



Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Summary Annual Report

Te Pūrongo Whakarāpopoto ā-Tau

For the year ended 30 June 2022

About This Summary

Mō tēnei pūrongo whakarāpopoto

The Council adopted the audited Annual Report on 10 May 2023 and authorised it for issue.

The report details the Council's achievements against measures and budgets for the year. The full report received an unmodified audit opinion excluding the Statement of Service Performance, meaning there was a qualified opinion on the Statement of Service Performance. Copies are available from the council on request (refer to back page for contact details).

This summary provides the key points extracted from the Full Annual Report. As a summary it cannot be expected to provide complete understanding of the performance of the Council for the year.

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Introduction from the Mayor and Chief Executive

Te kupu whakataki a ngā Kaikaunihera me te Tumu Whakarae

We are pleased to reflect on and celebrate the successes and challenges of Council in the 2021–2022 Annual Report. This Annual Report looks at the financial year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, and in line with legislative requirements, was audited prior to its release. Due to an auditor shortage in New Zealand, Audit NZ was unable to complete the audit until April 2023, meaning the Annual Report was released later than usual.

In January 2022 we said farewell to Chief Executive David Clapperton after 16 years of service. We thanked David Wright for his time as Interim Chief Executive prior to the arrival of Monique Davidson. Born and raised in the Horowhenua, Monique applies her local knowledge, considerable local government experience and passion to the role of Chief Executive and is happy to be home after a five-year period as Chief Executive of the Central Hawkes Bay District Council.

The 2021–2022 financial year presented many challenges, and we are proud of how we responded to them.

A key achievement was the way our dedicated Councillors and Council staff responded to those challenges.

Along with the rest of New Zealand, we felt the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with our facilities and offices closed during the August/September 2021 lockdown. We are particularly proud of the way Council services continued during the lockdown, managing through changing traffic light settings and the implementation of vaccine mandates.

Extreme weather also presented challenges during the 2021–2022 financial year; the most significant being the tornado that swept through Levin in May 2022. It caused

devastating damage to properties and homes, and in addition, a hailstorm on the same day destroyed crops and caused extensive damage in the Ōhau area. A rising water table that had not had its usual summer reduction led to a number of flooding events, impacting properties. Working together with local businesses, community groups, tradespeople, contractors and community-spirited individuals, we provided immediate practical support to those worst affected by the weather events. More than \$280k in financial support was made available through the Mayoral Relief fund to those impacted by the tornado.

The Levin Landfill was a contentious issue for the community. In April 2022 Council decided to defer making a decision on the Levin Landfill until the new Chief Executive had an opportunity to provide an evaluation on the complex matter. We see the interest from the community on this matter and are working hard to resolve the multi-faceted issue.

Council endorsed the detailed business case for Ō2NL Expressway prior to it being presented to cabinet. In anticipation, we spent

a lot of time during this financial year preparing for Ō2NL, with the Horowhenua Blueprint 2040, Growth Strategy and District Plan changes incorporating what will be the most transformational infrastructure project in our district's history.

Growth has also been a key topic in the 2021-2022 financial year, presenting both challenges and opportunities for our future. During that 12-month period our rohe grew even more than the significant growth that was predicted. Council and staff also needed to maintain a tricky balance between maintaining infrastructure services for our current ratepayers and ensuring infrastructure is in place for the predicted growth. In May 2022, in response to anticipated growth, Council adopted the 'Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint'. This comprehensive action plan details 12 action areas Council is committed to improving, with liveability and prosperity at the heart of the work being prioritised.

We were proud to collaborate with Muaūpoko and hapū of Ngāti Raukawa ki Te Tonga to organise and host an amazing variety of Matariki events. Council staff from across the organisation worked in

partnership with iwi members to host the numerous events that were extremely well received, a fantastic example of what can be achieved with genuine partnership.

In late 2021, Council consulted on the Representation Review for the 2022 Local Elections. This included the introduction of a Māori Ward with two seats. Māori representation is hugely important, and we look forward to the valuable perspective and input from the Māori Ward Councillors.

Looking back over the financial year, we are very proud of the immense effort made by Councillors and Officers to provide continued advocacy, essential services and support for residents and ratepayers despite the many challenges that came our way. We know that focus is required on lifting our performance, and as we look to the year ahead, the united leadership of the Mayor, Councillors and the Chief Executive presents an opportunity, as we focus on what is most important – our community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernie Wanden".

Mayor Bernie Wanden



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique Davidson".

Chief Executive Monique Davidson

Our Performance at a Glance

Hei Rarapa atu ki ā Mātou Mahi

This snapshot shows how we met our performance measure targets, our financial performance overall and activity financial information. Summaries of performance measure targets and our financial performance can be found later in this document. Full information on our performance measures and financial performance can be found in the Full Annual Report.

