



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

Tuesday 1 October 2024, 10.00am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Quorum: *half of the members, including at least half of the local authority members*

Members

Darrin Apanui, Chairperson – Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust
Council Chair Daran Ponter, Deputy Chairperson – Greater Wellington Regional Council

Councils

Mayor Anita Baker	Porirua City Council
Mayor Campbell Barry	Hutt City Council
Mayor Greg Caffell	Masterton District Council
Mayor Martin Connelly	South Wairarapa District Council
Mayor Wayne Guppy	Upper Hutt City Council
Mayor Janet Holborow	Kāpiti Coast District Council
Mayor Ron Mark	Carterton District Council
Mayor Bernie Wanden	Horowhenua District Council
Mayor Tory Whanau	Wellington City Council

Iwi

Denise Hapeta	Raukawa ki te Tonga
Helmut Modlik	Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc.
Huia Puketapu	Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust
Di Rump	Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc.

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

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee is to take responsibility for key matters of regional importance – Wellington Regional Growth Framework, Regional Economic Development, and Regional Recovery – where a collective voice and collective planning and action is required.

The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (Joint Committee) is a joint committee, established in accordance with clauses 30 and 30A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

The Joint Committee has members from all the nine councils wholly within the Wellington Region and the Horowhenua District Council, mana whenua and members from central Government.

Specific Responsibilities

The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee specific responsibilities include:

Wellington Regional Growth Framework

1. Oversee the development and implementation of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.
2. Recommend to the Wellington Regional Growth Framework partners how funding and resources should be applied to support implementation of the Framework.
3. Monitor the implementation of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework and associated workstreams.
4. Review and keep up to date the Wellington Regional Growth Framework as circumstances change.
5. Recommend to the Wellington Regional Growth Framework partners actions to achieve alignment with council, central government and iwi plans, strategies and policies.
6. Facilitate engagement and consultation with stakeholders and the community on the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.
7. Develop submissions and advocate to external organisations on matters relating to the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.
8. Engage with neighbouring regions on cross-boundary matters relating to the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.

Regional Economic Development

1. Provide leadership in regional economic development, including establishing partnerships with key agencies involved in economic development. Acknowledging that constituent local authorities also have leadership roles within their cities and districts.
2. Develop and keep up to date a regional economic development plan to guide the collective work of the region, in line with the desired future outlined in the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.
3. Monitor and report on the status of the regional economy, emerging risks and opportunities and progress towards the implementation of the regional economic development plan and transition to a low carbon economy.
4. Develop submissions and advocate to external organisations on matters relating to regional economic development.
5. Recommend to Greater Wellington Regional Council (as a joint shareholder of Wellington NZ) the allocation of the regional targeted rate for economic development to initiatives and activities based on the regional economic development plan.

Regional Economic Recovery

1. Provide leadership in regional economic recovery, including establishing partnerships with key agencies involved in recovery, acknowledging that constituent local authorities also have leadership roles within their cities and districts.
2. Develop and keep up to date a programme of regional economic recovery initiatives, which incorporate alignment with the region's climate change goals.
3. Coordinate the implementation of a programme of regional economic recovery initiatives through local authorities, council controlled organisations and other partners.
4. Monitor and report on the impacts of regional economic recovery on the region, emerging risks and opportunities and progress towards implementation of the programme of regional economic recovery initiatives.
5. Develop submissions and advocate to external organisations on matters relating to regional economic recovery including developing regional proposals for partnerships and funding assistance.

Membership

The membership of the Joint Committee is comprised of:

- The Mayor of Carterton District Council
- The Mayor of Horowhenua District Council
- The Mayor of Hutt City Council
- The Mayor of Kāpiti Coast District Council
- The Mayor of Masterton District Council
- The Mayor of Porirua City Council
- The Mayor of South Wairarapa District Council

- The Mayor of Upper Hutt City Council
- The Mayor of Wellington City Council
- The Chair of Wellington Regional Council
- A person nominated by the Joint Committee itself and appointed by the Administering Authority to be the independent chairperson of the Joint Committee.

The member of the Joint Committee may also include:

- A person nominated by Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc (Ngāti Toa Rangatira) and appointed by the Administering Authority
- A person nominated by the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (Taranaki Whānui) and appointed by the Administering Authority
- A person nominated by Rangitāne O Wairarapa Inc (Rangitāne O Wairarapa) and appointed by the Administering Authority
- A person nominated by Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Trust (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa) and appointed by the Administering Authority
- A person nominated by Raukawa ki te Tonga and appointed by the Administering Authority
- A person nominated by Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust (Ātiwawa ki Whakarongotai) and appointed by the Administering Authority
- A person nominated by Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc (Muaūpoko hapū) and appointed by the Administering Authority
- Up to three persons nominated by the Crown (Cabinet) and appointed by the Administering Authority.

In respect of those members who are persons nominated by a particular entity or body (and then appointed by the Administering Authority), for the avoidance of doubt, if no nomination occurs then the Administering Authority need not make an appointment to the joint committee in respect of that entity or body. The membership of the Joint Committee will be accordingly reduced to the extent that there is no nomination/appointment (including for the purposes of calculating the number of vacancies for establishing a quorum). Such appointment may be made if and when a relevant nomination occurs.

The territorial authorities that are parties to this agreement must appoint the relevant Mayor to be a member of the joint committee. This is so that those Mayors are counted for the purposes of determining the number of members required to constitute a quorum – see clause 30A(6A) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The local authorities that are parties to this agreement may, in addition to the appointment of the relevant Mayor or Chair, appoint an alternate who, in exceptional circumstances where the Mayor or Chair is not able to attend a Joint Committee meetings, is entitled to attend that Joint Committee meetings as a member of the Joint Committee (and appointed by the relevant local authority). The appointment of alternates does not affect the normal calculation of a quorum.

A Deputy Chairperson is to be appointed by the Committee from the existing membership. In accordance with standing orders, the Deputy Chairperson may preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson (including before the Joint Committee nominates an independent chairperson and that person is appointed by the Administering Authority).

General

The membership of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee shall be limited to a maximum of 21 members (including the Independent Chairperson).

Expectations around member voting based on Committee programme and agenda

When the Joint Committee is addressing matters that are not within the Wellington Regional Growth Framework programme, it is expected that the following members of the Joint Committee will not exercise their voting rights (and may elect not to attend the relevant meetings or parts of meetings):

- The Mayor of Horowhenua District Council
- The person nominated by Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc (Muaūpoko hapū)
- The person nominated by Raukawa ki te Tonga
- The persons nominated by the Crown (Cabinet).

This is illustrated in the below table (where the absence of a tick indicates that the relevant member is not expected to exercise voting rights in respect of the relevant programme):

Relevant members	Relevant programme		
	Wellington Regional Growth Framework	Regional Economic Development	Regional Economic Recovery
Independent chairperson	√	√	√
Chair of Wellington Regional Council	√	√	√
Mayor of Wellington City Council	√	√	√
Mayor of Porirua City Council	√	√	√
Mayor of Kapiti Coast District Council	√	√	√
Mayor of Hutt City Council	√	√	√
Mayor of Upper Hutt City Council	√	√	√
Mayor of South Wairarapa District Council	√	√	√
Mayor of Masterton District Council	√	√	√

Relevant members	Relevant programme		
	Wellington Regional Growth Framework	Regional Economic Development	Regional Economic Recovery
Mayor of Carterton District Council	√	√	√
Person nominated by Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc (Ngāti Toa Rangatira)	√	√	√
Person nominated by the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (Taranaki Whānui)	√	√	√
Person nominated by Rangitāne O Wairarapa Inc (Rangitāne O Wairarapa)	√	√	√
Person nominated by Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Trust (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)	√	√	√
Person nominated by Raukawa ki te Tonga	√	√	√
Person nominated by Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust (Ātiwawa ki Whakarongotai)	√	√	√
Person nominated by Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc (Muaūpoko hapū)	√		
Persons nominated by the Crown (Cabinet)	√		
Mayor of Horowhenua District Council	√		

Observers

Regional economic development programme

In respect of the Regional Economic Development programme, the Joint Committee may invite the following observers to attend and speak at meetings (as relevant):

- One or more representative(s) from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Any other persons as the Joint Committee may consider necessary.

Regional economic recovery programme

In respect of the Regional Economic Recovery programme, the Joint Committee may invite the following observers to attend and speak at meetings (as relevant):

- One or more representative(s) from key government entities.
- One or more representative(s) from key private sector organisations on a required basis.
- Any other persons as the Joint Committee may consider necessary.

Wellington Regional Growth Framework programme

In respect of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework programme, the Joint Committee may invite the following observers to attend and speak at meetings (as relevant):

- One representative of Waka Kotahi
- One representative from Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and/or Kāinga Ora
- Any other persons as the Joint Committee may consider necessary.

At each meeting, the Chairperson shall recognise those observers attending in accordance with these provisions and the persons recognised by the Chairperson shall have speaking rights at the meeting.

The attendance at any public excluded session by observers shall only be permitted with the prior approval of the Chairperson.

Voting

Each member has one vote. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson has a casting vote.

Meetings

The Joint Committee will arrange its meetings in separate parts, relating to the specific focus areas of: Wellington Regional Growth Framework; Regional Economic Development; and Regional Recovery.

Meetings will be held once every two months, or as necessary and determined by the Chairperson.

Quorum

In accordance with Clause 30A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, the quorum at a meeting of the Joint Committee shall be half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an even number, or a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an odd number. In accordance with clause 30A(6)(c)(iii) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, for a quorum to be established there must be present at least 5 members appointed by local authorities.

Notification of meetings and the publication of agendas and reports shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Part 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and will be undertaken by the administering local authority.

Delegations

Each local authority delegates to the Joint Committee, and in accordance with the terms of reference, the following responsibilities:

1. Approval of all plans and implementation programmes necessary to fulfil the specific responsibilities of the Joint Committee, including:
 - a. Wellington Regional Growth Framework and Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Implementation Plan
 - b. Regional Economic Development Plan
 - c. Regional Economic Recovery Implementation Plan
2. Approval of all submissions and advocacy statements necessary to fulfil the specific responsibilities of the Joint Committee.

Remuneration and expenses

Each party shall be responsible for remunerating its representative(s) on the Joint Committee.

Members who represent organisations or entities other than local authorities (for instance iwi members) shall be eligible for compensation for Joint Committee activity including travel, meeting time, and preparation for meetings paid by the administering local authority. This amount is to be agreed in advance.

Standing Orders

The Joint Committee shall apply the standing orders of the Administering Authority.

Duration of the Joint Committee

In accordance with clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee is not deemed to be discharged following each triennial local government election.

Servicing

The Joint Committee is serviced by a joint secretariat. The administering local authority shall be responsible for the administration of the Committee.

Council decisions on the Committee's recommendations

Where a Council makes specific decisions on the Joint Committee's recommendations, these will be reported to the Joint Committee. Where the decision is materially different from the Committee's recommendation the report will set out the reasons for that decision.

Variation of this Terms of Reference

These terms of reference may be varied from time to time. It is envisaged that changes may be made to add or remove specific responsibilities as the circumstances require. Changes will be approved by the members on the recommendation of the Joint Committee.

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

Tuesday 1 October 2024, 10.00am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Public Business

No.	Item	Report	Page
1.	Apologies		
2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Public Participation		
4.	Confirmation of Public minutes of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee meeting on Tuesday 4 June 2024	24.300	11
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6.	Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Annual Reporting 2024	24.450	20
7.	Regional Adaption Project: Endorsing the Scope	24.530	83
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9.	Census 2023 – Initial Findings	24.483	159
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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee meeting on 3 September 2024.

Report 24.300

Public minutes of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee meeting on Tuesday 4 June 2024

Council Chamber, Hutt City Council
30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt, at 9am

Members Present

Darrin Apanui (Chairperson)	Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust
Council Chair Ponter (Deputy Chairperson)	Greater Wellington Regional Council

Councils

Mayor Baker	Porirua City Council
Mayor Barry (from 9.02am)	Hutt City Council
Mayor Caffell	Masterton District Council
Mayor Connelly	South Wairarapa District Council
Mayor Guppy	Upper Hutt City Council
Mayor Holborow	Kāpiti Coast District Council
Mayor Whanau	Wellington City Council

Iwi organisations

Denise Hapeta (from 9.19am)	Raukawa ki te Tonga
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Mayors Caffell and Mark, and Denise Hapeta participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purposes of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

The Committee Chair recognised Councillor Sam Ferguson, Horizons Regional Council, as an observer.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Darrin Apanui / Mayor Guppy

That the Joint Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Helmut Modlik, Huia Puketapu, Di Rump, and Mayor Wanden.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: The Committee noted the apologies of Ministers Bishop and Brown.

Mayor Barry arrived at the meeting at 9.02am, during the above item.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee meeting on 19 March 2024 - Report 24.139

Moved: Mayor Holborow / Mayor Baker

That the Joint Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee meeting on 19 March 2024 - Report 24.139.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Implementation of Health Check – Report 24.256

Council Chair Daran Ponter, Deputy Committee Chairperson, spoke to the report.

Moved: Council Chair Ponter / Mayor Connelly

That the Joint Committee:

- 1 Agrees that the role and purpose of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee is to focus on areas where collective focus and action can accelerate regional outcomes, which may include:
 - a development of specified regional plans;
 - b facilitation of priority actions to enable the implementation of agreed plans; and
 - c monitoring and reporting to provide decision-makers a fuller picture of how the region is progressing and where collective action is required.

- 2 Agrees to re-prioritise the work programme for the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee for 2024/25 to have a key focus on:
 - a Future Development Strategy Priority Actions
 - b Regional Climate Change Adaptation Planning
 - c Regional Deal (framing and joint development work with Government)
 - d Monitoring and Reporting (on regional delivery of agreed plans).
- 3 Notes that the projects listed in paragraph 19, whilst they will be led by other agencies, will still remain part of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee work programme for resourcing and reporting purposes.
- 4 Agrees to reduce formal meetings to twice a year and create two informal plenary sessions focussed on key regional issues and opportunities.
- 5 Agrees that:
 - a the Secretariat will be managed as part of Greater Wellington Regional Council (to date it has been independent); and
 - b A review of the Secretariat resourcing will be undertaken with the intention of establishing a new Programme Director role focussed on managing the interface between the secretariat and the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.
- 6 Agrees that a senior lead for each major element of the work programme is identified from within a partner agency and that the Greater Wellington Senior Manager, Programme Director and Project Leads meet as a Steering Group to coordinate across.
- 7 Agrees that Project Leads report to the Committee on project progress.
- 8 Notes that depending on the scope of work agreed for Regional Climate Change Adaptation, it may require an amendment to the Terms of Reference for this Committee.
- 9 That the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee CEO Group (which includes the CEOs at Ngāti Kahungunu and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and the four central government representatives) present a joint paper to the Chair of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee on any outstanding matters they consider will enhance the operation of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee, for consideration at the September meeting of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.
- 10 Agrees to add the Horowhenua District Council and all iwi CEOs and their proxies into the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee CEO Group.

Moved as a procedural motion: Mayor Baker / Mayor Guppy

That the matter lie on the table until the September 2024 Committee meeting.

The procedural motion was **lost**.

Debate on the substantive motion continued.

The substantive motion was put and was **carried**.

Mayors Baker, Barry, Caffell, Guppy and Mark voted against the substantive motion.

Denise Hapeta joined the meeting remotely at 9.19am, after the vote on the procedural motion, and was present for the debate and vote on the substantive motion.

6 Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan Refresh – Report 24.278

John Allen, Chief Executive, WellingtonNZ, spoke to the report.

Moved: Mayor Holborow / Mayor Guppy

That the Joint Committee:

- 1 Approves the refreshed Regional Economic Development Plan (Attachment 1).
- 2 Notes the value of working as a region to drive economic development priorities
- 3 Notes the opportunities for Committee members to proactively support implementation of the Regional Economic Development Plan.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Future Development Strategy Implementation Plan – Report 24.246

Parvati Rotherham, Project Lead, Future Development Strategy, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Secretariat, spoke to the report.

Moved: Council Chair Ponter / Mayor Connelly

That the Joint Committee:

- 1 Notes that the Future Development Strategy Implementation Plan is being approved prior to final Long-Term Plan decisions by councils and that any changes to timing and funding for listed projects will be reflected in the final published plan.
- 2 Approves the Priority Actions in Table 1 (pages 6 - 7) of Te Rautaki Whanaketanga ki tua a Wairarapa- Wellington- Horowhenua Future Development Strategy - Implementation Plan 2024 (Attachment 1).
- 3 Authorises the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Chair and Programme Director in conjunction with senior staff at partner organisations to update the timing and funding status of any projects once final decisions are made and authorises them to make any inconsequential changes and corrections to complete the publication of the final implementation plan.
- 4 Endorses the Wellington Regional Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway

The motion was **carried**.

8 Supporting a Regional Approach to Climate Adaptation – The Wellington Regional Climate Change Impacts Assessment – Report 24.277

Jamuna Rotstein, Climate Change Adaptation Principal Advisor, Wellington City Council, and Tom FitzGerald, Project Lead, Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Secretariat, spoke to the report.

Moved: Mayor Holborow / Mayor Connelly

That the Joint Committee:

- 1 Notes the findings of the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment.
- 2 Supports the next steps (Phase 2) of the Regional Adaptation Project.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Programme (Including Priority Development Areas) Reporting – Report 24.227 [For Information]

Allen Yip, Programme Manager, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Secretariat, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 10.14am

D Apanui

Committee Chair

Date:

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
1 October 2024
Report 24.425



For Decision

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (the Committee) of the proposed meeting schedule for 2025.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

- 1 **Notes** that the Committee agreed at its meeting on 4 June 2024 that it would have two meetings per year.
- 2 **Notes** that there will be three meetings scheduled for 2025, due to the local government triennial elections.
- 3 **Adopts** the meeting schedule as follows:
 - a 18 March
 - b 16 September
 - c 2 December.
- 4 **Authorises** the Head of Governance and Democracy, Greater Wellington, in consultation with the Head of Secretariat, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Secretariat and the Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, to amend the schedule as required.
- 5 **Notes** that, as the Administering Authority, Greater Wellington will circulate the meeting schedule to members and key stakeholders.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. The Committee's Joint Committee Agreement states that there will be meetings held every two to three months, or as necessary and determined by the Chairperson.
3. Previously the Committee has had four meetings scheduled per year.

4. The Committee, as part of its health check considerations, agreed at its meeting on 4 June 2024 to reduce the number of meetings to two, and to create two plenary sessions.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

5. In preparing the Committee's meeting schedule for 2025, officers discussed possible dates with the Committee Secretariat. Officers considered that Committee meetings would best be scheduled for March and September each year.
6. Officers also discussed that it is necessary to schedule a third meeting in 2025, to follow the 2025 local government triennial elections.
7. Officers therefore propose that the meeting schedule for 2025 be adopted as follows:
 - a 18 March
 - b 16 September
 - c 2 December
8. These meetings will be held on the same day as meetings of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, and will be held at Hutt City Council.
9. More meetings may be scheduled, if and when required. This will be done in consultation with the Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and the Head of Secretariat.
10. The democracy and governance teams at each council have been informed of the above meeting dates to avoid scheduling conflicts.
11. The dates for Committee's plenary sessions in 2025 have yet to be set.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report. All costs associated with the meetings (including appointee meeting fees and honoraria) have been budgeted for.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

13. The Committee membership includes members representing the interests of mana whenua in the Wellington Region-Horowhenua District. Adopting a forward schedule of meetings will provide advance notice of meetings and facilitate attendance and participation at these meetings.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

14. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga
Significance

15. Officers considered the significance (as defined in Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, taking into account the Regional 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

16. Because of the low significance, community engagement was not considered necessary.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

17. Greater Wellington will send meeting invites to Committee members and relevant key staff and stakeholders.
18. Meetings will also be publicly notified in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

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

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Committee is responsible for adopting its own meeting schedule.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The proposed schedule was discussed with the Committee Secretariat to ensure that any key plans, strategies or policies can be considered by the Committee at appropriate intervals.
<i>Internal consultation</i> The Committee Secretariat was consulted.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> Not adopting the schedule will have an impact on councils' individual meeting schedules as it will require finding alternative dates to suit.

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
1 October 2024
Report 24.450



For Decision

WELLINGTON REGIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTING 2024

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (the Committee) on its projects and programmes ([Attachment 1](#)) and provide the Committee with the 2023/24 Annual Report.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1 **Notes** the progress on the three projects outlined in this report and in Attachment 1.
- 2 **Agrees** to the content of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC) Annual Report as presented in [Attachment 2](#).
- 3 **Agrees** to the content of the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP) Annual Summary as presented in [Attachment 3](#).
- 4 **Authorises** the Programme Director to make any consequential amendments to [Attachments 2](#) and [3](#) based on direction provided at this meeting and to correct any minor editorial, typographical, arithmetical, or formatting errors that are identified.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The Programme Report is provided to highlight progress, plans and issues and risks to the WRLC.
3. The Programme Report consists of information from Project Status Reports that are submitted by each project manager.
4. The WRLC annual reports inform the WRLC and stakeholders about the alignment of the work programme with WRLC's vision and objectives. It also summarises project progress for the year ending 30 June 2024.

5. The Regional Economic Plan (REDP) also provided an Annual Summary to the WRLC. This includes key achievements of implementing the REDP for 2023-24.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

WRLC programme

The Regional Housing Data Dashboard

6. Phase Two project has commenced. This includes expanding datasets, visualisations, functionality, and tools, exploring GIS and spatial data integration, and delivering an analytics and insights function.

The Wellington Regional Climate Change Impacts Assessment

7. The Impacts Assessment report is being summarized to simplify the technical details and explain how they are relevant to the Committee. This should be completed by the end of October 2024. The project team is also:
 - a reviewing current plans, strategies, and important documents.
 - b gathering feedback from the Ministry for the Environment adaptation preparedness survey.
 - c Continuing the RoadListen initiative, with some continued engagement with mana whenua.

The Regional Food System Strategy

8. The Regional Food System Strategy has developed pilot projects and has explored funding opportunities.

The Wellington Economic Development Programme report:

9. REDP is facilitating significant progress on business and workforce initiatives.
10. The REDP refresh is complete and will be relaunched with the 2023/24 initiative summary to showcase benefits and advocate for continued funding.
11. Key projects have secured resource consent extensions and initial funding commitments.

Priority Development Area

12. The Priority Development Area (PDA) Delivery Group has been established to help facilitate PDA delivery by working together on commonly shared risks, issues, and opportunities, as well have providing enhance project monitoring.
13. The PDA programme report details:
 - a Progress is being made in upgrading essential infrastructure to support population growth.
 - b Approval of key residential development projects.
 - c There is ongoing community engagement to align development with resident needs.

- d Adoption of long-term plans guiding sustainable and coordinated growth.

Health Check

- 14. Regarding the Health Check, progress has been made to establish Project Leads for WRLC initiatives, as part of the shifts to streamline decision making processes and strengthening partner the commitment.

WRLC Annual Report

- 15. Annual reporting is essential for communicating our activities, demonstrating how they contribute to the WRLC's purpose, monitoring project alignment with objectives, providing an overview of the programme, and highlighting successes.
- 16. Projects are included in the WRLC work programme based on their significant contributions to priority areas such as housing, climate, iwi capacity, transport, and economic development. A coordinated approach enhances planning, engages key partners, and improves communication.
- 17. The report in [Attachment 2](#) outlines WRLC's activities over the past 12 months, highlights key projects, and discusses future plans.

REDP Annual Summary

- 18. WellingtonNZ is leading the implementation of the REDP on behalf of the WRLC. This annual summary ([Attachment 3](#)) outlines the key achievements for 2023-24 and offers a regional snapshot to track our region's performance.
- 19. It provides an overview of initiatives, sector progress, and a snapshot of the region's economic performance, job creation, and development across sectors such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), creative industries, Māori economic development, and infrastructure. It tracks progress and supports ongoing collaboration.

Feedback from the Senior Staff and Chief Executives Groups

- 20. There were no adjustments requested from the WRLC Senior Staff Group or Chief Executive's Group meetings.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

- 21. here are no funding implications from the programme report.
- 22. The Annual Report, it provides a summary of the financial activity and reflects the funding principles as agreed with local government and central government partners.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

- 23. All projects listed include objectives to create better outcomes for Māori:
 - a To help overcome iwi capacity and capability challenges in being involved in all our projects (Iwi Capacity and Capability project)

- b Improving housing outcomes for Māori (Regional Housing Action Plan, Levin Taitoko Structure Plan, Kāpiti Papakāinga toolkit, Priority Development Area projects)
 - c Collaborating on economic development opportunities for Māori (Regional Economic Development Plan)
24. While there are challenges in ensuring that there is iwi representation in each project, iwi members sit on the WRLC, and they have been part of the programme decision making processes.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi

Consideration of climate change

25. All projects listed include objectives to create better climate change outcomes.
26. Three projects in the Annual Report are specific to climate change objectives (Regional approach to climate change, Regional Emissions Reduction Strategy, Regional Food System Strategy Project).

Ngā tikanga whakatau

Decision-making process

27. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga

Significance

28. Officers considered the significance (as defined in Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, taking into account Greater Wellington Regional Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's Decision-making Guidelines. Officers recommend that the matters are of low significance given their administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki

Engagement

29. None of the matters in this report required community engagement.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

30. When approval is given to the content of the WRLC Annual Report, it will be finalised by the designer. The final Annual Report will then be made available on our website and through other sources.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	WRLC programme report for Oct 2024
2	WLRC Annual Report 2024
3	REDP Annual Summary 2023-24

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Allen Yip – Programme Manager
Approver	Kim Kelly – Hautū Hōtaka Programme Director

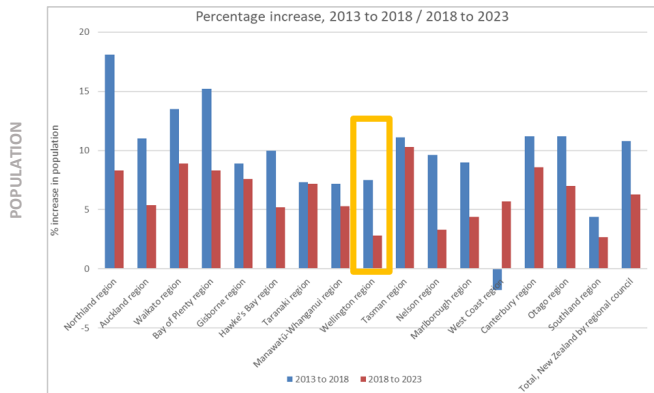
He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The WRLC has specific responsibility for the work programme and other matters of regional importance. The reporting is to enhance the WRLCs ability to fulfil its responsibilities.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The regular reporting to the WRLC will provide it with a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework and Future Development Strategy.
<i>Internal consultation</i> Information and analysis in this report has been discussed at the WRLC Senior Staff Group meeting and WRLC CEO Group meeting. Their views are incorporated into this paper.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks.

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

Work programme report – September 2024

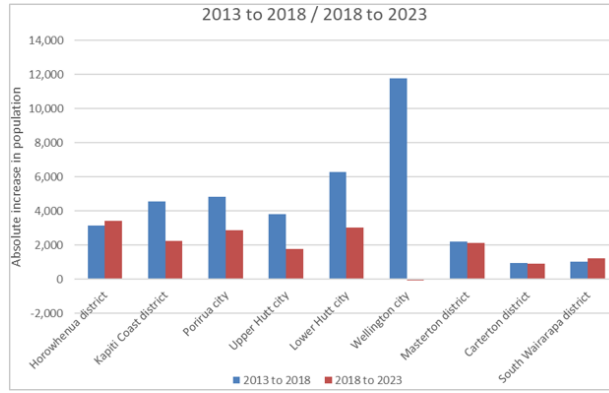
- Indicator Data
- Programme Report
- Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan
- Priority Development Areas
- Health check actions





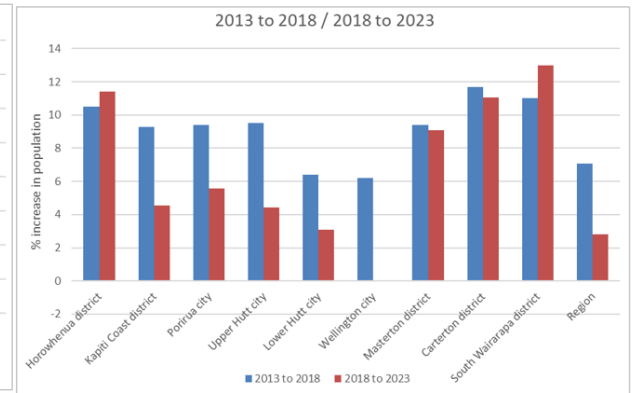
WRLC Region population by Council Area

The WRLC Region saw one of the lowest population growth rates across all regional council areas between 2013 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023



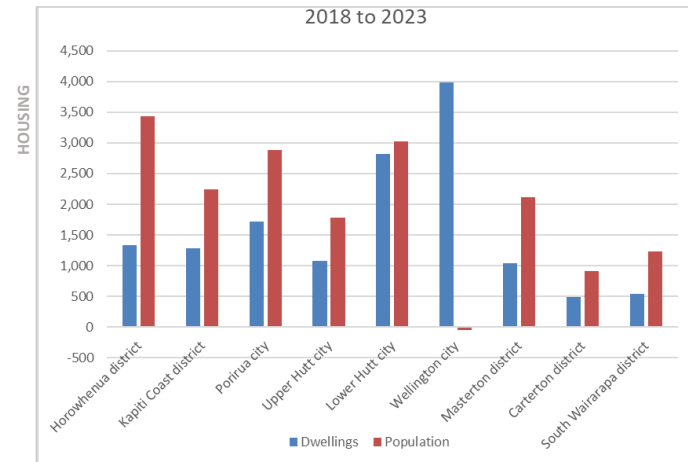
WRLC Region population increases

At a regional level, population growth halved between the period 2013 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023. From 2013 to 2018, the population of Wellington Region grew by 39,000 and from 2018 to 2023 the population of Wellington Region grew by 18,000.



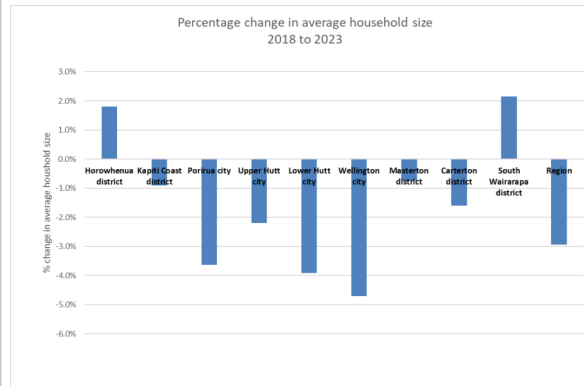
WRLC Region population increases by TA

The distribution of growth changed between 2018 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023, with the highest growth rates between 2018 and 2023 seen in the Wairarapa and Horowhenua.

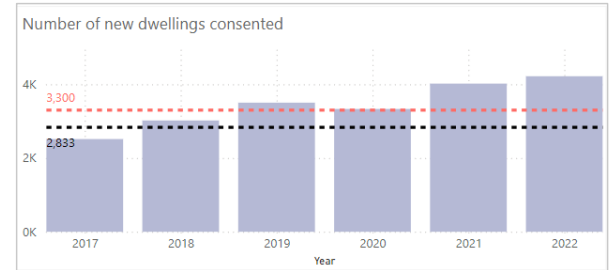


Growth in Dwellings and Population by TA

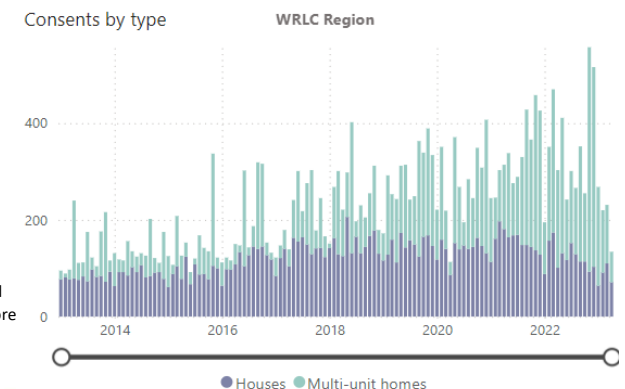
Across WRLC Region, around 13,000 new dwellings were constructed between 2018 and 2023. During the same period, the region's population grew by around 18,000.



Average household size significantly decreased by 3% from 2018 to 2023. Apart from Horowhenua and South Wairarapa, average household size decreased. Wellington City, Lower Hutt and Porirua saw the greatest decrease in household size, reflective of a large percentage of new dwellings being smaller dwellings within multi-unit developments relative to existing stock.



New consents within the WRLC Region over the period 2017 to 2022 (18,000) broadly matches the increase in dwellings (17,000) over same period



For more data related to specific TAs, please click [here](#).

Comparing dwellings consented between 2013 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023, there has been a significant shift towards more multi-unit dwellings. (Graphic on your right)

Six-month workplan

	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Future Development Priority Actions	Industrial land research and recommendations due for completion				Monitoring and Reporting New Website and dashboard deployment		Aggregates research due for completion and industrial land and aggregates opportunity sites finalised
Regional Economic Development Plan		STEM: Scale up Wellington - Creative HQ Fintech Accelerator being delivered for 10 local Fintech founders from August to October SCREEN: Centre of Excellence to launch for early-mid career practitioners STEM: Progress funding options for the STEM product innovation space STEM: Capital raising fireside chat and networking events from 29 August VISITOR ECONOMY: Pilot dark sky business capability programme finishes WATER: Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy programme moving into delivery	SCREEN: Screen Accelerator Project 2024 VISITOR ECONOMY: Outcome of Civics Experience lotteries funding application to be confirmed	Summer of Tech and Engineering programmes underway – introductions to engineering employers are needed now ahead of making the placements			Skills: E2E programme aiming to expand to two more schools Skills: House of Science continuing for 2025 school year
Climate Change Projects		Regional Adaptation Project Scope complete	Regional Adaptation Project Direction agreed with WRLC				
Priority Development Areas	Otaki Final draft of Vision Otaki Te Aro Growth Corridor Councillor Growth Plan Workshop Waterloo Phase III procurement plan in place	Otaki water infrastructure work commences	Waterloo Minimum Requirements complete	NGA Decision on SPD expected Te Aro Growth Corridor WCC E&I committee paper - scenarios			Lower Hutt Central Spatial Plan & Proposed District Plan public consultation Waterloo Reference Design procured

KEY AREA	Project	lead organisation	leader	Scope	Programme	Budget	Risk	Confidence
Housing	Iwi capacity and capability	WRLC Secretariat	Kim Kelly	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Regional Housing Approach and Action Plan - Implementation	MHUD, WRLC	TBC	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔
Climate	Regional Adaptation Project	WRLC	Tom FitzGerald					
	Regional Food System Strategy	RPH	Tessa Ackerson	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔
Economic Development	Regional Economic Development Plan - Implementation	Wellington NZ	Julia Stevens and Matt Carrere	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Industrial Land Study	WRLC Secretariat	Kim Kelly	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔

KEY AREA	Project	Status Summary
Housing	Iwi capacity and capability	This project on hold for now
	Regional Housing Approach and Action Plan – Implementation	The Regional Housing Data Dashboard Phase Two project has commenced. Phase Two will include expanding datasets, visualisations, functionality, and tools, exploring GIS and spatial data integration, and delivering an analytics and insights function.
Climate	Regional Adaptation Project	The synthesis of the WRCCIA report is outsourced and expected by the end of August. A review of existing plans, strategies, and key documents is ongoing. Responses from the MfE adaptation preparedness survey are being collected. RoadListen is nearly complete, with some ongoing engagement with mana whenua. Key themes for the Regional Adaptation Project have been identified
	Regional Food System Strategy	Met with individual councils for feedback on Phase 1 and input for Phase 2, receiving strong support and strategic linkages with ongoing council work. Additionally engaged with the CAB, iwi-hapū ropū, and Technical Advisors to develop pilots and explore funding opportunities. An evaluation workshop with Litmus helped identify key activities and outcomes for pilots, aligning with the RFSP framework, and we are planning further Action Plan Engagement workshops. Collaboratively, we created a "Council Pathways tool" to embed kai into council infrastructure and work plans by applying a "food lens. Next steps include progressing iwi-led pilot agreements, aligning the Regional Food System Strategy with draft Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora priorities, and maintaining stakeholder relationships to support pilot funding.
Economic Development	Regional Economic Development Plan - Implementation	This project is in implementation phase.
	Industrial Land Study	The final Industrial Land report will remain in draft until the Aggregates project is complete (as agreed by the WRLC at its meeting to include this project into this work). It will remain in draft until the Aggregates project is complete (as agreed by the WRLC at its meeting to include this project into this work), to then provide a combined picture of possible industrial and aggregate sites in the region. Additional budget has been provided for the Aggregates work.

Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan Quarterly reporting dashboard - overview

1 April - 30 June 2024

Overview	Key risks and issues
<p>Working as a region to implement the REDP is enabling significant progress on initiatives to support businesses and developing our workforce. However, it is a difficult economic period - both with local and central government funding constraints; the metropolitan areas of Wellington City, Porirua and the Hutt Valley being excluded from central government's new Regional Infrastructure Fund; and businesses having a lack of time and money available in the current environment to participate in initiatives such as taking on interns through Summer of Tech and Engineering, or sponsoring skills initiatives like House of Science and Tūhura Tech.</p> <p>The REDP refresh is now complete and the plan will be relaunched alongside the annual summary of 2023/24 initiatives. Sharing the story of initiatives, showcasing the benefits, and continuing to advocate for initiative funding will be critical in the year ahead.</p>	<p>Local government support is required to enable successful implementation of economic development initiatives.</p> <p>The Porirua Adventure Park has received approval of a resource consent extension and a financial solution has been attained for phase one of the development, however further work is required to ensure the benefits are realised.</p> <p>Operational funding is required to attract investment for development of the Wairarapa Five Towns Trail. Following LTP submissions, SWDC and CDC have agreed to contribute co-funding in principle, however further commitments are still needed. Destination Wairarapa have successfully established a Dark Sky Steering Group, however the Group require financial support to resource the delivery of a Dark Sky work programme.</p> <p>Summer of Engineering and Tech are facing an oversupply of candidates and shortage of roles. Any connections WRLC members can provide to councils and businesses interested in hiring engineering or tech interns this summer will help.</p>

Sectors			
Screen, creative and digital	Science, technology, engineering and manufacturing	Visitor economy	Primary sector, food and fibre
<p>A partnership has been established with Massey University to set up the pilot Screen Centre of Excellence at their National Academy of Screen Arts. The centre will include space for 12-14 emerging to mid-career practitioners at an affordable rate, facilitate community building through workshops and events, and connect students with the sector.</p> <p>Co-funding has been secured to run the Screen Accelerator Project in 2024. Planning is underway, utilising feedback from last year's project, finding the appropriate participants, and exploring opportunities to showcase more of Wellington's screen facilities and other related businesses as part of the project.</p> <p>The Screen Attraction Manager role continues to help with building connections and having a point of contact with sector knowledge to showcase Wellington and supporting businesses to potential productions. Multiple films have been held this quarter, including for Warner Bros productions, a CBS reality series, an independent US feature, and an Indian co-production. Wellington was featured as part of a "shooting in NZ" feature in IF Magazine.</p>	<p>Pro-Dev, the lead on the STEM Product Commercialisation Innovation Space initiative, received an offer from a developer to construct a world-class, purpose-built facility at the Blue Mountain campus in Upper Hutt. Financing terms are being explored with central and local government.</p> <p>The tech hub has been launched, with nine companies sharing the space so far. The Climate Response Accelerator is complete, and a Climate Tech Summit was held in June with 318 attendees. A marketing-focused tech event, Growth Jam, was held in May with 253 attendees.</p> <p>Summer of Engineering (and Tech) are underway for 2024, however are expecting a challenging year, with an oversupply of candidates and very few intern and grad roles - especially in Wellington due to public and tech sector headcount shrinking.</p> <p>Learn more about the programme through their new video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09KzQCFYnhc.</p>	<p>The 2024 visitor economy sustainability programme has been delivered. Fifteen hospitality groups received site visits to create their own plans, representing a total of 65 hospitality businesses across our region.</p> <p>The Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust has been established and gained formal status as a registered NZ charity. Trustees include iwi, business, local govt and trails planning expertise.</p> <p>MDC funded some Dark Sky Product Development work in the Masterton District. Destination Wairarapa and Tourism NZ collaborated to secure The Australian Today Show, with five live weather crosses broadcasted from Martinborough with a focus on Dark Skies, significantly amplifying awareness of Wairarapa's celestial offerings to a broad audience. A dark skies capability building programme commences in July and is oversubscribed.</p> <p>A Lotteries Commission funding application for the Civics Experience initiative will be submitted on 31 July. It includes a letter of support from the WRLC Programme Director.</p>	<p>The Kapiti-Horowhenua food and beverage cluster programme is in full swing with 125 registered members and 45 actively engaged businesses. The collaborative approach of this cluster is enabling businesses to capture new business opportunities together, attend trade shows, overcome common issues such as MPI verification, and make the most of shared enabling equipment and infrastructure. The Cluster is emerging as a way to connect producers to both supermarkets and hospitality outlets. Start-up and emerging F&B businesses are moving to larger premises and engaging in contract manufacturing/ packaging to expand their volume and product range if they do not yet have the space or capacity. The Logistics Hub is serving a number of such needs.</p> <p>Four Emerging Suppliers Forums were held across the region in June to help local food and beverage businesses get their products into supermarkets. The events were spread across Kapiti, Wairarapa, Wellington city and Porirua.</p>
Enablers			
Māori economic development	Skills, talent and education	Water accessibility and security	Resilient infrastructure
<p>Tui Te Hau has joined the REDP Steering Group to represent Te Matarau a Māui (TMAM), the regional Māori economic development strategy. Tui is the inaugural Tumuaki - Chief Executive of TMAM and her participation will support alignment between REDP and TMAM activities.</p> <p>This quarter WellingtonNZ's Māori Economic Development resource focussed efforts on improving access to contracts. The launch of the "Opportunities for impact through procurement" report was a platform from which to engage widely with Pakihi Māori (Māori businesses), Tūhono Māori (Māori networks) and aligned partners such as Iwi and local authorities. This work will continue through a range of initiatives identified from the report, some of which are already underway.</p> <p>WCC are leading a rōpū that makes recommendations related to the Te Upoko o Te Ika Social Procurement Commitment and broader outcomes from social procurement.</p>	<p>House of Science have secured the funding required to continue operating the Hutt Valley branch in 2025 through a range of sources, with HCC and UHCC funding coming to an end. Ongoing support from regional organisations and businesses is crucial and any connections to potential funders are welcomed.</p> <p>The E2E-STEAMM pilot has been completed. The programme is now in full implementation with 22 learners enrolled from St Mary's, St Catherine's, and Wellington East Girls College, long term agreements with all three schools, and two more schools lined up for 2025.</p> <p>In the Kapiti Coast, the Mills Albert Pathways Skills Hub is a business-led initiative supported by MSD funding which is being developed to address the issues of skill gaps and an aging population in the civil construction sector. It addresses the need for local 'earn as you learn' training opportunities to build industry skills and pathways to real jobs.</p>	<p>An interim governance group (the Wairarapa Water Resilience Governance Group) comprising councils and mana whenua was established, the Terms of Reference agreed, and several meetings held during the year. GWRC contracted a resource to support development of the implementation plan and mana whenua involvement to the end of 30 June 2024. All four councils (GWRC, CDC, MDC and SWDC) have agreed to fund a 0.5FTE fixed term (12 months) Programme Director role, to be based in the GWRC Office of the Chief Executive. A draft work programme has been developed for 24/25 and is to be reviewed and approved by the end of August.</p>	<p>The industrial land requirements research has been completed. The research has identified potential future sites for industrial land. The next steps and recommendations are being reviewed by the project Steering Group.</p> <p>The WRLC have requested research is undertaken to identify and secure aggregate supply for the region.</p> <p>The rail slope stability and seismic strengthening of 33kV cables initiatives that require ongoing advocacy have been removed from the REDP as part of the refresh, however both remain priorities for the region and are to be captured through alternative WRLC work streams.</p>

Priority Development Areas (PDAs)

Projects are selected to be a PDA based on how well they contribute to WLRC objectives, significant housing **and** other benefits to the region.

Projects:

- must align with government policies.
- enable fast and substantial development.
- provide affordable, inclusive, diverse housing.
- support Māori housing goals.
- are close to local jobs.
- support a low-carbon future, focus on public transport.
- promote sustainable, resilient, affordable communities.
- protect and enhance the environment.
- address hazards and climate change.

Projects should also be:

- complex, need joint government efforts
- Mix of site sizes, development timelines.
- Within a well-defined geographical area

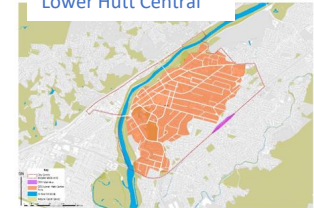
Trentham Mixed Use Development



Te Aro Growth Corridor



Lower Hutt Central



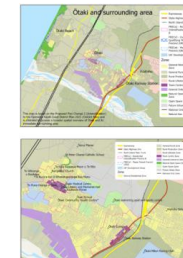
Waterloo Station Transit Oriented Development



Featherston Masterplan Development



Otaki



Porirua Northern Growth Area



Programme Summary

The programme is advancing well, with progress in several areas:

- Across various regions, there is progress in upgrading essential infrastructure, including water reservoirs, stormwater, and wastewater systems. These upgrades are crucial to support growing populations and future urban growth.
- Featherston Masterplan was completed and adopted since the last report.
- The Moy Estate fast-track application (137 residential units) approval is a highlight.
- Active involvement with local communities is ongoing, ensuring that development plans align with the needs and preferences of residents. This includes public consultations, community safety symposiums, and feedback sessions.
- Long-term plans, such as the Long -Term Plans and Spatial Plans, have been adopted and are guiding the development process. These plans emphasize sustainable growth and coordinated efforts across various sectors.

Key Themes:

- Infrastructure Investment: Significant funding and efforts are being directed toward upgrading and expanding infrastructure, including stormwater, wastewater, water reservoirs, and transportation systems.
- Housing Development: Emphasis on increasing housing supply, with projects supporting higher-density housing, affordable housing, and mixed-use developments.
- Community Engagement: Continuous community involvement through consultations, symposiums, and engagement plans to ensure that development meets local needs and preferences.
- Environmental and Social Sustainability: Projects incorporate sustainable practices, including wetland restoration, flood mitigation, and supporting social housing providers.
- Coordination and Partnerships: Regular collaboration among local councils, government agencies, and community organizations to align efforts and optimize outcomes.
- Strategic Planning: Long-term plans and strategic documents guide the development process, ensuring structured and coherent growth aligned with regional and national goals.

