylor, Kirk-Burnnand, Laban, Lee, Nash, Ponter, Ropata, Saw, Staples, and Woolf to the Committee.
- 10 **Appoints** Councillor Ponter as the Committee Chair.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

##### ***Legislative requirements, statutory deadlines and timeframes***

2. Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the LEA), local authorities are required to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years. Council carried out its last representation review in 2018 for the 2019 triennial local election, and is legally required to carry out its next review in 2024 for the 2025 triennial local election. A review is also required as an outcome of Council's decision to establish a Māori constituency.
3. In preparing for and carrying out a representation review, Council must keep in mind the relevant provisions of the LEA and the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA), and the guidelines issued by the Local Government Commission (the LGC) to assist local authorities to identify the factors and considerations that they should take into account when developing their representation proposals.
4. Under the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 (the Amendment Act 2024), Council must undertake a shortened representation review to the timeframes stated in that Act. This requirement applies to Council regardless of its decision on whether to resolve to affirm or rescind its resolution to establish a Māori constituency (Report 24.406 – Māori constituency matters, also being considered at this meeting).
5. The key legislative requirements, statutory deadlines and proposed timeframes for the shortened representation review are set out in [Attachment 1](#).



**Key factors for consideration**

6. Council must consider the following three key factors when determining its initial and final representation proposals:
  - a Communities of interest
  - b Effective representation of communities of interest
  - c Fair representation.
7. The LGC will focus on these key factors if Council receives appeals and/or objections on its final representation proposal, or if its final representation proposal needs to be referred to the LGC for determination.
8. An explanation of these key factors for consideration is set out in [Attachment 2](#).

**Recommended consideration process**

9. The LGC's guidelines recommend that Council uses the following consideration process to achieve a robust outcome that complies with the statutory criteria:
  - Step 1 *Identify communities of interest* - determine communities of interest in the Wellington Region
  - Step 2 *Determine effective representation for identified communities of interest* - consider whether each identified community of interest needs separate representation, or whether communities of interest can be grouped together to achieve effective representation. Also determine how many constituencies there should be, define their boundaries and name the constituencies.
  - Step 3 *Consider fairness of representation for electors of the constituencies* - consider a range of scenarios for the total membership of Council. Under each scenario, determine the ratio of population per member for each proposed constituency. For each scenario, compare the subdivision ratios calculated with the average population per member for Council.

Ensure that the subdivision ratios under the scenarios for total membership fall within +/-10 percent of the average population per member (this is known as the '+/-10 percent rule'). If these constituency ratios do not comply with this rule, consider altering constituency boundaries or reconfiguring constituency arrangements, to the extent practicable to provide effective representation for communities of interest so the constituency ratios comply.

**Further process steps**

10. If no submissions are made on Council's initial representation proposal, it becomes Council's final representation proposal. That final representation proposal will take effect for the 2025 triennial local election, unless the final proposal does not comply with the '+/-10 percent rule' of fair representation. In that

case, the final representation proposal must be referred to the LGC for determination.

11. Where submissions are received on Council’s initial representation proposal, Council must consider each submission and adopt its final representation proposal based on that consideration of submissions. Officers propose that Council establish the Representation Review Committee (the Committee) to consider the submissions on the initial representation proposal and recommend to Council the shape of the final representation proposal. The proposed terms of reference for the Representation Review Committee are included as [Attachment 3](#). In line with previous representation reviews, it is proposed that all Councillors are appointed to the Committee and that the Council Chair is appointed as the Committee Chair: it is a matter for Council to determine the overall composition of the Committee.
12. In addition, Council must demonstrate that it has considered the submissions by providing, in its public notice of the final representation proposal, the reasons for any amendments to its initial representation proposal, and for any rejection of submissions.
13. If there are no objections or appeals following public notice of the final representation proposal, then that final proposal takes effect for the 2025 triennial local election, unless the final representation proposal does not comply with the ‘+/- 10 percent rule’ of fair representation. In that case, the final representation proposal and any objections or appeals received must be referred to the LGC for determination. The LGC will then make a binding determination before 11 April 2025. LGC determinations may only be appealed on a point of law to the High Court.

***Current representation arrangements***

14. In 2019, the LGC determined Council’s current representation arrangements, following the receipt of appeals and objections against Council’s final proposal for the 2019 triennial local election.
15. Council currently has 13 members, elected from six constituencies, as follows:

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Number of members</b>	<b>Geographical area covered by the constituency</b>
Pōneke/Wellington	5	The area of Wellington City, excluding the area of the Tawa Community
Porirua-Tawa	2	The area of Porirua City, and the area of the Tawa Community of Wellington City
Kāpiti Coast	1	The area of the Kāpiti Coast District
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt	3	The area of Lower Hutt City

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Number of members</b>	<b>Geographical area covered by the constituency</b>
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt	1	The area of Upper Hutt City
Wairarapa	1	The area of South Wairarapa District, Carterton District, Masterton District, and that part of Tararua District that falls within the Wellington Region

### ***Council workshops***

16. On 1 February 2024, a Council workshop on the Representation Review 2024 was held. This workshop provided the opportunity for Councillors to discuss the legal requirements relating to representation reviews, and a range of representation scenarios for general constituency areas, to assist Councillors in considering the shape of the non-statutory preliminary engagement.
17. The scenarios considered by Councillors were included in a discussion paper provided during the preliminary engagement with the community and are considered in the ‘Options’ section of this report.
18. On 1 August 2024, a further workshop on the Representation Review 2024 was held. This workshop provided the opportunity for Councillors to discuss the implications of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, which requires Council to either affirm or rescind its decision to establish a Māori constituency and for different statutory timeframes for completing the Representation Review 2024.

### ***Māori constituency***

19. On 26 October 2023, following a recommendation from Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti, Council resolved (Report 23.539 – Opportunity to Establish a Māori Constituency) to:
  - Establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 triennial local elections onwards, noting that the Māori constituency is supplementary to and not a replacement for Council’s Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations with mana whenua.
  - Note that the establishment of a Māori constituency will inform the full representation review scheduled for 2024.
20. Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti has recommended to Council that it affirm this resolution at this meeting (Report 24.407 – Māori Constituency Matters).

### ***Local Electoral Act 2001***

21. Under the LEA, regional councils may resolve to establish one or more Māori constituencies. The number of Māori members for election is determined by a formula in clause 4 of Schedule 1A to the LEA that uses the relative Māori Electoral Population to the General Electoral Population.

22. The Māori Electoral Population is a statistical formulation representing both the persons registered as electors of the Māori electoral districts and a proportion of the persons of New Zealand Māori descent who are not registered as electors of any electoral district and a proportion of the persons of New Zealand Māori descent under the age of 18 years.
23. Under the LEA, for its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election Council needs to determine the proposed number of Māori constituencies, the proposed name and boundaries of each Māori constituency, and the number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each Māori constituency.

## **Te tātaritanga**

### **Analysis**

#### ***Māori constituency***

24. Council has resolved to establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 and 2028 triennial local elections (Report 23.539 – Opportunity to Establish a Māori Constituency), and Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti has recommended that Council affirm its decision at this meeting (Report 24.407 – Māori Constituency Matters). Council now needs to determine the specific arrangements as part of its initial representation proposal (see paragraph 23 above).
25. Applying the formula in clause 4 of Schedule 1A to the LEA allows for a single member Māori constituency on Council, when Council has a total membership of between seven and fourteen members. That Māori constituency will comprise the entire area of the Wellington Region.
26. Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti has recommended that Council adopts “Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency” as the name of the Māori constituency in its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election (Report 24.407 – Māori Constituency Matters).
27. Accordingly, officers recommend that Council determines, for its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election, that there is one Māori constituency named Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency, that comprises the entire area of the Wellington Region and elects a single Māori constituency member.

#### ***General constituencies***

##### *Identification of scenarios and options*

28. At Council’s workshop on 1 February 2024, officers presented Councillors with information relating to seven scenarios for general constituency areas. These scenarios were based on approaches considered by Council when developing previous representation proposals. Councillors did not suggest any other scenarios or options at the workshop, reflecting a general view at that time that the seven scenarios represent the range of reasonably practical options for

consideration in developing Council's initial representation proposal, taking into account the key factors for consideration of communities of interest, effective representation, and fair representation and the tension that can exist between these key factors (Attachment 2).

29. The seven scenarios are:
  - a Scenario 1: General constituencies (based on the six current constituencies)
  - b Scenario 2: Territorial authority boundaries
  - c Scenario 3: A merged constituency model, with the Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District general constituency areas merged into a single general constituency area, and the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas are merged into a single general constituency area
  - d Scenario 4: A second merged constituency model, with a single general constituency area that merges the Tawa Community, Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District general constituency areas, with the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas merged into a single general constituency area
  - e Scenario 5: A third merged constituency model, with a single general constituency Area that merges the Tawa Community, Wellington City and Porirua City general constituency areas, and the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas are merged into a single general constituency area
  - f Scenario 6: A fourth merged constituency model, with a single general constituency area that merges the Tawa Community and Porirua City general constituency areas, with the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City constituency areas merged into a single general constituency area. This scenario is a variation on Scenario 1
  - g Scenario 7: A fifth merged constituency model, with a single general constituency area that merges the Tawa Community and Wellington City general constituency areas, and the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City constituency areas are merged into a single general constituency area. This scenario is a variation on Scenario 2.
30. Officers recommend that Council agrees that the seven general constituency scenarios outlined in [Attachment 4](#) and this Analysis section represent the range of reasonably practicable options for consideration.
31. Statistical information and maps for these seven scenarios for general constituency areas, including for related options ranging from 10 to 13 members, are provided in Attachment 4.

*Issues to consider in assessing the scenarios*

32. In addition to the process steps outlined above, the following matters should be taken into account in developing Council's initial representation proposal:
  - a The electoral system under which the next election will be conducted
  - b The appropriate number of general constituency councillors to provide effective representation and to enable Council to effectively undertake its governance responsibilities
  - c The extent to which population changes are impacting on the existing representation arrangements
  - d Any evidence of a desire in the community for change to the representation arrangements.

Electoral system

33. Council's 2025 triennial local election will be conducted under the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system. The LGC makes the following comment in its *Guidelines for local authorities undertaking representation reviews* (July 2023):<sup>1</sup>

To gain the full benefits of proportional representation under STV, five to seven members is preferable for wards or constituencies using STV (below three members the benefits of proportional representation are not realised).

34. In considering the LGC's commentary when developing its initial representation proposal, Council should note that STV applies to constituencies of any size, including single member constituencies.

Number of Councillors

35. The LEA requires that a regional council must be made up of between six and fourteen members (inclusive). When initially established in 1989, Council had 19 members; this number was reduced by legislation to 14 members in 1992, and since 2001 Council has comprised 13 members.
36. In considering the total number of members to be elected to Council, the following matters are relevant:
  - a The principles of the LGA place emphasis on the ability of local authorities to take into account the diversity of the community in their decision-making. A larger council may provide more effective representation for diverse communities through enabling councillors to hear and meet with a wider variety of groups and individuals, and on a more regular basis, than may be the case with a smaller council

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 3.10 of <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Resources-Representation-Review/Representation-Review-Guidelines-2023-v2.pdf>.

- b Council has a broad range of functions and responsibilities. A larger council may enable the workloads of individual councillors to be more effectively managed through councillors being able to share the work involved.

37. Having resolved to establish a Māori constituency, Council may propose representation arrangements that provide for between five and thirteen general constituency members. Each of the proposed seven scenarios include options for 10 to 13 general constituency Councillors (Attachment 4).

Population changes

38. Total Electoral Population and territorial authority areas, rather than General Electoral Population and general constituency areas, are used in this subsection to enable a comparison between 2017 and 2023.
39. For the six year period from 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2023, the changes in the Total Electoral Population for each territorial authority area of the Wellington Region are<sup>2</sup>:

<b>Territorial authority area</b>	<b>Estimated usually resident Total Electoral Population at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>Estimated usually resident Total Electoral Population at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>Population change (and percentage change)</b>
Wellington City	212,700	216,230	+3,530 (1.7)
Porirua City	56,100	62,390	+6,290 (11.2)
Kāpiti Coast District	52,700	58,390	+5,690 (10.8)
Lower Hutt City	104,700	114,000	+9,300 (8.9)
Upper Hutt City	43,200	48,240	+5,040 (11.7)
Wairarapa districts <sup>3</sup>	44,500	51,220	+6,720 (15.1)
<b>Wellington Region</b>	<b>513,900</b>	<b>550,500</b>	<b>+36,600 (7.1)</b>

40. The table above shows that the increase in Total Electoral Population has not been evenly distributed. The Wairarapa districts have experienced the highest percentage population growth, with all territorial authority areas (excluding Wellington City) having increases above the average population increase for the Wellington Region. Wellington City’s population growth of 1.7 percent is well below the regional population increase of 7.1 percent.

<sup>2</sup> *Statistics New Zealand population estimates, 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2023.*

<sup>3</sup> Combined statistics for the South Wairarapa District, Carterton District, Masterton District, and that part of Tararua District that falls within the Wellington Region.

41. For the six year period from 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2023 the changes in each territorial authority area’s share of the Wellington Region’s population are:

<b>Territorial authority area</b>	<b>Percentage share of the Wellington Region’s population 2017</b>	<b>Percentage share of the Wellington Region’s population 2023</b>	<b>Change in percentage share</b>
Wellington City	41.4	39.3	-2.1
Porirua City	10.9	11.3	+0.4
Kāpiti Coast District	10.2	10.6	+0.4
Lower Hutt City	20.4	20.7	+0.3
Upper Hutt City	8.4	8.8	+0.4
Wairarapa districts	8.7	9.3	+0.5
<b>Wellington Region</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

42. This information shows that six territorial authority areas had similar increases in their share of the regional population, with those increases offset by a declining regional share in Wellington City (-2.1 percent).

*Preliminary engagement with the community*

43. Greater Wellington undertook non-statutory preliminary engagement with the community from 11 to 31 March 2024 using its online *Have Your Say* platform. A summary of the process and responses received is attached to this report (**Attachment 5**).

***Communities of interest and effective representation***

44. The LEA requires that constituency boundaries must comply with the boundaries of one or more territorial authority districts or the boundaries of wards, so far as is practicable.
45. Since Council’s formation in 1989, Council’s constituency arrangements have principally been aligned to territorial authority districts, or a grouping of territorial authority districts (in the case of the Wairarapa).
46. These constituency arrangements have recognised that territorial authority areas afford a sense of community in terms of the day-to-day local authority services provided and used by individuals and communities. The development of regional council constituencies that overlay these territorial authority areas has also reflected the delivery of Greater Wellington’s functions, including in the areas of public transport networks, assets and services; noxious plants and pest animals; integrated environmental and catchment management; and conservation forestry and bulk water supply.



47. For seven previous triennial local elections, there has been a partial departure from the alignment of regional council constituencies with territorial authority boundaries:
  - a For the 1989 and 1995 triennial local elections the area of Wellington City formed two constituencies – Wellington North and Wellington South
  - b For the 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019 triennial local elections, the area of the Tawa Community was joined with the area of Porirua City to form the Porirua-Tawa Constituency.
48. Council has previously explored options for merging some of its existing constituencies to form larger, multi-member constituencies. In 2006, Council’s initial proposal for the 2007 triennial local election was similar to the arrangements proposed in Scenario 3. In resolving that proposal, Council took the following matters into account:
  - a Larger constituencies align with elected members’ focus on the regional perspective and will help people move away from the idea that local regional councillors are the spokespersons for the territorial authority area with which their constituency is aligned
  - b Larger constituencies result in an increase in the number of elected members that electors can vote for.
49. As five merged constituency scenarios (Scenarios 3 to 7) are provided for consideration (Attachment 4), it will be important for Council to look at whether these scenarios provide more effective representation for communities of interest and fairer representation for electors over the current representation arrangements.
50. In terms of the mathematical requirements for fair representation, Scenario 3 (with a 10 member Council), Scenario 5 (with a 10 member Council), and Scenario 7 (with a 10 member Council) comply fully with the ‘+/- 10 percent rule’.
51. For Council to adopt any scenario option that doesn’t comply with the ‘+/- 10 percent rule’, it will need to consider how this option provides more effective representation for communities of interest, and overall a more balanced set of representation arrangements, than the options identified in paragraph 50.
52. The LEA requires that any resolution by Council to change the current representation arrangements must include an explanation of the reasons for the proposed change.

### **Nga kōwhiringa Options**

53. The representation scenarios for the 2025 triennial local election reflect general constituency areas based on General Electoral Population (due to Council’s October 2023 resolution to establish a Māori constituency from the 2025 triennial local election). However, all previous references and LGC determinations are to constituency areas based on Total Electoral Population.

54. As such, statistical comparisons are not possible with previous scenarios considered by Council and comment on the proposed scenarios and options is distinguished by referring to 'general constituency areas'.

### ***Wairarapa considerations***

55. The appropriate number of Councillors for the Wairarapa constituency has been a regular issue raised in submissions since the LGC reduced the number from two to one in its 2007 determination.

56. In its 2007 determination, the LGC stated:

After considering the arguments put to us, we are not convinced there is a compelling argument for an exception to +/- 10% rule in respect of the Wairarapa Constituency. We accept the Wairarapa Constituency is a large constituency as are other constituencies across the country.

57. In 2017, the LGC stated<sup>4</sup>:

During our engagement with the existing Wairarapa councils over the past three years, we received a strong message that regional council decision-making was very important to the Wairarapa community. Wairarapa councillors were concerned that the Wairarapa has only one representative on the regional council and therefore the Wairarapa is not sufficiently represented. Given the Wellington region's population spread, the Local Electoral Act does not allow for another Wairarapa regional councillor.

### ***Number of members***

58. The LEA provides that a regional council may have a maximum number of 14 members. In the LGC's 2019 determination it noted that:

We believe a council of 13 is appropriate for the Wellington Region given its geographical size encompassing both urban and rural areas, and the diversity of the council's functions. It is also in line with other regional councils of a similar size around the country.

### ***Scenario 1 General constituencies***

59. This scenario is based on the six current constituencies. It therefore retains the representation arrangements for communities of interest first determined by the LGC in 2007 and reconfirmed in 2019.

60. In 2007, 2013 and again in 2019, the LGC's determinations state that, for a 13 member Council, the Kāpiti Coast Constituency should be retained despite the large over-representation under the '+/- 10 percent rule' of fair representation as it is a distinct community of interest requiring its own representation.

61. In order to achieve compliance with the '+/- 10 percent rule' across the remainder of the Wellington Region, to the extent practicable, the LGC in 2007 determined that the constituency area of the Tawa Community should be merged with the area

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 181 of the LGC's *Deliberation on the Wellington Reorganisation Draft Proposal* document (15 March 2017).

of Porirua City to form the Porirua-Tawa Constituency. In making this change to constituency boundaries, the LGC noted the geography of the area, in particular the Porirua-Tawa basin and the location of the catchment of the Porirua Stream, and the close proximity of Porirua City to Wellington City. This rationale was affirmed in the LGC's 2019 determination.

62. As the tables in [Attachment 4](#) show, for the 13 member Council option only the Wellington City general constituency area complies with the '+/- 10 percent rule'. The option for an 11 member Council best complies, with three general constituency areas (Kāpiti Coast District, Porirua City + Tawa Community, and Lower Hutt City) being non-compliant.

**Scenario 2      Territorial authority boundaries**

63. This scenario would merge the Tawa Community and Wellington City general constituency areas. This change would align the merged general constituency area and the Porirua City general constituency area with the boundaries for the Porirua and Wellington city council areas.
64. For the 13 member Council option, only the Wellington City general constituency area complies with the '+/- 10 percent rule' of fair representation. The option of a 10 member Council best complies with the '+/- 10 percent rule', with only the Upper Hutt City general constituency area being non-compliant.
65. While this scenario would realign the general constituency area boundaries to the constituency boundaries that existed before the 2007 triennial local election, it is inconsistent with the LGC's 2007 and 2019 determinations that effective representation for the Wellington and Porirua area is best achieved by the retention of the two current constituencies (see paragraph 61 above).

**Scenario 3      Merged Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District and merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City**

66. This scenario is based on Council's initial representation proposal for the 2007 triennial local election.
67. From an electoral fairness point of view, the option of a 13 member Council does not comply with the '+/- 10 percent rule' of fair representation as the Wairarapa districts general constituency area is over-represented by 18.3 percent. However, the option of a 10 member Council complies fully with the '+/- 10 percent rule'.
68. Council must also consider whether this scenario provides effective representation for communities of interest.
69. Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River is a common dominant feature of the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas. Council has made major investments in flood protection and river management on Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River over many years, with the current focus of its work on areas close to the Lower Hutt City central business district (e.g., Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi project). Matters that may be relevant to Council's considerations include:

- a The mix of urban and rural, particularly in the Upper Hutt City general constituency area
  - b Upper Hutt City general constituency areas is the location of some significant regional resources, including the Macaskill Lakes water storage lakes at Te Marua, regional parks and forests
  - c Greater Wellington’s catchment management, biosecurity, flood protection and biodiversity activities in the Hutt Valley are undertaken on a Hutt Valley catchment-wide basis.
70. On communities of interest, the LGC’s 2019 determination notes that there has been previous consideration to combining the two Hutt Valley constituencies, including in Council’s initial representation proposal in 2007, and that these proposals have not ultimately received support by Council or affected residents. The LGC further noted that the two current constituencies reflect distinct communities of interest that help achieve effective representation by recognising residents’ familiarity and identity with their area and avoiding likely barriers to participation. The LGC also noted some clear linkages from both Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River and State Highway 2, but did not believe at that time that residents identify sufficiently with the extended area to support the suggestion of a merged constituency.
71. In terms of communities of interest between the Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District general constituency areas, a single state highway and rail line runs through both areas. However, there are also quite significant differences in communities of interest from:
- a Demographics – the age profiles of each general constituency area show important differences (see the table below, based on Census 2018 data). This, combined with the differing ethnic and income compositions of sub-districts (particularly in Porirua City) gives rise to a different mix of social and cultural issues in each general constituency area:

Area	Median age	Percentage aged 65 and over	Percentage aged under 15
New Zealand	37.4	15.0	19.3
Porirua City	35.1	11.6	23.3
Kāpiti Coast District	47.9	25.7	17.2

- b Geography – Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour is a focus for Porirua City and for regional council activities in the Porirua area, while the Kāpiti Coast has a long stretch of open coastline, dissected by significant river systems. The Pukerua Bay escarpment is an important physical demarcation between the rolling topography of Porirua and the coastal plain of the Kāpiti Coast
- c Community structure – Porirua City is principally a large and diverse urban area, with rural areas on its fringes. The Kāpiti Coast is a series of smaller urban communities and adjoining rural areas

- d Community issues – the nature of Greater Wellington’s activities differs across these general constituency areas. For example, management of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour is an important component of our activities in Porirua City, while flood protection and wetland restoration are important activities on the Kāpiti Coast. Also, through Wellington Water, Greater Wellington supplies bulk water to Porirua City while the Kāpiti Coast has its own local water supply arrangements
- e Some Kāpiti communities look northwards to the Horowhenua for their social, cultural and business connections, rather than southward to Porirua City.

**Scenario 4      *Merged Tawa Community, Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District and merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City***

- 72. The scenario is the same as Scenario 3, except the Tawa Community general constituency area is included with the merged Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District general constituency area.
- 73. The 13 member Council option does not comply with the ‘+/- 10 percent rule’ of fair representation, as the Wairarapa districts’ general constituency area is over-represented by 18.3 percent. The 11 member Council option best complies with the ‘+/- 10 percent rule’, with the Porirua City + Tawa Community + Kāpiti Coast District general constituency area being under-represented by 11.8 percent.
- 74. Similar considerations around communities of interest to those identified for Scenario 3 apply to this scenario.

**Scenario 5      *Merged Tawa Community, Wellington City and Porirua City and merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City***

- 75. This scenario is similar to Scenario 3, except the Porirua City general constituency area is included with the merged Tawa Community and Wellington City general constituency area.
- 76. The 13 member Council option does not comply with the ‘+/- 10 percent rule’ of fair representation, due to the over-representation of the Kāpiti Coast District general constituency area (37.4 percent) and the Wairarapa districts’ general constituency area (18.3 percent). However, the 10 member Council option complies fully with the ‘+/- 10 percent rule’.
- 77. Similar considerations around communities of interest to those identified for Scenarios 1 and 3 apply to this scenario.

**Scenario 6      *Merged Tawa Community and Porirua City and merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City***

- 78. This scenario is a variation on Scenario 1 – the difference is the merging of the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas.
- 79. For the 13 member Council option, only the Wellington City and merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas comply with the ‘+/- 10 percent

rule' of fair representation. The 11 member Council option best complies with the '+/- 10 percent rule', with over-representation for the merged Tawa Community and Porirua City general constituency area (34.8 percent).

80. Similar considerations around communities of interest to those identified for Scenarios 1 and 3 apply to this scenario.

**Scenario 7      *Merged Tawa Community and Wellington City and merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City***

81. This scenario is a variation on Scenario 2 – the difference being the merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency area.
82. For the 13 member Council option, only the merged Wellington City and Tawa Community, and the merged Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City, general constituency areas comply with the '+/- 10 percent rule' of fair representation. The 10 member Council option fully complies with the '+/- 10 percent rule'.
83. Similar considerations around communities of interest to those identified for Scenarios 1 and 3 apply to this scenario.

**Ngā hua ahumoni  
Financial implications**

84. The costs associated with the Representation Review 2024 and the subsequent 2025 triennial local election are provided for in Council's Long Term Plan 2024–34 and related budgets.

**Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori  
Implications for Māori**

85. On 4 March 2024, Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti Chair and the Council Chair wrote to Greater Wellington's six mana whenua partners seeking their comments on potential general constituency arrangements (being the seven scenarios set out in the discussion paper for the Representation Review 2024) for the 2025 triennial local election. In the follow-up meetings, mana whenua did not express any views on the proposed general constituency arrangements.
86. Mana whenua feedback on Māori constituency matters is addressed in Report 24.407 – Māori Constituency Matters, being considered at this meeting.

**Ngā tikanga whakatau  
Decision-making process**

87. The LEA prescribes the decision-making process, including that Council's initial representation proposal shall be subject to public consultation, and that, when resolving its final representation proposal, Council must consider the matters that were raised in that consultation.

## **Te hiranga Significance**

88. Officers consider the matters for decision to be of high significance in terms of Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*.

## **Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement**

89. Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the assessment of high significance. Non-statutory preliminary engagement with the community, as recommended by the LGC, has been completed with a summary of the process and responses included in [Attachment 5](#).

## **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps**

90. Once Council has adopted its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election, this proposal will be publicly notified (as required by the LEA) and the public will have four weeks to make submissions.
91. The LEA also requires us to inform the following organisations:
- a Each territorial authority in the Wellington Region
  - b The LGC
  - c The Surveyor-General
  - d The Government Statistician
  - e The Remuneration Authority.
92. As part of considering submissions on the initial representation proposal, Council:
- a Must consider those on the name of the Māori constituency
  - b Cannot consider submissions on whether Council establishes a Māori constituency as this is not a relevant matter under the LEA.
93. If Council establishes the Representation Review Committee (see paragraph 11), this committee will then consider submissions on the initial representation proposal and recommend to Council any amendments for its final representation proposal.
94. If any appeals against and/or objections to Council's final representation proposal are received, or Council's final representation proposal does not meet the LEA's requirements regarding fair representation, then the final representation proposal (and any appeals and/or objections) must be referred to the LGC for determination.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachments**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Key legislative requirements, statutory deadlines and proposed timeframes
2	Key factors for consideration
3	Proposed Terms of Reference for the Representation Review Committee
4	Statistical information and maps for representation scenarios
5	Summary of responses received through preliminary engagement

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writer	Will Ogier – Kaitohutohu Matua   Principal Advisor Democratic Services
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Uringi, Manapori   Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki   Group Manager Strategy



<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> Council has statutory responsibilities under the LEA and Amendment Act 2024 for decisions on its representation arrangements.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> The decisions in the report do not contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's key strategies, policies and plans.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> Te Hunga Whiriwhiri was consulted in the preparation of the report and the related Report 24.407 – Māori Constituency Matters.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> There are no known risks arising from the decisions in this report.

**Attachment 1 to Report 24.129****Key legislative requirements, statutory deadlines and proposed timeframes**

The following table outlines the key legislative requirements, statutory deadlines, and proposed timeframes under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024:

<b>Key legislative requirement(s)</b>	<b>Statutory deadline</b>	<b>Proposed date</b>
Council resolves to affirm or rescind its resolution to establish a Māori constituency	By 6 September 2024	Council meeting of 27 August 2024
Council adopts its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local election and establish the Representation Review Committee	By 13 September 2024	
Public notice of the initial representation proposal and call for public submissions	Within 7 days after Council adopts its initial representation proposal and not later than 20 September 2024	On 3 September 2024 (or earlier)
Close of public submissions on the initial representation proposal	A period that ends not later than 11 October 2024 and is not less than three weeks from the date of the public notice	24 September 2024
Representation Review Committee hears and considers public submissions on the initial representation proposal, and recommends to Council on the final representation proposal		10 October 2024
Council considers Representation Review Committee's recommendations on, and adopts, the final representation proposal	Within six weeks of the close of public submissions on the initial representation proposal	Council meeting of 31 October 2024
Public notice of the final representation proposal	Within six weeks of the close of public submissions on the initial representation proposal	On 5 November 2024 (or earlier)
Close of period for appeals and objections on the final representation proposal	Not earlier than three weeks after the date of the public notice of the final representation proposal, and no later than 13 December 2024	26 November 2024
All relevant information to be provided to the Local Government Commission, if any appeal and/or objection is received, and/or the final representation proposal does not comply with the "+/-10 percent rule" of fair representation	By 23 December 2024	In early December 2024
Local Government Commission - determine representation arrangements, if required	Before 11 April 2025	

## **Key factors for consideration**

Council must carefully consider the following three key factors when determining its representation proposal:

- Communities of interest
- Effective representation
- Fair representation.

### **1. Communities of interest**

Council must ensure that the election of its members provides effective representation of the community, or communities of interest, within the Wellington Region.

The term “community of interest” is not defined by statute. It is a term that can mean different things to different people, depending on an individual’s or group’s perspective. Giving proper consideration to defining local communities of interest is, however, an essential part of the representation review process and is a necessary precursor to determining effective representation.

Communities of interest may alter over time. Local authorities therefore need to give careful attention to identifying current communities of interest within their district or region when undertaking representation reviews.

In a general sense, the Local Government Commission’s view of community interest is the area to which one feels a sense of belonging and to which one looks for social, service and economic support. Geographic features and the roading network can affect the sense of belonging to an area. A community of interest can often be identified by access to the goods and services needed for ordinary everyday existence.

A community of interest usually has several defining characteristics, which may include:

- Sense of community identity and belonging
- Similarities in the demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics of the residents of a community
- Similarities in economic activities
- Dependence on shared facilities in an area, including schools, recreational and cultural facilities, and retail outlets
- Physical and topographical features
- History of the area
- Transport and communication links.

For a regional council, factors aligned to the regional council’s functions may also be relevant, for example: water catchments, public transport networks, pest management areas, and river rating districts.

## 2. Effective and fair representation

The number and boundaries of constituencies must provide effective representation of communities of interest within the Wellington Region. Constituency boundaries must coincide with the boundaries of the current statistical meshblock areas as determined by Statistics New Zealand and, so far as is practicable, constituency boundaries must coincide with the boundaries of one or more territorial authority districts or the boundaries of wards. Council is required to use the most up to date population figures when carrying out its review and these are the figures on which the fairness criteria must be based.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (the LEA) states that for representation to be considered fair the number of members is calculated by having regard to the population of every constituency within the region. The population of each constituency divided by the number of members to be elected in that constituency must not be more than 10 percent greater or smaller than the population of the region divided by the total number of elected members; this is commonly referred to as the “+/- 10 percent rule”.

However, the requirement for effective representation of communities of interest may in some cases override the population-based calculations carried out under fair representation. Under section 19V(3) of the LEA, Council may only depart from the population formula required for fair representation where it is necessary to do so to ensure the effective representation of communities of interest. A decision by Council not to comply with the population formula must be referred to the Local Government Commission (the LGC) for its determination.

Questions relating to accessibility, size, and configuration of an area should also be considered in determining effective representation, for example:

- Would the population have reasonable access to its elected member, and vice versa?
- Would elected members be able to effectively represent the views of their constituency?
- Would elected members be able to attend public meetings throughout their area, and provide reasonable opportunities for their constituents to have face-to-face meetings?

## **Representation Review Committee**

### **1 Purpose**

To consider submissions on Council's initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections and recommend to Council any amendments for its final representation proposal.

### **2 Delegations**

The Representation Review Committee (the Committee) has the powers to:

- a Consider any submission Council receives on its initial representation proposal, being any written submission and any oral presentation in support of that written submission
- b Seek clarification from officers on any technical matters
- c Make recommendations to Council on what, if any, amendments should be made to Council's initial representation proposal for inclusion in the final representation proposal. The report containing these recommendations should include reasons for any proposed amendments and for the rejection of any submissions.

### **3 Specific responsibilities**

The Committee shall ensure that:

- a The consideration and hearing process is effective and timely
- b Submitters have the best possible opportunity to present in support of their submissions
- c Members review submissions with an open mind and give due consideration to each submission
- d The decision-making process is robust and transparent
- e The summary of the consultation process adequately, fairly and demonstrably reflects the submissions made
- f The process and advice that the Committee provides to Council is consistent with the legislative requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

### **4 Members**

- 4.1 All thirteen Councillors.
- 4.2 The Committee Chair is Councillor Ponter.

### **5 Quorum**

Seven Committee members.

## **6 Meeting procedures**

- 6.1 All members have equal speaking rights and a deliberative vote.
- 6.2 Council's Standing Orders apply.
- 6.3 The Committee Chair has a deliberative vote; and, in the case of an equality of votes, does have a casting vote.
- 6.4 Members must be present for the substantive part of any hearing and deliberations to participate in the Committee's decision-making.
- 6.5 Members may not participate remotely.
- 6.6 Submitters may participate remotely to make an oral presentation in support of their written submission.
- 6.7 Meetings are open to the public, except where there are grounds to exclude the public under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

## **7 Duration of the Committee**

The Committee is discharged once Council adopts its final representation proposal.

DRAFT

**Scenarios for general constituencies**

**Assumptions**

Each scenario and related map:

- Is based on the current territorial authority areas. This includes the area of the Tawa Community of Wellington City.
- Is based on Statistics NZ’s population estimates of usually resident population on 30 June 2023
- Uses General Electoral Population figures, rather than the Total Electoral Population figures used for previous representation reviews<sup>1</sup>
- Refers to ‘General Electoral Population’ and ‘general constituency Councillors’ to distinguish clearly from previous reviews
- Includes the Wairarapa districts general constituency area, which combines the South Wairarapa District, South Wairarapa District, Carterton District, Masterton District, and that part of Tararua District that falls within the Wellington Region
- Reflects a maximum number of 13 general constituency Councillors (i.e., as the Local Electoral Act 2001 allows for a maximum number of 14 constituencies for a regional council, less the Māori constituency).

**Quick guide**

The following table provides a quick guide to the differences between the seven general constituency scenarios:

General Constituency Area	Scenario 1 (6 General Constituency Areas)	Scenario 2 (6 General Constituency Areas)	Scenario 3 (4 General Constituency Areas)	Scenario 4 (4 General Constituency Areas)	Scenario 5 (4 General Constituency Areas)	Scenario 6 (5 General Constituency Areas)	Scenario 7 (5 General Constituency Areas)
Kāpiti Coast District							
Porirua City							
Tawa Community							
Wellington City (excluding the Tawa Community)							
Lower Hutt City							
Upper Hutt City							
Wairarapa districts							

<sup>1</sup> This approach follows from the Council’s 26 October 2023 resolution to establish a single Māori constituency. General Electoral Population is the Total Electoral Population less the Māori Electoral Population.

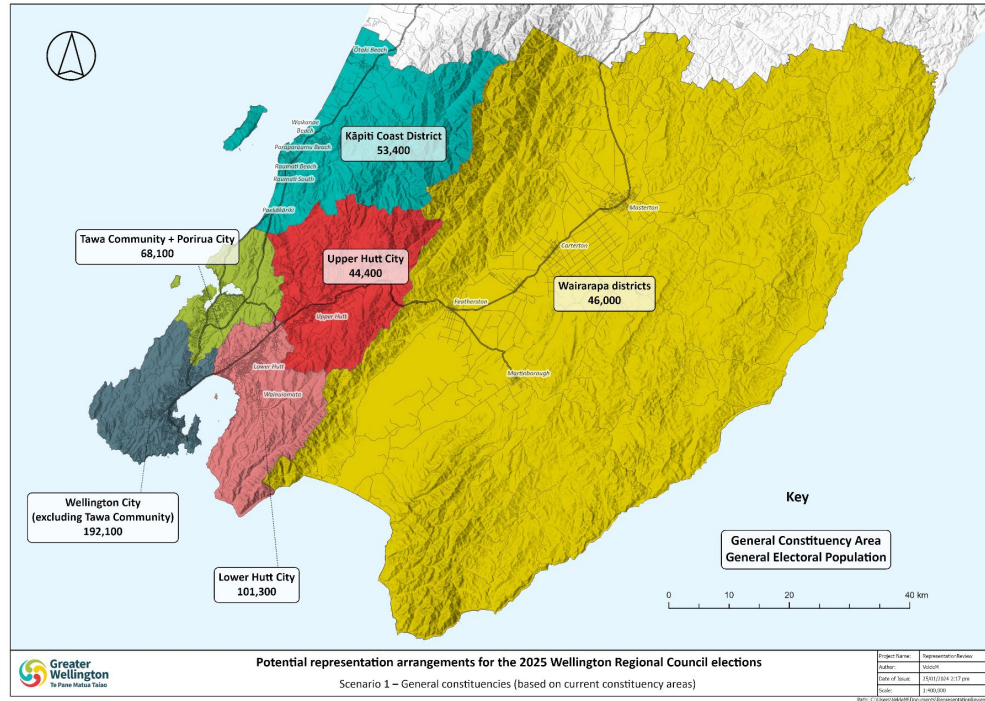
**Scenario 1 General constituencies** (based on the six current constituencies)

**A 13 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	1	53,400	+14,531	+37.4
Porirua City + Tawa Community	68,100	13.5	2	34,050	-4,819	-12.4
Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	192,100	38.0	5	38,420	-449	-1.2
Lower Hutt City	101,300	20.0	3	33,767	-5,102	-13.1
Upper Hutt City	44,400	8.8	1	44,400	+5,531	+14.2
Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>			

This option is shown in the following map:





**B Scenario 1, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Kāpiti Coast District	1	+5.7	1	+16.2	1	+26.8
Porirua City + Tawa Community	1	+34.8	2	-25.9	2	-19.1
Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	4	-5.0	4	+4.5	5	-8.8
Lower Hutt City	2	+0.2	2	+10.3	2	+20.3
Upper Hutt City	1	-12.1	1	-3.3	1	+5.4
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

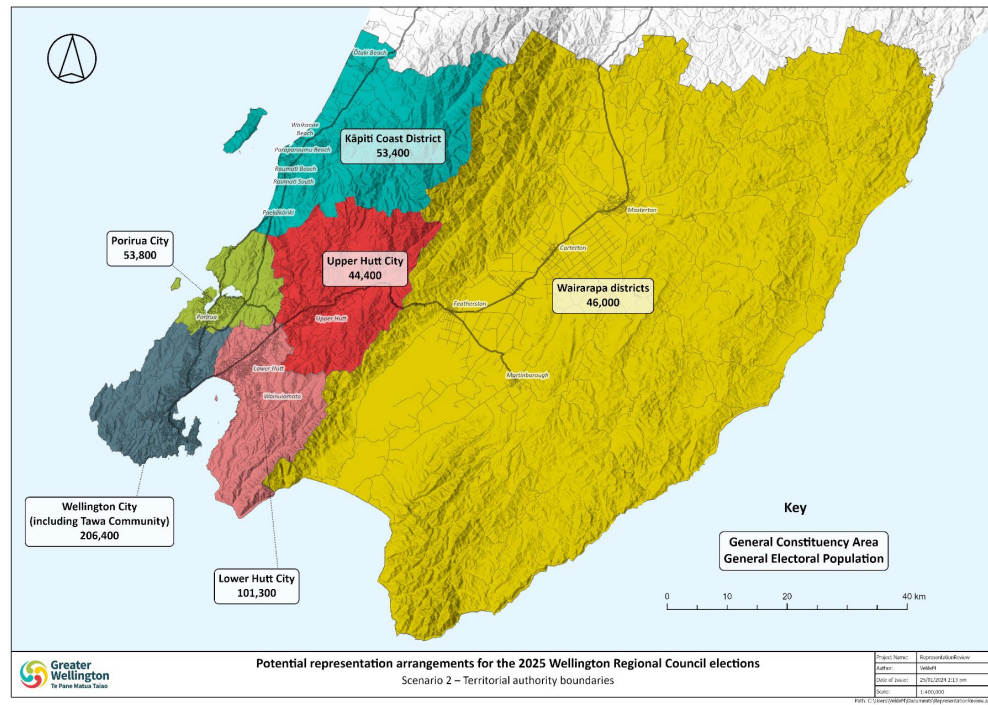
Under this scenario, the option of a Council of 11 general constituency Councillors best complies with the “+/-10 percent rule”.

**Scenario 2 Territorial authority boundaries**

**A 13 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	1	53,400	+14,531	+37.4
Porirua City	53,800	10.6	2	26,900	-11,969	-30.8
Wellington City (including Tawa Community)	206,400	40.8	5	41,280	+2,411	+6.2
Lower Hutt City	101,300	20.0	3	33,767	-5,102	-13.1
Upper Hutt City	44,400	8.8	1	44,400	+5,531	+14.2
Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>			

This option is shown in the following map:



**B Scenario 2, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Kāpiti Coast District	1	+5.7	1	+16.2	1	+26.8
Porirua City	1	+6.5	1	+17.1	1	27.8
Wellington City (including Tawa Community)	4	+2.1	5	-10.1	5	-2.0
Lower Hutt City	2	+0.2	2	+10.3	3	-19.8
Upper Hutt City	1	-12.1	1	-3.3	1	+5.4
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

Under this scenario, the option of a Council with 10 general constituency Councillors best complies with the “+/-10 percent rule”, and more closely complies than the most compliant option under Scenario 1.



**B Scenario 3, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Porirua City + Kāpiti Coast District	2	+6.1	2	+16.7	3	-15.1
Wellington City (including Tawa Community)	4	+2.1	5	-10.1	5	-2.0
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	3	-3.9	3	+5.7	3	+15.3
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

Under this scenario, the option of a Council with 10 general constituency Councillors complies fully with the “+/- 10 percent rule”.