Financial Performance

INCOME



Actual: \$71,944k

Budget: \$73,113k

Variance: -\$1,169k, -2%

😊 on target

EXPENDITURE



Actual: \$73,487k

Budget: \$62,687k

Variance: -\$10,800k, -17%

😞 unfavourable

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE



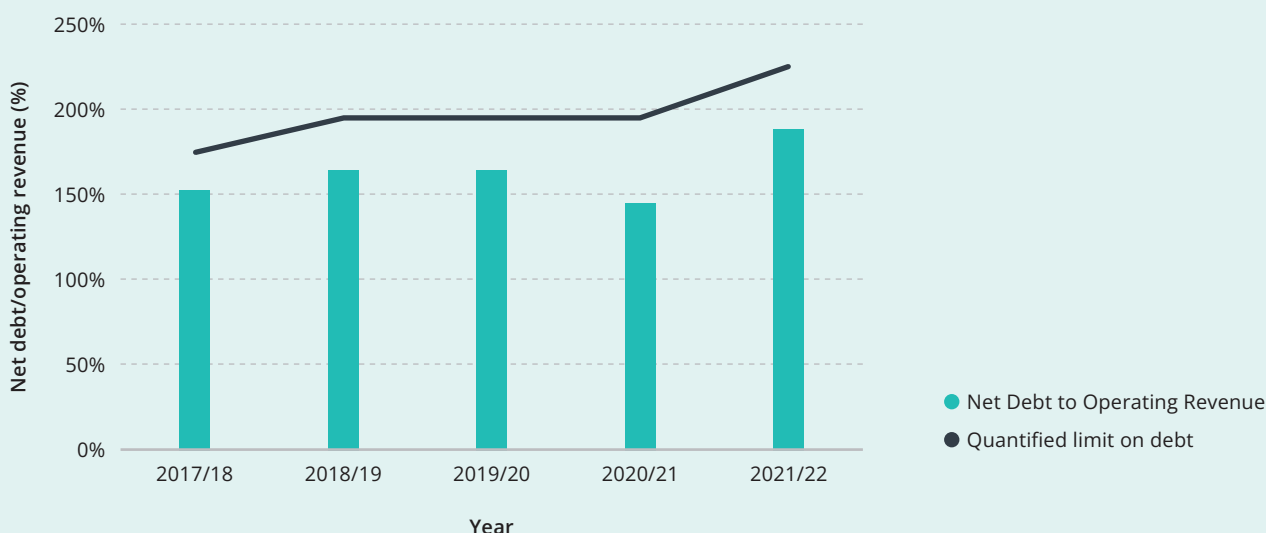
Actual: \$31,096k

Budget: \$32,649k

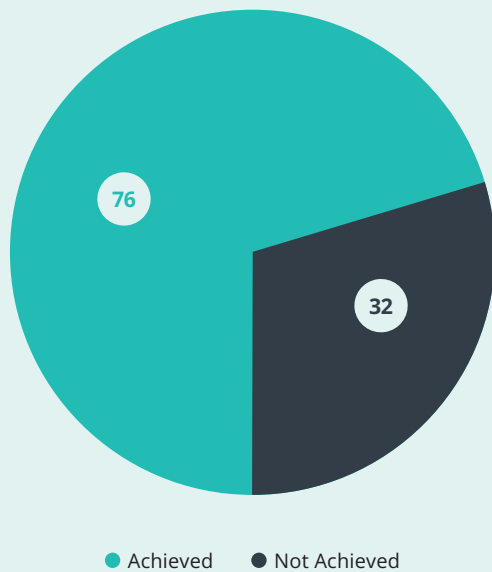
Variance: -\$1,533k, -5%

😊 on target

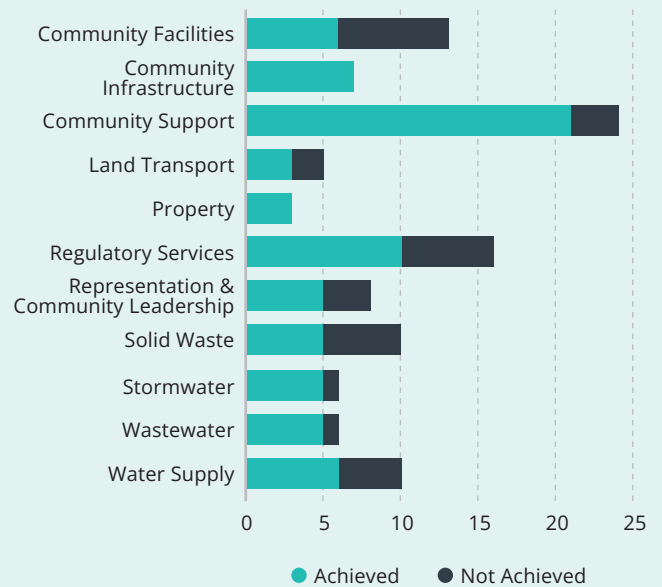
Net Debt to Operating Revenue



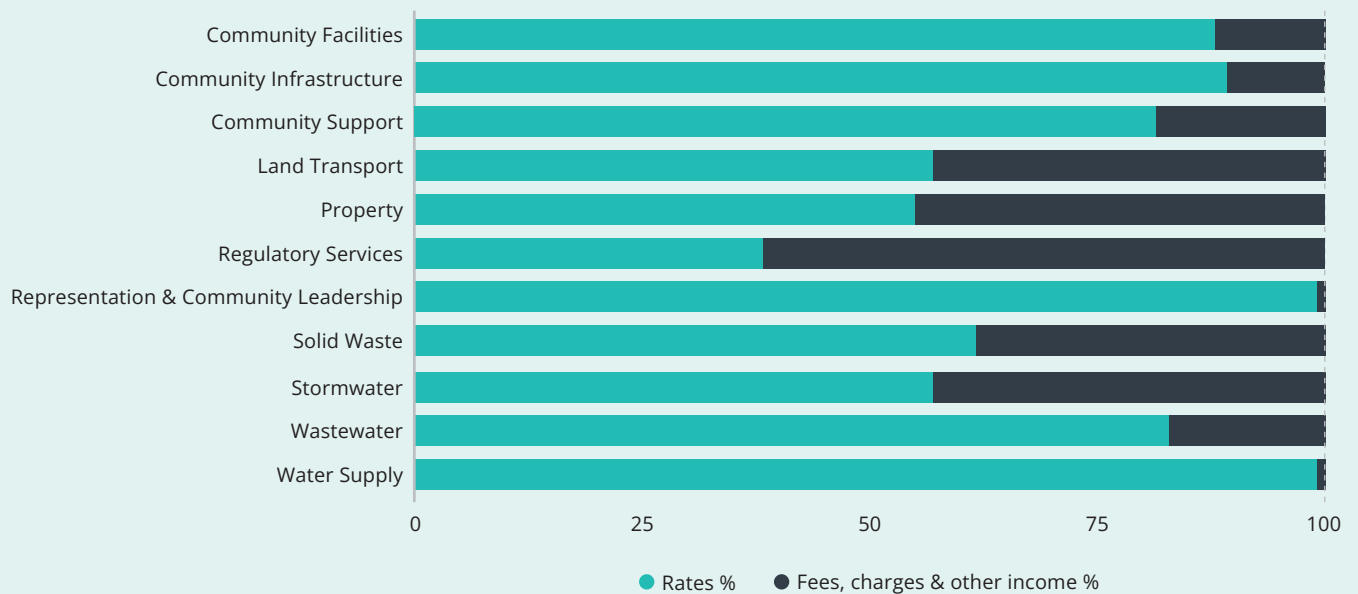
Overall Performance Measures



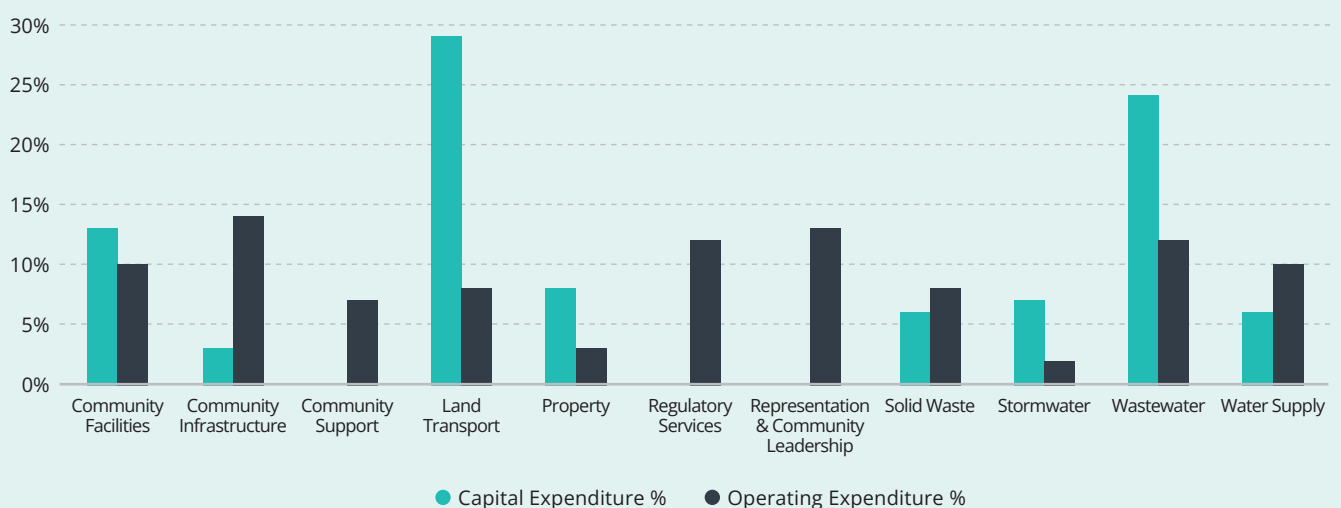
Performance Measures By Activity



Source of Operating Funding



Percentage of overall operating expenditure and capital expenditure budget



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Overall we received close to the level of income we planned. Grants and subsidies for our capital program were lower due to some projects being delayed. However we did receive \$5.6m of assets from developers following the completion of their housing developments that was not budgeted for. These assets include roads, footpaths and pipes.

Our operating expenditure was 11% more than we planned for. Some of this was due to an increase in depreciation expense, an increase in the use of contractors to cover staff vacancies and additional advice required to support the Levin Landfill decision making process

We slightly underspent our capital expenditure budget due to the timing of the capital programme changing. This will be carried forward to future years.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Local Government Act 2002 requires all councils to report on a set of performance measures for Rooding, Water Supply, Wastewater and Stormwater. Councils also develop other performance measures in consultation with their community during the Long Term Plan process.

Performance measures provide valuable information on how Council is performing in a wide range of Council activities.

Council currently has a total of 108 performance measure targets to achieve across the 11 activities. Overall we achieved 70% of our targets. Some common reasons we did not achieve our targets were staffing vacancies having an impact on Council's ability to meet its targets (building back up after Covid restrictions and mandates and annual satisfaction survey results). You can find a summary of performance measure results on page 38 of this document and the full set of performance measure targets, results and commentary in the Full Annual Report.