	PDA Progress summary	Challenges	Actions
Featherston Masterplan Development	Featherston Masterplan was completed and adopted since the last report.		
Lower Hutt Central	Stage 1 Feasibility Completed. Moving to Stage 2 for stormwater and wastewater upgrades in August 2024. Eastern Hills Reservoir is progressing with preliminary design and consents; funding approved for 2026-2029. Long Term Plan (LTP): Adopted in June 2024, including funding committed to infrastructure investment. New Development Contribution Policy to support housing intensification. Spatial Planning community engagement planned for February-March 2025, adoption expected in May 2025. Cross Valley Connections - preliminary work underway for supporting housing intensification and economic benefits.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenge to attract developers 2. RiverLink cost increase and delays 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market engagement 2. Cost review underway
Ōtaki	Vision Ōtaki's final draft and feedback summary expected in August 2024, followed by developing scenarios and community engagement. Community Safety Symposium had a second symposium on 31 July 2024 to discuss safety concerns and support Vision Ōtaki. Water Reservoir Construction is underway, completion expected by the end of 2024. Wastewater Pipeline Project starting September 2024, co-funded by the Crown's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund. A fast-track application for 137 residential units at Moy Estate granted.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resourcing available to support the Ōtaki PDA. 2. Lack of coordination of delivery across partners 	Recruitment is ongoing to add more staff for the Ōtaki project to support communication and coordination activities.
Porirua Northern Growth Corridor	SDP Assessment continues with ongoing collaboration between Porirua City Council and Kāinga Ora, with a ministerial decision expected in late 2024. Plimmerton Farms Stage One's fast-track consent application as been submitted.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding 3 waters infrastructure gaps 2. SH59 capacity constraints 	Assessment of three waters infrastructure and capacity modelling is underway as part of the opportunities and constraints analysis.
Te Aro Growth Corridor	Growth Precinct Plan work commenced to facilitate growth with a focus on infrastructure planning for the 2027 LTP, prioritizing sites for development within 10-15 years. Funding has been confirmed, and precinct studies completed. Progress to be presented to WCC Councillors in August 2024, followed by workshops and a paper by year-end.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preferred Basin/Mt. Vic tunnel option not confirmed. 2. Cancellation of the proposed Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) removes the primary catalyst for development 	Options analysis for urban development is ongoing, with a focus on areas of the PDA with greater certainty. A long tunnel option is being considered, which would significantly impact the PDA. The PDA focus is shifting to the area around Kent/Cambridge Terrace and the Basin Reserve, extending from Vivian Street south along Adelaide Road to the Hospital. This area has the greatest potential for urban development in terms of capacity and place improvement. The Growth Plan will highlight essential investments to achieve urban development goals.
Trentham Mixed Use Development	Long Term Plan funding for the infrastructure was approved on 26 June 2024.	Reaching agreement with partners	Negotiations underway between parties
Waterloo Station Transit Oriented Development	GW LTP Provisions are in place. Ongoing work with NZTA on funding; Phase III Reference Design agreed in May 2024, with public consultation planned for October 2024. Current Focused on finalizing station requirements, procuring design, preparing business cases, refining commercial options, and community engagement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing a funding model that attracts private investment and central government support 2. Ongoing escalation of construction costs makes costs estimates problematic 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commercial investigation has provided pathway 2. Continue to evaluate project minimum requirements



Progress report on WRLC Health check – as at August 2024

Complete Underway Not started

Key shift	Action required/taken	Responsible	Status	Next steps
1. Agree a clear role and purpose for the Committee/Secretariat (based on principles outlined)	Confirmed by WRLC in June 2024	WRLC		
2. Committee meetings – reduce formal meetings and expand face to face discussion forums	Change actioned following WRLC June 2024 decision	WRLC dual chairs		
3. Chair – appoint co-chairs from within members	Agreed at WRLC December 2023 meeting.	WRLC		
4. Agendas – enable members to identify key regional issues and opportunities to guide programme	Change actioned	WRLC		
5. Work programme – reduce breadth and shift focus from planning to implementation.	Work programme reviewed and agreed in WRLC June 2024	WRLC		
a. Focus on identifying infrastructure gap and developing regional deal.	Initial regional deal framework developed Infrastructure gaps also identified in the FDS Implementation Plan	WRLC Secretariat		Awaiting Government guidance on Regional Deals before continuing work Infrastructure Gaps projects to be addressed as part of FDS Implementation Actions
a. Common evidence based/datasets.	Initial housing dashboard on WRLC website.	WRLC Secretariat		Further work underway to add economic and other data to this and align with Wellington Transport Analytics data.
c. Completing regional plans e.g. climate adaptation plan and FDS	FDS - complete Regional Adaptation Plan - underway	WRLC Secretariat		Regional Adaptation Plan project scope to Oct WRLC Committee
d. Identify what could be achieved in the next three years	Detailed work programme to identify	WRLC Secretariat		
6. Secretariat – review resourcing to match agreed direction and work programme	Underway and expected to be in place by Oct 2024	GWRC as Administering Authority		
7. Process flows – streamline decision making processes through SSG, CEs and WRLC	Reformat workshops and SSG meetings	WRLC Secretariat CEs SSG		Create Portfolio Leads Steering Group and re-focus SSG meetings
8. Partner commitment – strengthen the commitment of staff resources to support development and implementation of agreed priority projects	More dedicated resources from partner agencies to lead projects - 2 leads identified so far	WRLC CEO Group SSG		WRLC CEO Group and SSG to confirm partner leads
9. Mana whenua members – strengthen support for mana whenua members to fully participate		WRLC iwi caucus WRLC Secretariat		Identify what else is required to support mana whenua members

Highlights indicate a change from the last report

Annual Report 2023-2024



Wellington
Regional Leadership Committee

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Foreword from the Chair and Deputy Chair

Whaia te matauranga kia marama
Kia whai take nga mahi katoa
Tu maia, tu kaha
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tatou ia tatou katoa
Haumi e, hui e, Taiki e.

Pursue knowledge for understanding
Have purpose in all that we do
Stand tall, be strong
Let us show love for each other
Together, united, we affirm.

It is our pleasure to present the third annual report for the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC), which covers July 2023 – June 2024.

The WRLC is a joining of local government, iwi and central government in the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region, formed to activate better collaboration, and to work together to positively shape the future of the region. It was established in July 2021 and is tasked with driving regional spatial planning and regional economic development in our region.

The WRLC members as at the end of June 2024 are identified on [Wellington Regional Leadership Committee | About us \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#).

Highlights of year three of the WRLC include :

- Completion of the Future Development Strategy (FDS). The FDS outlines where we have collectively agreed as a region to prioritise housing and business development in the next 30 years, and the investment in infrastructure that is required to support that development. This FDS won a Highly Commended in the Strategic or Non-Statutory category of the NZPI awards this year.
- Completion of key climate change documents - the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impacts Assessment (WRCCIA), the Regional Emission Reduction Plan (RERP) and the Regional Food System Plan (RFSP). These documents are crucial to ensure sufficient resilience for the housing and business development plans and population growth outlined in the FDS.
- Appointment of a new Chair and Deputy Chair for the WRLC who now act as dual chairs. It is particularly pleasing that we have an iwi member and a local government member in these positions.
- Continued successful implementation of the initiatives in the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP) along with a refresh of this Plan, featuring an updated list of initiatives.

- Commencement and continuation of a number of delivery projects including:
 - A regional industrial land study to identify where we might plan for the 700 hectares of industrial land that projections show we will need in the next 30 years
 - Continued implementation of our seven Priority Development Areas (PDAs) that provide the focus for over 30,000 of the 99,000 homes we require in the next 30 years.
 - An interactive online data dashboard to support better-informed regional decisions.
- Continued high participation in our thought-leader webinars, with 1,812 registrations to 17 webinars during the year.

A large amount of regional planning has been undertaken by the WRLC since its inception to ensure that we have regional direction and regional agreement on important things like housing, economic development and climate. We are now increasingly moving into delivering on these regional plans both together as the WRLC and individually in our local government, iwi and central government roles.

We look forward to another year of continuing to deliver and implement our plans, supporting and collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders and partners in the local government, iwi, central government, industry and business sectors.

Mauri Ora.



Darrin Apanui |
Rangitāne o Wairarapa,
Te Ati Haunui a Pāpārangi,
Ngāti Porou
Chair, Wellington Regional
Leadership Committee



Daran Ponter
Deputy Chair,
Wellington Regional
Leadership Committee

WRLC Highlights 2023-2024



Completing
**Regional Emissions
Reduction Plan**



Completing the award
winning **Future
Development Strategy
and Implementation
Plan**



Completing the **Wellington
Regional Climate
Change Impacts
Assessment**



Focus on seven
**Priority Development
Areas (PDAs)** within
the region



**New Regional
Adaptation Project**
now underway



Doubled our
**stakeholders and
collaborators**



Completing a
**Regional Economic
Development Plan**
refresh



WRLC health check
undertaken and
implementation
underway

Section 1: The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee



This Annual Report marks the end of year three of the WRLC – a good milestone to reflect on what we have achieved and learned, and how this might inform our next 12 months and beyond.

In particular the WRLC is now at a point where it has developed and agreed key planning documents covering regional spatial planning, regional economic development and some key regional climate planning documents. Now these 10–30-year directions are clear; we will focus more of our efforts on delivery across the region in the key areas of responsibility for the WRLC.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Uniting council and iwi leaders in tackling big growth and delivery challenges together.
- Streamlining efforts, avoiding duplication, ensuring our communities get the most benefit.
- Supporting a move towards making decisions as a group in line with our agreed directions.
- Coordinated planning for growth across council and iwi boundaries, reflecting the way our population and housing market behaves.
- Providing a unified regional voice that boosts collaboration and increases chances for central government and private sector funding.

Delivery work will continue to focus on what the WRLC can do collectively to provide for an additional 200,000 people living and working in the region in the next 30 years as well as a focus on delivery on the Regional Economic Development Plan.

Some of the key delivery work we are currently doing to provide for this growth includes the regional industrial land study which will provide more surety for retaining and attracting industrial businesses and jobs in the region in the longer term (at present the industrial land supply in the region provides limited options for current and new businesses) and the renewed focus on PDAs which as currently defined is planned to provide nearly 30% of the new housing required in the region over the next 30 years.

Alongside the work that the WRLC does in the region, each partner is also undertaking work that supports the work of the WRLC and the required growth in the region. For instance, Horowhenua District Council has been working with key partners on a Levin/Taitoko Structure Plan to ensure that continued growth within their local area is well managed and required infrastructure and planning is accounted for.

During the year the WRLC undertook a “health check”. By July 2023 we had been in existence for two years and wanted to review what was working and not working. We continue to evolve as a committee and the recommendations of the health check are assisting in this.

Some key changes from the health check have been:

- Appointing dual chairs for the WRLC.
- Changing the frequency and structure of our four time per annum formal meetings to two formal meetings and two informal planning sessions.
- Enabling members to identify key regional issues and opportunities they want raised at the WRLC. We have recently added work on regional aggregate opportunities to the work programme for 2024-2025 from an item raised in this manner.
- Growing our common evidence-based information and datasets – see the overview on the Regional Housing Action Plan dashboard work for more information on this.
- Narrowing the work programme – now key direction documents are set, ensuring a narrower focus of work and that work being focused on delivery.

We move into year four with a continued focus on delivery of the outcomes in our key regional spatial and economic development documents, within an unfolding policy direction at the NZ Inc. level and with a clear view on what “good looks like” in 12 months time.

For 2024 onwards we will also be looking at regional adaptation to understand what we can achieve regionally to:

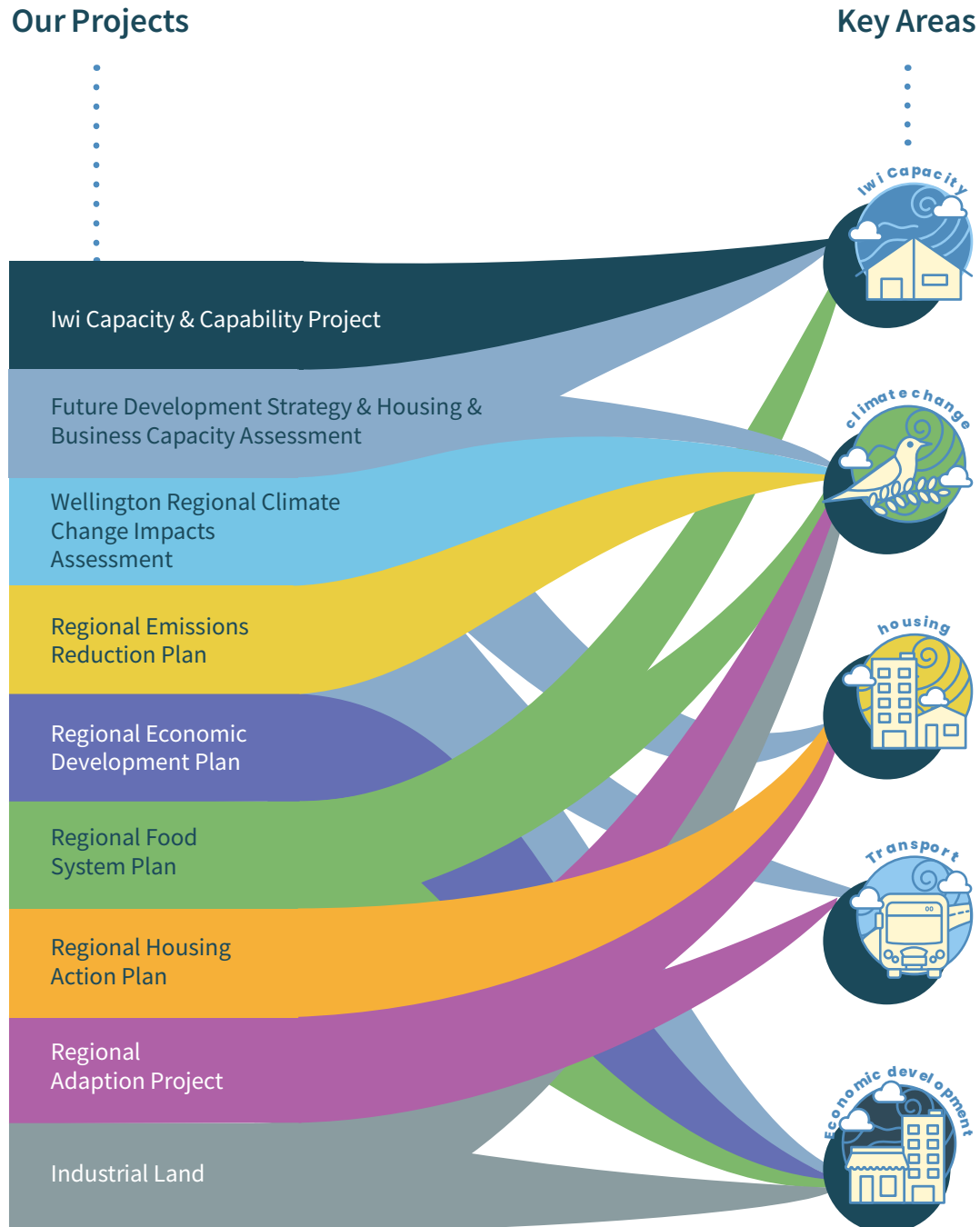
- Better support adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring at the local level,
- Provide for improved knowledge, regional efficiency and integrated decision-making where appropriate, and
- Improve our capacity to respond to, and live with, a changing world.

This is a big issue for our region and one we as the WRLC along with many in the private sector and the community need to work on together.

1.1 Our projects during the 2023-2024 year

The WRLC has two areas of responsibility in our region – regional spatial planning and regional economic development. Information about our projects is below in Diagram 1.

Diagram1: WRLC projects by key areas of responsibility



1.2 Project overviews

1.2.1 COMPLETED PROJECTS



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (FDS) AND HOUSING AND BUSINESS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT (HBA)

This spatial plan is a crucial tool for planning and managing the growth, development capacity, and infrastructure needs of our region over the next 30 years. It aims to create well-functioning urban areas and ensure there is enough space for homes and businesses. This strategy combines planning for land use with decisions about infrastructure and funding.

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

The FDS was undertaken using a streamlined, regional decision-making process which made the development of the Strategy easier and was achieved faster than would have occurred without this. This process was applied to the FDS, the HBA and the delegated authority to WRLC members for approval of the draft and final FDS.

WRLC iwi partner engagement was prioritised with the result being the development of Te Tirohanga Whakamua, a statement of iwi and hapu values and aspirations for urban development that is now used for a wider range of WRLC projects.

The project team engaged with a wide range of key stakeholders from the beginning, ensuring a collaborative and informed FDS.

Plans for next year

Projects in the FDS Implementation Plan will commence and the FDS measures will be monitored and reported to the WRLC

Key deliverables include:

Completion and Publication of Housing and Business Assessment – [Regional Housing & Business Development Capacity Assessment 2023 - WRLC](#)

Significant engagement with multiple sectors in developing the FDS – [Engagement-Report-for-Draf-WRLC-FDS.pdf](#)

Approval and Execution of FDS Public Consultation including public hearings

Approval of the final FDS in March 2024 – [1404-GWRC-WLRC-Future-Development-STRATEGY-2024-240223-06.pdf \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#)

Approval of the FDS Implementation Plan in June 2024 - see [Te Rautaki Whanaketanga ki tua a Wairarapa-Wellington- Horowhenua | Future Development Strategy: Implementation Plan \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#)

REGIONAL EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN (RERP)

Developed with iwi, sector leaders, and the government, this plan identifies regional opportunities and barriers for reducing emissions, aligning with collective action to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The first of its kind, it supports a zero-carbon future and builds on existing climate efforts, focusing on regional needs and actions.

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

There was extensive stakeholder engagement throughout 2023-2024, including a stakeholder and partner forum, a stall at the Festival for the Future, regular engagement with industry and sector experts and regular project briefings to the WRLC and partner organisations.

A carbon model was developed (utilizing a model developed by others) and a number of scenarios were developed showing the possible outcome from a carbon emissions point of view.

A specialist was engaged to undertake engagement with WRLC iwi partners on this work to ensure their views are incorporated into the work.

The RERP was developed to align with New Zealand's national climate targets and the government's (at the time) Emissions Reduction Plan.

Key deliverables were:

- Stakeholder and partner forum – attended by 116 people from various sectors
- Carbon modelling of scenarios
- Completion and publication of the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan [L493-GWRC-WRLC-Regional-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-RRP-3-09-23-Final \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#)

Plans for next year

Projects in the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan will commence.



WELLINGTON REGION CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ASSESSMENT (WRCCIA)

This assessment was about developing a regional understanding of expected climate change impacts in the region over the next 100+ year. The WRCCIA is phase 1 of the Regional Adaptation Project (see section 1.2.2 below)

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

This year was the final year of the WRCCIA project with the project team continuing to work with the technical team. A range of workshops were held online with stakeholders across the domains covered in the final report to discuss potential risks and opportunities.

Other key achievements included:

- Development of and, agreement on methodology – [see more online](#)
- Independent peer review of draft report.

The WRCCIA was endorsed by the WRLC in June 2024 and will be a key input into the Regional Adaptation Project. The WRCCIA provides all partners and others in the region with a common, evidence-based approach and knowledge about the key issues for the region.

Key deliverables were:

- Development of WRCCIA GIS Tool: Amalgamates regional climate change hazard data with other spatial information.
- Completion of detailed Impact Assessment phase – [see more online](#)

Plans for next year

This phase of the project is complete.



1.2.2 PROJECTS UNDERWAY

INDUSTRIAL LAND PROJECT

This project aims to ensure sufficient industrial land for future development in the region, supporting job creation and economic growth. Our region has never undertaken a coordinated approach to industrial land use or taken a region-wide view on how and where to bring industrial type businesses into our region. This project is one of the initiatives outlined in the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP). The FDS also identifies this project as a priority focus. The Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment (HBA) undertaken as part of the FDS projected that the by Dec 2051, the region will require almost 700 more hectares of industrial land.

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

A Steering Group of public and private sector participants with good geographical representation, featuring the Chamber of Commerce from the Hutt Valley and Wellington, WellingtonNZ, The Horowhenua Company as well as councils, CentrePort and central government

partners was established and has been meeting regularly to progress the project.

A series of business sector engagement activities have been undertaken including workshops, one-on-one interviews, and a survey to gather industry information.

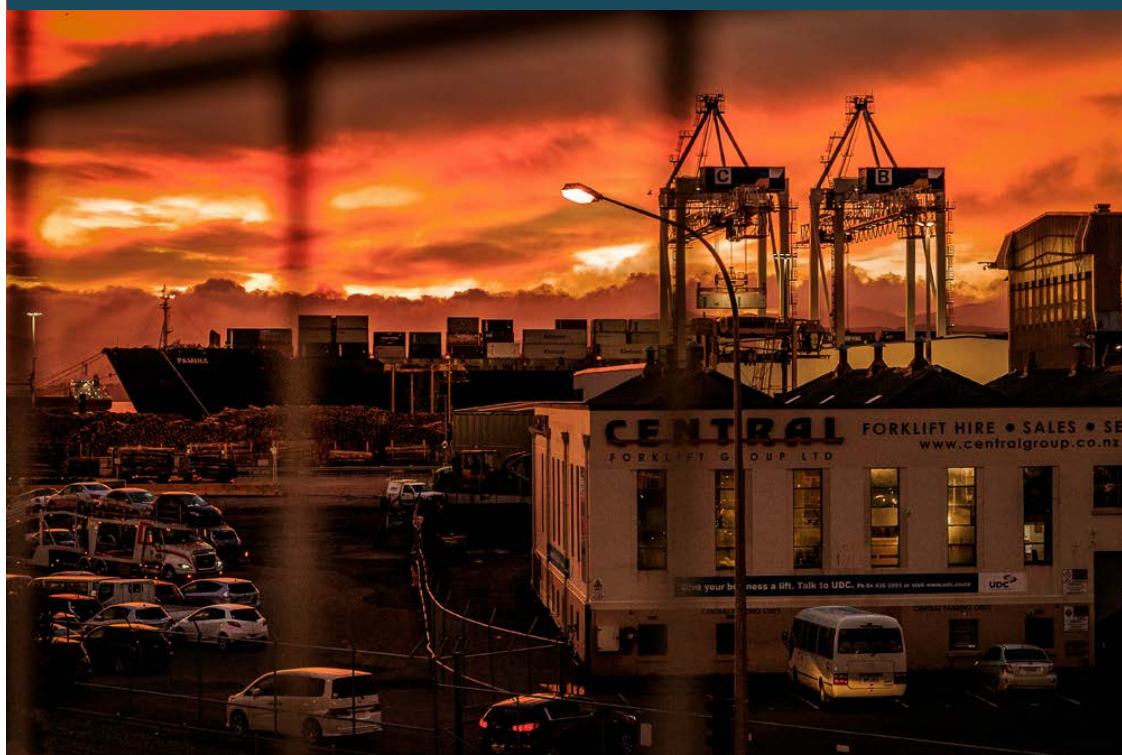
Both criteria for site selection and development of a Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) were developed. This resulted in identifying a number of sites for discussion and review.

This project's scope has now been extended to include investigating regional aggregate opportunity sites as well.

The key deliverable this year has been the Industry Engagement report on key issues and requirements – see [more online](#)

Plans for next year

- Completion of GIS model used during this project
- Final project report identifying opportunity sites for both industrial land and aggregate resource, along with recommendations for next steps



REGIONAL ADAPTATION PROJECT (RAP)

The purpose of phase 2 of the Regional Adaptation Project (RAP) is to develop a mechanism or set of actions that can help us best position ourselves as a region to deal with the current and future impacts of a changing climate. The RAP will identify the innovations and changes that need to be made to make better decisions and increase the resilience of our people, the things we value, our environment and the economy.

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

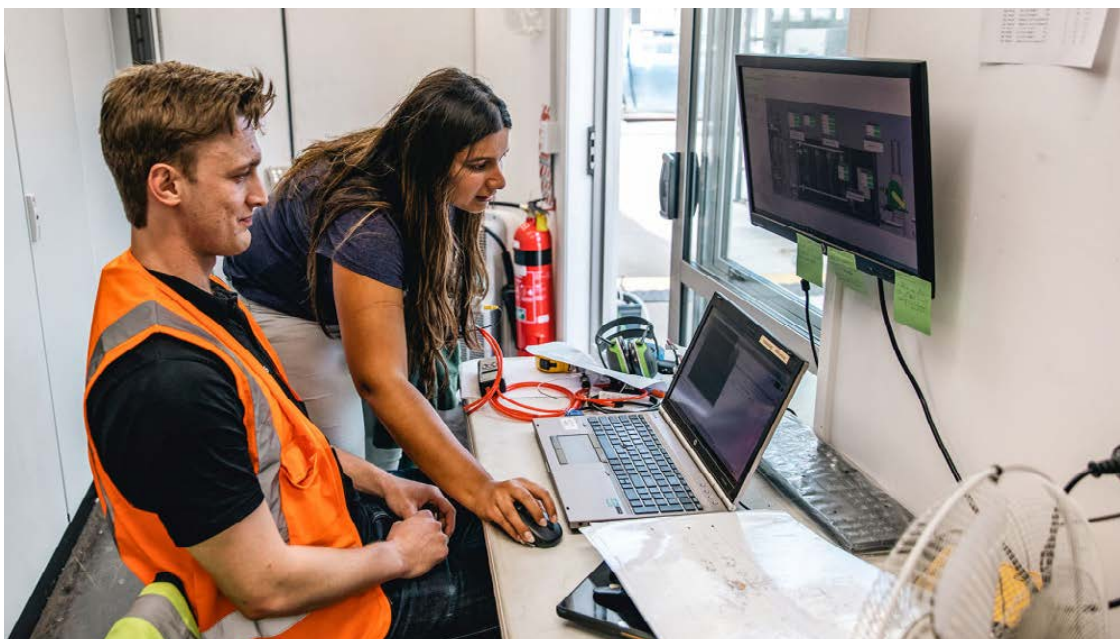
This project has recently commenced and at year end (June) was in the project scoping phase.

Plans for next year

- Scoping of phase 2 the Regional Adaptation Project and scope sign off by WRLC
- Development of a Communications and Engagement Plan for the project
- Project commencement as per agreed scope



1.2.3 PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED



REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REDP)

WellingtonNZ continues to oversee implementation of the REDP with guidance from a Steering Group comprised of local and central government, Te Matarau a Māui, and business representatives.

Each initiative in the REDP aims to address one or more of the issues and opportunities identified. Collectively, these initiatives are providing real opportunities to grow businesses and develop our future workforce, both of which are long-term investments in our region.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The second year of implementation has seen many initiatives reach the delivery stage. Examples include:

- Attracting multiple productions to our region through the Screen Attraction Programme. For example, Wolfman filmed at Lane Street Studios and on-location throughout the region, creating 300 jobs over a six-month period and an estimated \$20m in-region spend.
- Growing the Summer of Engineering programme with a further 16 internships in summer 2023.
- Completing the business case for a STEM product commercialisation innovation space.

- Delivering the Climate Response Accelerator and Climate Tech Summit to 318 attendees.
- Opening the Tech Startup Hub with an initial selection of nine businesses.
- Supporting development of the Kāpiti-Horowhenua food and beverage cluster to 125 members
- Establishing the Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust as a registered charity and securing a board of Trustees.
- Releasing the Opportunities for Impact through Procurement report and recommendations.

Further highlights and the latest data are available in the REDP annual summary. [See more online.](#)

The REDP has been refreshed to reflect the latest context and refine initiatives to focus on in the years ahead. The refresh enabled the plan to remain a living document and emphasised the value of working as a region to implement priorities. [See more online.](#)

Plans for next year

- Progressing delivery of the 31 initiatives in the refreshed REDP and showcasing the impact these initiatives are having for our region.
- Continuing to build a pipeline of future initiatives to address issues and opportunities outlined in the REDP.

REGIONAL HOUSING ACTION PLAN (RHAP)

Implementing initiatives from the Regional Housing Action Plan.

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

There has been continued involvement of people operating in the housing sector in regular Regional Housing Forums to share activity in the sector and learnings. The Forums have grown to include new members from around NZ who want to connect with others working in the sector.

There has been a focus this year on two RHAP actions - the housing dashboard and the PDAs.

The dashboard collates both housing and economic development data from multiple sources reporting on the WRLC region, providing data in one place for comparison. This data is updated regularly. See [more online](#).

The PDAs remain a focus for the WRLC. These are covered in pages 15–20 of this annual report. A PDA Steering Group has been established to lead the next iteration of this programme of work ensuring their relevancy and impact to the region.

Plans for next year

- Analytics will be added to the data dashboard site. This is still in development but is anticipated to include both analytics on data available and regular reporting on a range of data points. We also plan to increase the GIS components.
- A review will be undertaken of the WRLC PDA list to remove those complete/not needing PDA status and add new PDAs as relevant.
- Work is commencing on working with WRLC iwi partners on housing opportunities



REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PLAN

This project completed its Phase 1 Report this year, to complete stakeholder engagement and baseline data collection to understand the need for a regional approach to the food system. This project is of particular interest to the WRLC iwi partners and the work is being led by them and Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service.

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

The key deliverable this year has been the completion and release of a Phase 1 Report as well as Ahikā's Report on the Wellington Region and Horowhenua District Food System Overview – see [Te Whatu Ora Report](#).

The successful delivery of this first report is the culmination of significant levels of ongoing engagement and relationship building, centering the aspirations and visions of mana whenua and communities across the region. Multiple stakeholder meetings and workshops were held, including with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), 20 grower interviews across the region, a Food System Plan Wānanga attended by nearly 40 participants, and continued meetings with the Community Advisory Board (CAB), the Iwi/hapū rōpū, and councils.

Data collected for the Phase 1 Report includes a foodshed analysis, land use mapping, retail surveys, and grower interviews focused on the local food economy.

The WRLC has expressed support for this plan, endorsing the position that protecting the food system and striving for food security is a priority for region.

Plans for next year

- The WRLC has approved the project moving into phase 2 - which involves identifying actions for WRLC partners in implementing initiatives and activities that align with the project's vision and objectives
- Development and finalisation of community and iwi pilots



1.2.4 PROJECTS ON HOLD

IWI CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

This project was designed to implement the opportunities approved in the scoping paper prepared for the WRLC in 2021-2022, including secondments, work placements or governance opportunities for each iwi partner to the WRLC.

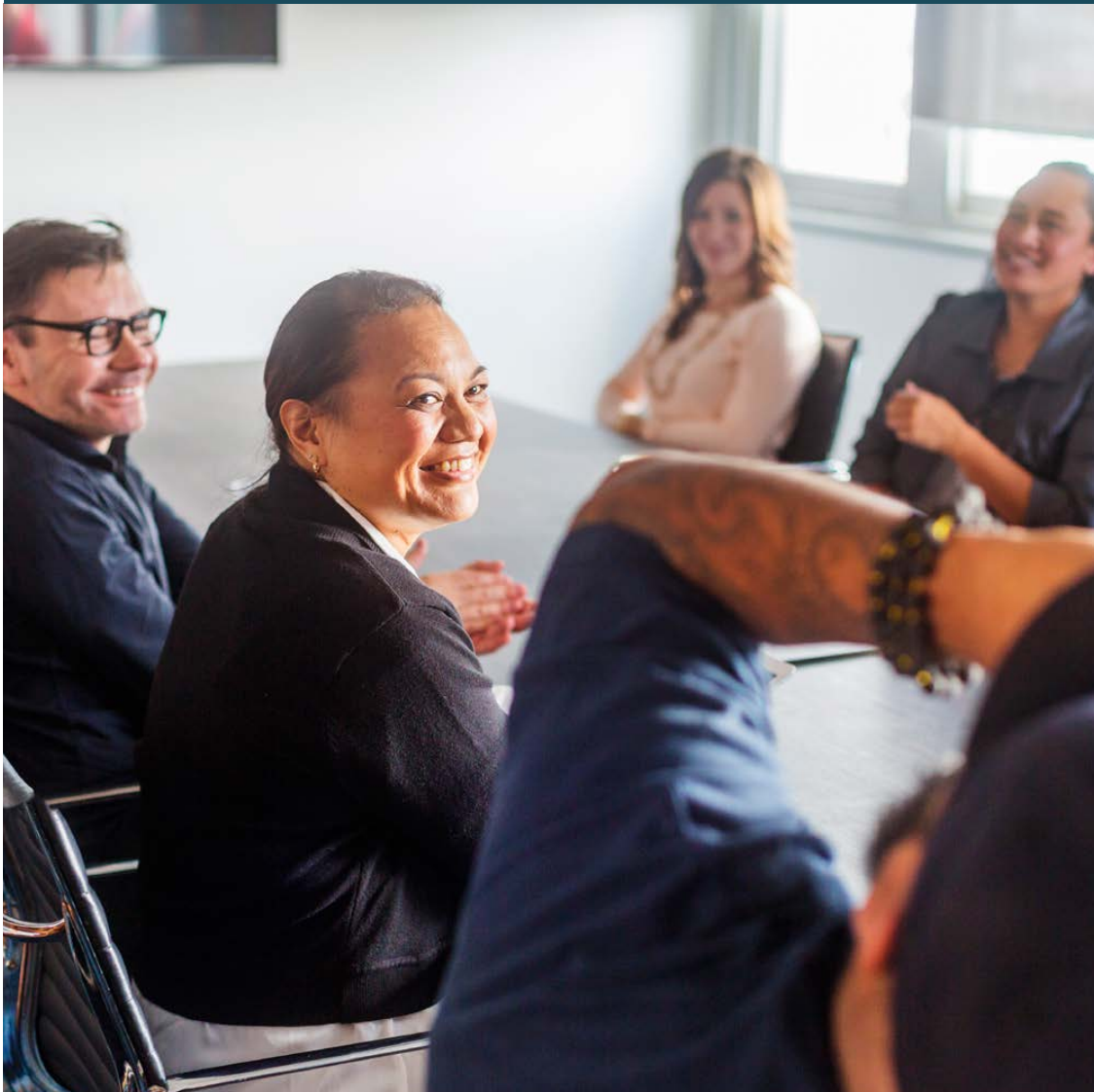
The establishment of a pilot was undertaken to find local government and central government partners to take up secondment opportunities into iwi partner organisations and for local government and central government to offer work placement opportunities to iwi partners to upskill

their workforce.

Despite partners' best efforts, no progress has been made due to no/low participation from partners to offer secondments opportunities or work placements, resource constraints, operational challenges around how to make this work and iwi partners' capacity issues.

[Read more online](#)

The WRLC has agreed to put this project on hold for now.



1.2.5 PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREA (PDA) PROGRAMME

Amongst the housing development projects planned or underway in our work programme, some show the potential to more significantly deliver on the region's growth objectives if they are prioritised to support accelerated delivery. These projects are designated as PDAs. They are development projects at scale that are undertaken in partnership between central government, local government, and iwi agencies to ensure their successful delivery.

Projects must meet certain criteria for the PDA designation. They must have the potential to bring significant housing and other benefits to the region. They also need to support the objectives of the WRLC and be in key locations that are crucial for these objectives. Finally, these projects are often complex and need a partnership to achieve the desired pace and scale of development.

The partnership approach enhances the focus and communication on these projects. By involving key agencies from the start, it enables collective planning, decision-making, and problem-solving, while also providing enhanced access to central government resources. These projects are highlighted at the top level to identify and clear issues, ensuring improved communication of progress, issues, and risk mitigation to stakeholders, and increasing transparency of project efforts.

In essence, PDAs are about bringing together the right people, at the right time, with the right resources, to make a positive and more speedy impact on our communities. It's a collaborative effort that turns ambitious plans into thriving realities.

At the end of this reporting year, all PDA projects below have a status of "underway".



FEATHERSTON MASTERPLAN PDA

This project aims to attract more housing development (700 homes) by prioritising transit-oriented development (TOD.) TOD is designed to enhance the urban environment with amenities, walkability, and connectivity, while offering a mix of housing densities, revitalising the main street to create an appealing town centre and adding character and amenity value to the walkway connecting the main street to the train.

Read [more online](#).

Achievements and progress

The Featherston Masterplan was completed this year and adopted on 5 June 2024.

To get to this stage work included:

- Refinement and compilation of a draft Masterplan which was adopted by South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) in November 2023 for formal consultation. 87 submissions were received.
- Formal hearings and deliberations.
- Amendments to the draft Masterplan in response to submissions to create a final Masterplan for approval.

Plans for next year

- Featherston Masterplan and Implementation plan to feed into the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan costings planning.
- Liaise with available developers.
- Consider a housing plan.

LOWER HUTT CENTRAL

The project's goal is to facilitate 3,500 new homes in Lower Hutt's central city area, encompassing public housing, papakāinga, and affordable housing. It seeks to enhance development density while ensuring convenient access to employment, education, recreation, and rapid transit at Waterloo and Melling Stations, with infrastructure enhancements funded by the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF).

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

Funding for the IAF infrastructure projects has been confirmed through the Long Term Plan 2024-34. Hutt City Council is leading the delivery of the stormwater and wastewater upgrades for the central city.

As part of RiverLink, Hutt City Council is also leading streetscape, the Riverbank car park and local road improvements.

An Urban Renewal Steering Group and an Urban Renewal Working Group were established to drive and guide the project. The groups include senior leaders from Council, central government agencies, and mana whenua.

Council is also preparing a city-wide Spatial Plan, which will provide a broad strategic approach to growth in the city.

Plans for next year

- Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) wastewater and stormwater delivery planning to be completed.
- Engagement with developers and promotion of the opportunities for development will commence.
- The Lower Hutt Draft Spatial Plan will be consulted on.
- Proposed District Plan will be released for public consultation.





TE ARO GROWTH CORRIDOR

The Te Aro Growth Corridor aims to realise a significant uplift in housing in the area with the highest development potential in the wider Wellington CBD area, although the housing target amount needs to be confirmed given recent changes.

The project has had to move away from a focus on development around Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) to a general development programme. It transitioned from Let's Get Wellington Moving, to the Te Aro Growth Corridor and a new programme around this is being developed.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The project has made steps towards the new programme, with work on the wider WCC Growth Plan progressing and programme

operational funding confirmed in the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan.

The Growth Plan has identified several Priority Growth Precincts, including the Te Aro Growth Corridor. The Growth Plan will identify investment and policy options to realise the development potential of the Te Aro Growth Corridor, providing evidence to inform the 2027 Long Term Plan process. It will also feed into the 2025 Spatial Plan refresh and Infrastructure Strategy.

Analytical models to help understand housing development opportunities and focus on high-potential areas have been developed and are being utilised.

Plans for next year

Focusing on delivering the Growth Plan and embedding the programme within Wellington City Council.

ŌTAKI PDA

Kāpiti Coast District Council has embraced the PDA concept, and incorporated broader work around visioning, planning, and community engagement into our way forward. We are developing a prototype that will be trialled in Ōtaki, for use across all areas of our District in due course. Ōtaki is our first focus area because it faces a series of challenges from been at the end of two regions, and from having multiple central government boundaries to contend with.

The Ōtaki PDA aims to support medium to long-term, sustainable growth for Ōtaki through a planned and coordinated approach to development. Our aim is to leverage the good work that is already underway at a local level, with greater coordinated support (including funding) from central government and other key stakeholders.

Achievements and progress

Our progress for the Ōtaki PDA includes:

- Nearing completion of Phase 1 work, extensive community engagement has been underway as part of Vision Ōtaki, to identify what makes Ōtaki special, current and future community needs (incl physical and social infrastructure, services, and facilities) and aspirations for the future through to 2060 and beyond. This will provide input into Phase 1 of our PDA work.
- A summary of feedback on Vision Ōtaki was published in May 2024 with a final draft Vision to be completed by the end of August 2024. See [Vision Ōtaki](#) webpage for further details.
- Holding an initial symposium with key stakeholders on issues of safety, albeit related to growth, housing constraints, and lack of services and support for people in the community. This hui was held in collaboration with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki & ART and the Ōtaki Community Board. Key attendees included local NGOs and service providers, Kainga Ora, MHUD, Police, and Corrections.
- Amongst a range of feedback provided through submissions on regional and national change proposals, we have continued to advocate

that a regional planning priority is to improve public transport connections and access across the Ōtaki, Te Horo, and broader Kāpiti – Horowhenua area. We have also raised the need for regional councils to work together on solutions for these areas, due to existing boundaries for service.

Connected but delivered separately in relation to the IAF: construction has started on our new water reservoir in Ōtaki as part of IAF funding. The reservoir is due to be completed by the end of 2024 and will support further housing growth in the area to meet current and future needs in the community. Further to this, we are seeing several developments in Ōtaki progressing as initially noted in the IAF cabinet paper.

Plans for next year

Strictly related to the Ōtaki PDA:

- Vision Ōtaki, Phase 2, will also support the next stage of work where Council will engage with partners to develop options for change, and a supporting blueprint to achieve the Vision set by our community. Key partners will include Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki & ART, the Ōtaki Community Board, the iwi-Māori Partnership Board, local NGOs and service providers, the Economic Development Kotahitanga Board, Kainga Ora, MHUD, NZTA, Min of Ed, Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ), Police, Corrections, GWRC and Horizons Regional Council.
- Finalising the scope of the Ōtaki PDA and establishing a working group to support the development of a blueprint for Ōtaki (to support how Vision Ōtaki is achieved).
- Shaping a Town Centre Plan for Ōtaki as part of the blueprint work.

Outside of the PDA, we will continue on the delivery of the IAF infrastructure projects, and related developments for housing that are already in-track or in relevant resource consenting processes.

[Read more online.](#)





PORIRUA NORTHERN GROWTH CORRIDOR

The Northern Growth Area which includes Plimmerton Farm Zone proposes that a Special Development Project (SDP) designation will help unlock urban development opportunities for an additional 6,000 new homes in Porirua City.

Public notification and feedback on the SDP was undertaken in the August 2023 and a decision from Ministers is expected in late 2024.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The key achievement this year has been the undertaking of the SDP assessment phase, involving the development of key features, public notification, and feedback review for refinement. There has been continued partner and stakeholder engagement throughout the assessment phase.

Drafted assessment reports which included aspects such as indicative costings, transitional powers, and growth timings were socialised with stakeholders in early 2024 and briefings provided to elected officials.

A COVID-19 Fast Track Consent application was submitted for Plimmerton Farms Stage One, proposing significant residential and infrastructure development.

Plans for next year

These plans are dependent on the outcome of the decision from Ministers on the SDP proposal.

TRENTHAM MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

This project plans to develop a mixed-use area at Trentham Racecourse with the potential to add circa 800 homes. Long Term Plan funding for Council infrastructure has been secured and Masterplan development has progressed.

[Read more online.](#)

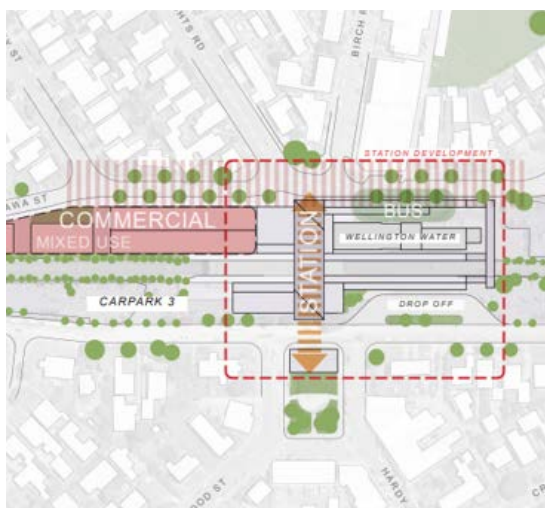
Achievements and progress

The project team has been progressing negotiations on various agreements to enable the development to proceed. Long Term Plan funding for the infrastructure was approved on 26 June 2024.

Plans for next year

Finalising the Masterplan and negotiations on various agreements to enable the development to proceed.





WATERLOO STATION TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD)

This project is to support Hutt City's urban development strategy through urban regeneration and precinct development. It is intended to improve integration between transit, housing and community services, to enhance multi-modal access to the public transport network and to create a transit-oriented catchment.

Achievements and progress

Recent progress milestones include confirmation of Long Term Plan funding; positive investment ranking from NZTA for National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) funding; agreement from GWRC to proceed to Reference Design stage.

The project team has concluded that an improved hub will contribute to enabling ancillary housing projects in the immediate area with intensification opportunities that require further facilitation from central government/local government identified through the project.

Community engagement has commenced for the project, with a particular focus on neighbouring businesses and properties.

Plans for next year

- Completion of phase III - Reference Design focusing on finalising minimum requirements for the transit hub to procure a Reference Design.
- Public consultation on the project will take place in October 2024.

1.3 WRLC Communication and Engagement

Communication and engagement in year three for the WRLC has continued to focus on sharing project updates, learnings and successes.

Communication and engagement highlights for the WRLC this year include:

- **Regional Housing Action Plan (RHAP) Forum – regular meetings**

The RHAP Forum is a cross-organisational forum which meets regularly to share information, challenges and opportunities in the housing sector to advance the RHAP.

- **Housing and economic dashboard**

A big win under the RHAP is the delivery of a housing data insights dashboard to provide up to date housing and economic data and insights on the region. Towards the end of the reporting year, and in working with WellingtonNZ, key economic development data was added. This is a key communication and data tool for all partners and the wider public to use.

- **Regional Emissions Reduction Plan (REPR) Forum**

113 people from across the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region came together on 24 July 2023 at the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan Forum. The Forum gathered local and central government representatives, iwi, sector specialists and community groups to discuss how emissions could be reduced for the benefit of future generations. Workshops were held on transport and urban planning, energy, agriculture, te taiao, building and construction, and enabling systems shifts. The perspectives and information gathered at these workshop, provided valuable input for developing the RERP.

- **Regional Food System Plan Wānanga**

Over two days on 2nd to 3rd November 2023, a wananga was held as part of ongoing mahi for the Regional Food System Plan being led by Te Whatu Ora. The goal was to connect diverse stakeholders from around the motu including mana whenua, community organisations, central and local government, academia, and growers/food producers from the region, to advance the Regional Food System Plan project. Participants contributed diverse perspectives to exercises and

discussions to broaden the project team's view of our kai systems into other interlinked systems. An overarching theme that emerged from this wānanga was the pressing need for regional collaboration in developing a sustainable food system, and that no single district can address the complex challenges of our regional food system alone.

- **Future Development Strategy (FDS) submissions**

The WRLC ran a successful public consultation process to seek feedback on the Draft FDS. The consultation ran from 9th October to 9th November 2023, with the majority of submitters supporting the approach of the FDS proposal areas. Feedback from the community was obtained through the *Have Your Say* website, together with written submissions via email. The consultation received 70 submissions through Have Your Say, and 31 submissions via email, a total of 101 submissions. A total of 32 oral submissions were heard by the FDS Hearings Subcommittee.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP WEBINARS

Our webinars have continued to grow in popularity and reach, featuring many high-profile and industry-leading academics and public sector leaders. Notable speakers in year three include the Winner of the Prime Minister's Science Communication Prize Dr James Renwick, WSP FutureReady UK Director David Symons, Economics and Policy Lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Amanda Janoo, Simplicity NZ CEO Sam Stubbs, KPMG Partner Alec Tang, The Infrastructure Commission General Manager Geoff Cooper, and many more.

The WRLC receives regular positive feedback from webinar attendees, ranging from advisors to CEOs and Directors. This feedback highlights the importance that people place on having access to learning opportunities and thought leadership, to support and inform their work, and awareness of the big picture.

All our previous webinars can be found at [Wellington Regional News | Presented by The WRLC](#).

We had a great session using your webinar on Green-Oriented Design as a guide for a lunchtime 'climate cafe'. It was a trial idea that received good feedback and we will do again in the future.

I pre-watched the webinar and selected segments to play on the big screen that were relevant to the discussions/questions we had planned as part of the cafe chat. It was good fun.



Leaders unite
for the future
of our region



FROM JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024 THE WRLC HAS:

Hosted **18** Thought-leader webinars



12

eNewsletters
written and
distributed



1,660

Increased eNews
subscribers
(up 571 in 12 months)



1,821

RSVPs
(nearly double
the last year)



1,200

YouTube Views



1,238

LinkedIn followers
(up from 762
12 months ago)

Section 2: The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Compliance



2.1 How did we spend our money?

The WRLC gets its funding from different sources. Our main aim with regards to the funding is to successfully complete projects, and getting money for these projects is essential. All of our projects affect the whole region, and some are important at a national level. How we get funding and how involved we are in managing the money depends on the project.