**Scenario 4 Merged constituencies: Tawa Community + Porirua City + Kāpiti Coast District, and Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City**

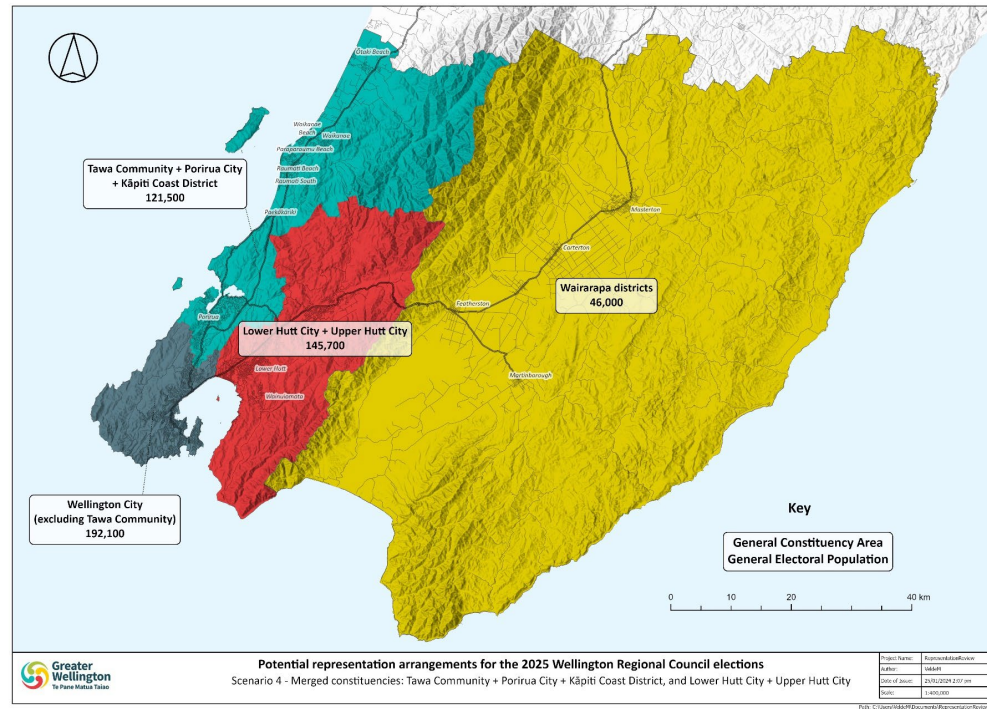
**A 13 general constituency Councillors elected**

This scenario is similar to Scenario 3, except the Tawa Community is excluded from the Wellington City general constituency area.

General Constituency Area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor
Porirua City + Tawa Community + Kāpiti Coast District	121,500	24.0	3	40,500	+1,631	+4.2
Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	192,100	38.0	5	38,420	-449	-1.2
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	145,700	28.8	4	36,425	-2,444	-6.3
Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>			

This option is shown in the following map:





**B Scenario 4, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Porirua City + Tawa Community + Kāpiti Coast District	2	+20.2	3	-11.8	3	-3.8
Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	4	-5.0	4	+4.5	5	-8.8
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	3	-3.9	3	+5.7	3	+15.3
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

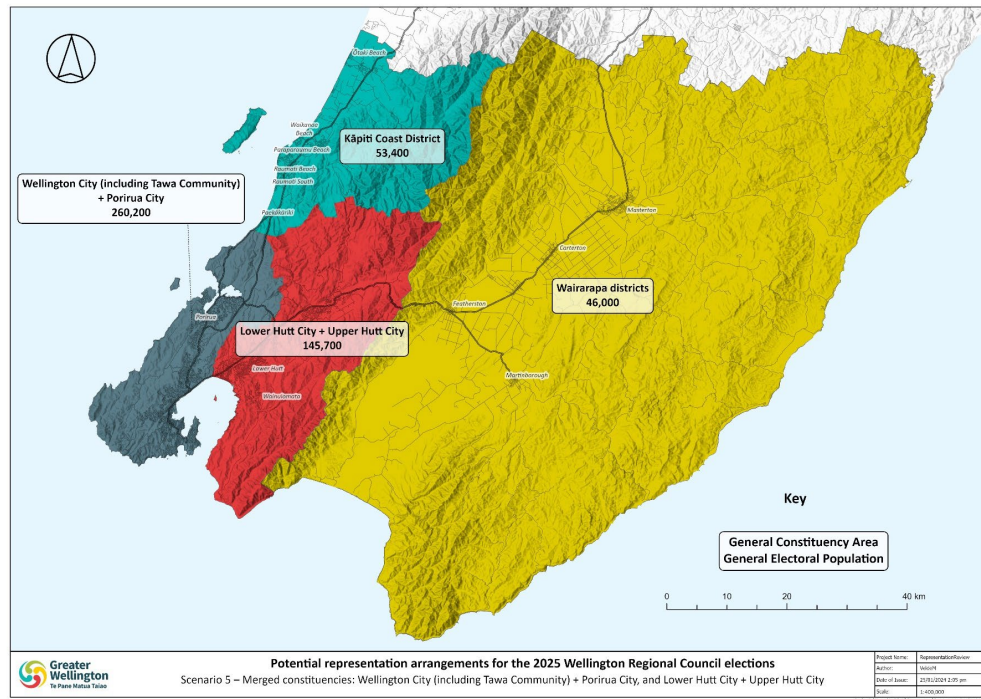
Under this scenario, the option of a Council with 11 general constituency Councillors best complies with the “+/-10 percent rule”.

**Scenario 5 Merged constituencies: Wellington City (including Tawa Community) + Porirua City, and Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City**

**A 13 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	1	53,400	+14,531	+37.4
Wellington City (including Tawa Community) + Porirua City	260,200	51.5	7	37,171	-1,698	-4.4
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	145,700	28.8	4	36,425	-2,444	-6.3
Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>			

This option is shown in the following map:



**B Scenario 5, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Kāpiti Coast District	1	+5.7	1	+16.2	1	+26.8
Wellington City (including Tawa Community) + Porirua City	5	+3.0	6	-5.6	6	+3.0
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	3	-3.9	3	+5.7	4	-13.5
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

Under this scenario, the option of a Council with 10 general constituency Councillors complies fully with the “+/- 10 percent rule”.

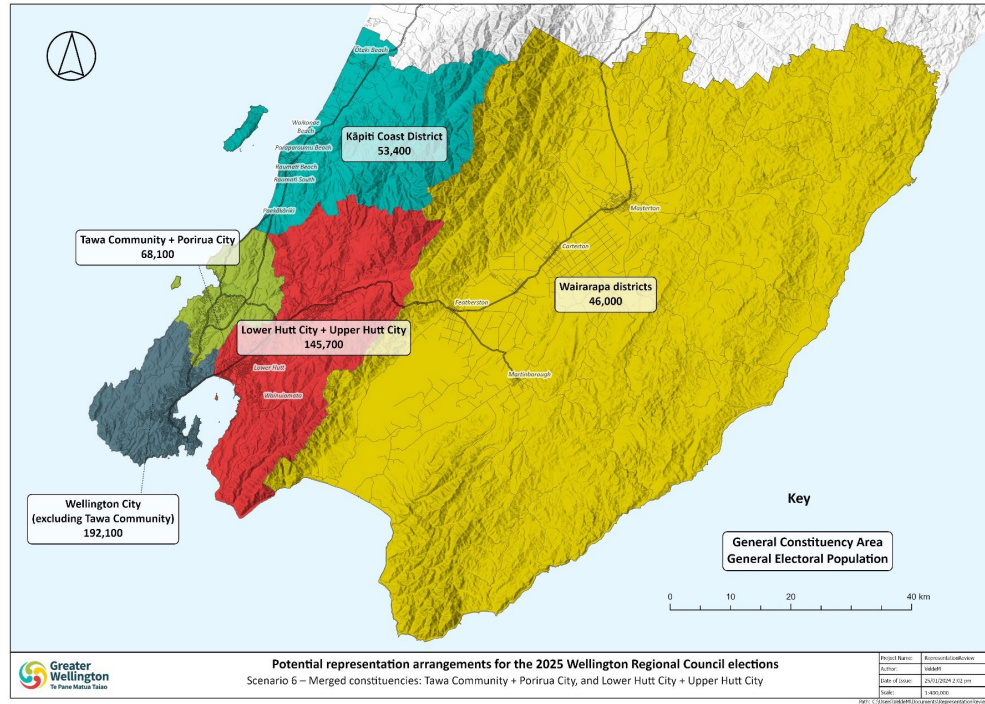
**Scenario 6 Merged constituencies: Tawa Community + Porirua City, and Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City**

**A 13 general constituency Councillors elected**

This scenario is a variation on Scenario 1 – the difference is the merging of the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas.

General Constituency Area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	1	53,400	+14,531	+37.4
Porirua City + Tawa Community	68,100	13.5	2	34,050	-4,819	-12.4
Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	192,100	38.0	5	38,420	-449	-1.2
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	145,700	28.8	4	36,425	-2,444	-6.3
Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>			

This option is shown in the following map:



**B Scenario 6, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Kāpiti Coast District	1	+5.7	1	+16.2	1	+26.8
Porirua City + Tawa Community	1	+34.8	2	-25.9	2	-19.1
Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	4	-5.0	4	+4.5	5	-8.8
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	3	-3.9	3	+5.7	3	+15.3
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

Under this scenario, the option of 11 general constituency Councillors best complies with the “+/-10 percent rule”.

**Scenario 7 Merged constituencies: Wellington City (including Tawa Community), and Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City**

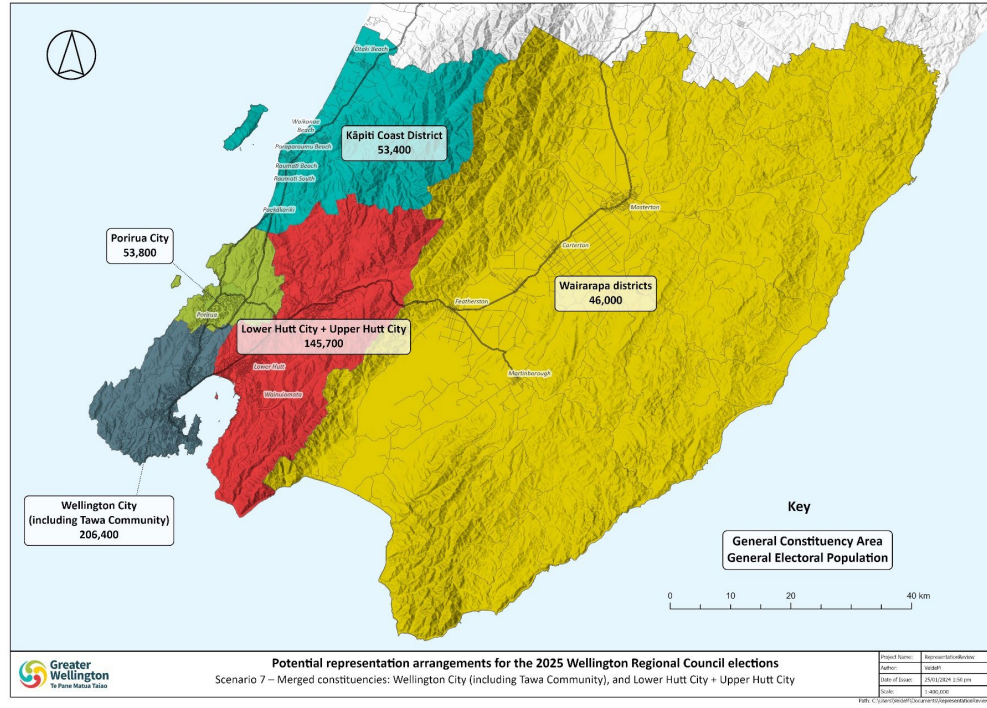
**A 13 general constituency Councillors elected**

This scenario is a variation on Scenario 2 – the difference is the merging of the Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City general constituency areas.

General Constituency Area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from the region's population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	1	53,400	+14,531	+37.4
Porirua City	53,800	10.6	2	26,900	-11,969	-30.8
Wellington City (including Tawa Community)	206,400	40.8	5	41,280	+2,411	+6.2
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	145,700	28.8	4	36,425	-2,444	-6.3
Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>			

This option is shown in the following map:





**B Scenario 7, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected**

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Kāpiti Coast District	1	+5.7	1	+16.2	1	+26.8
Porirua City	1	+6.5	1	+17.1	1	+27.8
Wellington City (including Tawa Community)	4	+2.1	5	-10.1	5	-2.0
Lower Hutt City + Upper Hutt City	3	-3.9	3	+5.7	4	-13.5
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

Under this scenario, the option of a Council with 10 general constituency Councillors complies fully with the “+/-10 percent rule”.

### Summary of process

- 1 At its 1 February 2024 workshop, Council discussed the statutory and recommended considerations, processes, and timeframes for the Representation Review 2024. This discussion included considering seven potential representation scenarios and related membership options (based on the General Electoral Population), and the approach to preliminary engagement with the community.
- 2 Greater Wellington undertook preliminary engagement with the community from 11 to 31 March 2024 using its Have Your Say online platform. This engagement was signalled on Greater Wellington’s website and supported by a series of boosts on our social media channels.
- 3 The Have Your Say platform provided a map and table showing information for Scenario 1, which proposes general constituency areas based on the current constituencies and a 13 member Council. To provide fuller context, Greater Wellington also provided the discussion paper considered at the above workshop (which outlines the background and the seven potential representation scenarios and membership options) and copies of the Local Government Commission’s 2007, 2013, and 2019 determinations of representation arrangements.
- 4 We received 282 responses, compared to 95 responses for preliminary engagement on the Representation Review 2018 (the 2018 preliminary engagement focused on constituency arrangements as a whole, rather than general constituency arrangements for Council with a Māori constituency).
- 5 One of those respondents provided a separate response, summarised in paragraph 9.
- 6 The responses to the preliminary engagement’s questions were:

Question	Response numbers and summary of responses		
Do you consider that six general constituencies (as outlined) would provide effective representation for the Wellington Region’s communities of interest?	2018 response numbers are provided as a comparison:		
		<b>2024 responses</b>	<b>2018 responses</b>
	Total	272	95
	Yes	143 (52.6%)	52 (54.7%)
	No	113 (41.5%)	38 (40.0%)
Do not know	16 (5.9%)	5 (5.3%)	
	The 2024 responses suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merge Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City into a single Hutt Valley general constituency area</li> <li>• Create one general constituency area for Wellington-Porirua</li> </ul>		

Question	Response numbers and summary of responses															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support a Porirua-Tawa general constituency area given the large set of common interests</li> <li>• Put Tawa Community with the Wellington City general constituency area and align with the territorial authority boundaries</li> <li>• Do not support Scenarios 3 to 5 – do not merge Porirua City with Kāpiti Coast District or Wellington City general constituency areas as these are each distinct communities of interest</li> <li>• Support Scenarios 3 and 4</li> <li>• Support Scenario 5</li> <li>• Add Churton Park, Johnsonville, and Newlands to the Tawa Community general constituency area as there is closer affinity than the current placement within the Wellington City general constituency area.</li> </ul>															
<p>Do you consider that the potential name and boundaries of each general constituency (as outlined) are clear and appropriate for representation purposes?</p>	<p>2018 response numbers are provided as a comparison:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2024 responses</th> <th>2018 responses</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>271</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>186 (68.6%)</td> <td>70 (73.7%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>69 (25.5%)</td> <td>17 (17.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do not know</td> <td>16 (5.9%)</td> <td>8 (8.4%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The 2024 responses included comments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust the boundary between the Porirua-Tawa and Kāpiti Coast District general constituency areas to address the under-representation for Kāpiti Coast District</li> <li>• Add Paekākāriki to the Porirua City general constituency area</li> <li>• Add a mix of Newlands, Woodridge, Grenada Village, and/or Johnsonville to the Porirua-Tawa general constituency area</li> <li>• General constituency area names:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ State in English only</li> <li>○ State the English place name first, and include the English name for those with Māori names</li> <li>○ Support bilingual names</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		2024 responses	2018 responses	Total	271	95	Yes	186 (68.6%)	70 (73.7%)	No	69 (25.5%)	17 (17.9%)	Do not know	16 (5.9%)	8 (8.4%)
	2024 responses	2018 responses														
Total	271	95														
Yes	186 (68.6%)	70 (73.7%)														
No	69 (25.5%)	17 (17.9%)														
Do not know	16 (5.9%)	8 (8.4%)														

Question	Response numbers and summary of responses															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Note the place names are dull, but informative.</li> </ul>															
<p>Do you consider that the number of Councillors to be potentially elected from each general constituency (as outlined) is appropriate to provide fair representation of the electors in those constituencies?</p>	<p>2018 response numbers are provided as a comparison:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2024 responses</th> <th>2018 responses</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>270</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>82 (30.3%)</td> <td>26 (27.1%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>170 (63.0%)</td> <td>58 (60.4%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do not know</td> <td>18 (6.7%)</td> <td>12 (12.5%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The 2024 responses include the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have two councillors, or at least two councillors, for the Wairarapa general constituency area</li> <li>• Have two councillors, or at least two councillors, for the Kāpiti Coast District general constituency area</li> <li>• Have two councillors for the Upper Hutt City general constituency area</li> <li>• Create a Wellington-Tawa general constituency area with six councillors</li> <li>• Less councillors, including reduce the numbers to 10 councillors</li> <li>• Less councillors for the Wellington City general constituency area – either four or two</li> <li>• Retain five councillors for the Wellington City general constituency area</li> <li>• Retain 13 councillors</li> <li>• Create a merged Hutt Valley general constituency area, with less (three) or more (five) councillors.</li> </ul>		2024 responses	2018 responses	Total	270	95	Yes	82 (30.3%)	26 (27.1%)	No	170 (63.0%)	58 (60.4%)	Do not know	18 (6.7%)	12 (12.5%)
	2024 responses	2018 responses														
Total	270	95														
Yes	82 (30.3%)	26 (27.1%)														
No	170 (63.0%)	58 (60.4%)														
Do not know	18 (6.7%)	12 (12.5%)														
<p>Do you have any suggestions for change to Greater Wellington's representation arrangements?</p>	<p>129 responses</p> <p>A number of respondents suggested representation arrangements that are not provided for by the Local Electoral Act 2001. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 14 councillors – currently there are too few councillors for the large population and area, and 19 councillors</li> <li>• Three general constituency areas of four to five members each – move the boundaries to even out the population</li> <li>• One councillor for each general constituency area or territorial authority</li> </ul>															

Question	Response numbers and summary of responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One councillor for each general constituency area with the rest elected as district-wide members</li> <li>• A minimum of two councillors for each general constituency area, then more based on the number of households or one more for Wellington City</li> <li>• Divide Wellington City and Lower Hutt City general constituency areas into two to three sub-entities that better represent a community of interest</li> <li>• Create a separate regional council for Kāpiti</li> <li>• Wairarapa:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three councillors, one for each territorial authority area</li> <li>○ Split in two along whitua lines, or one councillor for Masterton and the other for south of Masterton</li> <li>○ Two councillors, plus a rural member</li> <li>○ Create a separate regional council</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Set representation arrangements by considering:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Projected population growth</li> <li>○ Land area</li> <li>○ Fair representation for horticulture, wine growing, and farming</li> <li>○ Water coverage and sea frontage</li> <li>○ Density and ease of access to Council and governance meetings</li> <li>○ Residence only – remove property ownership as a mechanism</li> <li>○ Balance socio-economic representation (more councillors for less advantaged)</li> <li>○ More representation for areas with more investment in assets (e.g. parks and flood protection)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Create a super city / one council for the whole region (no territorial authorities).</li> </ul>
<p>In which city or district of the Wellington Region do you live and/or own property?</p>	<p>294 responses<sup>1</sup>:</p> <p>Carterton District – 18 (6.1%)</p> <p>Kāpiti Coast District – 45 (15.3%)</p> <p>Lower Hutt City – 37 (12.6%)</p> <p>Masterton District – 29 (9.9%)</p>

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could select multiple cities or districts.

Question	Response numbers and summary of responses
	Porirua City – 22 (7.5%) South Wairarapa District – 35 (11.9%) Upper Hutt City – 23 (7.8%) Wellington City – 82 (27.9%) That part of Tararua District within the Wellington Region – 1 (0.3%) None (I am an organisation, or live outside the Wellington Region) – 2 (0.7%).

- 7 We also received responses in support of, and against, the establishment of a Māori constituency and on Māori representation, and on use of the Single Transferable Voting electoral system. These responses are not included here as these matters are outside the scope of the preliminary engagement.
- 8 A large number of respondents (85) asked to be advised when Council’s initial representation proposal is publicly notified.

#### Separate response

- 9 This response supports Scenario 5 with the option of a 13 member Council as the respondent considers that:
- Both the Kāpiti Coast District and Wairarapa district general constituency areas form a distinct community of interest. Whilst these general constituencies do not comply with the “+/- 10 percent rule”, such departures could be justified.
  - A merged Hutt Valley general constituency area with four councillors has both functional and political dimensions of a community of interest and enhances the potential to achieve effective representation.
  - A merged Wellington City (including Tawa Community) and Porirua City general constituency area has a functional community of interest and enhances the potential to achieve effective representation.

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.434**



**For Decision**

## **ADOPTION OF THE POLICY ON DANGEROUS DAMS 2024**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To present Council with the Policy on Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-prone Dams, and Flood-prone Dams 2024 for adoption.

### **He tūtohu**

#### **Recommendations**

That Council:

- 1 **Adopts** the Policy on Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-prone Dams, and Flood-prone Dams 2024 ([Attachment 1](#)).
- 2 **Delegates** to the Chief Executive the ability to make any minor editorial changes to the Policy prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.

#### **Consideration by Committee**

2. A draft of the Policy was discussed at the Council workshop on 14 May and Council approved the proposed policy for consultation on 30 May 2024 (Report 24.242).
3. Environment Committee deliberated submissions received on the proposed Policy at their meeting on 8 August 2024 (Report 24.385).

### **Te tāhū kōrero/Te horopaki**

#### **Background/Context**

4. Section 161 of the Building Act 2004 requires a regional authority<sup>1</sup> to adopt a policy on Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-Prone Dams and Flood-Prone Dams within its region. Section 162 of the Building Act 2004 stipulates that the policy must be adopted in accordance with the special consultative procedure in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.
5. Council first adopted a Dangerous Dams Policy in 2006, which was updated in 2011. After many years of deferral, the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 (“the regulations”) came into force on 13 May 2024. Regional authorities worked closely over the past year to develop a draft policy template with the aim of having policies closely aligned across the regions. Officers used this template, and updated it with changes made by other regional authorities through their consultation processes.

<sup>1</sup> The Building Act 2004 defines regional authority as “a regional council or a unitary authority”.



6. Greater Wellington publicly consulted on the proposed Policy between 4 June and 7 July 2024. Only one submission was received, and officers worked with the submitter to “*more clearly identify what actions apply to dangerous dams and what actions apply to prone dams*”. Other amendments were also recommended by officers to reduce liability to Council, based on comments from an internal dam specialist and legal review.
7. On 8 August 2024 the Environment Committee deliberated on the recommended changes to the Policy. The Committee agreed to the changes advised by officers, and sought an amendment to paragraph 13 of the Policy to state that Greater Wellington will directly contact potentially affected landowners downstream of a dangerous, earthquake-prone, or flood-prone dam. This addition has been made to paragraph 13 of the Policy.
8. **Attachment 1** is the version of the Policy on Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-prone Dams, and Flood-prone Dams 2024 for adoption by Council.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni**

#### **Financial implications**

9. There are no financial implications arising from adopting the Policy.
10. The Building Act 2004 allows regional authorities to impose fees or charges for performing functions under the Act. These charges are laid out in the Greater Wellington Resource Management Charging Policy (2024-2029). Dam owners will be invoiced for actual and reasonable time to process the documents they are required to submit under the new regulations, in following up non-compliance with the regulations, and for costs in the event of an emergency response. This cost-recovery will go some way toward addressing the costs Council incurs by establishing undertaking this new regulatory function.

### **Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori**

#### **Implications for Māori**

11. There are no new or additional impacts to Māori arising following the consultation and hearing process.

### **Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi**

#### **Consideration of climate change**

12. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington’s Climate Change Consideration Guide 2020.
13. The adoption of the Policy neither contributes to nor is at odds with Council’s and Greater Wellington’s policies and commitments relating to climate change.

### **Ngā tikanga whakatau**

#### **Decision-making process**

14. The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the LGA. Greater Wellington has consulted the public using the Special Consultative Procedure, as set out in section 83 of the LGA. The adoption of the Policy represents the final step in that process.

**Te hiranga**

**Significance**

15. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of these matters, taking into account Council’s *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington’s *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have medium significance. This is because the matters are updating an existing Policy within current principles outlined in that Policy, the Policy impacts a small number of dam owners, but an unsafe dam could potentially impact a large number of landowners and significant infrastructure, and Council is required to establish a new regulatory programme.

**Te whakatūtakitaki**

**Engagement**

16. The policy consultation was advertised via public notices in The Post and the Wairarapa Times Age, and social media channels. Letters were sent to known dam owners in the Region, and 33 stakeholder organisations, to inform them of the policy consultation. Interest was low given the numbers of persons notified and only one submission received.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

17. Following the adoption of the Policy, it will be uploaded to the Greater Wellington website. Processes and systems will be established to reflect the updated Policy.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Policy on Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-prone Dams, and Flood-prone Dams 2024

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writers	Jo Frances – Lead Consenting Advisor, Environmental Regulation
Approvers	Shaun Andrewartha – Manager Environmental Regulation Fathima Iftikar – Director, Strategy Policy Regulation Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao, Group Manager Environment

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> Council is accountable for the development and review of policies under the Resource Management Act 1991, and consultation with the regional community under the LGA.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> There are no implications from adopting the Policy for Council's/Greater Wellington's strategies, policies and plans.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> Feedback was sought on the proposed Policy (prior to consultation) from the Delivery function of the Environment Group, Te Hunga Whiriwhiri, the Climate Change Team, Customer Engagement, Democratic Services, Finance, and WREMO. An internal dam expert, and Legal reviewed and commented on the recommended changes to the Policy following consultation.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> There are no identified risks relating to the content or recommendations of this report.



# **Policy on Dangerous Dams Earthquake-prone Dams and Flood-prone Dams (2024)**

under Section 161 of the Building Act 2004

Adopted by Council on [date]

**Attachment 1 to Report 24.434**

**A policy to provide for the identification and management of dams of concern in the Wellington Region, and the measures Greater Wellington will take (along with the dam owner) to reduce or remove the danger.**

<b>Policy owner</b>	Wellington Regional Council
<b>Date policy comes into effect</b>	Date adopted by Council
<b>Related policies, legislation, and documents</b>	Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-prone Dams, and Flood-prone Dams Policy 2011 Resource Management Charging Policy 2024-2027 Building Act 2004 Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022
<b>Policy review date</b>	By August 2029
<b>Policy history</b>	The first Dangerous Dams policy was adopted in 2006. It was updated in 2011 to become the Policy on Dangerous dams, Earthquake-prone Dams, and Flood-prone dams. The Building Act requires the policy to be reviewed every 5 years.

**Date of the Council’s adoption: 27 August 2024**

## Introduction

1. This document sets out the policy on dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams adopted by Wellington Regional Council ("the Council") in accordance with [sections 161](#) and [section 162](#) of the Building Act 2004.
2. The policy states the approach and priorities the Council will take in performing its functions in relation to dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams in the Wellington region, and how the policy will apply to heritage dams.
3. The dangerous dam provisions of the Building Act will be used by the Council as a mechanism to remedy an unsatisfactory situation that has developed in relation to classifiable dams in the Wellington region, rather than a means of responding to "emergencies" that arise in the future.
4. The Council is committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations when undertaking its functions in relation to dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams.
5. This policy applies to dams defined in [section 7](#) of the Building Act 2004 ("the Act"). The dam safety provisions in [Subpart 7 of Part 2](#) of the Building Act, apply to:
  - A. **Classifiable dams** (defined in [regulation 5](#) of the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 ("the Regulations"))<sup>1</sup>
  - B. **Referable dams** as defined in the Regulations<sup>2</sup>
  - C. All dams but only for the purposes of [section 133B](#)<sup>3</sup> (height measurement of dams) and [sections 157](#) and [section 158](#) (measures by a regional authority to avoid immediate danger).

## Application of this policy

6. This policy applies to dams everywhere in the Wellington region, and irrespective of the age and intended life of the dam. Some parts of this policy may apply to all dams. Where required by the Act, this policy applies to all classifiable dams, which also includes "large dams" as defined in [Section 7](#) of the Act.
7. The terms 'dangerous dam', 'earthquake-prone dam' and 'flood-prone dam' have the same meaning as provided in [section 153](#), [section 153A](#) and [section 153AA](#) of the Act.<sup>4</sup> This policy must be read alongside the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 ("the Regulations") which defines terms used in the Act in relation to "dangerous dams", "earthquake-prone dams" and "flood-prone dams".<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> At the time of adopting this policy (August 2024), the Regulations define a classifiable dam as being "**4 or more metres high and storing 20,000 or more cubic metres volume of water or other fluid.**" Regulations are subject to change, which will impact the application of this policy. It is worth checking the regulations before following this policy to determine the definition at that point in time.

<sup>2</sup> The Regulations currently do not define a referable dam (as of May 2024).

<sup>3</sup> When measuring the height of the dam under this section, the crest of the dam includes any freeboard – refer to section 133B of the Act for the definition.

<sup>4</sup> This includes buildings in areas designated under subpart 6B as set out in section 153AA of the Act.

<sup>5</sup> Section 19 of the Regulations defines moderate earthquake, moderate flood, earthquake threshold event and flood threshold event.

8. The Regulations and the Act can be accessed at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)<sup>6</sup>.
9. The Regulations come into force on 13 May 2024. This policy will commence as soon as it is adopted by Council after following the special consultative procedure in [section 83](#) of the Local Government Act 2002.
10. This policy will be reviewed every five years or earlier as required. The policy remains in effect even though it is due for review or being reviewed.

## Principles

11. The Council will apply the following principles to the exercise of its dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams functions under the Building Act:
  - A. Dam owners have the primary responsibility for identifying, monitoring and reporting on dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams and for reducing or removing the risk of harm to people, property and the environment in a timely and effective manner.
  - B. A recognised engineer who is engaged (by the owner) to provide a certificate for the purposes of [sections 135\(1\)\(b\)](#), [142\(1\)\(b\)](#), or [150\(2\)\(f\)](#) will notify Council and the dam owner if they believe that the dam is dangerous.
  - C. The state of all dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams (as defined in the Act and the Regulations) must be known (noting that other dam safety provisions in the Act apply to all dams) and this information, if known to the Council, will be made readily available by the Council to all persons potentially affected by the safety risks of a dangerous dam, earthquake-prone dam or flood-prone dam.

## Council's approach to performing these functions

### Information on dam status

12. The Council will keep a register of all dams as required by [section 151](#) of the Act, recording the dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone status of each classifiable dam. The Council will develop a monitoring procedure to maintain the register.
13. The Council will notify potentially affected communities downstream of a dangerous dam, earthquake-prone dam or flood-prone dam. The Council will do this by publishing information about any dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dams in its region, and directly contacting potentially affected landowners. The Council will notify operators of critical infrastructure or lifeline utilities downstream, the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO), the relevant territorial authority and mana whenua entities.

<sup>6</sup> The Regulations: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0133/latest/whole.html> and The Act: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2004/0072/latest/whole.html>

### Working with dam owners

14. The Regulations require owners of all classifiable dams to know whether their dam is dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone. They also require these owners to take the necessary steps, in a timely manner, to comply with the Act and the Regulations. The Act requires dam owners to immediately notify the Council if they have reasonable grounds for believing their dam is dangerous. This applies to dams that are either a high potential impact dam or a medium potential impact dam and are likely to fail in the ordinary course of events, or a “moderate earthquake” or “moderate flood” (as defined in the Regulations).
15. The Act also requires a recognised engineer (engaged by the owner) to provide documentation for the purposes of [section 135\(1\)\(b\)](#), [section 142\(1\)\(b\)](#), or [section 150\(2\)\(f\)](#), and to notify Council and the owner of the dam if they believe that the dam is dangerous.
16. The Council will work with the owners of identified dangerous dams, and may work with the owners of identified earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams, to assist them to develop an action plan (with timeframes) with the goals of increasing the safety of the dam and eliminating or reducing the risks of the dam to people, property and the environment. It is not realistic to specify a timeframe in this policy for achieving this goal because timeframes will be dictated by the circumstances of each case. When setting a timeframe for action, the Council will consider the state of the dam, and the likelihood and consequences of dam failure.

### Directing and taking action

17. The Council may intervene:
  - A. For dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams
    - i. if the owner of any dam is not acting in accordance with an agreed action plan, or
    - ii. where there is no agreed action plan, or
    - iii. where it considers that the agreed action plan requires review or amendment, or
    - iv. where ownership is not known or is disputed; or
  - B. for all dams, where there is or is likely to be a risk of immediate danger.
18. Before exercising any of its powers under [sections 154 to 159](#) of the Building Act, unless the circumstances dictate otherwise (such as where there is immediate danger to the safety of persons, property, or the environment), the owner of a dangerous dam, earthquake-prone dam or flood-prone dam is expected to provide Council with an action plan which reduces or removes the danger(s). It is the dam owner’s responsibility to prove that the actions taken are commensurate with the danger(s) to people, property or the environment. The action plan is to be discussed with Council, and Council is to be satisfied that the dam owner is taking responsibility for the dam. Council may have the action plan independently peer reviewed by a suitably qualified person, and any recommendations deemed appropriate by Council are to be adopted into the action plan.



19. Acceptable actions by the dam owner may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:
  - A. Operational changes such as reducing the volume of impounded fluid or completely emptying the reservoir.
  - B. Reconfiguring an existing spillway or creating a new or supplementary spillway to limit the maximum impounded volume and/or to safely route flood flows.
  - C. Increased surveillance and monitoring.
  - D. Development of emergency preparedness and response plans.
  - E. Review of the dam safety assurance programme.
  - F. Engage a dam specialist to investigate and make recommendations, with any report provided to the Council.
  - G. Implementing measures to enable controlled, rapid emptying of the impounded fluid.
  - H. Undertaking measures downstream to mitigate the impact of dam failure.
  - I. Physical works including reconstruction or partial demolition of the dam.
  - J. Decommissioning and/or removal of the dam.
20. The whole or part of an action plan submitted by the dam owner may be formalised in a Notice to Fix issued under [section 164](#) of the Act. If agreement cannot be reached between the Council and the dam owner, the Council may exercise any of its statutory powers in sections [154 to section 159](#) and [section 164](#) of the Act.
21. For the purposes of [section 164](#) of the Act, the term ‘dam warrant of fitness’ in section 164(1)(b) is taken to mean ‘annual dam compliance certificate’ as set out in the [section 26](#) of the Regulations.
22. The Council may at any time require the dam owner to review the dam safety assurance programme if the dam is an earthquake-prone dam or flood-prone dam.
23. In a situation where a dam is a dangerous dam, or immediate danger is present, the Council may (amongst other actions):
  - A. Erect a hoarding or fence to prevent people from approaching the dam nearer than is safe.
  - B. Attach a notice on or near the dam (or affected downstream areas) that warns people not to approach.
  - C. Give written notice to the owner requiring work to be carried out on the dam, and within the time stated in the notice to remove or reduce the danger.
24. In a situation where the Chief Executive of the Council considers that, because of the state of the dam, immediate danger to the safety of persons, property, or the environment is likely, then the Chief Executive of the Council may:
  - A. Cause any action to be taken to that is necessary to remove that danger, and
  - B. Recover the costs of taking any action from the dam owner.

## Council's priorities in performing these functions

26. The Council's approach to dangerous dams is tailored toward achieving a reduction in the pre-existing risk whilst still being able to deal with emerging risks.
27. In performing its functions under the Building Act and Regulations, Council will prioritise removing or reducing danger informed by risk understanding (likelihood and consequence), to first ensure public safety, and then have regard to damage or loss of property, environment and economic welfare, followed by any heritage matters that might be present. Generally, Council will prioritise the following actions with consideration given commensurate to the nature of the risk(s):
  - A. responding to a situation where immediate danger is present
  - B. reducing the risks posed by dangerous dams
  - C. reducing the risks posed by earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams
  - D. working with dam owners, or intervening where necessary, where a dam does not have a compliant dam safety assurance programme.

## Application to heritage dams

28. Heritage dams as defined in [section 7](#) of the Act means a dam that is included on:
  - A. the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero maintained under [section 65](#) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014; or
  - B. the National Historic Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu list maintained under [section 81](#) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
29. [Section 4\(2\)\(l\)](#) of the Building Act recognises “the need to facilitate the preservation of buildings of significant cultural, historical, or heritage value”.
30. The Council recognises the need to retain heritage values of the dam itself, but also the need to reduce or remove any risk posed by a heritage dam which has been classified as dangerous, flood-prone or earthquake-prone. When considering heritage dams under this policy, account will be taken of the need to facilitate the preservation of parts of the dams with significant heritage value.
31. When dealing with heritage dangerous dams, the Council will seek advice from the Heritage New Zealand/Pouhere Taonga before any actions are undertaken by the Council under [sections 153 to section 160](#) of the Act.
32. The Council may also engage suitably qualified professionals with engineering expertise and heritage expertise to advise and recommend actions. When considering any recommendations, the Council will have regard to the priorities set out in clause 27 of this policy. Copies of all served notices for heritage dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams will be provided to Heritage New Zealand/Pouhere Taonga.
33. The Council will record the heritage listing of all dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams it is made aware of in its register of dams and a record of that will also be made available on the relevant property file for inclusion on any relevant Land Information Memorandum.

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.409**



**For Information**

## **WETLANDS POLICY - UPDATE TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**

### **Purpose**

1. To inform Council of a required change to Policy P110(a) of the Natural Resources Plan (NRP) regarding activities to carry out specific purposes in natural wetlands.

**Te tāhū kōrero**

### **Background**

#### ***December 2022 amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020***

2. The December 2022 amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) were part of the update to the Essential Freshwater package intended to loosen protections around natural inland wetlands and resolve some issues with implementation. These changes were accompanied by regulatory amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F) for the relevant activities.
3. On 5 January 2023 the amendments to the NPS-FM came into effect, including amendments to clause 3.22 which included the following:
  - a Clarified the definition for natural inland wetlands
  - b New consent pathways for activities with potential effects on wetlands for the following purposes: certain urban development, landfills and cleanfills, quarrying, and mineral extraction
  - c Provided clearer pathways for restoration and wetland maintenance activities
  - d New Appendices 6 (Principles for Aquatic Offsetting) and 7 (Principles for Aquatic Compensation).
4. Essentially, the amendments enabled a 'pathway' for activities for certain purposes. However, those activities are only allowed if resource consent applicants can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the regional council how the effects management hierarchy will be applied. The requirement to apply the effects management hierarchy is intended to ensure that the new consenting pathways give effect to Policy 6 of the NPS-FM, which states that, "There is no further loss of natural inland wetlands, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted."

5. The effects management hierarchy is an approach to managing the adverse effects of an activity on the extent or values of a wetland or river (including cumulative effects and loss of potential value). It requires that all ‘practical’ steps are taken to, in turn, avoid, then minimise, then remedy, then offset and finally compensate for effects. Where that cannot be done then an activity must be ‘avoided’ (i.e., not allowed). These are stringent requirements and are intended to ensure that there is no net loss, and preferably a net gain of wetland extent and values. Where offsetting or compensation are not appropriate (as set out in the new Appendices 6 and 7), the activity must be avoided.

***Giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management: Plan Change 1***

6. Part 4 of the NPS-FM requires that local authorities must give effect to the NPS-FM “as soon as reasonably practicable”. This phrasing is intended to allow local authorities some flexibility and discretion in timing plan updates to ensure that plans remain workable and clear, and to account for other work or changes required to update the plan.
7. Plan Change 1 to the NRP has now been notified; this plan change focussed on implementing decisions made in two Whaitua processes and gives partial effect to the NPS-FM. Officers have analysed the existing wetland provisions in the NRP to determine what changes are required to give full effect to clause 3.22 of the NPS-FM.
8. Officers have determined that the minimum required changes to the NRP are as follows:
  - a Additional activities for specific purposes added to Policy P110(a), “Loss of extent and values of the beds of lakes and rivers, and natural wetlands” (see NPS-FM Clause 3.22(1)(c)-(f))
  - b Additional exemptions added to the NRP definition of “natural wetland”
9. Amendments to the NRP as per (a) above can be made without a Schedule 1 process under the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA). Greater Wellington is required to make this change; therefore, this change will be carried out on or before 27 August 2024.
10. Any other changes to the wetland provisions of the NRP must be made under the Freshwater Planning Process (FPP) and are therefore more appropriately included in a future plan change.

**Te tātaritanga  
Analysis**

***Updating the Natural Resources Plan to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management amendments***

11. In line with direction in the RMA, Greater Wellington remains committed to the protection and restoration of wetlands in our region. Greater Wellington is legally required to include the policy in NPS-FM clause 3.22(1), or words to the same effect, in the regional plan.

12. Consenting officers continue to receive applications seeking to carry out activities which affect wetlands, including for purposes listed in the NPS-FM which are not yet included in the NRP. Recently, Greater Wellington has received correspondence from at least one applicant enquiring when we intend to include the policy in clause 3.22(1) of the NPS-FM in the NRP. Updating the NRP provides greater clarity to plan users seeking resource consent and can be done efficiently.
13. The stringency of existing NRP rules managing activities in wetlands, and the requirement to apply the effects management hierarchy to consents for activities for purposes listed in policy P110(a) ensures that the current plan provisions provide robust protection for wetlands, in line with national direction. Other policies of the NRP<sup>1</sup> (including Policies P31, P37, P38, and P48), as well as regulations in the NES-F also require that an assessment of the effects management hierarchy is applied to consents. Consents cannot be granted without appropriate adherence to the effects management hierarchy.

#### ***Implications of the change***

14. The new consent pathways enable activities for additional purposes as per paragraph 4(b) above. Enabling these purposes could have positive implications; for example, the consent pathway allows urban development under certain circumstances, which may lead to increased availability of housing in the region.
15. Enabling these consent pathways may also mean fewer applicants relying on the fast-track consenting process, which allows consenting officers greater discretion and oversight in determining the conditions under which a consent may be granted. The requirement to demonstrate how each step of the effects management hierarchy has been applied to a consent application means that consenting officers can ensure that activities are carried out in alignment with Greater Wellington's NRP.
16. This change also provides clarity to plan users, both regarding which exemptions apply to activities in wetlands, but also that the effects management hierarchy needs to be applied to consents for all such activities. This provides balance between protecting wetlands, and allowing some beneficial activities or developments to proceed if the effects are appropriately managed.

#### **Ngā hua ahumoni**

##### **Financial implications**

17. There are minimal financial implications from this report associated with the cost of public notice, necessary communications, and re-printing and replacement of paper copies of the plan available to the public. These are covered by current budgets.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2023/07/Natural-Resource-Plan-Operative-Version-2023-incl-maps-compressed.pdf>

## **Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori**

18. Repo (wetlands) are regarded by Māori as taonga, with enormous historical, cultural, economic, and spiritual significance.
19. All resource consents, including those with activities that may have impacts on wetlands, are circulated to mana whenua. This provides an opportunity for mana whenua to raise any areas of concern including potential cultural effects with the reporting officer.
20. Schedule C of the NRP sets out sites with significant mana whenua values, some of which are wetlands. These sites are protected under the NRP. Policies in the plan<sup>2</sup> (including P19, P21, P47, P48, and P49) also mandate engagement with our mana whenua partners when an activity that requires consent is located within a Schedule C site, ensuring that mana whenua have input into the decision-making process.

## **Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change**

21. One of the reasons protection and restoration of wetlands is a high priority for Greater Wellington is because wetlands are an important part of mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. Wetlands can sequester carbon, mitigate flooding and drought through water storage and release, and provide habitat for threatened species.
22. Any activity which encourages the restoration, improvement, or protection of wetlands can be considered beneficial for our climate change objectives.