SOURCE OF OPERATING FUNDING

The 11 activities of Council are funded by either rates or fees, charges and other income. We are heavily reliant on rates to fund many of our activities. This graph details the proportion of funding for each activity. You will note some activities are heavily funded by rates such as Water Supply and Representation and Community Leadership. Other activities such as Regulatory Services have a higher proportion of funding from fees, charges and other income.

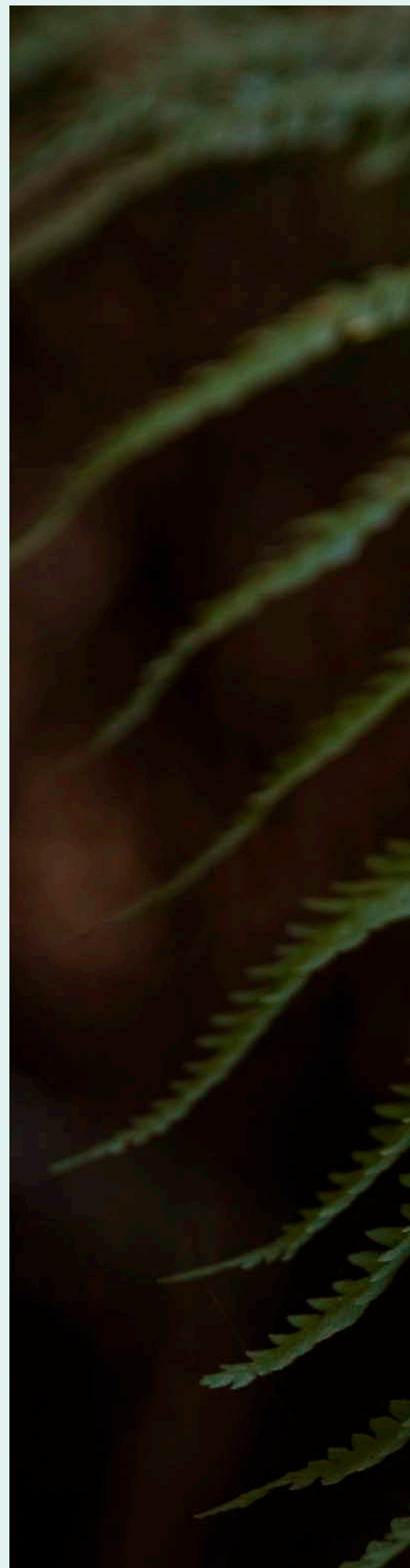
NET DEBT TO OPERATING REVENUE

In our financial strategy, we set a limit on how much we can borrow compared to our operating revenue, this graph shows how we are tracking against this limit. As you can see we are well within our self-imposed limit that was increased this year to allow us to invest in our infrastructure.

PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL OPERATING EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

This graph details the entire operating and capital expenditure budget for each activity this financial year. Operating expenditure is money we spend on day to day services and maintenance of our assets. Capital expenditure is money we spend on replacing existing assets, building new assets and accommodating growth in our district.

You will note some of our infrastructure activities have a naturally high proportion of their budget as capital expenditure because of projects such as Land Transport's Taranaki Road intersection upgrade and Wastewater's wastewater treatment plant upgrades. Other activities have a naturally high proportion of their budget as operating expenditure such as Community Support, Regulatory Services and Representation & Community Leadership who all have 100% operating expenditure.







CASE STUDIES **NGĀ TAKE** **RANGAHAU**



Matariki



Matariki hunga nui, Matariki ahunga nui Matariki of many people, Matariki brings us together

Matariki marks the Māori New Year. It is a time of reflection and celebration that begins with the rising of the Matariki star cluster. Horowhenua District Council has hosted Matariki celebrations in the past, and we were excited that in 2022 it became an annual public holiday in New Zealand.

Our Puanga Matariki 2022 events programme was a collaboration between Council and iwi. Council staff from across the organisation worked in partnership with Muaūpoko and Ngāti Raukawa iwi members to design and deliver a district-wide programme educating our community on the significance of Matariki and its importance to Māori.

Puanga Matariki, a wide range of free events held around the rohe, was partially funded by the Council. Held between 24 June and 10 July, the extensive programme of activities catered to all sectors of the community and was designed to honour the stars in the Matariki cluster:

Stars from the Matariki Cluster



WAIPUNARANGI

Honours rainfall. It translates to water pools in the sky

- While there wasn't a specific event honouring rainfall this year, the rain sure made its presence felt at some events!



HIWA-I-TE-RANGI

Attainment of goals, dreams and aspirations

- Matariki photo competition



WAITĀ

The ocean and the foods that come from it

- Virtual swim challenge



WAITĪ

Represents freshwater bodies and foods from these waters

- Virtual swim challenge
- Early morning dip in the Gladstone River



POHUTUKAWA

Remembers those who have passed on in the last year since the previous Matariki

- Karakia at Foxton Beach and Punahau to welcome in Matariki



URURANGI

'Winds of the sky' determines the nature of the winds for the year

- There was no event for this star this year, but we hope to do something next year



MATARIKI

Signifies refection, hope, connection to the environment and health and wellbeing

- Self-directed children's activities at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Shannon Library and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Colouring in competition
- Tree planting in Shannon
- Night lights over Foxton – A popular event which included a light and mist show, food trucks, live music, Matariki exhibition at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, whirling De Molen blades and fire poi. A giant screen played moody music videos, deep space photos and artwork by tamariki
- Matariki for littlies at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Matariki day out for kaumātua and older people
- Evening story time under the stars at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and Shannon Library
- The Penguin and the Monster puppet show at Shannon School, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Kapa haka and community kai at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Matariki ki Otāuru – An action-packed day of activities at Te Maire Park in Shannon
- Movie nights at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō- and Te Whare Oranga in Shannon
- Taitoko Matariki night market at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō – A fantastic event of food trucks, stalls, Matariki-oke singing competition, light show and an amazing Matariki animation



TUPU-Ā-NUKU

Food that is gathered and harvested from the soil


- Kapa haka and community kai at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō



TUPU-Ā-RANGI

Connects to the harvesting of food from the trees, including fruits, berries and birds