2.1.2 OPERATIONAL FUNDING

The operational costs of the WRLC are paid for through Greater Wellington Regional Council rates. The Horowhenua District Council, which isn't part of the regional council rating area, also contributes separately. Central government also provided some funding during this year for operational funding.

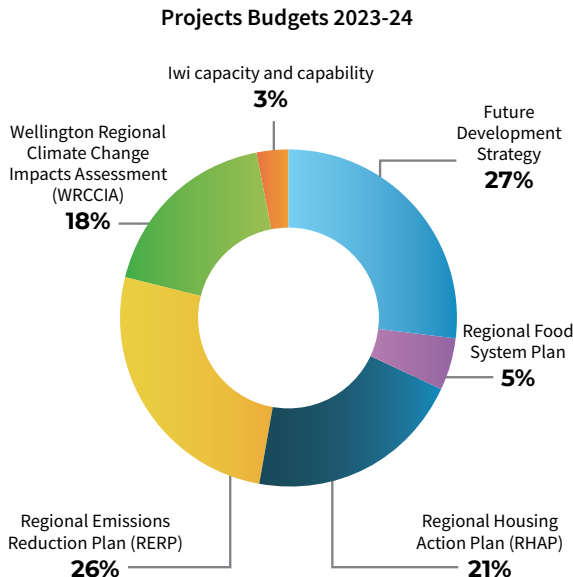
2.1.3 PROJECT FUNDING

All partner councils contribute to region-wide projects based on their population size. Central government, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) and Kāinga Ora have also funded projects with regional and national importance. The WRLC Secretariat manages and reports on the finances.

At the start of a project, initial cost estimates are made and then refined during planning. The project authorisation process includes cost approvals to ensure affordability and clear commitments from project partners. Exact costs are only known once the project begins. Regular updates from the WRLC Secretariat help track and manage these costs effectively.

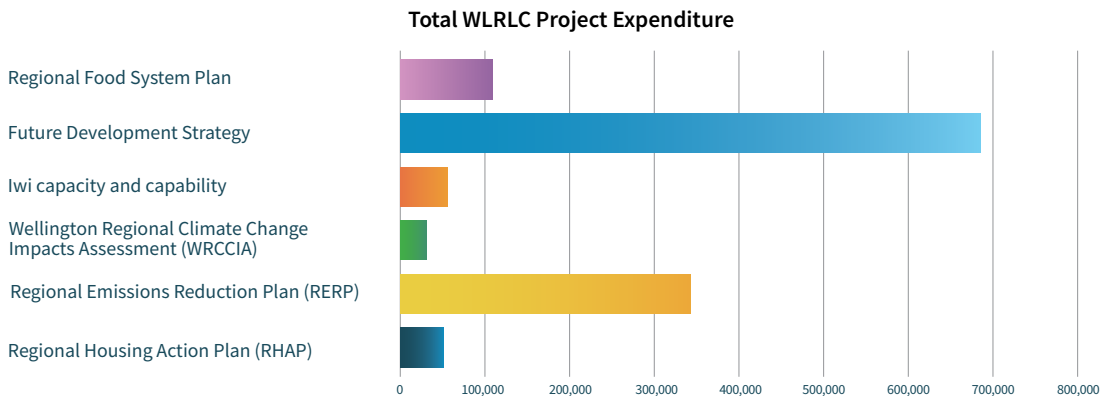
Partner agencies also provide valuable resources, with project teams including staff from all partner agencies, external organisations, and the private sector.

Diagram 4: WRLC project budgets



The rate of project expenditure compared to the budget can serve as an indicator of progress against the schedule, and this holds true for our projects as well. Refer to Diagram 5 for an overview of how projects are tracking. It's essential to keep in mind that certain projects span multiple years, which means not all funds will be spent within financial years.

Diagram 5: WRLC project expenditure in 2023-2024

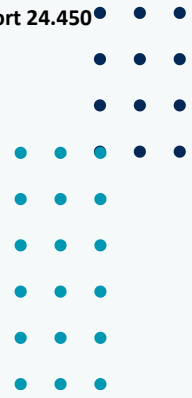


He waka eke noa // we are all in this together



wrlc.org.nz

ANNUAL SUMMARY 2023-24



Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan 2022 – 2032

REFRESHED IN 2024



HIGHLIGHTS FROM YEAR TWO AND THE LATEST REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

Prepared by

WellingtonNZ

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan 2022-2032 (REDP) guides the long-term direction of our economy. WellingtonNZ are driving implementation on behalf of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC).

The WRLC brings councils, iwi and central government together to take collective responsibility for our shared challenges and achieve better outcomes for our communities across the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region.

The vision of the REDP is to build a future-focused, creative, sustainable and thriving region for all to be proud of. It aims to help create some of the 100,000 decent jobs* our region will require in the next 30 years as our population grows. It also aims to improve quality of life by supporting our region to be more productive, resilient, inclusive and sustainable with thriving Māori and Pasifika communities.

The plan is focused on four key sectors where initiatives can have an influence:

1. Screen, creative and digital;
2. Science, technology, engineering and high-value manufacturing;
3. Visitor economy; and
4. Primary sector, food and fibre.

It also supports and advocates for four key enablers that sit across these:

1. Māori economic development;
2. Skills, talent and education;
3. Water accessibility and security; and
4. Resilient infrastructure.

The REDP includes 31 regionally significant initiatives that aim to address issues and opportunities identified. The second year of implementation has seen many initiatives reach the delivery stage, despite a challenging operating environment and economic uncertainty.

Collectively, the REDP initiatives are providing real opportunities for businesses to grow and developing our skilled future workforce. WellingtonNZ acknowledge the passion and commitment of all the leads and key partners involved in delivering these initiatives, as well as the individuals and organisations participating in each initiative.

The REDP has recently been refreshed to reflect the latest context and refined initiatives. The refresh enabled the plan to remain a living document and emphasised the value of working as a region to implement priorities. Further scoping will continue in the year ahead to identify future initiatives for consideration.

Highlights from implementation over the past year are outlined in this annual summary, alongside the latest data snapshot to monitor our regional performance. Continuing to collaborate with individuals and organisations throughout our region in the years ahead will enable the vision and aims of the REDP to be realised. Visit WellingtonNZ.com/redp to find out more or contact the programme team.

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN
MONITORING AND REPORTING SUMMARY 2023-24**

MONITORING METRICS: Indicators used to monitor progress against our strategic objectives

REGIONAL INDICATORS: Indicators monitored at a regional level

QUALITY OF LIFE

AIM TO GROW **Overall satisfaction with life**
Measuring the overall satisfaction with life of residents provides an indication on social well-being. Biennial results - 2022 vs. 2020.

88% Satisfied in Wellington Region **▼ 1%***

AIM TO GROW **The ability of income to meet every day needs**
Monitoring the percentage of residents' ability to meet every day needs with their income provides an indication of the social and economic health of our region's residents. Biennial results - 2022 vs. 2020.

54% Could meet needs in the Wellington Region **▼ 2%***

EMPLOYMENT

GROW 100K IN 30 YEARS **Total Employment**
The total employment across our region provides an indication of our regional economic performance. Annual figure - Year to March 2023 vs. March 2022. Additional employment figures follow from page 18.

334,834 Total Employment **▲ 2.9%**

AIM TO GROW **GDP per capita**
is used to capture the average economic wellbeing of our region overtime. Annual figure - Year to March 2023 vs. March 2022.

\$87,535 GDP per Capita **▲ 0.4%**

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY: Indicators monitored at a growth corridor level

Population
Monitoring growth is important for understanding the infrastructure and resource needs of our region. Change is between 2018 and 2023 census results.

36,693 Horowhenua **▲ 10%**

55,914 Kāpiti Coast **▲ 4%**

59,445 Porirua **▲ 5%**

202,689 Wellington **▼ 0%**

107,562 Lower Hutt **▲ 3%**

45,759 Upper Hutt **▲ 4%**

11,811 Sth Wairarapa **▲ 12%**

10,107 Carterton **▲ 10%**

27,678 Masterton **▲ 8%**

The average income per capita
determines the average per-person income and evaluates the standard of living of our population. Annual figure - Year to March 2024 vs. March 2023.

\$42,912 Horowhenua **▲ 8.3%**

\$53,387 Kāpiti Coast **▲ 7.7%**

\$54,089 Porirua **▲ 7.4%**

\$66,405 Wellington **▲ 5.8%**

\$54,603 Lower Hutt **▲ 1.1%**

\$55,425 Upper Hutt **▲ 0.8%**

\$56,609 Sth Wairarapa **▲ 7.2%**

\$51,525 Carterton **▲ 7.2%**

\$47,171 Masterton **▲ 8.3%**

Sources:
Quality of Life: Nielsen Quality of Life Survey 2022 | Wellington region (excludes Horowhenua) | *Note 2024 Quality of Life data will not be available until later in the year
Total Employment: Infometrics Regional Industry Employment Model | Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua | March Year 2023
GDP per capita: Infometrics | Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua | March Year 2023
Population: StatsNZ Census 2023 | TA Level | As at Census 2023
Average income per capita: Infometrics | TA Level | March Year 2024

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN INITIATIVE SUMMARY 2023-24

WellingtonNZ are working alongside the lead for each initiative in the REDP to champion implementation, providing connections, advocacy and resourcing wherever possible.

Feedback from initiative leads and participants includes:

"This is exactly the kind of thing our region needs. We have untapped potential here and this is how you foster our potential, through education and professional development. I appreciated the mix of students, recent graduates and professionals. I am of the view that we can learn from everyone and this 'mixed' environment was great. I was really impressed at the quality of the ideas and pitches overall." – Screen Accelerator Project participant

"Working alongside experienced professionals in your field exposes you to insights and knowledge that you wouldn't typically encounter in a classroom setting, which is so crucial when starting in the engineering industry. I have gained valuable skills relevant to my mechanical engineering degree, such as CAD design and understanding of design processes. It's been a real confidence booster." – Patrick Eir, Summer of Engineering intern

"This one day workshop was one of the most profound learning experiences I've attended in the last 5 years. The quality of the talent and Joe's experience working in super successful and high growth startup businesses is exactly what startup audiences in Wellington and NZ need to hear. Thank you Wellington NZ for making this happen." - Tech Leadership Series participant

"It was comforting to hear some of the growth stories and what the presenters' teams experienced. Gave me comfort that we are on the right track and the challenges/opportunities we are working through are normal in the start-up space." - Growth Jam attendee

"We had a really great time, learnt a lot and gained so much motivation to keep doing all the things we are doing by being with a group of people who care about the same things we do!" - LoCarb visitor economy sustainability programme attendee

"What a beautiful kit. The students were very engaged in watching how rapidly the beans changed by simply adding water. In Maths, we were also looking at repeating patterns so the life cycles of the apple and the bean connected and related easily to this kaupapa." - Wilford School year 2-3 teacher on House of Science

"The hands-on help that Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator has given to my son has been fantastic. He has achieved so much – Learner Driver Licence, barista training and now work experience using his barista training at a café. I just can't say enough positive things about MTFJ, my son is now happier, he has built some confidence in himself and now has a sense of purpose." - Parent of a Kāpiti Coast Skills and Education Hub learner

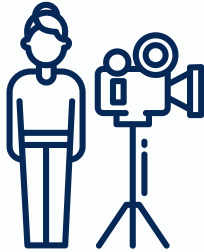
"Hearing speakers experiences, especially about where they started and where they ended up. Hearing the positives and negatives and advice is helpful. Activities allowed us to connect with people we might not have met." – Pasifika networking series attendee

"Students started to understand STEM and realised that there are jobs out there that are fun and are achievable. Students understood what subjects they liked that were apart of STEM" – STEM mentorship programme mentor

Initiative leads have reported a total of 338 jobs created over the past year. This figure does not reflect the indirect impact of initiatives that are supporting businesses to grow and developing our workforce.

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
SECTOR INITIATIVE OUTCOMES 2023-24

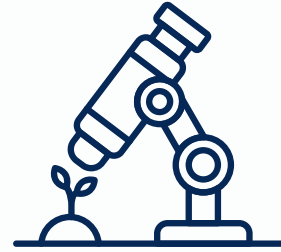
Highlights from Screen, STEM, visitor economy and primary sector initiatives are captured below. More detail is available on page 7-11.



Hundreds of screen sector jobs, including 300 each during *Wolfman* and *Time Bandits*



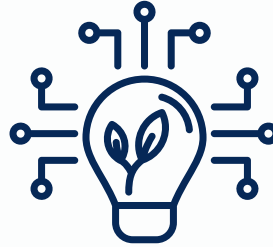
18 participants developed a new unscripted show to pitch through the Screen Accelerator Project



STEM product commercialisation innovation space progressed to seeking partnerships and investment



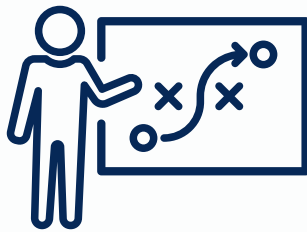
17 Tech Leadership Series events held over the past two years, with over 600 attendees



318 attendees for the Climate Tech Summit & Climate Response Accelerator showcase



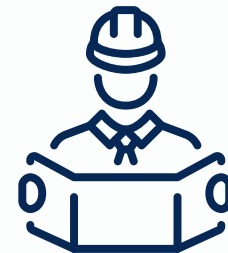
Tech Hub opened with nine inaugural businesses



666 attendees across 14 CHQ startup sessions and 348 users on the Founder Launch platform



398 founders coached via CHQ drop in sessions and Startup Aotearoa



16 engineering internships through the Summer of Engineering programme



65 hospitality businesses represented on the LoCarb sustainability programme



Charitable Trust established for the Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Network



125 food and beverage cluster members in Kapiti-Horowhenua

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

ENABLER INITIATIVE OUTCOMES 2023-24

Highlights from enabling initiatives across Māori economic development, skills, water and infrastructure, as well as business support, are captured below. More detail is available on page 12-15.



Opportunities for Impact through Procurement scoped and actions recommended across four themes



120+ attendees at Pasifika Networking Series events for students and businesses



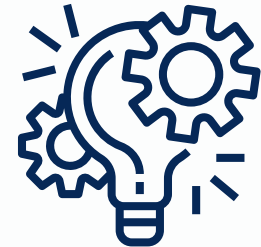
Online business resource hub launched



45% increase in the reach of House of Science in schools in Wellington city and Porirua



Doubled Kapiti-Horowhenua House of Science kit bookings in the April - June quarter



22 students becoming problem-solvers through the **E2E-STEAMM** programme



36 youth supported through the Kāpiti Coast skills programme, creating pathways to employment



88 individuals engaged in the Wairarapa primary sector leadership programme



1,500 students completing digital fluency assessments and learning in Wairarapa



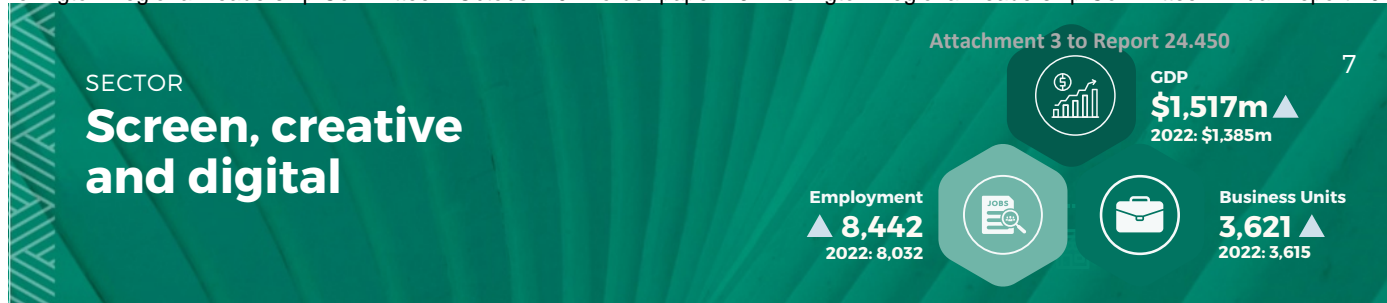
Supported three Wairarapa summer water resilience series events



Industrial land needs and potential sites identified



\$517k contributed to business capability uplift training through the RBPN



Wellington is proud to be recognised as a film friendly region. Our regional film office Screen Wellington, part of WellingtonNZ, supports sector development, screen attraction, and film facilitation. REDP highlights from the past year include:

- Showcasing our region to potential productions from around New Zealand and the world, using an experienced Attraction Manager and their sector knowledge to attract productions.
- Securing multiple productions, with each having a significant economic impact. Examples include *Wolfman*, which filmed at Lane Street Studios, creating an estimated 300 jobs over a six-month period. *Red Rocks* created 150 jobs over two months, and *Time Bandits* created over 400 jobs over four months.
- Delivering the Screen Accelerator Project 2024. Tall Poppy Films lead this initiative, which provided 18 screen practitioners at different stages of their career the opportunity to develop their unscripted content ideas under the guidance of Emmy award winning producer Jon Kroll. This led to 12 professional pitches to domestic and international buyers, with multiple negotiations underway.
- Partnering with Women in Film and TV, New Zealand Film Commission and others to host the Canada / NZ Co-Production Summit in Wellington for the first time. This attracted 100 delegates for four days of workshops, development time with the New Zealand Film Commission, attendance at the Animation and Māoriland Film Festivals, and tours of local studios and facilities.
- Confirming a location for the pilot Screen Centre of Excellence. This will provide space for early and emerging screen practitioners, with access to modern facilities and working space at the Massey University National Academy of Screen Arts.

Screen Wellington also deliver the Wellington UNESCO Creative City of Film programme, providing opportunities for youth, Māori and Pasifika storytellers to learn about, make and engage with screen culture.

This year Screen Wellington supported film workshops for Pasifika year 7-10 students - the Alofa Awards recognising Pacific excellence in short films, supported industry events and youth programmes at Māoriland, facilitated internships on locally made Te Reo film *Kōkā*, and sponsored a screening of locally made film *Red, White & Brass* for 700 Pasifika students.



Canadian producers visiting Māoriland during the Co-production Summit



Filming on *Extreme Cake Sports*, developed by Bevin Linkhorn, who participated in the Screen Accelerator Project to pitch internationally



The screen attraction programme helped to secure production of *I, Object* in our region

SECTOR

Science, technology, engineering and high-value manufacturing (STEM)

Attachment 3 to Report 24.450

8



GDP

\$5,877m ▲
 2022: \$5,153m*

 Employment
 ▲ **29,522**
 2022: 28,824

 Business Units
6,186 ▲
 2022: 6,021

Science, engineering and high-value manufacturing

The science, engineering and high-value manufacturing sub-chapter focuses on creating visibility for the ecosystem, addressing skills shortages and providing support for emerging companies to commercialise. REDP highlights from the past year include:

- Completing the business case for the STEM Product Commercialisation Innovation Space initiative. This initiative looks to address the lack of suitable lab space in our region. Pro-Dev are leading this initiative and work is underway to seek the investment required to work with a developer on constructing a world-class, purpose-built facility.
- Creating 16 internships for engineering students through the Summer of Engineering programme, led by Summer of Tech. There are many candidates looking for internships in both engineering and technology in the upcoming summer. Any businesses interested in hiring an intern are encouraged to reach out to Summer of Tech now to explore how they can help.
- Scoping a brand and narrative for the STEM Maker Story initiative. A pilot campaign will be delivered in the year ahead, showcasing our region's advanced manufacturing and innovation capabilities both to local youth considering career options, and the rest of Aotearoa and the world.

WellingtonNZ are supporting the STEM sector through 223 different business engagements to access Callaghan Innovation support and funding in 2023/24.

WellingtonNZ's Business Events team facilitated bringing the Life Sciences Summit to our region, gathering over 300 biotech thought leaders together at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event was an opportunity to share more about the scale of the sector with Ministers and officials. It also showcased our local biotech organisations through a pre-Summit event to hear from 10 local businesses, and post-Summit tours of Gracefield Innovation Quarter and Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.



The Life Sciences Summit 2024, held at Tākina Wellington Convention & Exhibition Centre



A Summer of Engineering intern gaining real world experience at Clutterbot



Student interns from the Summer of Engineering programme at Clutterbot

*Petroleum refining and petroleum fuel manufacturing GDP is not reported in 2023. This figure was \$1154m in 2022 but has been removed from 2022 figures to more accurately compare year on year.

Technology

The technology sub-chapter focuses on harnessing entrepreneurial talent, addressing skills shortages, upskilling leadership teams and attracting investment.

WellingtonNZ are implementing initiatives through the Tech Strategy and supporting delivery of start-up programmes through subsidiary Creative HQ. REDP highlights from the past year include:

- Opening a Tech Hub at Te Herenga Waka– Victoria University of Wellington. Tenants are from a mix of nine local tech companies and Summer of Tech, with more companies interested in joining. The hub has created a thriving community and will be used for regular events with the wider tech community and students.
- Hosting the Climate Tech Summit for 318 attendees, raising the profile of Clean Tech businesses in our region including nine startups from Creative HQ’s Climate Response Accelerator and 10 established businesses.
- Continuing to deliver the Tech Leadership Training Series, totalling 17 workshops and fireside events and over 600 attendees over the past two years. Experts have presented on pricing, people and culture, digital marketing, leadership, growth consulting, sales, capital raising, and product. Recent events include Growth Jam with 253 attendees and the Growth & Product Masterclass with Joe Harris with 40 attendees.
- Scaling up Creative HQ’s offering of startup programmes. This includes delivering:
 - 292 coaching sessions through Startup Aotearoa over the past six months
 - 106 drop-in 1:1 sessions with a Creative HQ startup coach
 - 14 capability building sessions for startups to 666 attendees
 - Five additional founder launch modules, reaching 348 users on the Founder Launch platform
 - Four deep-dive On the Business workshops as hands-on support for small groups, with 29 attendees
 - Two accelerators with 14 founders in each, focused on Climate Response and GovTech startups.

WellingtonNZ also coordinated Tech Week activities delivered in May 2024 and partnered with Ministry of Awesome to hold Electrify Aotearoa, a conference empowering women founders, in Wellington for the first time in June 2024, bringing together over 600 founders.

WellingtonNZ continue to promote tech careers to high school students. Recent activities include running a series of webinars followed by a tour of tech businesses for career advisors and subject teachers; organising tech speakers to present in high schools; and facilitating the tech section of the Porirua Careers Expo including four tech talks to showcase local education and careers options.



WellingtonNZ's Tech Sector Lead Rebekah Campbell at the opening of the Tech Startup Hub in Rutherford House



Founders who participated in the Climate Response Accelerator preparing to pitch their startups at the Climate Summit



A panel of tech sector employees speaking at the Porirua Careers Expo



Our positive reputation as a destination is hard-earned and requires consistent, affirming experiences and a binding vision for all who contribute to how people experience our region. REDP highlights from the past year include:

- Delivering the LoCarb sustainability programme, involving 15 site visits and actions plans to reduce carbon emissions. The programme reached decision makers representing 65 hospitality businesses.
- Undertaking iwi engagement, a funding strategy and associated funding applications for the Civics Experience initiative, creating a foundation to deliver the next phase once funding is secured.
- Establishing the Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust as a registered charity and securing a board of Trustees. The Trust will help attract funding for the Trail to implement the ten year masterplan.
- Supporting dark skies product development and connections in the Wairarapa. Highlights include Destination Wairarapa's product development work with Star Safari who are exploring developing a specialised Astro Tourism School and Space Science Centre, creating community awareness through a Dark Sky business connections event, implementing a pilot dark skies business capability building programme with Milky-way.Kiwi Ltd, and establishing a Dark Sky Steering Group to progress initiatives.
- Progress on securing the investment required for stage one of the Porirua Adventure Park, however further support remains critical to starting development.

In addition, WellingtonNZ supported wider visitor economy activities including:

- Facilitating a busy 2023/24 cruise season, with 100 ships and approximately 200,000 passengers.
- Hosting FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 games, generating 100,124 visitor nights and a net benefit of \$24.6m to the city. The tournament provided an important legacy to Wellington with increased visibility and perception of women's sport. Investment in improving facilities like playing surfaces and changing rooms to comply with FIFA requirements took place at Sky Stadium, Martin Luckie, Newtown and Porirua Parks.
- Holding TRENZ in Wellington for the first time. TRENZ facilitates business-to-business travel trade and attracts high quality businesses and representatives. Being the host city provided an opportunity to deliver experiences for buyers from targeted global markets, enabling them to promote our destination to international tourists.



Graze Wine Bar completed the LoCarb visitor economy sustainability programme
Photo: Celeste Fontein



The Cross Creek to Featherston trail, which will link to the Five Towns Trail
Photo: Caleb Smith Photography



23 Wellington companies participated at TRENZ, New Zealand's largest international tourism business event held at Tākina in 2024



The primary sector, food and fibre chapter covers the value chain from producer to final consumer.

Kāpiti Coast, Horowhenua and Wairarapa are responsible for over 90% of food and fibre production in our region, with each having their own focus areas. REDP highlights from the past year include:

- Growing the Kāpiti-Horowhenua food and beverage cluster to 125 members. The collaborative approach of the cluster is enabling members to capture new business opportunities together, attend trade shows, overcome common issues, connect with supermarkets and hospitality outlets, and utilise shared equipment and infrastructure. Members have opportunities to attend targeted networking functions and capability-building events.
- Establishing a shared food and beverage logistics hub in Paraparaumu, with several businesses using the services in the facility, supporting their growth.
- Exploring options for a food production hub to house multiple producers and provide a commercial kitchen for members of the food and beverage cluster to use.
- Completing engagement to determine food and fibre priorities in the Wairarapa. The insights collected along with a Food and Fibre reference group being established will inform tangible initiatives to deliver in the year ahead.

WellingtonNZ supported wider food and fibre events throughout the region during the year. These included:

- Three workshops in partnership with the Food Innovation Network, sharing resources and support available to support businesses on the food innovation journey.
- Three Foodstuffs Emerging Supplier Forums, helping businesses understand how to get their products into supermarkets and distribution channels.
- An inaugural Wairarapa Food and Fibre Innovation Forum, connecting food, beverage and primary sector producers with the funding and support pathways available. Local businesses and groups like Fernglen Farms, Wairarapa Grain Collective and WheyTech Bionics showcased their businesses through presentations and an ‘innovation’ themed supper.



Businesses engaging in a food innovation workshop on the Kāpiti Coast



The Kāpiti Food Fair has become an annual highlight, showcasing food and beverage products from around the region and NZ



Attendees networking over supper at the Wairarapa Food and Fibre Innovation Forum

SECTOR

Māori economic development

The Māori economic development chapter elevates the strategic priorities and values identified in Te Matarau a Māui, the Māori economic development strategy for our region.

REDP highlights from the past year are centred around procurement and include:

- Releasing the [Opportunities for impact through social procurement report](#). The report identifies opportunities for impact across four key themes of collaboration, capability, support and action. It outlines recommendations for each theme and suggests actions that buyer organisations can undertake. The three main actions for the future state are creating networking opportunities to build social capital, establishing a regional working group, and making collaborative change with key stakeholders.
- Developing a kete of fundamental business resources for Māori businesses. These resources have a focus on procurement and options are being explored to make these resources widely available.
- Beginning work on a “warrant of fitness” to support supplier diversity. This will enable businesses to assess their readiness for procurement, and potentially has wider application to accessing capital, expanding into overseas markets, and use by business networks.

Wānanga are being delivered alongside Māori and Pasifika businesses to prioritise the focus areas.

- Contributing to a rōpū led by Wellington City Council to make recommendations related to the Te Upoko o Te Ika Social Procurement Commitment and broader outcomes from social procurement.

Iwi and Māori continue to have a lead role on other initiatives throughout the REDP, including the Porirua Adventure Park, STEM Mentorship Programme, and Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Board land use feasibility study.

Te Matarau a Māui have recently appointed an inaugural Tumuaki / Chief Executive who will drive implementation of activities from the Te Matarau a Māui strategy.

In addition to these initiatives, WellingtonNZ have a specialist business growth manager with a focus on Pakihi Māori (Māori businesses). They are available to meet with individual businesses across the region and run regular drop-in business clinics, such as at Te Rōpū Pakihi in Ōtaki. This role helps to connect business owners with the right people, advice and resources to enable business growth. From 1 November 2023 – 30 June 2024, WellingtonNZ connected 21 Māori businesses to Callaghan Innovation programmes and 20 Māori businesses to management capability programmes.



Releasing the Opportunities for impact through procurement report



Cover of the Opportunities for impact through procurement report



Launching the NZBN survey at a local Amotai - Meet the Supplier event

SECTOR

**Skills, talent
and education**

The REDP recognises the important role skills, talent and education play in enabling regional economic development and productivity and includes a range of initiatives to develop our future workforce.

REDP highlights from the past year include:

- Increasing the reach of House of Science by 45% in Wellington city and Porirua, now delivering in 42% of schools in these areas. House of Science also ran a successful campaign to fundraise for the Hutt Valley branch to continue operating in 2025, and support for the Kāpiti-Horowhenua branch led to a doubling of kit bookings in the past three months.
- Completing the pilot E2E-STEAMM programme through the Wellington E2E Centre. The programme is now being delivered to 22 students across three Wellington city schools, from year nine through to tertiary education, developing STEM-focused problem-solvers.
- Hosting Pasifika student networking events at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington and Whitireia, connecting more than 100 tertiary students with local Pasifika business owners for inspiration on their own futures.

- Creating opportunities for residents to access local training and employment through Kāpiti Coast District Council. This includes partnering with Mills Albert to develop a pilot skills hub focused on the civil construction sector, and delivering a Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs initiative which has so far reached 36 jobseekers, supported participants with driver licencing, provided work experience and training, and placed five youth into local employment.
- Delivering a second Good2Great primary sector leadership programme for 88 individuals, launching the Attract, Connect, Stay project for healthcare workers, and commencing digital fluency assessments and learning to an estimated 1,500 secondary students across the Wairarapa through the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan.
- Upskilling 70+ jobseekers on writing effective CVs and cover letters, along with wider support to help them secure a role through Business Central's Job Search Connect programme.

Significant focus will be required over the year ahead to attract sponsorships and funding towards ongoing skills initiatives as a long-term investment in our regional workforce. This includes supporting two new skill initiatives in the REDP - Girls who Grow and Tūhura Tech.



Support through the REDP has enabled House of Science to double kit bookings in Kāpiti-Horowhenua in the past three months



A student participating in the Wellington E2E Centre's STEAMM programme



Delivering a Pasifika networking series event to students at Whitireia

SECTOR

Water accessibility and security

Reliable water means security for businesses to operate and enables quality, quantity and growth of production.

The REDP elevates implementation of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRS) as a regional priority. Highlights from the past year include:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) established an interim Wairarapa Water Resilience Governance Group, comprising councils and mana whenua.
- Wairarapa Water Users Society and WellingtonNZ's Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS) team partnered to deliver three summer field trips showcasing resilient water use solutions for pasture, cropping and horticulture. The events included:
 - Craggy Range Te Muna Vineyard – water use for both frost protection and production, on-site storage, and deep drilling.
 - Turanganui Stud – lamb and beef finishing on chicory and pasture.
 - Glen Eden Farm – an intensive cropping regime including maize, squash, popcorn and clover seed.

- The WEDS team also supported Carterton District Council with securing \$1.75 million co-funding from the Kānoa Regional Strategic Partnerships Fund for the Waingawa Process Water Project. The project aims to increase water resilience in Waingawa industrial park, and enable business development to happen without further pressure on the Waingawa River or Masterton's municipal water supply.

A draft work programme has been developed by GWRC to progress implementation of the WWRS in 2024/25. The work programme provides a holistic approach encompassing all dimensions of the resilience strategy framework (capture, attenuation, allocation, adaptation, and efficiency). This is to be finalised and confirmed by all councils and mana whenua by the end of August 2024. GWRC are recruiting for a Programme Director to drive the next year of implementation.



Participants visit Craggy Range as part of the Summer Water Resilience Series

SECTOR

**Resilient
infrastructure**

The Future Development Strategy is the regional spatial plan for our Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region.

It has six strategic directions, including ensuring we have the infrastructure we need to thrive. The REDP aims to complement this by improving our productivity and economic resilience.

The REDP recognises planning to ensure sufficient land is available to support industrial developments over the next 30 years as a regional priority. Highlights from the past year include:

- Engaging with industrial businesses and landowners through workshops, interviews and an online survey to inform the industrial land study. The stakeholder engagement report is available [here](#). It identifies the significance of industrial land uses to our regional economy and the need to allow for continued growth.

- Identifying that 700 hectares of additional industrial land will be needed over the next 30 years. This is equivalent to twice the size of Seaview/Gracefield/Moera.
- Completing spatial analysis of industrial land investigation sites, including considering social and environmental aspects and interventions required to provide the land, and collecting feedback to narrow down the potential sites identified.

Once site selections are finalised, the next step will be for councils to consider undertaking district plan changes to zone land identified for industrial use.

The WRLC have an ongoing role to play in advocating for resilient infrastructure for our region and maximising the economic development benefits from such opportunities.



Cyclists in the Waiu Mountain Bike Park look out towards the Seaview industrial area.
Photo: Mark Tantrum

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN
REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

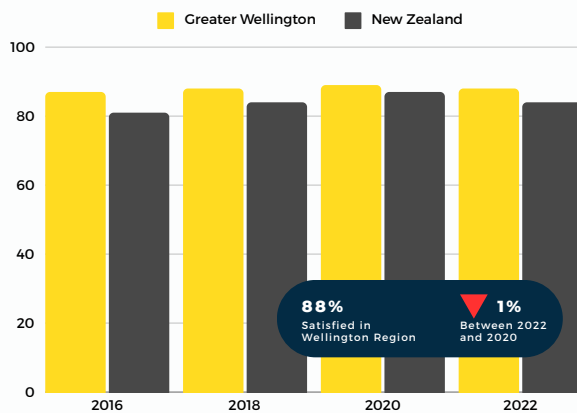
This regional snapshot is provided as an overview of our regional performance since the Regional Economic Development Plan was launched in August 2022.

One crucial measure of our regional performance is the overall satisfaction with quality of life among residents. According to the latest data, 88% of the people living in the Wellington Region reported being content with their quality of life in 2022, which is higher than the national average of 83% for New Zealanders. The Wellington Region experienced a 1% decrease since 2020, while nationally the satisfaction level dropped by 4%. These results were not evenly distributed across the region, although all remained above the national average. Respondents from Porirua indicated lowest satisfaction in the region at 84%.

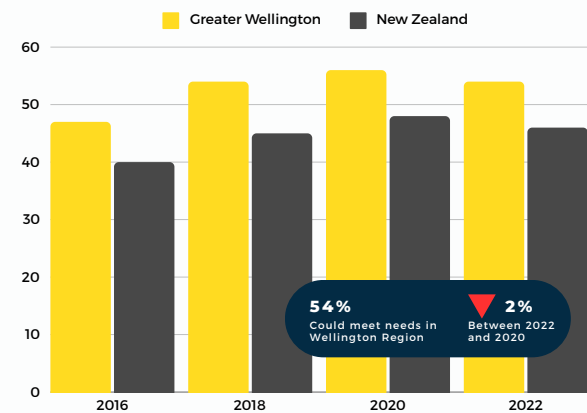
The region continues to record a low ability of income to meet everyday needs. The region experienced a 2% decrease, with only 54% of residents reporting having enough income to cover their requirements in 2022. Given the surging increase in cost of living (6.2% in the 12 months to March 2024) this trend is expected to continue. Despite these challenges, it is worth mentioning that the region maintains a strong advantage over the national averages which was 46% in 2022.

We expect the biennial quality of life measure to be updated in October 2024.

Overall Satisfaction with Quality of Life
Greater Wellington Region - excludes Horowhenua



Ability of Income to Meet Everyday Needs
Greater Wellington Region - excludes Horowhenua



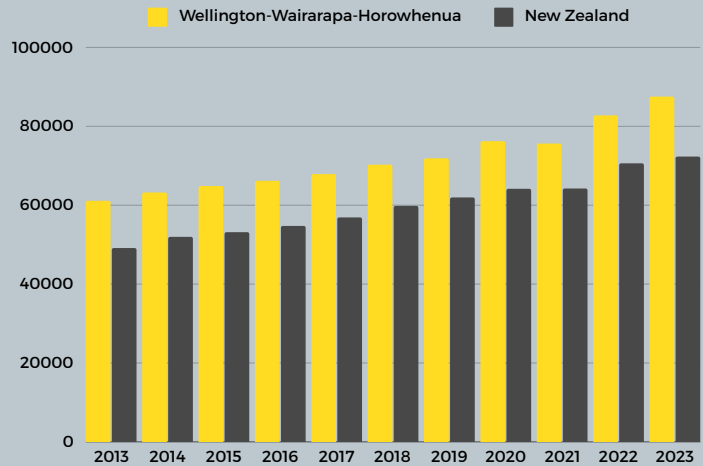
WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

GDP PER CAPITA

The region experienced a large span between for GDP per capita with Wellington city (\$146,052) the highest nationally, and Horowhenua (\$34,699) the lowest nationally. Encouragingly none of the territorial authorities within the region experienced an annual contraction of GDP per capita as 22 territorial authorities did nationally.

Despite some lower GDP per capita areas within the region, the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region maintained a competitive edge nationally with the highest regional GDP per capita.

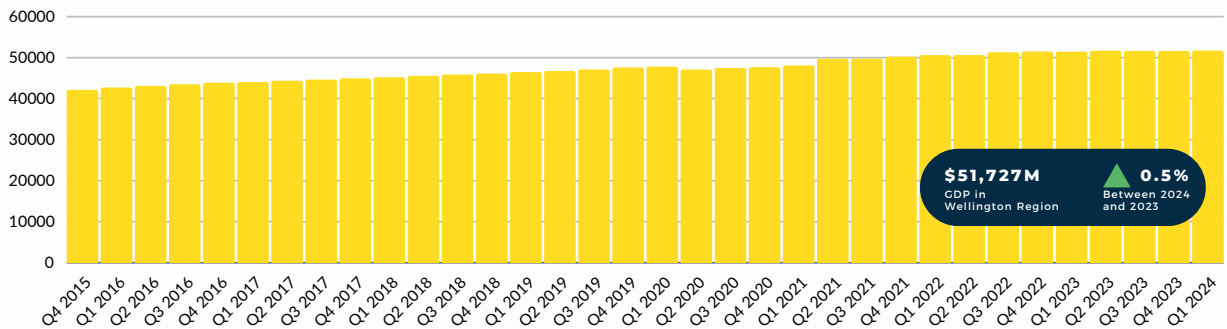
GDP per capita is reported annually. This is due to population through national population estimates being released annually in June and regional GDP figures being released annually in March.



\$87,535
GDP per capita in Wellington Region
▲ **0.4%**
Between 2023 and 2022

\$72,329
GDP per capita in New Zealand
▲ **2.4%**
Between 2023 and 2022

GDP



\$51,727M
GDP in Wellington Region
▲ **0.5%**
Between 2024 and 2023

GDP in the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua measured a total of \$51.727m in first quarter of 2024, up 0.5% between March 2023 and March 2024. National increases to GDP over the same period were 0.2%, indicating the regional economy is showing relative resilience in the face of challenging economic conditions. The regional growth also out competed other main centres in Q1 of 2024 although conditions are expected to worsen over the rest of 2024.

Growth was unevenly distributed over the March 2023 to March 2024 period, with most territorial authorities experiencing a contraction of GDP. Carterton had an annual reduction of 2.1% over the period, South Wairarapa a reduction of 1.5% and Lower Hutt City and Kapiti a 1% reduction. Wellington city had the largest increase over the period at 1.3%.

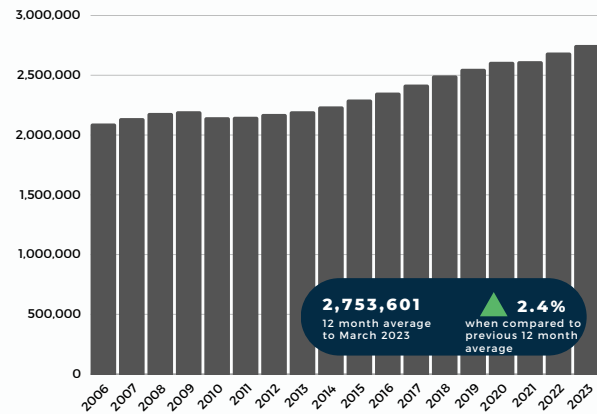
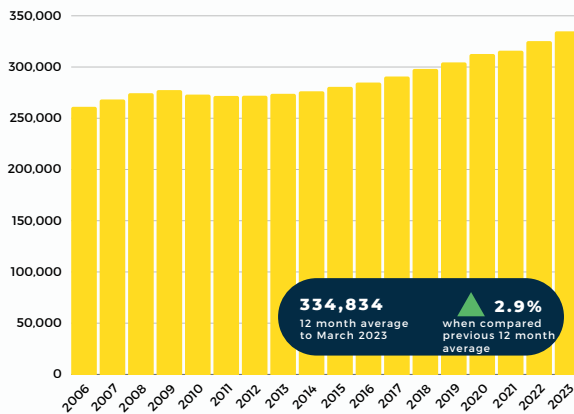
It should be noted GDP figures are provisional from Q2 2023 and are subject to revision.

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN
EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

Total Employment is an annual figure that is produced through Infometrics modelling to include both filled jobs and self-employment. This means it effectively models the total employment of the region.

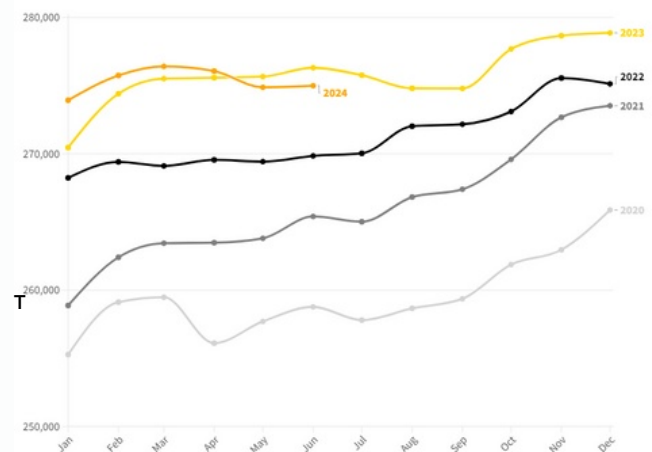


FILLED JOBS

Monthly employment indicators are a StatsNZ dataset. They only measure filled jobs, not self-employment, and therefore don't measure the total employment of the region. They remain useful as a more regular indication of trends in regional employment.

The region's labour market has been somewhat resilient so far in 2024 although May saw figures drop below the previous years figures for the same month. The number of job advertisements has also fallen. Seasonally adjusted job vacancies fell in Q1 2024 across both higher and lower-skilled jobs as labour market conditions softened.

Expectations are for the region's employment to continue to drop in the second half of 2024 as a result of public service redundancies and general business uncertainty.



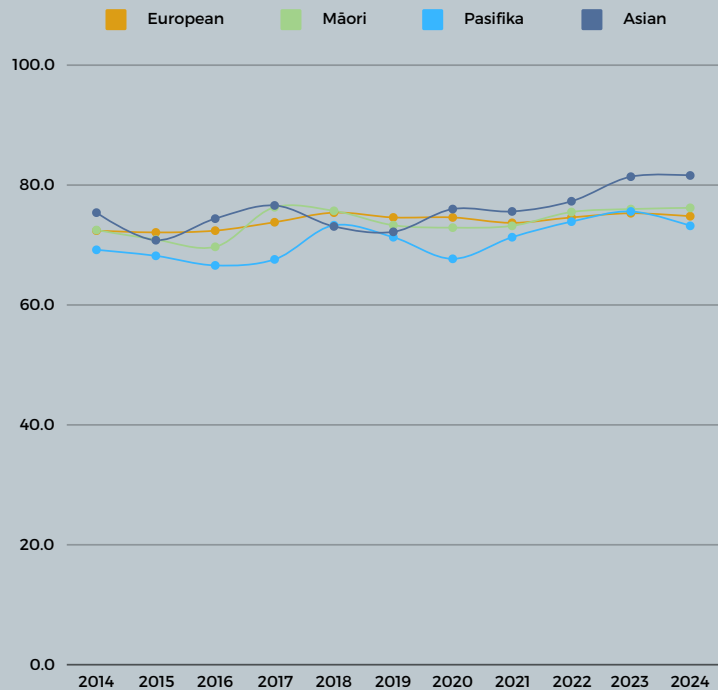
**WELLINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN
REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

The labour force participation rate is determined by dividing the total number of individuals who are employed or seeking employment by the entire working-age population.

Trends since 2020 of those of Asian ethnicity having the greatest labour force participation rate in the region continue. Those of Asian ethnicity in the region are the second largest total labour force after those of European ethnicity. Pasifika populations have experienced a fall in participation rates over the past year despite having the largest gains in the prior four years.

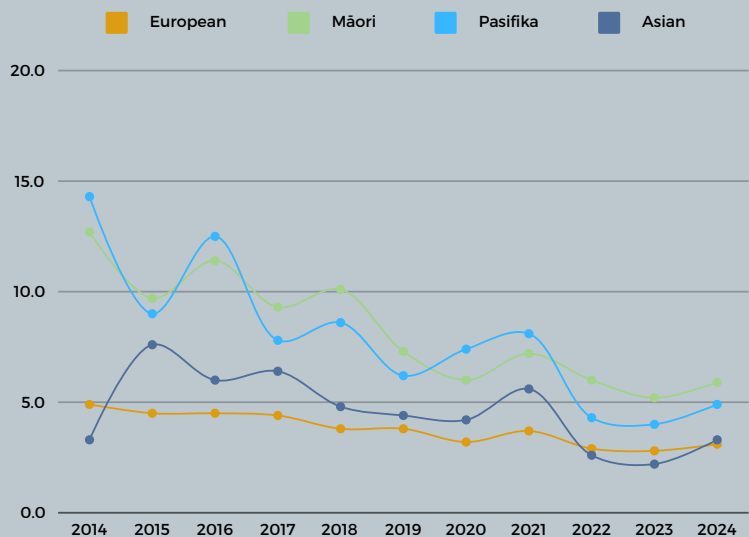
Over the last decade the total labour force has increased in the region substantially - European by 12%, Māori by 17%, Pasifika by 34%, and Asian by 122%. As we work toward creating 100,000 new decent jobs in the next 30 years, the changing demography of the labour force should be considered.



UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate measures the proportion of the workforce that is not in employment. It is measured as an average over the four quarters of each year.