## **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps**

23. The first step is to publicly notify the change to the NRP as per the drafting amendments in [Attachment 1: Updates to Natural Resources Plan Policy P110](#). This will be done on or before August 27, 2024.
24. Further required updates to the NRP, such as the change to the definition signalled in paragraph 9(b) above will be included as part of the scope of a future plan change.
25. Officers are also mindful of the Government's signalled upcoming changes to the NPS-FM, which may include changes to the wetland provisions. Should it prove necessary to update the NRP to include these changes, we will be able to do so in the future variation or plan change.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2023/07/Natural-Resource-Plan-Operative-Version-2023-incl-maps-compressed.pdf>

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Updates to NRP Policy 110

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writer/s	Chloë Nannestad - Kaitohutohu Kaupapa Here Taiao   Environmental Policy Advisor
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<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> Matters in this report address the management and regulation of wetlands; the regulatory framework for this sits in the Natural Resources Plan and Regional Policy Statement and Council has retained the responsibility for these.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> Protection and enhancement of the natural environment is a key role for Greater Wellington with the regulatory framework being set out in the Natural Resources Plan and Regional Policy Statement and funded through the Long-Term Plan.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> The Strategy, Policy and Regulation and the Legal and Procurement functions were consulted.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> There are minimal risks associated with this change as it is required by national direction.



Attachment 1 to Report 24.409

<p><b>NPS-FM Clause 3.22: <i>Natural inland wetlands</i></b></p> <p>(relevant clauses for update in <b>blue</b>)</p>	<p><b>Natural Resources Plan - Policy P110(a): <i>Loss of extent and values of the beds of lakes and rivers, and natural wetlands.</i></b></p> <p>(new drafting shown in <u>underline</u>)</p> <p>Defined words are <b>bolded</b>.</p>
<p>(1) Every regional council must include the following policy (or words to the same effect) in its regional plan: “The loss of extent of natural inland wetlands is avoided, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted, except where:</p> <p>(a) the loss of extent or values arises from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the customary harvest of food or resources undertaken in accordance with tikanga Māori</li> <li>(ii) wetland <b>maintenance, restoration, or biosecurity</b> (as defined in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management)</li> <li>(iii) scientific research</li> <li>(iv) the sustainable harvest of sphagnum moss</li> <li>(v) the construction or maintenance of wetland utility structures (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020)</li> <li>(vi) the maintenance or operation of specified infrastructure, or other infrastructure (as defined in</li> </ul>	<p>The loss of extent and values of the beds of lakes and rivers and <b>natural wetlands</b>, including as a result of <b>reclamation</b> and drainage, is avoided, except where:</p> <p>(a) in a <b>natural inland wetland</b>:</p> <p>(i) the loss of extent or values arises from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the customary harvest of food or resources undertaken in accordance with <b>tikanga</b> Māori, or</li> <li><del>2. restoration activities, or</del></li> <li>3. <u>wetland maintenance, restoration, or biosecurity (as defined in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management), or</u></li> <li>4. <del>3.</del> scientific research, or</li> <li>5. the sustainable harvest of sphagnum moss, or</li> <li>6. the construction or maintenance of <b>wetland utility structures</b>, or</li> </ul>

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<p>the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020</p> <p>(vii) natural hazard works (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020); or</p> <p>(b) the regional council is satisfied that:</p> <p>(i) the activity is necessary for the purpose of the construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure; and</p> <p>(ii) the specified infrastructure will provide significant national or regional benefits; and</p> <p>(iii) there is a functional need for the specified infrastructure in that location; and</p> <p>(iv) the effects of the activity are managed through applying the effects management hierarchy; or</p> <p><b>(c) the regional council is satisfied that:</b></p> <p><b>(i) the activity is necessary for the purpose of urban development that contributes to a well-functioning urban environment (as defined in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development); and</b></p> <p><b>(ii) the urban development will provide significant national, regional or district benefits; and</b></p> <p><b>(iii) the activity occurs on land identified for urban development in operative provisions of a regional or district plan; and</b></p>	<p>7. the maintenance or operation of <b>specified infrastructure</b>, or <b>other infrastructure</b>, or</p> <p>8. <b>natural hazard works</b>, and</p> <p>9. where the activity involves <b>reclamation</b> or drainage there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity, or</p> <p>(ii) for <b>specified infrastructure</b>:</p> <p>1. the activity, including any <b>reclamation</b> and drainage, is necessary for the construction or <b>upgrade</b> of <b>specified infrastructure</b>, and</p> <p>2. the <b>specified infrastructure</b> will provide significant national or regional benefits, and</p> <p>3. there is a <b>functional need</b> for the <b>specified infrastructure</b> in that location; or</p> <p>(iii) <u>for urban development</u>:</p> <p>1. <u>the activity is necessary for the purpose of urban development that contributes to a well-functioning urban environment (as defined in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2022), and</u></p> <p>2. <u>the urban development will provide significant national, regional, or district benefits, and</u></p>
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<p>(iv) the activity does not occur on land that is zoned in a district plan as general rural, rural production, or rural lifestyle; and</p> <p>(v) there is either no practicable alternative location for the activity within the area of the development, or every other practicable location in the area of the development would have equal or greater adverse effects on a natural inland wetland; and</p> <p>(vi) the effects of the activity will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy; or</p> <p>(d) the regional council is satisfied that:</p> <p>(i) the activity is necessary for the purpose of quarrying activities; and</p> <p>(ii) the extraction of the aggregate will provide significant national or regional benefits; and</p> <p>(iii) there is a functional need for the activity to be done in that location; and</p> <p>(iv) the effects of the activity will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy; or</p> <p>(e) the regional council is satisfied that:</p> <p>(i) the activity is necessary for the purpose of:</p> <p>(A) the extraction of minerals (other than coal) and ancillary activities; or</p> <p>(B) the extraction of coal and ancillary activities as part of the operation or extension of an existing coal mine; and</p>	<p>3. <u>the activity occurs on land identified for urban development in operative provisions of a regional or district plan, and</u></p> <p>4. <u>the activity does not occur on land that is zoned in a district plan as general rural, rural production, or rural lifestyle, and</u></p> <p>5. <u>there is either no practicable alternative location for the activity within the area of the development, or every other practicable location in the area of the development would have equal or greater adverse effects on a natural inland wetland; or</u></p> <p>(iv) <u>for quarrying activities:</u></p> <p>1. <u>the activity is necessary for the purpose of quarrying activities, and</u></p> <p>2. <u>the extraction of the aggregate will provide significant national or regional benefits, and</u></p> <p>3. <u>there is a <b>functional need</b> for the activity to be done in that location; or</u></p> <p>(v) <u>for the extraction of minerals:</u></p> <p>1. <u>the activity is necessary for the purpose of:</u></p> <p>A. <u>The extraction of minerals (other than coal) and ancillary activities, or</u></p> <p>B. <u>The extraction of coal and ancillary activities as part of the operation or</u></p>
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<p>(ii) the extraction of the mineral will provide significant national or regional benefits; and</p> <p>(iii) there is a functional need for the activity to be done in that location; and</p> <p>(iv) the effects of the activity will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy; or</p> <p>(f) the regional council is satisfied that:</p> <p>(i) the activity is necessary for the purpose of constructing or operating a new or existing landfill or cleanfill area; and (ii) the landfill or cleanfill area:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(A) will provide significant national or regional benefits; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(B) is required to support urban development as referred to in paragraph (c); or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(C) is required to support the extraction of aggregates as referred to in paragraph (d); or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(D) is required to support the extraction of minerals as referred to in paragraph (e); and</p> <p>(iii) there is either no practicable alternative location in the region, or every other practicable alternative location in the region would have equal or greater adverse effects on a natural inland wetland; and</p> <p>(iv) the effects of the activity will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy.</p> <p>(2) (2) Subclause (3) applies to an application for a consent for an activity that:</p>	<p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>extension of an existing coal mine, and</u></p> <p>2. <u>the extraction of the mineral will provide significant national or regional benefits, and</u></p> <p>3. <u>there is a <b>functional need</b> for the activity to be done in that location; or</u></p> <p>(vi) <u>for landfills and cleanfills:</u></p> <p>1. <u>the activity is necessary for the purpose of constructing or operating a new or existing landfill or cleanfill area, and</u></p> <p>2. <u>the landfill or cleanfill area will provide significant national or regional benefits, or</u></p> <p>3. <u>is required to support urban development, the extraction of aggregates, or the extraction of minerals as per clauses (iii-v), and</u></p> <p>4. <u>there is either no practicable alternative location in the region, or every other practicable alternative location in the region would have equal or greater adverse effects on a natural inland wetland.</u></p> <p>(b) in a river:</p> <p>(i) there is a <b>functional need</b> for the activity in that location; and</p> <p>(ii) any <b>reclamation</b> or drainage is:</p>
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<p>(a) is for a purpose referred to in subclause (1)(a) to (f), other than the purpose referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i); and</p> <p>(b) would result (directly or indirectly) in the loss of extent or values of a natural inland wetland.</p> <p>(3) Every regional council must make or change its regional plan to ensure that an application referred to in subclause (2) is not granted unless:</p> <p>(a) the council is satisfied that:</p> <p>(i) the applicant has demonstrated how each step of the effects management hierarchy will be applied to any loss of extent or values of the wetland (including cumulative effects and loss of potential value), particularly (without limitation) in relation to the values of: ecosystem health, indigenous biodiversity, hydrological functioning, Māori freshwater values, and amenity values; and</p> <p>(ii) if aquatic offsetting or aquatic compensation is applied, the applicant has complied with principles 1 to 6 in Appendix 6 and 7, and has had regard to the remaining principles in Appendix 6 and 7, as appropriate, and</p> <p>(iii) there are methods or measures that will ensure that the offsetting or compensation will be maintained and managed over time to achieve the conservation outcomes; and</p> <p>(b) any consent granted is subject to:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. partial <b>reclamation</b> of a river bank for the purposes of flood protection or erosion control, or</li> <li>2. for the purposes of the development, operation, maintenance and <b>upgrade</b> of <b>Regionally Significant Infrastructure</b>, or</li> <li>3. associated with the creation of a new river bed and does not involve piping of the river, or</li> <li>4. for the purpose of forming a reasonable crossing point, or</li> <li>5. associated with the extraction of <b>significant mineral resources</b> from existing quarries, or</li> <li>6. partial <b>reclamation</b> of a river bank for the purposes of local roads, and</li> <li>7. in respect of (1) to (6) there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity, or</li> </ol> <p>(c) in a lake the <b>reclamation</b> or drainage is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and <b>upgrade</b> of <b>Regionally Significant Infrastructure</b>, or</li> <li>(ii) for the purpose of forming a reasonable cross point, and</li> <li>(iii) in respect of (ii) there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity.</li> </ol> <p><i>Note</i></p> <p>The effects of any activity that requires a resource consent under this policy, <a href="#">including those set out in clause (a)(i-vi)</a></p>
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<p>(i) conditions that apply the effects management hierarchy; and</p> <p>(ii) a condition requiring monitoring of the wetland at a scale commensurate with the risk of the loss of extent or values of the wetland; and</p> <p>(iii) conditions that specify how the requirements in (a)(iii) will be achieved.</p> <p>(4) Every regional council must make or change its regional plan to include objectives, policies, and methods that provide for and promote the restoration of natural inland wetlands in its region, with a particular focus on restoring the values of ecosystem health, indigenous biodiversity, hydrological functioning, Māori freshwater values, and amenity values.</p>	<p>will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy as set out in Policies P31, P37, P38, or P48.</p>
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**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.381**



**For Information**

## **REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2024/25**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform Council about the alignment of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-39 (RPMP) and the Regional Pest Management Plan Operational Plan for 2024/25.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

2. The Operational Plan for 2024/25 has now been completed ([Attachment 1](#)), and Council needs to be comfortable that the proposed Plan is consistent with the objectives in the RPMP.<sup>1</sup>
3. Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) states the requirements for an operational plan that implements a Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington), as the management agency under the 1993 Act, must:
  - a Prepare an operational plan annually and, if deemed appropriate, amend it; and then provide a copy to the Council;
  - b Prepare an annual report on the operational plan, including on the effectiveness of implementation, not later than five months after the end of each financial year; and provide a copy of this annual report to the Council;
  - c Make copies of the annual operational plan and annual report available to the public.
4. In addition, sections 100B(4) and (5) of the 1993 Act provide, in effect, that:
  - a The Council may give Greater Wellington written notice that the Council intends to disallow all or part of the operational plan on the ground that the Council believes that the whole, or part of the, operational plan, is inconsistent with the RPMP;
  - b The written notice must be given before, or within 20 working days after, the Council receives the operational plan or an amended version.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2022/01/J000391-Regional-Pest-Management-Plan-2019-2039-4.2-TE-REO-edit.pdf>

## Te tātaritanga

### Analysis

5. The application of the requirements of sections 100B(4) and (5) of the 1993 Act to Greater Wellington’s context means that:
  - a Officers provide the annual operational plan to Council to consider as its specific responsibilities include “oversee[ing] the development and review of Council’s environmental ... plans, programmes, and initiatives...”;
  - b The 20 working day period under section 100B(5) starts when Council receives the report on the annual operational plan.
6. If Council considers that all or part of the RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 (**Attachment 1**) is inconsistent with the RPMP, then it may resolve to issue a related written disallowance notice. A report will then be prepared for Council’s next meeting on 26 September 2024 and will include a rewritten RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25.

### ***Alignment of the RPMP and the annual operational plan***

7. To assist Council to consider the alignment between the RPMP and the RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 (Attachment 1), the following table indicates the relationship between the RPMP’s objectives and the related activities in the RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25:

<b>RPMP objective</b>	<b>Related RPMP Operational Plan activities for 2024/25</b>
Minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with these organisms	Identify new incursion sites. Respond to reports from the public within set timeframes. Develop and implement response plans. Visit management sites and undertake control on best practice basis.
Maximise the effectiveness of individual actions in managing pests through a regionally coordinated approach	Support pest management in the region by providing advice and support to the public and communities on pest control and impacts. Build and maintain relationships with private landowners and Territorial Local Authorities (TLAs) within the region through the Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) programme and provision of Biosecurity Services.
Make a pest-free status of a considerable area of the Wellington region a reality	Eliminate and maintain the elimination of target pests (mustelids, possums and rats) on land within the boundaries of Phase 1 (Miramar Peninsula) and Phase 2 (Owhiro Bay to CBD) of the Predator Free Wellington initiative.



8. Officers consider the RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 (Attachment 1) is consistent with the RPMP and considers that no written disallowance notice is required under section 100B(4) of the 1993 Act.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications**

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori**

10. Mana whenua and Māori make an important contribution to biosecurity. For mana whenua this includes involvement in biosecurity as an important part of exercising kaitiakitanga over their whenua. Māori also carry out significant pest management through their primary sector economic interests and as landowners and/or occupiers
11. Activities carried out under the RPMP provide for the protection of the relationship between Māori and their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu and taonga, and the protection of those aspects from the adverse effects of pests. This protection is specifically required under the 199 Act.
12. The RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 aligns with the intentions of the RPMP on this aspect due to the nature of the activities specified in it.

### **Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement**

13. Engagement was carried out, as required by section 72 of the 1993 Act, as part of the process of developing the RPMP, which the annual operational plan implements. Due to an extensive consultation process in the review stages of the RPMP process there is no requirement to engage with public or stakeholders in developing the annual operational plans.
14. Section 100(1)(d) of the 1993 Act requires that copies of the annual operational plan, and every amended version, are made available to the public. An electronic version of RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 (**Attachment 1**) is ready to be made available on the Greater Wellington's website and a printed version is available upon request. A copy will also be supplied to both the Minister for Biosecurity and the National Library.

### **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps**

15. If Council does not exercise its powers of disallowance, the RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 will be made available to the public in accordance with Section 100B(1)(d) of the 1993 Act.

16. If Council does exercise its powers to disallow part of the RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25, those part(s) will be rewritten, and the plan resubmitted to Council at the 26 September 2024 meeting.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment**

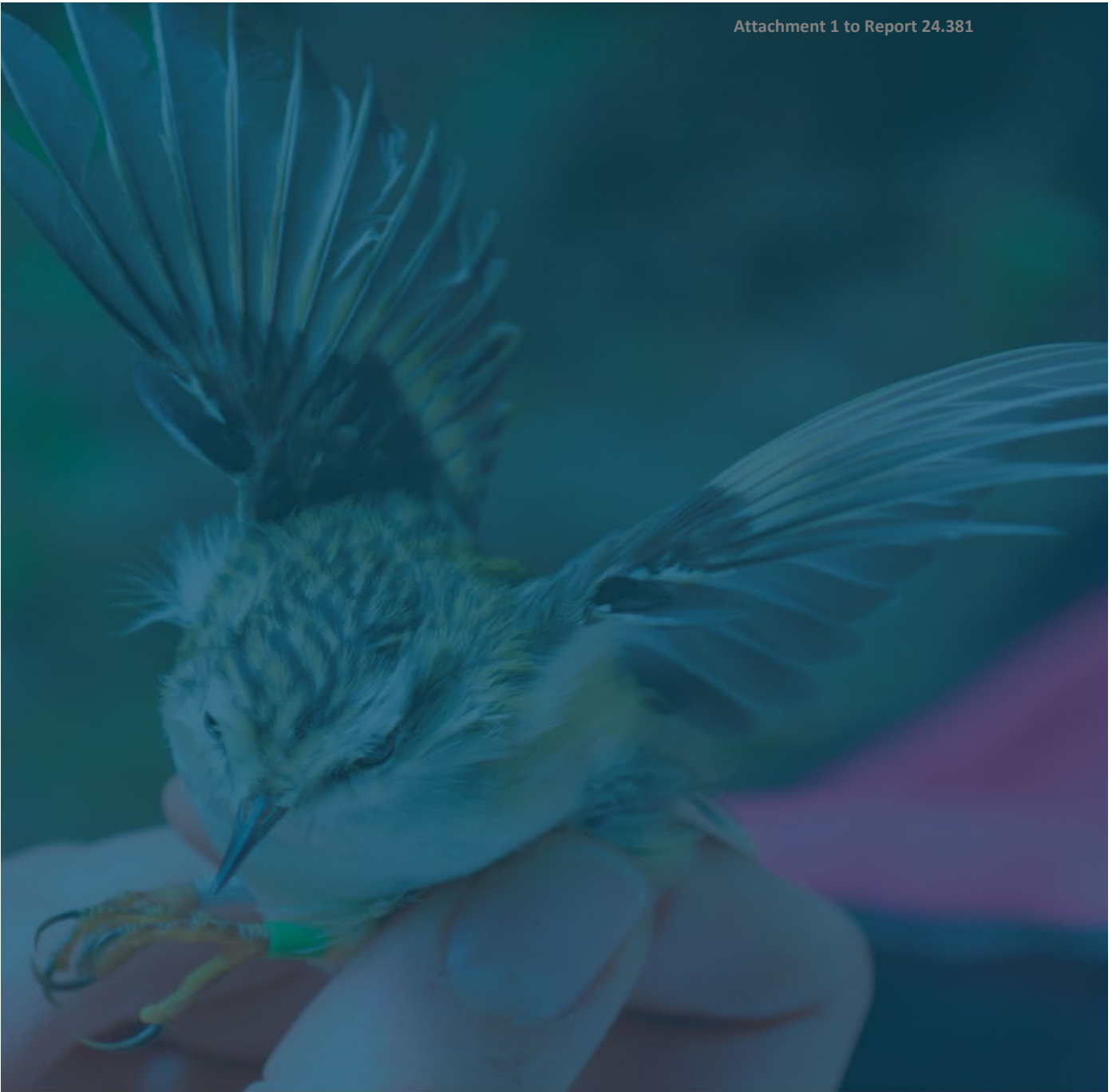
Number	Title
1	Regional Pest Management Plan Operational Plan for 2024/25

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writer	Katrina Merrifield – Advisor, Environment Policy
Approvers	Myfanwy Hill – Manager, Environment Operations Jack Mace – Director, Delivery Fathima Iftikar – Director, Strategy, Policy and Regulation Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao   Group Manager Environment

<p><b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b>  <b>Summary of considerations</b></p>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>Council has retained the power under section 100B(4) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to disallow all or part of the RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 if Council believes that the whole operational plan, or the part of it, is inconsistent with the RPMP.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>The RPMP Operational Plan for 2024/25 is intended to implement the RPMP’s objectives for 2024/25.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>In writing this report, we have engaged with Environment Operations.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no specific risks relating to the matters for decision, but there are environmental risks around the implications to the environment of not taking action.</p> <p>These key risks are the possibility of loss of native plants and animals; reduced productivity for farming and horticulture; public nuisance; and a failure to protect the ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu and taonga of Māori.</p> <p>Specific risks are listed for each pest species stated in RPMP under the heading ‘Adverse effects’.</p>



**TE MAHERE Ā-ROHE KAUPARE RIHA -**  
MAHERE MAHI 2024/25

**REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN -**  
OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/25



## 1. Kupu Arataki/Introduction

### 1.1 Regional Pest Management Plan

The Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2039 (RPMP) was prepared in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 and became operative on the 2nd of July 2019.

This Operational Plan has been prepared in accordance with section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993. This plan identifies and outlines the nature and scope of activities that the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) intends to undertake in the implementation of its RPMP for the financial year 2024/25.

The RPMP contains objectives specific to individual pests and outlines how we, as the Management Agency, will achieve those objectives. The RPMP has clearly defined rules to be met by all land occupiers. It is our responsibility to ensure land occupiers are aware of, and meet, their obligations for pest management on their properties. We can also undertake pest control operations where there is recognised regional benefit.

### 1.2 Implementation

The purpose of this plan is to implement the RPMP region-wide by:

**Monitoring** for the presence of declared pests in the Wellington Region.

**Minimising** the actual and potential adverse or unintended effects associated with the specified organisms.

**Eradicating** certain organisms, reducing the extent of others, and containing those species that are already well established.

### 1.3 Areas of responsibility

This plan and the RPMP are based on the following core areas of our responsibilities:

**Regulation (standards and enforcement)**

Standards, rules and restrictions are set, and compliance enforced with penalties, when and where necessary.

**Inspection**

Regular property inspections ensure that rules and regulations are being met and changes in pest densities are determined over time.

**Surveillance**

Undertaking surveillance (also referred to as monitoring) for pests in the region to determine their presence, distribution and effects, and to

measure the extent to which the objectives of the RPMP are being achieved.

**Direct control**

Funding and undertaking pest control in some circumstances as a service for regional benefit.

**Advice and education**

Free advice is given to raise awareness of pest problems and to provide land occupiers with the information to control their own pests.

**Community initiatives**

Guidance and support are provided for community driven initiatives to control pests.

**Cost recovery**

A full cost recovery operational service is available for pest control.

**Biological control**

As approved biological control agents become available, we may utilise them. Biocontrol is currently a key tool in the management of rabbits, various pest plants and other harmful species.

**1.4 Integration with Annual Plan and Environment Business Plan**

The Operational Plan is integrated with the GW Annual Plan and the Environment Group Business Plan. The Annual Plan sets the overall priorities and work programmes for the organisation and provides an overview of related pest management activities for the 2024/25 year. The Environment Group Business Plan is a more detailed plan for the year and includes implementation costs.

**1.5 Implementation report**

A report on the RPMP Operational Plan and the summary of its implementation will be prepared no later than five months after conclusion of the financial year. Copies of the report will be made available to the public.

**1.6 Review**

This plan will be reviewed and reported on annually. The plan may be amended to ensure that the objectives of the RPMP will be achieved within its terms. Section 100G of the Biosecurity Act allows us to make minor changes to the RPMP, provided we are satisfied that the changes will not have any significant effects on the rights and obligations of any persons.

## 2. Kaupapa - tirohanga whānui/Programme overview

### 2.1 Species led programmes

There are four species led programmes that are outlined in the RPMP:

**Exclusion programme:** To prevent the establishment of a species that is present in New Zealand but not yet established in an area.

**Eradication programme:** To reduce the infestation level of a species to zero levels in an area in the short to medium term.

**Progressive Containment programme:** To contain or reduce the geographic distribution of a species.

**Sustained Control programme:** To provide ongoing control of a species to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

Additionally, we are involved in four programmes that are part of national agreements and/or are funded nationally:

**National Pest Plant Accord:** To prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (approximately 135 named species) within New Zealand.

**National Interest Pest Response programme:** To eradicate certain species (currently just Manchurian wild rice) from the Wellington Region.

**Check, Clean, Dry:** To keep our waterways clean and free of invasive freshwater pests.

**Biocontrol programme:** To fund biocontrol programmes for prioritised pest species.

### 2.2 Site led programmes

There are four site led programmes that are delivered through the RPMP (see Map 1).

**Predator Free Wellington Project (PFW):** Aims to eliminate mustelids, possums and rats from Wellington City, focussing on the area designated Phase two in the CBD and maintain the areas already cleared of predators in this Phase two area and the Miramar Peninsula. Predator Free Wellington is a project funded by the Wellington City Council, GW, Predator Free 2050 and the NEXT Foundation and other smaller funders/sponsors. Once the rate of progress is known, Predator Free Wellington will gather permission to operate on private land in the subsequent Phased areas.

**Regional Predator Control Programme (RPCP):** To maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity through control of possums and other

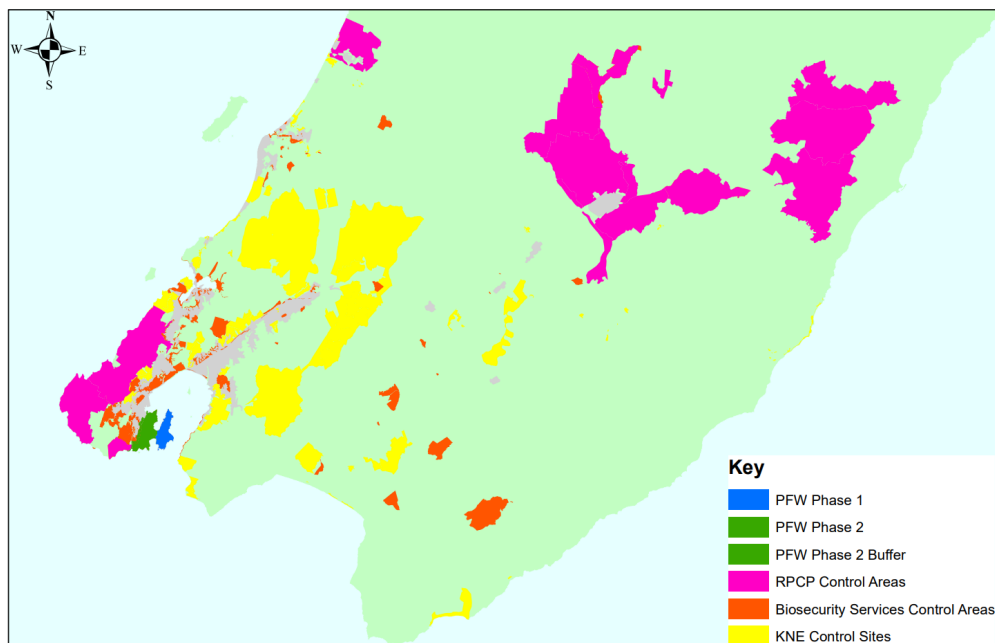
predators that are a serious threat to our native biodiversity and economy. The areas we work in are chosen based on protecting the



best biodiversity ecosystems outside of the Key Native Ecosystem programme. Formerly this programme was driven largely by declarations of bovine Tb freedom.

**Biosecurity Services programme:** This activity aims to provide biosecurity delivery services across the region. This includes maintaining a buffer for predators around Pūkaha/Mt Bruce, providing cost recovery services to Territorial Authorities and landowners and controlling Argentine ants to minimise the risk to Kāpiti Island. Activities such as these lead to biodiversity gains for the region by reducing the impact of pest and invasive species.

**Key Native Ecosystem programme (KNE):** To protect and restore representative examples of original indigenous ecosystem types of high value in the Wellington Region through effective biodiversity management. This involves the development of strategic operational plans, planning operational activities, working with management partners and delivery of management activities including pest control.

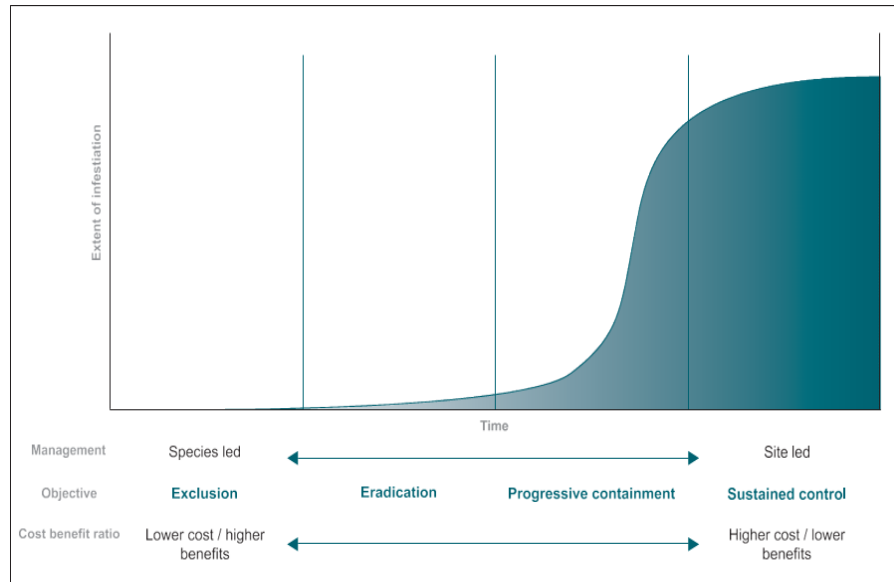


**Map 1: 2024/25 Site led programme coverage of the region**

### 2.3 How were the pest species decided?

A cost-benefit analysis (CBA) was undertaken for all species proposed for the RPMP. This process decided what control, if any, was to be undertaken and what level of management was needed for the species. The CBA works in conjunction with the invasion curve, which designates the different management programmes.

**Table 1: The Invasion Curve**



Management programmes	Infestation phase	Phase characteristics
<b>Exclusion</b>	<b>Absent</b>	Pest not yet established in the Wellington Region, or it has been eradicated from all known sites in the region.
<b>Eradication</b>	<b>Lag</b>	Pest numbers low, rate of population increase low, distribution limited.
<b>Progressive Containment</b>	<b>Explosion</b>	Rapid growth in pest population size and range.
<b>Sustained Control</b>	<b>Established</b>	Pest is abundant and/or widespread.

**Figure 1: Pest infestation phases through time in relation to its appropriate management. Adapted from our Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-39**

#### 2.4 Pest control methods

We use a range of methods and tools to control pest plants and pest animals within the region. All control operations are undertaken by trained staff, contractors or volunteers using industry accepted best practice techniques. Our methodology considers innovation, environmental and humane factors alongside cost-effectiveness and practicality. Where chemical-based pest control methods are utilised, the most effective and least harmful option is always preferred, with all chemical application following best practice and manufacturer instructions, as endorsed by the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority.

### 3. Tipu Riha/Pest Plants

#### 3.1 Exclusion programme

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*), Nassella tussock (*N. trichotoma*).

**Aim:** Prevent the establishment of exclusion plant species in the Wellington Region.

Performance Measures
<p><b>Identify new sites</b></p> <p>Identify new incursion sites of exclusion plant species.</p>
<p><b>Incident investigation and response</b></p> <p>Undertake initial investigations for all reports within five working days.</p> <p>Develop and implement response plans within 20 working days.</p>

#### 3.2 Eradication programme

Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*), Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*), Spartina (*Sporobolus anglicus*, *S. alterniflorus*), Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*), Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*).

**Aim:** Destroy all known infestations of eradication plant species in the Wellington Region.

Performance Measures
<p><b>Identify new sites</b></p> <p>Identify new sites of eradication plant species.</p>
<p><b>Incident investigation and response</b></p> <p>Respond to reports from the public on eradication plant species within five working days and complete actions within 20 working days.</p>
<p><b>Best practice management</b></p> <p>Conduct routine control visits to all management sites in accordance with scheduled best practices.</p>

#### 3.3 Progressive Containment programme

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Wilding conifers: European larch (*Larix decidua*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and pine species (*Pinus spp.*).

**Aim:** Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution of progressive containment plant species in the Wellington Region.

Performance Measure
<p><b>Incident investigation and response</b></p> <p>Undertake initial investigations for all reported sightings or discoveries of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purple loosestrife (in wetlands or waterbodies identified as natural and/or outstanding waterbodies and wetlands in the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region), and</li> <li>• Wilding conifers (in Pakuratahi Forest KNE where the alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems are at risk)</li> </ul> <p>within five working days and document decisions within 20 working days.</p>
<p><b>Best practice management</b></p> <p>Conduct routine control visits to all management sites in accordance with scheduled best practices.</p>



Uncontrolled purple loosestrife in a wetland

### 3.4 Sustained Control programme

Blue passionflower (*Passiflora caerulea*), Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Eelgrass (*Vallisneria spiralis*, *V. gigantea*).

**Aim:** Control sustained control plant species to reduce their spread and minimise adverse effects.

### Performance Measures

#### Incident investigation and response

Undertake initial investigations for all reported sightings or discoveries of sustained control plant species within 10 working days and document decisions within 20 working days.

#### Best practice management

Conduct routine control visits to all management sites in accordance with scheduled best practices.

### 3.5 Site led programme

Banana passionfruit (*Passiflora mixta*, *P. mollissima*, *P. tripartita*), Cathedral bells (*Cobaea scandens*), Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

**Aim:** Control and reduce the geographic distribution and/or extent of these species within the Hutt City Council Territorial Authority boundary (programme delivered by the Hutt City Council).

### Performance Measure

#### Incident investigation and response

Provide compliance enforcement assistance to the Hutt City Council within 10 working days of receiving a request.

### 3.6 National Pest Plant Accord

**Aim:** Prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of plants within the Wellington Region.

### Performance Measures

#### Incident investigation and response

Undertake initial investigations for all reports of pest plants on the National Pest Plant Accord list within five working days.

#### Events

Monitor platforms and events that sell plants and visit retail outlets.

### 3.7 National Interest Pest Response programme

**Aim:** Eradicate National Interest Pest Response (NIPR) plants from the Wellington Region, as directed by the Ministry of Primary Industries.

Performance Measure
<p><b>Identify new sites</b></p> <p>Identify new incursion sites of National Interest Pest Response plants.</p>
<p><b>Incident investigation and response</b></p> <p>Respond to reports from the public on National Interest Pest Response plants within five working days and complete actions within 20 working days.</p>
<p><b>Best practice management</b></p> <p>Visit all Manchurian wild rice management sites and undertake control on scheduled best practise rotation.</p> <p>Attend nation-wide Manchurian wild rice Best Practice workshop for stakeholders.</p>

**3.8 Biocontrol programme**

**Aim:** Undertake Biocontrol for prioritised target weeds in the Wellington Region.

Performance Measures
<p><b>Release and transfers of biocontrol agents</b></p> <p>Release biocontrol agents (directly from Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research) or transfer from other translocation sites.</p>
<p><b>Progress towards establishment</b></p> <p>Monitor agents until it is determined that a given agent has successfully established and is self-spreading or has failed to establish.</p>



Tradescantia showing damage from yellow leaf spot fungus

### 3.9 Check, Clean, Dry programme

**Aim:** Keep waterways in the Wellington Region free of invasive freshwater pests.

<b>Performance Measures</b>
<b>Promote CCD message</b> Attend outdoor/freshwater events. Regularly produce social media posts during summer. Distribute CCD resources to relevant retailers and event organisers in the region.
<b>Waterside CCD signs maintained</b> Review and maintain 74 waterside signs at least once over the season.

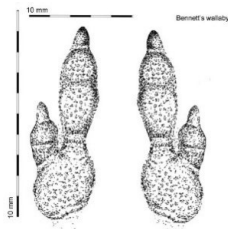
**4. Kirearea/Pest Animals**

**4.1 Exclusion programme**

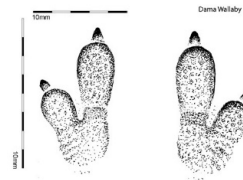
Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*, *Macropus eugenii*).

**Aim:** Prevent the establishment of wallabies in the Wellington Region.

Performance Measures
<p><b>Identify new sites</b></p> <p>Identify new wallaby incursion sites.</p>
<p><b>Incident investigation and response</b></p> <p>Undertake initial investigations for all reports within five working days.</p> <p>Develop and implement response plans within 20 working days.</p> <p>Continue to work with MPI and provide surveillance activities for any new sightings in the region.</p>
<p><b>Wallaby surveillance sites</b></p> <p>Report on sites of interest/recent investigations.</p>



Bennett's Wallaby footprints (credit: S. Frimmel, Pest Detective)



Dama Wallaby footprints (credit: S. Frimmel, Pest Detective)

**4.2 Eradication programme**

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

**Aim:** Eradicate all rooks from the Wellington Region.

Performance Measures
<p><b>Identify new sites</b></p> <p>Survey historic rookeries and any new reported rookeries.</p>
<p><b>Best practice management</b></p> <p>Undertake control (by aerial nest treatment or ground control) of rooks at all known sites.</p>



**4.3 Sustained Control programme**

Feral rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Wasps (common wasp – *Vespula vulgaris*, German wasp – *V. germanica*, Australian paper wasp – *Polistes humilis*, Asian paper wasp – *P. chinensis*).

**Aim:** Sustained control of feral rabbits to minimise adverse effects to the environment and maintain populations below Level 5 McLeans Scale (See Appendix 1).

Performance Measure
<p><b>Public enquiries</b></p> <p>Respond to public enquiries about feral rabbits within 10 working days.</p>
<p><b>Cost-recovery management</b></p> <p>Undertake appropriate control at sites, as resources allow.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <p>Carry out regional trend monitoring using Modified McLean Scale, Kilometre night counts and fly testing for Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease presence.</p>



An abundance of feral rabbits

**Aim:** Sustained control of wasps to minimise adverse effects to the environment and protect human health.

Performance Measures
<p><b>Public enquiries</b></p> <p>Respond to public enquiries about wasps within 10 working days.</p>
<p><b>Management</b></p> <p>Ensure appropriate wasp control is undertaken at sites to protect human health.</p>

## 5. Kaupapa - whakahaere ā-pae/Site led programmes

### 5.1 Predator Free Wellington

Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*).

**Aim:** Eliminate and maintain elimination of mustelids, possums and rats from land contained within the boundaries of the Predator Free Wellington initiative (Phase one - Miramar Peninsula, Phase two – Owhiro Bay to CBD).

Performance Measures
<p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <p>Gain permission from landowners/occupiers to work on private land.</p> <p>Enable and train community to continue predator control work in Phase two and maintain the successes in Phase one – Miramar Peninsula.</p> <p>Maintain and advocate for community support for the project.</p>
<p><b>Progress towards eradication</b></p> <p>Maintain the biosecurity network and predator freedom of Miramar Peninsula.</p> <p>Continue eradication of target species in the Phase two area and implementation of the Phase two biosecurity network monitoring cleared areas.</p>

### 5.2 Regional Predator Control Programme

Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Pest cat (*Felis catus*).

**Aim:** Control possums and other predators that are a serious threat to our native biodiversity and economy.

Performance Measure
<p><b>Predator management</b></p> <p>Complete planned control at all management sites (86,821 ha)</p>
<p><b>Possum Monitoring</b></p> <p>Monitor possum populations at selected sites</p>

**5.3 Biosecurity Services programme**

European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus occidentalis*), Feral deer – fallow, red and sika (*Dama*, *Cervus elaphus*, *C. nippon*), Feral rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Pest cat (*Felis catus*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*).

**Aim:** Provide biosecurity delivery services across the Wellington Region.

Performance Measures
<p><b>Small mammal management</b></p> <p>Complete bait station and trapping operations at 29 Territorial Authority sites.</p>
<p><b>Small mammal management</b></p> <p>Complete predator trapping operations in the Pūkaha/Mount Bruce buffer and Wairarapa Moana area.</p>
<p><b>Feral rabbit management</b></p> <p>Complete feral rabbit night shooting control at all agreed Territorial Authority sites and Recloaking Papatuanuku sites.</p>
<p><b>Ungulate management</b></p> <p>Complete planned control at all deer, goat and pig management sites as agreed with relevant Territorial Authorities.</p>
<p><b>Magpie enquiries</b></p> <p>Respond to owners/occupiers wanting to undertake magpie control with 15 days of receiving a request for information and/or assistance.</p>
<p><b>Magpie control</b></p> <p>Undertake control of magpies within 10 working days where there is a threat of injury to people.</p>
<p><b>Argentine ant control</b></p> <p>Control Argentine ants at Queen Elizabeth Park and Kāpiti Boating Club.</p>



Ungulate damage in Wainuiomata Mainland Island

**5.4 Key Native Ecosystem programme**

European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus occidentalis*), Feral deer – fallow, red and sika (*Dama*, *Cervus elaphus*, *C. nippon*), Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Pest cat (*Felis catus*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*).

**Aim:** Protect and restore representative examples of original indigenous ecosystem types of high value in the Wellington Region (58 sites, approximately 49,000 ha). Pest control component as follows.