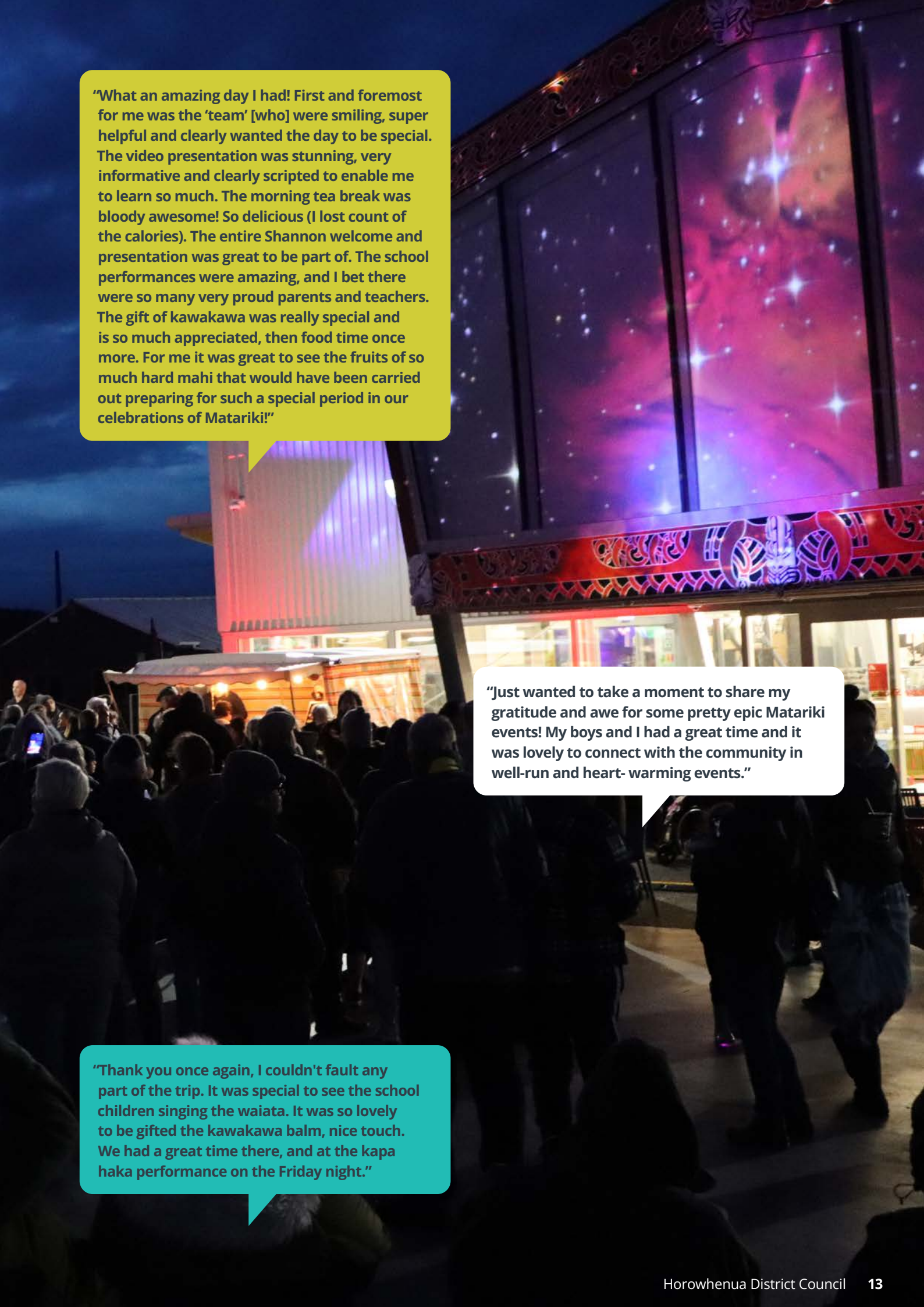
- Rongoā display at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Harakeke star workshop at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō



"All events were outstanding. Our community are very lucky to have an amazing council and iwi that create awesome events and opportunities for our region, especially being a small town. It's something to be really proud of! It was awesome seeing our mayor there last night too, he is always interacting with the community on the ground floor."

"I had a lovely time today, sharing it with family and meeting others on the trip. I really enjoyed the time with the tamariki at Shannon. They had beautiful voices and I enjoyed interacting with them. Thank you to everyone for the hospitality shown to us throughout the day."

"Matariki is about coming together with whānau and loved ones," says Di Rump, CEO Muaūpoko Tribal Authority. "Reflecting on the year that's been, remembering and acknowledging those we have lost, as well as renewing and resetting aspirations for the year ahead. I love that we have this time, it makes us stop and really reflect on the way we connect to the past, the present, the future – and each other. It's tika that there is now a public holiday to recognise the value and importance of taking this time out. Our programme just gets better and better – with heaps of opportunity for whānau of every age to participate, and there is literally something for everyone. Muaūpoko are delighted to once again partner to support this annual celebration."



"What an amazing day I had! First and foremost for me was the 'team' [who] were smiling, super helpful and clearly wanted the day to be special. The video presentation was stunning, very informative and clearly scripted to enable me to learn so much. The morning tea break was bloody awesome! So delicious (I lost count of the calories). The entire Shannon welcome and presentation was great to be part of. The school performances were amazing, and I bet there were so many very proud parents and teachers. The gift of kawakawa was really special and is so much appreciated, then food time once more. For me it was great to see the fruits of so much hard mahi that would have been carried out preparing for such a special period in our celebrations of Matariki!"

"Just wanted to take a moment to share my gratitude and awe for some pretty epic Matariki events! My boys and I had a great time and it was lovely to connect with the community in well-run and heart- warming events."

"Thank you once again, I couldn't fault any part of the trip. It was special to see the school children singing the waiata. It was so lovely to be gifted the kawakawa balm, nice touch. We had a great time there, and at the kapa haka performance on the Friday night."

Using Three Waters Stimulus Funding to Benefit Mana Whenua



In July 2020 central government announced a \$523m Three Waters COVID-19 Stimulus funding package intended to help local authorities maintain and improve three waters infrastructure, and support reform of local government water services.

We applied for and received \$670,000 in funding. During the 2021–2022 financial year, Council worked in partnership with local mana whenua to develop and put in place two projects – the Marae Three Waters upgrade and Matauranga Scholarships – benefitting the entire rohe.

The successful completion of the projects was celebrated in a May 2022 ceremony attended by Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta. The minister noted it was important to be present to acknowledge what is being achieved alongside Council and marae.

MARAE THREE WATERS UPGRADE

This project emphasises how vital marae are in terms of providing a sense of community. In the event of natural disasters and with

challenges like COVID-19, we see our marae become community centres. When we ensure that marae have all the infrastructure that is required to enable them to operate effectively as community centres, everyone benefits.

Using \$520,000 of the funding, Council upgraded drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services at local marae; the first and only council in New Zealand to do so. Thirteen marae across the district were part of the project, including Kohuturoa, Kawiu, Wehi Wehi, Tukorehe, Tūmatanui (Hikitanga), Ngātokowaru, Kerurū, Matau, Huia, Whakawehi (Poutu), Motuiti, Paranui and Kikopiri.

Twenty-three 30,000L water tanks were installed alongside nine new drinking water and UV filtration systems. The upgrades highlight the

significance of marae as community hubs, and the importance of having well-equipped facilities to meet the needs of the people. We're also seeking funding for electric backup generators to ensure uninterrupted water supply and safe drinking water in the event of a power cut or emergency situation.

Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Chief Executive Di Rump says the investment was much needed.

"To see this level of investment in our marae across the rohe (area) is a great example of partnership; may this serve as an example for many more marae to see the same, much needed investment."

Ngāti Tukorehe Tribal Committee Chairperson Pikitia Heke says they were grateful for the upgrades.

"It will ensure that the quality of water of the marae is now fit for purpose, and we will now be able to collect and store enough water for small and large gatherings without fear of any public health issues arising from waterborne diseases. Clean potable water is a basic human right that every community should have access to. This investment will benefit our marae community for many years to come."

One example is Motuiti Marae on State Highway 1, north of Foxton, which belongs to Ngāti Raukawa hapū Ngāti Rākau. Previously the marae had four 20,000L concrete water tanks, but three were broken and leaking. The damage meant only about 40,000L of water was accessible at any time and there was no provision for water filtering. Problems frequently arose during large hui hosted at the marae, and iwi would have to buy water to accommodate their visitors.

The whāre had a 200-person capacity, but during large events, it would often overflow outside. The marae now has three new high-grade polyethylene plastic tanks and debris filters. New pipes to support the framework have been installed, and a water filtration system was

erected in the kitchen to supply clean drinking water. The marae was frequently buying water to meet demand, now they have access to 90,000L of water: a big financial relief.

MATAURANGA SCHOLARSHIPS

Council used \$150,000 of Three Waters Stimulus Funding to establish the Matauranga (Māori knowledge) Scholarships. These scholarships were developed to encourage Horowhenua rangatahi to study at tertiary level with the requirement they return home and give back to Horowhenua. With the changes that are happening with Three Waters Reforms and the Resource Management Act in the coming years, it is vital that we invest in our rangatahi to ensure we have the right expertise locally, especially expertise that can operate in Te Ao Māori.

Council partnered with Muaūpoko Tribal Authority to create the initiative using Three Waters reform stimulus funding. Each of the five recipients will receive a \$30,000 scholarship towards their studies, with the aim of attaining qualifications in the engineering and environmental fields.