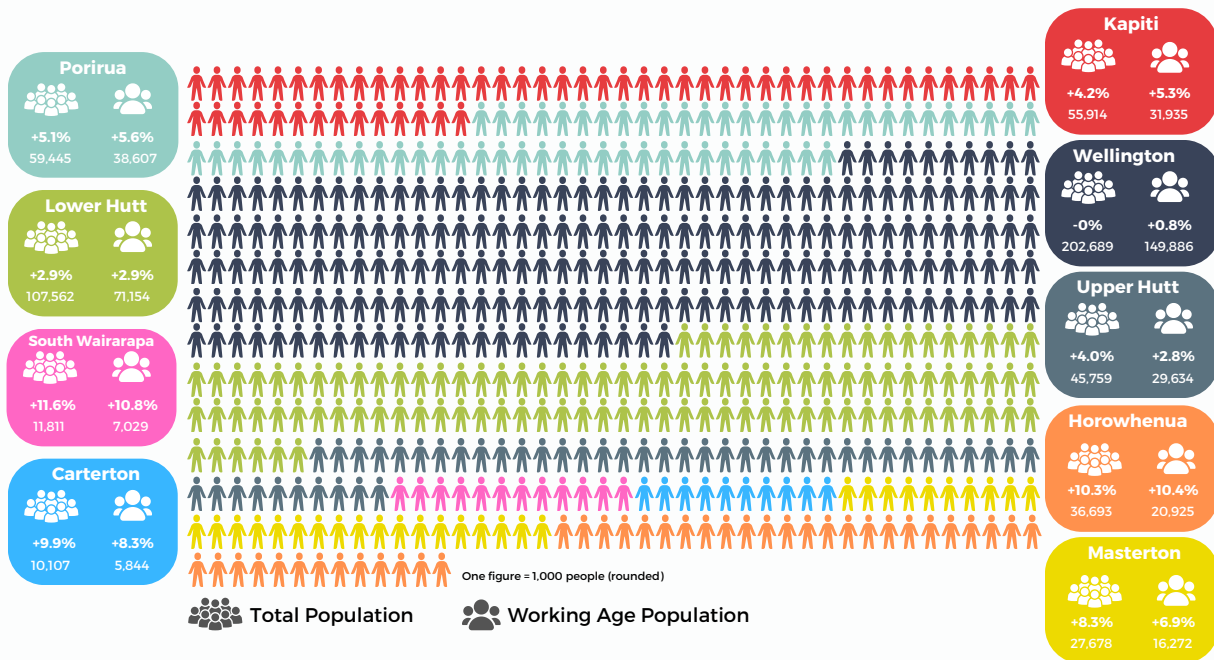
A clear year-on-year trend of dropping unemployment rates across ethnicities has occurred over the last decade. The tight employment market shows signs of loosening since the second half of 2023. This is reflected in a slight increase of unemployment across all ethnicities in 2024. Looking beyond the economic headwinds, positive signs are shown by the closing of gaps between ethnicities and their unemployment rates. Over the last decade the gap has fallen to less than 3%.



**WELLINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY LEVEL

2023 CENSUS

The Future Development Strategy is a blueprint for regional growth in the Wellington-Wairarapa-Horowhenua region over the next 30+ years and envisages a region that could accommodate another 200,000 people.



The 2023 census results started to be published in May 2024 and will continue with another release later in the year. The initial results focus on the population data obtained from the census as a lot of the other data is now obtained through administrative data means. Note with caution comparing these results with the other subnational population results used in between census as Stats NZ does not adjust census data for undercount, therefore it only provides a partial picture of population.

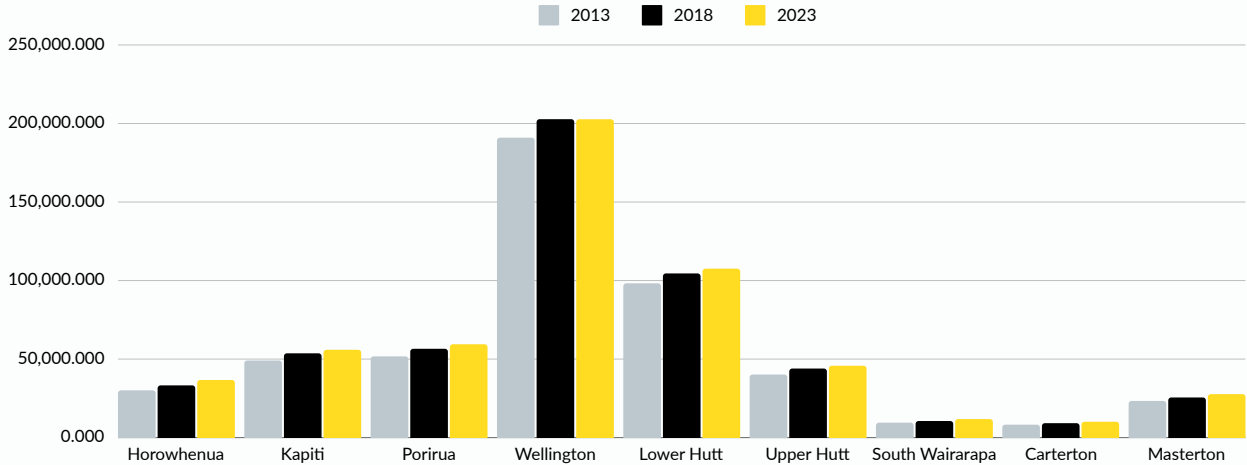
The total population recorded in the census results for Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua is 557,658, a 3.2% increase (17,856) between Census 2018 and 2023.

Wellington city was the only territorial authority in the region that experienced a population decrease over the period (48 residents). The areas that experienced the largest population growth were those geographically outlining the region - Horowhenua (10.3%) and Wairarapa (9.4%).

A change of demographic is seen across the region with the relative population increase of Māori higher than the total population increases - in some cases as much as six times higher. The Pasifika populations have flourished as well, increasing across the region at a rate higher than the average population increase in all territorial authorities excluding Kāpiti Coast.

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN
TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY LEVEL

TOTAL POPULATION

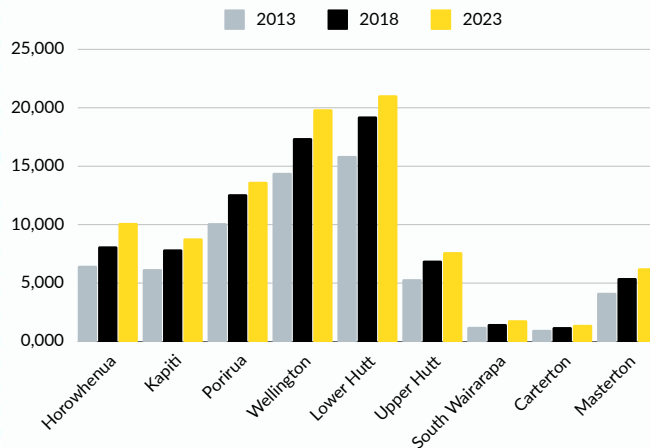


Changes in an area's population are driven by two factors: natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (arrivals minus departures). A strong regional economy with plentiful job opportunities will help our region retain its population and attract new residents from other regions and abroad.

Whilst Wellington city remains almost half of our entire regional population, it experienced the only

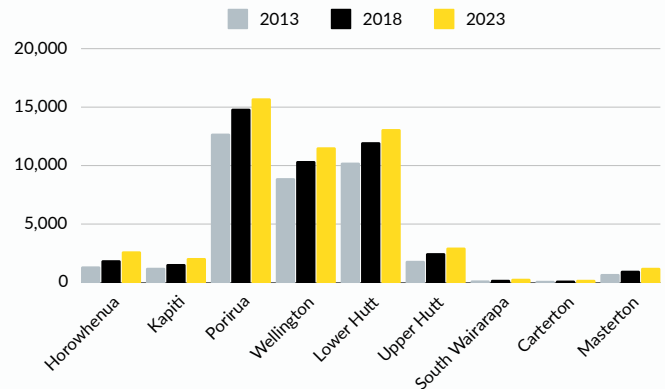
drop in population between census periods. Wellington city's drop in population is predominately driven by a recurrent negative internal migration, that is migration from Wellington city to other areas within the country. Some of this is absorbed by the region but Wellington city has the smallest portion (47%) of major centres where internal migrants stay within the region after moving out of the most populous city.

MĀORI POPULATION



All territorial authorities in our region experienced an increase in Māori population between census periods. The gap between Māori populations across the region is a lot closer, the largest population being Lower Hutt. Porirua experienced the largest percentage increase at 23%.

PASIFIKA POPULATION



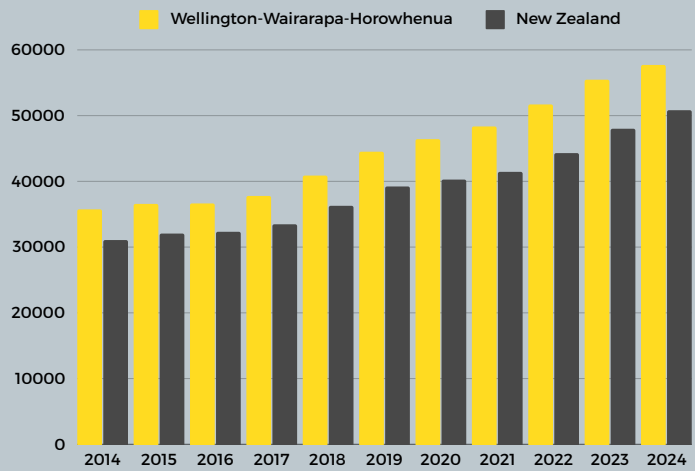
The majority of the Pasifika population within the region is focused in the central territorial authorities between Porirua, Lower Hutt and Wellington City.

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY LEVEL

PER CAPITA INCOME - NATIONAL COMPARISON

Per capita income serves as a widely used indicator of the overall living standard. It takes into account all sources of income within a household as well as the size of the household itself. In the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region, the per capita income reached \$57,708 in 2024, considerably above the national average which stood at \$50,708.

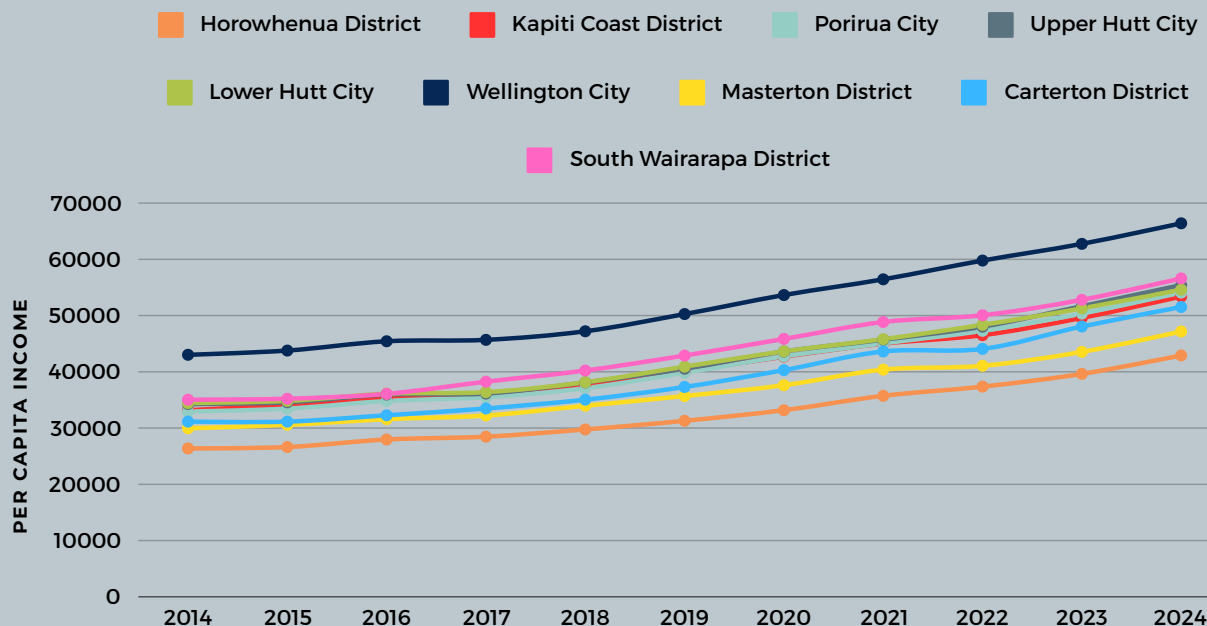
This was not universally distributed with Horowhenua (\$42,912) and Masterton (\$47,171) coming in below the national average, however both had a strong annual increase of 8.3% from the previous year as they close the gap on the national average. Wellington City had the highest per capita income in the region (\$66,405), however Wellington had the lowest annual change of the territorial authorities at 5.8%.



\$57,708
Income per capita in Wellington Region
▲ **6.7%**
Between 2024 and 2023

\$50,708
Income per capita in New Zealand
▲ **7.7%**
Between 2024 and 2023

PER CAPITA INCOME - TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY LEVEL



**WELLINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY LEVEL

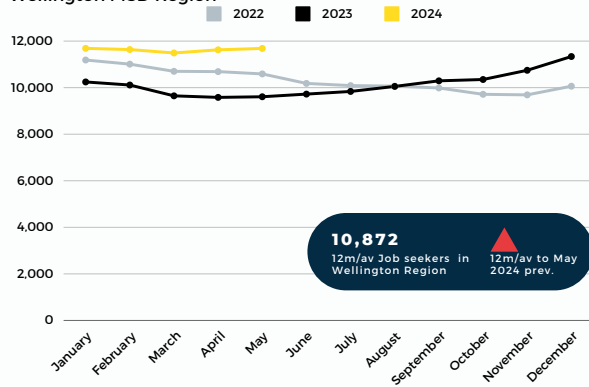
WORK-READY JOB SEEKERS - NATIONAL

The Work Ready Job Seeker benefit caters to individuals actively seeking employment or getting ready to enter the job market. It extends its support to those who can only commit to part-time work or who face temporary barriers to job searching due to health conditions, injuries, or disabilities.

Along with the job advertisements falling of work-ready jobseekers have increased nationally and in the region. Jobseeker a coming from a particularly low base due and prolonged job market meaning rises long-term historical averages.

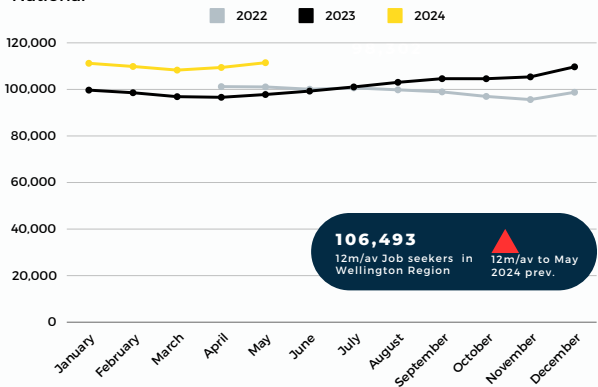
Work Ready Jobseekers

Wellington MSD Region



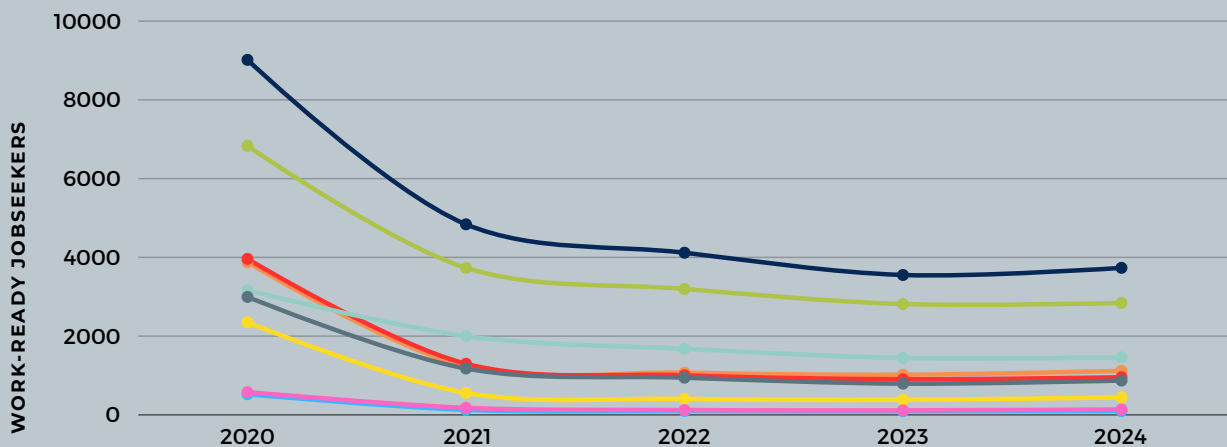
Work Ready Jobseekers

National



WORK-READY JOB SEEKERS - TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY

- Carterton District
- Horowhenua District
- Kāpiti Coast District
- Lower Hutt City
- Masterton District
- Porirua City
- South Wairarapa District
- Upper Hutt City
- Wellington City



JobSeekers | MSD Monthly Benefits | Monthly to May 2024 | Based on MSD defined Wellington Region (excludes Horowhenua)
JobSeekers | MSD Monthly Benefits | Annual - March 2024 Average | Territorial Authority level

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WellingtonNZ

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Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
1 October 2024
Report 24.530



For Decision

REGIONAL ADAPTATION PROJECT: ENDORSING THE SCOPE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (the Committee) of the proposed purpose and scope of the Regional Adaptation Project (RAP).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1 **Notes** the attached visual scoping report ([Attachment 1](#)) and the significant engagement undertaken as part of this scoping.
- 2 **Notes** that the delivery of the Regional Adaptation Plan is a critical enabler to support the intent and implementation of key regional plans, including the implementation of the Future Development Strategy.
- 3 **Notes** that the delivery of the Regional Adaptation Plan is also a critical to mobilising, supporting and undertaking locally-led adaptation planning and implementation – whether that is led by iwi or hapū Māori, councils, other entities or hāpori/communities.
- 4 **Notes** a Project Lead/Sponsor will be appointed for this work utilising the process being run by Greater Wellington with the process to include consultation with the Committee Chair and Deputy Chair.
- 5 **Approves** the scope of work and associated Regional Adaptation Plan key deliverables, including:
 - a the establishment of a new fixed-term position of Kaupapa Māori Adaptation Co-Navigator with immediate commencement
 - b the development of a regional spatial risk tool, for use by all members and in partnership with Lifelines
 - c the development of a regional adaptation framework and associated toolbox for practitioners
 - d the development of a regional communications and engagement plan.

Te horopaki

Context

2. Our changing climate is already impacting the Wellington Region-Horowhenua District. The Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment (WRCCIA) was the first phase of the RAP and has provided us with a common understanding of the potential impacts and opportunities going forward. We reported on the WRCCIA at the previous Committee meeting in June 2024 (Supporting a Regional Approach to Climate Adaptation: The Wellington Regional Climate Change Impacts Assessment – Report No. 24.277).
3. We are now in Phase 2 of this work and have completed a collaborative adaptation needs assessment informed by:
 - a over 100 meetings and site visits across our area with all nearly key partners (“the RoadListen”),
 - b key document analysis, and
 - c expert judgment.
4. The purpose of the needs assessment was to identify the necessary deliverables that would power up adaptation planning and implementation across our area. The five deliverables outlined in this report and the attachment form the key elements of the scope of the RAP.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

Proposed scope

5. As yet, adaptation planning and delivery has no legal mandate in New Zealand. However, many WRLC partners and others are already doing adaptation planning and/or delivery because it has become increasingly necessary. At the time of writing, the Parliamentary Finance and Expenditure Committee has yet to release the findings of its inquiry into adaptation - this is now due on 1 October 2024. It is likely that some form of cross-party, multi-lateral legislation will be proposed, worked up and introduced into Parliament in 2025.
6. Much adaptation planning and implementation is local. Around New Zealand at present, most adaptation planning is being led by hapū, communities, and councils. However, what has become increasingly obvious through adaptation efforts so far is the vital need to collaborate and work together. While some successful efforts have been undertaken so far, they are (more often than not) disconnected, isolated and micro-scale. The multi-party nature of this Committee provides a unique opportunity to get multi-party agreement and really ‘power up’ adaptation in our area and ultimately increase our resilience.
7. The deliverables being proposed here will:
 - a Take advantage of our collaborative leadership model and the opportunities it presents

- b Deliver outputs and tools that can't otherwise be delivered locally
 - c Increase savings and efficiency by freely sharing outputs so that they don't have to be continually re-developed at sub-regional scale
 - d Provide the necessary support for adaptation planning by partner entities and thereby building our capacity to adapt to climate change
 - e Provide clarity around roles and responsibilities, and
 - f Set a common agreement and understanding of what is required.
8. Further information on the five key deliverables is set out in [Attachment 1](#). A brief summary is provided below:

Deliverable 1 – Kaupapa Māori Co-Navigator

9. The Kaupapa Māori Co-Navigator role (or roles) was requested and designed by iwi partners who would otherwise lack capacity to meaningfully contribute. The establishment of the role is critical to enable an enduring 'braided rivers' approach to adaptation that weaves together knowledge systems, support and action. The contract role will provide foundational input into the design of all other deliverables. Alongside the current Regional Adaptation Project Lead, this role will sit side by side with hapū and iwi and build capability and capacity among those leading the adaptation work.

Deliverable 2 – Spatial Risk Tool

10. The spatial risk tool will allow bespoke interrogation of climate impacts across our area. It will help identify urgent areas for action and be a key tool in the toolkit. It will provide access for all, appropriate levels of security and sovereignty and seek to deliver multiple outcomes. A good spatial understanding of climate impacts is foundational to enable action to address risks or otherwise take advantage of opportunities.

Deliverable 3 – The Adaptation Framework

11. The Adaptation Framework will provide the 'trunk' from which adaptation planning and implementation will branch out. It will be a signed 'pact' that will set out a process for how we work together across scales, how we go about mobilising communities, revealing risk, rethinking futures and navigating change. It will include clarity around roles and responsibilities, data architecture and information sharing and provide a structure around which different tools will be identified, developed or otherwise made available in the toolkit/kete. It won't be easy, but getting agreement at the outset will ensure we can actually implement our adaptation planning initiatives and see real change.

Deliverable 4 – The Toolkit/Kete

12. The toolkit/kete will work hand in glove with the framework and provide the resources and knowhow to deal with natural hazard risks and adapt to change. It will be an online platform that provides ready access to adaptation-relevant material, artefacts and guides so that adaptation practitioners in the area can be supported to do, and lead, the work.

Deliverable 5 – Communications and Engagement Plan and Delivery

13. A communications and engagement plan will be developed to support the RAP and each of the supporting deliverables. This will identify key audiences, timings and methods to lead conversations or campaigns, support uptake of relevant deliverables and augment related conversations and community outreach where possible.

Ngā hua ahumoni**Financial implications**

14. To deliver each of the five deliverables, the RAP is working toward an estimated total budget of \$1 million, spread out over two years. This has been factored into the overall WRLC project budgets discussed at the Senior Staff Group and previously advised council budgets.
15. While detailed scoping of each deliverable has yet to be finalised, an estimated breakdown of costs per deliverable is provided here:

DELIVERABLE	ESTMATED COST (\$)
Deliverable 1 - Kaupapa Māori Co-Navigator	\$150 000
Deliverable 2 - Spatial Risk Tool	\$300 000
Deliverable 3 - Framework	\$250 000
Deliverable 4 - Toolkit/kete	\$200 000
Deliverable 5 – Communications and Engagement: Planning and Delivery	\$100 000
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$1 000 000

16. Adapting to climate change has potentially significant financial implications for decision-makers, governments, hapori and communities. However, implementation of adaptation actions is beyond the scope of the RAP and this report.

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

17. All seven iwi entities in the WRLC region have participated in the RoadListen and their comments are reflected in the deliverables and approach.
18. The RAP will take a ‘braided rivers’ approach and weave mātauranga and te ao Māori with western traditional knowledge and understanding. Holistic, whakapapa-based perspectives on climate change and managing climate impacts will strengthen any local, regional or national response.
19. The RAP will seek to strengthen relationships with Māori from the outset. Aligning iwi or hapū-led adaptation with government programmes and other community-led adaptation will provide the best chance for us to thrive in an uncertain future.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi

Consideration of climate change

20. This RAP seeks to directly address the impacts of climate change. Delivering a regional approach to adaptation will have an overall positive impact by reducing the risk from natural hazards, building capability and capacity of practitioners, communities, and businesses to identify ways to exploit any advantages.
21. With the WRLC Secretariat being hosted by Greater Wellington, the operational climate impacts of undertaking this project (e.g. electricity consumption) will be captured as part of Greater Wellington Regional Councils emissions inventory.

Ngā tikanga whakatau

Decision-making process

22. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. The unique nature of the Committee provides a robust platform and a head start in the enduring collaboration required to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Te hiranga

Significance

23. Officers considered the significance (as defined in Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, considering Greater Wellington Regional Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that the matters are of low significance at this stage.

Te whakatūtakitaki

Engagement

24. Engagement with key agencies, Tiriti partners and other interested parties has taken place over the last few months. Records have been kept and information gathered has actively driven the recommendations contained herein. Due to the low significance of the decision, community engagement is not required at this stage.
25. All matters have been discussed at WRLC Senior Staff Group meeting and WRLC CEO Group meeting in the lead-in to this meeting.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

26. Upon confirmation of the project scope, the project lead and key staff will work to finalise the detail around each deliverable, put in place practical programme and project management systems and confirm the methods for delivery. This is likely to include going out to market where in-house expertise or capacity is unavailable and to ensure timely delivery.

27. An indicative timeline has been included here as [Attachment 2](#). Note the first two deliverables are the:

- a Kaupapa Māori Co-Navigator role(s) and
- b the Spatial Risk Tool.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Regional Adaptation Project Scoping Report
2	Timeline

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Tom FitzGerald – Regional Adaptation Project Lead
Approvers	Kim Kelly – Programme Director Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i> Climate is one of the five pou of this Committee’s work programme. Considering the impacts of climate change and our response to those impacts is a critical consideration for how our region develops and thrives in the years to come.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Alignment with other key strategies and planning processes will be explored during delivery of the RAP. The RAP is aligned with and supported by the Future Development Strategy. It is expected a useful Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) system will arise out of this mahi – this will aim to keep track of how and where we are reducing risks, undertaking adaptation action and how our investment today can help avoid future costs. This will be a useful tool for organisations to monitor progress and build into their planning documents.
<i>Internal consultation</i> Information and analysis in this report has been discussed at the WRLC Senior Staff Group meeting and WRLC CEO Group meeting. Their views and feedback have been incorporated into this.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks.

REGIONAL ADAPTATION PROJECT

Phase 2: a regional approach to adaptation

Attachment 1 to Report 24.530



Left – Motuwairaka/Riversdale

Below – RiverLink Hutt Valley



What we've done: The RoadListen



Attachment 1 to Report 24.530

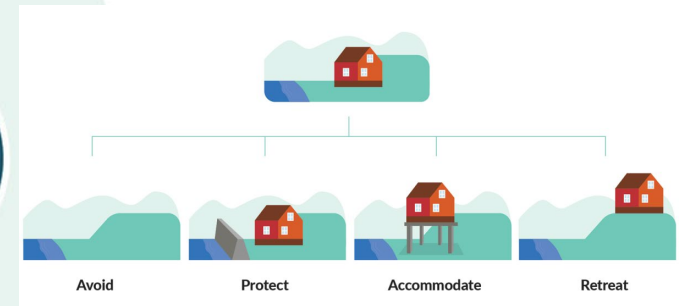
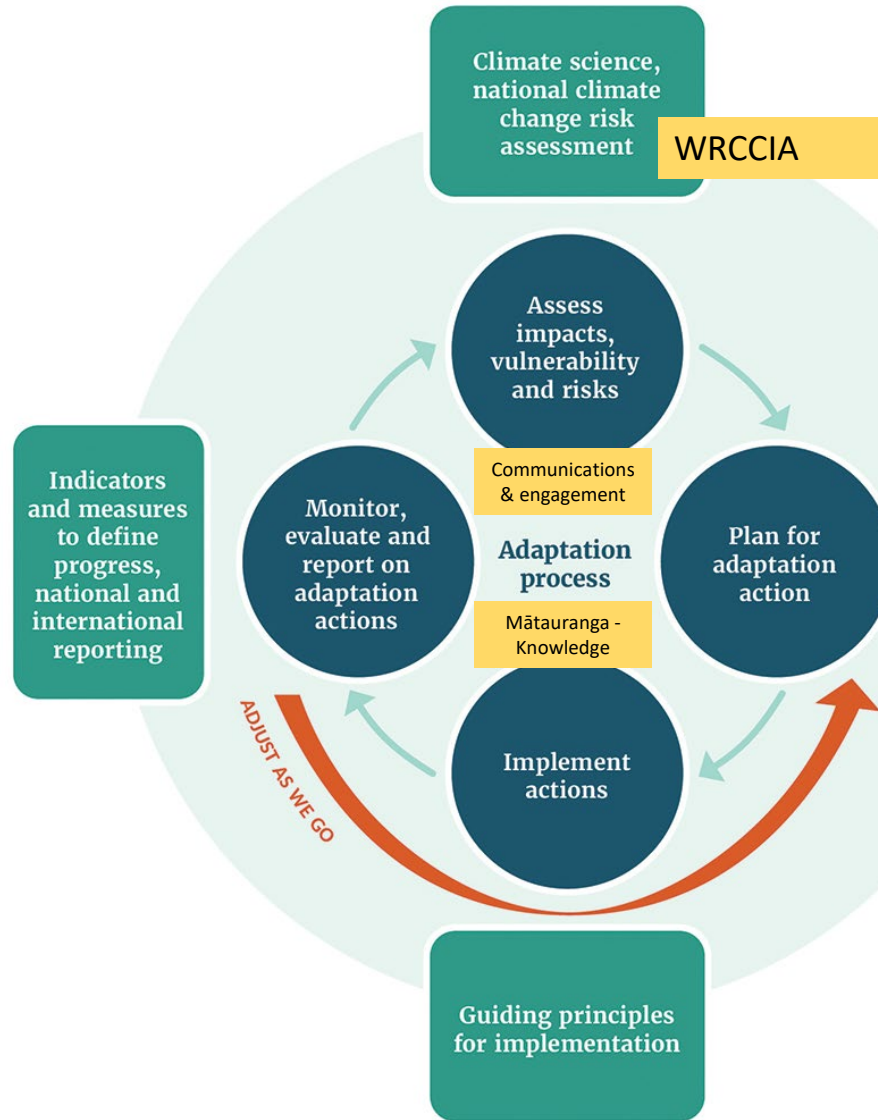
- Sought and received feedback on the RAP from multiple partners:
 - Document analysis of relevant climate strategies, plans, policies and adaptation-adjacent info
 - Summarised Wellington region responses to Climate Change Minister's request for adaptation preparedness information from local gov, central gov and CCOs under section 5ZW of the CCRA 2002.
 - Undertaken a semi-structured interview process to guide discussions in 50+ meetings, Festival for the Future
 - Established kanohi-ki-te-kanohi relationships
 - Identified opportunities, risks, visited key sites and sought new partnerships
 - Distilled and connected this information

Question 47	GW	Horizons	Horowhenua	Kāpiti	Porirua	Wellington Water	WCC	Hutt City	UHCC	SWDC + Carterton	Masterton
Which actions or resources would help your organisation to better prepare for the impacts of climate change? Tick as many as apply:											
a. More information about how climate change is projected to impact a region or a district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Guidance on how to assess and consider the impacts of climate change on your organisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Tools to help quantify impacts from climate change on your organisation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Methodology for assessing and quantifying climate change risks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Legislative requirements to consider/plan for the effects of climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Legislative requirements to publicly report on your organisation's climate risks and adaptation plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Opportunities to engage and learn from others	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Training to develop skills/capabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Improved and centralised data repository eg, flooding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Good practice guides, benchmarking and assessment tools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k. Funding to implement a strategy and deliver on-the-ground adaptation actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Example WRLC responses to MfE adaptation survey

What is adaptation?

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL)



“If we prepare well, we can give ourselves a fighting chance to preserve some of the best of what we have, build stronger and fairer communities, find a path through the escalating pressures of a warming world – and even find new ways to flourish”

- Hamilton and Wilkenfield, **Living Hot**, 2024

Current state: We're adapting already



Attachment 1 to Report 24.530

We are doing a lot of adaptation already....

...but it's patchy, inconsistent, narrow, often disconnected and largely invisible

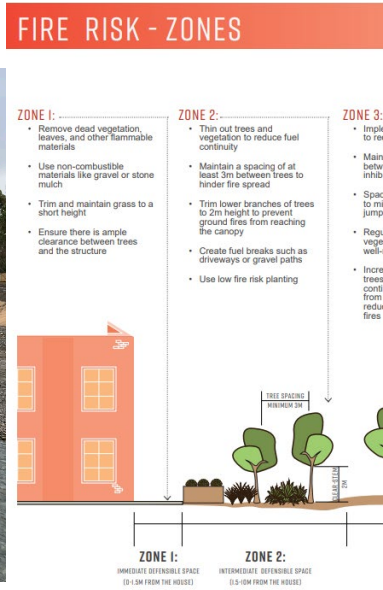
Wairarapa
WATER RESILIENCE

Takutai Kāpiti.
OUR COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT

↓

Coastal

Too much-too little water



Fire

Planning for Climate Change Impacts on Māori Coastal Ecosystems and Economies:



A Case Study of
5 Māori-owned land blocks in the
Horowhenua Coastal Zone

Current state: We're adapting already



Attachment 1 to Report 24.530

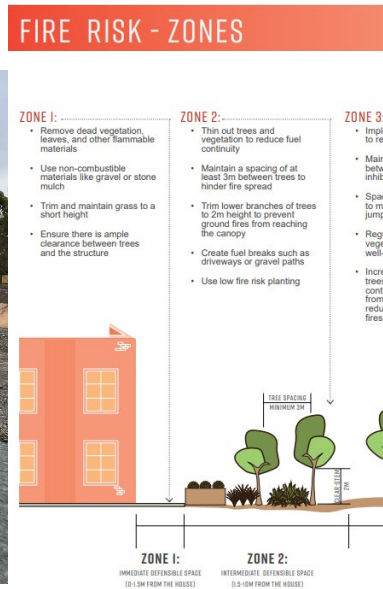
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OUR COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT

Coastal

Too much-too little water



Fire

Planning for Climate Change Impacts on Māori Coastal Ecosystems and Economies:

Regional Food System Plan: Phase One Report
Stakeholder/ Partner Engagement, Data and Baseline Information for Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua Region

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora
Capital, Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa

A Case Study of 5 Māori-owned land blocks in the Horowhenua Coastal Zone

Reflecting Iwi aspirations

Rauora: A climate change framework

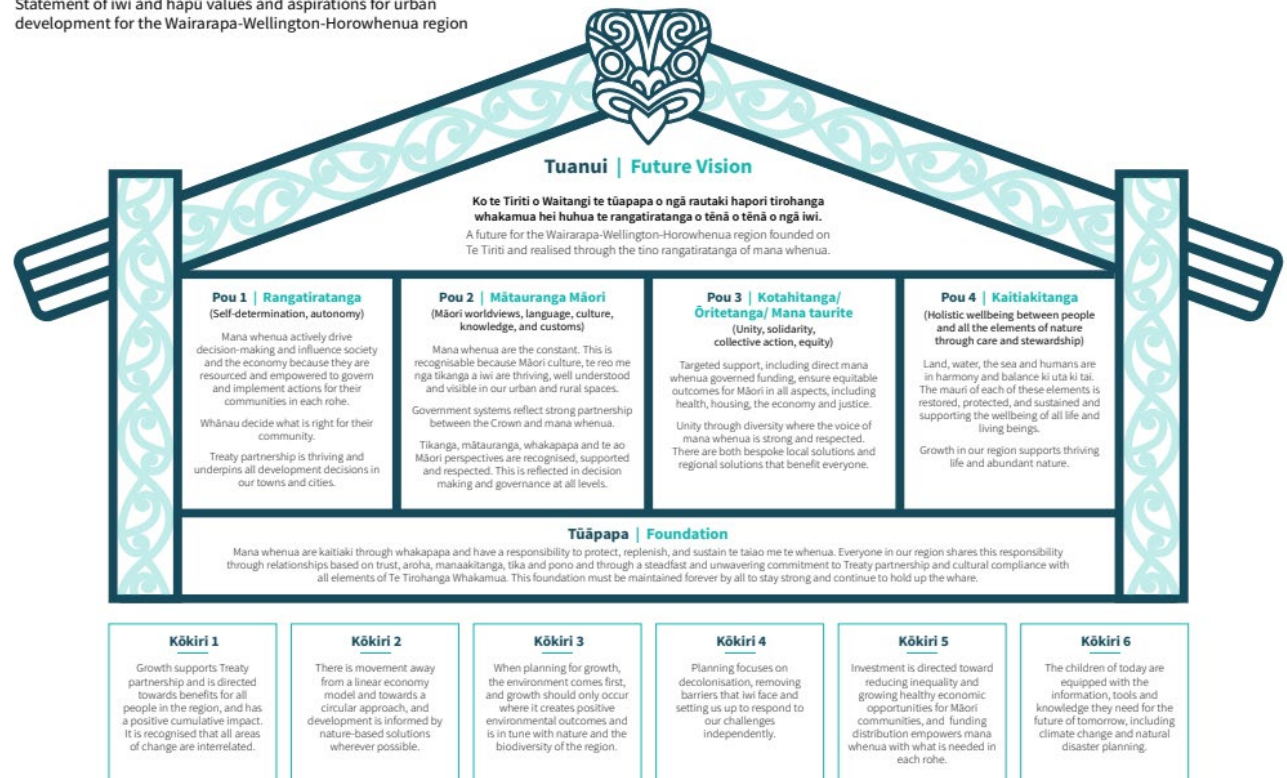
Toitū te mana atua, toitū te mana whenua, mana moana, te mana o te ao tūroa

Transformative change	Principle of abundance	Principle of wholism	
	Principle of collectivity	Principle of interconnectedness	
	Principle of balance	Principle of intergenerational equity	
	Transformative actions and processes that build resilience		
Whenua ora	Tāngata ora	Kawa ora	Mauri ora
Just transition: Adaptation and emissions reduction			
Indigenous climate approaches	Manaaki mātauranga Māori	Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Hoki whenua mai
	Accelerate ecological restoration	Localised investments, production and consumption	Whakapiki oranga o te wai ki uta, ki tai
Climate characteristics	Increasing Climate risk is increasing at a rapid rate, which will significantly impact hapū/iwi.	Systemic The principle of inter-connectedness. Systems are interconnected. Impacts will cascade across all aspects of society, including financial systems.	
	Under-preparedness Pace and scale of adaptation and emissions reduction needs to increase urgently. Early investment is required to prepare. Hapū and iwi generally need to be supported to advance climate action.	Spatial Regional climate risks need to be understood in relation to geographically defined areas. There are variations between and within regions. A one-size-fits-all approach does not address the variation that occurs.	
	Non-linear Climate actions need to take account of the uneven ways in which impacts occur. Climate planning and actions need to be agile and pivot as changes occur.	Regressive The poorest communities and populations are most vulnerable, creating spatial inequalities. Climate actions should not further exacerbate inequalities.	
	Non-stationary Physical climate risks will constantly change and are non-stationary. Warming is 'locked in' for the next decade because of physical inertia in the geophysical system. Hapū/iwi land, assets and cultural sites are highly likely to be in places that will bear the brunt of climate disruption (coastal regions, rural isolated communities, rivers prone to flooding, urban diaspora).		

Our approach must enable and support adaptation for Māori, by Attachment 1 to Report 24.530 Māori and be Interconnected – holistic

Te Tirohanga Whakamua

Statement of iwi and hapū values and aspirations for urban development for the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region



What we heard: the needs

Common challenges, gaps, observations and opportunities...

- **Strategic** – adaptation planning is occurring already/will be occurring at the local level
- **Connection** is critical – across departments, orgs., whakapapa – links between local/hapori adaptation strategies and other plans
- **Scalable** - ability to work across scales – regional, local, household, asset, value
- **Consistency** – information and data architecture and standards, common climate change scenarios, terminology (e.g. resilience vs adaptation),
- **Holistic** - Develop/refine regionally specific Te Ao Māori framework
- **Lack of capacity** – need for shared resources (2 FTE + engagement) – build adaptive capacity, promote \$ efficiency
- **Spatial** risk analysis capability, place-based adaptation planning
- **Comms and engagement** capability
- Develop Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning tool (**MERL**) – can't adapt if we are not monitoring
- **Shared collateral** – templates, comms, adaptation options and costings etc improved \$ efficiency
- Tackling **big issues** - regional agreement on methods for funding and financing adaptation implementation
- Identify links with **CDEM**, especially risk reduction and recovery
- Often too negative, **reframe** and look to **use existing processes** e.g. community development planning

A regional approach needed

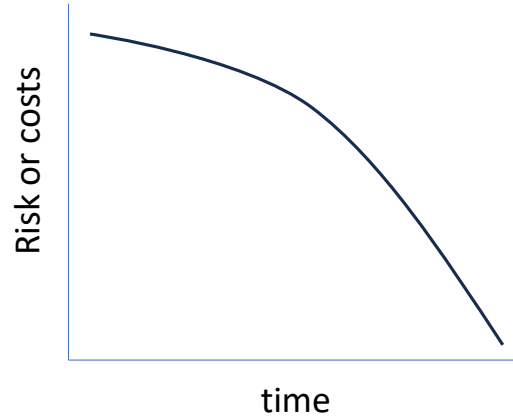
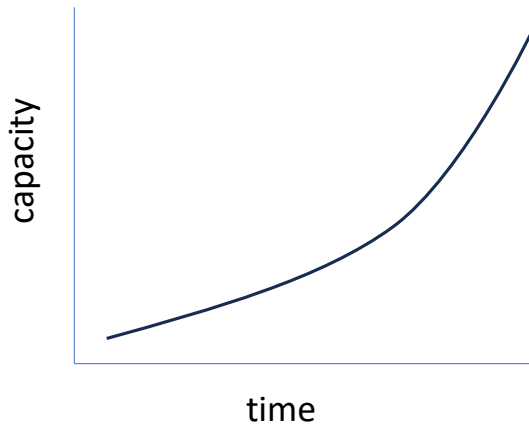
...a regional approach to adaptation will be critical and offers a unique opportunity to increase our collective resilience and adaptive capacity

WHY?

- Climate impacts and adaptation mahi crosses boundaries, spans organisations and hits differently over space and time
- Consistent data and information to inform decision-making at the right scale
- Many actions taken at a regional level can leverage the collective and realise efficiencies
- Enables clear links with Future Development Strategy - land use and infrastructure planning – and local adaptation initiatives
- Potential to leverage new partnerships and investment

Vision: The future state

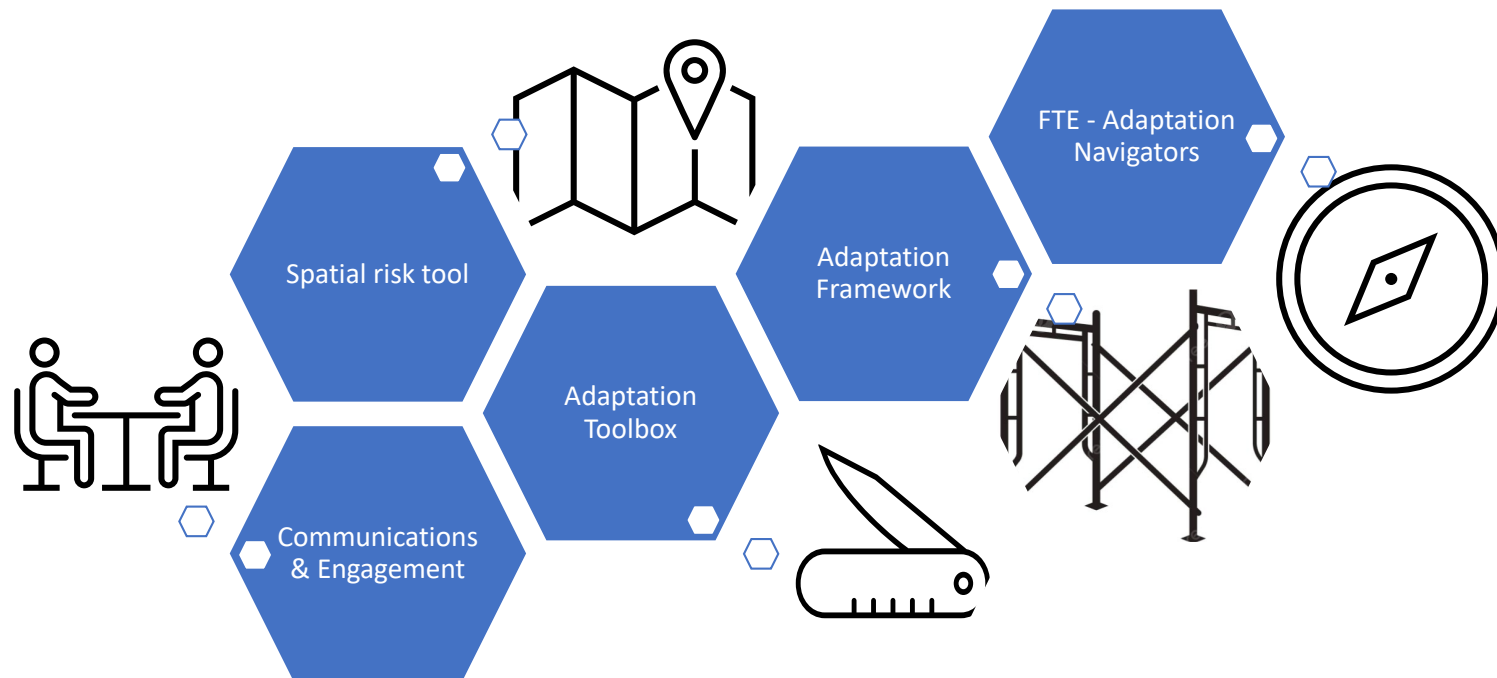
- Increased capacity across the region – build knowledge, awareness and increase agency
- Consistent data, information and knowledge base to inform decisions
- Collective understanding of challenges and opportunities
- Connected system and decisions
- Better use of scarce resources
- MERL - Continuous learning

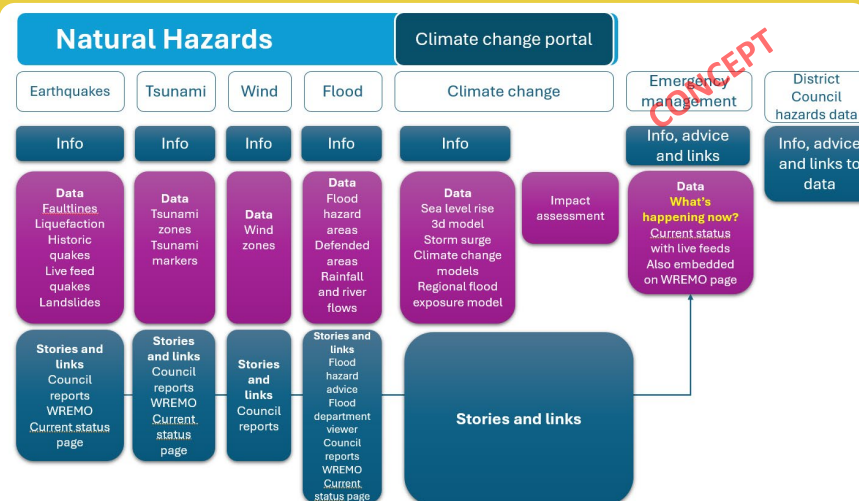


= MORE EFFICIENCY
= LESS RISK
= BETTER DECISIONS

**→ THRIVING TAIAO
and COMMUNITIES**

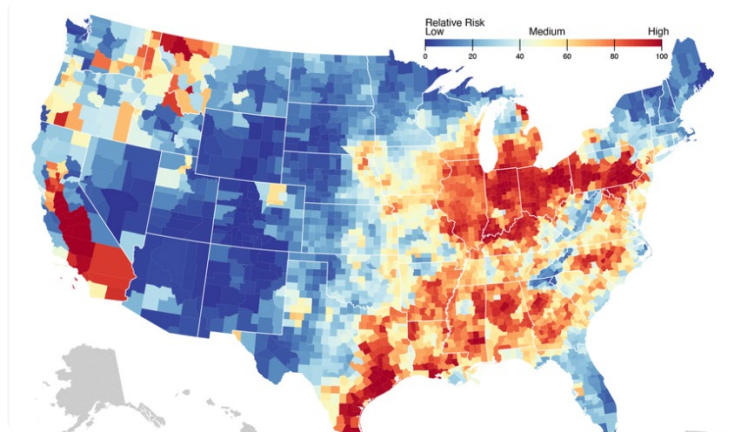
Deliverables





Spatial risk explorer

- *Currently multiple disparate tools, using the same data with overlapping functions*
- New SHARED, ACCESSIBLE spatial hazard risk tool to act as foundation for adaptation planning
- Tied in with Lifelines Groups Resilience Project + PCC + WCC adaptation mahi
- Builds on significant volumes of data collated and created as part of WRCCIA
- Can include new climate projections and other updated data and meet multiple needs e.g. natural hazards & LIM.
- Provides for adaptation decision-support – key part of TOOLBOX
- Embeds consistent data architecture – scalable



(A) Spatial Risk Methodology Overview



Evaluate **Hazard** Information

Quantitative Assessment



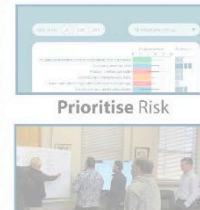
Assess **Exposure**



Assess **Vulnerability**



Assess **Indirect, Cascading, & Cumulative Risk**



Prioritise Risk



Engage Stakeholders

Enable Informed Decisions

Take the information we have about hazards in the region.