<b>Performance Measures: Pest Animals</b>
<p><b>Small mammal management</b></p> <p>Complete bait station and trapping operations at 38* KNE sites.</p> <p><i>*48 when sites where landowners or volunteer groups undertake work for us are counted as well.</i></p>
<p><b>Small mammal monitoring</b></p> <p>Undertake small mammal monitoring at selected sites.</p>
<p><b>Possum management (aerial)</b></p> <p>No 1080 operation activities in 2024/25.</p> <p>Undertake possum population monitoring in Pakuratahi and Wainuiomata/Orongorongo KNE sites to assess the effectiveness of the aerial 1080 operation undertaken in these sites by OSPRI.</p>
<p><b>Ungulate management</b></p> <p>Complete planned control at all deer, goat and pig management sites (14 sites).</p>
<b>Performance Measures: Pest Plants</b>
<p><b>Ground based weed control</b></p> <p>Complete ground-based weed control at 55 KNE sites.</p>
<p><b>Aerial based weed control</b></p> <p>Complete aerial-based weed control at up to four KNE sites.</p>



The KNE programme – protecting our indigenous ecosystems

## 6. He Tohutohu, He Mātauranga, He Whakaanga/Advice, Education and Engagement

**Aim:** Support pest animal and plant management through education and advice on pest control and impacts.

Performance Measure
<p><b>Response to public enquiries</b></p> <p>Provide information to landowners about their responsibilities for pest control.</p> <p>Provide information and advice to the public regarding pest identification, impacts and control, through website information, social media, events and site inspections.</p> <p>Provide advice and support to community groups undertaking pest control.</p> <p>Provide up to date information on all RPMP pest species on our website.</p>

## 7. Tahua/Budget for 2024/25

**Table 2: 2024/25 budget for implementing this Plan.**

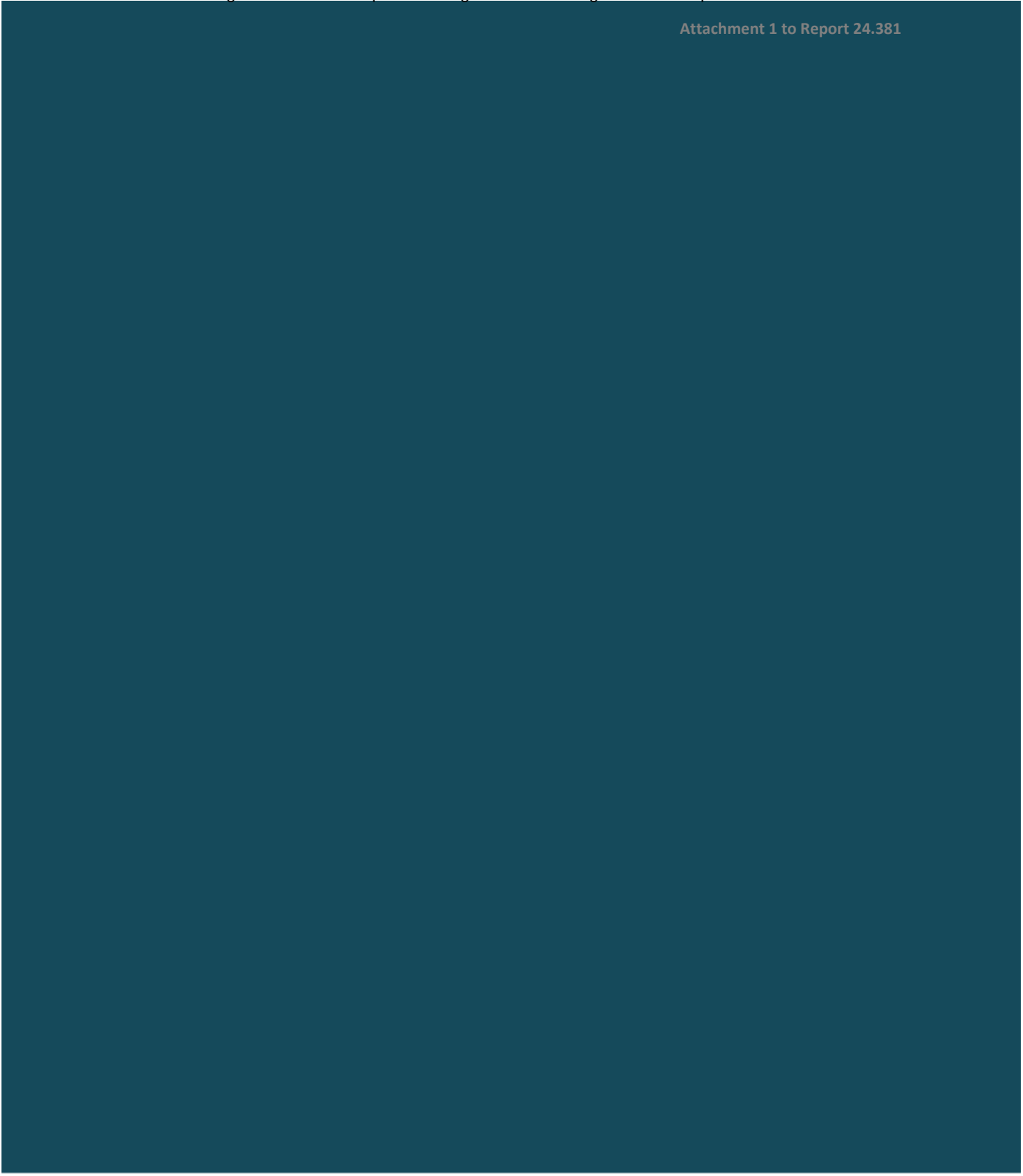
Species or Site led	Programme	Pest Animals or Pest Plants	Budget
Species led	RPMP	Pest Animals	\$2,244,883
		Pest Plants	\$1,865,722
	National	Pest Plants	\$37,000*
Site led	PFW	Pest Animals	\$3,789,003
	RPCP	Pest Animals	\$2,033,474
	Biosecurity services	Pest Animals	\$275,132
	KNE	Combined	\$1,804,937

\*external revenue for this work included in budget

## Ngā ĀpitiHanga/Appendices

### Appendix 1: Modified McLean Scale

Scale	Rabbit Infestation
1	No sign found. No rabbits seen.
2	Very infrequent sign present. Unlikely to see rabbits.
3	Pellet heaps spaced 10m or more apart on average. Odd rabbits seen; sign and some pellet heaps showing up.
4	Pellet heaps spaced 5-10m apart on average. Pockets of rabbits; sign and fresh burrows very noticeable.
5	Pellet heaps spaced 5m or less apart on average. Infestation spreading out from heavy pockets.
6	Sign very frequent, with pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen over the whole area.
7	Sign very frequent, with two or three pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen in large numbers over the whole area.
8	Sign very frequent, with three or more pellet heaps less than 5 metres apart over the whole area. Rabbits likely to be seen in large numbers over the whole area.



For more information, please contact Greater Wellington:

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PO Box 11646  
Wellington 6142

**Upper Hutt office**  
PO Box 40847  
Upper Hutt 5140

**Masterton office**  
PO Box 41  
Masterton 5840

[www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)  
[info@gw.govt.nz](mailto:info@gw.govt.nz)  
0800 496 734



November 2023



**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.448**



**For Decision**

## **DUE DATES AND PENALTY DATES FOR REGIONAL RATES – CARTERTON DISTRICT**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform Council about the delay in the adoption of the Carterton District Council 2024-34 Long Term Plan, which has impacted the collection of the Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) rates for the 2024/25 financial year.

### **He tūtohu**

#### **Recommendations**

That Council:

- 1 **Notes** that it is the established practice for the due dates and penalty dates set in Greater Wellington's rates resolutions to align with the due dates and penalty dates set by the territorial authorities.
- 2 **Determines** that it is desirable to set the 2024/25 regional rates again because of a relevant change in circumstances, being that Carterton District Council has decided to change its dates for the collection of rates.
- 3 **Notes** that the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 requires Greater Wellington to give 14 days' public notice of its intention to reset the due dates and penalty dates for regional rates collection for the Carterton District.
- 4 **Notes** that officers will prepare a report for Council to resolve the resetting of due dates and penalty dates for regional rates for Carterton District at the Council meeting on 26 September 2024.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

2. Greater Wellington adopted its 2024-34 Long-Term Plan (LTP) In June 2024. It was expected that all councils across the country would adopt their Long-Term Plans, ready to commence in July 2024; however, Carterton District Council did not.
3. Carterton District Council is one of eight councils that collects rates on behalf of Greater Wellington, therefore any changes to their ability to collect also impact the decisions and process for Greater Wellington.



4. On 27 June 2024, Council adopted the regional rates for 2024/25. Report 24.245 - Setting of Wellington Regional Council Rates 2024/25 - sets out the rates each Council is to collect, as well as the collection and penalty dates.
5. On 9 July 2024, Greater Wellington was informed by Carterton District Council that they were unsuccessful in adopting their 2024-34 LTP and that they may not adopt it until 18 September 2024.
6. The new adoption date is beyond the first collection date for Greater Wellington rates as already set by Council.
7. Simpson Grierson was immediately contacted for advice on the matter.

### **Te tātaritanga**

#### **Analysis**

8. Carterton District Council was presented with four options to consider. Each having a varying impact on Greater Wellington's rates from the Carterton District. The options were:
  - a If administratively and technically possible, to collect the Greater Wellington rates as per normal, but not the Carterton rates (which could be collected over three instalments),
  - b Collect the Greater Wellington rates as normal and collect Carterton rates using section 50 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA),
  - c Use section 50 of the LGRA to collect both Greater Wellington and Carterton rates:
    - i Section 50(1)(a) could apply to Greater Wellington (a Council is unable to deliver its rates assessments at least 14 days before the first instalment date). The first instalment for the Greater Wellington rates for the Carterton District was due on 20 August, and if the rates assessment cannot be delivered 14 days before then, a section 50 invoice for up to 25 percent of the previous year's rates can be issued.
    - ii Section 50(1)(b) could apply to Carterton (cannot deliver rates assessments by the date that is 14 days before the date one year after the 2023/24 rates were payable). That date was 7 August, being 14 days before the first instalment date for 2023/24 rates of 21 August. Carterton will not be in a position to set its rates and issue the first instalment invoice by that date, so a section 50 invoice could be issued.
  - d Shifting entirely to a three-instalment approach for the 2024/25 rates for both Carterton and Greater Wellington. For clarity, and to remove any risk of challenge, Greater Wellington would need to amend its current resolutions under section 119 LGRA to reflect that change.
9. Carterton District Council has opted for option D, shifting to a three instalment rates collection approach for 2024/25 year. Consistent with Greater Wellington's established practice of aligning collection and penalty dates with the relevant

territorial authority, officers recommend that Council continues to align our dates with that of Carterton District Council.

10. Carterton District Council will now change its collection dates to the following:

<b>Instalment #</b>	<b>Invoice Date</b>	<b>Due Date for payment</b>	<b>Period Instalment Covers</b>	<b>Penalty Date</b>
1	20 October 2024	20 November 2024	1 July – 31 October 2024	21 November 2024
2	20 January 2025	20 February 2025	1 November – 28 February 2025	21 February 2025
3	20 May 2025	20 May 2025	1 March – 30 June 2025	21 May 2025

11. On 27 June 2024, Greater Wellington had approved collection dates, as follows:

<b>Instalment #</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Penalty Date</b>
1	<i>20 August 2024</i>	<i>21 August 2024</i>
2	<i>20 November 2024</i>	<i>21 November 2024</i>
3	<i>20 February 2025</i>	<i>21 February 2025</i>
4	<i>20 May 2025</i>	<i>21 May 2025</i>

12. The changes to the collection and penalty date now require Council to amend its current resolutions under section 119 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.
13. Section 119 of the LGRA, provides for the re-setting of rates, if the Council determines that it is desirable to set the rate again because of:
- an irregularity in setting the rate;
  - a mistake in calculating the rate; or
  - there has been a relevant change in circumstances.
14. In order to change this information, Greater Wellington is required to give a 14-day public notice on the matter before approving any changes.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni**

#### **Financial implications**

15. This issue has additional, unplanned, expenses for Greater Wellington, such as legal fees and the additional officer resource time.
16. The total estimated rates collection of \$2,935,000 for Carterton District Council for 2024/25 does not change and the timing of the receipts will have minimal impact for Greater Wellington.

**Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori**  
**Implications for Māori**

17. There are no implications to Māori as a result of this report.

**Ngā tikanga whakatau**  
**Decision-making process**

18. Officers have considered the decision-making requirements set out in Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2001 (LGA) and section 119 of the LGRA.

**Te hiranga**  
**Significance**

19. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the LGA) of these matters, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*.

20. Officers consider the matter of setting the rates for the 2024/25 rating year of high significance because of the importance of the matter to the region and community interest and as it is undertaken as an outcome of Greater Wellington's 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, which was developed in accordance with the consultation requirements set out the LGA.

**Te whakatūtakitaki**  
**Engagement**

21. Carterton District Council and Greater Wellington have been in regular communication about this issue and will continue to do until the issue is resolved, particularly for informing the community.

22. There will need to be clear communications with ratepayers, and the rates invoices would need to carefully explain the approach taken, and how the 2024/25 rates are being collected. This can be included on the initial rates demand.

23. Greater Wellington has sought advice from Simpson Grierson on the matter.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**  
**Next steps**

24. Officers will prepare a public notice, meeting the requirements of the LGRA, and publish it on the Greater Wellington website for a minimum of 14 days.

25. Council will be presented a revised 'Setting WRC Rates 2024/25' report for adoption at its meeting on 26 September 2024.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**  
**Signatory**

Writer	Kyn Drake – Principal Finance Policy Advisor
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Approver	Ashwin Pai – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Pūtea me ngā Tūraru   Group Manager, Finance and Risk (Acting)
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<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> Council is required to make the decisions to set the rates as per the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> The setting of rates allows funding of the Council's 2024-34 Long-Term Plan for year one, 2024/25.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> The Finance and Risk group, Democratic Services
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> This paper is in response to an eventuated risk, that being unable to collect rates from one of the Territorial Authorities in the Wellington Region.  There is a significant risk to Council if the amendment to 'setting of rates' is not completed. A substantial portion of Greater Wellington funding would not be able to be collected causing much of Greater Wellington activities to be undelivered and causing the council to fall behind on debt repayments.  There are no further identified risks relating to the content of this report.

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.444**



**For Decision**

## **FINAL STATEMENTS OF INTENT 2024/25**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To advise Council of the Statements of Intent (SOI) for WRC Holdings and Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency, and the Statement of Trustee Intent (SOTI) for the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust.

### **He tūtohu**

#### **Recommendation**

That Council **receives** the Statements of Intent for WRC Holdings and the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency and the Statement of Trustee Intent for the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust, for 2024/25.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

2. Council Organisations (COs) is applied as an umbrella term for the purpose of this report to include WRC Holdings, Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WellingtonNZ) and Wellington Regional Stadium Trust (WRST). WRST was established under the Wellington Regional Council (Stadium Empowering) Act 1996 and is a self-contained statutory body. While it is not a CO under the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act), it is treated consistently with organisations that are COs.
3. The Act requires Council Organisations to prepare and adopt an SOI. The SOI (section 64) provides an opportunity to:
  - a State publicly the activities and intentions of the organisation for the year and the objectives to which those activities will contribute
  - b Provides an opportunity for shareholders to influence the direction of the organisation
  - c Provides a basis for accountability of the directors to their shareholders for the performance of the organisation.
4. Council issued a Statement of Expectations to each organisation in December 2024 outlining its specific expectations for the coming year.

5. To allow Shareholder input, Schedule 8, Part 1 of the Act requires each CO to produce a draft SOI by 1 March of the year preceding the start of the financial year to which the SOI relates. Shareholders can then provide comment before 1 May to the CO before the final SOI is presented back to the shareholders prior to the commencement of the relevant financial year.
6. WRST is not covered by the Act. The establishment Funding Deed (January 1998) requires the WRST to provide a draft Statement of Trustee Intent by 1 April each year, to be finalised by 30 June (Section 10 of the deed).

### **Te tātaritanga**

#### **Analysis**

7. The draft SOI for WRC Holdings was presented to Council as shareholder at its meeting on 11 April 2024 (Report 24.159) following a workshop with Councillors on 14 March 2024. The draft SOI for WellingtonNZ and the draft SOTI for WRST were considered at a workshop with Councillors on 30 April 2023. Formal feedback was provided to COs following the workshops.
8. The completed SOIs were delivered to Council in June 2024. The SOIs for WRC Holdings ([Attachment 1](#)) and WellingtonNZ ([Attachment 2](#)), and the SOTI for WRST ([Attachment 3](#)) are attached to this report.
9. The final SOIs and SOTI have been reviewed and responded positively to specific feedback provided, with COs making the requested amendments.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni**

#### **Financial implications**

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori**

#### **Implications for Māori**

11. The Statements of Expectations sent from Council to the COs all set out the expectation that the COs will work to give effect to Te Whāriki, the Māori Outcomes Framework. Te Whāriki is reflected in all three SOIs/SOTI.
12. There are no known implications for Māori arising from Council receiving the SOIs/SOTI.

### **Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi**

#### **Consideration of climate change**

13. Reporting on progress towards net zero emissions, with a particular onus on CentrePort activity, continues to be a key focus for WRC Holdings in its SOI. Both WellingtonNZ and WRST have also set out how they continue to contribute to the region meeting its carbon neutrality goals.

14. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington Regional Council's Climate Change Consideration Guide.
15. The matters addressed in this report are of an administrative nature, and there is no need to conduct climate change assessments.

**Ngā tikanga whakatau**  
**Decision-making process**

16. The matters requiring decision in this report was considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Act.

**Te hiranga**  
**Significance**

17. Officers considered the significance of the matter, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making guidelines*. Officers recommend that the matter is of low significance due to its administrative nature.

**Te whakatūtakitaki**  
**Engagement**

18. Given the low significance of this matter, community engagement was not considered necessary.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**  
**Next steps**

19. Note the final Statements of Intent. The progress of these will be reported on to Council during the 2024-25 year.

**Ngā āpitihanga**  
**Attachments**

Number	Title
1	WRC Holdings – Statement of Intent 2024/25
2	Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency – Statement of Intent 2024/25
3	Wellington Regional Stadium Trust – Statement of Trustee Intent 2024/25



**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Writer	Sarah Allen – Kaiwhakahaere Matua   Head of Company Portfolio and Economic Development
Approver	Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki   Group Manager Strategy

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> Council needs to receive the SOIs as shareholder under the Local Government Act 2002 and the SOTI under the WRST Funding Deed (January 1998).
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> None.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> None for the compilation of this report, however the WRC Holdings SOI was compiled by members of Strategy, Corporate Services and Metlink, and with the approval of the WRC Holdings Board.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> There are no known risks or impacts arising from this report.



## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

For the year ending 30 June 2025

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## 1. Introduction

WRC Holdings Limited (WRC Holdings) is a Council-Controlled Trading Organisation owned by Greater Wellington Regional Council Te Pane Matua Taiao (Greater Wellington). It was established to manage Council's commercial investments. This Statement of Intent (SOI) for 2024/25 to 2026/27 is prepared in accordance with section 64 and Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The SOI sets out the objectives, performance measures, targets, and activities of WRC Holdings and its subsidiary, Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL). The SOI forms a major part of the company's accountability relationship with its shareholder, Greater Wellington.

Greater Wellington issued a Statement of Expectations to WRC Holdings in December 2023 as prescribed in section 64b of the Local Government Act 2002. The Statement of Expectations has been considered when completing this SOI.

## 2. Objectives of the Group

The primary objectives of WRC Holdings are to:

- 1) operate a successful, sustainable, and responsible business for the benefit of future generations
- 2) impose commercial discipline on the Group's activities and generate a commercial rate of return
- 3) manage its assets prudently
- 4) support Council's strategic priorities.

### GWRL

Specifically for GWRL, the key objectives are to prudently manage and maintain the rail rolling stock and rail infrastructure (GWRL's Rail Assets). Greater Wellington is contracted by GWRL (through a Management Services Agreement) to provide asset management, accounting, advisory, secretarial and general administration services.

GWRL ensures that:

- Greater Wellington, as its appointed agent, carries out all services and activities, in relation to the GWRL's Rail Assets, that are reasonably necessary to enable Greater Wellington to provide quality rail services to the public in accordance with the contractual obligations entered into with the current rail operator of the rail services and maintenance provider of GWRL's Rail Assets;
- Greater Wellington develops and maintains a systematic approach for the long-term management of GWRL's public transport rail assets in a manner consistent with industry best practice; and

- GWRL complies with its responsibilities as a rail participant under the Railways Act 2005, the current health and safety legislation and any other legislation affecting the GWRL's Rail Assets and operations.

### CentrePort Limited

In responding to the challenge of the port regeneration and developing responses to the governance of the group, WRC Holdings created a Statement of Strategic Intent with regards to CentrePort. This was first developed in late 2019 and has been refined to provide four key strategic elements for Holdings when considering the activity and performance of the port.

Objective area	Intent
Strategic	Secure port development as enabler of regional economic growth
Strategic	Strategic asset to promote community benefits
Financial	Optimise return on Council capital
Financial	Secure capital for port investment and future growth

### 3. Approach to governance

WRC Holdings is governed by a board of eight directors all of whom are appointed by the shareholder. Council has a policy on the appointment and remuneration of directors as specified in Section 57 of the Local Government Act 2002. All director remuneration is set by Council. Holdings provides directors and officer's liability insurance cover at its own expense.

WRC Holdings provides a structure that allows independent external directors with commercial backgrounds to provide advice and expertise at the governance level. The current directors of WRC Holdings / GWRL are:

Director	Appointed	Current term expiry
Chris Kirk-Burnnand (Chair)	November 2019	December 2025
David Bassett	November 2022	December 2025
David Lee	November 2022	December 2025
Thomas Nash	November 2022	December 2025
Lucy Elwood *	October 2023	September 2026
Ripeka Evans*	October 2023	September 2026
Alexandra Hare *	October 2023	September 2025
Helmut Modlik *	October 2023	September 2025

\*Independent Directors

The WRC Holdings Board meets regularly to conduct the business of the organisation. WRC Holdings reports on its activities to the shareholder through quarterly briefings, half-year reports, annual reports and through the SOI process. The WRC Holdings structure is illustrated in Figure 1.

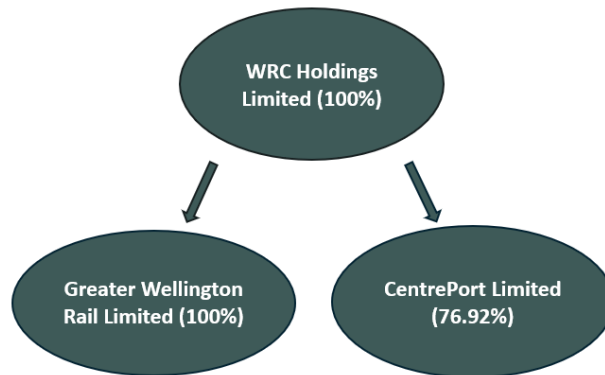


Figure 1

### GWRL

Council approves the directors of GWRL, who are appointed by special resolution of WRC Holdings. WRC Holdings and GWRL share the same directors.

### CentrePort Limited

WRC Holdings own 76.9% of the shareholding in CentrePort Limited. The remaining shareholding is held by MWRH Limited. All CentrePort directors are independent and external of Greater Wellington. CentrePort directors are appointed in accordance with the Port Companies Act 1988 and the company constitution.

## 4. Reporting framework

The WRC Holdings Board will provide quarterly briefings to Council, which will include reporting against the SOI performance measures, a summary of the activities and a strategic overview of the coming quarter. In addition, the Board will provide statutory reporting including the delivery of a half-yearly report by 28 February 2025, an annual report for the year by 30 September 2025 and a draft Statement of Intent by 1 March 2025. The Board will continue to report on matters that arise outside of these reporting timeframes on a no-surprises basis.

## 5. Health, safety and wellbeing

The WRC Holdings Board takes an active and engaged interest in the health and safety of workers and others at all its sites and operations and has an annual health and safety due diligence work programme, with particular focus on management of critical risks and controls.

### GWRL

The WRC Holdings Board takes an active interest in the ongoing maintenance programme for the stewardship of railway assets including rolling stock maintenance and station asset safety. These form regular reporting items and performance measures, in addition to board activities and site visits.

### **CentrePort Limited**

As a major employer in the Wellington region, CentrePort continues to focus on the identification and effective management of critical risk and reducing serious harm. A culture of engagement around Health, Safety and Wellbeing is created through active worker consultation and participation in Health, Safety and Wellbeing matters. Specific wellbeing initiatives are delivered and are detailed in CentrePort's own Statement of Corporate Intent.

## **6. Improving outcomes for Māori**

Our shareholder, Greater Wellington, recognises its Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations to mana whenua partners and Māori living in our region, and works to ensure it gives effect to their rangatiratanga and mana motuhake as we work together. As part of the Council Group, WRC Holdings give effect to Te Tiriti through Greater Wellington's Māori Outcomes Framework (Te Whāriki). This guides our decision-making to achieve the best outcomes for Māori across all aspects of our region. As well as complementing cultural awareness through the organisations that we hold shareholdings in, including cultural competency and te reo Māori training, the WRC Holdings Board will continue to look for opportunities to deliver on Te Whāriki.

The WRC Holdings Board acknowledges these opportunities may be limited given its narrow role as an asset owner, but will continue to pursue and develop opportunities as they arise. The main way in which WRC Holdings gives effect to Te Whāriki is through setting its expectations to CentrePort through the annual Statement of Expectations, to ensure that CentrePort proactively engages mana whenua in decision making and incorporates te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori perspectives into its decision making.

## **7. Reducing emissions**

CentrePort has a target of net zero emissions by 2040, and will be targeting a 50% reduction in emissions from 2019 to 2030. There are ongoing investments into low carbon vehicles and plant with ongoing work to embed the zero emissions target into the regeneration plans and to replace end of life assets with the best available low emission technology.

The delivery of Rail Passenger Services is focused on improving customer satisfaction, leading to driving mode shift from private motor vehicle to Public Transport, and hence reducing overall transport emissions for the region. New procurement of rolling stock will seek low or zero emission vehicles to minimise emissions.

## **WRC Holdings**

### **8. Nature and Scope of Activities**

WRC Holdings is the holding company for investment in CentrePort and GWRL.

CentrePort is an important strategic asset for the Wellington region and a long-term investment for Greater Wellington. It provides a full range of port services, including imported goods and exports by container, bulk trade (ie logs, vehicles and cement), fuel imports, and provides the northern hub for the Cook Strait ferry service. The services





provided by CentrePort support businesses across the region and into Taranaki, Manawatu, and Marlborough. The Cook Strait ferry service is a nationally important link between the North Island and South Island. CentrePort also has a critical role as a lifelines asset during an emergency, such as an earthquake – providing an essential service to import food, water, fuel, equipment, first responders and evacuation of people.

The ability to integrate important outcomes (including regional economic development, generating a commercial rate of return, incorporating te ao Māori into decision making, and emissions reduction) into the long-term development of the port are key benefits of ownership in CentrePort.

WRC Holdings monitors the performance of CentrePort through regular reporting and presentations, and has issued its own Statement of Expectations to CentrePort for the 2024-2025 year. CentrePort produces a Statement of Corporate Intent as required by the Port Companies Act 1988. Operational performance measures for CentrePort are set out in CentrePort's Statement of Corporate Intent, which is published on CentrePort's website.

The scope of GWRL's activities, performance measures and financial information are set out in detail in sections 11, 12 and 13 of this SOI.

Key activities for WRC Holdings in the 2024-2025 year include:

- an increased focus on maximising profitability and dividends to Council, particularly regarding the importance of CentrePort's commercial performance and the need for a suitable financial return
- developing a new Investment Strategy to drive how the Board manages its portfolio and reporting back to Council on this
- consideration of the potential acquisition of Horizons Regional Council's shareholding in CentrePort
- maintaining awareness of the risks and opportunities associated with KiwiRail's future ferry terminal development
- maintain awareness of the risks to GWRL and CentrePort associated with the rail network assets
- providing advice, as appropriate, to Council on any new public transport assets from a holding company perspective
- supporting, as appropriate, the implementation of the Regional Economic Development Plan.

## 9. Non-financial performance targets

Objective	Activity	Performance measure
Impose commercial discipline on the Group's activities and generate a commercial rate of return	Monitor performance of WRC Holdings Group companies to ensure financial returns are optimised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WRC Holdings Board monitor Holdings Group companies' progress against their SOI targets quarterly</li> <li>WRC Holdings receives a quarterly report from CentrePort on its financial and non-financial performance</li> </ul>
Operate a successful, sustainable, and responsible business for the benefit of future generations	Review board performance against best practice governance standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WRC Holdings will undertake board effectiveness/performance reviews on an annual basis</li> </ul>
	Monitor performance of WRC Holdings Group companies to ensure continuous improvement to health and safety outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WRC Holdings Board reviews the quarterly Health, Safety and Wellbeing reports and seeks assurance that controls to manage critical risks are in place and effective</li> </ul>
	Monitor performance of the WRH Holdings Group companies in measuring, reporting and reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure and publicly report our GHG emissions and progress towards our target of net zero emissions by 2030 in the Annual Report</li> </ul>
	Monitor performance of WRC Holdings Group companies to ensure opportunities to give effect to Te Whāriki (Council's Māori Outcomes Framework) are considered and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicly report how we give effect to Te Whāriki in the Annual Report</li> </ul>
	Paying the living wage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that all direct employees within the WRC Holdings Group of companies are paid at living wage or above.</li> </ul>
Support Council's strategic priorities	Review and approve WRC Holdings Group Statement of Intent (SOI) for consistency with Council's strategic direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review draft WRC Holdings SOI by 1 March each year</li> <li>Approve WRC Holdings SOI by 30 June each year</li> </ul>
	Review and provide comments on the draft CentrePort Statement of Corporate Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review draft SCI and provide comments by 1 May each year</li> </ul>



Objective	Activity	Performance measure
	(SCI) to ensure consistency with Council’s strategic direction	
	Set expectations through annual Statement of Expectation letter to CentrePort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send Statement of Expectations to CentrePort by 31 December each year</li> </ul>
	Consult with the shareholder in a timely manner on Holdings Group strategic or operational matters which could compromise the Council’s community outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All such matters escalated to the Council in a timely manner</li> <li>Holdings to provide briefings to Councillors on matters of significance as required</li> </ul>
	Substantive matters, including those likely to generate media coverage, are reported to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matters of this nature should be reported to Council as soon as practicable</li> </ul>
Prudently manage assets	Monitor the management of rail assets and risk to ensure GWRL’s assets are fit-for-purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WRC Holdings Board review quarterly risk reporting for GWRL</li> <li>WRC Holdings Board receives the GWRL Annual Business Plan by 30 June each year</li> <li>WRC Holdings Board receives the GWRL Asset Management Plan by 30 September each year</li> </ul>

## 10. Financial information

### a. Shareholder Funds to Assets

2025	2026	2027
81.78%	80.43%	79.16%

Definition of Terms:

- Shareholder equity is defined as the amount of paid-up capital, plus retained earnings utilising the average of the opening and closing balance.
- Total Assets are defined as all the recorded current and non-current assets at their current value as determined in the most recent financial statements.

### b. Prospective statement of comprehensive income

Year ended 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000
Grant income	16,925	17,463	17,888
Port Income	107,297	115,143	123,845
Rental income	7,974	7,866	7,700
Interest income	5,942	4,413	4,893
Other income	76	77	391
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>138,214</b>	<b>144,963</b>	<b>154,717</b>
Interest expense	3,314	3,045	5,301
Depreciation & amortisation	38,104	40,182	39,395
Port expenditure	80,605	83,317	86,273
Other expenditure	25,411	26,058	27,553
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>147,434</b>	<b>152,602</b>	<b>158,522</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before tax</b>	<b>(9,219)</b>	<b>(7,641)</b>	<b>(3,806)</b>
Taxation expense (credit)	(455)	(300)	313
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>(8,764)</b>	<b>(7,340)</b>	<b>(4,119)</b>
Comprehensive income applicable to non-controlling interest	3,422	3,691	3,949
<b>Total comprehensive income applicable to parent</b>	<b>(12,186)</b>	<b>(11,031)</b>	<b>(8,068)</b>

### c. Prospective statement of financial position

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000
Opening equity	850,122	914,526	1,002,841
Opening equity non-controlling interests	(111,068)	(112,644)	(114,258)
New equity	78,315	101,932	122,473
Total comprehensive income applicable to parent	(12,186)	(11,031)	(8,068)
	805,182	892,783	1,002,987
Dividends distributed	(3,300)	(4,200)	(5,300)
Closing Equity Non-controlling interest	112,644	114,258	115,899
<b>Closing equity</b>	<b>914,526</b>	<b>1,002,841</b>	<b>1,113,586</b>
Equity applicable to parent	801,882	888,583	997,686
Non-controlling interest	112,644	114,258	115,900
<b>Closing equity</b>	<b>914,526</b>	<b>1,002,841</b>	<b>1,113,586</b>
Cash & cash equivalents	65,230	69,694	57,345
Current assets	27,494	29,701	31,512
Non-current assets	888,361	1,012,674	1,165,406
Investment property	86,125	86,125	86,125
Investments	55,158	63,282	71,837
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,122,367</b>	<b>1,261,477</b>	<b>1,412,225</b>
Current liabilities	23,203	25,412	26,949

# WRC Holdings Group

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000
Borrowings	44,000	44,000	44,000
Non-current liabilities	140,638	189,224	227,690
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>207,841</b>	<b>258,636</b>	<b>298,638</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>914,526</b>	<b>1,002,841</b>	<b>1,113,586</b>

### d. Prospective statement of changes in equity

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000
Opening equity	850,122	914,526	1,002,841
Shares to be issued during the year	78,315	101,932	122,473
Total comprehensive income for the year	(8,764)	(7,340)	(4,119)
Dividend to be paid - Equity holders	(3,300)	(4,200)	(5,300)
Dividend to be paid - Non controlling Interests	(1,846)	(2,077)	(2,308)
<b>Closing Equity</b>	<b>914,526</b>	<b>1,002,841</b>	<b>1,113,586</b>
Total comprehensive income attributed to:			
Equity holders - Parent	(12,186)	(11,031)	(8,068)
Non - controlling interest	3,422	3,691	3,949
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(8,764)</b>	<b>(7,340)</b>	<b>(4,119)</b>

### e. Prospective statement of cash flow

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000
<b>Cash flows from operations</b>			
Receipts from operations	129,632	137,671	147,489
Interest received	6,319	4,744	5,204
Dividends received	2,000	2,000	2,000
Payments to suppliers/employees	(107,850)	(110,604)	(116,774)
Subvention payment	(5,500)	(6,000)	(6,500)
Interest paid	(3,314)	(3,045)	(4,876)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>21,288</b>	<b>24,766</b>	<b>26,543</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of Fixed Assets - Rail	(78,315)	(101,932)	(122,473)
Development - Port and property	(42,420)	(62,333)	(69,423)
Acquisition of subsidiary	(3,500)	-	-
Purchase of investments	(16,000)	(6,800)	(7,000)
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>(140,235)</b>	<b>(171,065)</b>	<b>(198,896)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Borrowings	21,000	55,000	45,000
Dividends paid	(5,146)	(6,277)	(7,608)
Issue of shares	78,315	101,932	122,473

## WRC Holdings Group

Current Account movement	120	340	368
Lease Payments	(232)	(232)	(232)
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>94,057</b>	<b>150,763</b>	<b>160,001</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(24,890)	4,465	(12,352)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of the year	90,121	65,229	69,694
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at year end</b>	<b>65,230</b>	<b>69,694</b>	<b>57,342</b>

### f. Financial Statements commentary

- The prospective statement of comprehensive income for the three-year period 2024/25 to 2026/27 shows deficits before tax relating to the surplus from Centre Port being insufficient to offset the deficit from GWRL. GWRL has deficits due to depreciation and interest not being funded by Greater Wellington.
- Interest income shows a declining trend as Centre Port invests cash from insurance proceeds to fund its port regeneration programme.
- Interest expense increases in 2026/27 mainly due to Centre Port using borrowings to fund capital programmes.
- The taxation expense reflects the difference between Centre Port paying tax and GWRL having a tax credit from deferred tax.
- Equity increases by approximately \$263.5 million over the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 mainly due to Council equity injections to fund GWRL capex of approximately \$302.7 million partially offset by cumulative dividends of approximately \$12.8 million and cumulative losses of approximately \$31.3 million.
- Non-current assets increases significantly over the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 mainly due to port regeneration programme.
- CentrePort is expected to increase its borrowings in July 2024. CentrePort has asked Greater Wellington to provide a debt guarantee so it can access funds at a better rate, and Greater Wellington has agreed to provide a debt guarantee. This is expected to have a positive impact on CentrePort's financial results in 2024/25.

### g. Financial Performance targets

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000	WRCH GROUP \$000
Earnings before interest, tax & depreciation	26,257	31,174	35,996
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	(9,219)	(7,641)	(3,806)
Surplus/(deficit) after tax	(8,764)	(7,340)	(4,119)
Return on average assets (EBIT) - Performance indicator	-1.1%	-0.8%	-0.3%
Return on shareholder equity (NPAT)	-1.0%	-0.7%	-0.4%
Shareholders equity/Total assets	81.78%	80.43%	79.16%
Dividend distribution	3,300	4,200	5,300

## **h. Statement of Accounting Policies**

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Reporting Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2002 and New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (NZ GAAP).

These prospective financial statements are presented in accordance with Tier 1 PBE Accounting Standards and comply with PBE Standards.

The detailed accounting policies are available in our most recent annual report as published on Greater Wellington Regional Council website.

## **i. Assumptions in preparing the prospective financial statements**

The prospective financial statements information contained in this SOI is based on assumptions that WRC Holding Group could reasonably expect to occur in the future based on information that was current at the time this SOI was prepared. Actual results are likely to vary from the information presented and variations could be material.

The debt interest rate assumption for the WRC Holdings excluding Centre Port Limited is 6.28% for 2024/25, 5.67% for 2025/26 and 5.36% for the 2026/27 financial years after all margin costs. Interest rate hedging is put in place from time to time (as all debt borrowed is at floating rate) to protect against interest rate variability. The borrowing margin is fixed and is assumed to remain at this level going forward.

There will be no changes to key legislation affecting the Group activities.

Asset lives are in accordance with the Group's Accounting Policies.



**GWRL**

**11. Nature and Scope of Activities**

GWRL owns the investment on metro rail assets. These include the following rolling stock and infrastructure assets:

**Rolling Stock**

- 18 SW Carriages
- 6 SE Carriages
- 1 AG Luggage Van
- 2 Remote controlled electric Shunt crabs
- 83 2-Car Matangi units
- 1 Matangi driving simulator.

**Infrastructure Assets**

- Thorndon electric multiple unit (EMU) depot and EMU train wash Metro wheel lathe and building
- 23 Station buildings across a range of 48 Railway stations (Note: KiwiRail own the station platforms)
- 11 Pedestrian over-bridges
- 13 Pedestrian subways
- A range of carparks, station improvements and ancillary rail related assets.

GWRL is responsible for the management and maintenance of the rail rolling stock and rail infrastructure (GWRL's Rail Assets), and has contracted Greater Wellington (through a Management Services Agreement) to provide asset management, procurement, accounting, advisory, secretarial and general administration services. GWRL monitors the provision and performance of these services to ensure GWRL's Rail Assets are safe and fit-for-purpose. Operational delivery is the responsibility of Greater Wellington via a long-term performance-based contract with Transdev Wellington.

Key Activities and Initiatives	
<b>Wellington Strategic Rail Plan</b>	Continue to work with major stakeholders to further develop and implement the Wellington Strategic Rail Plan. Significant investment is required across rolling stock, rail station infrastructure and rail network infrastructure, to deliver the improvements in customer experience, network dependability, and network capacity/frequency.



<b>Maintenance</b>	Deliver train maintenance services, within approved budgets, through an operations and maintenance contract, while ensuring that train condition and performance is maintained, to deliver required level of service, throughout the assets' life.
	Deliver rail station infrastructure cleaning and maintenance, within approved budgets, through various contracts ensuring assets are able to deliver the required level of service throughout the assets' life.
<b>Renewals</b>	Deliver rolling stock heavy maintenance renewals, within approved budgets, through an operations and maintenance contract, while ensuring that train availability and reliability targets are met.
	Deliver rail infrastructure asset renewals and like-for-like replacement and improvement programme, to ensure the assets are able to meet the required level of service throughout the assets' life.
<b>Seismic strengthening</b>	Continue to monitor the seismic strengthening works on a number of earthquake prone subways, and station buildings, in accordance with the multi-year programme to ensure all structures have at least 67% seismic strength of the New Building Standard.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Maintain oversight of the programme to improve station accessibility in line with Greater Wellington's Accessibility Action Plan.
<b>RiverLink - Melling Station Relocation</b>	Continue to monitor the multi-stakeholder RiverLink project in relation to the design and construction of the relocated rail-bus Melling interchange to ensure the ideal end outcomes.
<b>Waterloo Station</b>	Maintain oversight of the development of the reference design and business case for the renewal of the Waterloo Bus-Rail Interchange.
<b>Potential additional assets (including Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility rolling stock)</b>	Maintain oversight and awareness of potential expanding asset portfolio for GWRL, including of the procurement of Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility rolling stock made up of 18 x 4-car low emissions multiple units to replace near life expired carriage fleet and provide improved rail connectivity between Wellington and regional centres Masterton and Palmerston North.

## 12. Non-financial performance targets

GWRL's key objectives are to prudently manage and maintain the rail rolling stock and rail infrastructure (GWRL's Rail Assets). Non-financial performance targets for GWRL are set within the context of the strategic targets and objectives of GWRC's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34 and associated GWRL Asset Management Plan.

Level of Service	Current performance result	2024/25 Performance target	Performance target (by end of 2024-34 LTP)
<b>CUSTOMER SATISFACTION WITH RAIL ASSETS</b>			
Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with their current trip	94%	≥93%	≥93%
Percentage of customers who are satisfied with the condition of the station	90%	94%	>96%
Percentage of customers who are satisfied with the inside temperature of vehicles	93%	≥93%	≥93%
Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with the condition of the vehicle fleet	96%	≥94%	>96%
Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with overall station	94%	≥92%	≥92%
Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with the cleanliness of the station	85%	≥91%	≥92%
Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with provision of shelter from weather at shelter/station	82%	≥84%	≥85%
Percentage of customers who are satisfied with their personal safety at station	91%	≥93%	≥95%
Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with information about service delays or disruptions	67%	≥73%	≥85%
Increased boardings by people that use the Accessible Concession <sup>1</sup> (as a percent of total rail boardings)	0.6% <sup>2</sup>	>0.6%	3%

<sup>1</sup> The Accessible Concession provides a 50% discount on adult Snapper fares for registered members of the Blind Low Vision NZ or passengers with a Te Hunga Whaikaha Total Mobility card; a bona fide carer can travel for free with the cardholder.

<sup>2</sup> Based on boardings between Dec 22-Jun 23

Level of Service	Current performance result	2024/25 Performance target	Performance target (by end of 2024-34 LTP)
<b>ROLLING STOCK - ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>			
Matangi - Mean distance between failure <sup>3</sup>	66,529	≥40,000km	≥40,000km
Carriage - Mean distance between failure <sup>4</sup>	95,446	≥80,000km	≥80,000km

Level of Service	Current performance result	2024/25 performance measures
<b>RAIL FIXED ASSET - ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>		
Percentage of pedestrian bridges and subways which meet at least 67% of NBS earthquake rating	79%	100%
Percentage of stations with CCTV coverage	96%	≥99%
<b>Average condition grade<sup>5</sup> of:</b>		
Station buildings and shelters:	1.7	≥2.5
Structures (pedestrian subways & bridges):	2.4	≥2.5
Park & Ride:	2.1	≥2.5
<b>Percentage of assets in condition grade 4 (Poor) or worse</b>		
Station buildings and shelters:	1%	≥2.3%
Structures (pedestrian subways & bridges):	5.4%	≥8%
Park & Ride:	5%	≥8%

### 13. Financial information

#### a. Shareholders' Funds to Assets

2025	2026	2027
84.20%	86.15%	88.73%

Definition of Terms:

- Shareholders' Funds (or equity) is defined as the total issued capital plus the balance of undistributed profits and capital reserves

<sup>3</sup> NB: Failure is defined as 'an event requiring unplanned maintenance'.

<sup>4</sup> NB: Failure is defined as 'an event requiring unplanned maintenance'.

<sup>5</sup> NB: Conditional grade score – 1: Is very good condition and, 5: very poor condition requiring replacement.

- Total Assets are defined as all the recorded current and non-current assets of the Group at their current value as determined by the Group's Accounting Policies.

**b. Prospective statement of comprehensive income**

Year ended 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000
Grant income	16,925	17,463	17,888
Rental income	7,597	7,534	7,700
Other income	76	77	79
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>24,598</b>	<b>25,075</b>	<b>25,666</b>
Interest expense	425	425	425
Depreciation & amortisation	25,662	25,659	23,992
Other expenditure	24,598	25,075	25,666
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>50,685</b>	<b>51,159</b>	<b>50,083</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before tax</b>	<b>(26,087)</b>	<b>(26,084)</b>	<b>(24,417)</b>
Taxation expense (credit)	(5,309)	(5,415)	(5,534)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>(20,778)</b>	<b>(20,669)</b>	<b>(18,883)</b>

**c. Prospective statement of financial position**

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000
Opening equity	406,671	464,207	545,470
New equity	78,315	101,932	122,473
Total comprehensive income	(20,778)	(20,669)	(18,883)
<b>Closing equity</b>	<b>464,207</b>	<b>545,470</b>	<b>649,060</b>
Equity applicable to parent	464,207	545,470	649,060
<b>Closing equity</b>	<b>464,207</b>	<b>545,470</b>	<b>649,060</b>
Cash & cash equivalents	-	-	-
Current assets	540	183	-
Non-current assets	547,488	623,761	722,242
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>548,028</b>	<b>623,944</b>	<b>722,242</b>
Current liabilities	3,591	3,659	3,901
Non-current liabilities	80,230	74,815	69,281
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>83,820</b>	<b>78,474</b>	<b>73,182</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>464,207</b>	<b>545,470</b>	<b>649,060</b>

**d. Prospective statement of changes in equity**

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000
Opening equity	406,671	464,207	545,470

## WRC Holdings Group

Shares to be issued during the year	78,315	101,932	122,473
Total comprehensive income for the year	(20,778)	(20,669)	(18,883)
<b>Closing Equity</b>	<b>464,207</b>	<b>545,470</b>	<b>649,060</b>

### e. Prospective statement of cash flow from operations

As at 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	GWRL	GWRL	GWRL
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Cash flows from operations</b>			
Receipts from operations	24,598	25,075	25,666
Payments to suppliers/employees	(24,349)	(25,007)	(25,582)
Interest paid	(425)	(425)	(425)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>(177)</b>	<b>(357)</b>	<b>(340)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of Fixed Assets - Rail	(78,315)	(101,932)	(122,473)
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>(78,315)</b>	<b>(101,932)</b>	<b>(122,473)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Issue of shares	78,315	101,932	122,473
Current Account movement	177	357	340
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>78,491</b>	<b>102,289</b>	<b>122,813</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	-	-	-
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of the year	-	-	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### f. Financial Statements commentary

- The prospective statement of comprehensive income for the three-year period 2024/2025 to 2026/2027 shows deficits before tax due to depreciation and interest not being funded by Greater Wellington.
- Depreciation remains constant in 2024/25 and 2025/26, then decreases slightly in 2026/27 due to useful life of assets being reached.
- The taxation expense represents a credit from GWRL's deferred tax position.
- Equity increases by approximately \$242.3 million over the said period as a result of WRC Holdings equity injections of approximately \$302.7 million to fund GWRL capital programme. This is offset by the net deficits of approximately \$60.3 million.
- Capital expenditure is significant at approximately \$302.7 million, mainly due to Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility Project (LNIRIM) including Depot design & build maintenance \$234.8 million and Matangi overhauls & refurbishments \$11.1 million.