Throughout the duration of their studies, the students will be provided with further opportunities by way of ongoing mentorship and project participation. A roopu working group will be created to enable and encourage contact between the students, iwi and Council as a way of keeping connected and to enable the additional tautoko (support) while on their journey.

Matauranga Scholarships are an excellent opportunity to support iwi and at the same time create opportunities for rangatahi and support their studies. Applications came from the Horowhenua community, whānau, and colleges both within and outside of the district. Candidates and their whānau members met with a panel, which consisted of Mayor Bernie Wanden, Tracey White - Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Board Member and Asli Crawford - Council's Water and Waste Services Manager.

The five recipients are Rangiora Williams, Amiria McGhie, Tiaki Hirini, Mariah Montagnani, and Tikardan Tahiwī-Stowers. Hirini, who is using the scholarship to study civil engineering at Waikato University, says he is looking forward to giving back to Horowhenua after earning his degree. He said the scholarship and support that came with it was going to help him later in his life as well as in the present. Montagnani noted she knows she has support from her iwi, the ability to foster Matauranga and the opportunity to contribute to a meaningful kaupapa – and creating potential pathways to long-term environmental change.

Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Board Chairperson Tim Tukapua said it was a great opportunity for Horowhenua rangatahi. "For our up-and-coming rangatahi who may not have considered this path, it opens up a whole new world of possibilities in terms of achieving scholarships and university actually being within their reach. To have them go away to university or wānanga and return being proficient in taiao (environmental) studies will be a huge asset to our people and our community.

"Our partnership with Horowhenua District Council has enabled this to happen and we look forward to working together to provide our rangatahi with any support they may need."

Ensuring water services are equitable for our community is a priority for Council. Working with mana whenua to enhance Three Waters Infrastructure at local marae has been rewarding on many levels, not least the relationship Council staff have developed with marae leaders.



CASE STUDIES | NGĀ TAKE RANGAHAU

Green Flag Awards

Horowhenua is recognised as having some of the best green spaces, parks and gardens worldwide. In this 2021–2022 financial year we gained two new Green Flag Awards for Foxton’s Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park and Shannon’s Te Maire Park, and Green Flags were rewarded to Manakau’s Driscoll Reserve, Foxton Beach’s Holben Reserve/ Te Wharangi and Levin’s Thompson House.

The Green Flag Award scheme sets an international benchmark for the standard of management of recreational outdoor spaces and recognises well managed parks and green spaces. It aims to ensure everyone has access to good quality green spaces that meet the needs of the community.

We jumped at the opportunity to use the Green Flag Awards as a benchmark when planning our parks and reserves. With input from the community, the awards provided a framework that ensures our community has high quality open spaces, which they can utilise and take pride in.

We had to demonstrate in each application how we meet the following criteria:



A welcoming place

Healthy, safe and secure

Well maintained and clean

Environmental management

Biodiversity, landscape and heritage

Community involvement

Marketing and communication

Management

The prestigious Green Flag Award is maintained by a rigorous annual rewarding process including the evaluation of supplied documentation, visits to the sites and mystery shops of the sites, all judged by recreation professionals.

We, a small council, are proud to hold and maintain five Green Flag Awards, second only to Auckland's seven. This demonstrates our commitment to providing high quality green spaces for people within Horowhenua, and our aim is to have a Green Flag Award green space in each community.

Levin's Thompson House Park consists of a gracious category 2 historic house from the 1920s, set in lovely grounds purchased by Council for the community in 1974. The venue is used for performing arts, crafts and hobby groups, music groups, book launches and poetry readings. It is also well set up for meetings, seminars and conferences.

On the grounds there is a historic stone storage building and wall, a war memorial and cenotaph. Plantings consist of mixed border plantings, a sensory garden, an indigenous woodland patch and a large bonsai. It's also home to a number of unusual and rare plants such as voodoo lily which is known as Dracula's flower due to its incredible purple flower that smells of rotting meat!

Thompson House Park is an excellent example where Council, community, volunteer groups and contractors work together to maintain a treasured community asset.

Manakau's Driscoll Reserve was gifted to the community by the late Les Driscoll and is valued as the only public green space in the area. The reserve houses a war memorial, shade trees, camellia gardens, seating and small but beautifully kept gardens and lawns. The reserve was extended in 2019 when the neighbouring defunct fertiliser site became available – a great example of how a contaminated site can be rehabilitated and made available for community use. After technical advice, the entire site was capped, and a significant amount of screened soil was brought in from other Council projects in progress at the time.

The plan for the park was designed entirely by the community with input from Council staff. This community-driven project was supported by consultants only for the technical elements of the contaminated site and to draw the development plans to the specification of the community and Council staff.

Manakau School and the community took part in bulb and tree planting events with more planting events planned for the future.

'Foxton Beach's Holben/Te Wharangi Reserve has also been a recent recipient of a Green Flag award. The Foxton Beach Reserves Investment Plan was produced and adopted after previous community consultation. This plan has gained additional significance since Foxton Beach was identified as a growth area, with further growth forecast. The plan identified the need for more recreational facilities in the area. After further extensive consultation a variety of plans were finalised including the development of Holben Reserve/Te Wharangi, the largest reserve in Foxton Beach.

Further consultation was then held with local iwi, community and ecological groups to refine the plans for Holben Reserve/Te Wharangi. Foxton Beach is fortunate to have strong cultural and ecological expertise that supported and fed into the process.

Holben/Te Wharangi reserve is home to several popular facilities such as the extensive Foxton Beach walkway system, ponds, a playground, basketball hoop, tennis courts, skating area, Public Hall, sound shell and bike skills area which includes an award-winning (and one of Aotearoa's largest) pump track.

From the park you can walk to some of the best bird watching spots in the region to observe wading and migratory birds at the RAMSAR site – a wetland site designated to be of international importance.

There are further plans to develop a significant wetland at Holben Reserve which will greatly improve the water quality and environmental value of the reserve.

Shannon's Te Maire Park gained a Green Flag Award in the 2021/2022 round. This one-hectare park is highly valued by the community. It is more than 100 years old and was one of the first sites in New Zealand where an Arbour Day planting was held.

More than a century ago, local school children, both Māori and Pākehā, planted native and European trees for the community to enjoy. At the southern end of the park is the Shannon Cenotaph and memorial garden, which has a monument to a local soldier who was killed in the Boer War – one of a few such monuments around New Zealand. Also located in the park is a heritage-listed commuter railway station, railway sculpture, an i-SITE, interpretive signs, and an EV charging station.

Another historic building on the site is the Shannon Jailhouse which was in use from 1911–1972. This has recently been moved back to Te Maire Park fulfilling the aspirations of the local community, iwi and stakeholder groups.

A whare has also recently been built on the site as part of the iwi-led project, Tu Te Manawa. The whare was built with materials and labour donated by local contractors and with assistance from Council. Traditional Māori medicinal flora have been planted around the whare to support the kaupapa of the project of restoring the mauri of Manawatū River, connecting iwi, hapū and communities to the awa (river), and restoring native plants.

With Shannon growing along with the rest of the rohe (district), Council has worked hard in recent years to develop the future direction of Te Maire Park in partnership with the local community. Extensive community consultation was held including drop-in events to make it easy for the community to provide their feedback. Council also worked with the Shannon Progressive Association, local iwi, other local stakeholder groups, and the Historic Places Trust to ensure Te Maire Park reflects the goals and aspirations of the community.

Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

links the Foxton Township and Main Street area with the natural park environment of Foxton River Loop area and reflects the strong local Māori and Dutch history, and the considerable community input in designing this space.

It consists of the award-winning Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom which houses both Māori and Dutch museums, an impressive art gallery, library and a café. The park also includes De Molen – a working flour grinding windmill and Dutch delicatessen, the Flax Stripper Museum and Whare Manaaki workshop featuring traditional Māori arts.