Add the information we have of the places and things we care about and rely upon to understand what is exposed.

Look at the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of assets to understand what is most vulnerable.

Model the [inter] dependencies between infrastructure networks and their end users to understand who will be indirectly impacted by direct, cascading, or cumulative risk.

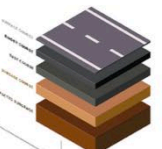
Informed Qualitative Assessment

Provide councils, communities, iwi & stakeholders the information required to make effective adaptation decisions.

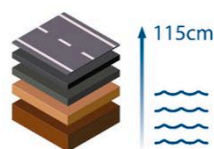
(B) Vulnerability Methodology Overview



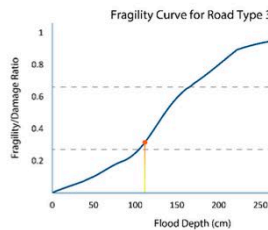
Identify **Assets & Locations of Interest**



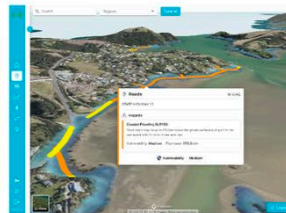
Evaluate Asset **Characteristics**



Assess **Exposure**



Assess **Vulnerability**



Risk Communication

Identify the assets, people, and places that we care about.

Integrate our knowledge of the asset or location in question to better understand how it may react to a hazard.

Evaluate the level or intensity of exposure (e.g. flood depth) that the asset may receive in a given hazard scenario.

Utilise international literature and expert information to assess the vulnerability of the asset in question. This is usually done with fragility curves or pre-determined exposure thresholds. Fragility curves are a function of the exposure intensity and the characteristics of an asset. The output of a fragility function describes the probability of exceeding a certain damage state or vulnerability.

Communicate the results to inform stakeholders and staff.

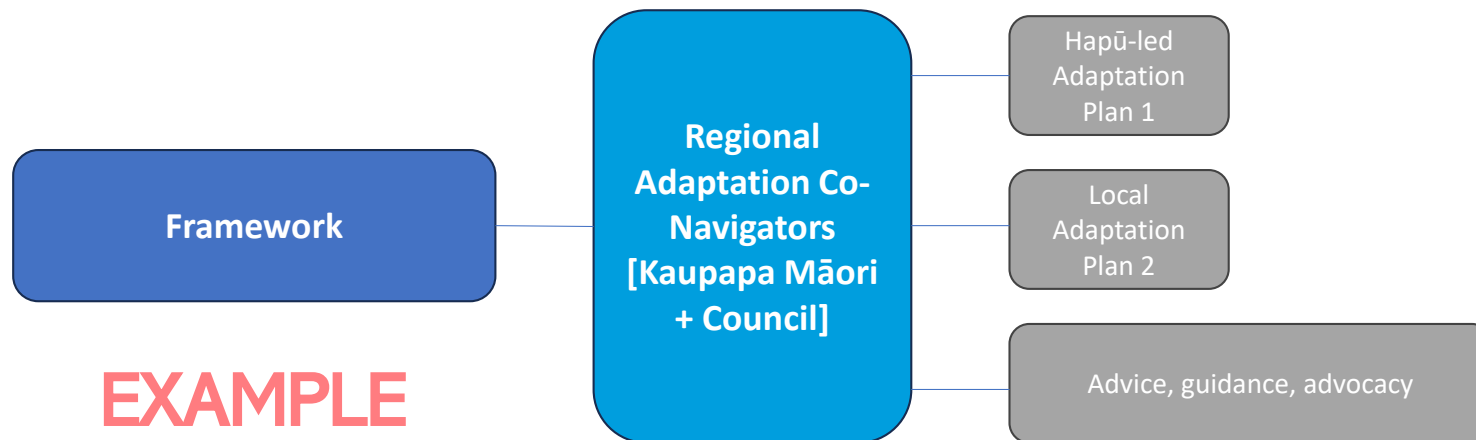


Attachment 1 to Report 24.530

CONCEPTUAL

FTE: 2x Adaptation Co-Navigators

- Shared resourcing provides an opportunity to build capability within this space and positively impact our collective capacity to navigate an uncertain future
- Support, guidance, advice, peer review and relationships can be provided
- Efficiencies and improved ‘bang for buck’
- Co-design built into the regional approach to adaptation from the beginning
- Reflects Te Tiriti across partnership – on-ground to governance
- Empowers communities and builds Community of Practice



Adaptation Framework & Toolbox



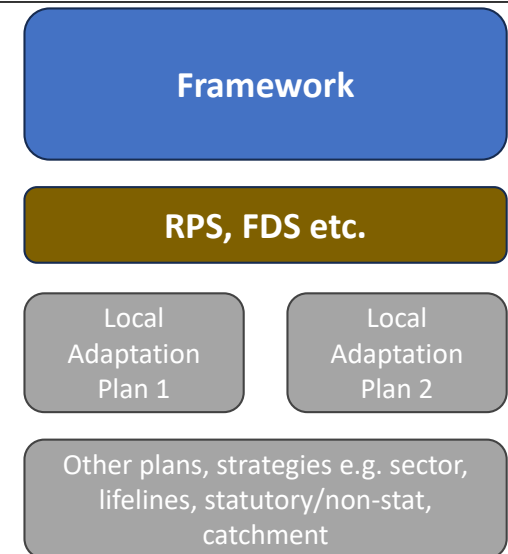
Attachment 1 to Report 24.530

- Development of a new **FRAMEWORK** is required – supports structured, flexible local adaptation planning
- Includes joint statement of intent, partnership and commitment e.g. roles and responsibilities, common foundations
- Provides a mechanism for connecting
- Reflects and operationalises Te Tiriti partnership

- Supported by a **TOOLBOX** – collating and leveraging what’s worked, learning from what hasn’t and developing new supports
- Needs to be online and accessible to all practitioners (even those who don’t yet identify as practitioners)

1 st Order (least detailed)	National Adaptation Plan	Data and information relevant for national-level decision-making
2 nd Order	Regionally significant adaptation	e.g. Lifelines, big rivers
3 rd Order	Local Adaptation Plan	e.g. TLAs, neighbourhood data
4 th Order (most detailed)	Asset Management, Household	

Table 1 broad conceptual model of adaptation data architecture, how it needs to work across scales and how it must relate directly to the decisions being made.



EXAMPLE

So what's in them?

What's in the TOOLBOX?

- A common set of climate scenarios to test policy and plans against
- Data standards and architecture e.g. flood models, building type/asset fragility
- New hazard info e.g. climate-driven landslides regionally, coastal erosion, downscaled AR6 climate variables and district summaries
- New ecosystem, social, cultural knowledge (where appropriate)
- Cascading risks + engagement
- Engagement collateral e.g. serious games, education
- Local Risk Assessment method & templates (including prioritization criteria)
- Local Adaptation Plan method & templates

What needs to be in the FRAMEWORK?

- Relationship between regional-local hazard risk assessment and adaptation planning e.g. Local Adaptation Planning
- Legislative components and linkages e.g. LTP and infrastructure, RLTP, rivers, RMA, urban development, water resilience
- A commitment to use common set of climate scenarios
- Data standards and architecture e.g. flood models
- Governance risks
- Adaptation relevant knowledge strategy e.g. what new information do we need?
- MERL – agreed indicators, reporting and feedback loops

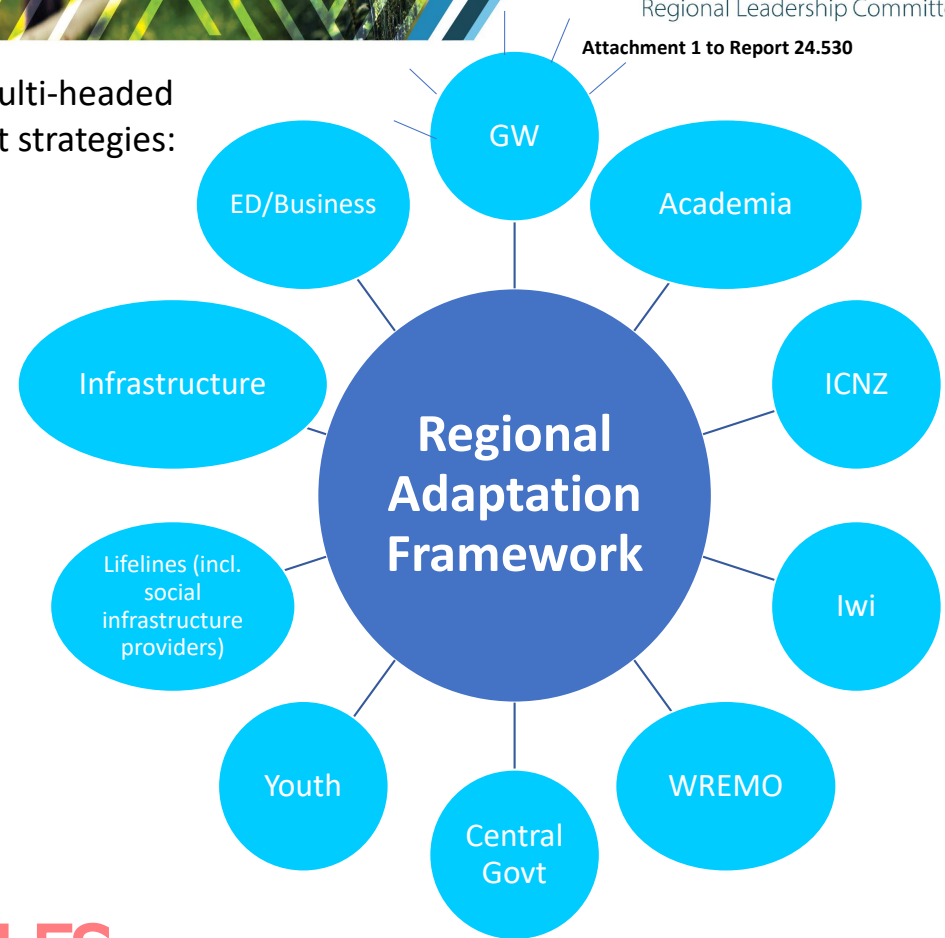
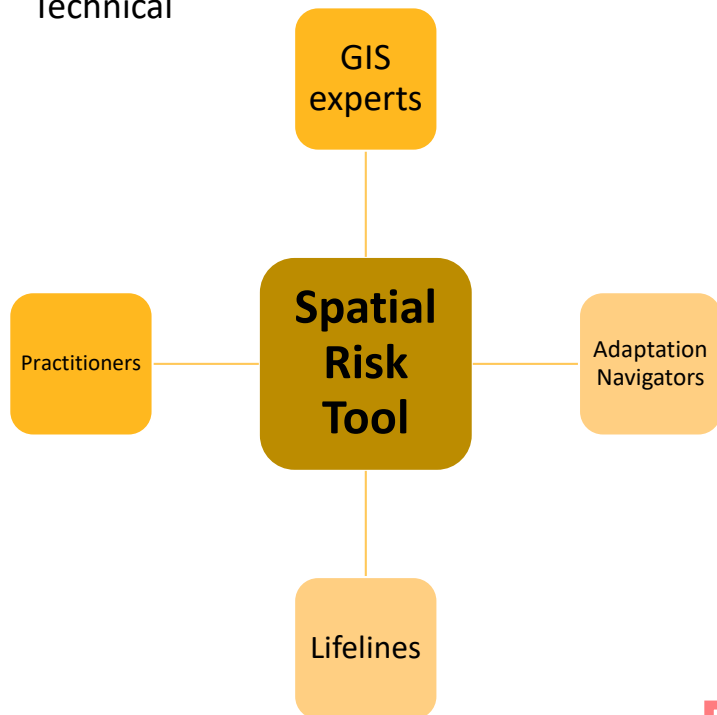
Communications and Engagement

- Good comms and engagement is central to any adaptation mahi – it can make or break
- Develop a **regional communications and engagement plan** including:
 - Foundational/common principles across the region, acknowledging bespoke, culturally and socially relevant approaches needed at local level
 - Identify key tactics to support adaptation planning at local scale e.g. campaign, channels, juries, fora etc.
 - Identify relevant timing and key decision points e.g. new LIM requirements, data publication
 - Identify stakeholders, milestones, key messages
 - Identify key risks, opportunities and mitigations
 - Establish appropriate project governance for key deliverables
 - Seek new opportunities for raising awareness, participation and education e.g. CoastSnap, games
 - Embed adaptation in positive narrative
- **Undertake delivery:**
 - Produce shared collateral to support adaptation planning (toolbox)
 - Develop replicable engagement methods and activities
 - Support engagement around the region
 - Push out and coordinate relevant comms

Indicative Project Governance

Project governance will be set up, will be multi-layered and multi-headed and worked through in detailed project plans and engagement strategies:

- Governance (using existing where appropriate)
- Technical

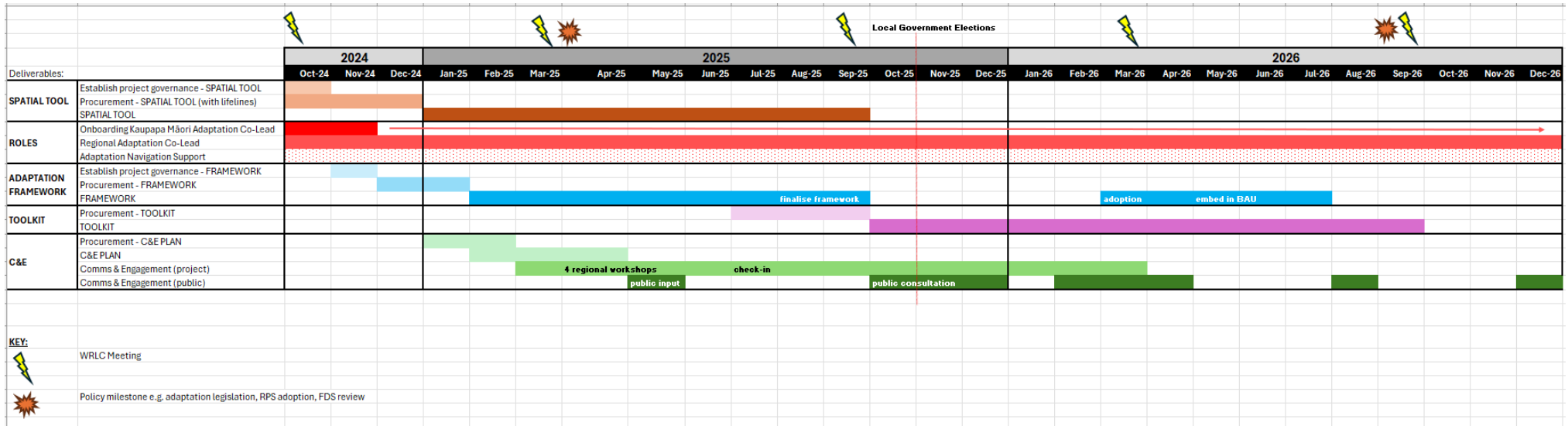


EXAMPLES

Timing



Attachment 1 to Report 24.530



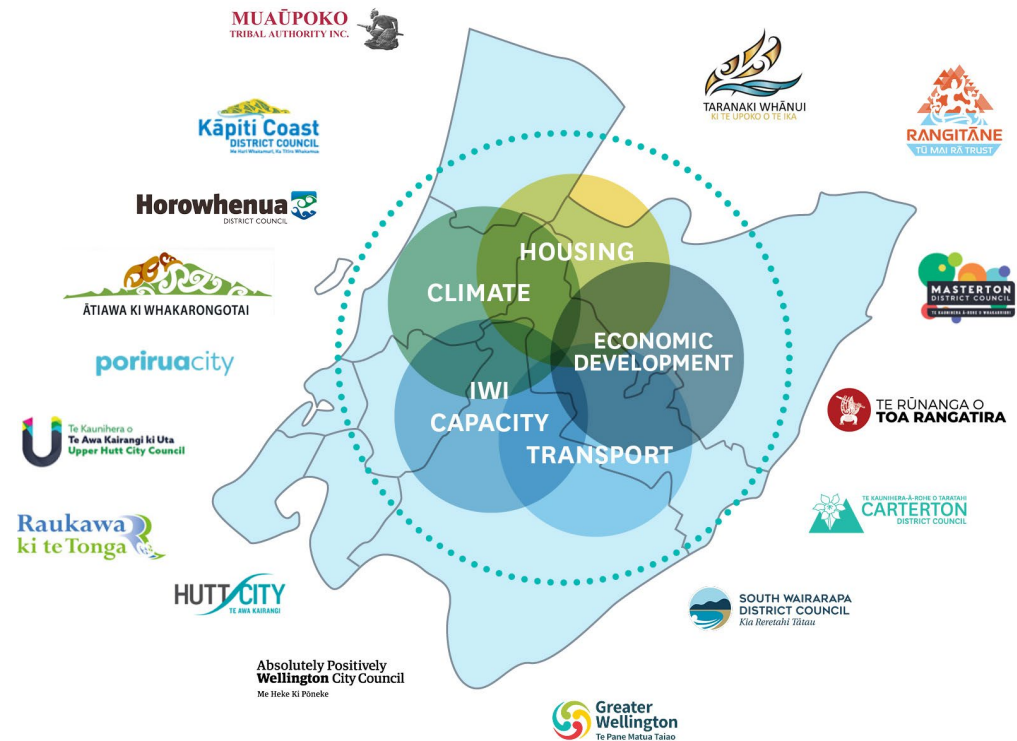
*See enclosed spreadsheet

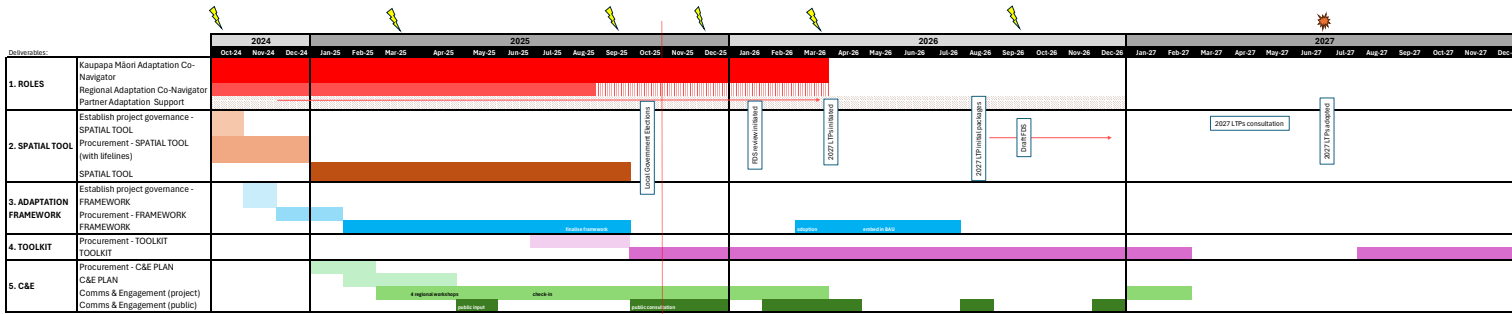
Conclusions



Attachment 1 to Report 24.530

- There is much adaptation already happening
- Central government policy development (1) and inquiry (2) poses both risks and opportunities
- Adaptation is local BUT occurs as part of a system.
- Actions are interconnected – there is a need for regional framework
- Te Ao Māori approach offers a unique perspective and a way to connect
- Adaptation practice in NZ and Wellington is emergent
- Framework needs to be enabling – supported by toolbox, ‘how to’ guides and underpinned by learning
- Shared resources offer efficiencies, collective learning and a united front
- Adaptation is ongoing, and ultimately needs to be embedded in a new ‘BAU’ – change management is required
- Engagement, participation, education and innovation are critical





KEY
 WRLC Meeting

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
1 October 2024
Report 24.479



For Decision

REGIONAL DEAL UPDATE – OCTOBER 2024

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (the Committee) on:
 - a Regional Deal activity
 - b the National Infrastructure Plan
 - c the Infrastructure Priorities Programme.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1 **Notes** the progress on Regional Deals at the national level since the Committee’s last meeting.
- 2 **Agrees** with regards to a Regional Deal:
 - a A Project Lead/Sponsor and Project Manager be appointed for this work now as a preparatory measure, utilising the process being run by Greater Wellington with the process to include consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee.
 - b What work, if any, the Committee would want done on the Regional Deal between now and its next formal meeting in March 2025.
- 3 **Agrees** to develop a set of regionally important projects/proposals for submission to the Infrastructure Priorities Programme, noting that applications will then be made by each relevant organisation.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. At its meeting of 4 June 2024, the Committee agreed that one of the items on its work programme for 2024/2025 was “Regional Deal (framing and joint development work with Government)”.
3. This decision followed exploratory work that had previously been undertaken by the Committee in early 2024 and the Regional Deal project being highlighted as a focus for the Committee in the health check.

4. Since the 4 June 2024 meeting, the Government has released its package on Regional Deals and this report is to provide an update on that.
5. In addition, the Government has released information on the development of a National Infrastructure Plan, and along with this work, the Infrastructure Priorities Programme, which will align with Regional Deals.
6. Information on what the Infrastructure Priorities Programme is and a possible way forward for the Committee is outlined in this report.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

Regional Deal update

7. On 22 August 2024, the Minister of Local Government announced the release of the Strategic Framework for Regional Deals (the Strategic Framework) – see **Attachment 1**.
8. Regional deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure. They will promote economic growth and productivity, deliver connected and resilient infrastructure, and improve the supply of affordable, quality housing.
9. The Strategic Framework ([Attachment 1](#)) sets out how central government, councils, and relevant private sector entities will work together to deliver regional deals. [Attachment 1](#) provides an overview of the New Zealand regional deals model, as well as setting out the Government’s expectations for the deals and criteria for selecting regions for deals.
10. Expressions of interest will be assessed against several criteria:
 - a Alignment with the strategic framework
 - b Growth potential
 - c Commitment to a regional spatial plan
 - d Capability
 - e Capacity
 - f Readiness to deliver and
 - g The commitment of council to fiscal prudence and meeting regulatory standards (including economic and water quality regulation).
11. The process will start with an invitation-only expression of interest process for up to five regions, with the aim of agreeing deals by the end of 2025.
12. Whilst not publicly confirmed media note that the five areas have been suggested as: - Northland, Tauranga/Western Bay of Plenty, the South Island’s West Coast, Queenstown/Central Otago, and Auckland.
13. Whilst the WRLC region is not in the first tranche it clearly already has some of the aspects highlighted in paragraph 10 a-g above in terms of preparedness.

Regional Deals Project Lead/Sponsor and Project Manager

14. This region is not in the first tranche of regions for a regional deal but given the timeframe before the next Committees (March 2025), it is suggested that, as a preparatory measure, a Project Lead/Sponsor and a Project Manager be appointed in the interim.
15. Greater Wellington is currently running a process to find a Project Lead/Sponsor and a Project Manager for each of the projects agreed by the Committee in its work programme, where one does not currently exist.

In summary terms:

16. The Project Lead/Sponsor, would provide project guidance and will be responsible for the overall success of this project.
17. The Project Manager would lead the work of a regional deal, pull all the parties together, pull together the content of a deal and hire/manage resources need to complete the work.
18. It is not clear at the time of writing if one or more people/organisations will put their names/organisations forward for these roles for the regional deal work. Once this is clear, it is recommended that the Committee Chair and Deputy Chair be consulted before the final people/organisations are confirmed into these positions.

Infrastructure Priorities Programme

19. On 28 August 2024 the Government made announcements regarding a National Infrastructure Plan. The Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) will be undertaken to help inform the National Infrastructure Plan. [Attachment 2](#) provides a briefing note on the IPP and [Attachment 3](#) is the Cabinet paper on the National Infrastructure Plan and IPP.
20. The Cabinet paper noted those projects/proposals that are approved through the IPP process will be included in the National infrastructure Plan and this will be used to inform Regional Deals although any deals will not be approved through the development of the National Infrastructure Plan.
21. The Infrastructure Commission has advised it would be interested in engaging with the Committee for the National Infrastructure Plan as a whole and on the Infrastructure Priorities Programme workstream within that. No action has been taken on this yet.

A regional approach moving forward.

Regional Deal

22. Whilst not in the first tranche of Regional Deals it would be prudent for the Committee to agree two key aspects now so the region is ready to respond when needed.
23. The key two aspects are:
 - a What work, if any does the Committee want done on the Regional Deal between now and its next formal meeting in March 2025?
 - b Who it wants to appoint as Project Sponsor/Lead for this work.

24. It would be efficient to identify people/organisations for the Project Sponsor/Lead and Project Manager roles sooner rather than later, particularly as the Committee only has two formal meetings each year now. These people can commence thinking about how the Regional Deal work should be progressed under the instruction of the Committee.
25. A Project Sponsor/Lead and Project Manager could come from the same organisation/place or different places.

Infrastructure Priorities Programme

26. It would be useful to:
 - a Have regional agreement on what projects/proposals are important to align with the Committee's Future Development Strategy and Regional Economic Development Plan.
 - b Then each relevant organisations (be it local government, iwi and/or private sector) then submit their proposals in line with this agreement, noting it has been identified as a regional proposal.
27. A recommendation for the Committee is provided in line with this advice.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

28. There are no financial implications from this report.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

29. The Committee includes iwi partners who will provide input into the Regional Deal discussion and the Infrastructure Priorities Programme.
30. Te Matarau a Maui has an Observer on the Committee and should also provide input into these processes particularly given the Governments focus on productivity and jobs.

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

31. The Committee has and continues to have a focus on climate change projects and some work from those completed and those still underway should be considered when developing a Regional Deal and developing a programme of regionally important projects/proposals for the Infrastructure Priority Programme.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

32. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered against the decision making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga Significance

33. It is considered the significance (as defined in Part 6 of the Local Government Act) of the matters for decision, taking into account Greater Wellington Regional Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. It is recommended that the matters are of low significance given their administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement

34. Due to the low significance of the decision proposed in this report, community engagement was not necessary,

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

35. If the recommendations in this report are accepted then the next steps are:
- a Appoint a Project Sponsor and Project Lead for the Regional Deal project.
 - b The Project Sponsor and Project Lead develop/provide information as requested, if any for the March 2025 Committee meeting.
 - c The Committee develop a set of regionally important projects/proposals for submission to the Infrastructure Priorities Programme,
 - d Each relevant organisation make an application as required to the Infrastructure Priorities Programme.

Ngā āpitihanga Attachments

Number	Title
1	Regional Deal Strategic Framework
2	Infrastructure Priorities Programme Briefing note
3	Infrastructure Priorities Programme Cabinet Paper

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writers	Darrin Apanui - Chair Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Daran Ponter -Deputy Chair Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
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He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> This report provides an update and next steps for work on regional deals and associated programmes in line with the Committees focus on regional spatial planning and regional economic development.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> This work contributes to implementation of the Future Development Strategy and the Regional Economic Development Plan and is part of the agreed 2024/2025 work programme.
<i>Internal consultation</i> Given the time from when the WRLC Senior Staff and WRLC CEO meetings were held and the announcements from the Government on the matters in this report, the matters in this report have not been discussed with these groups.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> This paper is an update and process paper and carries minimal risk. There is a risk that if the process recommendations in the paper are not agreed to and the process started, then the region might not be prepared to participate when needed.

The background of the page is an aerial photograph of a paved road curving through vibrant green fields. Several decorative light poles with spherical, textured tops are spaced along the road. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title text in white.

REGIONAL DEALS

Strategic Framework

ISBN: 978-0-473-72175-6



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Foreword

I am excited to be introducing this new opportunity for how central government, local government and the private sector can be working together to deliver for communities.

We are facing significant economic challenges, including the affordability of housing and how we provide for critical infrastructure. These challenges affect all of us, whether we are living in urban, regional or rural areas. We have been elected as a Government to address these challenges and find practical solutions to fixing them.

Central and local government have powerful tools and mechanisms at their disposal to meet these challenges, unlock economic growth and boost productivity. Regional deals will be a practical and enduring way to ensure that these tools and mechanisms are used in a coordinated way to ensure we are doing everything we can to support New Zealanders

Regional deals will unlock growth in specific geographic areas by providing a regional-level approach. They will focus on funding and financing tools, regulatory relief mechanisms, efficient and innovative use of existing funding and planning mechanisms and improved central government coordination. The deals will align with local government's 10-year planning cycles, allowing for more effective delivery and shared objectives and outcomes. They will reset systems to enable local government, with central government support, to deliver for communities.

Regional deals provide an opportunity for central and local government to agree on joint priorities, and how they wish to accomplish common objectives. Deals are about doing things differently, making the best use of what we already have, and empowering local authorities to support growth for their communities.

This Strategic Framework is just the beginning of this exciting journey to implement an effective and enduring regional deals model for New Zealand. I'm excited about the potential of this new way of doing things and looking forward to working together with local government to deliver the infrastructure investment and economic growth our communities are asking for.



Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

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Executive Summary



New Zealand's economic growth and the prosperity it affords to communities goes hand in hand with the growth of our regions

To be a world-class, competitive actor in the 21st century, our regions need to be productive and efficient in the use of their resources and tools. Unlocking economic opportunities will require all levels of government to define shared priorities, actions, and timeframes, and consider all available levers at their disposal to support improved regional economic outcomes. It will also require developing optimal conditions for collaboration with the private sector.

The Speech from the Throne set out the Government's intention to partner with local government to create Regional Deals. Regional Deals provide a long-term approach to address some of the underlying issues impacting economic development and productivity by providing a focus on regions as integrated economic areas.

This strategic framework sets out the Government's expectations for Regional Deals and criteria for selecting regions for deals. Development of this framework includes consideration of local government objectives for Regional Deals as set out in Local Government New Zealand's *'What communities need from the framework for city/regional deals'*.¹

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure, promoting economic growth and productivity, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, and improving the supply of affordable, quality housing.

Regional Deals will be a vehicle for greater regional collaboration and coordination, improved local government decision-making and funding and financing, promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government, and ensuring resilient cities and regions. They will provide a holistic approach to aligning and delivering agreed outcomes tailored to local conditions and national priorities. The regional deals timeframe includes reviews and evaluation of outcomes to ensure deals continue to reflect current needs.

Priority Objectives

Building economic growth

Delivering connected and resilient infrastructure

Improving the supply of affordable and quality housing

Secondary Objectives

- Greater regional and private sector collaboration
- Improved local government decision-making and funding
- Promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government
- Ensuring resilient and sustainable cities and regions

Guiding Principles

To ensure a consistent approach across all Regional Deals, the following principles will apply:

- **partnership**
- **adaptability**
- **certainty of decision-making and funding and financing**
- **accountability and transparency**

Partnerships will involve central and local government, with opportunities for the private sector and iwi/Māori to participate.

Regional Deals will require sustainable funding and financing to develop and implement. Central and local government presently face fiscal constraints, but central government will unlock a range of funding and financing tools (existing and new), regulatory relief, and regional-central government coordination to support the deals.

Regional Deals will be led by Ministers as the main interface with local government leadership. Ministers will have delegated decision-making authority and will manage alignment across portfolios, ensuring that all necessary central government levers are available in support of the system.

Once a deal is finalised, central and local government partners from the region will establish an oversight body. The composition and membership of oversight bodies will be agreed by both parties and will have independent chairs, and senior partner representatives. Involvement of the private sector and iwi/Māori entities will be encouraged.

Regional Deals will be finalised in a staged 'waves' approach, with the first deal finalised in 2025.

Introduction and Purpose

This strategic framework for Regional Deals is the first step for giving effect to the National Party manifesto commitment and the National and ACT New Zealand coalition agreement commitment to institute long-term regional deals. This commitment is also reflected in the Speech from the Throne for New Zealand's 54th Parliament.²

The framework is a guide for discussions between central government and councils (territorial and regional authorities), and relevant private sector entities (including domestic and international investors), to deliver Regional Deals in support of shared objectives and outcomes.

Context

Current settings do not support local government to foster economic growth in their regions. Councils' existing funding and financing tools are an example of this, where councils are not rewarded for economic growth. Instead, increased tax revenue from local growth flows to central government, not local government. In practice, this means that councils and ratepayers are bearing the costs of growth. In many cases, local communities are either unable or unwilling to embrace growth and development, leading to local decisions that impede economic growth and contribute to New Zealand's significant infrastructure deficit and unaffordable housing market.

This misalignment is also reflected in central and local government's budget cycles: whereas central government operates on yearly budget cycles, local government makes most significant funding decisions through 10-year plans, produced every three years. This makes securing long-term public funding for infrastructure challenging, which in turn translates into reduced certainty for capturing private investment.

New Zealanders are facing significant affordability challenges. For example, New Zealand ranks amongst the least affordable housing markets in the OECD, with inflation-adjusted house prices rising by 256 percent between 2000 and 2021.³ Addressing housing affordability will require strong and aligned central and local government leadership to unlock more land for housing developments, to unlock funding and financing tools for councils, and to develop the right local incentives to encourage housing growth.

Affordability is also reflected in the infrastructure our communities need to thrive and prosper. New Zealand has a significant infrastructure deficit, driven by a combination of historic underinvestment and future challenges like servicing a growing population and decarbonising the economy.⁴ Building bridges, sewerage systems, roads and water supplies has also become increasingly expensive for councils.⁵

Addressing affordability and cost of living issues requires an all-of-New Zealand approach, where central and local government work together to identify and mobilise all available funding and financing and policy levers in a way that better incentivises and distributes the benefits of economic growth.

Regional Deals, will provide an opportunity to focus on getting the basics right by supporting regions to deliver the best for their communities, and the country as a whole.

What are Regional Deals?

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure, to promote economic growth and productivity, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, and improving the supply of affordable, quality housing. To better deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government, the deals will align with local government 10-year planning cycles rather than central government's three-year planning cycles.

Regional Deals will be a vehicle for greater regional collaboration and coordination, enhanced private sector involvement, improved local government decision-making and funding and financing, promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government, and ensuring resilient cities and regions. Deals will work to unlock economic and regional growth, remove regulatory bottlenecks, and support investment in infrastructure funding and provisions, in exchange for a commitment of planning liberalisation. This will provide better value for ratepayers and taxpayers who are one and the same.

By working together through a Regional Deal, central and local government will aim to provide a more strategic vision for how to enable and support economic growth in New Zealand, while generating greater certainty and long-term stability for public- and private-sector investments.

Implementing deals will create system change through:

- enabling competition for growth between regions;
- promoting the best use of planning processes for growth;
- ensuring the right incentives drive growth, including unlocking potential new revenues for local government; and
- certainty over future investment pipelines.

Regional Deals in New Zealand



Regional Deals will be enabling, empowering, enduring and adaptable

Regional Deals will empower local government and enable them to achieve their objectives. While Regional Deals will include specific central governmental priorities and objectives, projects and investments within each deal will be identified regionally through available spatial planning instruments. Regional Deals will coordinate and align central government work programmes and levers, bringing together solutions.

Regional Deals will need to be both enduring and provide the certainty needed to attract and retain the necessary investments to deliver change, especially over several central and local government electoral cycles. They will also need to be adaptable and evolve to different circumstances. To balance these competing requirements, deals will need to be made in a high-trust environment between central and local government. They will need to have strong political commitments to create enabling policy, regulatory and funding and financing environments, followed by contractual arrangements with providers. They will also need to provide for prioritisation and sequencing of investments in a way that aligns with agreed-upon objectives and outcomes.

Foundational components of Regional Deals

Though each Regional Deal will cater for local priorities, they will share the following foundational components:

- A defined economic/geographic area;
- a 10-year strategic plan with clear outcomes sought and the actions required to achieve them;
- decision-making arrangements, delivery timeframes and accountabilities;
- the capital and operational investments required;
- performance metrics with monitoring and reporting requirements; and
- regulatory and institutional settings to support the deal.

'Regions' in the context of Regional Deals could be regional, sub-regional or another appropriate scale, so long as they are defined economic and geographic areas with functional local authorities.

Objectives and outcomes

This framework includes the following priority and secondary objectives for central government to pursue across Regional Deals in New Zealand. The objectives aim to focus both central and local governments to build economic growth.

Priority objectives	Outcomes
Build economic growth ⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased jobs and skills Improved standard of living Increased productivity
Deliver connected and resilient infrastructure ⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better connected communities and businesses through infrastructure Infrastructure built (and identified investment in support of it) is more resilient against the impacts of natural hazards and climate change Infrastructure built enables development, including housing objectives
Improve the supply of affordable, quality housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased supply of build ready land (both greenfield and brownfield), including ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place for development. Improved housing affordability for rental and home ownership
Secondary objectives	Outcomes
Greater regional and private sector collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better connections across regions, between urban and rural communities to allow for economic growth, infrastructure delivery, and improvements in the supply and quality of our housing, and improved collaboration with the private sector.
Improve local government decision making and funding and financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government can use an increased mix of funding tools to fund local infrastructure (water, transport, community infrastructure), housing and growth.
Promote innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of government work more effectively and efficiently because of innovative processes. Central and local government have increased agility to respond to changing conditions.
Ensure regions are resilient and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are better prepared for the future, including being able to plan and manage our natural and built environment.

Given the current constrained fiscal environment, Regional Deals will initially be focused on the priority objectives. Central and local government will need to agree on what projects will be best placed to support these objectives, which could involve trade-offs and priority setting as regional deals are negotiated.

Specific outcomes for Regional Deals will need to be agreed between deal partners, allowing for iteration of the deal over time. Identifying outcomes requires an in-depth understanding of the regional economic and social conditions, and the projects and activities that will unlock opportunities and growth.

Through a Regional Deal partners will agree an approach for monitoring progress against these objectives and outcomes. More detail is in the *monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms* section.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles ensure a consistent approach across all Regional Deals. This framework includes four principles to guide how the deals should be undertaken to achieve the desired objectives and outcomes

Partnership

Regional Deal partners will work in good faith on a no surprises basis to develop long-term, high-trust partnerships that clearly reflect shared long-term objectives and outcomes, and strong commitments to work together. Partnerships will involve central and local government, with opportunities for the private sector and iwi/Māori to participate.

Adaptability

Regional Deals will be adaptable to meet the pace, scale and nature of proposals. They will consider the capability and capacity and readiness of different partners to deliver.

Certainty of decision making and funding

Regional Deals will aim to improve clarity around decision making processes and funding and financing to ensure the integration of long-term strategy and planning. Certainty from Regional Deals will also aim to attract and retain private sector investments.

Accountability and transparency

Regular reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will hold partners to account, will ensure public awareness of outcomes, and will measure success and provide for lesson learned.

Regional Deal Partnerships

Regional Deals will primarily be between central and local government, with participation as appropriate from other partners, including the private sector and Māori/iwi organisations

Regional Deals will reflect the guiding principle of ‘partnerships’. It will be critical for trust between partners to be built early so it enables agreement over joint priorities and ways of working, to ensure smooth project implementation.

Central and local government

Regional Deals will be a tool used to help unlock funding and financing tools, provide regulatory relief, and be supported by regional-central government coordination. Local government will provide its unique place-based knowledge and apply the necessary planning, funding and financing, and other regulatory processes to ensure successful delivery of projects.

Central and local government will agree on joint priorities and projects and identify how they will each mobilise their individual levers and tools to support Regional Deals. Partners will agree initially to a limited number of projects (five) to progress as part of a Regional Deal.

Both central and local government partners will be able to mobilise existing working relationships as foundations for their Regional Deals, especially when it involves complex, large-scale projects.

Private sector

The private sector’s expertise and investment capability will be a key component of Regional Deals. Private sector entities involved in a deal will have the opportunity to access new central government levers, leading to cost savings and new growth opportunities.

Combined commitments from central and local government will be aimed at creating an enabling investment environment to attract private sector capital where appropriate, and engagement with the private sector at the earliest possible stages is recommended.

Māori organisations and entities

There is significant potential for Māori organisations and entities to be involved in Regional Deals. The framework encourages local government to engage early with Māori organisations and entities to identify opportunities to partner with Māori, to attract iwi investment, and to use Māori/iwi expertise in Regional Deals and projects under Regional Deals. Regional Deals will also need to honour pre-existing Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

Unlocking funding and financing tools, providing regulatory relief mechanisms and coordination

This framework proposes that the Regional Deal system initially follow an approach that combines:

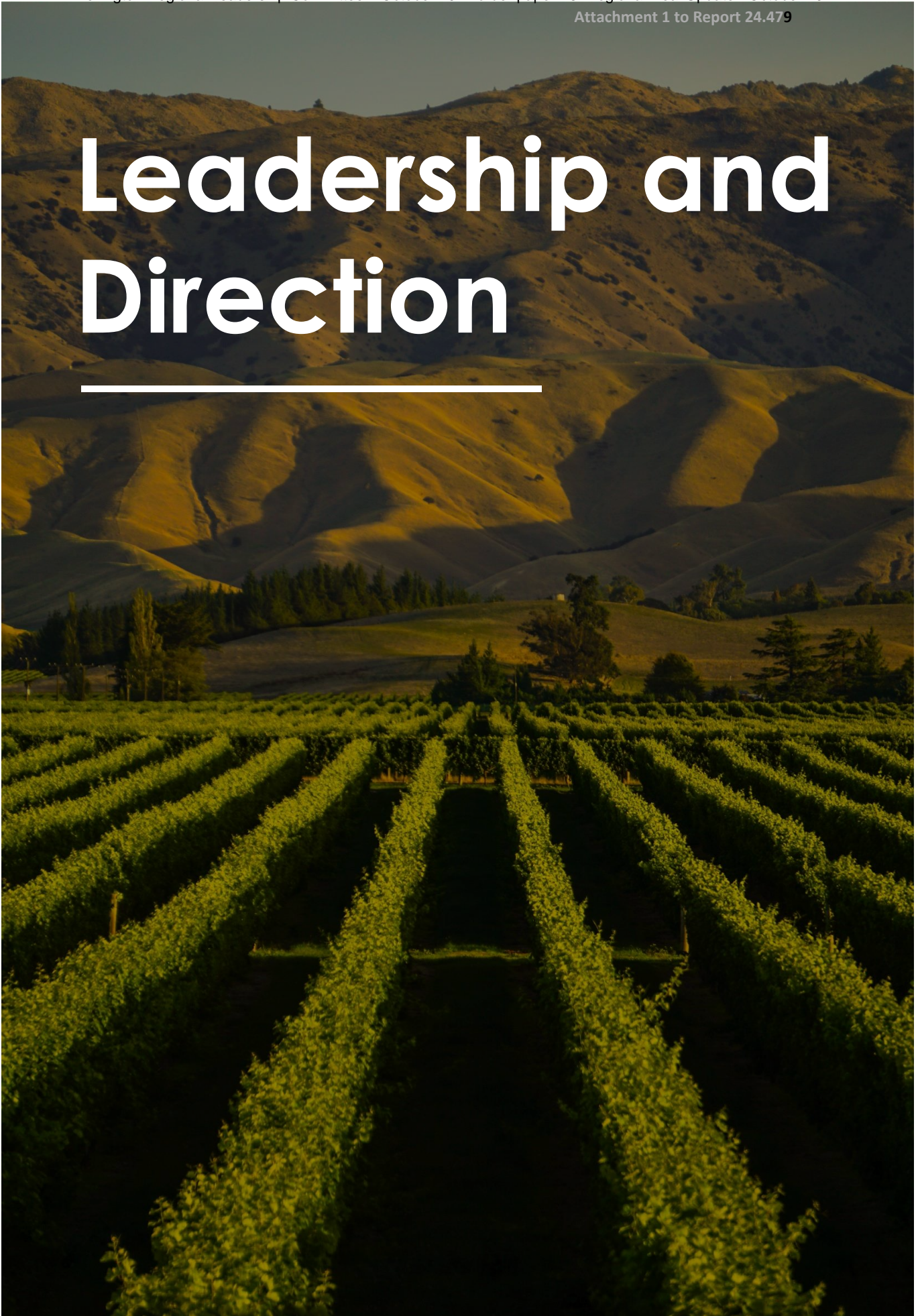
- unlocking funding and financing tools;
- regulatory relief mechanisms;
- efficient and innovative use of existing funding, financing and planning mechanisms; and
- improved central government coordination.

To support Regional Deals, central government and local government will work together to enable a range of options. Potential options could include:

1. a clear commitment to support agreed projects across agency investment pipelines and coordination of capital commitments to funding for transport, schools, hospitals and other aspects of growth relevant to the region;
2. enabling new user charges, value capture, targeted rates, tolling and congestion charging, an enhanced Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act;
3. proposals for the reallocation of existing government funding (e.g. from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy);
4. enhanced Going for Housing Growth payments which could include a share of GST for local government;
5. sector specific commitments, which could include sharing royalties generated by new and reestablished exploration of the mineral estate, or other forms of regional economic development; and
6. specific legislative changes to be advanced through legislation.

Regional Deals will need to align with local government planning and budgetary cycles including long-term plans and are not intended to supersede independent decisions made by government funding agencies. Regional Deal partners will still need to follow regular funding application and approval processes as set out by relevant agencies.

Leadership and Direction



Strategic leadership and direction, oversight and delivery structures for Regional Deals

Leadership and strategic direction

Leadership and strategic direction over Regional Deals will be provided by both local and central governments. The Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will provide this direction for central government. This Ministerial Group will have delegated decision-making authority and will manage alignment across portfolios, ensuring that all necessary central government levers are available in support of the system, as well as interfacing with local government leadership.

The Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will be supported by the Department of Internal Affairs with support from relevant agencies as required.

Oversight bodies

Once a deal is finalised, central and local government partners from the region will establish an oversight body for the Regional Deal. The composition and membership of the oversight bodies will be agreed by both parties and will have independent chairs, and senior partner representatives.

Because Regional Deals could build on existing relationships between central and local government (such as those in support of urban growth), oversight for Regional Deals will need to consider and align with existing oversight arrangements. Initially, the oversight bodies might be extensions of existing structures.

Because private sector investment and expertise will be critical for the success of Regional Deals, these oversight bodies will be encouraged to consider involvement of the private sector.

Implementation and delivery

Decisions regarding the implementation, delivery and evaluation of Regional Deals is contingent on further policy development, discussions with local government and delivery bodies, and the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission's development of a National Infrastructure Plan.

This framework envisages that initially each deal will have the support provided by a central government delivery agency (or agencies) who will coordinate central government and receive input from local government delivery agencies. Delivery agencies will optimise and manage effective prioritisation/sequencing of project milestones, and support procurement and delivery models for delivering infrastructure.