### g. Performance targets

Year ended 30 June	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000	GWRL \$000
Operating expenditure	50,685	51,159	50,083
Capital expenditure	78,315	101,932	122,473
Shareholders equity/Total assets	84.20%	86.15%	88.73%

### h. Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Reporting Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2002 and New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (NZ GAAP).

These prospective financial statements are presented in accordance with Tier 1 PBE Accounting Standards and comply with PBE Standards.

The detailed accounting policies are available in our most recent annual report as published on Greater Wellington Regional Council website.

### i. Assumptions in preparing the prospective financial statements

The prospective financial statements information contained in this SOI is based on assumptions that GW Rail Limited could reasonably expect to occur in the future based on information that was current at the time this SOI was prepared. Actual results are likely to vary from the information presented and variations could be material.

There will be no changes to key legislation affecting the company's activities.

Asset lives are in accordance with the company's Accounting Policies.

## 14. Attachment – Statement of Expectations from Council (December 2023)

### By email

12 December 2023

Chris Kirk-Burnnand  
Chair, WRC Holdings Limited  
[chris.kb@gw.govt.nz](mailto:chris.kb@gw.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Chris

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Te Aro, Wellington 6011  
PO Box 11646  
Manners Street  
Wellington 6142  
T 04 384 5708  
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### WRC Holdings Limited - Statement of Expectations 2024/25

This letter sets out a statement of our expectations, as the shareholder in WRC Holdings Limited (WRCHL), as you begin drafting the Statement of Intent (SOI) for 2024/25 to 2026/27. Our statement of expectations, as prescribed in section 64B of the Local Government Act, specifies the relationship we expect to have with you over the period and our general expectations of the WRC Holdings Group.

The draft SOI is due to Council by 1 March 2024. We will then consider this document and provide feedback by 1 May 2024 to allow the document to be finalised before 30 June 2024.

#### ***Enduring expectations***

Our enduring expectations are that WRCHL:

- meets best practice governance standards
- is aligned with Council’s emerging Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34 strategic framework, with the four focus areas acting as a guide for WRCHL in developing its SOI:
  - Active partnerships with mana whenua and improved outcomes for Māori
  - Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction
  - Holistic approaches to deliver improved outcomes for te taiao
  - Improved access to services and equitable outcomes for communities.
- is aligned with Council’s specific objectives for WRCHL, as set out in the LTP 2021-2031, to:
  - Support Greater Wellington’s strategic vision
  - Operate successful, sustainable and responsible businesses
  - Manage its assets prudently
  - Where appropriate, provide a commercial return.
- reflects the overarching principles of Te Whāriki (Greater Wellington’s Māori Outcomes Framework) by proactively engaging mana whenua in decision making and incorporating te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori perspectives, so we can achieve the best outcomes for Māori across all aspects of our region

- maintains an ongoing focus on health and safety, particularly regarding the management of critical risks and controls
- follows robust processes at a governance level to identify and manage risks
- reflects Council's expectations that Council Organisations pay the Living Wage and mitigate the risk of modern slavery in their commercial activities
- ensures legislative compliance, and
- operates under a 'no surprises' policy with Council.

In addition to these enduring expectations, we have set out our specific expectations for the SOI for 2024/25 to 2026/27.

### ***Governance***

In support of the enduring governance expectations set out above, we ask that a performance review take place of the overall WRCHL Board, individual directors and the Board Chair, on an annual basis going forward. The next board performance review during the 2024/25 year should include (but not be limited to):

- eight elements of effective governance (<https://oag.parliament.nz/good-practice>)
- management of conflicts of interest
- quality of reporting
- how te ao Māori is considered within decision-making
- a review of the board skills matrix, with te ao Māori included on the skills matrix.

On completion of this review, Council should receive an update that describes the form the review took and the outcomes of it. Council would also like to receive a copy of the skills matrix, reviewed annually, by 30 September each year.

### ***Financial considerations***

The LTP anticipates a continued revenue stream from dividend payments and these need to continue to be factored into the SOI. WRCHL should work with its subsidiaries to see how it can increase its level of profitability and dividend stream.

### ***Developing a new Investment Strategy***

WRCHL own a significant portion of investment on behalf of Council. The WRCHL Board have previously considered their ownership and strategic objectives and we wish for further work in this area to be undertaken. To this end, we ask that WRCHL develop a new Investment Strategy to maximise returns to Council and to ensure that potential opportunities are maximised for the benefit of the Wellington region, and report back to Council on this in 2024.

### ***Public Transport assets***

We expect that WRCHL and Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) will:

- maintain awareness of the potentially expanding asset portfolio, with regard to the procurement of rail rolling stock (Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility) and Council's draft Asset Control Strategy
- maintain awareness of the risks associated with the rail network assets - given their criticality to both the CentrePort business, as well as to the rail assets and services provided by Metlink.





***Performance reporting***

We expect that WRCHL will review and seek continuous improvement of its performance measures in its 2024/25 SOI. Council will continue to require quarterly updates from WRCHL to ensure we have a good understanding of performance against the SOI. These updates should also focus on strategic issues facing the WRCHL and how these are being managed.

***Health and Safety***

The health, safety and wellbeing of our workforce and residents are key issues for Council as shareholder. We would like to see continued clarity that WRCHL is aware of and seeking assurance that key critical risks across both GWRL and CentrePort are appropriately managed, and that any assurance needed from other parties is satisfactory. Health and safety should remain a key focus of the board work programme.

***Regional Economic Development Plan***

Where appropriate, WRCHL should look to support and align to Council's regional projects, including the implementation of the Regional Economic Development Plan.

***A continuing emphasis on emissions reductions***

Council expects to see the importance of carbon reduction planning emphasised to WRCHL's subsidiaries. We note that CentrePort's activities are already well aligned with key outcomes sought by recent National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, including zero emissions, resilience, productivity and efficiency, safety and sustainability. Please let us know if you believe Council's support and assistance to engage with wider stakeholders would be helpful to WRCHL.

If you have any need for clarification on the above matters, then please feel free to contact me at the soonest opportunity. We look forward to receiving your draft SOI by 1 March 2024. In accordance with section 64B of the Local Government Act 2002, this letter will be published on Greater Wellington's website.

Nāku noa, nā

Daran Ponter  
**Chair - Wellington Regional Council**

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED**

# **STATEMENT OF INTENT 2024-2027**

**WellingtonNZ**

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*In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, this Statement of Intent (SOI) states the planned activities, intentions and performance measures for the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) for the next three years. It is written in response to the Shareholders December 2022 Statement of Expectation and covers both WREDA Ltd (WellingtonNZ) and its subsidiary Creative HQ Ltd.*

## 1. MIHI

E tu noa ana ngā maunga whakahi i te rohe whānui o Te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui. Mihi atu ana ki ngā iwi, ngā manawhenua o Te Whanganui a Tara, o Te Awakairangi, o Wairarapa, o Kāpiti, o Porirua hoki.

Ngā mihi hoki ki ngā iti, ki ngā rahi e noho ana i ngā takiwā nei. Koutou hoki ngā taurahere me te hunga o te Moana Nui a Kiwa.

Rātou te hunga mate, kua poto ki tua o te ārai, e moe, okioki e.

Te hunga ora e kawe ana ngā ahi kā, me tēnā toi, te auaha pai me te whai rawa o Te Ūpoko o te Ika, tēnā koutou katoa.

*The many mountains of Te Ūpoko o te Ika a Maui (from Head of the Fish of Māui) stand proud.*

*We acknowledge the mana whenua people of the region, of Wellington, Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Kāpiti and Porirua.*

*We acknowledge all peoples and the many communities of the Pacific Islands.*

*To those that have passed — we acknowledge you in your eternal rest.*

*To those who maintain the fires of residence, the pursuit of innovation and creativity here in the wider Wellington region, we acknowledge you too.*

## 2. STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There is a poem on the writers' walk along the Wellington waterfront which sums up life in this region. The poet is Lauris Edmond. The extract reads "It is true you can't live here by chance. You have to do and be, not simply watch or even describe. This is a city of action. The world headquarters of the verb."

To live in this place, you have to accept its eternal challenges; emphatic terrain and weather patterns and occasional earthquakes; as well as the ones present in any particular time – at this moment ageing infrastructure and the pressure imposed on families and businesses by housing costs and the rising cost of living.

It is possible to be paralysed by the scale and complexity of challenges like these. That is not the Wellington way. The people who make this place their home are remarkable. The region has always attracted risk takers – the entrepreneurial, the artistic, the political, the thinkers – those who want to make a difference to this country and to our world. It is true that there are risks and challenges in living here but it is possible to forge a life here that makes a positive difference. It is a place of energy, of action, and of achievement. The building of the Screen Sector, the creation of Zealandia, the huge expansion of technology activity and the continuing creativity of poets, writers, artists, musicians, and actors who bring vibrancy to this place, all speak to this. It is diverse. It is inclusive and it is a city and region where things happen.

Our Statement of Intent (SOI) reflects this action orientation. These are difficult times, and for an agency like ours that creates focus. We cannot sit back – things need to happen now if the city and region are to address challenges and seize the opportunities that present. We are well positioned to act. We have long-term strategies in place to grow our Screen, Technology, and Tourism sectors and to galvanise our regional economy. These are already being implemented and are making a difference, and we must sustain the momentum. These three sectors provide the best opportunities to create jobs and sustainable incomes into the future, but all face significant competition both domestic and international. They will need active support to grow, and the workplan set out in this SOI delivers that support.

The Letter of Expectation (LOE) from our shareholders provides helpful guidance for the year ahead. It does not require us to change our strategy, but it will require an increase in focus on short-term initiatives – particularly events and exhibitions to better support local businesses during these tough times. To balance that we will put less emphasis on talent attraction and international marketing (beyond Australia) than we have seen in recent years. This is appropriate because the primary drivers of our visitor economy are New Zealanders (70%) and Australians (15%). For other international markets we can leverage our strong industry relationships and the TRENZ conference (in Wellington this year for the first time) which will bring a significant number of international travel buyers and journalists to the city.

**Attachment 2 to Report 24.444**

The LOE anticipates a number of major new projects including increased responsibilities in Tākina, the development and implementation of a Venues Strategy and supporting the development of a Regional Deal – in response to the policies of our new Government. All will need resourcing. To make this happen we will be looking to reduce costs and improve efficiency across our business, exploring opportunities to collaborate more actively and working to increase third party funding where possible. We will have to say no to some things, but we are determined to work together to find ways to make things happen.

This SOI demonstrates that although our core funding appears significant, when spread across the wide range of initiatives our shareholders and ratepayers expect us to deliver, it is not. In this SOI we outline our three strategic pillars and our five ongoing priority areas, which form the basis of economic development in our region. Then we respond to each of the seven enduring expectations from our Council shareholders, before turning to the fifteen specific additional expectations that are set out in our Letter of Expectations. Finally, we note alignment with Council strategies and the KPIs through which our shareholders will measure our impact.

Economic development matters and makes a measurable difference. Without our work the region will attract fewer visitors, host fewer events, and create fewer jobs. The investment shareholders make in WNZ pays real dividends. We are proud of our place in this region of ambition, creativity, and action.

Ngā mihi nui



Tracey Bridges  
**Chair of the Board**



John Allen  
**Chief Executive**

### 3. OUR ROLE AND PURPOSE

#### WHO WE ARE

WellingtonNZ is the Wellington region's economic development and promotions agency. We also operate Screen Wellington and are responsible for operating Wellington City's performance Venues. We are currently formalising arrangements to take a leadership role in managing the exhibition programme at Tākina to augment the work our Business Events Team does in marketing this wonderful civic asset for conventions. We are a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with our shareholders being Wellington City Council (WCC – 80%) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC – 20%). We are governed by an independent Board of Directors who are appointed by the shareholders. WellingtonNZ is responsible to its two shareholders. We also report regularly to the Regional Leadership Committee which oversees the implementation of the Regional Economic Development Plan. Funding for WellingtonNZ activities comes from the two shareholding councils, central government agencies who contract WellingtonNZ to perform specific services, and a range of private sector partners. We are passionately committed to the success of this region and to living our values – better together, passionately curious, and choose joy, each day.

WellingtonNZ is the owner of a subsidiary company, Creative HQ Ltd. Creative HQ provides business incubation, acceleration, and innovation services. It was set up as a separate entity to establish and grow technology businesses and enhance innovation, with separate governance to ensure effective decision making and risk management. WellingtonNZ exercises governance oversight of Creative HQ through its board and the CEO of Creative HQ reporting to the WellingtonNZ Board Chair. We are actively looking to focus Creative HQ on its founding purpose – the incubating and acceleration of startup businesses. The team have an excellent record in this space. We believe much of our future economic success rests on growing the technology, Screen, and advanced manufacturing sectors.

#### OUR PURPOSE

Our vision is that **the Wellington regional economy is thriving, with more people participating in the benefits**. This means more opportunities for people – to study, work, enjoy, and participate in all that the region has to offer. To contribute to this vision, our mission is to be a catalyst in **creating a thriving Wellington region for all**. This purpose reflects our central role in placemaking, storytelling, supporting businesses growth, and in attracting people to our region as the best place in New Zealand to visit, host an event, start, and sustain a business, make a film, study, migrate to or invest in. We actively promote the region to domestic and international audiences and invest in events which bring visitors to our region. In addition, with a wide range of partners (our shareholders, central government, local businesses, universities and education providers, and our subsidiary Creative HQ), we invest in and support initiatives to create jobs, improve quality of life, and retain and develop the enormous talent in our region. Economic development matters. It should not be considered a discretionary activity. Without our work the region will attract fewer visitors, host fewer events, and create fewer jobs. The investment shareholders make in WNZ pays real dividends.

## 4. OUR STRATEGY FOR 2024-27



## 5. HOW WE DETERMINED OUR STRATEGY: THE THREE POU

In developing our work programme and priorities for 2024/25 we have carefully considered the terms of the Statement of Expectation and of the various WCC and GWRC strategies which are referred to. Context is important and this SOI is particularly focused on helping businesses and residents address the immediate challenges of rising costs and shrinking discretionary income and margin. Our strategic focus on Placemaking and Jobs for The Future reflects our assessment that in the current context, events, conventions, and exhibitions will provide the most immediate stimulus for businesses and that job growth is best delivered in the Technology sector, including screen, gaming, and advanced engineering.

Our strategic focus on Collaboration and Engagement reflects our acknowledgement of the challenge in balancing our commitment to Wellington City and its commercial and residential rate payers, who are the primary funders of our programmes, with our wider responsibility to the region. We see the Regional Economic Development Plan as the primary mechanism to prioritise our regional investment, and we continue to explore models to achieve better visibility for the impact our work has across the region. We believe that we are stronger when we align as a region, and we know that such alignment will be essential if we are to agree a regional deal with central Government.

The focus on Collaboration and Engagement also reflects the reality of our resourcing: WellingtonNZ is a small organisation with limited people and financial resources, and the power in partnership. Finally, our work programme for 2024/25 seeks to focus our delivery on areas in which we believe we can make a



significant difference, over a number of years. The section below provides brief information on our intentions in each area.

## 6. HOW WE PRIORITISE OUR WORK: THE FIVE “ROCKS”

### MANA WHENUA AND MĀORI IN THE REGION

We acknowledge all Māori communities within the region of Te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui, both mana whenua with whakapapa connections to the seven iwi, and the many others who have chosen to come, live, raise their whānau, and work here. In recognition of the significant talent and energy in Māori communities, our ambition is to become a trusted partner and work alongside these communities and contribute to the improvement of broad economic and quality of life outcomes.

We recognise our responsibility to operate in a way that is consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We will do this by growing our own capability and understanding and by leveraging the resources and capability of our shareholders where possible. This is a work in progress for WellingtonNZ.

Our focus is on supporting the continuing growth of the Māori economy. We are working across a range of participants from PSGEs to SMEs with commercial activities, and with enablers such as business networks, and central and local government agencies. Some Māori-specific initiatives, including: our partnership with Te Matarau a Maui, our support for a range of projects in tourism, business and skills development, and screen (particularly through our UNESCO City of Film programmes), and through the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP) projects we are implementing.

We are finalising a Māori economic development strategy to significantly increase the number and scale of Māori businesses in the region. This includes a focus on data collection – to ensure we understand the size of the opportunity and can measure the progress being made. We will also work on procurement policy, access to capital (which is a key constraint for many Māori businesses) and access to professional advice to support growth.

## EVENTS

In terms of attracting people to our city and region, events deliver. They drive bed nights, visitor spending, and spending by residents, as well as delivering significant reputational and social benefits for our community. Events support our hospitality, accommodation, and retail sectors, and provide significant work for the local events and creative sectors and add excitement and energy to the city. The opening of Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre has added to this momentum.

We will continue our work with promoters and artists to attract and market a diverse range of events in the venues we operate on behalf of Wellington City Council. We will also work to bring major events such as international artists and sports attractions to our city and actively promote Wellington as a place to hold conferences, business events and blockbuster exhibitions.

As well as our ongoing event attraction work, we will use the period covered by this SOI to build the brand and awareness of Tākina, build relationships in the exhibition space, and build an audience for our exhibitions through careful selection of the programme to cater to the wide range of interests across our diverse community.

Evidence shows that investment in events delivers a measurable return for our region. It's also true that work in this area also brings risk: not all events will succeed. However, our track record shows we can balance the risks to deliver very significant benefits across the spectrum of our work. Finally, in this space we acknowledge the substantial investment that our shareholders put into this area – both to support our ability to compete for and attract major events, and to maintain the venues. The seismic strengthening work required for venues over the SOI period is significant, and we will work alongside WCC to develop plans and progress this work as a priority.

## TECHNOLOGY & SCREEN

The Technology sector, whether Software as a Service (SaaS) businesses, gaming, screen, bio tech, or advanced engineering, represents a major growth opportunity for our city and region. The strength of our eco-system – Crown Research Institutes, universities, established private players (Wētā FX, Trade Me, Xero, Datacom), and startups – gives us a real competitive advantage, which we need to build on. The benefits of this sector in terms of economic development include its ability to scale quickly, the “weightless” nature of many of its exports, and its relatively high wages.

The screen sector is a major focus for WellingtonNZ. As the Regional Film Office, Screen Wellington will continue to implement our strategy including the attraction programme, support for film and gaming, and capitalising on our UNESCO City of Film status to create a more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive region. Screen provides significant opportunities and considerable financial and reputational benefits for our region despite current headwinds, and the sector strategy (which is reflected in the Regional Economic Development Plan), gives us a strong basis for working with the sector to realise opportunities.

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There are of course other sectors which are important in our region's economy – for example Government and Professional Services – but they are not, in our view, areas which we are able to influence as directly as we can the tech sector. By focusing on technology, we can make a tangible difference and drive sustainable growth. For the period covered by this SOI we have tasked our subsidiary Creative HQ with growing the number of technology start-ups and supporting founders to scale their businesses. We are also actively working to attract investment into the sector and develop entrepreneurial talent in young people.

**TOURISM**

Marketing and promoting our region to attract tourists is a core activity for WellingtonNZ. In recent years we have had to work hard in the face of COVID-19, earthquakes, and infrastructure challenges to tell the stories of our city. The tourism market (both domestically and internationally) is hugely competitive, and it requires continual effort to ensure Wellington is included in the itineraries of those visiting our country. In this competitive but resource-constrained context our approach is to be creative, take some calculated risks in our own storytelling, and leverage the reach and financial investment of others, including the TIA, Tourism NZ, and New Zealand Story. To create impact, we actively collaborate with companies bringing tourists to New Zealand and international trade journalists.

We will also support the developers of new tourist attractions – Dark Skies in Wairarapa for example – because they ensure that when tourists visit, they have a great experience and extend their stay. Our programme of work in this area is shaped by the Destination Management Plan developed in partnership with the Wellington City Council. In response to funding changes, in 2024 we expect to focus more strongly on our domestic market (which drives 70% of our visitors) and on the Australian market. Outside these markets we will be trade led, prioritising in China and North America, and we will leverage industry connections and the TRENZ conference, coming to Wellington for the first time in 2024.

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP) and its cohort of 37 projects has been a real game changer. It brings together the priorities for our region and the aspirations of mana whenua and our wider community. The range of projects reflects the diversity of our region – from primary industries (food and fibre) opportunities in Wairarapa, to STEM initiatives in the Hutt Valley, skills development projects in the Kāpiti Coast, and strengthening our technology and screen sectors across our region.

We are also working closely with Pacific communities to build capacity, deepen relationships, and develop specific programmes (for example a collaboration with the Pacific Business Networks to develop a Pacific resource hub, and a Student/Business networking series with tertiary institutions around Wellington).

Good progress is being made in initiating these projects but securing funding (which often requires central or local government support) is challenging. We cannot do this work alone and are looking to key

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partners to commit energy, resources, and action to make it happen. We will continue to work with the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee, to enable these initiatives to progress.

Alongside this, we will continue to provide a coordinated suite of high value programmes and services to help businesses increase their capability and develop their innovation potential. This will help them to grow revenue and employee numbers, attract investment for growth, and expand their export value, so we can grow our region's prosperity for the benefit of all. This support is provided across the region through the Regional Business Partners Network funded by MBIE and Callaghan Institute.

Lastly, we will continue programmes that support our rangatahi and create pathways to decent employment to create a pipeline of talent in the priority focus areas outlined in the Regional Economic Development Plan.

**ZERO CARBON**

We recognise the need to ensure economic development is sustainable and that business growth is managed in a way which supports our region's zero carbon goals. The work we are doing to help achieve this goal is described in each relevant section of our SOI. In summary, we are:

- supporting entrepreneurs to establish companies that assist in achieving the goal by increasing the volume of weightless exports from our region to the world and creating jobs that are supported by such exports. Many of these companies offer products and services which directly support sustainability, these include Cogo, Hot Lime Labs, and Switched on Bikes.
- working with businesses to change their processes to be more sustainable (our tourism and hospitality accelerators are examples)
- continuing to work on our own business, particularly in our venues, to reduce their environmental impact. This work is producing a significant reduction in the volume of waste going to landfill.
- Telling the stories of sustainability in our region through our channels and supporting the development of sustainable environmentally focused attractions in our region including trails, Dark Skies, Zealandia, East West Ferries, and others.

## **7. HOW WE WILL MEET THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THE STATEMENT OF EXPECTATION**

### **ENDURING EXPECTATIONS**

#### **ONE: NO SURPRISES**

The relationship with shareholders is critical to our success. We have an open and high trust relationship which works on a “no surprises” basis. We meet regularly with shareholder representatives and actively discuss risks to the achievement of our plan and how we might mitigate these.

#### **TWO: RELATIONSHIP**

We will meet the requirements set out.

#### **THREE: LEGISLATION & COMPLIANCE**

Our Risk and Audit Committee and our board have an active role in oversight of all aspects of legislative compliance. Our health and safety programme is comprehensive, legally compliant, and constantly evolving as new challenges emerge. Our subsidiary, Creative HQ, is governed separately to provide an additional level of assurance and compliance.

#### **FOUR: GOVERNANCE**

We will meet the requirements set out.

#### **FIVE: RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Risk and Audit Committee actively oversees our risk management framework which is regularly reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team.

#### **SIX: LIVING WAGE**

The organisation is committed to continuing to pay its staff a living wage or above. In 2023 this meant an increase of 9.9% to \$26 per hour for those staff currently paid the Living Wage. As contracts come up for renewal, we remain committed to ensuring the living wage is paid for work undertaken by our sub-contractors.

#### **SEVEN: MODERN SLAVERY**

We are aware of the challenges posed by “modern slavery” in New Zealand. While we have no specific projects in this space, we are happy to support initiatives by shareholders and other partners directed at eliminating this exploitation of vulnerable people.

## SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS

### ONE: WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNCIL

We have actively engaged with Wellington City Council to determine our primary areas of focus under the Economic Wellbeing Strategy. We agree with the areas prioritised and have developed strategies and initiatives to deliver progress under these goals.

### TWO: REDUCED FUNDING FOR TOURISM AND MAJOR EVENTS

We understand the need for Wellington City Council to find savings in its budget, and in response to this we have amended our approach to focus on visitation from Australia and New Zealand (rather than the rest of the world). With this amended focus we believe we will still be able to deliver a programme of work which makes a significant difference for Wellington. In addition, we are identifying other measures to reduce our costs while maintaining our impact. Initiatives include leveraging our digital platform to better target and reach potential visitors. We will also use the opportunity presented by hosting of the TRENZ conference in Wellington this year to raise the profile of the region in international markets.

### THREE: SUPPORTING BUSINESS TO GROW AND INNOVATE

We will continue to actively support our business community to obtain access to professional services through the MBIE-funded Regional Business Partner Programme. We will also continue supporting businesses affected by the City In Transition project, we will do this by implementing and administering a business assistance package with the three pillars of support (Free business advice, Management capability and Marketing/promotion). Our support for innovation and for the critical technology and screen sectors will continue through Screen Wellington, Creative HQ and the events and engagement activities lead by the WNZ Technology team. Our targeted engagement with business networks, businesses, and other industry groups, including with Māori, will afford us access to insights about the challenges faced by different parts of our region. It will also help us to better organise ourselves around the delivery and implementation of any Regional Deal, opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and collective contracting.

### FOUR: STRONGLY MARKETING WELLINGTON

WellingtonNZ's marketing campaigns such as Welcome Matt, Escape, and A Little bit of Wellington have successfully engaged domestic and international audiences. This year we expect to have less money to invest, and as noted in item two above, this will see us focus more on the domestic and Australian Markets (which drive 85% of visitors) and less on the wider international marketplace. We will be further enhancing our digital messaging and strengthening trade and business partnerships, which will enable us to engage in other important markets like the US where the highest value tourists live. We will be progressively introducing our new brand framework over the course of the year reflecting recent work to anchor our branding and storytelling more authentically in the history, typography, and unique elements of this place, and ensure consistency of voice and design across all our media channels. We expect to

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place a greater emphasis on marketing events including Tākina exhibitions as a direct response to current economic challenges.

**FIVE: DESTINATION PONEKE**

We are continuing to implement the Destination Pōneke Plan and support the delivery of the Regional Visitor Plan. We are particularly focused on supporting Te Atakura and the progression to a low carbon economy through the roll-out of the sustainability programme to hospitality businesses across the region. The implementation of a food and drink strategy is another key focus to ensure Wellington retains its competitive edge as a “must-taste” food destination to support the hospitality sector. Consistent with Destination Pōneke, we plan to engage with Māori entities to understand and support their tourism ambitions. For Iwi, we recognise WellingtonNZ has a role to play in advocacy for the protection of Mātauranga Māori.

**SIX: TĀKINA**

Tākina is and will continue to be an important focus for WNZ. We have been working closely with the Business Events Wellington team to market the convention facilities and more recently have taken greater responsibility for managing the exhibition programme. We are learning what works (and what doesn't) in the Wellington market. There is work to do to optimise the exhibition programme, develop effective working arrangements in this space and build the brand of Tākina so that locals and visitors know what happens inside the building. We are confident Tākina will ultimately provide a significant boost for Wellington, as all partners work together to develop and adapt effective working relationships.

**SEVEN: ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

We strongly support the development of an asset management plan and are working closely with WCC to progress this. Key challenges such as the seismic strengthening of the Opera House and the Michael Fowler Center are particularly important but smaller capital projects such as a repair of the stage lift in the St James are also essential.

**EIGHT: CIVIC PERFORMANCE VENUE STRATEGY**

We are leading the drafting of this strategy in close collaboration with the WCC arts team. There is a clear timeline for this work which will see a plan prepared for implementation in the 2024/25 year. This work will consider the purpose for which we have venues, the balance between economic, community and artistic drivers and changes to the current operating model that might be appropriate. It will also recognise the impact of required work on the Opera House and the MFC over the plan period.

**NINE: TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION**

As an economic development agency, our focus is on the strength and sustainability of the regional economy. We understand the pressure being felt by businesses (particularly hospitality, accommodation, and retail) at a time of rising costs and reduced consumer spending, and we have a clear programme of

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initiatives which are designed to assist them in this context. These include events (which bring people into the city), marketing initiatives to attract visitors, access to professional advice through the Regional Business Partnership Programme (RBPP) and support to the founders of startup technology businesses to grow their revenue and employee numbers, which in turn contributes to a vibrant economy for the wider eco-system.

**TEN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

We will continue to lead the REDP process through the Wellington and Wairarapa-based programmes team in our Business and Innovation Group. There will be continuing work to improve the visibility of our team and the effectiveness of our engagement over the course of the 2024/25 year. This will be focused on both efficiency and impact for the region on behalf of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.

**ELEVEN: MAKING SURE FUTURE BUSINESS IS SUSTAINABLE AND THE BUSINESS GROWTH IS MANAGED IN A WAY WHICH SUPPORTS OUR ZERO CARBON GOALS.**

WellingtonNZ has a strong focus on growing tech businesses. The growth of these businesses can be managed without significantly adding to our carbon emissions. That is because they deliver largely weightless exports. We are also actively working with other business sectors on carbon emission initiatives – including in the screen, hospitality, and tourism sectors.

**TWELVE: RESPONSIBLY MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES**

We will continue to consider the impact on sustainability and natural resources as a critical issue as we develop the pipeline of projects for the Regional Economic Development Plan.

**THIRTEEN: TE MATARAU A MAUI**

We are actively supporting the implementation of initiatives outlined in this strategy and will continue to do so.

**FOURTEEN: TE UPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI ACCORD**

We are a signatory to this agreement and social procurement is expected to be a key component of the Māori Economic Strategy we are currently finalising.

**FIFTEEN: PROMOTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

We understand the importance of public transport across the region. This is not a particular priority area for us, but we will continue to actively promote public transportation services on our platforms, consistent with our MOU with our shareholder GWRC.

**ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCILS' STRATEGIC DIRECTION - OUR STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP**

Our relationships with both shareholders are strong. This is of critical importance to us, and we place a very high value on these respectful and mutually beneficial relationships. Maintaining these relationships



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requires all parties to take a strategic approach and are best built through consistent patterns of engagement and time together. We would like to do more of this with senior leaders from both shareholders over the coming year.



**ALIGNMENT WITH THE COUNCILS' STRATEGIC DIRECTION CONT.**

In Wellington City Council's SOI, our shareholders set out several priorities and goals. In this section we note how our work contributes to those. The relationship with our shareholders is critical to our success. We have an open and high trust relationship which works on a "no surprises" basis, and actively discuss risks of our plan and how we might mitigate these.

<b>WNZ Work Programms (Detailed in appendix one)</b>	<b>Initiatives responding to specific expectations (Detailed on pages 13-15)</b>	
WNZ-01 Major Events	1. Working in Partnership with Council	
WNZ-02 Wellington Brand	2. Reduced funding for Tourism & Major Events	
WNZ-03 International Visitation	3. Supporting businesses to grow & innovate	
WNZ-04 Domestic Visitation	4. Strongly market Wellington	
WNZ-05 Wellington Destination Management Plan	5. Destination Ponoke	
WNZ-06 Wellington Regional Trails Framework	6. Tākina	
WNZ-07 Māori Economic Development & Business Support	7. Asset Management Plan	
WNZ-08 Wellington REDP	8. Civic Performance Venue strategy	
WNZ-09 Creative HQ	9. Take account of the current economic situation	
WNZ-10 Tech Sector	10. Implementation of the REDP	
WNZ-11 Screen Wellington	11. Sustainable future business and business	
WNZ-12 Wellington Convention Bureau	12. Responsibility managing natural resource	
WNZ-13 Supporting Wellington businesses to thrive	13. Te Matarau a maui	
WNZ-14 City in transition	14. Te Upoke o te Maui	
WNZ-15 Mana Whenua Partnerships	15. Promotion of Public transport	
WNZ-16 Regional/City deals and other WRLC work		
WNZ-17 Skills, talent and education		
WNZ-18 Investment attraction		
<b>Council Strategy</b>	<b>WNZ Work Programms</b>	<b>Alignment of WNZ initiatives in response to specific expectations</b>
<b>WCC's 2024-34 LTP</b>	WNZ-12, WNZ-14, WNZ-17	① ④ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧
<b>GWRC's 2024-34 LTP</b>	WNZ-12, WNZ-14	① ⑩ ⑫ ⑬ ⑭ ⑮
<b>Tūpiki Ora me Takai Here</b>	WNZ-09, WNZ-11, WNZ-12, WNZ-14, WNZ-17	① ⑤ ⑫ ⑭
<b>Te Atakura – First to Zero</b>	WNZ-02, WNZ-05, WNZ-06, WNZ-08, WNZ-09	⑩ ⑪ ⑫
<b>Rautaki Aho Tini 2030</b>	WNZ-09, WNZ-11, WNZ-12, WNZ-20	① ⑦ ⑧
<b>Strategy for Children &amp; Young People</b>	WNZ-11	①
<b>Economic Wellbeing Strategy</b>	WNZ-01, WNZ-03, WNZ-05, WNZ-06, WNZ-09, WNZ-10, WNZ-11, WNZ-12, WNZ-13, WNZ-14, WNZ-16, WNZ-17	① ④ ⑤ ③ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫
<b>Accessible Wellington</b>		⑤ ⑧ ⑩

## 8. PERFORMANCE METRICS

In recent years, WellingtonNZ has reviewed its performance framework with the aim of:

- Reducing the number of metrics;
- Ensuring metrics are linked to factors which WellingtonNZ can control and which measures WellingtonNZ's direct impact;
- Measuring outcomes not just outputs;
- Providing greater clarity on the region's return on investment.

This remains challenging given the range of activities undertaken by WellingtonNZ and the varying levels of influence that WellingtonNZ has over ultimate outcomes. The impact of COVID-19 further complicated the situation, which has made both existing benchmarks less relevant and forecasting targets in an uncertain future very challenging.

For this reason, we continue to adjust our performance measures to ensure we have a set of performance measures that best represent WellingtonNZ's activities and programmes, but also ensure we are maintaining consistency and keeping the metrics to a small set.

Note that in addition to these headline measures we will continue to measure a range of operational metrics including those that relate directly to our WCC, Major Events, and Venues Wellington funding (aligned to the expectations of the Funding Agreements).

### KEY HEADLINE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<i>KPI</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>2024/2025 Target</i>	<i>2023/2024 Target</i>	<i>2022/23 Actuals</i>	<i>2022/23 Target</i>
<b>JOBS FOR THE FUTURE</b>					
KPI 1: Direct economic impact of WellingtonNZ's activities and interventions (1)	This is a measure we introduced in 2019/20. It is designed to provide a dollar value indication of the impact of WellingtonNZ activities by collating the value of those activities that we directly influence and impact (where we have data to support that).	\$200m	\$150m	\$321m	\$150m
KPI 2: Number of businesses	This is a measure we introduced in	2,500	2,300	3,302	2,200

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engaged by a WellingtonNZ intervention or programme (2)	2019/20. It is designed to provide an indication of the number of businesses that we have directly impacted on by either being part of a WellingtonNZ programme or a direct WellingtonNZ activity or intervention				
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<b>JOBS FOR THE FUTURE</b>					
KPI 3: Equivalent Advertising Value (EAV) from media activity (3)	This is a measure we introduced in 2019/20. A key activity for WellingtonNZ is creating external stories and media content. Equivalent Advertising Value (EAV) is an accepted industry estimate of the value of media coverage that results from public relations and media activity. EAV is based on the equivalent cost to purchase the same reach and coverage results. This is a combination of TNZ (International media EAV) and domestic media	\$20m	\$30m	\$20.79m	\$20m



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KPI 4: Value of expenditure (from out of region) generated from events (including business, performance, and major events) (4)	Currently we measure out of region spend events at both Wellington city venues (covering both performance and business events) and Major Events. It is calculated using agreed methodology that is consistent across New Zealand.	\$120m	\$110m	\$103m	\$75m
The number of Wellington Region residents that attend events (5)	In light of COVID-19 and an increased domestic focus, we will measure the local audience at events to reflect the full impact.	625,000	550,000	615,181	500,000

<b>COLLABORATION &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>					
KPI 5: Stakeholder engagement (6)	This is a measure of the engagement we have with our stakeholders, and the quality of those relationships.	90%	90%	92%	90%
KPI 6: Māori Business support (7)	Number of Māori businesses and projects supported across WNZ.	75	Establish a baseline	NA	NA
	Satisfaction of Māori businesses receiving support.	90%			
KPI 7: Pasifika Business support (8)	Number of Pasifika businesses and projects supported across WNZ.	15	Establish a baseline	NA	NA
	Satisfaction of Pasifika businesses receiving support.	90%			

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In addition to the above we have 3 key internal facing KPIs:

<b>KPI</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>2024/2025 Target</b>	<b>2023/2024 Target</b>	<b>2022/23 Actuals</b>	<b>2022/23 Target</b>
KPI 1: Financial Management (9)	Budget on track – income, expenditure, and surplus.	To Target	To Target	To Target	To Target
KPI 2: Funding Diversification (10)	% of revenue from commercial/non council funding and commercial activity (combined WellingtonNZ and Creative HQ)	30%	34%	25%	32%
KPI 3: Employee Engagement (11)	As measured by our CultureAmp employee surveys	78%	78%	76%	70%

#### INDIRECT MEASURES OF IMPACT

We will continue to measure, monitor, and report on a range of metrics which indicate how the region is performing in key areas of WellingtonNZ interest, but for which WellingtonNZ only has a partial or no direct impact. These include measures that are specifically requested as part of the WCC funding agreements.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>2024/2025 Target</b>	<b>2023/2024 Target</b>	<b>2022/23 Actuals</b>	<b>2022/23 Target</b>
International visitor arrivals through Wellington International Airport: International (12)	140,000	120,000	151,232	120,000
International visitor arrivals through Wellington International Airport:	115,000	100,000	109,738	100,000

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Australian (12)				
Visitor Spend: Domestic (13)	\$1,200m	\$1,200m	\$1,084m	\$900m
Visitor Spend: International (13)	\$250m	\$250m	\$262m	\$180m
Total Visitors' nights to our Wellington Region (14)	2,600,000	2,500,000	2,598,000	2,400,000
Share of multi- day conferences reported in the Wellington Region (15)	25%	25%	27.6%	22%

We will also continue to collect and share data on the performance of the Wellington region including, but not limited to:

Population Growth due to migration to Wellington Region (16)	2,500	2,500	6,800	2,500
Wellington Region GDP Growth (17)	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.5%
Wellington Region GDP per Capita (17)	\$90,000	\$76,891	NA	NA
Number of Filled Jobs in our Region (18)	275,000	310,000	260,236	270,000
Number on Jobseeker Support benefit	11,000	11,000	9,877	11,500

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Work Ready (19)				
Mean Annual Earnings of people in employment in the Wellington region (20)	\$85,000	\$82,000	\$82,680	\$76,169
Labour force unemployment by ethnic group (21)	3.5% average for region 6% for Māori and 5.5% for Pacific People	4.5% average for region 7.9% for Māori and 7.5% for Pacific People	NA	NA
Overall satisfaction with life (Biennial) (22)	88%	88%	NA	NA
Ability of income to meet every day needs (Biennial) (22)	50%	59%	NA	NA

## NOTES AND SOURCES

## DIRECT MEASURES

(1) This is calculated from assessing the contribution of the value of business events attracted, the screen permits, value of redemptions for retail and hospitality promotions, the value of capability vouchers distributed, the value of R&D grants distributed, out of region expenditure at events, the value of spend from WellingtonNZ hosted programme activity, the value of sales generated through i-SITE pay and display, the value of sales made in the i-SITE for Wellington businesses, the contribution of non-local government funding to the activity of WellingtonNZ, the equivalent advertising value for marketing and promotions activity, Creative HQ, the spend of visitors generated as a result of WellingtonNZ promotional and marketing activity.

(2) This number is calculated by aggregating the number of businesses who have received support from WellingtonNZ's programme and activities including, businesses who participated in Visa Wellington on a Plate, WellingtonNZ partners who have formal partnerships with WellingtonNZ on programmes of work during the year (tourism, marketing, events and business partners), start-up businesses who WellingtonNZ provide professional capability building advice to, businesses who have benefited from featuring in WellingtonNZ promotional and marketing activities such as Wellington Unlocked, and Advent



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Calendar, businesses who have received support through WellingtonNZ's workforce and business support programme (such as Summer of Tech/Summer of Engineering, Regional Business Partner programme and Pop up Business School).

(3) Equivalent Advertising Value (EAV) is an accepted industry estimate of the value of media coverage that results from public relations and media activity. EAV is based on the equivalent cost to purchase the same reach coverage results. This is a combination of TNZ (International media EAV) and Domestic Media.

(4) The combined value of new spend in the region from visitors attending events in Venues Wellington (business events and performance events), attendance at Major Events for which WellingtonNZ is an investor and attendance through the exhibition floor of Tākina. It is calculated using agreed methodology that is consistent across New Zealand.

(5) The total number of tickets recorded for major events, events in Venues Wellington (business & performance) and the exhibition floor of Tākina that have been sold to residents in Wellington Region.

(6) Measure of satisfaction by a range of stakeholders and key business partners. The methodology is an annual survey which captures stakeholders' level of satisfaction with the quality of engagement with WellingtonNZ.

(7) The number of Māori businesses engaged, and their satisfaction as described in (6)

(8) The number of Pasifika businesses engaged, and their satisfaction as described in (6)

(9) Financial profit and loss performance to within budget as monitored and reported on a monthly basis by our finance team

(10) Measure of the percentage of revenue/income that comes from non-council shareholder funding across WellingtonNZ and Creative HQ

(11) Measure of engagement from WellingtonNZ's annual Culture Amp engagement survey

**INDIRECT MEASURES**

(12) International Visitors Arrival – StatsNZ

(13) MRTEs – StatsNZ – This figure is currently unable to be reported on as the dataset has been disestablished, this is a recent development and there is a hope this will be reestablished

(14) Accommodation Data Programme – Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and Fresh Info.