The Cultural Park connects to the bank of the Foxton River Loop Reserve which provides a range of walking tracks, a natural play area and the recently developed riverside precinct. The reserve was developed with assistance from the Provincial Growth Fund to the tune of \$3.8m.

Before commencing the dredging required for the Loop, community members and interested parties worked hard to capture and relocate indigenous and beneficial fish. Community planting days have also been held. Stakeholders such as Save Our River Trust (SORT), leaders in the township and iwi partners were part of a governance team formed to provide overview of the project.

Horowhenua is home to some beautiful green open spaces for the community and visitors to enjoy. We are proud of the partnerships between community and Council to provide these spaces and encourage everyone to explore the natural beauty within our rohe (district).

1

Our first Green Flag was awarded for Thompson House Park in the 2018/2019 round and was rewarded in the following 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 rounds.

2

Our second Green Flag was awarded in the 2019/2020 round for Driscoll Reserve, which has been renewed in the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 rounds.

3

The next space to be awarded a Green Flag was Foxton Beach's Holben/Te Wharangi Reserve. It was awarded a Green Flag in the 2020/2021 round and rewarded in the 2021/2022 round.

4

Foxton's Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park also received a Green Flag Award in the 2021/2022 round.

5

Shannon's Te Maire Park gained a Green Flag Award in the 2021/2022 round.



Responding to Weather Events



Strong
Communities

People around the world have been experiencing extreme weather, and Horowhenua is no exception. During the 2021–2022 financial year, we responded to wild weather events in which residents were evacuated from their homes, lost power and suffered devastating damage. We also had significant flooding events in July and August 2022, which will be reported on in the next financial year.



MAY 2022 WEATHER EVENT

Dozens of buildings in Horowhenua suffered damage during an extreme weather event on 20 May 2022. Initially thought to be one tornado, in fact two tornadoes tore through Levin, leaving some homes uninhabitable. Trees were uprooted, roofs torn off, fences and power lines brought down.

Schools were closed, residents advised to stay at home, many businesses shut down for the day and parts of Levin were closed off.

The tornadoes hit shortly after 6.30am. By 7.58am, a Civil Defence Emergency Management Team had gathered to respond to the event. Working alongside the Urban Search and Rescue team, Council's building team were quick to begin assessing affected buildings.

By mid-afternoon we knew that six properties had been severely damaged, eight moderately, and 11 minimally. Council staff and contractors worked quickly to secure buildings to ensure people were safe and families were housed.

Council was praised by the community for its effective communications. The first social media post was live at 7.58am, and the public received five more updates during the day, while the communications team simultaneously fielded media enquiries from around Aotearoa.

Residents were encouraged to contact Council with any welfare needs. By late morning a welfare support centre was set up at Te Takaretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Council's welfare officers worked to secure accommodation for those displaced, and to provide any support or resources affected residents needed. Animals weren't forgotten in our response. Animal control staff worked with SPCA to collect and care for displaced animals.

In a touching display of manaakitanga, local business and individuals donated kai, building supplies, tarpaulins, nappies

and other items to support the response. Iwi partners, builders, contractors, arborists, landscapers, food businesses, home maintenance businesses and community members all worked together, sharing skills, tools, emotional support and resources in a unified effort to clean up the mess the tornadoes left.

On the day of the event, a Mayoral Relief Fund was established with Council and the Minister of Civil Defence Kiri Allan contributing \$100,000 each.

Council called for volunteers to help with a community clean-up the following day, asking members of the community and contractors to help. Organised and facilitated by Council, more than 250 people joined forces to pick up broken pieces of property and wrap arms around those with broken hearts after seeing their homes and businesses extensively damaged.

A rapid response caravan was set up at the Levin Mall carpark and later moved to the Levin Fire and Emergency Station, and Council made a location at Donnelly Park for residents to drop off green waste and made skip bins available for glass and debris for the days following the weather event.

On the day of the tornado:

- 4 families went into emergency accommodation
- 37 welfare calls were made
- 67 111 calls were made
- 7 buildings were red stickered (deemed uninhabitable)
- Many houses were without power.

Two days after the tornadoes, the Incident Management Team (IMT) had another busy day focusing on the clean-up and welfare support. Initial rapid response assessments were completed by the Urban Search and Rescue team, and Council Building Advisor Officers carried out further assessments to understand the severity of the damage after the incident management team were stood down in the early evening.

Monday was a transition from response to recovery. IMT met in the morning to set up a cross-functional recovery team. There were still people and properties that needed help, and Council staff and contractors were working through the remaining requests for help. Chief Executive Monique Davidson encouraged her team to do anything required to ensure people impacted by the tornadoes were safe and taken care of.

Generous businesses and individuals contributed to the Mayoral Relief Fund, with All Black Codie Taylor auctioning a signed All Blacks Jersey with all proceeds going to the fund. The generosity of the Council, central government and the community made life a little bit easier for those families most impacted, and assisted them in their time of need.

Residents affected by the weather event could apply to receive financial assistance with:

- Damaged property
- Essentials for daily life
- Costs not covered by insurance
- financial burden due to the tornado event
- Counselling

The fund reached a total of \$265,211, and to allow time for affected residents to gather information, get costs for repairs and let them heal emotionally following the weather event, applications were open until 30 June.

Six days following the weather event, 11 families or individuals were being cared for by the welfare teams with three still in emergency housing. Council had received 130 requests for help. 300m³ of green waste had been collected (70m³ of which was repurposed and used in the parks and reserves or given back to people to use), 150m³ of rubbish and green waste was collected by Higgins, three skip bins filled at the temporary Donnelly Park dumping

station, 20 buildings had been red stickered (17 residential and three commercial), and four buildings had yellow stickers.

Levin wasn't the only town devastated by weather on 20 May. A severe hailstorm hammered down on homes and businesses on Ōhau, injuring livestock, damaging buildings and vehicles and causing millions of dollars' worth of damage to local crops.

There was more than \$8m worth of insurance claims made by residents due to the 20 May weather event.

FLOODING

The 2021–2022 financial year was a very wet year! The graph below shows the significant rainfall in August and December 2021, and in February, May and June of 2022. In December there was a 165% increase, and in February a 237% increase.

The cumulative effect of all that rain meant that groundwater had not been able to dry out and groundwater levels were high. The rain that fell during a series of thunderstorms in June was not able to drain away and there was significant surface flooding.

On the morning of 11 June, a Civil Defence Emergency Management Incident Management Team was stood up. Sucker trucks and sandbags were deployed to many locations across the rohe, with multiple roads closed. People were

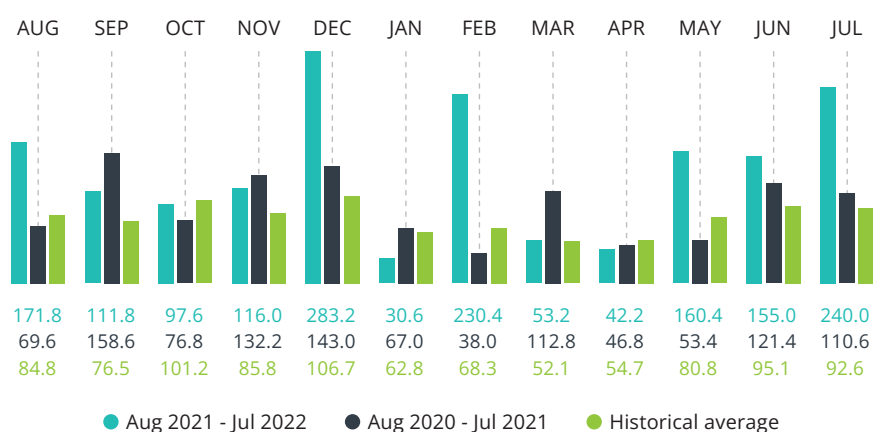
urged to stay at home and limit any unnecessary travel, and many homes were without power.