Entities involved in implementation and delivery will also lead on monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring, evaluation, and accountability measures

A framework for monitoring, evaluating and accountability mechanisms will be developed for all Regional Deals to allow for comparisons and consistency across deals. Bespoke performance indicators for each deal, including metrics and a baseline – against which progress can be assessed on a regular basis – will need to be negotiated between partners and included in the deal. Continuous evaluation and negotiation of new commitments will occur over the lifetime of the deal.

In considering these mechanisms, partners will need to consider:

Complexities in evaluating the impact of deals

For example, outcomes related to economic growth (usually measured by Gross Domestic Product or Gross Value Added for a region) can be affected by many policies and circumstances, which makes it difficult to isolate how much an individual policy has contributed to a particular outcome.

Evaluation timeframes may need to be considered over a longer time horizon

While assessment of whether deals are on time, budget and meeting specific targets is possible within a shorter timeframe (for example annually, or three-yearly), it may be more realistic to assess the wider, strategic achievements over a longer time horizon. Consideration of central and local government election cycles will be important.

Capacity in local authorities

The process of developing a Regional Deal is unique to each deal, a large amount of executive time and negotiation can be required over a significant period. The capacity and skill set within local authorities to deal with the additional demands for project assessment and monitoring that comes with a Regional Deal is likely to be variable. The potential resource burden on local government needs to be monitored over time.

Coherence with existing accountability mechanisms

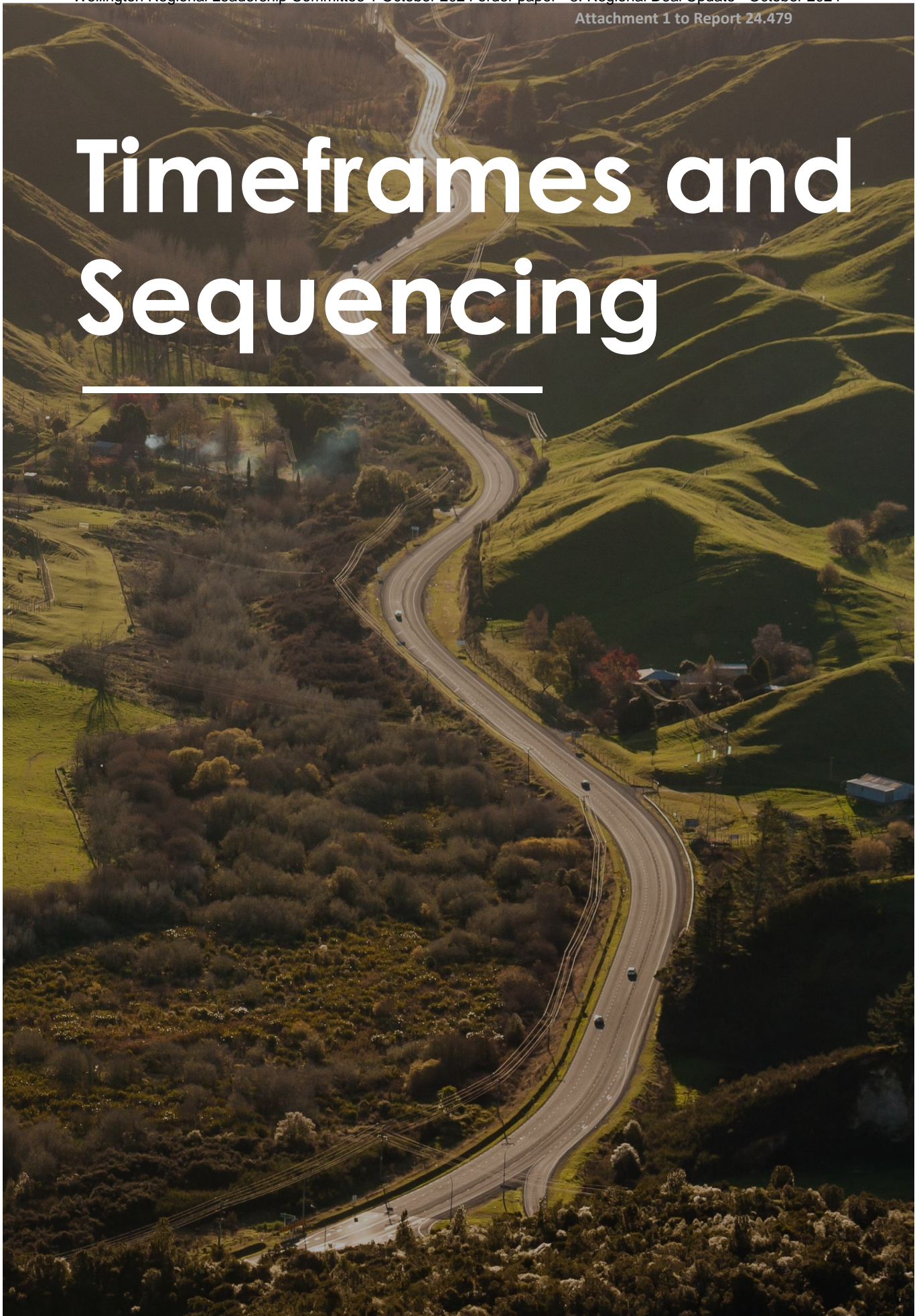
Consideration needs to be given to how any Regional Deal reporting and monitoring framework would integrate and align with existing legislation and regulatory frameworks for central and local government planning and reporting, and which bodies are best placed to assess regional deal progress.

Adaptability to changing circumstances

Consideration also needs to be given to how any variations to a regional deal will occur and how these will integrate with existing processes operated across agencies who are already involved in delivering infrastructure projects with local government partners.

Examples could include macroeconomic targets and council performance metrics such as GDP, population spend metrics, financial accountability measures, joint governance effectiveness; tourism numbers, housing consents, compliance certificates issued.

Timeframes and Sequencing



Regional deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes, to provide optimal time for evaluation of outputs and delivery of projects with long-term outcomes

Timeframes

Regular reviews will be imbedded within the lifespan of deals (e.g. annually) to assess progress and project delivery using the measures discussed in the *monitoring, evaluation and accountability measures* section.

The lifespan will cover multiple parliamentary and local government electoral and planning cycles, which will ensure both a long-term approach to growth infrastructure, and capture and retain private sector investment. Regional Deals will need to consider other relevant central and local government planning and funding cycles.

Deal making milestones

Regional Deals will follow a staged approach with the following phases:

- **Milestone 1:** a letter from the Minister of Local Government inviting the regions to apply and laying out the government's expectations for proposals
- **Milestone 2:** consideration of proposals
- **Milestone 3:** a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- **Milestone 4:** final stage negotiation of a deal

Milestone 1

Release a national regional deal framework

Decision makers: Cabinet

A high-level framework that sets out what the government wants to see in Regional Deals. A public version of this document will be used by councils to prepare proposals for Regional Deals.

The framework is not specific to local needs and does not make specific promises of regulatory relief or funding and financing.

Milestone 2

Consideration of proposals

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | selected councils.

Central government invites expressions of interest (up to five in the first wave). Selected councils provide a light-touch proposal with an outline of the following:

- drivers of economic growth in a region: regions to identify their own areas of growth and key economic drivers;
- what the region will do to unlock growth: regions to identify what actions they intend to take to unlock or enable growth; and
- what the region needs from central government to assist: regions to identify policy and legislative action they need from central government.

Regional Deal Criteria

Light touch proposals assessed against (but not limited to):

- alignment with the strategic framework
- growth potential
- commitment to a regional spatial plan
- capability, capacity, readiness to deliver
- commitment to fiscal prudence
- that councils meet all their regulatory standards (economic and water quality regulation).

Milestone 3

Signed Memorandum of Understanding

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | LG Partners

Central government will confirm initial intent to progress into an MOU with selected regions.

Central and selected local government partners both develop and agree an MOU setting out intended areas to work together. Central government will provide guidance to support the MOU process to minimise council expenditure during this phase.

A region will need an MOU to enter the pre-deal queue.

20

Milestone 4

Final Stage Negotiation for a Deal

4.1 Pre-deal Queue

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | Office of Regional Deals | LG Partners

Ahead of a deal, regions will undertake work that may be needed to support the deals (for example: zoning decisions, community agreement, establishment of any necessary committees, cross-council collaboration, including proposals to establish CCOs for cross-council service delivery).

Central and local government will agree monitoring and reporting metrics to measure overall regional performance (e.g. GDP, population, spend metrics, tourism numbers, housing consents, compliance certificates issued).

4.2 Funding and Financing

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | Office of Regional Deals | LG Partners

Central government will assess what is needed from local government for a deal. This could include a mix of the following:

Funding and Financing tools

- A pipeline of project funding as set out in the GPS Transport;
- commitment to support the agreed projects across agency investment pipelines and capital commitments;
- value capture/ support for a targeted rate;
- new user charges;
- enhanced Going for Housing Growth payments. For example: share of GST for local government and/or potential earn back mechanisms;
- legislation + other tools to better enable longer term funding and financing commitments, for example, enhanced IFF; or
- sector specific commitments – for example a greater sharing of royalties from an activity like mining.

Regulatory Relief

- Fast track consenting for projects

Coordination

- Coordination of decisions around planning and programming of schools, hospitals, for example, needed to support a growth region

Milestone 4

4.4 Finalised regional deal

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | Office of Regional Deals | LG Partners

Partners sign the Regional Deal. The first deal will be finalised in 2025.

A regional deal is likely to have the following characteristics:

- A defined economic/geographic area;
- 10-year strategic plan with clear objectives, outcomes and actions to meet shared objectives and outcomes;
- alignment with 30-year National Infrastructure Plan;
- clear leadership arrangements, delivery timeframes and accountabilities;
- identified capital and operational investments and operating costs;
- clear performance measurements and regular monitoring and reporting;
- clear operational roles and responsibilities defined and an operating model that balances flexibility and responsiveness with accountability; and
- regulatory and institutional settings to support the deal.

Sequencing

Given the time and resourcing required to negotiate, implement and monitor Regional Deals, this framework proposes that deals be finalised in a staged approach.

The Government intends to complete the first deal in 2025.

Region Selection



Selection of regions for Regional Deals will be made by Ministers using a set of standardised criteria. Guidance will be issued to local government on what they will need to provide to be eligible for a Regional Deal

High level criteria

Local authorities will generally be selected for Regional Deals by the Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group (IIMG) based on assessments against standardised criteria:

- alignment with the strategic framework;
- growth potential;
- commitment to a regional spatial plan;
- capability, capacity and readiness to deliver;
- commitment to fiscal prudence; and
- commitment to broader government reform objectives such as Local Water Done Well and Going for Housing Growth.

First wave or tranche

Five regions will be invited to provide light-touch proposals for a first wave of Regional Deals. Selection of regions for the first wave will be led by Ministers, based on selection criteria, and agreed to through a Cabinet process. Selection will be supported by the high-level criteria with particular emphasis on:

- councils being in a growth area that has clear objectives around economic growth, productivity and infrastructure in alignment with the Regional Deal strategic framework;
- councils with an already identified functional economic area, such as through an existing urban partnership, and therefore have initial supporting structures, spatial plans and future development strategies in place, including where relevant, funding and financing proposals for infrastructure development and delivery; and
- councils being ready to deliver on a deal, including having the capability and capacity, a clear plan for the city/region, and a track record of having worked successfully with central government, other councils in the region, private sector and iwi/Māori.

It is noted that central and local government are part of several partnerships that may already satisfy the above criteria, including for example, Urban Growth Partnerships. These urban partnerships could be mobilised as foundations for Regional Deals.

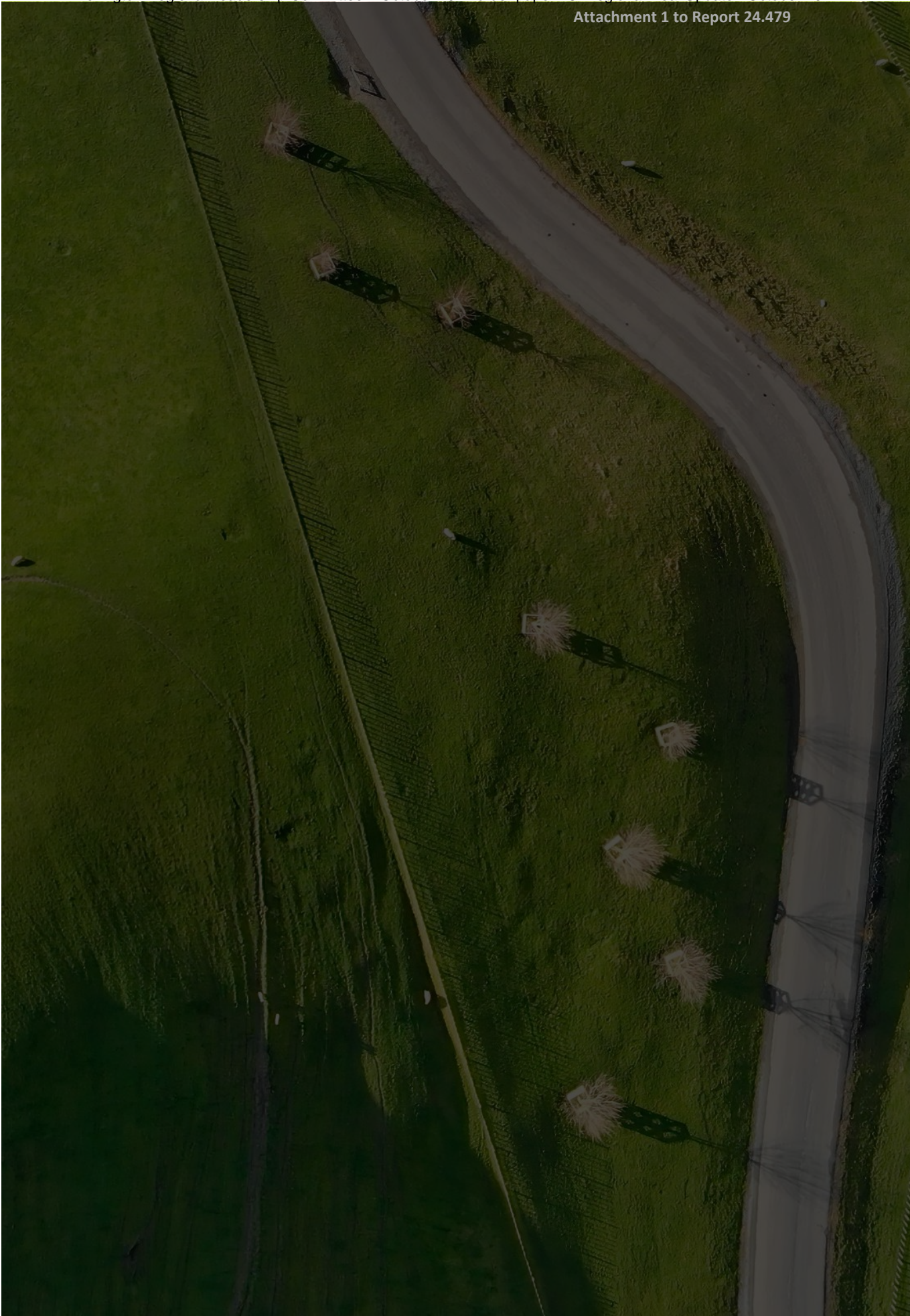
Subsequent waves or tranches

Subsequent Regional Deals will build on the lessons learned from previous Regional Deals to ensure the system is refined as more deals are established. Regions or sub-regions for subsequent waves will be selected through an open expressions of interest process. Proposals received from the expressions of interest will be assessed against the high-level criteria set out in this strategic framework and consideration by the Office of Regional Deals.

Advice to the Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will follow this assessment, and subject to their approval, will proceed to a Cabinet process for formal agreement.

Sources

1. https://img.scoop.co.nz/media/pdfs/2405/Framework_City_and_Regional_deals.pdf
2. Speech from the Throne <https://gazette.govt.nz/managePDF?file=2023/2023-vr5697.pdf>
3. <https://www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Cabinet-papers/Cabinet-Paper-Fixing-the-Housing-Crisis.pdf#:~:text=Unaffordable%20housing%20has%20far%2Dreaching,standards%20for%20all%20New%20Zealanders>
4. Report into New Zealand’s Infrastructure Challenge, Sense Partners for the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Oct 2021, <https://media.umbraco.io/te-waihanga-30-year-strategy/lh5gou/new-zealands-infrastructure-challenge-quantifying-the-gap.pdf>.
5. A report commissioned by Local Government New Zealand demonstrates that in the last three years, building bridges, sewerage systems, roads and water supplies has become 38%, 30%, 27% and 27% more expensive to build respectively
https://d1pepq1a2249p5.cloudfront.net/media/documents/Analysing_increases_in_local_government_costs_LI2BVKU.pdf
6. LGNZ media release: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/news/media-releases/drivers-behind-rates-rises-across-the-country-laid-bare/>
7. Economic growth is a broad concept that may involve many industries. Funding and financing and regulatory frameworks that underpin industry-specific projects will vary and will need to be considered when regional deals are formalised.
8. Infrastructure refers to “the fixed, long-lived structures that facilitate the production of goods and services, including transport, water, energy, social assets, and digital infrastructure such as our broadband and mobile networks” as defined by the Treasury
<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/infrastructure>
9. Including the Department of Internal Affairs (as initial lead), the Treasury, the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry for the Environment. Involvement from the infrastructure Commission is also expected in support of the infrastructure portfolio.





Infrastructure Priorities Programme Briefing Note – August 2024

The Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) is part of the development of the Infrastructure Commission’s National Infrastructure Plan, being developed for the Government.

Full information on this Programme can be found at [Infrastructure Priorities Programme \(IPP\) | Te Waihanga](#) including how to submit a proposal.

The Cabinet paper on the National Infrastructure Plan including the IPP can be found at [the-national-infrastructure-plan-to-publish.pdf \(umbraco.io\)](#).

A summary of information on the IPP is as follows:

1. The IPP is an independent and standardised process to identify proposals and projects that will meet New Zealand’s strategic objectives, represent good value for money and can be delivered.
2. It is being led by the Infrastructure Commission.
3. The application process is currently open. Round one applications close 20 December 2024. Results are expected to be published in June 2025. Round two applications will open in early 2025.
4. The National Infrastructure Plan draft is due to the Minister by June 2025, a final by the end of 2025 and a Statement of the Governments response to the National Infrastructure Plan by June 2026.
5. Proposals do not need to be a built piece of infrastructure. They could be a solution to avoid the need for building new infrastructure e.g. congestion charge.
6. Once approved a project/proposal will feed into the National Infrastructure Plan.
7. A project/proposal needs to meet the following criteria:
 - a. Meets New Zealand’s strategic objectives. These come from the National Infrastructure Strategy [rautaki-hanganga-o-aotearoa-new-zealand-infrastructure-strategy.pdf \(umbraco.io\)](#) and are:
 - i. Enabling a net-zero carbon emissions Aotearoa through rapid development of clean energy and reducing the carbon emissions from infrastructure.
 - ii. Supporting towns and regions to flourish through better physical and digital connectivity and freight and supply chains.
 - iii. Building attractive and inclusive cities that respond to population growth, unaffordable housing and traffic congestion through better long-term planning, pricing and good public transport.
 - iv. Strengthening resilience to shocks and stresses by taking a coordinated and planned approach to risks based on good-quality information.

Attachment 2 to Report 24.479



- v. Moving to a circular economy by setting a national direction for waste, managing pressure on landfills and waste-recovery infrastructure and developing a framework for the operation of waste-to-energy infrastructure
 - b. Represents Value for Money (VFM)
 - c. Be a project that can actually be delivered/deliverability.
- 8. In some places in the documentation it notes there is no minimum size but in another place in the documentation it notes projects or proposals will be assessed on whether they are nationally significant and that those valued over \$50M are more likely to fall into this category and this should be considered when submitting a proposal/project. Each stage of assessment has a “triage” and proposals are triaged out if the answer to one or more questions in each triage stage is “no”. This includes this point about national significance and valued over \$50M.
- 9. Proposals can be submitted at three different stages:
 - a. Stage 1. You will have identified a problem or opportunity, but no solution has been locked in.
 - b. Stage 2. You will have identified a problem or opportunity and have a range of options to solve it. You'll have a reasonable amount of information on most of these solutions, including how much they will cost.
 - c. Stage 3. Your proposal is ready for investment. You'll have a high level of maturity in financial (e.g., costings), commercial, procurement, and governance planning.
- 10. Projects/proposals will be assessed by expert assessors and reviewed by an expert panel.
- 11. The Cabinet paper noted that the IPP process is for “unfunded” infrastructure and the focus is on 5-15 years. This would seem to suggest that projects such as O2NL do not/should not be submitted as this is funded but it is less clear about projects that have been identified by the Government e.g. a second Mount Vic tunnel approved but not yet funded. Clarity is being sought on this.
- 12. The Cabinet paper also noted those projects that are approved through the IPP process will be included in the National Infrastructure Plan and this will be used to inform Regional Deals although any deals will not be approved through the development of the National Infrastructure Plan.
- 13. The Cabinet paper also notes there is no obligation on Government to fund any approved projects/proposals.



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Paper: National Infrastructure Plan Information Release

August 2024

[Tewaihanga.govt.nz](https://www.tewaihanga.govt.nz)



This document has been proactively released by the **Minister for Infrastructure (Hon Chris Bishop)** on the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission website at:

<https://tewaihanga.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-documents-official-information/information-releases>

Cabinet Document Details

Title: **Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Paper: National Infrastructure Plan**

Date: **29 July 2024**

Creator: **Office of the Minister for Infrastructure**

Information Withheld

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Infrastructure

Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

National Infrastructure Plan

Proposal

- 1 This paper sets out the purpose and scope of the National Infrastructure Plan, including a cross-agency approach for its development.

Relation to Government priorities

- 2 This paper relates to implementation of the National Infrastructure Plan that was signalled in National's Infrastructure Manifesto and committed to in coalition agreements between the National Party and ACT and New Zealand First parties.

Background

- 3 In May 2022 the Infrastructure Commission (the Commission) delivered the New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy. This identified the challenges facing our infrastructure system over the next generation and provided a long-term strategic vision for infrastructure as the foundation of a thriving New Zealand.
- 4 In April 2024, Cabinet noted that my priorities for the infrastructure portfolio include developing a 30-year National Infrastructure Plan [ECO-24-MIN-0048 refers]. This is to be developed by the Commission by the end of 2025 and will include:
 - 4.1 A National Infrastructure Pipeline: A national view of infrastructure projects which are planned and being planned (focus is on 0-10 years).
 - 4.2 An Assessment of Infrastructure Priorities (the Infrastructure Priorities Programme): A structured independent review of un-funded infrastructure proposals and problems in various stages of planning, including initiatives that avoid the need for investment in physical infrastructure (focus is on 5-15 years).
 - 4.3 An Infrastructure Needs Analysis: An analysis of long-term infrastructure needs at a sector and/or regional level, rather than a project level (focus is on 5-30 years).

Purpose of the National Infrastructure Plan

- 5 The National Infrastructure Plan will provide a shared long-term view of infrastructure investment needs and priorities. This will enable governments, councils and the private sector to leverage best value from our infrastructure investment over

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time. The Plan will support robust decisions that ensure infrastructure investment is affordable for current and future generations, and supports thriving communities and a high standard of living.

- 6 It will be used to both inform government decision-making and to develop an enduring long-term consensus on infrastructure investment. This will ensure we make better use of existing assets, and new investments provide value for money.
- 7 I also expect the National Infrastructure Plan will be used to inform City and Regional Deals, although any potential deals will not be approved through the development of the National Infrastructure Plan. Over time, the Infrastructure Priorities Programme will also provide a menu of potential infrastructure investment proposals that deliver national and regional benefits, which can inform other Government decision-making, such as eligibility for fast-track consenting.
- 8 I have asked the Commission, an autonomous Crown entity and the government's independent infrastructure advisor, to develop the National Infrastructure Plan, as this will provide the objectivity and rigour needed to:
 - 8.1 increase private sector confidence to invest in people, technology, and equipment, which improves capacity to deliver, drives efficiencies, and delivers cost reductions.
 - 8.2 build public trust and confidence that infrastructure is well-planned; provides safe, reliable and accessible services that are good value for money; and meets future needs.
- 9 The National Infrastructure Plan is being developed as a 'strategy report' under the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Act 2019. The Plan will not bind the government or other infrastructure providers, although the Act requires the government to provide a response.

Scope of the National Infrastructure Plan

- 10 The Commission's National Infrastructure Plan will provide an assessment of current and future infrastructure needs and identify the priorities for infrastructure for the next 30 years. It will address three key questions.
 - 10.1 **What infrastructure will be needed and what should we be spending over the next 30 years?** This infrastructure needs analysis will consider historic infrastructure spend, future asset renewal and maintenance needs, population and economic growth projections, hazards and threats, and climate change. This will be broken down by sector and, where possible, region. This will not include fiscal advice but will provide insights that might inform fiscal advice.
 - 10.2 **What infrastructure investment is currently planned over the next 10 years?** This will build on the Commission's existing National Infrastructure Pipeline (New Zealand's national dataset of infrastructure projects, which includes projects, for example, from the National Land Transport Programme) and Treasury's Quarterly Investment Reporting. It will also consider the likelihood of planned investment being delivered on time and budget.

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- 10.3 **What is the gap between the long-term infrastructure need and planned investment, and how do we address this gap?** This will include:
- 10.3.1 Credible, currently un-funded, high-quality projects and proposals of national importance that the present and future governments can choose to invest in or support.
 - 10.3.2 Identified policy and system reforms to support improvements to infrastructure delivery, including making best use of existing infrastructure.
- 11 To address these three questions, the National Infrastructure Plan will include information from the Infrastructure Needs Analysis, National Infrastructure Pipeline, Infrastructure Priorities Programme (see paragraph 4 above) and publicly available sources. The exact form of the Plan will be developed iteratively over the next ten months and will be supported by a combination of written reports and digital products.
- 12 The first National Infrastructure Plan will cover infrastructure investment needs across sectors and regions. Existing information gaps will prevent coverage of all sectors and regions in the first plan. However, the Commission expects these gaps to be filled in future plans as policy and system reforms are implemented, and information maturity and capability improve, allowing better information collection.
- 13 The National Infrastructure Plan will not be a complete list of all infrastructure that should be built over the next 30 years. This reflects the importance of optionality valued by asset owners as demands and technologies inevitably change. However, I expect an initial list will be developed through the first National Infrastructure Plan and will become more comprehensive over subsequent plans.
- 14 The Commission is underway with the work programme to deliver the National Infrastructure Plan. It has:
- 14.1 continued to develop the reach of the National Infrastructure Pipeline and the insights drawn from it. At June 2024, the total value of infrastructure projects in the Pipeline contributed by 85 infrastructure providers stood at \$147.6 billion with a projected annual spend for 2024 of \$16.5 billion if all planned projects proceed. The total value of projects in the Pipeline has more than doubled since June 2022 (\$72 billion from 48 contributing institutions).
 - 14.2 socialised the Infrastructure Priorities Programme with central government agencies.
 - 14.3 begun development of the Infrastructure Needs Analysis through its Research Insights work, specifically the report: Build or maintain? New Zealand's infrastructure asset value, investment and depreciation 1990-2022.

IN CONFIDENCE**Development of the National Infrastructure Plan****Information Requirements**

- 15 The development of the National Infrastructure Plan is a significant programme of work requiring collaboration with, and information from, government departments and agencies with a role in providing New Zealand’s infrastructure services, and local authorities. This includes information on current, planned and anticipated infrastructure investments and asset management.
- 16 Some government agencies already provide infrastructure investment and project information to both the Treasury and the Commission, including:
- 16.1 Investment reporting to Treasury. This includes Quarterly Investment Reporting on government investments in planning and delivery and annual reporting on intentions (10-year capital and operating forecasts of investment need for asset maintenance, renewals, replacements and new assets) and benefits (once an asset is operational, where the benefits are being achieved).
- 16.2 Information to the Commission for inclusion in the National Infrastructure Pipeline. This information includes details on infrastructure programmes and projects spanning the planning horizon, from maintenance and renewal through to new build (including initiatives needed to restore services after a disruption, and non-built solutions that avoid the need for new infrastructure).
- 17 In developing the Plan, the Commission will seek to use information that is already being collected but it is likely to need further information over and above this. This may include, for example, capital investments not currently in the National Infrastructure Pipeline or Quarterly Investment Reporting, as well as infrastructure investment and asset management information from local authorities.
- 18 The Minister of Finance and I have directed Treasury and the Commission to work together to minimise any unnecessary duplication in information gathering and reporting processes, ensuring alignment and consistency where appropriate.
- 19 The Commission will engage with Treasury and other government agencies on the development of the National Infrastructure Plan and, in particular, the approach to assessing current and long-term infrastructure needs.

Assessing Infrastructure Priorities

- 20 The Commission will be undertaking a structured independent review of un-funded central and local government (and potentially private sector) infrastructure proposals and problems in various stages of planning that are submitted by project proponents (the “Infrastructure Priorities Programme”). This could also include initiatives that avoid the need for investment in physical infrastructure (such as pricing measures – like tolls or congestion pricing – to manage demand for specific infrastructure services, or digital solutions).
- 21 The Treasury’s investment approval process and Quarterly Investment Reporting is focused on prioritisation and sequencing of infrastructure investment from a Budget

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perspective. The Infrastructure Priorities Programme is an independent infrastructure planning tool that examines both the importance of problems/proposals and the readiness of solutions to those problems. This is important for three reasons:

- 21.1 It will improve public transparency and visibility over investment readiness, allowing decisions to be made in a staged manner and dampening pressure for premature project announcements.
 - 21.2 It will help improve value for money, for instance by signalling that a proposal is addressing an important problem but that further work is needed to find a solution that is affordable given the size of the problem.
 - 21.3 It will assist in developing an enduring political consensus on priority infrastructure problems and proposals.
- 22 This assessment of infrastructure projects and proposals will provide a ‘menu’ of potential high-quality infrastructure proposals of national importance that can be used by current and future governments to inform investment planning purposes.
 - 23 The Infrastructure Priorities Programme will be open to un-funded projects and proposals submitted by central and local government, and potentially the private sector. For central government projects, the Commission will work with the Treasury on information for assessment, so that the process to submit information is streamlined for agencies. In this way, it will supplement Treasury’s Quarterly Investment Reporting and investment approval processes.
 - 24 The assessments from the Infrastructure Priorities Programme will help the Commission to meet its obligations as a system leader under Cabinet Circular CO(23)9. This will ensure the Commission can provide robust, high-quality and detailed infrastructure advice on particular projects when required for Quarterly Investment Reporting and the Budget process. There would be no obligation on the government to fund proposals assessed through the Infrastructure Priorities Programme, although I would expect positive assessments could be a precursor to funding.
 - 25 Similarly, there would not be any obligation for other government infrastructure decision making agencies, such as the New Zealand Transport Agency, to submit self-funded projects to the Infrastructure Priorities Programme or to fund proposals assessed through the Infrastructure Priorities Programme. I expect, however, that the Commission’s independent assessment process could provide an additional level of assurance for investment decisions.
 - 26 The Commission will not develop project proposals (although it may identify potential problems that merit further investigation). It will rely on project proponents, including central and local government agencies, to submit un-funded proposals to be assessed. Ministers may wish to encourage agencies to submit their proposals for assessment.
 - 27 The outcome of proposals assessed through the Infrastructure Priorities Programme will be published on the Commission’s website on an annual basis and endorsed proposals will be included in the National Infrastructure Plan.

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- 28 The assessment framework has been designed to be consistent with current requirements for good project planning (for example, Treasury’s Better Business Cases model), so that little additional work or information should be required from agencies. This will provide a strong incentive to agencies to follow accepted planning processes, such as business case preparation.

Government response to the National Infrastructure Plan

- 29 The National Infrastructure Plan is being developed as a ‘strategy report’ under the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Act 2019.
- 30 The statutory process and timelines for finalising the Plan and the Government’s response are as follows:
- 30.1 The Commission will provide a draft to me by June 2025. I will then have 90 days to provide comments on that draft.
 - 30.2 The Commission must provide the final Plan within 90 days of receiving my comments (end of 2025).
 - 30.3 I must table the final Plan in Parliament as soon as practicable after receiving it.
 - 30.4 I must present a statement of the Government’s response to the Plan to Parliament within 180 days (June 2026). The Act does not prescribe what the response must include or look like.
- 31 The Commission will work closely with Treasury during the development of the National Infrastructure Plan to enable the Government’s response to be developed soon after the final Plan is tabled in Parliament.

Cost-of-living Implications

- 32 This proposal deals primarily with the process to deliver the National Infrastructure Plan, so is unlikely to have any direct cost of living implications.

Financial Implications

- 33 This proposal has no financial implications. Costs to develop the National Infrastructure Plan will be met out of the Infrastructure Commission’s baseline funding and reserves.

Legislative Implications

- 34 This proposal has no legislative implications as it deals primarily with the process to deliver the National Infrastructure Plan.

IN CONFIDENCE**Impact Analysis****Regulatory Impact Statement**

- 35 Regulatory impact analysis requirements do not apply to this proposal as it deals primarily with the process to deliver the National Infrastructure Plan

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

- 36 A Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) is not required for this proposal as it deals primarily with the process to deliver the National Infrastructure Plan. Climate implications will be considered as part of the development of the National Infrastructure Plan.

Population Implications

- 37 This proposal deals primarily with the process to deliver the National Infrastructure Plan, so is unlikely to have any significant population impacts. Assessment of population impacts, including infrastructure needs and issues of particular relevance for iwi, hapū and Māori, will be part of the development of the National Infrastructure Plan.

Human Rights

- 38 This proposal will have no implications for human rights as it deals primarily with the process to deliver the National Infrastructure Plan.

Use of external Resources

- 39 No external resources were used to provide a material contribution to the preparation of the policy advice in the paper.

Consultation

- 40 The Infrastructure Commission has prepared this Cabinet paper in consultation with the Treasury, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Public Service Commission, the Ministry of Health, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Corrections, the Ministry of Defence, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Arawhiti, the Ministry of Transport, the New Zealand Transport Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Internal Affairs; the National Emergency Management Agency and the Ministry for Primary Industries.
- 41 The New Zealand Defence Force was informed and has provided feedback relevant for the development of the National Infrastructure Plan.
- 42 Other government entities with infrastructure-related functions will be informed following Cabinet decisions being taken.

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- 43 Government agencies with infrastructure-related functions will continue to be involved in the development of the National Infrastructure Plan.

Communications

- 44 I am the Minister responsible for making statements about the National Infrastructure Plan. I have spoken about the Government's priorities for infrastructure, including the National Infrastructure Plan on many occasions this year.
- 45 I will provide updates to the Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group, stakeholders, and the public as the plan is developed.

Proactive Release

- 46 I propose to proactively release this Cabinet paper within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet.

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IN C O N F I D E N C E

Recommendations

The Minister for Infrastructure recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that the Minister for Infrastructure’s priorities for the infrastructure portfolio include developing a 30-year National Infrastructure Plan [ECO-24-MIN-0048 refers];
- 2 **note** that the National Infrastructure Plan will provide an assessment of current and future infrastructure needs and identify the priorities for infrastructure for the next 30 years;
- 3 **note** that the Infrastructure Commission will develop the National Infrastructure Plan as a strategy report under the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Act 2019 by the end of 2025;
- 4 **agree** that central government agencies and local authorities be requested to assist the Commission with the development of the National Infrastructure Plan, which may include providing information on current and future investment intentions and asset management requirements;
- 5 **note** that, where possible, Treasury and the Commission will use information that is already being collected; and are working together to align and streamline information requests to avoid duplication and provide consistency;
- 6 **note** that the Commission will engage with Treasury, other government agencies, and stakeholders on the development of the National Infrastructure Plan and in particular, the approach to assessing current and long-term infrastructure needs;
- 7 **note** that the Commission will be undertaking structured independent reviews of un-funded central and local government (and potentially private sector) projects and proposals in various stages of planning, including initiatives that avoid the need for investment (the “Infrastructure Priorities Programme”);
- 8 **agree** that central government agencies and local authorities be encouraged to submit un-funded projects and proposals for independent assessment by the Commission through the Infrastructure Priorities Programme;
- 9 **note** that the Infrastructure Priorities Programme will inform both the Commission’s input on infrastructure proposals through Budget process (as a system lead under Cabinet Office circular CO (23) 9) and the development of the National Infrastructure Plan;
- 10 **note** that the Commission will work closely with Treasury to streamline the development of the Government’s response to the National Infrastructure Plan before June 2026;

I N C O N F I D E N C E

- 11 **agree** that the Minister for Infrastructure will provide regular updates on progress to the Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Infrastructure

I N C O N F I D E N C E

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
1 October 2024
Report 24.483



For Information

CENSUS 2023 – INITIAL FINDINGS

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (the Committee) with key insights from the initial findings of the 2023 Census.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The Committee has prioritised evidence-based decision-making. The Secretariat is fully committed to this approach in delivering all of its initiatives.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

Emphasis on Data

3. Data is prioritised in our work, as demonstrated in our quarterly reports. The Programme Reports include various metrics aligned with Committee objectives, including:
 - a Building consents, housing types, construction costs, and house prices.
 - b Economic indicators such as job advertisements, employment rates, and GDP.
 - c Population trends and projections, which are crucial components of our dataset.

Data Dashboard

4. We have developed a data dashboard that consolidates and publishes regional data for public use. The dashboard is already proving to be a significant resource for Committee partners and others, underpinning their planning work.

2023 Census Data

5. The release of data from the 2023 Census in batches provides a solid baseline to test our projections, identify trends, and inform planning.

Monitoring and Reporting

6. The Secretariat has prioritised the need for thorough monitoring and reporting to equip decision-makers with a holistic view of regional progress. We are actively expanding the data dashboard to incorporate additional datasets and provide ongoing, insightful commentary on what the data reveals, reinforcing our commitment to informed decision-making.

Presentation Overview

7. The attached presentation ([Attachment 1](#)) includes an analysis of the census data released so far. It offers commentary on specific measures in relation to Committee objectives and illustrates how regular commentary on data could enhance understanding and decision-making.
8. The presentation was prepared for the Committee by the Wellington Transport Analytics Unit.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

Number	Title
1	2023 Census - Initial Insights - August 2024

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Allen Yip – Programme Manager, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
Approver	Kim Kelly – Programme Director, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Committee has specific responsibility for the work programme and other matters of regional importance. The reporting is to enhance the Committee's ability to fulfil its responsibilities.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The regular reporting to the Committee will provide it with a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Wellington Future Development Strategy.
<i>Internal consultation</i> Information and analysis in this report has been discussed at the WRLC Senior Staff Group meeting and WRLC CEO Group meeting. Their views are incorporated into this paper.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks.

Initial 2023 Census Findings Wellington Region

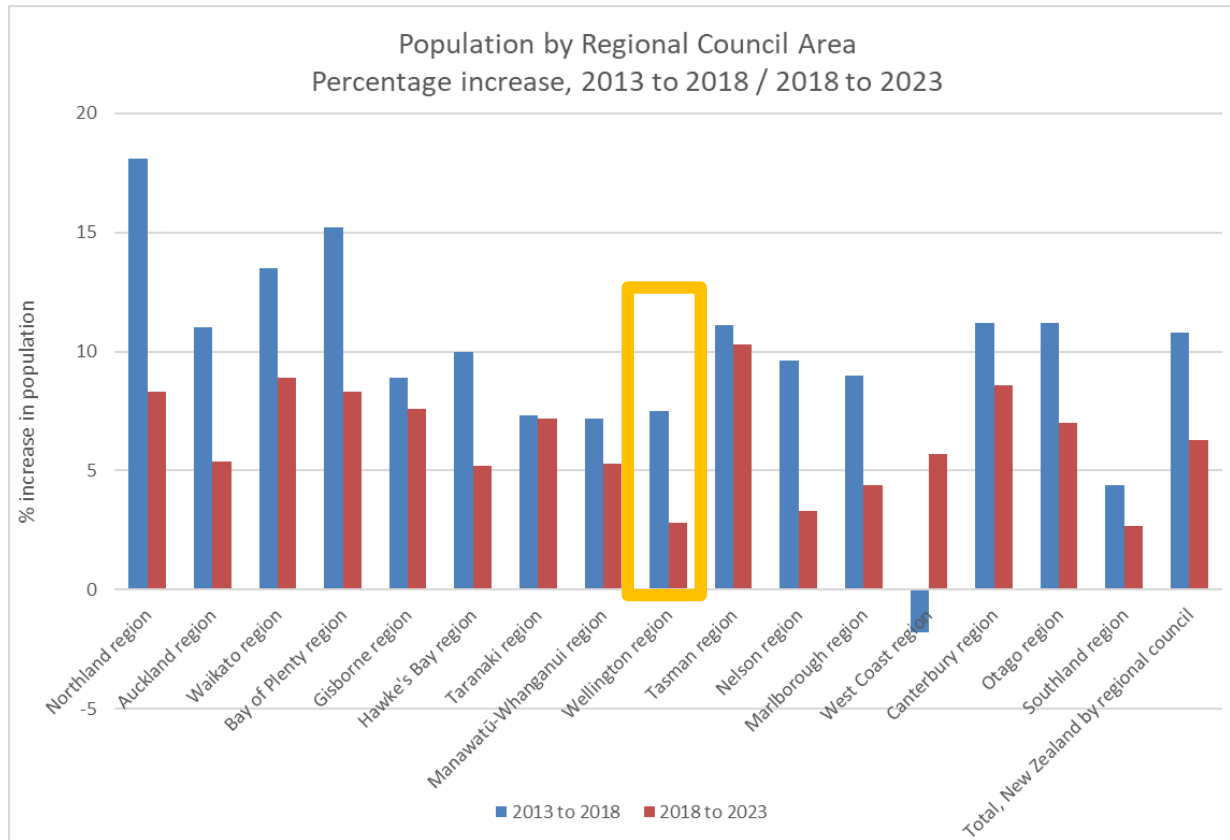
Presentation to Wellington Regional Leadership Committee, September 2024

Overview of today's presentation

- Census 2023 population numbers and the HBA
- Dwellings
- Household Size
- Ethnicity
- Age profile
- Comparison against other metrics
- Next steps

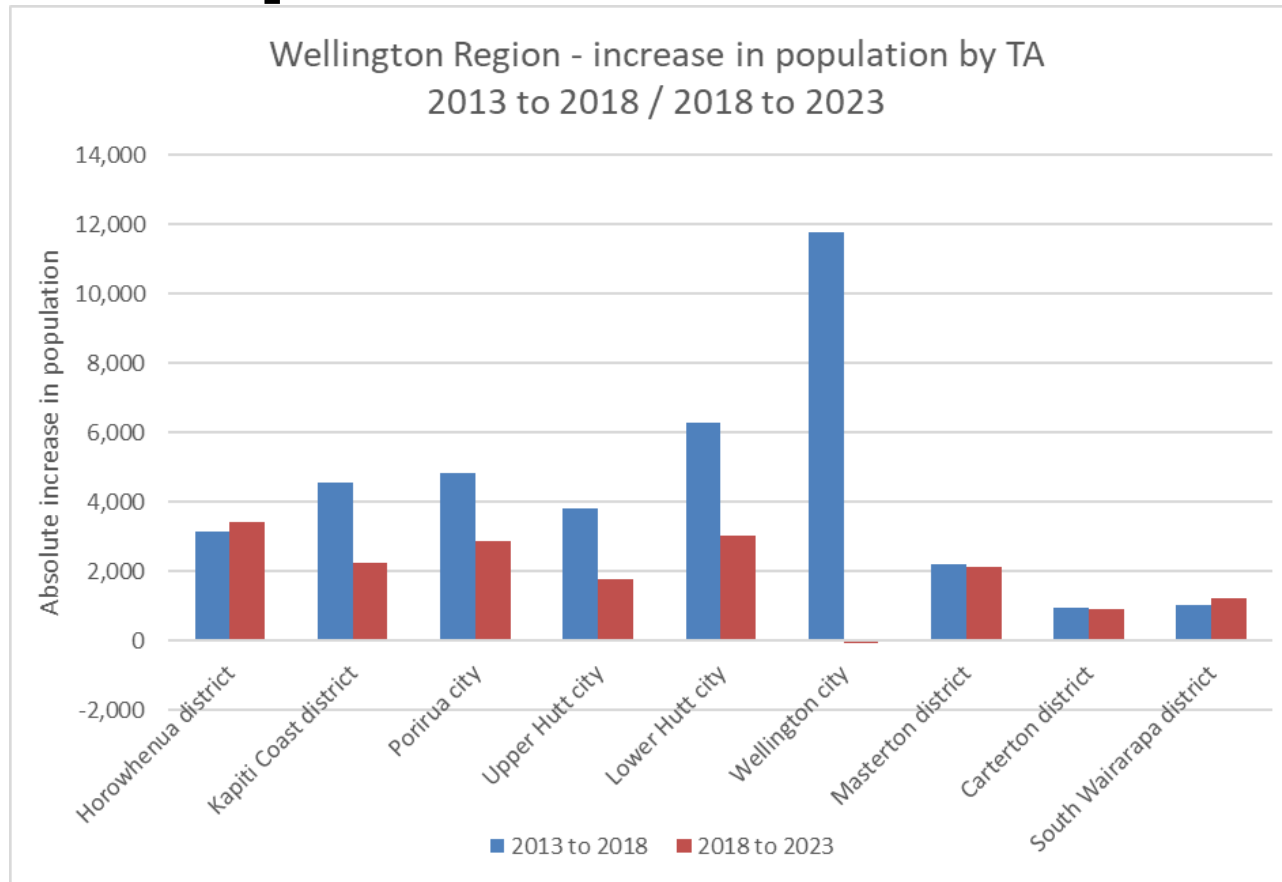
Census 2023 population

The Wellington Region saw one of the lowest population growth rates across all regional council areas between 2013 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023



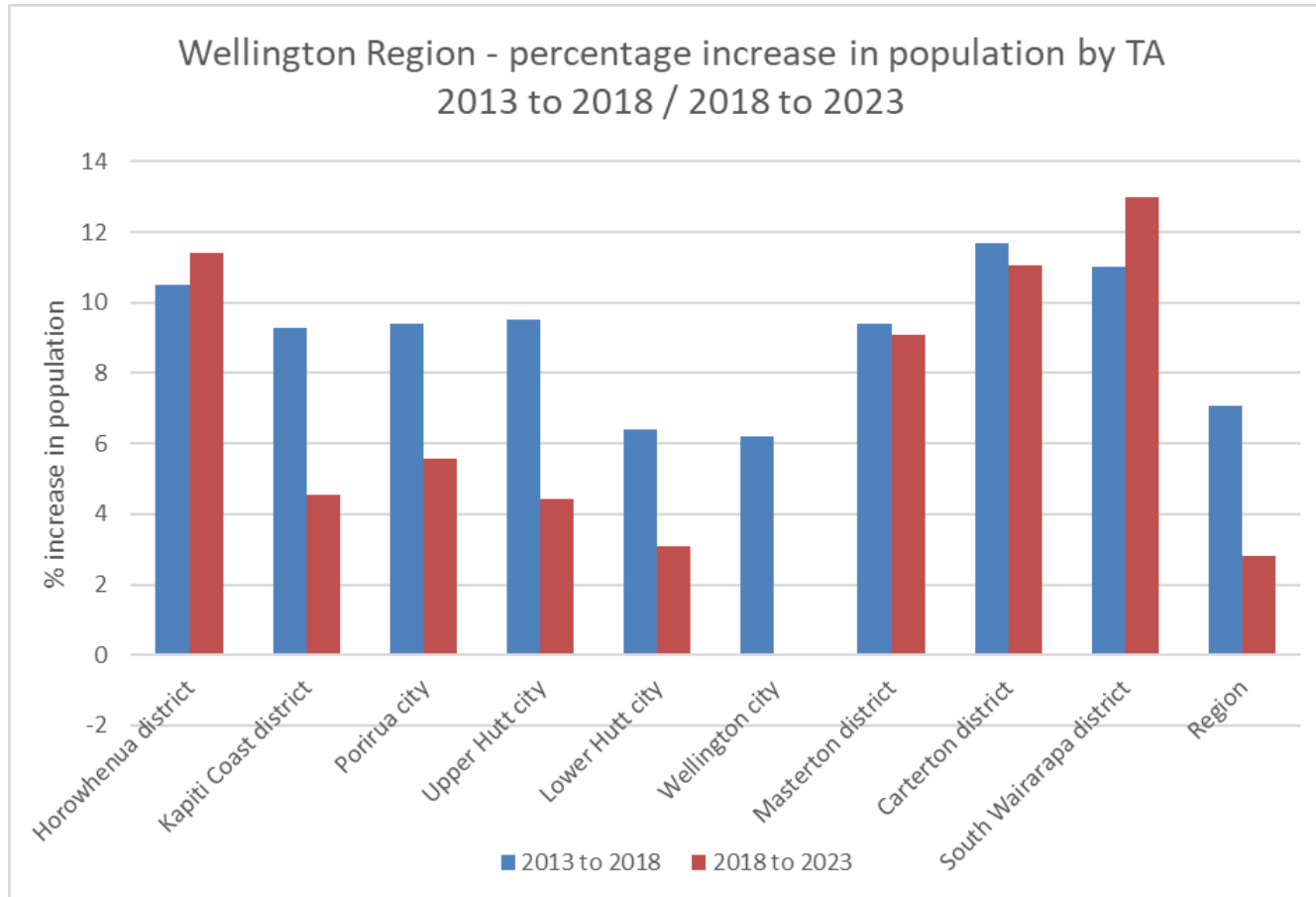
- Lower growth in population 2018 → 2023 compared to 2013 → 2018 across New Zealand
- Wellington Region towards the bottom in terms of growth during both periods

At a regional level, population growth halved between the period 2013 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023



- 2013 to 2018 → population of Wellington Region grew by 39,000 (7.1%)
- 2018 to 2023 → population of Wellington Region grew by 18,000 (2.6%)
- Lower growth everywhere in absolute terms between 2018 to 2023 except Wairarapa and Horowhenua
- No growth in population for Wellington City

The distribution of growth changed between 2018 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023, with the highest growth rates between 2018 and 2023 seen in the Wairarapa and Horowhenua



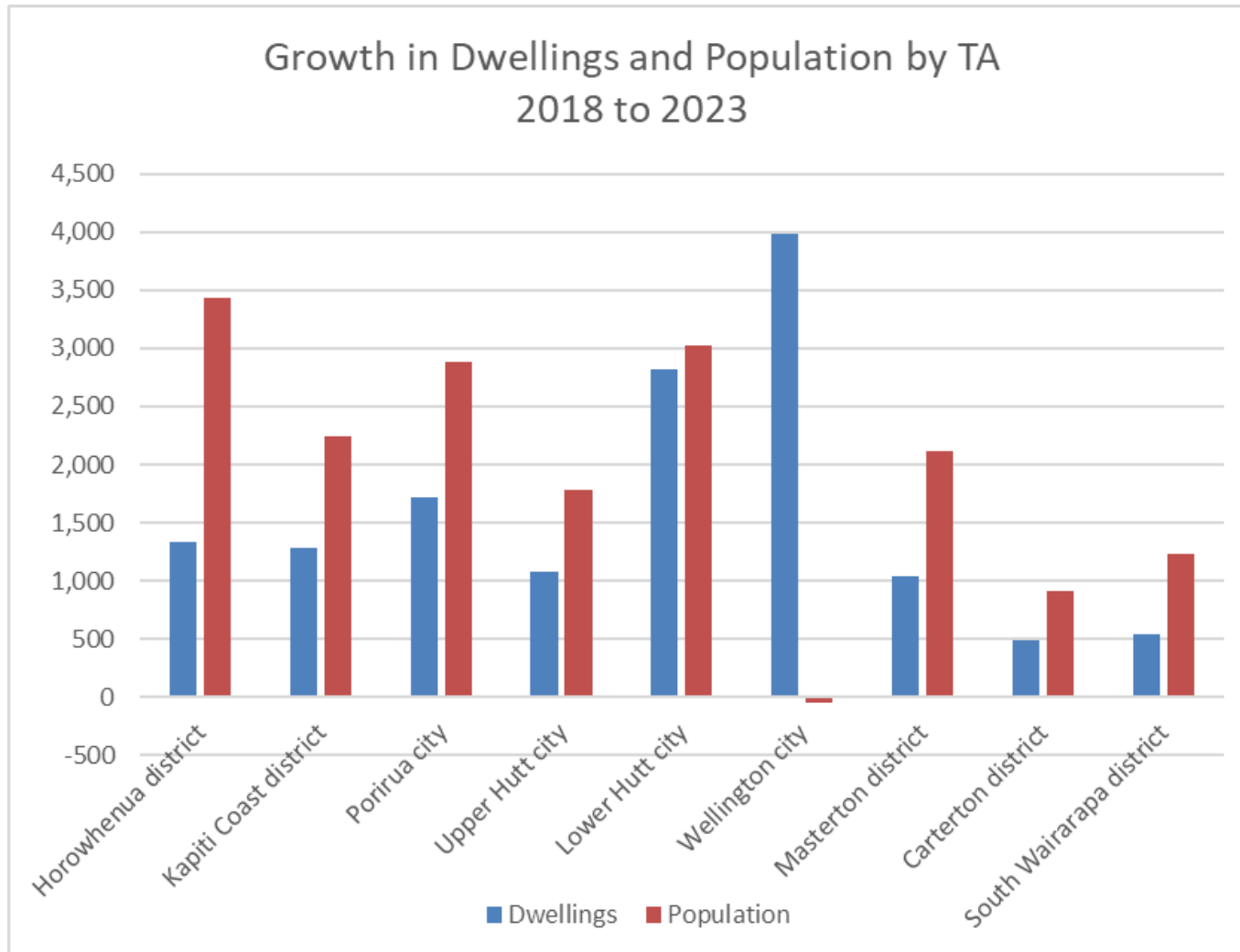
- Lowest percentage growth in Wellington and Lower Hutt
- change in distribution a result of ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors?
- Pull - flexible working, lifestyle choices
- Push – cost of housing in Wellington City in particular?