(15) Business Events Research Programme – Industry Partnership

(16) Population Growth Data on Net Migration to Wellington Region – Infometrics

(17) Wellington Regional GDP value – Infometrics

(18) Monthly Employment Indicators – StatsNZ

(19) Number on Jobseeker Support Benefits – Workready – Ministry of Social Development

(20) Earnings for people in paid employment by region, sex, age groups and ethnic groups table – StatsNZ

(21) Household Labourforce Survey, StatsNZ

(22) Overall satisfaction with life and the ability of income to meet every day needs comes from the Rangahau te Korou o te Ora / Quality of Life Survey

## 9. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Revenue from Shareholders	25,049,735	27,053,713	29,218,010
Other Revenue	6,527,383	7,049,574	7,613,540
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>31,577,118</b>	<b>34,103,287</b>	<b>36,831,550</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Personnel Costs	15,098,521	15,853,447	16,646,120
Investments in Projects and Events	14,165,378	15,510,961	17,314,607
Other Expenditure	2,513,218	2,638,879	2,770,823
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>31,777,117</b>	<b>34,003,287</b>	<b>36,731,549</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-200,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets	11,000,000	10,000,000	9,000,000
Investments	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000
Other Non Current Assets	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>13,950,000</b>	<b>12,950,000</b>	<b>11,950,000</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>10,100,000</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>8,950,000</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,850,000</b>	<b>3,950,000</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>OPENING CASH</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>	<b>7,500,000</b>	<b>7,300,000</b>
Operating Cash Receipts	31,577,118	34,103,287	36,831,550
Operating Cash Payments	32,077,117	34,303,287	36,931,549
<b>NET CASHFLOW</b>	<b>-500,000</b>	<b>-200,000</b>	<b>-100,000</b>
<b>CLOSING CASHFLOW</b>	<b>7,500,000</b>	<b>7,300,000</b>	<b>7,200,000</b>

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Notes:

- Financial Summary is a consolidated view (Parent and Subsidiary – Creative HQ)
- Revenue forecasts from our Shareholders are reflective of funding agreements in place. This includes revenue coming off our balance sheet that has been held in advance, alongside the revenue granted to match salaries and wages of employees employed to run WCC’s Performance and Conference Venues.
- Other Revenue reflects revenue from third parties and commercial activity, and the revenue achieved by Creative HQ resulting from its commercial activities.
- Investments represent the value of the investments from Creative HQ in the companies that it incubates and retains a shareholding.

## 10. RISKS TO KPI ACHIEVEMENT

There are several risks which could impact on the success of WellingtonNZ. Many of these are outside of our direct control, such as the impact of geo-political factors, changes to government policy settings, or macro-economic factors which impact on the economy as a whole (including pandemics and natural disasters).

In terms of being successful in our three key areas of focus and achieving our Key Performance Indicators, we note the following specific risks and how these will be mitigated:

<b>Area of Risk</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Availability of shareholder and partner funding	Funding is insufficient to deliver events, promotions, product development and business support required. This risk is increased by current and anticipated cost inflation.	<p>Ensure delivery is in line with partner expectations.</p> <p>Ensure CPI increases are received for core funding.</p> <p>Maintain a regular schedule of communications with and reporting to partners.</p> <p>Engage major partners in planning sessions to ensure programmes meet their expectations.</p> <p>Review partner funding arrangements on a regular basis.</p> <p>Seek new commercial revenue sources.</p>
Venue Suitability	That the model we are using to operate our Events business, and the suitability of our Venues is not appropriate to attract the diversity of events required to maintain the entertainment offering of the city and attract visitors/talent to the region.	<p>WellingtonNZ will work with WCC to ensure appropriate capex is allocated to renewals within existing venues so that they remain fit for purpose during this period.</p> <p>WellingtonNZ will work proactively with core hirers to find solutions that meet their needs, both within existing venues and other venues in the city.</p> <p>WellingtonNZ will communicate proactively with the market on the status of Venues.</p>

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Venue Availability Seismic issues.	That work to address seismic issues with key venues is not progressed or funded sufficiently. This would restrict the events that can be delivered in the city and impact businesses.	Work with WCC to ensure remedial work for MFC and the Opera House is prioritised and funded.
That we fail to maintain effective working relationships across the Wellington region	As an organisation that is invested in and works for the whole Wellington region it is critical that WellingtonNZ maintains appropriate stakeholder engagement processes.	WellingtonNZ will work with both its shareholders and the other Councils within the region in a structured and proactive manner such that both elected officials and officers of these organisations are well informed of WellingtonNZ's programme of activities at all times. WellingtonNZ will participate in appropriate work groups across the Wellington region to support economic development activity.
Access to government funding	Inability to access Government funding to support the business community, our arts and innovation sectors, and essential infrastructure investment.	WNZ, GWRC, Wellington Regional Leadership committee and the TAs will work to develop a "regional deal" for discussion with central Government. This will reflect the current Regional Economic Development Plan and build the relationships necessary to align the region around specific priorities and to secure necessary funding.
Tākina	Failure to capitalise on opportunities Tākina offers for conventions and exhibitions.	Work closely with WCC and Te Papa to finalise the operating model and build the relationships required for success. We will support our Business Events team in this space and develop new capabilities to source and deliver exhibitions.

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Shortage of housing	Not enough affordable housing for the talent required to fill the roles created by the economic development of the region.	We will continue to advocate with Councils in the region to ensure that the development of new housing is a priority and ultimately ensure our Region can thrive. We acknowledge that we cannot independently resolve this.
Technology and screen sector growth	Failure to seize the opportunities presented by our screen, VR, gaming, and technology sector to grow export-oriented businesses of scale.	We will work across the sector to tell its stories and promote investment and collaboration. We will also work with Creative HQ, universities, CRIs and entrepreneurs to deliver more startups in the region and equip founders with the skills and support necessary to build businesses of scale.
Key Person Risk	Reliance on key individuals to deliver the results expected of us. This places significant pressure on them at a time we are being asked to deliver more impact with lower funding.	Develop a succession plan for all critical roles. We are also looking to increase the flexibility of operating across our business units to ensure we are fully using all available talent.
Māori capability	We recognise our responsibility to operate in a way that is consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and that celebrates Te Reo as a taonga. This is a work in progress for us, we currently lack capability and draw heavily on support and resources from our shareholders.	We will remain focused on areas where we are able to directly influence policy and outcomes on Māori economic development and the entities delivering on economic and commercial outcomes.

In addition to the above, WellingtonNZ has a strategic and operational risk framework which is governed by the Risk and Audit Committee of the WellingtonNZ Board.

## 11. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX ONE: PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY

#### PLACEMAKING

*Objective: Enhance Wellington as New Zealand’s creative heart — driving more locals and visitors to participate in events and experiences, and drive visitation into local businesses and attractions.*

<b>Programme - Unique ID</b>	<b>Overview</b>
<b>Major Events</b> - WNZ-01	WellingtonNZ will continue to support and invest in major events for Wellington, taking a portfolio approach to generate economic, brand and social benefits. We will partner with key venues and stakeholders to present events and exhibitions that will drive residents and visitors into the city.  Our WellingtonNZ Major Events team will also administer and monitor the Wellington Regional Events Fund. The fund focuses on securing events for the Wellington region that drive domestic visitation to the region.
<b>Wellington Brand</b> - WNZ-02	Following work on a new destination brand for Wellington with Te Ao Māori at its core, WellingtonNZ will continue to roll-out the new brand framework and visual identity. We will integrate the brand into destination attraction campaigns and promotions to reinforce Wellington as a place to visit, and, as a place to work, study, live and invest.
<b>International Visitation</b> - WNZ-03	WellingtonNZ will ensure that Wellington and Te Upoko o Te Ika continues to be a key destination for international visitors. Our activity will be trade-led and we will work with our Team Wellington funding partners with a focus on Australia, China and North America. We will maximise the benefit of hosting TRENZ to drive increases in visitation. Through Business Events Wellington we will continue to target and attract international conferencing to Wellington at Tākina and other venues. We will leverage strong relationships across Tourism New Zealand and other key tourism entities, including driving PR coverage through targeted programmes.
<b>Domestic Visitation</b> - WNZ-04	WellingtonNZ will prioritise the domestic market for consumer campaigns to drive visitation into the city. We will launch seasonal campaigns, leveraging major and performance events, and promotion of Tākina exhibitions. Seasonal campaigns will focus on promoting greater shoulder season / off-peak visitation, and where funding allows, Wellington’s summer events programme. Using the ‘you would in Wellington’ tagline, we will grow engagement with our digital and social audiences in support of Wellington city businesses, driving out of town and local attendance at major events, and performances in our venues. We will deliver compelling campaigns for exhibitions at Tākina and build Tākina’s brand. Through Business Events Wellington,

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	<p>we will continue to target and attract domestic conferencing and conventions. WellingtonNZ will work with the business community to design and implement a refreshed destination attraction / marketing partnership programme.</p>
<p><b>Wellington Destination Management Plan - WNZ-05</b></p>	<p>WellingtonNZ will continue to lead the delivery and development of Destination Pōneke to ensure outcomes benefit visitors and locals. We will focus on key sustainability initiatives focusing on building more capability across tourism and hospitality businesses. We will progress the Wellington Food and Beverage strategy, continue the delivery of the MOU with Metlink for the promotion of public transport to manuhiri, and investigate funding models to enable the progression of initiatives, for example the Civic’s strategy and an investor prospectus to support attraction of commercial accommodation. The development of a cruise strategy for the city will be integrated into the DMP, including consideration of the future location of the Wellington i-SITE to best support locals, manuhiri and the commercial success of Tākina and Te Papa.</p>
<p><b>Wellington Regional Trails Framework - WNZ-06</b></p>	<p>WellingtonNZ will continue to lead the promotion of trails across Te Upoko o Te Ika using the Find Your Wild brand and through promotion in WellingtonNZ content and channels. The support and growth of the Regional Trails Framework is a key element of our collaboration with regional partners and local businesses located close to trails.</p>





**JOBS FOR THE FUTURE**

*Objective: Support businesses to grow, innovate and meet future workforce needs, to ensure more businesses are succeeding and employing more people.*

<b>Programme - Unique ID</b>	<b>Overview</b>
<p><b>Māori Economic Development and Business Support -</b> WNZ-07</p>	<p>Our Māori economic strategy is being developed with input from a range of Māori entities, including iwi. This mahi has been elevated to SLT and is being led by our GM, Māori Economic Development.</p> <p>The strategy focuses on the number and scale of Māori businesses in the region. This includes data collection – to ensure we understand the size of the opportunity and can measure the progress being made. We will also work on procurement policy, access to capital (which is a key constraint for many Māori businesses) and access to professional advice to support growth.</p> <p>Some Māori-specific initiatives include: our partnership with Te Matarau a Maui, our support for a range of projects in tourism, skills development, and Screen (particularly through our UNESCO City of Film programmes), and through the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP) projects we are implementing.</p>
<p><b>Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan -</b> WNZ-08</p>	<p>The Regional Economic Development plan, led by WellingtonNZ, is governed by the Wellington Regional Leadership committee.</p> <p>The objective is to guide the long-term economic direction of the Wellington region in line with the Regional Growth Framework to support the creation of 100,000 jobs and improve quality of life for all.</p> <p>We will continue to lead the programme management office to support and drive initiatives across eight focus areas: four sectors (screen, creative and digital; science, technology, engineering and high-value manufacturing; visitor economy; and primary sector food and fibre), and four enablers (skills, talent and education; Māori economic development; water accessibility and security; and resilient infrastructure. This will include coordination with the initiative leads, support from a WNZ Champion, and supporting the Steering Group to provide oversight of delivery and being the interface with the WRLC.</p> <p>A refresh of the REDP will be completed by mid-2024, providing an opportunity to refine the plan.</p>

<p><b>Creative HQ: Incubation Services and Innovation Ecosystem Support - WNZ-09</b></p>	<p>Creative HQ enables WellingtonNZ to support and grow the region’s start-up and entrepreneurial activity. We are supporting business incubation and corporate and government innovation. We want to see an increase in the number of business start-ups in the region and the amount of support they receive, to help them scale.</p>
<p><b>Tech Sector - WNZ-10</b></p>	<p>The tech sector team is working towards a mission of creating 30,000 jobs in the Wellington tech sector by 2034 – double the current number.</p> <p>The strategy, developed in 2022, is based on five goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise the profile of the tech sector in Wellington, scale up the inception of new companies.</li> <li>2. Support existing high growth companies to reach their potential and become major employers.</li> <li>3. Attract investment and international businesses to Wellington.</li> <li>4. Promote tech careers and inspire the next generation of talent.</li> <li>5. Promote equity by encouraging women, Māori, and Pasifika to engage in the tech sector.</li> </ol> <p>Our overarching theme for 2024 is ‘Epic Scale.’ Our initiatives this year, including our events and education programmes, are designed to challenge founders and leaders at our tech businesses to aim big and prepare for global growth. We have identified that a lack of ambition is a major constraint to Wellington tech sector growth, so we are looking to challenge this mindset in 2024.</p>
<p><b>Screen Wellington - WNZ-11</b></p>	<p>Our team at Screen Wellington will continue to be the Wellington region’s film office through Screen Wellington. The 2030 Screen Strategy identifies the size of the economic opportunity in these areas, and the initiatives that will best support the sector.</p> <p>In addition to the Screen Attraction Programme our key focus is on:</p> <p><b>UNESCO Creative City of Film</b> - To retain our UNESCO Creative City of Film which provides a framework for sustainable and inclusive growth.</p> <p><b>A bi-cultural City of Film</b> - Continue to engage with Māori leaders in the screen sector and creatives across the region to develop and support opportunities for Māori screen creatives and businesses. Support the sector to provide a framework for engaging with mana whenua for location filming that protects the mana of our locations, people, flora, fauna and utilise our UNESCO status to export our screen culture to the world and bring the worlds screen culture to Wellington. With a</p>

	<p>particular focus on Māori and te reo Māori screen content development opportunities.</p> <p><b>Film-friendly Facilitation</b> – Continue to engage councils, iwi and other stakeholders to ensure that our region retains ease of business for production, location filming, permitting, crew database and other sector support.</p> <p><b>Talent and workforce</b> – Support a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive screen sector by uplifting and giving voice and pathways to new, diverse talent. Support the future workforce in partnerships including tertiary and school programmes. To promote our region as the best place in the world to study all aspects of filmmaking and creative screen technology. Tell the stories of the international creatives who live and work in the screen sector in Wellington to continue to attract and create high end jobs.</p> <p><b>Diversity</b> - Support existing film programmes and projects that provide access and opportunities to underserved and underrepresented communities.</p> <p><b>Events</b> - Support screen public and business events such as Maoriland Film Festival, the Canada/NZ Co-production Summit, the NZ Game Developers Conference, etc.</p> <p><b>Leadership</b> - Continue to provide leadership and advocacy for our region’s screen sector. And provide leadership within the UNESCO Creative Cities network.</p>
<p><b>Wellington Convention Bureau</b> – currently on secondment to WCC - WNZ-12</p>	<p>WNZ will work with WCC to provide a full range of services to identify, source, attract, market, and deliver a strong programme of exhibitions in Tākina, aligning with both our Major Events work and venues delivery.</p> <p>Through our support of Business Events Wellington, we will continue to work with Wellington City Council and Te Papa to ensure the sales and marketing of Tākina as a convention venue deliver the best business outcomes for Tākina as well as economic impact for the city. Business Events Wellington will also continue to act as the Convention Bureau for Wellington and support the promotion and attraction of conferences to other venues in Wellington.</p>
<p><b>Supporting businesses to thrive in our region</b> - WNZ-13</p>	<p>We will continue to provide a coordinated suite of high value programmes and services to help businesses increase their capability and develop their innovation potential. This will help them to grow revenue and employee bases, attract investment for growth, and expand their export value. The support is across the region through the Regional Business Partners Network funded by MBIE and includes (\$480k per year) for management capability building R&amp;D/innovation services with Callaghan Innovation, one to some group training from July 2024 onwards and other business support.</p>



<p><b>Wellington City in Transition - WNZ-14</b></p>	<p>We will provide support for businesses to grow and innovate in Wellington City including specialist services to support businesses as part of the City In Transition project. We will continue to actively work with the business community affected by the redevelopment work on the Golden Mile and Thorndon Quay. This will include developing and implementing the business assistance package with the three pillars of support (Free business advice, Management capability and Marketing/promotion) to help all businesses in the eligible area.</p>
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**COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

*Objective: Work in partnership to support investment in the region to unlock the best outcomes and opportunities for all.*

<b>Programme - Unique ID</b>	<b>Overview</b>
<p><b>Mana Whenua Partnerships - WNZ-15</b></p>	<p>We will be relying on support from our shareholders who are better resourced to lead partnerships with mana whenua.</p> <p>We will work to build relationships and trust, affording us access and insight around evolving economic development strategies. We will ensure our work supports the goals of mana whenua and we’re bringing value to the partnerships.</p> <p>We will work closely with Te Matarau a Maui to ensure there is consistency of approach to engagement with mana whenua</p>
<p><b>Regional / City Deals and other WRLC Projects - WNZ-16</b></p>	<p>We will continue to work with the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee to develop a Regional/City deal for our region. We will also support the future development strategies where there is a link or dependency with the REDP, for example future industrial land development research, food security strategy, Priority Development Areas emissions reduction, and climate change adaption. Whilst we are not the lead for these initiatives, we can lean in to support relationships and connections in critical infrastructure such as water accessibility and security in Wairarapa.</p>
<p><b>Skills, talent, and education - WNZ-17</b></p>	<p>We will continue to support programmes providing opportunities to support our rangatahi and create pathways to decent employment. Currently we are supporting initiatives in the REDP priority sectors such as STEM, Screen, Primary Industries. This includes initiatives such as the Summer of Tech, Summer of Engineering, Tech leadership series, House of Science, the Wellington E2E Centre, and Job, Search, Connect.</p> <p>An area of focus will be supporting mana whenua and Pasifika communities with skills development programmes for their rangatahi, such as the STEM mentorship programme with Ngāti Toa, developing a Pacific resource hub in collaboration with</p>

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	<p>key partners, and Pasifika Student/Business networking series with tertiary institutions.</p> <p>We will consider how to grow the scale of our impact in this space to make a direct impact on workforce needs in the region.</p>
<p><b>Investment attraction - WNZ-18</b></p>	<p>We will continue our work to attract investment in the tech and screen industries to support business attraction, retention, and growth, to drive job opportunities and economic growth across the region.</p> <p>The screen, creative and digital sector can be defined as companies and individuals creating narratives, content, and ways in which it is consumed. Screen production covers film, television series, games, interactive media, animation, visual effects, sound and other storytelling processes and mediums, plus software and hardware platforms used for the creation and consumption of compelling moving images and associated content. As an example we will continue to attract business with an in-market ambassador, Screen Attraction programme “Make it here - <a href="#">(It’s all here in Wellington UNESCO City of Film - YouTube)</a>” and an animation, VFX and Gaming showreel.</p>



## APPENDIX TWO: GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTING

WellingtonNZ is a Council Controlled Organisation as defined by the Local Government Act 2002. WellingtonNZ is owned 80% by the Wellington City Council and 20% by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

### GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of WellingtonNZ's activities. The Board guides and monitors the business and affairs of WellingtonNZ, in accordance with the Companies Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2002, the Company's constitutions and this SOI.

All current Board directors are independent and appointed by our shareholders. The Board meets six to seven times a year. The Board has two sub-committees; Risk and Audit, and People & Culture, which meet separately.

### SHAREHOLDER GOVERNANCE

#### REPORTING

By 1 March each year WellingtonNZ will deliver to the Shareholders its draft SOI for the following year in the form required by Clause 9(1) of Schedule 8 and Section 64 (1) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Having considered any comments from our Shareholders that are received by 30 April, the Board will deliver the completed SOI to the Shareholders on or before 30 June each year.

By 31 October and 30 April each year, WellingtonNZ will provide to the Shareholders a quarterly report. The quarterly report will include WellingtonNZ's commentary on operations for the relevant quarter and a comparison of WREDA's performance regarding the objectives and performance targets set out in the SOI, with an explanation of any material variances.

By the end of February each year, WellingtonNZ will provide the Shareholders with a Half Yearly Report complying with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002.

By the end of September each year, WellingtonNZ will provide to the Shareholders an Annual Report on the organisation's operations during the year. This will include audited financial statements prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and that also comply with Public Benefit Entity Standards. The Annual report shall also contain an Auditor's report on both those financial statements and the performance targets and other measures by which performance was judged in relation to that organisation's objectives.

**ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

WellingtonNZ has adopted accounting policies that are in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practices and Public Benefit Entity Standards. The detailed policies are as disclosed in WellingtonNZ's 2022/23 Annual Report.



**Wellington Regional Stadium Trust  
Statement of Trustees Intent  
For the year ending 30 June 2025**

Registered Office: Sky Stadium  
105 Waterloo Quay  
Wellington

Chair: Rachel Taulelei

Chief Executive: Warrick Dent

The Wellington Regional Stadium Trust (the Trust) was established by the Wellington Regional Council (Stadium Empowering) Act 1996. The Settlers of the Trust are the Wellington City Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The Trust recognises the interest that the ratepayers of Wellington City Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council have in the Trust and its activities and have agreed to be subject to the reporting requirements of both Councils and their monitoring procedures. The Trust is not a Council Controlled Organisation, for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002.

May 2024





## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tēnā koutou katoa

The 2024 financial year began with the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 (FIFA WWC), the largest and most exciting event we have held, translating to a huge success for the Stadium and the region.

FIFA WWC generated \$44.7 million of additional expenditure in Wellington. 39% of unique attendees were from outside of region and 92% of Wellington resident spectators reported an enhanced sense regional pride and liveability because of FWWC 2023. FIFA WWC truly demonstrated the benefits of hosting events of scale in our region.

Looking ahead to 2024/25 we will see the return of test rugby, and the Trust in partnership with WellingtonNZ has been successful in securing two matches - the All Blacks vs Argentina and the Bledisloe Cup match between the All Blacks and Australia.

Following a fantastic Foo Fighters concert in January, there continues to be interest from major promoters in the Stadium as a standout concert venue. We continue to work to secure concerts for the upcoming year, and we expect to make more announcements in due course, ensuring a busy year of events.

Naturally, the Trust will continue to invest in the facility. It is intended that the seismic work will begin on the main Stadium building, providing safety and additional resilience, a project for which the settlers have allocated funding for from their respective 2024-34 Long-Term Plans (LTPs).

In addition to the seismic resilience work we will continue to deliver on our asset management plan, have a renewed focus on improving our fan experience, are investing in our sustainability programmes, and are actively considering ways to better integrate with important elements of the regional ecosystem such as public transport.

The Trust continues to enjoy a collaborative and supportive relationship with the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Wellington City Council (WCC) as well as WellingtonNZ.

The Trust understands the importance of a strong events calendar at the Stadium to drive both economic and social outcomes for the city and region. We are committed to delivering a diverse and exciting calendar over the coming years.

Our new Chief Executive, Warrick Dent, commenced his role in January. The board and management, alongside key stakeholders, are developing a refreshed strategic plan for the Trust and Sky Stadium and will begin to implement this in the 2024/25 financial year. This strategy will provide us with our direction over the next 5 years, and we look forward to working with both councils to align this with future Statements of Intent.

Matters raised in the Joint Statement of Expectations from both WCC and GWRC are addressed in this Statement of Intent.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

### a) CORE PURPOSE

The objectives of the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust as set out in the founding Trust Deed established by the Wellington City and Greater Wellington Regional Councils ('the Councils') are as follows:

- To own, operate and maintain the Stadium as a high-quality multi-purpose sporting and cultural venue.
- To provide high quality facilities to be used by rugby, cricket and other sports codes, musical, cultural, and other users including sponsors, event and fixture organisers and promoters to attract to the Stadium high quality and popular events for the benefit of the public of the region; and
- To administer the Trust's assets on a prudent commercial basis so that the Stadium is a successful, financially autonomous community asset.

The Councils have also established general objectives for the Trust. These are that it should:

- Adopt a partnership approach in dealing with the Councils and their associated entities.
- Have a regional focus where this is appropriate.
- Appropriately acknowledge the contribution of Councils.
- Achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency of, and concentrated focus on service delivery.
- Operate at better than breakeven after depreciation expense.

The Trust strives to meet all the general objectives of the Councils noting that the overriding requirement of the Trust Deed means that the Trust must generate sufficient profit to repay loans and finance capital expenditure. This was not possible over the three years of challenges created by the pandemic and the full funding of our capex programme will remain beyond the means of the Trust as we face significant capital expenditure requirements. The Trust acknowledges and appreciates the funding being made available through the respective 2024-34 LTP's of both councils to assist with seismic resilience and other capital improvement works.

### b) OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The Trust had an improved operating environment over the past 18 months following the extremely challenging three years around the pandemic.

The events outlook for the year ahead is positive. The success of the Foo Fighters concert has reaffirmed Wellington as a viable stadium concert city in New Zealand. Test rugby will return in 2024, with the hosting of two All Blacks tests in the first quarter of the financial year. Promoter interest in hosting major events remains strong, and we continue to work with sporting organisations and music promoters to secure events for the Stadium.

The environment is competitive, and rights holders continue to seek to best financial results for their events. We need to continue to work hard to win the right to host events. The Trust works in close partnership with WellingtonNZ to secure events. The investment in major events that WellingtonNZ



can make is vital to both the Stadium and Wellington being able to remain competitive in the market and continuing to attract great events for the city and region.

Whilst one off events continue to attract strong audiences, it remains a challenging environment for our partners that deliver seasons – the Phoenix, Hurricanes, and Wellington Lions. The Trust will continue to work with these partners to deliver the best possible results.

### c) STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The board and management are developing a refreshed strategic plan for the Trust and Sky Stadium and will begin to implement this in the 2024/25 financial year. This strategy will provide us with our direction over the next 5 years, and we look forward to working with both councils to align this with future Statements of Intent.

## 2. NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The nature and scope of the Trust's activities are dictated in the first instance by the Trust Deed, settled with both Councils.

To meet its obligations under its Trust Deed, the Trust identifies the key objectives of:

- Presenting a full and balanced event calendar
- Maintaining and enhancing the facility
- Achieving a level of profitability that finances continuing capital expenditure and meets debt reduction obligations.

In line with the obligations listed above under its Trust Deed, the refreshed strategic plan that we are developing will prioritise how the Trust moves forward whilst meeting these obligations.

Matters raised in the joint Statement of Expectations and the Trust's plans to address them are set out below.

### 1. Enduring Expectations

The Trust reaffirms its support and commitment to the enduring expectations listed in the letter of expectations:

- No surprises – the Trust will keep settlers fully informed in relation to items of public interest or matters of significance.
- Relationship – The Trust enjoys a collaborative relationship with its settlers. The Trust values the support and expertise of officers and councillors that complements our own.
- Legislative and Compliance – the Trust will maintain a high degree of awareness of legislation that is applicable to its activities and in particular on relevant Health and Safety legislation.
- Governance – the Trust will meet best practice governance standards. It commits to undertaking a performance review of the overall board, individual board members and the board chair as well as maintaining a skills matrix.



- Risk Management - the Trust has a robust risk management framework in place that is regularly reviewed by the Board.
- Living wage – the Trust’s permanent staff are all paid at or above the Living wage. This is not currently a requirement in the Trust’s services contracts.
- Modern slavery – the Trust will observe all laws prohibiting slavery, trafficking in persons and forced labour in New Zealand

## 2. Councils’ specific expectations of the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust

The Trust addresses the Councils’ specific expectations of the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust in relation to its Statement of Trustee Intent.

**The Trust will work with both settlor councils on its asset management plan and commercial strategy, including how to best sequence and fund the necessary work through the 2024-34 LTP.**

The Trust currently has an asset management plan in place and will continue to further develop this over the period, including aligning this with our strategic plan as to be able to maintain and develop the asset to drive our objectives. Likewise, the commercial plan will come out of our refreshed strategy.

Specifically, to the seismic resilience work that the Trust has been working with the settlors on. Designs have been completed, the RFP has been completed and we will be able to begin the works in the 2024/25 FY utilising the funding that the settlors have provided in the 2023/24 FY, noting that the funding in the new LTP of both councils will be available from the 2025/26 FY.

The seismic resilience is a significant project aimed specifically at strengthening the Stadium’s floor on all levels as well as the building’s diaphragm. Works are not overly invasive in nature and our current expectation is that they will not disrupt the event calendar.

The Trust will utilise its own funds and those provided by the settlors to deliver our asset management and will plan for, and complete, capital improvement works to improve the customer experience over the period of the SOI. We believe that the capex programme will set us up for the medium term.

**The settlor councils are looking to the Trust to lead the work on the medium to longer-term future for the Trust, in terms of asset management, future planning and investments, a more sustainable funding model, and potential longer term stadium options. The Trust will consult with settlor councils on the outcome of this work well in advance of the 2027-37 LTP.**

The Trust has recently worked with the settlors to plan capital works over the next five to ten years. These works are necessary to keep the Stadium operating as a safe and efficiently operating facility. The level of investment necessary is beyond the means of the Trust, and we are thankful that we have been able to work with the settlors to be able to partially fund this work through their respective 2024-34 LTP.

We are aware that this work, including the seismic strengthening works, is a base level investment that is required to maintain the asset as it is, and will not provide for any significant improvements to the Stadium nor to the experience of our clients and patrons. Continued investment in the Stadium is



vital to ensure events are not lost to new facilities, and that we are able to provide a customer experience that meets the expectations of today's event goers. The Trust will develop plans for the medium term that will focus on development of the asset to be able to compete with other facilities and that will deliver an improved experience for clients and patrons and will be able to consult with the settlors on options ahead of the 2027-37 LTP.

The Stadium will have been in operation for 25 years in 2025, as such it is timely that the longer-term future of the Stadium, potential redevelopment and other options are explored. The Trust will undertake to lead the thinking and work necessary to be able to consult with the settlors and relevant stakeholders on the options.

**The Stadium will continue to deliver a strong programme of major events that return economic benefit to the city and region. Particularly, in consideration of the short-term economic climate where large Stadium events will greatly benefit local businesses.**

Attracting and delivering events remains a major priority for the Trust. Events are the lifeblood of the Trust's business with the majority of revenues derived either directly or indirectly from events we host.

The Trust recognises the importance of major events to the city and regional economy. In our first 20 years of operating, events at the Stadium generated \$1.2bn of out of region visitor spend. We are mindful that the benefit of events of scale are important to local business and will be aiming to attract and successfully deliver a strong programme of events over the three-year period of this SOI.

The recent Foo Fighters concert was very successful, and further demonstrated the value of concert events to the Trust and the wider community. Concerts will remain an important part of the Stadium's event mix, the pipeline is currently active, and we aim to host at least two concerts in the next year.

We have been successful in securing two All Black tests in August and September 2024, the hosting of these will ensure the year starts strongly, and we will work actively to confirm future matches. We are in active discussions with other sports rights holders to bring events to the Stadium over the next 18 months, and we continue to prospect for other large-scale events to add to our calendar in the short and medium term.

**The Trust will continue to contribute to the region meeting its carbon neutrality goals.**

The Trust is aligned with Councils' goals of being carbon neutral and is committed to developing ways to reduce, recover, recycle, or re-use waste in all aspects of our business.

Our focus for the year ahead is:

- Waste Minimisation – at least 80% diversion of waste from landfill through reducing, composting, reusing, and recycling.
- Energy Reduction – reducing our energy consumption via transition to LED lighting throughout the Stadium.
- Energy Generation – It is the Trust's view that in the next few years there will be more commitment to solar and wind projects as the associated costs decrease and the quality and



size of battery storage increases. The Trust will engage in discussions with other stakeholders on the potential of solar and wind power.

The Trust acknowledges that we have been successful in applying for funding from the GWRC's Low Carbon Acceleration Fund which has allowed us to begin the project to transition lighting throughout the Stadium to LED, significantly reducing our energy consumption. The Trust will continue to investigate further projects where we can make progress in this area.

The Trust will continue its work to further reduce waste. The Trust is part of a Wellington Reusable Hub working group which aims to develop a collective solution for single use plastic, with the washing facilities on track to be in place onsite at the Stadium in the 2024/25 FY

**The Trust will continue to work with GWRC over opportunities to improve connectivity with the public transport network, as well as GWRC's efforts to strengthen the public transport network for events at the Stadium.**

The Stadium enjoys high levels of patronage from customers who use public transport. Public transport is vital for the smooth running of events, and we work closely with Metlink and Transdev at an operational level.

The Trust supports sustainable transport options and would welcome discussions with the appropriate stakeholders around how we could offer integrated ticketing with public transport to all major events. As demonstrated by the FIFA WWC 2023, and other events where integrated ticketing has been used, this does drive use of the public transport by event patrons.

Any effort to strengthen the use of the public transport network for events at the Stadium is reliant on an effective train service being provided on event days. The Trust would welcome the opportunity to work with GWRC, Metlink, and other relevant stakeholders to minimise the impact of weekend, public holiday, and evening track maintenance on the provision of train services for events at the Stadium.

### **3. Alignment with the councils' strategic direction**

The Trust commits to maintaining an ongoing alignment to the Councils' strategic direction, and the priorities and focus areas that intersect with our activities.

In relation to those priorities and focus not already addressed within the Council's specific expectations above, the Trust is able to align with the following:

**Wellington City Council 2024-34 LTP: Pōneke – the creative capital where people and nature thrive.**

*Priorities:*

- *Transform our transport system to move more people with fewer vehicles.*



This has been covered under the Councils' specific expectation to strengthening connectivity and accessibly to the public transport network for events at the Stadium.

- *Transform our waste system to enable a circular economy.*

This has been covered under the Councils' specific expectation that the Trust will continue to contribute to the region meeting its carbon neutrality goals.

- *Nurture and grow our arts sector.*

The Trust is open to working with the creative spaces team at WCC to explore how we might be able to make spaces within the Stadium more accessible for artists, acknowledging that access would need to fit in with our normal operation and events programme. This may include opportunities to collaborate with artists, including Māori artists and those from diverse backgrounds.

- *Celebrate and make visible te ao Māori across our city.*

Te reo Māori is visible at the Stadium through our bi-lingual wayfinding signage both inside and outside the Stadium, and bilingual arrival announcements. We were the first major stadium in New Zealand to introduce bilingual signage in te reo Māori and English throughout the venue.

We will continue to look at how we can increase the visibility of te reo Māori in the Stadium, including renaming internal spaces.

Our hirers are increasingly including Māori protocol into their event presentation, providing visibility to those in attendance, but also nationally and internationally through the broadcast of events.

The Trust will explore ways in which we can incorporate te ao Māori principles into our business and activities in an authentic manner.

- *Invest in sustainable, connected, and accessible community and recreational facilities.*

The Trust acknowledges the investment that the Councils are making in the asset through the 2024-34 LTP. The Stadium is an important community asset that hosts events that bring diverse communities together, providing significant social benefits to both individuals and the wider community.

The Stadium hosts a number of community days each year. The Trust is open to discussions with the Councils' how we can make the venue accessible to more of the community.

The Stadium is accessible and inclusive. The Trust has worked with and will continue to work with its hirers to promote messages of inclusion.

The Trust fully supports the Accessible Wellington action plan. The Stadium has a gold rating for accessibility as awarded by Be.Lab. Further work is required here, particularly around concerts where we feel improvements can be made. The Trust will engage with patrons with accessibility needs to further understand their needs.



As part of our ongoing work in the accessibility, the Trust will engage with the WCC Takatāpui and Rainbow Advisory group to explore how we can best ensure rainbow inclusion in the Stadium.

- *Revitalise the city centre and suburbs to support a thriving and resilient economy and support job growth.*

This has been covered under the Councils' specific expectation to deliver a strong programme of major events that return economic benefit to the city and region.

The Trust recognises that with the central city location of the Stadium, and the scale of events that the Stadium hosts, that our activities will play an important part in attracting locals and visitors to the city centre, with the flow on economic and social benefits.

**Greater Wellington Regional Council's 2024-34 LTP: He rohe taurikura – Nui te ora o te taiao, He hāpori Kotahi, He manawaroa te āpōpō / An extraordinary region – thriving environment, connected communities, resilient future.**

#### *Focus areas*

- *Active partnerships with mana whenua and improved outcomes for Māori*

The Trust is early in this journey and is committed to developing relationships with mana whenua and to explore with mana whenua ways in which we can work together to provide for improved outcomes for Māori.

- *Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction.*

This has been covered under the Councils' specific expectation that the Trust will continue to contribute to the region meeting its carbon neutrality goals, and under the Councils' specific expectation to strengthening connectivity and accessibility to the public transport network for events at the Stadium.

- *Holistic approaches to deliver improved outcomes for te taiao.*

The most meaningful way in which the Stadium *deliver improved outcomes for te taiao is through* Waste Minimisation, Energy Reduction, water reduction and the promotion of the use of the public transport network. This has been covered under the Councils' specific expectation that the Trust will continue to contribute to the region meeting its carbon neutrality goals, and under the Councils' specific expectation to strengthening connectivity and accessibility to the public transport network for events at the Stadium.

- *Improved access to services and equitable outcomes for communities.*

As noted earlier, the Stadium is an important community asset that hosts events that bring diverse communities together, providing significant social benefits to both individuals and the wider





community. The Trust is open to discussions with the Councils' how we improve access and can make the venue accessible to more members of the community.

### **Tūpiki Ora, Takai Here and Te Whāriki**

As noted elsewhere, the Trust is early in our journey. We are committed to developing relationships with mana whenua and to explore with mana whenua ways in which we can work together to provide for improved outcomes for Māori. As part of this we will commit to an engagement plan with mana whenua in order that we can develop trusted relationships so that we can partner in an authentic manner, and with mana whenua deliver tangible and beneficial outcomes.

### **Our Strategic Relationship**

*In the drafting of the Statement of Intent, the Trust is invited to articulate to Wellington City Council what is expected of a strategic relationship between the parties. Council will respond with feedback to reach a common understanding.*

The Trust enjoys a strong partnership with both councils. The CCO structure within WCC is working well and the Trust feels informed and engaged.

### **Long term strategic asset management**

The Trust maintains a robust asset management programme that prioritises maintenance based on a 5-year asset condition report compiled by WSP on behalf of the Trust.

### **Maintaining a safe and healthy working environment**

The Trust is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for its employees, visitors, and all persons using the premises as a place of work as well as event attendees.

To ensure a safe and healthy work environment, the Trust maintains a Health and Safety Management System. In addition, the Trust has an established Board Health and Safety Committee which comprises three Trustees that meets on a regular basis with management to review and measure crucial areas of health and safety.

The Trust has developed a detailed list of KPI measures which are reported to the Board Health and Safety Committee on a quarterly basis. In our six-monthly reporting to you we will report on Health & Safety measures in the relevant six-month period.



### Financial Projections

The Trust Deed requires the Trust to be financially autonomous. This requires the generation of sufficient profits to meet loan repayments and provide funds for the capital replacement and development programmes that are necessary to enable the Trust to meet its obligation to maintain a high-quality asset.

Financial autonomy is no longer achievable for the Trust given the Stadium is now an ageing facility, compounded by the additional requirements of seismic resilience works and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trust still expects to generate positive operating cash flows in most years. It can cover a level of insurance and regular maintenance, but not substantial capex items, such as seismic resilience works or significant capital improvements.

Therefore, continuing to fully invest in the Stadium so that that it operates to best practice as an operationally efficient, safe, and welcoming venue for patrons and hirers, is beyond the means of the Trust alone.

The Trust appreciates the financial support it has received from the settlors, and as noted elsewhere in this document, will engage with the settlors on the future operating model of the Trust, including funding options for ongoing capex.

The 5 year projections included here have been prepared on a business-as-usual basis, with 40 plus event days assumed per year.

Over the five-year period, the key inflows and outflows are as follows:

- Net operating cashflows \$12.7m (positive, before insurance and grant income)
- Cumulative insurance premia absorb \$6.0m
- Capex of \$36.3m
- Settlor contributions (via the 2024-34 LTP) of \$20.9m

These projections have total capex of \$36.3 m across 5 years, with \$18m of this for seismic resilience works. The Trust acknowledges the capex funding of \$33.6m from the settlors across the period of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, noting that this funding will start in Year 2 of the LTP, FY26. The Trust intends to commence the necessary seismic resilience works in FY25 using the funding of \$4.6m available from the current LTP.

The Trust has had a strong response to its recent request for proposals for the seismic resilience works, with tenderers indicating the work is best completed within a 24-month period. Assuming this work will proceed in the next two years, the Trust will need to increase its commercial borrowings to cover the lag between the work being undertaken and the funding being received from the settlors.

While these projections assume that the seismic works will be completed in FY25 and FY26, before committing to any works the Trust will need to be satisfied that the LTP funding is secured, so that the Trust can service and repay the additional commercial borrowing required. The Trust will work with settlors to progress this matter.



Current borrowing consists of the \$4.2m settlor loans (provided in 2020 after the first Covid-19 lockdown) and \$0.5m of commercial borrowing.

The other included capex is what is necessary to keep the Stadium operating as a safe and efficient venue, with limited capacity to make material improvements that would provide for a better client and patron experience.

With the Stadium approaching 25 years of age, much of the plant equipment and fixtures are from the original build and replacement is required due to age of equipment and obsolescence of parts for repairs. Many Stadiums in Australia and New Zealand built around the same time have received or are earmarked for substantial upgrades, or in some cases replacement.

### **Insurance**

During the past two years the Trust reviewed its approach to insurance cover. The outcome has provided a reduction in premium compared to the previous approach, but it remains a significant cost to the Trust. The financial projections assume insurance is retained on a similar basis, and this is expected to continue over the LTP period.

The outcome of the renewal process for the for the period 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024 is that insurance cover has been obtained on the following basis:

- A traditional Material Damage and Business Interruption policy that excludes Natural Disaster Cover with a limit of \$128m (and a \$100m Fire Loss Limit).
- A policy that provides \$50m of parametric cover for earthquakes.
- Retention of various liability policies including public liability cover.

It should be noted that the insurance cover we hold is not full replacement cover, such that insurance proceeds would not cover a full rebuild of the Stadium.

The Trust has kept settlors informed on all decisions related to insurance.