Fire and Emergency and contractors worked through the night and day to assist impacted people, properties and roads, and Waka Kotahi NZTA was deployed to assist with localised State Highway flooding incidents. Heavy rainfall resulted in high turbidity (muddiness) at Ōhau River which meant Levin's water treatment plant was forced to close, however, there was water stored at the plant. Residents were urged to conserve water. The Tokomaru Water Treatment plant was offline, and a water tanker was provided onsite to supplement water if needed. All other Water Treatment plants in the rohe were still running but at capacity.

The severe weather continued for another two days. On Monday 13 June, Horowhenua was still experiencing stormy conditions, and a preventative flood barrier was positioned across Hartley Street, Foxton Beach as waves were forecast to reach 7 metres at high tide. Lightning also caused power line issues from Levin East to Mangahao after it interfered with the line.

Horowhenua Mayor Bernie Wanden thanks the community for their water conservation efforts, and all the agencies who worked quickly to restore services to residents.

Levin rainfall data (mm)





NZ Libraries Partnership



Led by the National Library of New Zealand, the New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme (NZLPP) supported librarians and library services to be retained in Aotearoa during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to assist them to support community recovery.

The programme's priority areas were

- Retention and/or creation of job opportunities for librarians
- Skills enhancement for librarians to support community recovery and strengthen the profession
- Maintaining current library service levels to the public during the time of community recovery
- Skills enhancement in the community to support community recovery.

This investment demonstrates central government's belief that local libraries and librarians nationwide are at the heart of communities, and are crucial in helping to support community recovery, improve literacy, a love of reading, digital literacy and learning.

We applied for NZLPP funding during the 2021–2022 financial year and received \$385,746 ex GST to employ 3.5 full time equivalent staff for 18 months, subsidise 50% of the cost of our digital databases, and deliver library engagement programmes. We also took advantage of fee waivers to a wide range of e-resources to benefit our community. Our e-resources and digital databases were a crucial part of how our libraries continued to engage with our community during COVID-19 facility closures.

On 5 January 2019 we recruited a Services to Older Adults Librarian, a Digital Inclusion Coordinator, and two library assistants – one full-time, and one part-time – to help run our reading programmes. These roles

helped serve a changing demand for library services, including a specific emphasis on community outreach during and after COVID-19 lockdowns, and traffic light systems implemented during the financial year.

Our Services to Older Adults Librarian has been working to support the needs of our older adults in this changing world. She has focused on reducing some of the barriers older people face when accessing library services. We were particularly excited about this appointment as this kaupapa (programme) is something we have been wanting to introduce for a long time.

As our population ages, the number of people in our district being diagnosed with dementia is growing rapidly. In November 2021 the Services to Older Adults Librarian led 24 Library Services team members to become Dementia Friends via an Alzheimer's NZ online course. Dementia Friend badges and wristbands are worn with pride by our whole team across our three community centres at Levin, Foxton and Shannon letting people affected by dementia know that our libraries are safe, positive spaces.

Our Services to Older Adults Librarian also worked with the team to develop a Dementia Friendly collection. It includes books for support carers, children's fiction and picture books to help them understand the changes happening to their loved ones, and specialist books for people living with dementia. By working to be dementia friendly, our libraries are creating more diverse programmes and services for this important group of people.

With technology becoming increasingly ingrained in modern day living, the Digital Inclusion Coordinator supports services and programmes to reduce barriers people face when integrating new digital technologies into their lives. The role focuses on providing our community access to resources and equipment which enables

collaboration, lifelong learning and the opportunity to participate meaningfully online.

Librarians see the effects and real-life impacts of digital exclusion every day on the library floor. To combat these issues, our Digital Inclusion Coordinator has run educational drop-in sessions, and works with SkinnyJump to provide affordable pre-loaded modems for residents across our district. Our Better Digital Futures for older citizens was launched in September 2022.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns our eLibrary was an essential way for many of our borrowers to still have access to resources. In November 2021 our Digital Inclusion Coordinator led the launch of Hoopla – a new platform that has music, video, audio books and ebooks for our community to enjoy. Together, with our Cloud Library and Overdrive platforms, our Horowhenua community now has access to more than 900,000 resources around the clock.

NZLPP funding also allowed us to support our community with vaccination passes when they were introduced in November 2021. The library became a valuable resource for elderly people and others who did not have access to a smartphone, computer or the unique email address required to set up a My Covid Record account.

Our library staff set up help desks to ensure social distancing and comfort, and during November and December 2021, 3,336 people received vaccination pass help in person. Help was also available online, and 343 digital tutorials were completed via email highlighting the importance of our libraries providing services that help bridge the digital gap and build community resilience and wellbeing.

All the roles funded by the NZLPP added considerable value to our library services, and we were thrilled to offer most of them permanent positions at the end of their 18-month contracts.



Enabling More Homes to be Built



**Outstanding
Environment**



**Partnership
with
Tangata Whenua**



**Strong
Communities**



**Fit for purpose
Infrastructure**



**Vibrant
Economy**

Horowhenua is one of the fastest growing districts in Aotearoa. As the economy grows, so does the attraction of Horowhenua as a place to live and work, increasing the pressure on housing in the district. The trend is expected to continue for the next 20 years, with our population expected to reach 62,000 by 2041.

The next two decades will transform our rohe (district) bringing both opportunities and challenges. How we plan for the future and respond to change is vital to prepare for the growth, and we must ensure that we maximise the opportunities and keep up with the needs of our growing community.

We are growing at the rate forecast in the Long-Term Plan 2021–2041. This has increased significantly since 2018. For example, in 2018, projections were that 5,377 more houses would be needed by 2040, but by 2021 projections had jumped to 11,209 houses as 26,008 more people are expected to be living within the district by then. An average of 434 dwellings per year need to be built between 2021 and 2031, and 686 dwellings will need to be built per year between 2031 and 2040.

One of our goals is to help our existing community and new arrivals to build, buy and rent affordable housing in the district. Council has put in a lot of effort responding to the predicted growth and a lot of that work has progressed significantly in this financial year.

TARA-IKA

A 420-hectare block of land on the south-east edge of Levin, Tara-Ika was first identified as a growth area in 2008. Initially it was anticipated it would be used for rural lifestyle development, however since the rohe is experiencing significant growth, it was agreed that Tara-Ika should develop at an urban residential scale.

Tara-Ika planning was fast tracked when in 2020, Council was granted \$25m as part of central government's COVID-19 shovel ready infrastructure

funding to support residential development. Though it won't cover all the costs required for the project, it did mean Council was able to start on the construction of infrastructure considerably sooner than initially planned. The government funding was in the form of grants and loans, which will be repaid by those who develop Tara-Ika.

A significant and transformational project for the rohe, a lot of work has gone into planning for Tara-Ika development. There has been input, both informal and formal, into the final results. A master plan was developed that formed the basis of Proposed Plan Change 4, which allows for the rezoning of Tara-Ika. This was adopted by Council on 29 June 2022, which then opened the appeals process, with all appeals to be lodged by 1 August 2022.





The area will be developed as an extension of the town not as a standalone community. Tara-Ika is located immediately south-east of Levin, enabling the easy extension of infrastructure and ensuring that future residents are close to jobs, shops, and services.

The proposed Plan Change allows for approximately 3,500 dwellings including a greater variety of housing such as smaller houses on smaller sections and larger ones on large sections. This will mean housing will be available to suit a wide variety of future residents with varying needs in terms of dwelling size and affordability. The smallest/highest density housing will be located near to the village centre, where there will be easy access to key facilities (e.g. shops, parks and reserves), transitioning to lower density and existing rural residential lots further from the centre.