Too soon to tell what the Census 2023 initial findings mean for population growth projections moving forward

- Key observations:
 - Slightly lower 2023 population than was forecast by Sense Partners (noting uncertainty around needs to adjust from URP to ERP)
 - Distribution of growth over last 5 years is “broadly” as forecast by Sense Partners
 - Limited analysis shows that population growth rate that underpins HBA is broadly reflective of a continuation of growth rates seen over the last 10 years (therefore a plausible & possible future)
 - Decline in fertility rates – more significant than forecast, which might have implications moving forward?
 - Migration – likely past the ‘peak’ post Covid, significant uncertainty moving forward, migration a function of multiple factors (Wellington economy vs NZ, NZ economy vs rest of world / Australia, government policy, other macro economic factors)
- Updated population projections will be developed for February 2025 drawing on next release of Census data and discussions with regional stakeholders

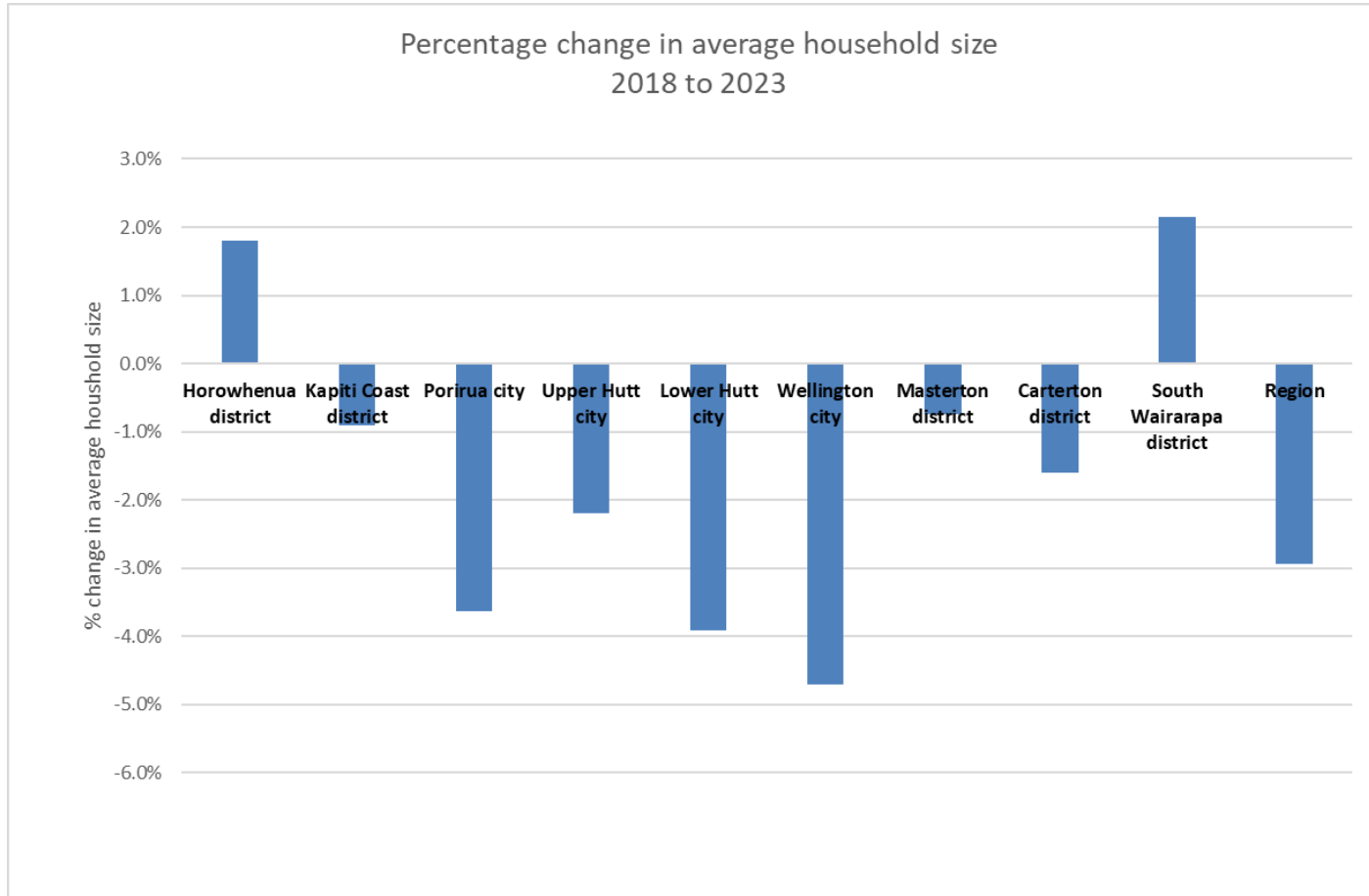
Census 2023 – Dwellings, Household Size, Ethnicity, Age

Between 2018 and 2023, the number of dwellings increased at a faster rate (6.4%) than population (2.6%) potentially helping to address housing shortfall?



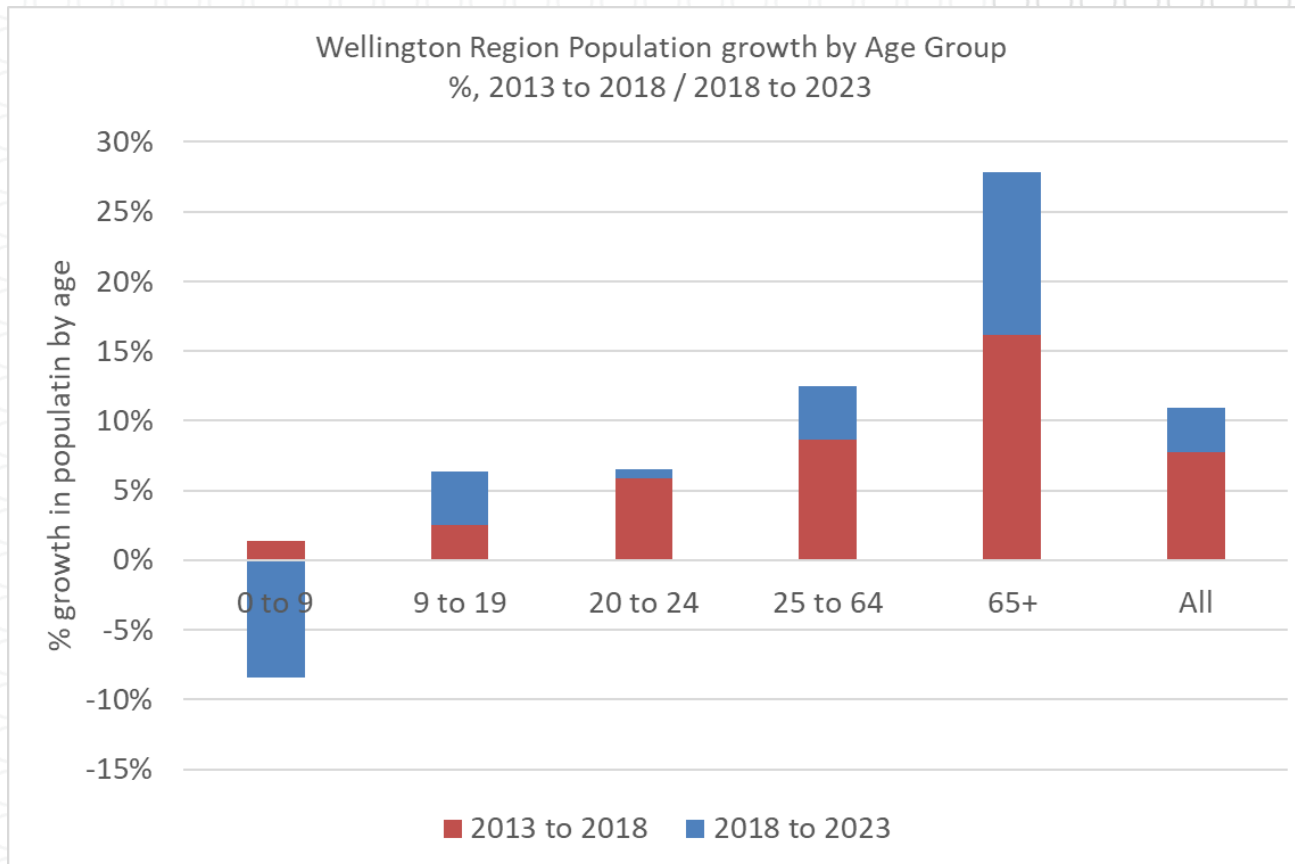
- Across the Wellington Region, around 13,000 new dwellings were constructed between 2018 and 2023
- During the same period, the region's population grew by around 18,000
- On average, 1 new dwelling for every 1.5 additional residents
- Similar trend across New Zealand, most stark in Auckland

Average household size decreased by 3% from 2018 to 2023 (this is actually quite a big drop)



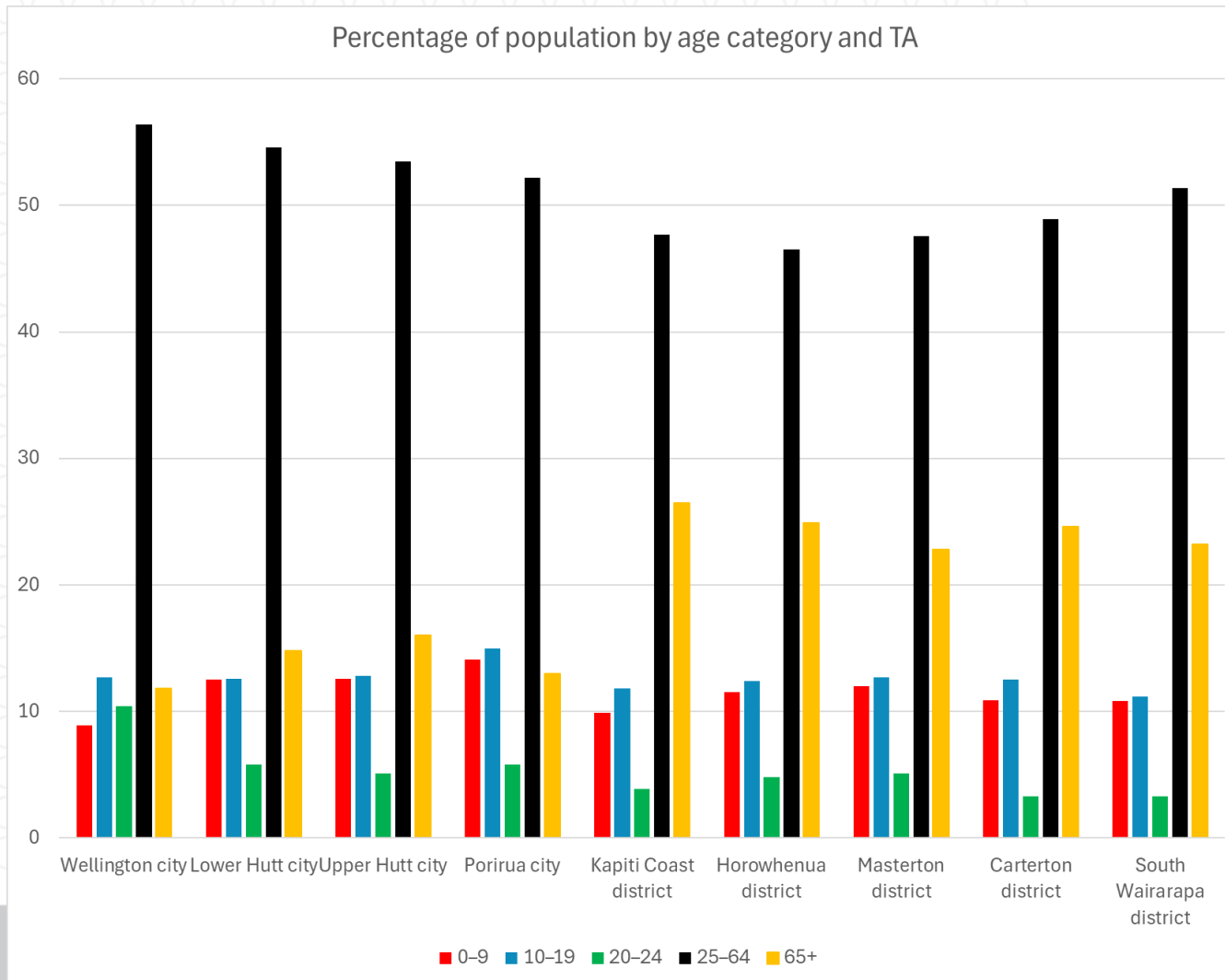
- Nationally there is a trend towards smaller household size
- This is due to many demographic and societal factors (people having fewer children, ageing population)
- Housing typology for many new dwellings (multi-unit) reflects current demand
- Wellington not unique – similar trends for Auckland and (to a lesser extent) Canterbury

The region's population is getting older, with an increase in over 65's and a decrease in under 9's seen over the last 5 to 10 years

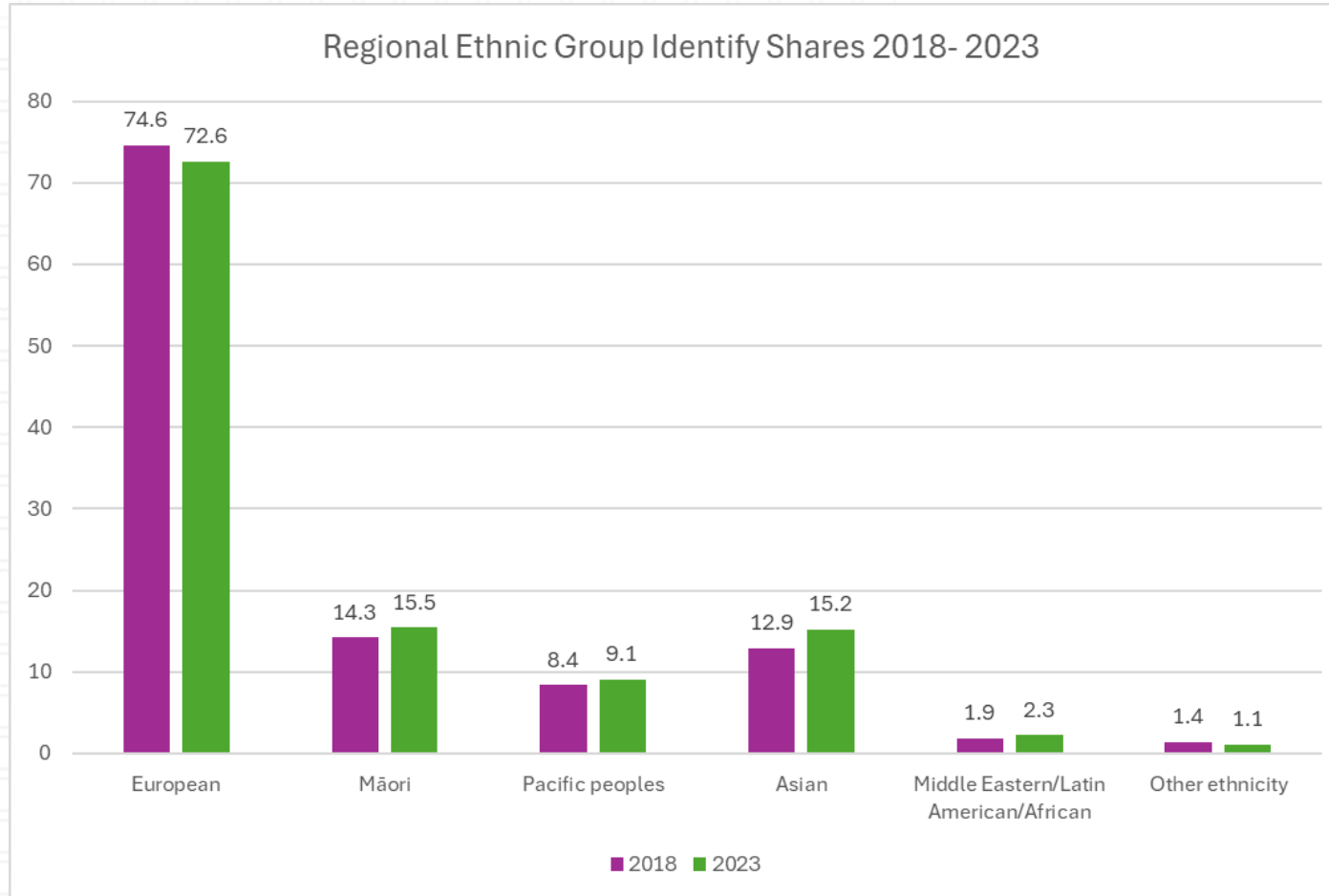


- Population grew by 7% (2013 to 2018) and 3% (2018 to 2023)
- 8% decrease in population aged 0 to 9 between 2018 and 2023 (will flow through to 9 to 19 in 2028)
- Greatest increase in 65+ age group – 30% increase between 2013 and 2023

Wellington has the most 20 to 24 years olds, Porirua the most under 19s, Wellington has the fewest under 9's, and Horowhenua / Kapiti / Wairarapa have the highest percentage of over 65s

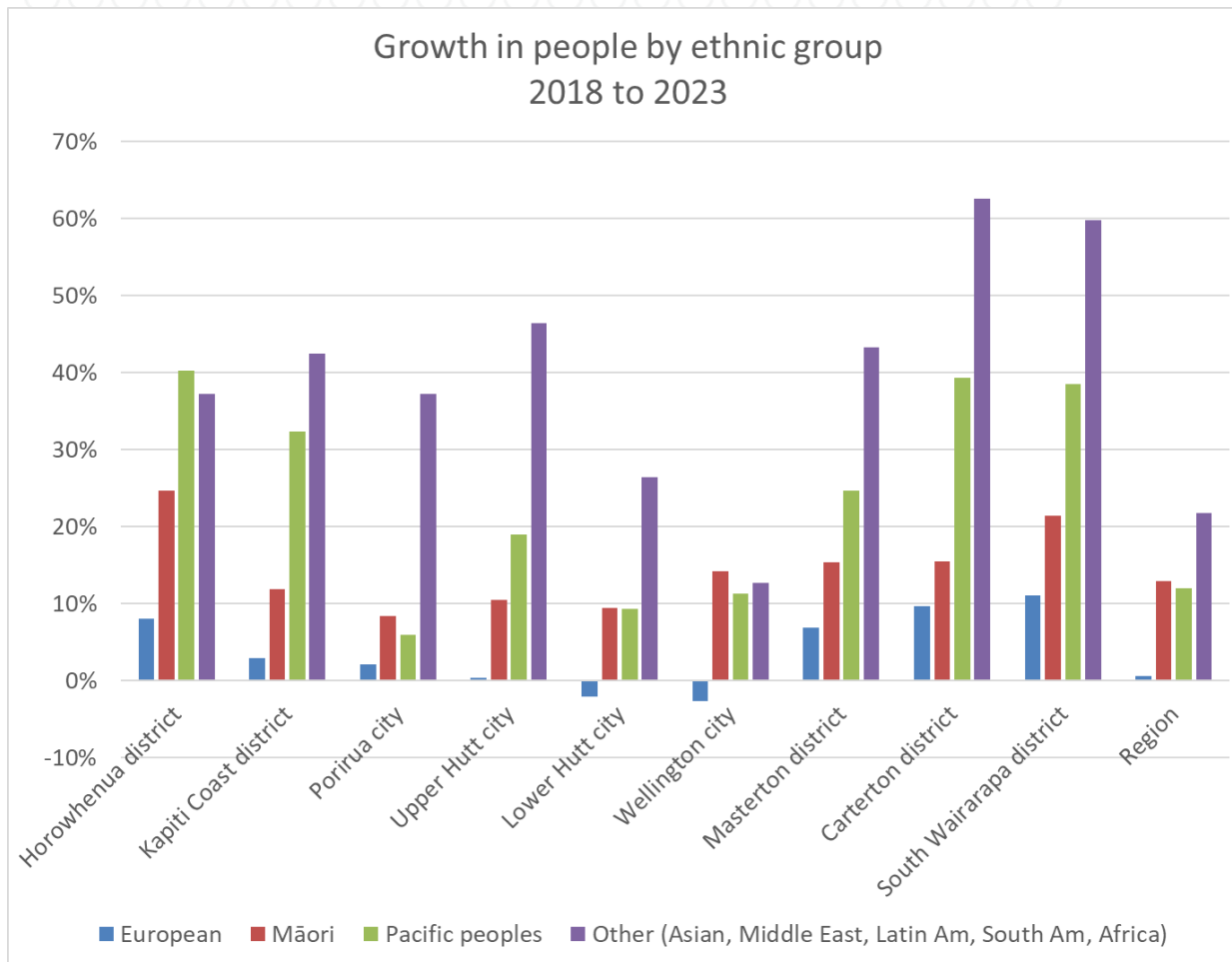


The Wellington Region is getting more diverse



- Māori ethnicity has increased from 14.3% to 15.5%, Pacific Peoples share has increased from 8.4% to 9.1%
- People of Asian ethnicity has increased from 12.9% to 15.2% of the population, which is reflective of national inward migration trends since 2018

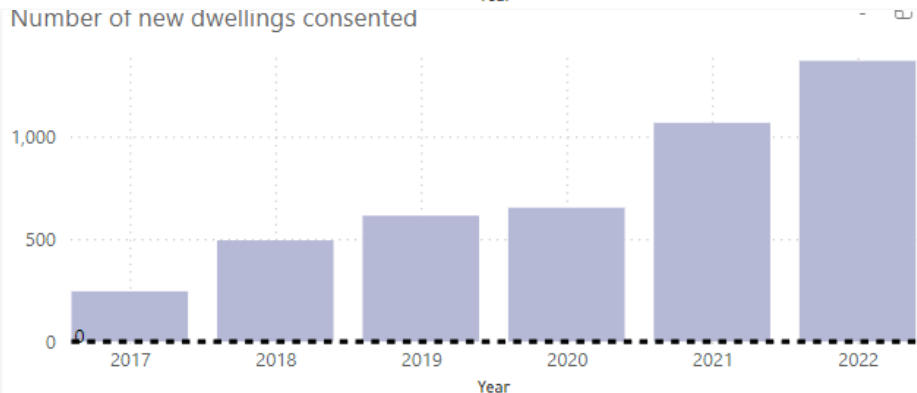
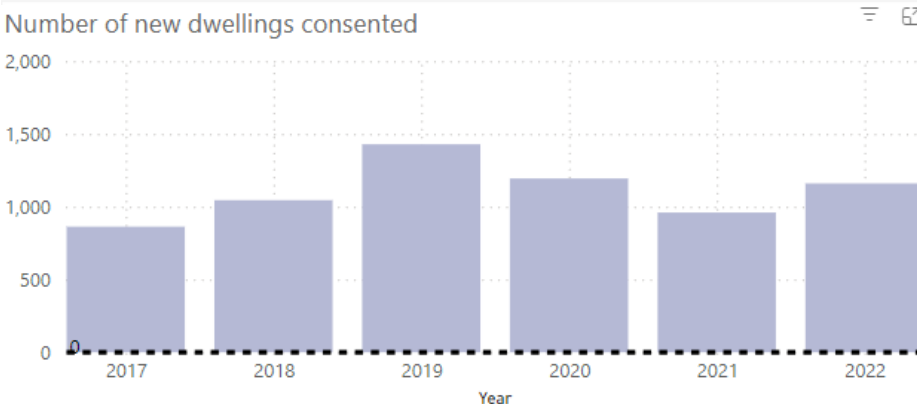
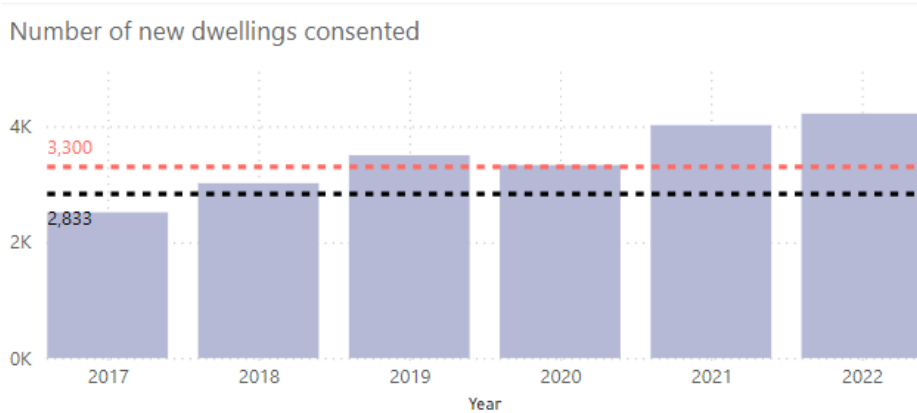
Between 2018 and 2023, persons identifying as other (primarily Asian) grew by 20% and persons identifying as Pacific peoples / Māori grew by over 10%



- In the Wellington Region, net growth in population over last 5 years has been from persons identifying as something other than NZ European
- Growth in persons identifying as Pacific and Maori driven by higher fertility rates
- Growth in persons identifying as Asian (off a low base) primarily driven by migration
- Region is becoming more multi-cultural

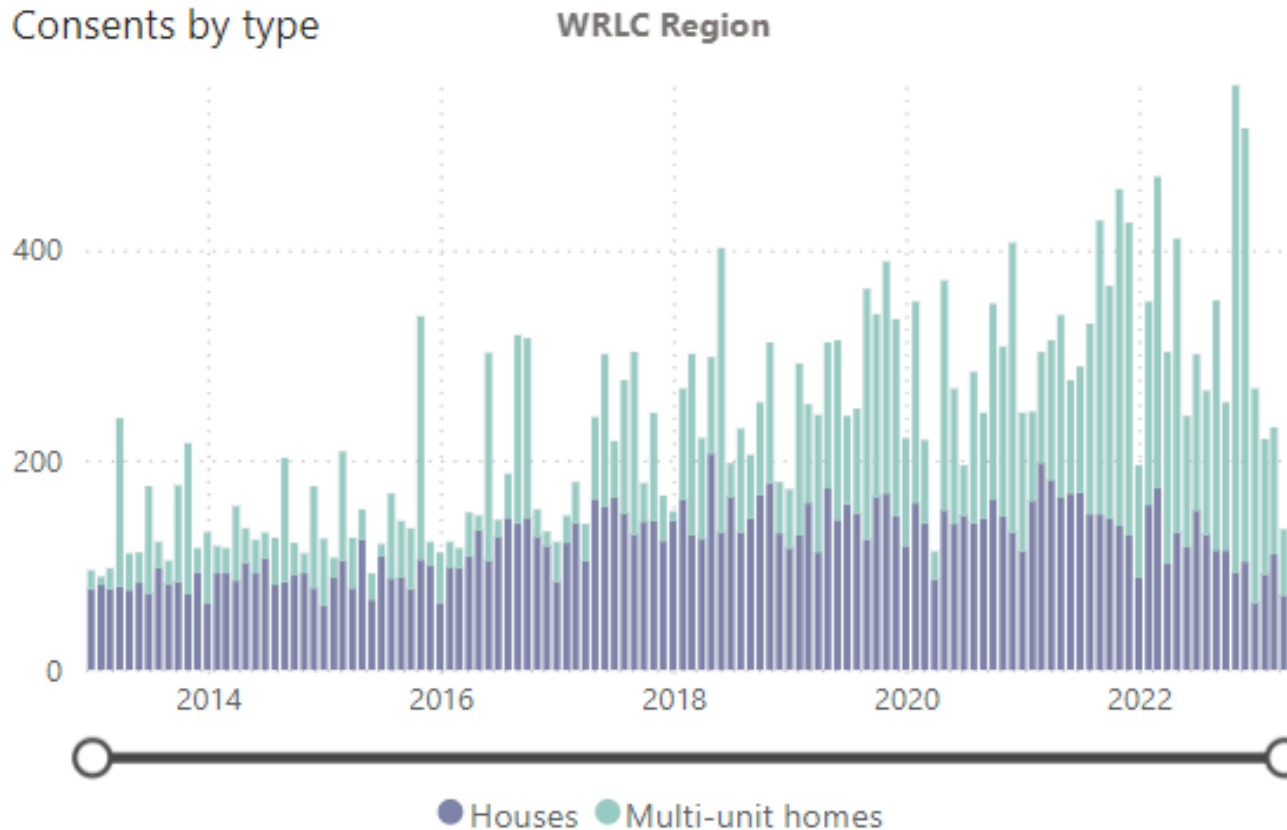
Comparison with other data sources

New consents within the Wellington region over the period 2017 to 2022 (15,000) broadly matches the increase in dwellings (13,000) over the same period



- **Wellington Region**
 - Consents 2017 to 2022 → 15,000
 - Dwellings March 2018 to 2023 → 13,000
-
- **Wellington City**
 - Consents 2017 to 2022 → 6,500
 - Dwellings March 2018 to 2023 → 5,000
-
- **Lower Hutt**
 - Consents 2017 to 2022 → 4,500
 - Dwellings March 2018 to 2023 → 5,000

Comparing dwellings consented between 2013 → 2018 and 2018 → 2023, there has been a significant shift towards more multi-unit dwellings



- Between 2013 and 2023 the number of standalone houses consented has broadly stayed the same
- From 2017 onwards there has been a significant shift with more multi-unit dwellings being built, contributing to the significant growth in dwellings over last 5 years

Next steps

- Waiting for subsequent releases
 - more granular level of detail
 - more data (household size, car ownership, travel to work)
- Will enable cross tabulation between difference data sources – transport, economy
- This is where the real insights will be gleaned



Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
1 October 2024
Report 24.492



For Information

ENERGY BRIEFING NOTE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (the Committee) background information on the Energy and Electricity sector.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The provision of infrastructure to support both the housing and economic growth the Wellington Region-Horowhenua District needs is a key component of the work of the Committee and individual partner organisations.
3. Electricity infrastructure has been recognised by the Committee in both the Future Development Strategy and the Regional Emissions Reduction Strategy. Electricity infrastructure is an infrastructure type that is becoming more prominent in discussion both regionally and nationally both from a need to have more of it and to ensure it is sustainable.
4. To date the Committee has had limited focus on electricity infrastructure but it remains an infrastructure type that would benefit from more a regionally agreed focus.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

Why is this important of the Committee?

5. When we think about infrastructure to support both the Future Development Strategy and the Regional Economic Development Strategy, the discussion most often turns to three waters and transport.
6. However, the national and regional provision of electricity is becoming more and more important to support both housing and business growth and would benefit from a regional approach to planning for this much like transport and three waters has/will have.
7. A regional and co-ordinated approach is also support by the Powerco, Wellington Electricity and Electra.
8. The key reasons for a planned approach and at a regional level are:

- a This would enable the electricity companies to provide for the right electricity infrastructure, in the right place at the right time e.g. where are new housing greenfield areas, new industrial land sites and where are fast charger EVs planned to go. This is recognised in the Energy RoadMap project in both the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan and the Future Development Strategy.
- b Electricity providers advise that more often than not, they get requests too late in the process and this delays projects, and they are not co-ordinated.
- c As a region we can implement business growth and attraction in a timely manner e.g. opening up a new industrial park whilst also understanding what else might be going on in that geographical location.
- d Having more regional generation (i.e. not having to rely on other regions to supply our electricity) will make our region more resilient both on a day to day basis and in an emergency.
- e The Future Development Strategy (at present due to be reviewed to inform 2027 Long Term Plans) requires the Committee to understand capacity constraints – this would include electricity capacity constraints.
- f Nationally the continued provision of electricity has been an issue this winter (see some links in the briefing note), and this region needs to plan to ensure it can manage at a regional level when this occurs.

Briefing note and plenary session

- 9. A briefing note has been prepared for the Committee to provide some information as background for members. This is [Attachment 1](#). It includes sections on:
 - a Energy vs electricity
 - b The New Zealand Electricity System
 - c WRLC activity – Regional Emissions Reduction Plan including Energy chapter and Energy Road Map
 - d Central government direction
 - e Localised energy generation (e.g. wind farms, solar) and in particular local energy storage
 - f Electrify Wairarapa sessions
 - g Other
- 10. This note is provided as an introduction to some current activity and is not a comprehensive summary of what is a very complicated sector.
- 11. It is proposed that a plenary session be held on this topic in the time slot currently in the calendar for Committee members on 26 November 2024. We would invite experts from the sector to present/discuss with the Committee, key aspects of the electricity sector, why it is importance that a proactive regional approach to this is undertaken now and what some possible next steps will be.
- 12. The purpose of that plenary session would be to:

- a Inform Committee members in more detail about the sector to enable them to make more informed discussions on this topic.
- b Provide an opportunity to talk with those who work in the sector to determine the risks and opportunities for the Committee/region.
- c Discuss what activity (if any) the Committee would like to see with regards to electricity in its work programme.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Energy briefing note

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Kim Kelly – Programme Director Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Secretariat
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He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> This fits with the need to provide for infrastructure for future housing and business growth
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Aligns with implementing the Future Development Strategy and Regional Economic Development Plan.
<i>Internal consultation</i> No internal consultation has been undertaken at this point.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> Not identified at this stage



Energy Briefing Note – October 2024

This briefing note has been prepared to summarise a number of recent activity, issues and opportunities related to electricity nationally and in the WRLC region. This is provided as a “for information only” at this stage and the beginning of a summary for discussion at a workshop/plenary on this topic for the WRLC (to be confirmed).

Electricity and energy and making sure we have enough of it in the region is an aspect highlighted and included in the Future Development Strategy. In addition to this a number of issues, requests or opportunities related to energy and electricity have emerged in the last 6-12 months.

An outline of these is covered in this briefing note. Having a session with the WRLC on this topic will be important so that members a. understand how the system works, b. understand why as we region we should be focusing on this and c. agrees any work/next steps from this.

It should be noted that this briefing note is not meant to be a comprehensive summary of all activity e.g. all government policy direction, but more a summary of “energy/electricity” related aspects that have arisen recently for information.

This note includes information on:

1. Energy vs electricity
2. The New Zealand Electricity System
3. WRLC activity – Regional Emissions Reduction Plan including Energy chapter and Energy Road Map
4. Central government direction
5. Localised energy generation (e.g. wind farms, solar) and in particular local energy storage
6. Electrify Wairarapa sessions
7. Other

1. **Energy vs electricity**

According to EECA [The future of energy in New Zealand | EECA](#), most of New Zealand’s **energy** is supplied by fossil fuels, including 99% of transport energy, and around 60% of industrial energy. StatsNZ note that **energy** types include electricity, petrol, diesel, coal, natural gas and renewable energy.

In terms of **electricity** a number of sources provide a consistent view on this with regards to levels of renewables:

- EECA note that much of our electricity is generated from renewable energy sources (80-85%).
- In line with this statistic, MBIE report that 87% of electricity generated over 2022 came from renewable sources.



- And Gen Less [The electricity grid | Gen Less](#) notes that in a typical year, NZ generates around 80-85% of its electricity from renewable energy sources including hydro, geothermal and wind. The other 15-20% is generated from burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil.

The diagrams below provide some more context.

- Diagram 1 from Rewiring Aotearoa [Home | Rewiring Aotearoa](#), an infographic showing average **energy** consumption in NZ over the last 5 years by four energy types.
- Diagram 2 from the EECA showing **primary energy** consumption. Primary energy is energy that is harvested directly from natural resources – these can be renewable energy sources or non-renewable (such as gas, oil and coal).
- Diagram 3 from Genless showing average electricity generation 2017-2021

Diagram 1: NZ Energy System – source Rewiring Aotearoa

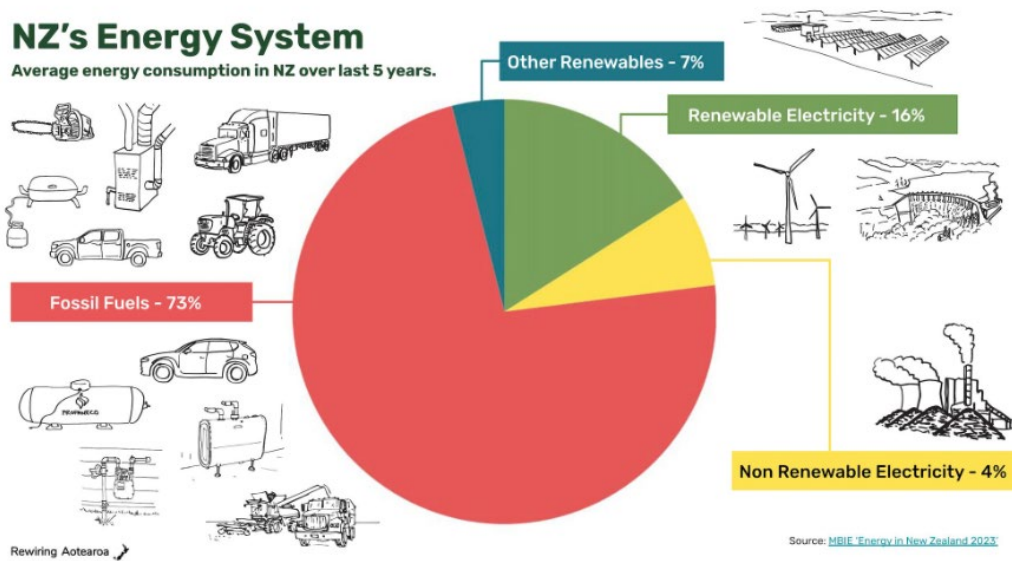




Diagram 2: Primary energy consumption in New Zealand – source EECA

Primary energy consumption in New Zealand

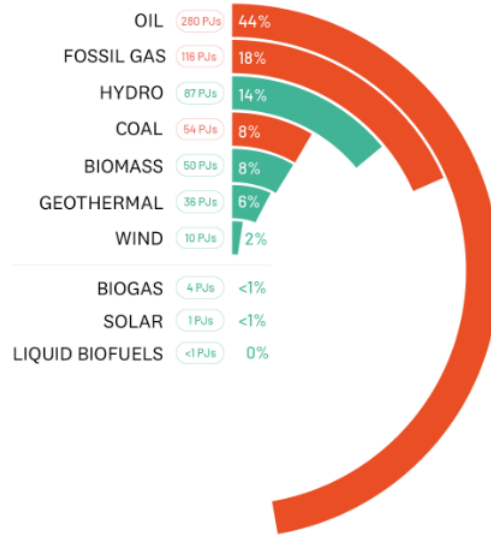
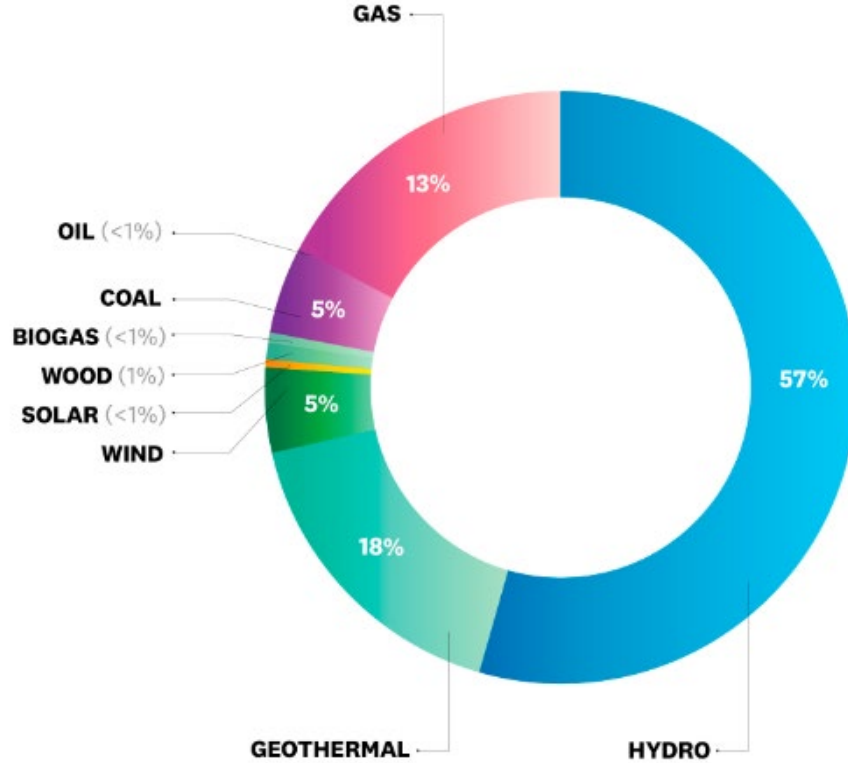


Diagram 3: Average electricity generation in NZ 2017-2021– source Gen Less

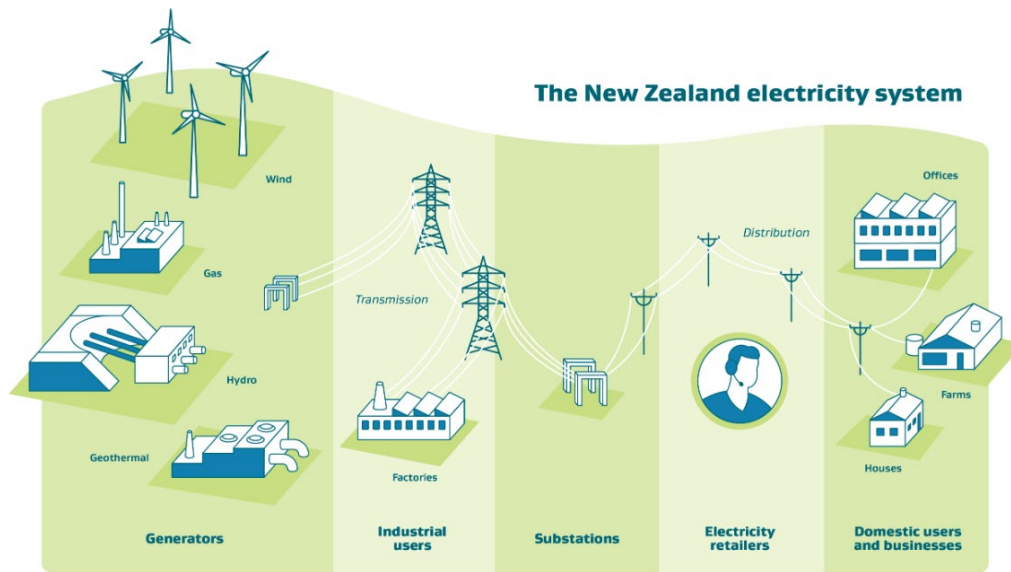


2. The New Zealand Electricity System

This section of the briefing note is provided as an overview and is no means to be read as a complete understanding of how the electricity sector works.