## PROJECTED EVENTS SCHEDULE

12 Months ending 30 June.

<b>CONFIRMED</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Rugby Union	10		
Exhibition Days	17		
<b>Total Confirmed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>UNCONFIRMED</b>			
Rugby		10	9
Cricket	1	1	2
Football	12	11	11
Other Sporting Events	1	1	1
Concerts/Other Events	3	2	2
Exhibition Days		13	13
<b>Total Unconfirmed</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>
Community Events	3	3	3
<b>Total Events</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>
Days reserved for semi's & finals	11	11	11



**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE  
FOR THE THREE YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE**

	2025 \$m	2026 \$m	2027 \$m
<b>Revenue</b>			
Events	6.70	6.77	5.43
Members Boxes & Sponsorship	4.16	4.29	4.40
Other	3.38	3.62	3.70
<b>Total Revenue</b>	14.24	14.68	13.53
<i>Less:</i>			
Event Operating Costs	3.15	3.09	2.68
Other Operating Costs	9.75	10.26	9.17
Interest	0.45	0.96	0.86
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	13.35	14.31	12.71
<b>Operating Surplus before depreciation</b>	0.89	0.37	0.82
<i>Less:</i>			
Depreciation	3.71	3.92	4.14
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	(2.82)	(3.55)	(3.32)
<i>Plus:</i>			
<i>Funding for capital expenditure programme</i>			
Council funding via LTP	2.33	5.88	5.89
<b>Total Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	(0.49)	2.33	2.57

Net operating cash flows	2.97	6.34	6.87
Surplus cash at the end of each year	0.61	0.40	0.44
Loans at year end	10.59	16.06	13.82
Net debt (Loan less cash)	9.98	15.66	13.39



**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
FOR THE THREE YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>
Cashflows provided from operating activities	13.99	14.74	13.66
Council LTP funding (for capital expenditure programme)	2.33	5.88	5.88
Cashflows applied to operating activities	(13.35)	(14.28)	(12.67)
<b>Net cashflows from operating activities</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>6.34</b>	<b>6.87</b>
Cashflows applied to investing activities	(15.32)	(12.02)	(4.59)
<b>Net cashflows from investing activities</b>	<b>(15.32)</b>	<b>(12.02)</b>	<b>(4.59)</b>
Cashflows provide by financing activities	5.80	5.50	
Cashflows applied to financing activities	(0.02)	(0.04)	(2.24)
<b>Net cashflows from financing activities</b>	<b>5.78</b>	<b>5.47</b>	<b>(2.24)</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash</b>	<b>(6.57)</b>	<b>(0.21)</b>	<b>0.04</b>
Opening balance brought forward	7.18	0.61	0.40
<b>Cash at year end</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.44</b>



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE**

	2025 \$m	2026 \$m	2027 \$m	2028 \$m	2029 \$m
<b>Trust Funds</b>					
Retained Surpluses	52.12	54.45	57.02	60.79	59.01
Limited Recourse Loans	40.39	40.39	40.39	40.39	40.39
	92.51	94.84	97.41	101.18	99.40
<b>Non Current liabilities</b>					
Lease	0.09	0.06	0.02	-	-
Loan - bank	6.30	11.80	9.60	2.90	2.70
Loan - Councils	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20
	10.59	16.06	13.82	7.10	6.90
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Revenue in Advance	1.89	1.96	2.09	2.12	2.21
Payables	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
	2.12	2.19	2.32	2.35	2.44
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>105.22</b>	<b>113.08</b>	<b>113.54</b>	<b>110.62</b>	<b>108.74</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Property Plant & Equipment	103.90	112.01	112.46	109.57	107.52
Current Assets	0.71	0.67	0.64	0.62	0.62
Cash	0.61	0.40	0.44	0.44	0.60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>105.22</b>	<b>113.08</b>	<b>113.54</b>	<b>110.62</b>	<b>108.74</b>



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Non-Financial Performance Measures

Measure	How Measured
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a full event calendar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Securing 40-50 event days per year covering both sporting and non-sporting events, aiming to appeal to a wide range of interests.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver more large-scale non-sporting events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure at least two concerts in 2024/25</li> <li>40% out of region visitors</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued investment in stadium infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seismic resilience works to commence and progress from 2024/5 through 2026/7</li> <li>Replacement of replay screens completed Q2 2024/5</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host unique events that deliver economic benefit to the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining economic benefit to the Region at an average of \$40 million per year</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to reduce waste via compost, recycle, reduce, reuse.</li> <li>Energy reduction through transition to LED lighting with support from GWRC Low Carbon Acceleration Fund</li> <li>Scope other projects (contained in Lumen's Energy Transition Plan) towards decarbonisation of the facility</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mana whenua</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an engagement plan with mana whenua. Measures will be developed as part of this process.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and Safety Reported Injury rates.</li> </ul> <p>Contractors and hirers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trust Worker reported injury rate of 2 or less per year.</li> <li>Contractor Worker Lost Time Injury rate of 2 or less in a year.</li> <li>Hirer (And Hirer Contractor) Worker Lost Time Injury rate of 2 or less in a year.</li> <li>A reported patron injury rate of less than 0.01% of the total number of patrons attending the venue (events and functions).</li> <li>100% of contractors working at the Stadium have 'approved' status before any work is commenced, and upon each annual review.</li> <li>An agreed H&amp;S plan is in place with 100% of Stadium hirers prior to any work on site commencing.</li> </ul>





### **Financial Performance Measures**

The key performance indicators agreed with the Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council are:

- Revenue – total, and event
- Net surplus (deficit)
- Net cash flow
- Liquidity ratio
- Bank borrowing to total assets.
- Capital expenditure.

We have reviewed these indicators and believe these are appropriate to the purpose of the Council's monitoring the Trust performance. They are reported on by the Trustees in their six-monthly reports.



### **3. BOARD APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE**

#### **Role of the Board**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the proper direction and control of the Trust's activities. This responsibility includes such areas of stewardship as the identification and control of the Trust's business risks, the integrity of management information systems and reporting to stakeholders.

While the Board acknowledges that it is responsible for the overall control framework of the Trust, it recognises that no cost-effective internal control system will prevent all errors and irregularities. The system is based on written procedures, policies and guidelines, and an organisational structure that provides an appropriate division of responsibility, sound risk management and the careful selection and training of qualified personnel.

#### **Board Operation**

The Board has two Standing Committees that focus on specific areas of the Board's responsibilities. These Committees are the Audit & Finance Committee, and Health & Safety Board Sub-Committee.

The Board meets eight times per year. The Audit & Finance Committee meets when required and at least three times per year. The Health & Safety Committee meets quarterly and prior to significant events such as concerts.

#### **Board Performance**

The policy of the Board has been that the Chair conducts an interview with each Board member prior to the expiry of their term. Each new Board member undertakes an induction program to familiarise themselves with the Stadium, its operation and Board issues. Given the experience of the current Board it has been deemed that a Board development program is not necessary. If there are any Board performance issues, the Chair will bring them to the attention of the Mayor of WCC and the Chair of GWRC.

At the first meeting of the new financial year, the Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee co-ordinates a review of the Chair's performance.

The Chair will provide the settlors with a board skills matrix annually. The Chair will provide early notification of upcoming board vacancies and work with settlors to ensure that at least three potential candidates are presented for each vacancy that occurs.

A Board performance review will be provided by 30 September 2024.

#### **Board Membership**

The Trust Deed states that there shall be not less than five, nor more than eight Trustees.

The Trustees are appointed jointly by the settlors (Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council).

The Wellington City Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council can each independently appoint one of their elected Councillors as a Trustee.



The current Trustees are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointed until:</b>
Tracey Bridges	31 December 2024
Phillippa Harford	31 December 2024
Owen Gibson	30 June 2025
Diane Calvert	formal declaration of results of WCC 2025 elections
Penny Gaylor	formal declaration of results of GWRC 2025 elections
Nicola Crauford	31 December 2025
Rachel Taulelei	30 June 2026
Steve Tew	31 December 2026

#### **4. ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH, CAPABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

##### **Health & Safety**

The Trust has well developed health & safety policies which were reviewed by an external consultant and are regularly updated.

Staff who have influence over Health and Safety matters are required to acquire and keep up to date with Health and Safety matters including attendance at relevant course and conferences.

All staff receive regular training in respect of health & safety procedures.

A Health & Safety contractor booklet has been produced which includes Stadium policies, the roles for staff and contractors, incidents and accident investigation, general site safety, emergency procedures and induction.

There are three Committees with a health and safety focus:

- Emergency Control Organisation/Emergency Planning Committee (meets ahead of each major event).
- Health and Safety Committee which includes key the Trust staff as well as contractors and tenant organisations (meets monthly).
- Board Health and Safety Committee (meets at least quarterly with additional meetings prior to major events).

All contractors coming on-site are required to:

- Complete a health & safety agreement.
- Complete a health & safety induction plan.
- Provide a contractor's safety plan.
- Operate safely and report any hazards, near misses and injuries.



## RISK MANAGEMENT

### Insurance

The Stadium insurance programme is managed by Marsh.

As noted earlier, the outcome of the renewal process for the for the period 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024 is that insurance cover has been obtained on the following basis:

- A traditional Material Damage and Business Interruption policy that excludes Natural Disaster Cover with a limit of \$128m (and a \$100m Fire Loss Limit).
- A policy that provides \$50m of parametric cover for earthquakes.
- Retention of various liability policies that we had in place including public liability cover.

### Business Continuity Plan

The Trust has a Business Continuity Plan. The Trust has ongoing interactive training sessions with all staff to reinforce the content and requirements of the plan.

### Communication and Access to Information

The Trust enjoys a positive and open relationship with both of its settlors, and both settlors have representation on the Board of Trustees. The Trustees confirm they intend to continue to operate on a “no surprises” basis with communication of any significant event likely to impact on either party made as soon as possible. This has worked well in the past.

## 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Reporting

The Trustees will present a six-monthly report to both Councils, which will include a written report on agreed key performance indicators and financial statements for the period. The Trust will provide a formal briefing to both Councils, twice a year, on activities to date and review the outlook.

Audited financial statements will be available on completion of the annual audit.

The Trustees will inform the Councils of any significant expected obligations or contingent liabilities to third parties.

### Major Transactions

There are no major transactions likely to occur in the planning period that are not identified in the Business Plan.

Any particularly contentious transactions will be brought to attention of the Council at the earliest opportunity.

### Accounting Policies

General accounting policies of the Trust are set out in the Statement of Significant Accounting Policies. These policies are consistent with the policies applied in the previous year.



## OTHER ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT OF INTENT

### Ratios

The ratio of Trust Funds to Total Assets is expected to be:

30 June 2025	50%
30 June 2026	48%
30 June 2027	50%

The ratio of total Trust Assets to Trust Liabilities is expected to be:

30 June 2025	198%
30 June 2026	193%
30 June 2027	201%

Trust Funds are defined as the residual interest in the assets of the Trust after the deduction of its liabilities.

Assets are defined as service potential or future economic benefits controlled by the Trust as a result of past transactions or other past events.

Liabilities are defined as future sacrifices of service potential or of future economic benefits that the Trust is presently obliged to make to other entities as a result of past transactions or other past events.

### Accounting Policies

The Statement of Significant Accounting Policies is attached in Appendix 1

### Distributions to Settlers

Section 5 of the Trust Deed sets out the powers of the Trustees regarding the income of the Trust.

The Trust is required to pay surplus funds to the Wellington City Council and Wellington Regional Council in reduction of their limited recourse loans after meeting costs, liabilities, and debt reductions and after allowing for the appropriate capital expenditure and transfers to reserves.

The Trust does not expect to have surplus funds available for repayment in the years covered by this Statement of Intent.

No other distributions to settlers are intended to be made.

### Investments in other organisations

The Trustees currently have no intention of subscribing for, purchasing, or otherwise acquiring shares in any other company or other organisation.



**Compensation from local authority**

There are no activities for which the Trust seeks compensation from any local authority.

**Trust's estimate of the commercial value of settlor's investment in the Trust**

Not applicable

**Other matters as set out in the Funding Deed**

***Significant Third-Party Obligations***

There are no significant third-party obligations other than those disclosed in the Financial Statements.

***Relevant Legislation***

The Trustees confirm that the Trust will comply with all relevant legislation affecting the conduct of this business.

**Rachel Taulelei**

**Chair**

**FOR THE TRUSTEES**

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL STADIUM TRUST**



**APPENDIX 1:  
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Reporting Entity and Period**

Wellington Regional Stadium Trust Incorporated (the Trust) is a charitable trust established by the Wellington City Council ('WCC') and Greater Wellington Regional Council ('GWRC'). The Trust is domiciled in New Zealand.

The Trust is responsible for the planning, development, construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of the Sky Stadium, Wellington, as a multi-purpose sporting and cultural venue.

The Trust was incorporated under the Charitable Trust Act 1957. The Trust is also a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005, registration CC10754.

**Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed which requires compliance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

As the primary purpose of the Trust is to provide a community and social benefit, it is a public benefit entity for financial reporting purposes.

The financial statements of the Trust comply with Public Benefit Entity (PBE) standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 2 PBE Standards. The Trust meets the requirements for Tier 2 reporting as it does not have public accountability and is not large (as defined by XRB A1).

The financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis, except for interest rate swaps.

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (000) unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

**Revenue**

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Trust and the revenue can be reliability measured. It is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received. Specific

recognition criteria apply to the following income streams as noted below.

***Revenue from Exchange transactions***

*Corporate Box, Memberships & Sponsorship Revenues*  
Licenses for Corporate boxes are issued for terms of between one and six years. Signage and sponsorship properties are sold for a range of terms of between one and six years. The related license fees/revenues are paid annually and initially recorded as Revenue in Advance with the revenue recognised on a straight-line basis throughout the term.

Stadium memberships have been sold for terms ranging between two and three years. Payment may be made upfront or in a series of instalments. The payments received are recorded as Revenue in Advance and recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the membership.

***Rental income***

Rents are recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

***Revenue from Non-Exchange transactions***

***Grant income***

Grants are recognised as income once the conditions of the grant are met.

**Expenses**

Expenses are recognised on an accrual basis when the goods or services have been received.

***Interest***

Interest expense is accrued using the effective interest rate method. The effective interest rate exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to that liability's net carrying amount. The method applies this rate to the principal outstanding to determine interest expense each period.

**Taxation**

As a Charitable Trust, the Trust meets requirements for exemption from income tax and accordingly no provision for income tax is recorded in the financial statements.

All items in the financial statements are exclusive of GST, except for receivables and payables, which are stated as GST inclusive.



### **Financial Instruments**

The Trust classifies its financial assets and financial liabilities according to the purpose for which they were acquired. The Trust determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at every reporting date.

#### ***Non-derivative Financial Instruments***

Non-derivative financial instruments comprise trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowings, and trade and other payables.

Non-derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value plus, for instruments not at fair value through profit and loss, any directly attributable transaction costs. After initial recognition non-derivative financial instruments are measured as described below.

A financial instrument is recognised if the Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are derecognised if the Trust's contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or if the Trust transfers the financial asset to another party without retaining control or substantially all risks and rewards of the asset. Purchases and sales of financial assets in the ordinary course of business are accounted for at trade date. Financial liabilities are derecognised if the Trust's obligations specified in the contract expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### ***Financial Assets***

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits with up to three months' maturity. These are recorded at their nominal value.

Trade and other receivables are stated at their cost less impairment losses.

#### ***Financial Liabilities***

Financial liabilities comprise trade and other payables and borrowings and are all classified as other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities with a duration of more than 12 months are recognised initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Amortisation is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense as is any gain or loss when the liability is derecognised.

Financial liabilities entered into with duration less than 12 months are recognised at their nominal value.

#### ***Derivative Financial Instruments***

Derivative financial instruments are recognised at fair value as either assets or liabilities. The Trust does not

hold any derivatives that qualify for hedge accounting. Derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting are classified as held for trading financial instruments with fair value gains or losses recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense. Fair value is determined based on quoted market prices.

### **Employee Entitlements**

Employee entitlements that the Trust expects to be settled within 12 months of balance date are measured at undiscounted nominal values based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These benefits are principally annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date, and bonus payments.

No provision for sick leave is accrued, as past experience indicates that compensated absences in the current year are not expected to be greater than sick leave entitlements earned in the coming year.

### **Other Liabilities & Provisions**

Other Liabilities and provisions are recorded at the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation. Liabilities and provisions to be settled beyond 12 months are recorded at their present value.

### **Leases**

Leases where the lessor effectively retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the leased items are classified as operating leases. Payments made under these leases are expensed in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense in the period in which they are incurred. Payments made under operating leases are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

### **Property, Plant and Equipment**

#### ***Recognition***

Expenditure is capitalised as property, plant, and equipment when it creates a new asset or increases the economic benefits over the total life of an existing asset and can be measured reliably. Costs that do not meet the criteria for capitalisation are expensed.

#### ***Measurement***

Items of property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost.

The initial cost of property, plant and equipment includes the purchase consideration and those costs that are directly attributable to bringing the asset into the





location and condition necessary for its intended purpose. Subsequent expenditure that extends or expands the asset's service potential and that can be measured reliably is capitalised. Borrowing costs are not capitalised.

#### *Impairment*

The carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment are reviewed at least annually to determine if there is any indication of impairment. Where an asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount, it will be reported at its recoverable amount and an impairment loss will be recognised. The recoverable amount is the higher of an item's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Losses resulting from impairment are reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense.

#### *Disposal*

Gains and losses arising from the disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense in the period in which the transaction occurs.

#### *Depreciation*

Depreciation is provided on all property, plant, and equipment, with certain exceptions. The exceptions are land, some aspects of the pitch and assets under construction (work in progress). Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis, to allocate the cost or value of the asset (less any residual value) over its useful life. The estimated useful lives of the major classes of property, plant and equipment are as follows:

Land	indefinite
Pitch	10 years to indefinite
Buildings	8 to 70 years
Replay screen & production equipment	3 to 25 years
Fitout	5 to 50 years
Fittings	3 to 20 years
Plant & machinery & equipment	2 to 70 years
Leased assets	6 years

The residual values and useful lives of assets are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance date.

#### *Work in progress*

The cost of projects within work in progress is transferred to the relevant asset class when the project is completed, and then depreciated.

#### **Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

In preparing these financial statements, the Trust has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the

subsequent actual results. Estimates and assumptions are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

#### *Estimating useful lives and residual values of property, plant, and equipment*

At each balance date, the useful lives and residual values of property, plant, and equipment are reviewed. Assessing the appropriateness of useful life and residual value estimates of property, plant, and equipment requires a number of factors to be considered such as the physical condition of the asset, expected period of use of the asset by the Trust, and expected disposal proceeds from the future sale of the asset.

An incorrect estimate of the useful life or residual value will affect the depreciation expense recognised in the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense and carrying amount of the asset in the statement of financial position. The Trust minimises the risk of this estimation uncertainty by regular physical inspection of assets, including periodic independent review, and a planned preventative maintenance and asset replacement programme.

#### **Statement of Cash Flows**

The statement of cash flows has been prepared using the direct approach. Operating activities include cash received from all income sources of the Trust, record cash payments made for the supply of goods and services and include cash flows from other activities that are neither investing nor financing activities. Investing activities relate to the acquisition and disposal of assets. Financing activities relate to the funding structure of the Trust.

#### **Changes in Accounting Policies**

There have been no changes in accounting policies.

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.359**



**For Decision**

## **ADOPTION OF THE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**

### **Purpose**

1. To advise Council of the schedule of meetings for Council and its committees for the 2025 calendar year through to the local government triennial elections in October 2025.

**He tūtohu**

### **Recommendations**

That Council:

- 1 **Notes** that the meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year is through to 9 October 2025, due to the local government triennial elections.
- 2 **Adopts** the meeting schedule for Council and its committees for the 2025 calendar year, as outlined in Attachment 1.
- 3 **Notes** the 2025 meeting schedule for the joint committees of which Council is a member (Attachment 2).
- 4 **Authorises** the Head of Governance and Democracy to circulate the adopted meeting schedule to key stakeholders and to modify the meeting schedule as and when required.

**Te horopaki**

### **Context**

2. Clause 19(6) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 provides for Council to adopt a schedule of meetings for Council and committee meetings.
3. The proposed schedule for the 2025 calendar year, through to the local government triennial elections in October 2025 ([Attachment 1](#)) includes Council, its committees and subcommittees.
4. The schedule does not include meetings for WRC Holdings or Whitireia Park Board, which will both adopt their own schedules. The attached schedule also does not include Council or committee workshops or other events, or Council's advisory group meetings.
5. The joint committees in the Wellington Region of which Council is a member (Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group,

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee and Wellington Water Committee) are not included in Council's schedule for adoption. Instead, each joint committee will adopt its own schedule at their respective meetings. The Wellington Water Committee has already adopted its schedule of meetings for 2025, while the CDEM Group and Wellington Regional Leadership Committee are expected to adopt their respective schedules at their meetings on 3 September 2024 and 1 October 2024. The proposed schedules are attached for Council's reference ([Attachment 2](#)).

## **Te tātaritanga Analysis**

6. The Council and committee programme is scheduled on the basis that meetings are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To the extent possible, Council and committees of the whole (Climate Committee, Environment Committee, Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti, and Transport Committee) are scheduled for Thursdays, with the smaller committees scheduled for Tuesdays.
7. No meetings have been scheduled for January or July, consistent with long-standing practice. However, it was necessary to schedule Council workshops in the last week of each month (30 January, 29 and 31 July). Council will still have a full four weeks of recess in July (30 June to 25 July).
8. School holidays have been avoided to the extent practicable. Scheduling meetings either side of public holidays has also been avoided where possible.
9. We have tried to balance the meeting cycles so that there are approximately the same number of meetings per meeting cycle.
10. Meetings will generally be held at Greater Wellington's Wellington office (Cuba Street), except:
  - a Wairarapa Committee meetings will be held at Greater Wellington's Masterton office
  - b Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River Valley Subcommittee meetings will be held at Hutt City Council or Upper Hutt City Council
  - c Up to two Council meetings and one each of the Environment and Transport Committees will be held at Greater Wellington's Masterton office. The dates for these are to be confirmed.
11. Meetings may be arranged at other locations as required.

### ***Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee***

12. The Council Chair and the Chair of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti continue to have discussions with mana whenua partners regarding the future of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee.
13. While these conversations are taking place it is proposed that meetings of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee are not scheduled in advance but are arranged on an as required basis.
14. Officers will advise the mana whenua members of the Committee of this approach.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni**

#### **Financial implications**

15. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Councillor expenses and remuneration for all non-elected members to committees have been budgeted for.

### **Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori**

#### **Implications for Māori**

16. Some of Council's committees have provision for Council's mana whenua partners to have a member where that mana whenua partner has rohe or significant interest in the work of that committee (Wairarapa Committee, Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee, Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Valley Subcommittee). Members appointed will receive the relevant meeting invites.
17. Scheduling well in advance provides certainty for members of the meeting dates and times, helps to avoid any potential conflicts, and enables mana whenua to be involved in discussions and decision-making of the relevant committees.
18. As discussed in paragraphs 12 to 14, Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resources Plan Committee will not be scheduled for 2025. This is to provide certainty to members of this Committee. If, and when, a meeting (or workshop) is required of this Committee, members will receive appropriate notice of the scheduling, with staff taking into account Greater Wellington's responsibilities under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and Council's Standing Orders.

### **Ngā tikanga whakatau**

#### **Decision-making process**

19. The matters requiring decision this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Te hiranga**

#### **Significance**

20. Officers considered the significance (as defined in Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers consider that the matters outlined in this report are of low significance because of their administrative nature.

**Te whakatūtakitaki**

**Engagement**

21. Because of the low significance, community engagement was not considered necessary.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

22. Once Council has adopted the schedule for 2025, staff will arrange for the circulation of the adopted schedule to external committee members and key stakeholders.
23. Meetings will be publicly notified in *The Post* and *Wairarapa Times-Age* and published on Greater Wellington’s website. This is in accordance with the public notice requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and Council’s Standing Orders.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachments**

Number	Title
1	Schedule of Council and committee meetings 2025
2	Joint committee meeting schedule 2025

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writer	Lucas Stevenson – Kaitohutohu Ratonga Manapori   Democratic Services Advisor
Approvers	Elizabeth Woolcott – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Manapori Manager, Democratic Services Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori   Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki   Group Manager Strategy

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> In accordance with clause 19 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 Council may adopt a schedule of meetings.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> The 2025 schedule has been designed so that Council can approve key documents (such as the 2024-25 Annual Plan, Setting of the Council's rates for 2024-25, 2023/24 Annual Report) in line with legislative requirements.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> Staff from Democratic Services engaged with the lead staff of each committee in developing the schedule. This was to draft the schedule taking into account any known statutory timelines.  The schedule was also provided to the Executive Leadership Team, the Council Chair and committee Chairs for comment. Feedback received was incorporated into the schedule where practicable.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> Not adopting the schedule as presented will delay staff from forward planning for 2025. Council has established committees with members from other local authorities and mana whenua entities, and any delay or change to the schedule could impact those members' availability to attend meetings. It may also cause impacts and delays for other local authorities for setting their own schedules.

**Council and committee meeting schedule 2025**

<b>Council/committee</b>	<b>Date</b>
Council (9.30am)	27 February 10 April 22 May 12 June 26 June 21 August 9 October*
Climate Committee	27 March (9.30am) 25 September* (1pm)
Environment Committee (9.30am)	20 February 15 May 19 June 7 August 25 September*
Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti (9.30am)	20 March 20 May 29 August*
Transport Committee (9.30am)	13 February 3 April 8 May 10 June 14 August 18 September*
Chief Executive Employment Review Committee	18 February (9.30am) 10 June (1pm) 12 August* (9.30am)
Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee (9.30am)	11 February 13 May 5 August 30 September*
Regional Transport Committee (10am)	1 April

**Attachment 1 to Report 24.359**

	24 June 23 September*
Wairarapa Committee (10am)	25 March 3 June 9 September*
Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Valley Subcommittee (2pm)	11 February (HCC) 13 May (UHCC) 12 August (HCC)*

\*last meeting of the triennium



**Attachment 2 to Report 24.359**

**Joint Committee Meeting Schedules**

**Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group**

<b>Date</b>
18 March
24 June
16 September
2 December

**Wellington Regional Leadership Committee**

<b>Date</b>
18 March
16 September
2 December

**Wellington Water Committee**

<b>Date</b>
14 March, 10am
23 May, 10am
25 July, 10am
26 September, 10am

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.438**



**For Information**

## **FINANCE UPDATE – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide Council with Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) summary financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2024.

#### **Consideration by Council**

2. The financial result as at 30 June 2024 has been discussed at Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Committee accepted the report.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

3. The Council is responsible for overseeing and evaluating Greater Wellington's performance.
4. Regular review of financial results is needed for effective management enabling informed decision making, performance evaluation, and for compliance and accountability while highlighting potential risks to assets and services.
5. The financial report is unaudited and subject to change. Any material changes will be advised at the time of presenting the final Annual Report to Council for adoption on 31 October 2024.

### **Te tātaritanga**

#### **Analysis**

6. The result to June 2024 is a \$50 million operating deficit. Greater Wellington had budgeted for an operating deficit of \$18 million.
7. The \$50 million full year deficit is an accounting deficit and not a cash or funding deficit as the report contains non-cash items such as depreciation (\$39 million) and fair value movements (\$2 million) in the financial instruments that council holds.

#### ***Total Revenue is \$16 million lower than budgeted, materially driven by:***

8. Farebox revenue is \$46 million lower than budgeted due to changes in travel choices post-Covid and providing half-price fares through July and August 2023.

This resulted in higher grants and subsidies revenue of \$23 million due to reduced payments to NZ Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi.

9. This is further offset by additional rates received from the territorial authorities (\$2 million) and higher rates penalties (\$1 million).
10. Patronage levels have been revised in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (2024-34 LTP) to reflect the current travel choice forecast. A total of \$25 million loan was approved by Council to address the farebox revenue losses (\$23 million) and a funding deficit (\$2 million).

***Total Expenditure is \$20 million higher than budgeted, materially driven by:***

11. Grants and subsidies expenditure is \$9 million unfavourable due to indexation on the Bus and Rail contracts. This is addressed in the 2024-34 LTP.
12. Finance costs are \$10 million above budget, primarily because of additional prefunding and increased financing costs. This is partially offset by increased interest revenue.
13. Changes in accounting treatment for Floodplain Management (\$6 million) and Snapper on Rail change (\$5 million)
14. Asset impairment loss of around \$3 million, where some of the assets were either non-functional or obsolete, following our year-end physical verification process.
15. These are offset by an underspend in Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) programme closure (\$19 million). \$15 million of the LGWM underspend has been carried forward.

***Capital Delivery***

16. We have achieved 80% of capital delivery due to approved accelerated spend in Te Marua Treatment Plant projects. This is offset by delays in Alliance programme and slower progress on the Mill Street improvements in Riverlink, as well as a change in accounting treatment for National Ticketing Solution (NTS) and Snapper on Rail.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

17. The final Annual Report scheduled to be presented to Council for adoption on 31 October 2024.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	<a href="#">Councillor Financial Report – 30 June 2024</a>

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writer	Darryl Joyce – Kaiwhakahaere Matua   Manager Accounting Services
Approvers	Ashwin Pai – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Pūtea me ngā Tūraru   Group Manager Finance and Risk (Acting)

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> The Council has governance oversight of the robustness of the organisation's financial performance.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> The report reviews performance against the budget set in the 2023/24 Annual Plan.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> This report has been drafted following contributions from Finance Business Partners of Metlink, Environment and Corporate Services.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> There are no risks arising from this report.

# Council Report June 2024

This report provides year to date financials for the year ending 30 June 2024 with comparisons to the budget set in the 2023-24 Annual Plan, including re-budgets approved by Council

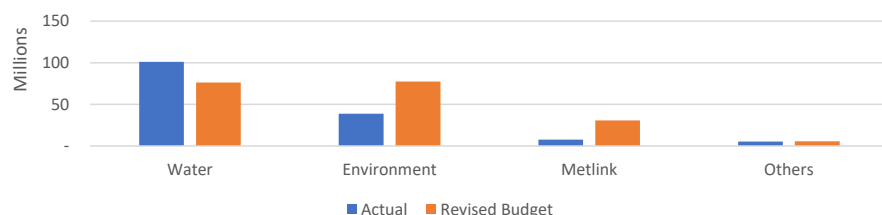
## Summarised Profit and Loss as at June 2024

### Summarised Profit and Loss as at June 2024

	Full Year			Variance
	Actual \$000s	Revised Budget \$000s	\$000s	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>				
Rates and Levies	266,652	263,622	3,030	1%
Grants and Subsidies	181,157	157,953	23,204	15%
Other Revenue	119,679	162,189	(42,510)	-26%
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>567,488</b>	<b>583,764</b>	<b>(16,276)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>				
Personnel	87,034	83,878	3,156	4%
Grants and Subsidies	261,164	252,152	9,012	4%
Consultants, Contractors and Suppliers	176,040	183,769	(7,728)	-4%
Finance Costs	52,038	42,252	9,787	23%
Depreciation	39,401	33,181	6,220	19%
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>615,679</b>	<b>595,232</b>	<b>20,447</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before other items</b>	<b>(48,191)</b>	<b>(11,468)</b>	<b>(36,723)</b>	<b>320%</b>
Fair Value Movements	(1,897)	(7,030)	5,133	-73%
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(50,088)</b>	<b>(18,498)</b>	<b>(31,590)</b>	<b>171%</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>152,871</b>	<b>190,002</b>	<b>(37,131)</b>	<b>-20%</b>

\*\* Revised budget is budget set in the 2023-24 Annual Plan plus re-budgets approved by Council

### Capital Expenditure by Group



### GM of Finance and Risk Overview

The 2023/24 financial year has continued to be economically challenging for the full 12 months. The consistent themes throughout the year have been a decrease in farebox revenue and an increase in finance costs. Additionally, we have achieved 80% of our capital delivery targets.

Farebox revenue is down by \$46 million, primarily due to a shift in travel preferences since the patronage level assumptions were set in the 2021-31 LTP and Greater Wellington providing half-price fares through July and August. This shift in travel preferences has been addressed in patronage level assumptions in the 2024-34 LTP.

Finance costs have exceeded the budget due to the increased cost of funding driven by the Reserve Bank making successive official cash rate increases to combat inflation since the 23/24 Annual Plan budgets were set. The cost of additional prefunding is also pushing up finance costs however this has been partially offset by higher interest revenue received from reinvesting this same prefunding.

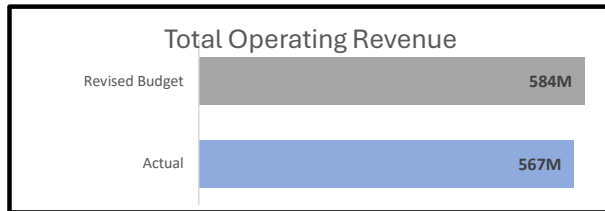
Economic forecasts predict an easing of interest rates over the next few quarters and the Reserve Bank did cut the Official Cash Rate by 25-basis points on the 14th of August, going from 5.5% to 5.25%. Greater Wellington has built this expected easing of interest rates into the 2024-34 LTP assumptions in line with the forecasts available at the time.

We have achieved 80% of our capital delivery, largely due to approved accelerated spend on the Te Marua Treatment Plant projects. This was offset by delays in Riverlink, as well as a change in accounting treatment for National Ticketing Solution (NTS) and Snapper on Rail. Accurate forecasting of capital projects will continue to be a focus in the 24/25 financial year and during the 25/26 annual planning process.

### Other Items of Interest:

- Council currently holds investments (excluding subsidiaries) of \$315m up from a starting balance of \$247m on 1 July 2023. This includes water contingency investments of \$50m, and pre-funding of \$116m.
- \$4m of PT reserves have been applied to cover the half-priced fares in July and August.
- The final Annual Report is expected to be signed off on 31 October 2024.

## Key Variance Commentary



### Metlink PT –

Farebox revenues are below budget (49% Rail, 51% Bus) due to providing half price fares for public transport in Jul & Aug, **\$7m** and a change in travel choice since the patronage level assumptions were set in the 2021-31 LTP, **\$36m**. This is offset by higher grants and subsidies revenue from Waka Kotahi, **\$23m**.

### Environment –

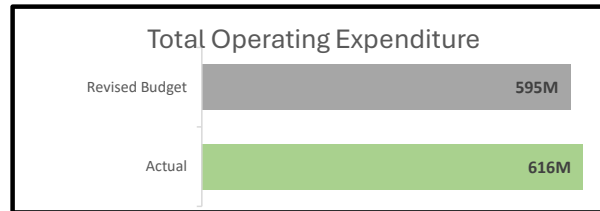
Fees and charges are below budget due to revenue of **\$10m** of RiverLink interim property compensation from Waka Kotahi requiring to be retained on the balance sheet until final settlement.

### Investment management –

Favourable investments, significantly from subvention and dividends, along with prefunding and increased interest returns, **\$13m**.

### Corporate Services –

Rates received are higher, driven by additional rates from a higher growth in rating units than forecast, **\$2m** and additional rates penalties received, **\$1m**.



### Metlink PT –

Grants & subsidies expenditure is **\$13m** unfavourable due to indexation on the Bus and Rail contracts, offset by lower operator spend relating to KPI performance and RS1 delays due to KiwiRail **\$4m**.

### Environment –

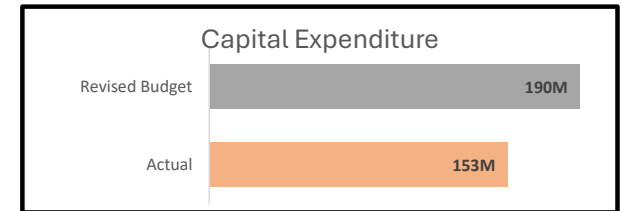
Contractor & Consultants are above budget due to expensing **\$6m** of Floodplain Management costs from capex work in progress due to a change in accounting treatment (no funding impact). **\$5m** of this is related to previous years. RiverLink is **\$4.7m** above budget due to Public Works Act property compensation (loan funded).

### Investment –

External interest cost is **\$11m** above budget, because of increased financing costs and taking on additional prefunding which is partially offset by increased interest revenue from investing the prefunding.

### Strategy –

Contractor & Consultants underspent is driven by Let's Get Wellington Moving, **\$19m**



### Metlink PT –

Change in accounting treatment for NTS now recorded as a prepaid asset, **\$8m** and Snapper on Rail moved from Work in Progress to OPEX, **\$5m**. Southern Depot Capex and RT12.0 delays **\$7m**. Remaining **\$10m** variance due to delays in delivery across the board for the capital program.

### Environment –

RiverLink implementation is **\$28m** behind budget due to Alliance program delays and slower progress on the Mills Street improvements. A further **\$6m** variance is contributed by Flood Plain Management Plan reclassification to OPEX.

### Water Supply –

Te Marua Treatment Plant and Kaitoke Flume Bridge are tracking ahead of schedule, the approved full year spend has also been brought forward, **\$25m**.



**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.449**



**For Information**

## **REGIONAL DEALS – LESSONS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**

### **Purpose**

1. To advise the Council of key observations regarding the development of Regional Deals, arising from the Chair’s Study Tour of the United Kingdom in June 2024.

**Te horopaki**

### **Context**

2. The New Zealand Government has signalled its desire to initiate regional deals across New Zealand, based in part on United Kingdom and Australian experiences. Regional deals are also signalled in the National Party’s 2023 Manifesto as the basis for the government to “partner with local Government to create long-term pipelines of regional projects”.
3. At its meeting of 29 February 2024, Council approved my nomination to attend the Infrastructure NZ 2024 delegation to the United Kingdom (report 24.93). The theme of the visit was “Place Based Solutions: Learning from the UK” and involved visiting the major cities of London, Manchester and Cardiff.
4. Following my return from the UK, I prepared the report Regional Deals - Lessons from Greater Manchester and Cardiff Capital Region ([Attachment 1](#)). This report will be presented to the meeting of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee on Tuesday 1 October 2024.
5. The report, together with a cover letter ([Attachment 2](#)), was forwarded to the Minister of Transport and Local Government Hon Simeon Brown and the Minister of Infrastructure and RM Reform Hon Chris Bishop on 8 August. Neither of the Ministers has yet responded to this letter.
6. I also co-authored an article “Think Local and Loosen Wellington’s Grip” ([Attachment 3](#)), which was published in the Sunday Star-Times on 28 July 2024.

**Ngā hua ahumoni**

### **Financial implications**

7. There are no financial implications from this report.

**Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori**  
**Implications for Māori**

8. Experiences from the UK emphasise the importance of partnership in both understanding local needs and partnering over the long term to achieve success. This approach underpins the value and significance of our partnerships with mana whenua, as we approach development of Regional Deals with Government.

**Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi**  
**Consideration of climate change**

9. There are no climate change implications of this report.

**Te whakatūtakitaki**  
**Engagement**

10. Greater Wellington will seek to engage further on this matter with Government as a member of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**  
**Next steps**

11. As noted above, this report will be presented to the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee on 1 October 2024.

**Ngā āpitihanga**  
**Attachments**

Number	Title
1	Regional Deals - Lessons from Greater Manchester and Cardiff Capital Region
2	Letter to Hon Simeon Brown and Hon Chris Bishop from Darren Apanui and Cr Daran Ponter
3	“Think Local and Loosen Wellington’s Grip”, Daran Ponter, Darren Apanui, Campbell Barry, Sunday Star Times 24 July 2024

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**  
**Signatories**

Writer	Daran Ponter – Council Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council
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<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>Greater Wellington's role is to protect our environment while also meeting the cultural, social and economic needs of our communities. As part of fulfilling that role we work with our partners – mana whenua, territorial authorities and central government – to plan for future wellbeing.</p> <p>Along with nine other councils, seven mana whenua partners and two Ministers of the Crown, Greater Wellington is a member of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC) . The purpose of the WRLC is to take responsibility for key matters of regional importance where a collective voice and collective planning and action is required.</p> <p>Based on my experiences as part of the UK Infrastructure Tour, the WRLC is the body most comparable to those entities which have entered into successful Regional Deals with the UK Government.</p> <p>As Council is a member of the committee is appropriate that Council receives updates on the work of the committee.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>Observations in the paper will be provided as context for future WRLC discussions regarding potential Regional Deals with central government. This includes consideration of a Regional Deals “framework”, recently signalled as “under development” by government.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>The paper “Regional Deals - Lessons from Greater Manchester and Cardiff Capital Region” was circulated to the WRLC Programme Director and the GW Stakeholder Media Advisor for review and comment.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>This is a report for information only. There are no risks arising from it.</p>

# Regional Deals

## Lessons from Greater Manchester and Cardiff Capital Region

Daran Ponter, Chair Greater Wellington Regional Council

July 2024

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## Executive Summary

1. This paper outlines a number of observations related to the pre-conditions and approach to regional deals. It does not cover the substance of regional deals – that is a matter that the parties ideally need to uncover through dialogue and the process of forming regional deals. These observations are as relevant to the Wellington Capital Region<sup>1</sup> as they are potentially to all regions in Aotearoa.
2. The paper is informed by recent interactions with officials in the UK during an *Infrastructure NZ* Study Tour to London, Manchester and Cardiff in June 2024.
3. The paper observes that pre-conditions for regional deals include embracing partnership – that a top-down authoritarian approach to regional development is not in the spirit of regional deals and will not deliver the results that all parties are invariably looking for – more responsive and active regional development. To achieve the collaboration required for change, all parties need to be open and willing to conversations that include devolution – sharing – accountability – funding – confrontation and potentially difficult conversations that go to the heart of our ‘Westminster style’ governance arrangements.
4. Regional deals need to be inclusive – government, local government, iwi, sector organisations, the private sector and community all interacting to find new ways to do things more effectively. A key reminder is that all parties will need to be ‘match fit’ before entering regional deals and that local government reform, while desirable, is not a pre-requisite to entering regional deals.
5. In terms of initiating regional deals the key observation is for the parties to take their time to discuss and work up a joint approach. Prescribed programmes with “pots of money” would be the antithesis of “regional deal” making. Regional deals are a means to an end – the parties need to be clear at the outset about what they are looking to achieve.
6. Regional deals are a way of collaborating, co-investing and re-thinking approaches, as opposed to a simple funding mechanism. If regional deals end up as ‘shovel ready’ projects Mark II, then the very basis for regional deals will have been lost – collaboration, exploration, devolution, empowerment, must be at the heart of regional deals. This underpins the imperative to involve iwi and community in regional deal making – driving over the top of iwi and communities will not deliver the step change in approach that we need.
7. Finally, regional deals need to be regionally led. Here is the opportunity to empower local and regional development, rather than impose it. This will require government to loosen its hold, to devolve functions and duties and to embrace new funding mechanisms. It will require local authorities and iwi to lean into development, with consequence from governance through to management, structure and operations.
8. The paper also observes that regional deals are not one-shot instruments – they will need to be reviewed over time. There may be several regional deals on the table at any one time. One deal may lead to another as partnerships build and action materialises in on the ground development. Either way, they must reflect a robust process and due diligence by all parties – this cannot be seen as an answer for short-cuts and poor practice.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes the Councils within the Greater Wellington Regional Council area (Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa, Upper Hutt, Hutt, Wellington, Porirua, Kapiti Coast) plus the Horowhenua District Council (which is in the Horizons Regional Council region).

## Purpose

9. This report identifies key observations in relation to the application of regional deals in a greater Wellington context, from a study tour of the United Kingdom (London, Manchester and Cardiff) in June 2024. It outlines considerations for all parties in forming regional deals in the context of the wider considerations around forming deals than the substance of those deals.

## Context

10. The New Zealand Government has signalled its desire to initiate regional deals across New Zealand, based in part on United Kingdom and Australian experiences. Regional deals are also signalled in the National Party's 2023 Manifesto as the basis for the government to "partner with local Government to create long-term pipelines of regional projects".
11. Regional deals are new to New Zealand. At their heart they are designed to:
  - a. co-ordinate and stimulate economic growth;
  - b. anticipate future development requirements; and
  - c. accelerate the planning and delivery of critical infrastructure projects.

## Regional Deals

12. Regional deals are place-based agreements which are usually part of a broad framework for central and local government strategic alignment, collaboration, and coordination. Place-based agreements are 'bespoke packages of funding and decision-making powers negotiated between central and local government and other parties. They are designed to drive long-term, large-scale wellbeing improvements at place in a way that shines light on local priorities.
13. In the United Kingdom, Regional Growth Deals are agreements between the UK government based in Westminster and in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, local government and communities. Regional deals are delivered through regional partnerships led by authorities working with the private sector, education and skills providers, and enterprise and skills agencies. This approach brings all levels of government together to make long-term investments tailored to the needs and strengths of the region. The aim of these collaborations is to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
14. There are now more than thirty regional deals in place across the United Kingdom. Just four days after being elected UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer met UK metro mayors at Downing St. His key message centred on his belief in devolution, ...." that those with skin in the game – those that know their communities – make much better decisions than people sitting in Westminster and Whitehall". He outlined his desire for the government to build on the partnerships with local councils fostered in many parts of the UK over the past two decades.

## UK Regional Deals Study Tour

15. The June 2024 Study Tour was organised by Infrastructure New Zealand, involving 24 participants from a range of local authorities, government agencies and private sector organisations. The Study Tour was organised around three key themes, regional deals, transport and water reform, all of which are topical New Zealand issues. The key speakers on regional deals are shown in Annex A. An outline of the three regions is set out in Annex B.

## Summary of Observations

16. Key observations arising from the United Kingdom's experience with regional deals are:

### Pre-conditions for Regional Deals

1. Partnership: Respectful and engaged relationship between central government, local government, lwi, business and sector organisations, built on mutual respect and trust
2. Political Leadership: Political leadership is imperative to successful regional deals.
3. Parties: Need to involve the right parties – regional deals are not a simple government – local government construct
4. Scope: Willingness for broad-ranging approach – devolution – sharing – accountability – funding
5. Preparedness: Regional deals require regions to be match fit in governance and management
6. Multi-term Deals: Regional deals must transcend political terms – they must have multi-party agreement to be able to survive changing administrations
7. Long-term Funding: Long-term funding, with appropriate accountability controls, is a key feature of regional deals – providing greater certainty in relation to long-term funding
8. LG Reform: Local Government reform may be desirable as a precursor to joined-up regional development, but is not a pre-requisite

### Initiating Regional Deals

9. Conversations: Regional deals must start with conversations between the parties – to test realities and parameters. Prescribed programmes with “pots of money” are the antithesis of “regional deal” making
10. Means to an end: Regional deals are a means to an end – not an end in themselves - being clear about what a region wants to achieve is fundamental to shaping a sustainable regional deal
11. Collaboration: Regional deals are a way of collaborating, co-investing and re-thinking approaches, as opposed to being a simple funding mechanism
12. Regional equity: “Levelling up” (equity between regions) has been a key driver for regional deals in the UK
13. Leveraging: Existing strategies and planning frameworks, such as spatial plans, regional land transport plans provide the platform for key investment decisions



- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 14. Bottom-up:         | Regional deals are best executed where there is collective buy-in from the outset and where community involvement has been fostered |
| 15. Regionally led:    | Leadership of delivery is based at a regional level   |
| 16. Iterative process: | Regional deals are not one-shot instruments; they are often built up over time  |
| 17. Robust process:    | Regional deals reflect robust process and due diligence by all parties.   |
17. Regional deals in the United Kingdom are underpinned by a belief in localism<sup>2</sup> as a sustainable way to achieve this. Regions then had broad freedom to put forward proposals outlining key goals and demonstrating what they thought was the best way to achieve them.
18. Greater Manchester and the Cardiff Capital Region have promoted regional deals to advance their economies and benefit the lives of their citizenry. These regions have formed new administrative and governance structures to lead and action regional deals. Their direction is informed by spatial and economic strategies and their accords with Westminster and the Senedd have shifted roles, functions and funding to a regional level. They now have a more joined up regionally driven approach to transport, housing, social policy, and the promotion of science and technology.
19. Westminster has allocated funds to the regions that are administered regionally on a gateway (performance) basis. This ensures regular checking and review, to ensure projects remain on track and issues can be addressed early. New money is released, contingent on performance in spending the last tranche of funding.
- For the UK, the guiding principles for regional deals are to support economic growth, encourage public-service reform, and improve accountability. Here, in the wider Wellington region our drivers are different, and the guiding is more about supporting sustainable housing development and providing quality infrastructure to support growth.
20. Based on UK experience in particular, key features of Regional Deals are:
- A formal multi-party agreement, including central, local or regional government, and often other stakeholders like business organisations or educational institutions.
  - Focus on a specific conurbation<sup>3</sup>, or regional area encompassing more than one city or major town.
  - Intentionally designed to address the unique challenges and opportunities of the specific city/region.
  - Funding commitments by both central and local government, for specific projects and initiatives.
  - Cost sharing agreed up front.
  - Long-term commitment spanning several years or decades.

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<sup>2</sup> Localism is all about harnessing the power, knowledge, skills and views of local people to strengthen our communities.

<sup>3</sup> A conurbation is an extended urban area, typically consisting of several towns merging with the suburbs of a central city:

- Includes measurable targets and incentives to invest in growth.
- New governance structures, such as combined authorities, to oversee and manage the agreed-upon initiatives.
- devolution of certain powers and responsibilities from central government to local or regional level.<sup>4</sup>

## Lessons for the Wellington Capital Region<sup>5</sup>

21. A series of observations arise from the Study Tour. In this section I identify what they might mean for the Wellington Capital Region under two headings:

- Pre-conditions for Regional Deals
- Initiating Regional Deals

### *Pre-conditions for Regional Deals*

**Observation # 1: Respectful and engaged:** Relationships between central government, local government, Iwi, business and sector organisations, built on mutual respect and trust.

*Regional deals herald a new way of working between central and local government, iwi, communities and the private sector. This won't materialise without a change in the relationship between the parties. The "master-servant" dynamic which has underscored the relationship between central and local government needs to be put aside. A more respectful relationship needs to emerge – one which respects the values of centralism and localism and includes iwi, community and the private sector.*

*Put simply, if regional deals are to succeed we will need to confront some of the structural and cultural impediments that have been with us since New Zealand became a Dominion of the Empire.*

**Observation # 2: Political Leadership:** Political leadership is imperative to successful regional deals

*Regional deals are complicated to initiate and sustain. They need strong and joined-up political leadership throughout, including appropriate structure to co-ordinate actions and maintain momentum.*

**Observation # 3: Parties:** Need to involve the right parties – regional deals are not a simple government – local government construct

*Regional deals present real opportunities to stitch together a broad range of partners. In the New Zealand context it includes Iwi, the education and health sector, business, and councils and government. Across government*

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<sup>4</sup> Linda Meade, City deals – Options and Key Considerations A paper prepared for Local Government New Zealand November 2023.

<sup>5</sup> The Wellington Capital Region includes the eight districts of the Wellington region and Horowhenua. These nine city and district councils together with Greater Wellington Regional Council, mana whenua and central government are all represented on the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.

*there is the potential to involve agencies as diverse as MBIE, MPI, MfE, DIA, DOC, Health, Education, NZTA etc (i.e., this is beyond Kanoa).*

**Observation # 4: Scope:** Willingness for broad-ranging approach – devolution – sharing – accountability – funding

*For the benefits of regional deals to take hold, all parties need to be willing to explore the boundaries of current functions and duties and to identify how parties can be more joined up in activating development. This will challenge the idea that some things can only be done at a central level and others at a local level, just because they always have been. We need to discuss carving things up differently, from the provision of transport to water services, from community and health services to the conservation and preservation of our environment.*

**Observation # 5: Preparedness:** Regional deals require regions to be ‘match fit’ in governance and management.

*Regional deals must be different from the funding type agreements of old. The marked difference between simple funding agreements and regional deals is the willingness to explore new relationships, to devolve functions and responsibilities, to provide long-term fundings. If regional deals are simply dressed up funding agreements, then we will have made no progress in better activating regional development.*

*If local authorities are going to step up to the plate, then they will need to have a new level of readiness and savviness to do so. Devolution of functions will bring new responsibilities, accountabilities, and challenges. Councils will need to be ‘match-fit’ at both a governance and management level – most are probably not at this stage. So, this capability may need to be built, possibly as a condition of being part of a “regional deal”.*

**Observation # 6: Multi-term Deals:** Regional deals must transcend political terms – they must have multi-party agreement to be able to survive changing administrations

*Apart from the internal machinations of the Conservative Party, the UK has benefited from a long period under the same central government regime and the longer Parliamentary (5 years) and local government terms (4 years) than exist in New Zealand (both Parliamentary and council terms = 3 years).*

*Regional deals are often projected over thirty years or more. They require a long-term commitment that cannot be undermined by a continual change in political direction. To avoid this, there needs to be a strong element of cross-Party support for regional deals, at the outset and through their lifetime.*

**Observation # 7: Long-term Funding:** Long-term funding, with appropriate accountability controls, is a key feature of regional deals – providing greater certainty in relation to long-term funding

*Regions need the certainty of long-term funding arrangement for commitments to stick. Both Greater Manchester and Cardiff Capital Region*

*provided good examples of long-term funds controlled at a regional level with oversight (e.g. gateway reviews) from central government. This provides for more agile and locally informed decision-making and empowers connected decisions/investment at a regional level.*

**Observation # 8: LG Reform:** Local Government reform may be desirable as a precursor to joined-up regional development, but is not a pre-requisite.

*Greater Manchester and Cardiff CR confronted the Study Tour with two different examples of governance arrangements for regional deals – an assembly (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) appointed from the members of the ten local councils, plus Mayors, elected at large; and the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, comprising members from each of the ten territorial councils together with the nominated representative of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Neither approach involved dismantling existing council institutions, and that does not appear to have been considered at any point in the journey.*

*For the “Wellington Capital Region”, local government re-organisation has long been on the cards – the starting point may be different as a result.*

### **Initiating Regional Deals**

**Observation # 9: Conversations:** Regional deals must start with conversations between the parties to test realities and parameters.

*If regional deals are to be the step-change to activate joined-up regional development, they must start with conversations about development and partnership. This is what marks successful regional deals out from funding programmes of old – that the parties work through their aspirations at the start, and chart a course based on defined outcomes, rather than simply how to access pots of money.*

**Observation # 10: Means to an end:** Regional deals are a means to an end – not an end in themselves. Being clear about what a region wants to achieve is fundamental to shaping a sustainable regional deal.

*The parties must understand that regional deals will require constant maintenance, revisiting, revising. They should be viewed as living documents. Having reached a regional deal the parties must be committed to serving the deal, and adapting to changing circumstances, rather than following pre-determined and prescriptive pathways.*

**Observation # 11: Collaboration:** Regional deals are a vehicle to collaborate, co-invest and re-think approaches, as opposed to being a simple funding mechanism.

*The focus needs to be on setting new approaches – central government – local government – iwi responsibilities, devolution etc. The opening conversations are most important in forming regional deals. They have the potential to draw parties together and lead to new ways of working, some of which may require legislative reform. Initially, it may be best to leave the money behind, and focus on the outcomes, objectives, mechanisms and devolution/partnership.*

**Observation # 12: Regional equity:** “levelling up” has been a key driver for regional deals in the UK. In essence this means raising the prospects of non-London areas.

*Levelling-up has been a mantra in the UK approach to regional deals, backed by a Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This to some extent reflects the significant primary status of London in the UK landscape.*

*New Zealand’s context is different to the UK. Here the government is supporting regional productivity, prosperity and resilience to build a stronger, more productive economy. A starting point for Regional deals may be the housing and infrastructure deficits displayed in all regions and tackling these more effectively to support economic prosperity.*

**Observation # 13: Leveraging:** Existing strategies and planning frameworks, such as spatial plans, regional land transport plans provide the platform for key investment decisions.

*New Zealand, and the Wellington Capital Region, already have numerous housing, infrastructure, social, health strategies in place. Many councils have also been developing spatial plans. The challenge is to align these coherently, to be committed to action, and to enable key players to turn plans into reality.*

**Observation # 14: Bottom-up:** Regional deals are best executed where there is collective buy-in from the outset and where community involvement has been fostered.

*Regional deals must be about a new way of working. Most crucially, they must involve the parties with ‘skin in the game’. Iwi, community, and industry buy-in will be crucial, along with resetting roles and functions where required.*

**Observation # 15: Regionally led:** Regional deals can be managed through a regionally based process, with gateway reviews before more funding is released. This is a part of a devolutionary approach that comes with a higher degree of trust between the parties.

*Regional Deals are an opportunity to set new expectations for action, carve out new responsibilities and be more agile and joined up in how we approach development – housing, infrastructure, social welfare etc. Local leadership is essential to deals, along with the need to ensure progress on agreed outcomes and outputs.*

**Observation # 16: Iterative process:** Regional deals are not one-shot instruments, they are often built up over time.

*The Greater Manchester model demonstrates that while there may be an initial regional deal, these are revised and added to over time, with parallel deals and other instruments for action in play at the same time. For any region, it will not be enough to rest back on a single deal or agreement – new challenges and opportunities will arise which require new agreements and instruments for action. Ultimately, regional deals need to be highly adaptable, while being tailored to the circumstances and ambitions of a region and providing trust and confidence in the partners to act.*

**Observation # 17: Robust process:** Regional deals need a robust process and due diligence by all parties.

*Regional deals cannot be a means to drive a truck through the need for robust and diligent approaches to investment. Deals are not simple wish lists. They must be very deliberative and engaging processes to ensure the trust, confidence and funding commitments for the parties to move forward.*

*A funding pool, with gateway reviews has proven effective in the UK scene. This allows councils to administer larger sums of money for specific initiatives (such as science and technology, innovation) with the government having oversight and control via regular gateway reviews.*

## Annex A: Study Tour UK: 2024: Key Speakers on Regional Deals

### Administering City and Regional Deals: A View from the Centre

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is the UK Government's department responsible for housing, communities, local government in England and the levelling up policy. Levelling up – the Government's devolution agenda, includes a focus on investment to address geographical inequity. Part of the programme has included city and regional deals in different forms over more than a decade. We will hear from DLUPHC about how the UK has created a new sub-regional tier of local government, the role of city-region economics, and how policy responsibilities have been decentralised in recent years.

Speakers from English Devolution and Institutions division of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, HM Government

### The Manchester City Deal

#### Steve Scott - GHD

**Josh Kay** – Public Affairs team, Transport for Greater Manchester

**Simon Light** – Regional CEO, GHD

### Seeing the Wood for the Trees



**Kevin Lavery** – Chief Executive Officer, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

Kevin was involved in city deals and devolution in the UK. He was a key player in the Core Cities work that eventually led to the City Deals programme. He was also involved in the preparatory work that land-use planning) and associated duties.

led to the Devolution Deal in Cornwall, the first rural area in England to secure the investment and freedoms included in city deal packages. Kevin was previously the Chief Executive of Wellington City Council.

### Urban Development, Regeneration, City Deals and new models of governance



**Richard De Cani** – Director and Global Cities, Planning and Design Leader, Arup

Involved in a range of projects globally that focus on the future of cities and the role of infrastructure in helping to drive change and deliver positive outcomes. Leads the Arup's Global Cities Planning and Design business.

### Cardiff City Deal and Capital Region Establishment



**Colan Mehaffey** – Head of Data and Digital Innovation, Cardiff Capital Region Colan leads strategy and policy for Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), focussing on the adoption of the new statutory powers (economic wellbeing, regional transport and

## Annex B: Three Regions' Overview

### Three Regions

1. The Study Tour brings three regions into the frame – Greater Manchester, the Cardiff area and the Wellington Capital Region. In comparison, principal features of these regions are:

	Wellington Capital Region	Greater Manchester	Cardiff Capital Region
Population	588,000 <sup>6</sup>	2,822,000	1,500,000
Area km <sup>2</sup>	9,153	1,276	2,809 km
Population/Area	73	2,211	533
GDP (\$NZ Billion)	\$51.47 <sup>7</sup>	\$171.85 <sup>8</sup>	\$32.22 <sup>9</sup>
Per Capital Income (NZD)	\$87,534 <sup>10</sup>	\$123,302 <sup>11</sup>	\$82,444 <sup>12</sup>
Number of local authorities	Nine <sup>13</sup> + Greater Wellington Regional Council	Ten + Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Ten (incl Cardiff Capital Region Combined Committee)
Description	10% NZ population, 3% of NZ land area. Large rural hinterland, approx.22% of region in publicly owned native forest lands; 56% of region in agricultural production (excl. forestry)	The Greater Manchester area is the second most populous conurbation in the UK, in North-West England. It represents approximately 4% of UK population and was the cradle of the industrial revolution.	Contains nearly 50% of Wales' population. Includes Wales' Capital / largest City. The region has dense urban areas and vast rural landscapes containing a wealth of natural and cultural heritage from the valleys to the coast.
Ratification of first regional Deal	N/A	2011	2017

### Wellington Capital Region (WCR)

2. The Wellington Capital Region (Te Upoko o te Ika) occupies the southernmost part of the North Island. The region covers an area of 9,153 square kilometres, with a population of 588,000 (June 2023).
3. The WCR urban area, including the cities of Wellington, Porirua, Lower Hutt, and Upper Hutt, accounts for 79 percent of the region's population; other major urban areas include the Kapiti

<sup>6</sup> June 2023

<sup>7</sup> March 2023

<sup>8</sup> 2021

<sup>9</sup> 2021

<sup>10</sup> 2021

<sup>11</sup> 2024

<sup>12</sup> 2022, East Wales

<sup>13</sup> Includes the Councils within the Greater Wellington Regional Council area (Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa, Upper Hutt, Hutt, Wellington, Porirua, Kapiti Coast) plus the Horowhenua District Council (which is in the Horizons Regional Council region).



**Attachment 1 to Report 24.449**

*Wellington Capital Region Deal: Primers from Manchester and Cardiff*

conurbation (Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Raumati Beach, Raumati South, and Paekākāriki), Levin in the Horowhenua and Masterton in the Wairarapa.

4. The WCR has grown around two transport corridors – strongly dictated by the topography of the region (see Map 1). One corridor runs between the Horowhenua and Wellington City, and the other between Masterton and Wellington City. Both corridors are serviced by a State Highway and regional commuter rail network.
5. The WCR contains seven mana whenua iwi, nine territorial authorities and a regional council. Aspects of regional development are co-ordinated by the regional council and the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee<sup>14</sup>, and at a sub-regional level by territorial authorities and iwi.

**MAP 1: WELLINGTON CAPITAL REGION**



6. The Wellington Capital Region experiences various constraints on development and contains areas with precious values, including extensive environmental values and water supply protection areas along the central mountainous spine between the Wairarapa and the rest of the region, and various natural hazard risks .
7. The Future Development Strategy shows where the region has agreed to focus its efforts on housing and business development, including supporting infrastructure, based on the FDS vision, strategic direction, priorities and iwi aspirations. The Future Development Strategy would be a key underpinning document for a future Wellington Regional Deal.

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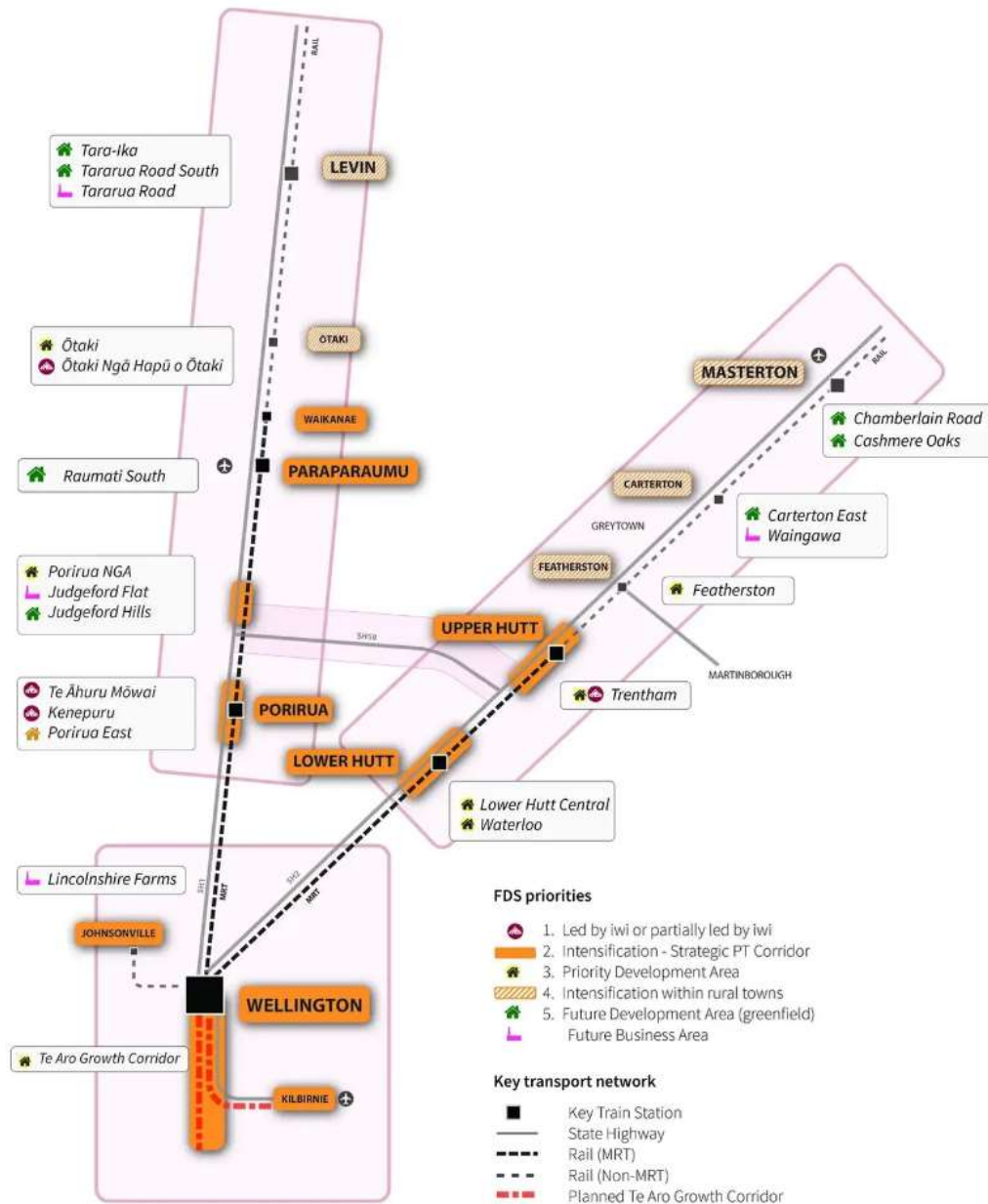
<sup>14</sup> This Committee also encompasses the Horowhenua District and Muapoko Iwi.

**Attachment 1 to Report 24.449**

Wellington Capital Region Deal: Primers from Manchester and Cardiff

8. The latest (2023) Sense Partners projections suggest growth of around 184,000 by 2052, while Stats NZ suggests a more modest median projection of about 79,000 between 2018 and 2048. The Future Development Strategy is based on the higher growth rate (i.e., 200,000) but acknowledges that it would rely on sustained high net migration. To address this uncertainty, it prioritises and sequences new growth areas and investments.

**MAP 2: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**



9. The Future Development Strategy Vision and six strategic direction areas:

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY VISION**

Mō ā tātou uri. Ko tā te Rautaki Whakawhanake Anamata a Wairarapa-Te Whanganui a Tara-Horowhenua he whakatutuki i ngā hiahia o nāiane me te aha ka kore ngā uri whakaheke e raru ki te whakatutuki i ō rātou ake hiahia. Ko te Tiriti o Waitangi te tūapapa o ngā rautaki hapori tirohanga whakamua hei huhua te rangatiratanga o tēnā o tēnā o ngā iwi.

**Let's be responsible ancestors. The FDS will provide for growth that is sustainable by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The future for our region is founded on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and realised through the tino rangatiratanga of tangata whenua.**

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION - 6 AREAS**

 <p>Ensuring urban development and infrastructure planning is integrated to create thriving communities</p>	 <p>Providing for <b>affordable housing</b> that meets our needs, and for compact well-designed towns and cities</p>	 <p>Realising <b>iwi and hapū values and aspirations</b></p>	 <p>Plan development for a low-emissions future</p>	 <p>Prioritising nature, climate and culture through protection and restoration</p>	 <p>Providing opportunity for productive, &amp; sustainable local employment</p>
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## Greater Manchester Region

10. Greater Manchester is 1,277 km<sup>2</sup> and is highly urbanised, with a population of 2.8 million – the second most populous urban area in the UK. Larger settlements in the Greater Manchester area include Bolton, Rochdale, Sale, Salford, Stockport and Wigan. Greater Manchester contains ten metropolitan boroughs which collaborate through Greater Manchester Combined Authority (see Map 3).
11. During the industrial revolution the area's towns and cities became major centres for the manufacture of cotton textiles, aided by the exploitation of the Lancashire coalfield. The region was also an engineering and scientific centre, leading to achievements such as the first inter-city railway and Ernest Rutherford's pioneering work on nuclear fission. Since de-industrialisation in the mid-20th century the county has emerged as a major centre for services, media and digital industries.
12. The emergence of the city deal concept is rooted in the regeneration of Manchester, triggered initially by a response to the IRA bombing in 1996. The 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games added impetus and paved the way for rethinking the respective roles of central and local government, the importance of local government in the economic prosperity of a region, and a move to greater devolution of responsibilities from central government to local government – including education, transport, housing, health and social services.

**MAP 3: GREATER MANCHESTER AREA**



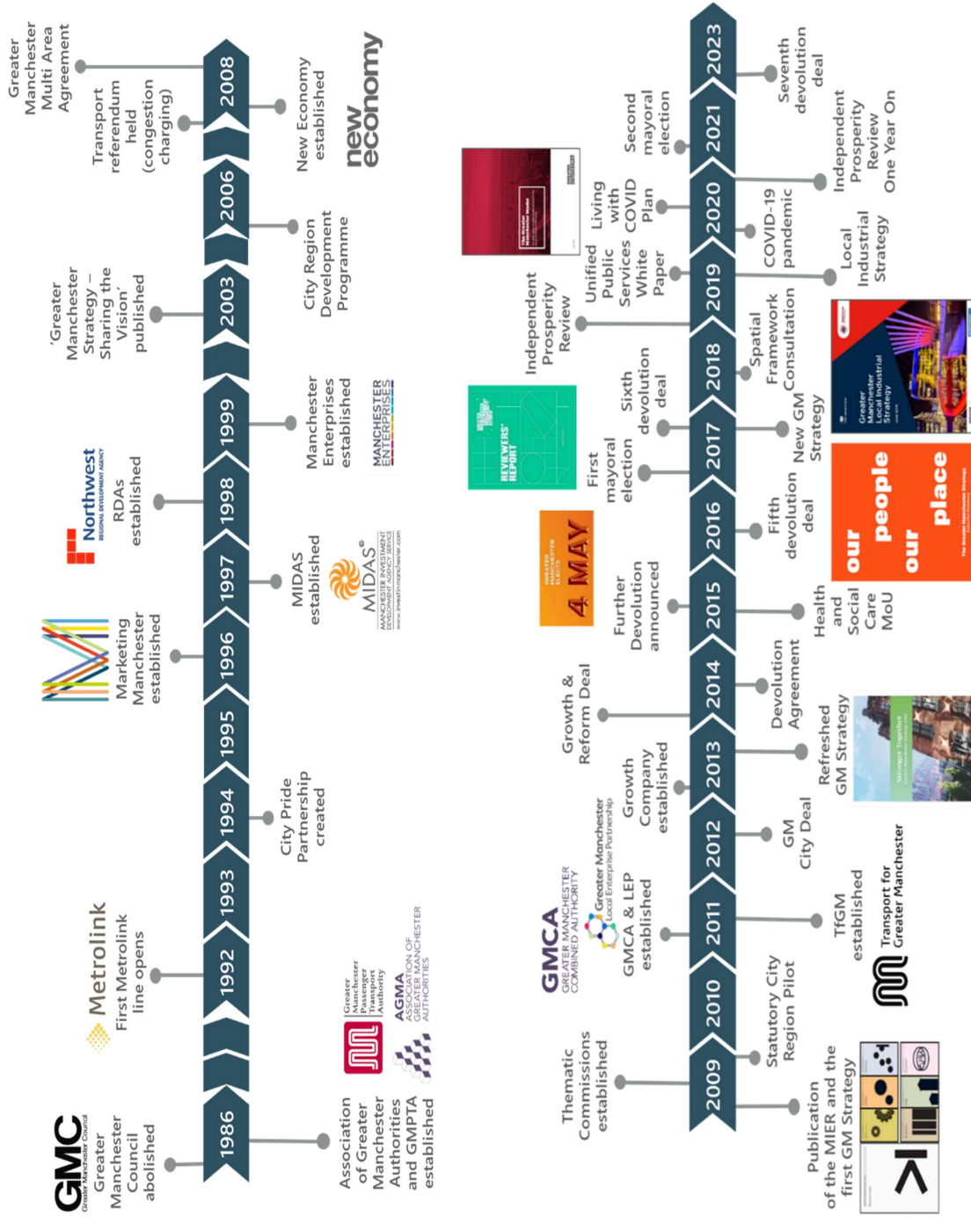
***The Greater Manchester City Deal (GMCD)***

13. The GMCD was underpinned by a common vision for the Greater Manchester city-region and a detailed strategy for economic regeneration. Significant effort was placed on getting alignment across the ten authorities and other stakeholders to achieve alignment on priorities. Each authority is placed in charge of leading on a particular element. In some case the lead role sat outside of the councils; for example with the private sector.
14. The GMCD is not a stand-alone initiative. It has been informed by years of iterative developments, planning and governance initiatives (see Figure 1). In turn it has spawned a series of developments and deals related to matters including:
  - Growth and reform
  - A succession of devolution deals/agreement
  - MOUs around health and social care
  - Revised Greater Manchester strategies
  - United public services
  - Industrial strategy.

Attachment 1 to Report 24.449

Wellington Capital Region Deal: Primers from Manchester and Cardiff

FIGURE 1: THE GREATER MANCHESTER JOURNEY<sup>15</sup>



<sup>15</sup> Credit: Prof. Alan Harding (Strategic economic adviser to Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Visiting Professor, Alliance Manchester Business School and Policy Fellow, Productivity Institute) and Dr Sian Peake-Jones (GMCA Researcher in Residence (TRUUD), Research Fellow, Department of Planning and Environmental Management, University of Manchester, UK)

**Attachment 1 to Report 24.449**

*Wellington Capital Region Deal: Primers from Manchester and Cardiff*

15. The sum total of the developments shown in Figure 1, has been to better position Greater Manchester to move on a City Deal with:
  - A consensual, inter-municipal geography
  - A broadly agreed economic narrative, powerfully evidence-based
  - Stable, long-term leadership of key institutions
  - An emerging track record of delivery, building on existing assets.
16. In summary, the Greater Manchester City Deal (GMCD) sets out to:
  - Create a revolving Infrastructure Fund by allowing Greater Manchester to ‘earn back’ a portion of additional tax revenue from GVA increases resulting from local investment in infrastructure
  - Establish a Greater Manchester Investment Framework to align core economic development funds
  - Create a City Apprenticeship and Skills Hub to place apprentices with SMEs, as well as piloting a skills tax incentive and locally determined outcome payments to providers
  - Strengthen Greater Manchester’s Business Growth Hub, which integrates trade, investment and businesses advice
  - Develop Manchester’s role as a beacon for high value inward investment
  - Establish a Low Carbon Hub, with a plan to reduce emissions by 48% by 2020
  - Establish a housing investment fund to use local and national investment to develop new housing
  - Work with Department for Transport on a broad package of transport proposals encompassing devolution of the Northern Rail franchise, bus improvement measures and devolution of local transport majors funding.<sup>16</sup>
17. The success of the city deal concept in Manchester has seen the population of Manchester city grow from 350,000 to over 600,000 in the 14 years since the initial Greater Manchester Fund was established and has resulted in the increasing popularity of city deals seen today across the UK.

### **Cardiff Capital Region**

18. The Cardiff Capital Region is a city-region centred in Cardiff. It is a partnership between the ten local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend County Borough, Caerphilly County Borough, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, and Vale of Glamorgan (Map 4). The region has a population of 1.5 million, which makes almost half the total population of Wales.
19. The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) is a regional body (also known as a Corporate Joint Committee) which spans the ten local authority areas covering South-East Wales. The CCR has been working in partnership with councils since 2017. The CCR invests in things that improve residents’ quality of life – jobs, transport, homes and communities – and recently adopted new responsibilities for transport and planning gives them the opportunity to do more. The region has seen significant regeneration and investment over recent decades to redevelop heavy industrial areas and to create new business parks, housing and recreational initiatives. The CCR administers the **Cardiff Capital Region City Deal**.

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<sup>16</sup> [Greater Manchester City Deal](#), Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2011?

MAP 4: CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION



20. Sectors in which the Cardiff Capital Region has identified comparative strengths and competitive advantages:

- **Compound Semiconductors:** Compound Semiconductors provide the underpinning technology behind most of today's high-tech products and services including smartphones, sensors, and fibre-optic communications.
- **Fintech:** Wales has the fastest growing digital economy outside of London, and the growth of the financial and professional sector in Wales has led to a thriving Fintech industry
- **Cybersecurity & Analytics:** Cybersecurity is a core pillar of Welsh Government's international strategy, and one of the Capital Region's priority sectors for economic growth.
- **Creative Economy:** The Cardiff Capital region is acknowledged as one of the UK's largest media production centres outside of London.
- **MedTech:** Cardiff Capital Region is focusing specifically on medical diagnostics and devices.
- **Transport:** Better public transport underpins sustainable economic growth and also offers real benefits for people.
- **Energy & Environment:** Creating the conditions for a transition to a carbon neutral economy and society in the CCR, using low carbon energy are considered a key enabler.

***The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal*** (the Deal)

21. Ratified in 2017, this is composed of various initiatives including:
- £1.2 billion investment into the region's infrastructure through a 20-year investment fund. Mainly through the South Wales Metro project and the included Valley Lines electrification programme.
  - Creating a non-statutory Regional Transport Authority, partnering with the Welsh Government, to coordinate regional transport planning and investment.
  - To develop and improve the capabilities of the Compound Semiconductor Applications industry in the region, with the UK Government to invest £50 million through establishing a "Catapult Centre". The Deal aims to prioritise investment in research and development, and support high value and innovative businesses.
  - Creation of the Cardiff Capital Region Skills and Employment Board to ensure skills and employment provision incorporates the needs of local businesses and communities.
  - Co-design a support system for future employment from 2017, for individuals with a health condition, disability and/or otherwise long term unemployment, with the Welsh Government and Department of Work and Pensions.
  - Create a Cardiff Capital Region Business Organisation to provide the business sector with a voice towards local authority leaders.
22. The Deal is designed to build on the region's sectoral strengths, its high skill base and three successful universities and accelerate economic growth and productivity through a series of considered targeted investments in skills, infrastructure, innovation-led scalable projects and priority industry sectors and businesses. The Deal creates a new partnership approach to housing development and regeneration, through the delivery of sustainable communities by the use and re-use of property and sites, with the Welsh Government. The ring-fenced £1.2bn<sup>17</sup> investment fund is one of the CCR's primary mechanisms for implementing its growth ambitions and strategic priorities. The Regional Deal goes from 2016-2025<sup>18</sup>.
23. Over its lifetime of 20 years the desired outcomes from its programmes of intervention are anticipated to deliver:
- 25,000 new jobs
  - generated an additional £4bn of private sector investment into the region, and
  - increased GVA by 5%
24. Recent developments include:
- In August 2020, a £45 million fund was launched by the City Deal aiming to deliver 2,800 new homes across the region.
  - In April 2021, a planned £100 million innovation investment fund was announced. The fund is centred on job creation and business expansion in the region, in addition to attracting inward investment. The fund is in its early stages and may be partially funded (up to £45 million) from the City Deal. In May 2021, funding for the next five years of

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<sup>17</sup> £1.1 billion was been committed to the City Deal by both the Welsh Government and UK Governments, with an additional £120m committed from the 10 local authorities through the CCR City Deal Wider Investment Fund, totalling to £1.2 billion for the entire city deal.

<sup>18</sup> The CCR city deal is shorter than other city deals which typically last thirty years



**Attachment 1 to Report 24.449**

*Wellington Capital Region Deal: Primers from Manchester and Cardiff*

the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal were approved following the conclusion of a gateway review, which occur every five years during the deal's operation.

**Cardiff Capital Region: Governance and Management**

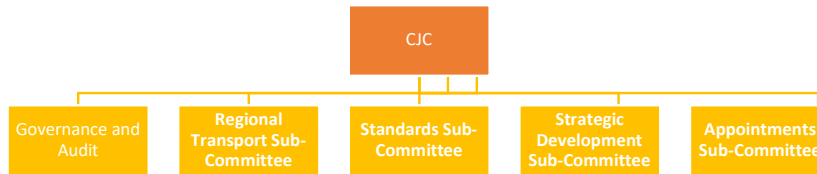
The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) is a Corporate Joint Committee comprising ten Councils across South-East Wales. It operates to a constitution.

The main decision-making body is the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), responsible for:

- preparing a Strategic Development Plan;
- preparing a Regional Transport Plan; and
- doing whatever is deemed necessary to enhance or promote the economic wellbeing of the area.

The Committee also has responsibility for the CJC's Constitution, policy setting, setting the annual budget, agreeing the terms of reference of its sub-committees and appointing Chief Officers.

Subcommittees include:



The CJC is further supported by:

**Regional Growth Board:** provides guidance and advice to the CJC on matters of regional economic policy and delivery. It brings the voice of business, Higher and Further Education and the wider public sector community to the CJC's policy making and delivery activity.

**Investment Board:** works with the CJC's Statutory Officers and external advisors to make recommendations to the CJC in relation to investment frameworks and strategies, investment advice on approved investment programmes and to contribute to the development of medium-term funding strategies.

**Regional Chief Executives' Group:** responsible for bringing their collective expertise and experience to advise on regional strategy, policies and investment proposals. The Group also provides Local Authority specific input into the development of policies, reviews investment proposals and monitoring reports, and provides feedback and advice to the Investment Board.

**Shareholders' Group:** responsible for considering issues relating to the CJC's wholly-owned companies and companies in which the CJC has made equity investments. The Group makes reports and recommendations to the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee and/or CJC, as appropriate.

8 August 2024

Minister Brown and Minister Bishop

Thank you for your letter dated 16 April 2024 from Minister Brown and communication from Minister Bishop in response to our previous communications about City and Regional Deals (CRDs). In these communications you advised to keep you informed on the WRLCs work programme.

We note that the government's action plan for July, August and September 2024 includes "Take Cabinet decisions on a framework for city and regional deals."

This letter is to make contact to organise a time for us to meet to not only provide an update on the WRLC's work programme but also to:

- Provide an opportunity for you both to outline the governments direction and how you think we could work better together.
- Provide an overview of the thoughts of CRDs in the New Zealand context following the successful infrastructure NZ tour of CRDs in England and Wales. Three WRLC members, representing their individual organisations, went on that tour and we now have a unique perspective on CRDs in the New Zealand context as a partnership for local government, central government and iwi. An opinion piece on this by the three attendees can be found at [2095805399\\_20250728.pdf \(isentia.com\)](https://www.isentia.com/2025/07/28/2095805399-20250728.pdf). Also attached is "Regional.Deals\_Lessons.from.Greater.Manchester.and.Cardiff.Capital.Region".
- Have a regional discussion on our thoughts on recent government announcements and how a regional approach in working with the WRLC would provide leverage to these and benefit all parties. This includes the Community Housing Associations announced as part of the Kainga Ora review and the Going for Housing Growth announcement.

The WRLC have agreed to change our meeting structure and hold two formal meetings per annum and two plenary, informal planning meetings per annum. The next plenary meeting is currently planned for late November 2024. We would like to extend an invitation to that meeting to you both. The topics could include those highlighted above.

I am happy to have our WRLC Secretariat staff follow up with the relevant staff in your offices to ensure this happens. We are also of course happy to meet earlier to discuss the above it that suits, with either just myself and the Deputy Chair or the wider WRLC.

Regards



Darrin Apanui  
Chair, Wellington Regional Leadership  
Committee



Daran Ponter  
Deputy Chair, Wellington Regional  
Leadership Committee



28 JUL, 2024

## Think local and loosen Wellington's grip

Sunday Star Times, Auckland



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# Think local and loosen Wellington's grip



## Opinion Daran Ponter, Darrin Apanui, Campbell Barry

**Daran Ponter is the chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council, Darrin Apanui is the chair of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee and Campbell Barry is Hutt City's mayor.**

Just four days after being elected UK prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer met UK metro mayors at Downing St.

His key message was his belief in devolution: "that those with skin in the game – those that know their communities – make much better decisions than people sitting in Westminster and Whitehall".

He outlined his desire for the government to build on the partnerships with local councils fostered in many parts of the UK over the past two decades.

In New Zealand, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has just released the updated Action Plan for New Zealand, in which Cabinet will approve a framework for city and regional deals.

A \$1.2 billion Regional Infrastructure Fund has just opened to help reduce New Zealand's chronic infrastructure deficit. Here is the opportunity for a starkly different approach to the centralist Think Big initiatives of the 1980s. Instead, we could see central and local government, communities, iwi and the private sector work together to plan and deliver regional development.

It is useful for us to learn from regional development experiences in the UK, Australia and Canada – where there have been concerted pushes for urban renewal, housing, innovation and technology, integrated public transport, driven through closer collaboration, devolution of powers and regionally-led initiatives.

In the UK, Greater Manchester and the

Cardiff Capital Region have promoted regional deals to advance their economies and benefit the lives of their citizenry. These regions have formed new administrative and governance structures to lead and action regional deals.

Their direction is informed by spatial and economic strategies and their accords with Westminster and the Senedd have shifted roles, functions and funding to a regional level.

They now have more joined up regionally driven approaches to transport, housing, social delivery, and the promotion of science and technology.

Westminster has allocated funds to the regions that are administered regionally on a gateway (performance) basis. This ensures regular checking and review, to ensure projects remain on track and issues can be addressed early. New money is released contingent on delivery against pre-agreed performance objectives.

Our challenges in New Zealand are similar, if not at the same scale as the UK:

responding to growth, fostering new industry and technology, accelerating housing, addressing our infrastructure gap, social inequality.

But our country, since the days of Dominion, is governed much more from Wellington and the Beehive than even the UK, Australia or Canada. This restricts both central and local government's ability to address core problems, while the relationship between central and local government remains fragile and somewhat indifferent – tolerant of one another, but very much a master – servant type relationship. Things are rarely symbiotic.

And herein lie some fundamental challenges if the Crown, local government, iwi, communities and the private sector are to move together on regional deals. We need a willingness to work differently – an engaged relationship built on mutual respect and trust.

In simple terms, successful regional deals in New Zealand require the government to loosen its control and for local government, iwi and other key players to develop collaborative ways of working if they are going to share the driving.

Reorganising local government is not a prerequisite to regional deals – but acting collaboratively and staying the course certainly is. Most regions already possess the building blocks for aspects of regional



28 JUL, 2024

## Think local and loosen Wellington's grip

Sunday Star Times, Auckland



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deals, through a mix of spatial and regional land transport plans, housing and urban development strategies, industry and sector plans, and science and technology pathways. Devolution and partnership discussions will be challenging – and will need a step-change in approach from all parties. What we really need to get to is a joined-up ability to deliver and a shared accountability for action on the ground.

But first and foremost, regional deals need to start with conversations to explore opportunities, new ways of working and new funding mechanisms. The parties need to agree on what problems we are trying to solve, what the priorities are, how we sequence our work, and who might do what now and in the future.

Regional deals unlock the potential for a deliberate, co-ordinated approach to regional housing supply and place making, infrastructure renewal and extension, priming technology development and innovation, and dealing with social deprivation, health provision and conservation.

Good regional deals will result in differ-

ent approaches and shared priorities across New Zealand, on a much longer timeframe than a sole government term.

For regional deals to be effective:

1. The parties must have meaningful conversations about the problems we are facing and the options for addressing them before determining the approach.
2. Devolution of functions and powers and alternative funding tools must be on the table – centralism meets localism.
3. Regional deals need to be developed as a true partnership between central government, regions, iwi and the private sector.
4. Regional deals must be part of a long-term approach, enduring beyond the 3-year electoral terms of central and local government.

Here is our opportunity to Grow Smarter and deliver better outcomes for all Aotearoa.

*What do you think? Email [sundayletters@stuff.co.nz](mailto:sundayletters@stuff.co.nz). Please include full name and address.*

**Council**  
**27 August 2024**  
**Report 24.442**



**For Decision**

**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

That the Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Appointment of members to the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee – Report PE24.312

Appointment of Trustee to the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust – Report PE24.443

Chief Executive performance review for 2023/24 – Report RPE24.346

Chief Executive remuneration review for 2023/24 – Report RPE24.347

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons 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 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>Appointment of members to the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee – Report PE24.312</b>	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>Information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about candidates for appointment to the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee. Release of this information is likely to prejudice the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for appointment as a Committee member.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has considered whether the public interest outweighs the need to withhold the information and has determined that there is no public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>

<p>override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
<p><b>Appointment of Trustee to the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust – Report PE24.443</b></p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about the proposed candidate for appointment to the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust. Withholding this information prior to Council’s decision is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for appointment as a Trustee of the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>
<p><b>Chief Executive performance review for 2023/24 – Report RPE24.346</b></p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about the Chief Executive. Withholding this information is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and Council.</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>

<b>Chief Executive remuneration review for 2023/24 – Report RPE24.347</b>	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about the Chief Executive. Withholding this information is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and Council.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.