The diagram below from MBIE (see [Electricity industry | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](https://www.mbie.govt.nz/electricity-industry) if you want more information) shows how the electricity system in NZ works.

Diagram 4: The New Zealand electricity system



Some further information is:

What	Comment
Electricity generators	<p>There are four large electricity generators in NZ and a number of smaller ones.</p> <p>Genesis Energy, Mercury and Meridian Energy operate under a mixed ownership model in which the government holds a majority stake.</p> <p>Contact is a private sector company.</p> <p>Generation companies own and operate power stations across the country.</p>



What	Comment
Electricity transmission	<p>State-owned enterprise Transpower owns and operates New Zealand's national electricity transmission system. The system includes substations, high voltage cables, transformers and overhead lines for transmitting high voltage electricity from power stations to distribution (lines) companies.</p> <p>As system operator, Transpower is responsible for the real-time operation of the electricity system. Under the Electricity Industry Act 2010, the system operator must also provide information and forecasts on the security of supply, and to manage supply emergencies.</p>
Wholesale electricity market	<p>The wholesale market is where generators sell electricity and retailers buy electricity. Retailers then on-sell that electricity to businesses and households across New Zealand.</p> <p>There are about 80 generation companies, 62 retailers and 6 gentailers (generator-retailers) in New Zealand's wholesale market. The remaining wholesale market participants comprise distribution and network companies and traders in secondary markets, such as financial hedges.</p>
Electricity retailers	<p>In New Zealand there is a high degree of vertical integration between electricity generation and retail as the 4 main retail companies are also the main generating companies.</p> <p>Electricity retailers provide a 'bundled' service for most consumers by buying electricity at wholesale (spot and contract) prices from the generating companies, and transmission or distribution services from lines companies.</p> <p>The retailers' charges to the end-users include the cost of the electricity supplied as well as charges for transmission and distribution. Some large</p>



What	Comment
	<p>consumers contract separately with retailers and lines companies for energy and network services.</p> <p>Market share trends can be found at Electricity Authority - EMI (market statistics and tools) (ea.govt.nz). The key on the right provides a list of all retailers.</p>

3. WRLC activity – Regional Emissions Reduction Plan (RERP) including Energy chapter and Energy Road Map

The Regional Emissions Reduction Plan includes the following commentary (page 29):

- In New Zealand, approximately 60% of our primary **energy** (meaning energy created directly from the actual resource) is non-renewable.
- The largest overall source of energy emissions is fossil fuel (petrol and diesel) which is used in vehicles and machines.
- 87% of **electricity** was generated from renewable sources; hydroelectric, geothermal, and wind in 2022. There was record generation from both wind and geothermal along with above average hydro lakes inflows.
- To reduce impacts from climate change and air pollution we need to reduce energy use as well as shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, also called decarbonisation. Moving away from fossil fuels to renewable sources will build resilience by reducing exposure to the global supply and price shock of fossil fuels and addressing our declining domestic gas reserves.
- It is important that the national grid supplying our region can service demand. The level of future demand is somewhat uncertain as we can create efficiencies in activities where energy is wasted (i.e. heat escaping from uninsulated buildings), while some activities which traditionally use fossil fuels (i.e powering buses and cars) may require more electricity which will increase demand.
- The WRLC could support the energy transition by contributing to the increased wind and solar capacity as well as solid biofuels to provide process heat. There is also a potential role to play in supporting small-scale distributed renewable energy generation like micro-grids alongside government ministries and agencies like the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and ECCA (Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority).
- Per capita energy consumption in NZ has more than tripled since 1960. This is despite all the energy efficient technologies we have adopted. This also points to over-consumption being the root cause of climate change and other environmental harm.
- We need to be efficient in our energy use and try to reduce demand. One way to reduce energy is to improve our buildings. Residential buildings in particular need to



be well-insulated to reduce reliance on coal during winter peaks. Retrofitting homes and ensuring high energy efficiency in new buildings can provide dry healthy housing improving our community's health. Housing is an issue of great importance to iwi our region.

- Well-functioning energy infrastructure supports meeting the objective of all Māori and all communities in our region being housed in a warm, safe environment. The realisation of rangatiratanga and regional sustainability goals are also supported through the provision to communities of individual off-grid technology to redistribute power, water and other utilities.

And the following projects:

8	Develop an Energy Roadmap for the region.
<p>This project includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removing roadblocks to electrification by creating an Energy Coordination group to document needs and requirements. Connections with EEVA and Transpower will help remove roadblocks to decarbonise through electrification, including the roll out of things such as EV chargers, EV bus depots and gas boiler replacement. Planning together with Electricity Distribution Businesses (EDBs) will create efficiencies. 2. The development of a Multi-Sector Regional Energy Roadmap. This would outline energy users long term energy requirements, aspirations and roadblocks so that central government and EDBs know where to plan and invest for the region to grow and rapidly decarbonise, and to coordinate energy demand reduction efforts. 3. Additionally the group can help fast-track local implementation of central government programmes eg National EV charging network and Regional Energy Transition Accelerator. 	
9	Investigate local energy generation and community micro-grids.
<p>Investigate investment into local generation such as community-level micro-grids (including storage) via funds like MBIE's Community Renewable Energy Fund. Investigate supporting developers to implement microgrids in developments, especially in a denser-housing context.</p> <p>Kāinga Ora and Wellington Electricity could share learnings from their Wellington Energy Sharing Pilot. Local energy sharing can increase resilience and alleviate pressure on the national grid while large-scale renewable energy is being developed</p>	
10	Make a move to reduce reliance on gas by avoiding demand growth and phasing out existing use.
<p>This action aligns with the Climate Change Commission's 2021 advice. Fossil gas makes up 34% of emissions from our region's Stationary Energy emissions. There is estimated to be less than ten years' worth of gas reserves left in NZ, and renewable gas alternatives are in their infancy. The transition away from fossil gas use needs to be timed so that the energy sector has the capacity to manage the increased demand.</p>	



We will investigate opportunities to avoid additional/new demand for fossil gas from new residential and commercial users while supporting the phase out of existing fossil gas use through education and support packages.

Gas should be used as a transition fuel where an alternative energy source is not cost-efficient, to protect network resiliency and customers from sudden changes as the region decarbonises. This would need to be paired with encouraging and incentivising network-controlled devices to shift unnecessary peak demand load.

11

Support more energy-efficient homes.

We need to make sure our houses are warm and dry while using as little energy as possible. We plan to advocate to central government to fund larger-scale residential retrofit programmes, and Eco Design Advisors at councils, while also expanding current work (e.g Warmer Kiwi Homes programme) to reduce energy demand from household heating in winter peak, along with incentivizing new smart devices that can be controllable for flexibility.

These measures will:

- Create energy efficiencies
- Help with capacity constraints, and provide the ability to shift flexible energy usage to times of day when there is less demand on non-renewable energy sources.
- Reduce our energy emissions.

Some very initial thinking has been done on project 8 which is also included in the Future Development Strategy but not on any others listed above. Project 8 is the only “approved” project from this list under the WRLC Work Programme (as signed off June 2024).

4. Central government direction

The National Party policy documents include one called “Electrify NZ” – see [Electrify NZ.pdf \(nationbuilder.com\)](#).

Some key points from this document are:

- The opening statement is “*Electrify NZ will cut red tape to drive investment in renewable electricity generation so New Zealand can double its supply of affordable, clean energy and become a lower emissions economy*” and then there is commentary on this as it relates to the RMA.
- It also states “*40% of New Zealand’s emissions come from transport and energy. Switching those sectors to clean electricity could deliver almost a third of the emissions reductions New Zealand needs to reach Net Zero by 2050*”. However coalition policy direction since the election does not seem to be consistent with this.
- There is commentary on having three National Policy Statements (NPS’s) for a. Renewable Electricity Generation, b. Hydrogen and c. Distribution.

The two actions in the Electrify NZ document are:



1. **Turbo-charge new renewable power projects including solar, wind and geothermal by requiring decisions on resource consents to be issued in one year and consents to last for 35 years.**
2. **Unleash investment in transmission and local lines by eliminating consents for upgrades to existing infrastructure and most new infrastructure.**

Some relevant points noted in the National/Act coalition agreement are:

- National's commitment to supercharge electric vehicle infrastructure with a comprehensive, nationwide network of 10,000 public EV chargers by 2030 will specifically take into account ACT's concern that there be robust cost benefit analysis to ensure maximum benefit for government investment.
- Legislate to improve the quality of regulation, ensuring that regulatory decisions are based on principles of good law-making and economic efficiency, by passing the Regulatory Standards Act as soon as practicable.
- Amend the Resource Management Act 1991 to make it easier to consent new infrastructure including renewable energy, allow farmers to farm, get more houses built, and enable aquaculture and other primary industries.
- Repeal the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration.

Some relevant points noted in the National/NZ First coalition agreement are:

- Deliver Net Zero by 2050 including by doubling New Zealand's renewable electricity and supporting new technology to reduce agricultural emissions.
- Assess and respond to the impact that energy prices have on inflation including consumer led institutional improvements.
- Establish a National Infrastructure Agency under the direction of relevant Ministers, to coordinate government funding, connect investors with New Zealand infrastructure, and improve funding, procurement, and delivery to:
 - Prioritise regional and national projects of significance.
 - Facilitate or procure funding for regional and national projects of significance.
 - Procure from government agencies for appropriate Crown projects.
 - Oversee procurement from the private sector.
- Establish a Regional Infrastructure Fund with \$1.2 billion in capital funding over the Parliamentary term
- Amend the Resource Management Act 1991 to:
 - Make it easier to consent new infrastructure including renewable energy, allow farmers to farm, get more houses built, and enhance primary sector including fish and aquaculture, forestry, pastoral, horticulture and mining.
- Investigate the threshold at which local lines companies can invest in generation assets.



- Require the electricity regulator to implement regulations such that there is sufficient electricity infrastructure to ensure security of supply and avoid excessive prices.
- Examine transmission and connection pricing to facilitate cost effective connection of new renewable generation resources, both on-shore and off-shore.
- Plan for transitional low carbon fuels, including the infrastructure needed to increase the use of methanol and hydrogen to achieve sovereign fuel resilience.
- Future-proof the natural gas industry by restarting offshore exploration and supporting development of hydrogen technology to produce hydrogen from natural gas without co-production of CO₂.
- Ensure that climate change policies are aligned and do not undermine national energy security.
- Ensure the government's energy settings allow for the exploration of natural geological hydrogen in New Zealand, to maximise future energy resilience.

5. Localised energy generation and local energy storage

Localised energy **generation** is noted as a project in the RERP but not included in the Future Development Strategy. There is not an approved project by the WRLC and no WRLC or other resource is currently provided to look at this at a regional level.

The Electricity Authority have the following info about energy generation but looking at location it only breaks it down into North Island/South Island - [Investment pipeline | Tableau Public](#).

A search of the Infrastructure Commission pipeline tool [Search the Pipeline | Te Waihanga](#) with the filters of “Wellington + Manawatu/Whanganui” and “Energy” shows the following as at 9 August 2024 – none/little of which seems to be about energy generation.



Search results: 22 projects for Manawatū - Whanganui & Wellington regions and Energy sector. Sorted by project start date.

Project name	Organisation	Project status	Value	2021	2023	2025	2027	2029	2031
Marton 33kV Switchboard ODID Conversion (IP008849)	Powerco Limited	In procurement	\$\$						
Gas Compressor Replacement Strategy: Kaitoke Compressor Station (IP006339)	First Gas Limited	Under construction	\$\$						
Generators, High Voltage Network, TEC Infrastructure Replacements and Upgrades ...	Health New Zealand	In planning	\$\$						
Pukepapa Rd 11kV Upgrade and a New UG 33kV (IP008856)	Powerco Limited	In procurement	\$\$						
Arahina New 11kV Switchroom and Second Transformer (IP008842)	Powerco Limited	Early planning	\$\$						
Electrical Network Upgrade (HV/LV) (IP009583)	New Zealand Defence Force	In planning	\$\$\$						
Hydrogen trials (IP010794)	First Gas Limited	Under construction	\$						
Ohakea Infrastructure Programme - Fuels Precinct (IP000043)	New Zealand Defence Force	Under construction	\$\$\$						
Second Feilding Zone Substation (IP008843)	Powerco Limited	In procurement	\$\$						
Normanby Zone Substation (IP006551)	Powerco Limited	Early planning	\$\$						
ODID Brunswick (IP008852)	Powerco Limited	Early planning	\$\$						
Haywards Second STATCOM (Net Zero Grid Pathways) - Wellington (IP008647)	Transpower New Zealand Limited	Early planning	\$\$\$						
Feilding Sub, 3rd 33kV line (IP009837)	Powerco Limited	In planning	\$\$						
Feilding East and West Line Thermal Upgrades (IP008845)	Powerco Limited	Early planning	\$\$						
Bunnythorpe - Woodville Capacity Increase (IP010369)	Transpower New Zealand Limited	Early planning	\$\$						
Ashhurst substation (IP006570)	Powerco Limited	Early planning	\$\$						
Rongotea new zone substation (IP006565)	Powerco Limited	Early planning	\$\$						

Some information about local generation/provision from a quick internet search includes the following:

- Waingawa [Solar Farm Project - Waingawa — Lightyears Solar](#)
- South Wairarapa [Application for Solar Farm is to be publicly notified - SWDC SWDC](#) and now updated with [Wellington Scoop » 156 hectare solar farm, with 240,000 solar panels, to be built in Carterton](#)
- Foxton and Greytown [Far North Solar Farm - New Zealand's First Solar Farm \(fnf.co.nz\)](#)
- Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust operate a solar company [Solar Systems for NZ Properties - TŪ MAI RĀ ENERGY \(tmre.nz\)](#)
- Otaki (2021) [Energise Ōtaki – Community owned Solar Farm | New Zealand Energy Excellence Awards \(energyawards.co.nz\)](#)

Localised energy storage is becoming an increasingly popular topic and particularly following recent weather and outage events. The Electricity Authority has information on battery storage on their website [Unlocking the potential for batteries to contribute to security of supply | Electricity Authority \(ea.govt.nz\)](#) including comments such as:

- Grid scale batteries soak up excess renewable electricity and then release it back to the grid when needed. They maximise the benefits of renewable energy and provide extra resilience during times of tight electricity supply.
- Batteries charge when prices are low, and discharge when they are high.
- As New Zealand electrifies, more grid-scale batteries will support the growing renewable energy supply. Meridian Energy is building a 100MW battery new Ruakaka



(Northland) which is expected to be commission in September 2024. Genesis has also signalled its

Battery storage facilities typically are large buildings. It is recommended that all solar and all wind farms should have storage also.

Note there are no battery storage facilities in the WRLC region.

6. Electrify Wairarapa + others

The WRLC Secretariat has had recent communication about this as follows.

Sustainable Wairarapa, a long standing NGO, ran an event with Mike Casey as the speaker as the CEO of [Rewiring Aotearoa](#) in late July 2024 which attracted 60-70 people from their membership.

Based on the success of that event, they have teamed up with Wairarapa Water Users Society to stage a bigger event targeting both constituencies – households and business/primary producers.

The event, Electrify Wairarapa, will be held at Copthorne Solway Park in Masterton over Friday 22nd November and Saturday 23rd November. The Friday will feature a full day ticketed conference with an expo of relevant suppliers. This Expo will remain in place for Saturday morning.

The themes of the events are:

1. Pathways to de-carbonise
2. Regional resilience via distributed generation
3. The economic drivers on top of the environmental benefits
4. What are the infrastructure needs to allow electrification

The person we made contact with has suggested that there is potential to stage similar events in the other parts of the region and there would be benefits in linking them up into a series. The issues and opportunities in each part of the region will have different entry profile so different activities and outcomes can be expected.

7. Other

Useful sites for further reading

- [Home | Rewiring Aotearoa](#)
- [The future of energy in New Zealand | EECA](#)
- [Energy generation and markets | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Home | Electricity Authority \(ea.govt.nz\)](#)
- [The electricity grid | Gen Less](#)

There has been recent activity around things like electricity pricing, power grid emergencies etc – some articles on these are below for further reading.



- [When it comes to power, solar is about to leave nuclear and everything else in the shade \(theconversation.com\)](#)
- ['Extreme' solar storm impacts NZ, power grid emergency declared \(1news.co.nz\)](#)
- [What we're doing about the electricity price spike | Electricity Authority \(ea.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Our electricity market is short-circuiting. Can it be fixed? | The Spinoff](#)

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee
1 October 2024
Report 24.539



For Information

PLANNING FOR FLOOD HAZARDS: LESSONS FROM THE HAWKES BAY

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (the Committee) on:
 - a the findings and recommendations of the independent flood review into Cyclone Garielle, Hawkes Bay 2023;
 - b the actions proposed for the Wellington Region following consideration of the outcomes from the independent review;
 - c the importance of the Regional Adaptation Project, as well as the input of flood hazard considerations into the Future Development Strategy.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

1. The North Island extreme weather events (NIEWE) in early 2023 caused the loss of 11 lives and many billions of dollars of damage across the north island of New Zealand. A number of reviews into these events have been undertaken with a range of recommendations on how to be more prepared and resilience to future events across the country.
2. Specifically, Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC) commissioned an independent review, led by Phil Mitchell, Kyle Christensen and Bernadette Arapere into HBRC's response during and immediately after the event and the operation of its schemes.
3. This review came up with 47 recommendations on how to improve HBRC's response to future floods so as to be better prepared¹. Eight of the recommendations related specifically to how planning measures could be improved and should be considered by this Committee in its planning for future development in the Wellington Region-Horowhenua District. The recommendations are related specifically to what the HBRC should do and also provides commentary in the report about matters at a national and local level that need to be linked to regional matters.
4. The executive summary of the independent review is contained in [Attachment 1](#).

¹ <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Cyclone-Gabrielle/Report-of-the-Hawkes-Bay-Independent-Flood-Review-Digital-Version.pdf>

5. The specific recommendations relating to planning are:
 - a HBRC should urgently review the Regional Policy Statement so that it includes clear and directive objectives and policies regarding land use management in flood hazard areas.
 - b HBRC should update and include the 2023 flood event as well as other notable historic floods in the assessment of flood frequency for use in identifying flood hazard areas. The underestimation of flood risk in the Esk Valley and Pōrangahau are examples of significant historic floods not being accounted for.
 - c HBRC should ensure that Regional Policy Statement provisions:
 - i Identify and map areas subject to flood hazard risks, including scenarios that exceed the levels of service provided by flood management assets.
 - ii Direct how the effects of climate change are to be taken into consideration when identifying flood hazard areas and assessing subdivision and land use applications
 - iii Define unacceptable flood hazard risk
 - iv Direct that district plans avoid unacceptable flood hazard risks, including for example through the use of prohibited activity rules
 - d Define when mitigation measures to manage flood hazard risk are appropriate and the types of mitigation that are appropriate
 - e Identify areas of high flood hazard risk where managed retreat is required
6. The Review of the Regional Policy statement should ensure that new and intensified residential development and subdivisions is prohibited in areas subject to unacceptable flood hazard.
7. The Review of the Regional Policy statement should ensure that direction is provided for the identification and management of residual flood risks resulting from ponding, stopbank breaches and overflow. The panel recommends that the approach to residual risk adopted by Kāpiti Coast District Council is taken as best practice.
8. HBRC should urgently review the provisions of its Regional Resource Management Plan to ensure that the design of new structures, particularly bridges, minimises to the extent practicable to which they constrict flood flows and act as debris barriers during floods.
9. HBRC should ensure it has sufficient financial and people resources to allow it to provide effective advocacy and technical input to planning processes and resource consent applications, to ensure that development does not occur in areas subject to unacceptable flood hazard risks.
10. HBRC should review current resource consents relating to the risks to flood management activities and assets and ensure there are appropriate consent conditions in place and that they are being complied with so that the effects are

appropriately managed. For example, the clean fill operation at the mouth of the Esk River should be reviewed.

11. One of the other outcomes from the Review was that people were not aware of the flood risk in their area, were therefore not prepared for a major flood event and took an optimistic bias on how a flood may affect the area. The two critical steps detailed below go some way to addressing this preparedness issue as well as initiating change for the longer term.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

12. Implementing the recommendations of the review in all regions including the Wellington Region should be a top priority. A number of actions will be appropriately led by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington); however, this work needs to be closely integrated with the Regional Adaptation Project (which encompasses the Greater Wellington Region, Horowhenua District) being led as a priority project for the Committee.
13. It will however take some time to implement all the recommendations in an appropriate way for the Wellington Region. Greater Wellington is proposing two critical first steps in the implementation of the recommendations.
14. The first critical step Greater Wellington will undertake is writing to each local authority and iwi in the Region advising them of the current flood hazard maps that exist for that area. Greater Wellington will then engage with each area to ensure the current knowledge of extent, risk and consequence of flood hazards are clearly articulated and understood. A copy of the regional flood exposure maps, showing the extent of the region affected by flooding, are available on our website².
15. As a second critical step Greater Wellington will work with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) to ensure a Community Response Plan is in place for each area that will relate to the potential impact and consequence of an event of a similar scale to Cyclone Gabrielle. This is seen as an important step in ensuring that adequate emergency management planning is in place for such an event based on the current flood mitigation measures in place and the impact if they are overtopped or breached. Iwi and councils will need to be involved in this. The independent review was very specific about the need to better involve iwi in the development of response plans because of their resources and expertise in emergency management.
16. Being better prepared for floods that can occur today is a key first element of adaptation. The 4 Rs of our emergency management framework - risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery - have a significant overlap with adaptation processes. As part of adaptation planning, local and community response groups and iwi/hapū have an important role in understanding risks, raising awareness and

²<https://gwrc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=255ac9dd590a4d1cb347c56ecbb6376e>

ultimately addressing them. This applies to areas with existing flood risk mitigation and in areas without.

17. In parallel with these first critical steps Greater Wellington will consider how the more specific recommendations that relate to the longer term resilience of the Region could be implemented. The Committee's Regional Adaptation Project will be a key component of this work as it will both inform future development and provide the mechanisms for dealing with legacy risk.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

18. There are no financial implications from this report.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

19. The Committee includes iwi partners who provide input into the Committee projects including spatial planning and the regional adaptation project. Māori need to be specifically considered here as their land is often more affected by flood hazard because of its location alongside watercourses.

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

20. Alongside other natural hazards, work on flood risk management and communication will be a core component of the Regional Adaptation Project.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

21. Present flood hazard maps to the territorial authorities and iwi in the region.
22. Assist WREMO with the development of community response plans (tailored to the flood hazard) the region working closely with territorial authorities and iwi.
23. In collaboration with the Regional Adaptation Project, Greater Wellington will engage with the Wellington Region territorial authorities and iwi on how best to develop an implementation plan for the recommendations from the Hawkes Bay flood review as appropriate to the Wellington Region.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Report of the Hawkes Bay Independent Flood review July 2024 Executive Summary

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Graeme Campbell – Strategic Advisor Flood and Resilience Andy Brown – Principal Advisor Flood and Resilience
Approvers	Lian Butcher – Group Manager Rōpū Taiao Environment Luke Troy – Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> Fits with the Committees terms of reference related to the Future Development Strategy.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Achieves strategies focused on improving resilience to flood hazards.
<i>Internal consultation</i> This report has been prepared between Environment and Strategy groups.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts arising from this report.



Report of the Hawke's Bay Independent Flood Review

July 2024



**HAWKE'S BAY
INDEPENDENT
FLOOD REVIEW**
Pae Matawai Parawhenua

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Legal limitations of this report

This report has been prepared solely for the purposes stated in the report and should not be relied upon for any other purpose.

The statements and opinions expressed in this report have been made in good faith, and on the basis that all information provided to us and relied upon is true and accurate in all material respects, and not misleading by reason of omission or otherwise.

We reserve the right, but will be under no obligation, to review or amend our report, if any additional information, which was in existence on the date of this report, was not brought to our attention, or subsequently comes to light.

Mihi

Nau mai haere e taku manu. E rere kia hāro haere i te takiwā kia mātai anō i te whenua i takahia rā i te tau ka hori ake nei. Kawea atu ēnei maioha āku ki ngā maunga whakahī o te iwi me ngā hapū o tēnei rohe, mai i raro i Whakapunake, ki Maungaharuru, ki Titi-o-kura, ki Kaweka, ki Ruahine rere atu ki Tawapūtahi, hoki ana mai ki Kahurānaki ki te pū o te whenua.

Kia tītaha ō parirau ka tau ai ki ngā marae me ngā kāinga i karawhiua kinotia e ngā hau mātakataka me ngā parawhenua mea. Pākatokato ana te ngākau aroha mō te hunga i riro, i ngaro ki te pō. Haere koutou hei whetū ki te rangi, kia tiaho iho mai ki runga i ō koutou whānau. Kapiti hono, tātai hono koutou te hunga mate ki a koutou.

Ka huri atu ki a tātou ngā kanohi ora, ngā waha kōrero o tēnā hapū, o tēnā marae i tae atu ai mātou. Ki a koutou o Tangoio me Petane, o Waiohiki, tēnei te mihi. Ki a koutou o Moteo me Timi Kara huri atu ki Omahu, ka nui ngā mihi. Kia huri atu ki Mataweka, ki Rongomaraeroa ki Pōrangahau, tēnā anō koutou katoa. Mō te manaaki i a mātou, mō koutou hoki i whakapuaki whakaaro mai i runga i te pōuri, te mamae, te pono, me te aroha. Kei te mihi, kei te mihi, ka nui te aroha, tēnā rawa atu koutou katoa.

E kore e mutu ngā mihi ki ngā tāngata katoa, takitahi mai, takirōpū mai rānei, i whai wā ki te huitahi me mātou. Ki ngā hapori me ngā whakahaere, ki te iti, ki te rahi. Tēnā koutou katoa huri noa, huri noa.

Come and go forth my bird. Take flight to soar above the region to view once more the areas that we have travelled over during the past year. Carry with you our warm greetings to the prestigious mountains of this region, from Whakapūnake in the north, to Maungaharuru, on to Titi-o-kura, to the Kaweka and Ruahine ranges flying onward to Tawapūtahi, before you return to Kahurānaki the sentinel of the land.

Tilt your wings to settle at those marae and homes that were devastated by such a destructive and violent storm. We acknowledge the anguish expressed for those whose lives were taken and lost to the darkness. Ascend and take your place amongst the stars, to shine down on your families. You, the dead, are joined together as one.

We acknowledge the living faces and speaking voices of each hapū and marae that we were privileged to visit. To you the whānau of Tangoio and Petane, of Waiohiki, we greet you. To the whānau of Moteo, Timi Kara and Omahu, please accept our heartfelt thanks. We also acknowledge the whānau of Mataweka Marae and Rongomaraeroa in Pōrangahau, thank you all. We thank you for hosting us, for expressing your thoughts with honesty and compassion despite the sadness and grief that prevailed at the time. We thank you all once again.

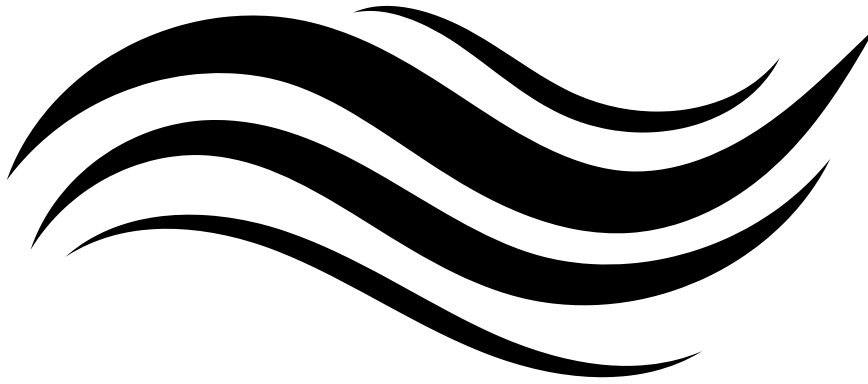
We will be forever grateful to all the people, communities and organisations that made the time to meet with us, regardless of number or size. We thank you all.

Acknowledgements

The Panel members wish to express their gratitude to Liz Read and Lesley Reidy who have provided extensive and invaluable logistical support, in both the information gathering and report writing phases of the Review.

The Panel also acknowledges Brian Morris, Lee Kershaw-Karaitiana and Montana Karena for their Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori expertise and support.

Papaki kau ana ngā tai o mihi ki a koutou katoa.



Executive summary and recommendations

Executive summary

Cyclone Gabrielle

On the 13th and 14th of February 2023, Cyclone Gabrielle delivered an extraordinary amount of rainfall to the entire Hawke's Bay region, generating the largest flood flows on record for many of the region's rivers and leading to extensive, widespread inundation. For example, the combined flow¹ of the Tutaekuri and Ngaruroro Rivers has been estimated as one of the largest floods ever recorded in New Zealand, with a return period of approximately 1,000 years. Unsurprisingly, many of the flood protection schemes in the region were overwhelmed.

These immense flood flows resulted in deaths² and widespread destruction and devastation across the region, with financial losses in excess of \$5 billion.³

Many marae, urupā and papakāinga were destroyed or extensively damaged, including Tangoio, Petane, Waiohiki, Omahu, Rongomaraeroa, Moteo and Takitimu.

Infrastructure was significantly affected, with 5.3 kilometres (km) of stopbanks breached, power outages affecting 75,000 people, six major road bridges and a rail bridge washed away and significant damage to the wider roading and rail network, pump stations and wastewater treatment plants.

Commercial and industrial premises were significantly affected and agriculture/farming, horticulture and viticulture were also massively impacted, with thousands of hectares of productive land covered by silt.

Residential and other buildings were also affected significantly, with almost 1,700 properties flood-affected, of which 326 properties are currently classified as Category 3 under the government's land categorisation framework, meaning that the use of these properties for residential purposes was assessed to have an intolerable risk to life from future flood events.

In its wake, Cyclone Gabrielle brought destruction and devastation to families, communities, businesses, infrastructure, whenua and taonga, and highlighted a lack of planning and preparation for an event of this magnitude and extent.

This review

In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Hawke's Bay Independent Flood Review – Pae Matawai Parawhenua was commissioned by Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) to investigate the circumstances and contributing factors that led to the flooding in the Hawke's Bay region during Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Review was deliberately established to be independent and impartial in looking at HBRC's flood management schemes, how each performed and the decisions made by HBRC during the cyclone. The Review was to consider and recommend options to increase the region's long-term flood resilience.

This report is the output of the Review.

1 Accounting for out of channel flows from stopbank breaches
 2 The deaths that occurred during Cyclone Gabrielle have been referred to the Coroner
 3 HBRC (2023b). Hawke's Bay Regional Water Assessment 2023

Summary findings

The key findings of the Review are summarised under the following key headings:

- Structural works (stopbanks);
- Flood event management (flood forecasting advice on areas affected);
- Planning controls (preventing development in flood risk areas);
- River channel maintenance (gravel extraction, willow maintenance);
- Mana whenua (specific impacts arising from historical context);
- Community (resilience through collaboration);
- Funding and resourcing (central government and regional).

Structural works

Structural flood risk management works in the form of stopbanks are only evident on some of the region's rivers, in particular on the Heretaunga and Ruataniwha Plains, whereas there are no stopbanks on the Wairoa, Esk and Pōrangahau Rivers, along with many others. Since the flood event there has been a widespread desire to build new stopbanks, particularly in areas that currently have no protection. However, lessons must be learnt from the fact that the flood completely overwhelmed the stopbanks on the Heretaunga Plains system and the Waipawa River, and any new stopbanks need to be designed in ways that provide predictable and manageable performance during events that exceed their capacity.

Additionally, there was very limited planning and preparedness for an event that exceeded the capacity of the stopbanks. This was at least in part due to the overarching stopbank system design, and was particularly evident in the Heretaunga Plains system, where there were no formally designated spillways, diversions or overflows for events that exceeded the stopbanks' capacity. This resulted in residual risk to the entire floodplain, including the densely populated urban areas of Taradale, Hastings and Napier. It meant that more than 100,000 people were at risk, owing to there being no practical solution for evacuations prior to a flood arriving.

Flood event management

Across the region there were very few effective warnings and evacuations, and this resulted in a large number of people being exposed to extremely dangerous situations that ultimately led to deaths, physical injuries and emotional scars for innumerable others.

The lack of planning and preparedness for events exceeding the capacity of stopbanks was also apparent in the many unprotected floodplains of the region. Flood risk had been underestimated in a number of locations, because large historic floods had not been included in the analysis of flood size, and there was limited detail and a wider understanding of trigger levels and likely areas of inundation.

Compounding this were MetService rainfall forecasts that underestimated the actual rainfall, the failure of a repeater station supporting the telemetry system, the loss or damage of some water level and rainfall measuring equipment, communications outages and staff being overwhelmed by the scale of the event.

Planning controls

The fact that there were relatively new housing developments in areas of known flood risk suggests that lessons from the past have not been learnt and development has been allowed in high-hazard areas. Flood risk has been underestimated in some areas due to a lack of accounting for large historic flood events, the Esk Valley and Tangoio Beach being particularly relevant examples.

River channel maintenance

The magnitude of the event meant the degree of river maintenance, particularly gravel management, channel clearing and riparian management had a lesser impact on the overall performance of the region's river systems.

However, there is a need for a thorough assessment of the capacity of these systems in order to understand the recovery and future maintenance requirements for returning systems to the agreed levels of service. A future focus on effective long-term gravel management practices and appropriate vegetation management will be an essential part of this.

Mana whenua

Mana whenua were disproportionately affected by this flood event, with a number of marae, papakāinga and urupā and other taonga significantly affected due to their being located on marginal, flood-prone land adjacent to river channels. Petane and Tangoio Marae were particularly devastated and have subsequently been classified Category 3 (voluntary buy-out) zones. This presents significant challenges to hapū and marae, as the whenua that is affected is, in some cases, the last remaining of historically larger (and flood-free) landholdings.

Community

The sense of community spirit and resilience during and in the wake of the cyclone has been awe-inspiring, with numerous examples of extreme bravery and in the tireless clean-up work. Communities have rallied together, often centred around marae, to help those affected and to develop plans for the future. Genuine collaboration and partnership is needed between local and central government and communities, mana whenua and businesses to evaluate and progress options for better managing flood risk in the future.

Funding and resourcing

From a regional perspective, the cost of rebuilding and improving flood management infrastructure is likely to be unaffordable, so central government assistance will be needed. This is especially so given the need to re-imagine legacy systems so they are fit for purpose and reflect the evolving best practice of "Making Room for the River", and to ensure flood management systems are designed to standards that reflect the value of the assets at risk. Likewise, at a regional level there is a need to review and shift away from high levels of local targeted rate-based funding, particularly for small rural catchments.

Recommendations

Structural works

1. HBRC should prioritise the objective of safely conveying large floods from the mountains to the sea in order to minimise and prevent damage from floods and erosion.
2. HBRC should ensure that the residual risks associated with floods that exceed the design capacity of stopbank systems are identified, assessed and actively managed. This could be through a combination of planning controls, changes to stopbank systems (e.g. spillways) and event management (e.g. proactive evacuations).
3. When designing new flood management works or improvements to existing systems, HBRC should consider the evolving best practice of "Making Room for the River" in terms of lateral erosion and floodwaters. For example, secondary systems including spillways, diversions and storage areas should be considered with the objective of directing floodwater to identified areas with the lowest consequences to the communities of Hawke's Bay. In addition, these solutions should have known performance in super design events that enables effective event management including precautionary evacuations where appropriate.
4. HBRC should collaborate with mana whenua and other communities in developing fair and equitable flood management solutions. These solutions should recognise and compensate appropriately those properties that are adversely affected in order to achieve an overall community benefit.
5. HBRC should determine the design standard of improved flood management systems based on robust economic analysis to determine the minimum net cost accounting for the investment required for the flood mitigation works and the value of flood damages avoided due to those works. The widely applied 100-year, including climate change, should be considered the minimum standard and not the default standard. This will necessitate a consideration of the flood management standards and long-term budgets, an example being the 500-year flood standard for the entire Heretaunga Plains Scheme within the current Long Term Plan.
6. When designing flood management works or assessing the adequacy of existing works, HBRC should include historic floods that have not been measured as part of the systematic record in the analysis. For example, the inclusion of the 1938 flood flow estimate for the Esk Valley significantly affects the assigned frequency of the 2023 event. Similarly, for Pōrangahau the inclusion of the 1941 and 1953 flood events significantly changes the assessment of the 2023 flood frequency and the basis for what is a reasonable design standard for the future.
7. When assessing and designing flood management systems near river mouths, HBRC should incorporate scenarios that consider partial blockage situations, as well as a range of sea-level and storm-surge conditions. By way of example, at the Esk River mouth the interaction with the adverse coastal conditions in addition to significant debris loading is likely to have increased flood levels in the lower reach of the river.

8. When assessing and designing flood management systems near bridges, HBRC should incorporate scenarios that consider partial blockage situations and account for these in the design. The breaching of stopbanks immediately upstream of bridges was a notable feature of this event, with the breach at Awatoto being a clear example.
9. HBRC should ensure that where natural high ground forms part of the flood management system, it is identified and protected appropriately so that it maintains its functionality over time. For example, it was unclear whether the high ground upstream of Waiohiki marae was at the same level during the flood as it was when surveyed and assessed to be up to the 100-year design standard.
10. HBRC should undertake a review of activities allowed on river floodway berms and stopbanks to ensure that the flood management infrastructure is protected from damage and or ongoing maintenance requirements that would otherwise not be required. For example, the use of motorbikes and 4WD vehicles on the Waipawa and Ngaruroro Rivers.
11. HBRC should review the efficacy of deflection banks on stopbanks to ascertain their benefits and the risks of isolated turbulence that can contribute to increased flood levels and or erosive failures of stopbanks. This is particularly relevant on the Ngaruroro River, where stopbank breaches occurred where these features were located.
12. HBRC should review the alignment of access tracks over the crests of stopbanks, with a preference for their starting from the downstream end and heading up the stopbank to reduce turbulence that may affect stopbank performance.
13. HBRC should undertake regular monitoring and topping up of the stopbank crests around access tracks to ensure crest levels are maintained. The most notable example of this was the access track immediately upstream of the bridge across the Ngaruroro River at Omahu, where a breach occurred.
14. HBRC should complete a risk assessment of adverse stopbank alignments, including sharp bends and locations where stopbanks are in very close proximity to river channels. The risk assessment should include prioritised mitigation measures to manage these risks. One notable example is the Walker Road stopbank on the Waipawa River, which is perpendicular to the direction of river flow and very close to the active river channel.

Flood event management

15. HBRC should actively communicate and educate communities on the levels of flood risk to which they are exposed and assist them in improving their resilience to flooding, including, but not confined to, improving and updating the HBRC online Hazard Portal.
16. HBRC should ensure that flood risks are accurately quantified and that flood frequency assessments include significant past flood events.

17. HBRC should improve its systems and technology for monitoring and modelling rainfall in real time in order to provide more accurate and timely forecasts of river flows and associated flood inundation across the region. For example, communication stations should have adequate back-up power supplies to ensure continual operation when needed, and it should be clear when data is not being gathered or transmitted. Inundation maps for a range of events should also be readily available.
18. HBRC should identify specific trigger levels for alerts and recommended evacuations for known flood risk areas, document them in its Flood Manual⁴ and communicate them to those who are affected.
19. HBRC should ensure that robust systems are in place to alert the community when trigger levels are being approached or exceeded and ensure Civil Defence has all the information it needs to undertake its functions. This could include providing greater public access to HBRC river flood forecast information.
20. HBRC should take a precautionary approach when providing forecast flood inundation information to Civil Defence. The use of "worst case scenario" terminology should be avoided as it may convey a potentially inaccurate and overly optimistic assessment of what may actually occur. All communications regarding potential flood inundation should be as clear and decisive as possible.
21. The Panel endorses the recommendations of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Cyclone Recovery Committee Telemetry Review (August 2023), the Report of the Independent External Review for Hawke's Bay Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group (March 2024) and the Report of the Government Enquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events (March 2024).

Planning controls

22. HBRC should urgently review the Regional Policy Statement so that it includes clear and directive objectives and policies regarding land use management in flood hazard areas.
23. HBRC should update and include the 2023 flood event as well as other notable historic floods in the assessment of flood frequency for use in identifying flood hazard areas. The underestimation of flood risk in the Esk Valley and Pōrangahau are examples of significant historic floods not being accounted for.
24. HBRC should ensure that Regional Policy Statement provisions:
 - a. Identify and map areas subject to flood hazard risks, including scenarios that exceed the levels of service provided by flood management assets;

⁴ A document that describes key processes and activities for Regional Council staff and contractors in the lead up to and during flood events

- b. Direct how the effects of climate change are to be taken into consideration when identifying flood hazard areas and assessing subdivision and land use applications;
 - c. Define unacceptable flood hazard risk;
 - d. Direct that district plans avoid unacceptable flood hazard risks, including, for example, through the use of prohibited activity rules;
 - e. Define when mitigation measures to manage flood hazard risks are appropriate and the types of mitigation that are appropriate;
 - f. Identify areas of high flood hazard risk where managed retreat is required.
25. The review of the Regional Policy Statement should ensure that new and intensified residential development and subdivision is prohibited in areas subject to unacceptable flood hazard.
26. The review of the Regional Policy Statement should ensure that direction is provided for the identification and management of residual flood risks resulting from ponding, stopbank breaches and overflow. The Panel recommends that the approach to residual risk adopted by Kāpiti Coast District Council is taken as best practice.
27. HBRC should urgently review the provisions of the Regional Resource Management Plan to ensure that the design of new structures, particularly bridges, minimises to the extent practicable the extent to which they constrict flood flows and act as debris barriers during floods. An example would be to explore options not involving/minimising the use of piles and raising bridge deck levels well above extreme flood levels.
28. HBRC should ensure it has sufficient financial and people resources to allow it to provide effective advocacy and technical input to planning processes and resource consent applications, to ensure that development does not occur in areas subject to unacceptable flood hazard risks.
29. HBRC should review current resource consents relating to the risks to flood management activities and assets and ensure there are appropriate consent conditions in place and that they are being complied with so that effects are appropriately managed. For example, the clean fill operation at the mouth of the Esk River should be reviewed.

River channel maintenance

30. HBRC should re-survey all river and stream channels within current scheme boundaries to assess whether they meet the currently agreed levels of service in the respective Asset Management Plans. From this work, a prioritised work programme should be developed to demonstrate how any systems that are not at their agreed service levels will be returned to those.

31. It is acknowledged that there will likely be a period of increased spending on river-channel maintenance to undertake the repairs/reinstatement required by the above, but when considering longer-term budgets, HBRC should review the annual maintenance budget and funding model in terms of regional versus local share to ensure that adequate levels of service are achieved and funding is affordable.
32. HBRC should be more proactive in managing gravel build-up where it is above design grade lines, and either extract it to maintain the agreed level of service or develop and implement alternative options. These should include but not be limited to being more directive regarding gravel extraction and removing contractors' ability to pick and choose locations based on convenience. Noting that the 2023 flood event will have likely changed river bed levels considerably; the Upper Tukituki system and the Tutaekuri River and lower Esk River were noted as locations where specific assessments and actions are needed.
33. HBRC should investigate options for more permanent river mouth openings using techniques such as constructing heavy guide banks/moles at locations where they are critical for flood conveyance and increased flood levels cannot be accommodated by upstream flood management works. During Cyclone Gabrielle the Esk River mouth was at least partially impeded and may have contributed to the extent of upstream flooding.
34. HBRC should evaluate the need to add maintenance of the Wairoa River channel to the scope of the existing Asset Management Plan for the area. This evaluation should include consideration of riparian vegetation management as well river-bed-level monitoring in line with the typical survey frequency (five-yearly) of the region's other main rivers.
35. Using the survey data noted above, HBRC should complete a geomorphic assessment of the bed-level trajectory for the lower Wairoa River for the purpose of assisting with the assessment of flood management infrastructure options for this area.

Mana whenua

36. HBRC should engage kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) and at a rangatira ki te rangatira (leadership to leadership) level with mana whenua groups in the region, in addition to relying on existing advisory committees and groups.
37. HBRC should acknowledge the inequity whereby Māori land and communities have been marginalised by decisions and actions of central and local government for many decades and are often located on low-lying, flood-prone land (for example, Tangoio, Waiohiki and Omahu).
38. HBRC should recognise and provide for Māori communities and low-socio-economic areas that are disproportionately exposed to flood risk because flood protection in those areas does not satisfy HBRC's traditional cost/benefit approaches. HBRC should develop a new flood management model with mana whenua.
39. HBRC should engage urgently with communities on Category 3 land such as Petane Marae and Tangoio Marae and, with the Crown and territorial authorities, provide funding and assistance for the planning, consultation, purchase and potential rebuild of these marae and papakāinga on other land.

40. Where marae and papakāinga are unprotected in terms of flood protection works (two examples being marae at Pōrangahau and Wairoa), HBRC needs to partner with mana whenua groups at those places in looking at all options to render those communities safe and sustainable into the future. Options may include raising the floor levels of marae or moving communities to higher ground. HBRC needs to engage urgently with these communities and with the Crown provide funding and assistance for planning, consultation, purchasing and other measures necessary to manage flood risk effectively in these marae and papakāinga.
41. The Panel encourages HBRC to work proactively and in partnership with mana whenua in the development of recovery plans such as “Utaina: 10 Year Recovery Plan”, which was developed by Piringa Hapū (Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngāi Te Upokoiri, Ngāti Honomōkai, Ngāti Mahuika) to restore and preserve a resilient natural environment.

Community

42. HBRC should communicate and collaborate effectively with communities, mana whenua and stakeholders in the development and implementation of flood risk management solutions for areas subject to flood risk.
43. HBRC should make more and better use of the local networks and knowledge that exist within communities as it leads the process of developing comprehensive flood risk management solutions and implements the physical works needed to improve flood resilience in Hawke’s Bay.
44. HBRC should develop a collaborative process for developing flood scheme design involving the regional and district councils, mana whenua and the wider community.

Funding and resourcing

45. HBRC should review the resourcing of its flood risk management activities to ensure it is sufficient to deliver the agreed level of service for day-to-day operations and has sufficient back-up and contingency plans to meet its flood event management responsibilities.
46. HBRC should continue to be proactive in working in partnership with central government to provide an affordable funding mechanism for new capital works and ongoing maintenance activities.
47. HBRC should review the funding of current and future river management schemes so that the targeted and regional rates contributions enable affordable and equitable outcomes.