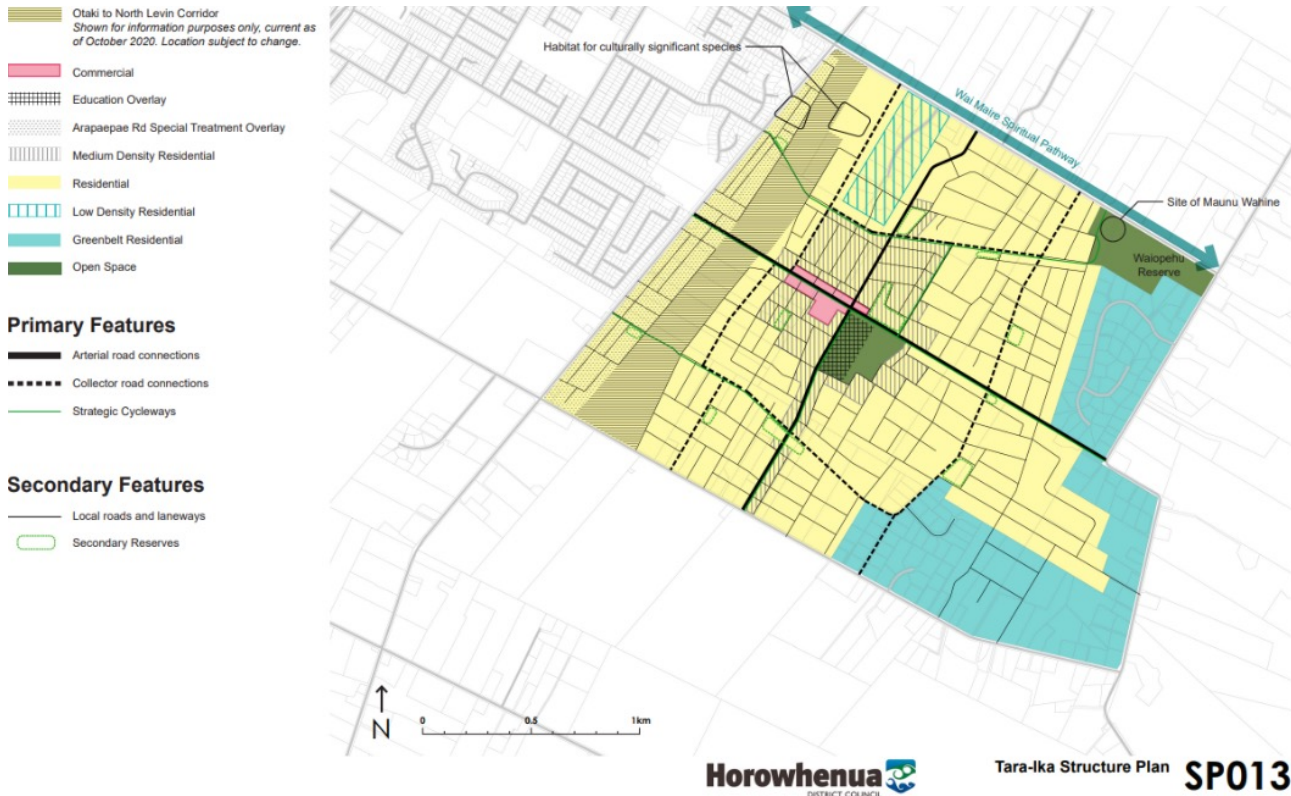
Tara-Ika will also include a commercial centre that will include shops and cafés, a primary school and infrastructure that caters for walking and cycling as well as roading to encourage all forms of transport. This will enable residents to have greater transport choices, including options with lower carbon outputs, and will improve accessibility and walkability within the new suburb. While planning for Tara-Ika, Council considered the proposed Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL) expressway and Council staff are working closely with Waka Kotahi on this.

A network of parks and reserves will be created, and the open spaces will integrate stormwater treatment and recreational paths, ensuring passive and active recreational open space is readily accessible within all local neighbourhoods. This includes a reserve that will be developed

in partnership with Muaūpoko to recognise Maunu Wahine ('the women's place of refuge') – a site of cultural significance to Muaūpoko.

The future development of Maunu Wahine as a reserve area in partnership with Muaūpoko will be a formal recognition and reverence of the historic use of the land, while providing a recreation area to be enjoyed by the district's residents and visitors. Maunu Wahine will also have a valuable conservation role by retaining the natural habitat of some of the district's endangered flora and fauna, including bats and snail species which are endemic to the Tara-Ika area.

An innovative approach will be taken for stormwater disposal to help future-proof the area from climate change and natural hazards, and to protect infrastructure. All stormwater for up



to a 100-year storm event, including allowance for climate change, will be contained within the Tara-Ika area. This will be through a combination of plumbed-in rainwater tanks – so they can be used for non-potable uses – soakpits and stormwater treatment wetlands and basins, which will be incorporated into recreation areas as appropriate. A key objective of the stormwater management approach is to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff to avoid further degradation of water quality in Punahau/Lake Horowhenua.



GROWTH STRATEGY

Proposed Plan Change 4 is part of the broader Horowhenua Growth Strategy 2040, which was adopted by the Council on 11 May 2022. This was an update to the Growth Strategy 2040 as the 2018 version of the Strategy was already out of date due to the rate of growth. The purpose of the Growth Strategy is to provide an informed basis to direct projected future growth in the rohe. In the Long-Term Plan 2021–2041 we highlighted how growth comes with opportunities and challenges. The updated Growth Strategy identifies the growth areas we will rezone as land for development through District Plan Changes and categorises them into land to be developed within the next decade, and land to be developed in more than ten years' time.

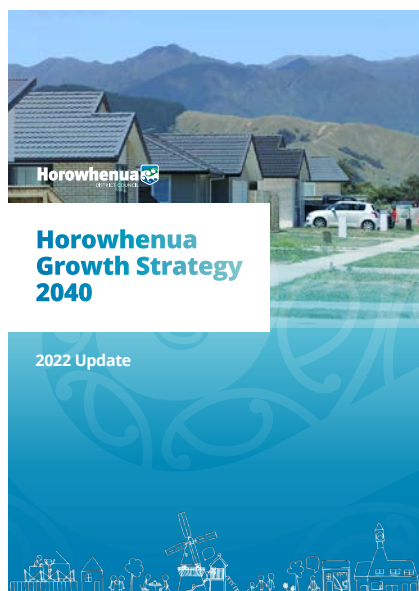
The strategy outlines where and how we propose to accommodate residential growth for each area across the rohe during the next 20 years. It is an important and necessary tool to inform District Plan Changes and infrastructure planning. Proactively planning for growth in Horowhenua gives us the best chance of managing how and where the growth happens.

Alongside the District Plan it helps ensure good development outcomes and build strong, resilient and inclusive neighbourhoods with a more efficient and cost-effective infrastructure provision.

Sustainable growth was a key consideration when developing the Growth Strategy, ensuring Horowhenua can accommodate additional growth areas in each of our settlements. While planning for residential growth and zoning are at its core, the Strategy also sets out potential commercial zones and identifies underutilised land – such as greenfield areas adjacent to existing residential land which are a top priority for accommodating future growth. It's important that these prime areas are not underutilised, and that we promote better intensification of the land. This will mean a more informed and coordinated approach to District Plan Changes over the coming years.

The purpose of the Growth Strategy is to establish clear and effective direction for the integrated management of the district's growth over time, so that:

- Council demonstrates leadership on growth management on behalf of the community;
- There is a strategy for the development of existing settlements, new subdivisions and the rural environment;
- Infrastructure is provided in an efficient, affordable, and timely manner;
- The social cohesion and cultural diversity of communities are strengthened;
- The quality of the natural and built environments is maintained and/or improved; and
- The economy is sustained and encouraged to thrive by the proactive enablement of growth.



STREAMLINED HOUSING PROCESS

Even before the rapidly increasing growth in the district, housing affordability has been one of the biggest issues facing our community. Horowhenua needs more one- and two-bedroom homes – for first-time buyers, people downsizing, and for those on lower incomes to find a place to live.

Council endorsed a Streamlined Housing Process (SHP) at a Council meeting on 8 December 2021. The SHP is designed to make it easier to build new homes in the area by simplifying the resource consent process and building on underused land.

The SHP streamlines the process of building high quality infill housing and reduces costs, benefiting existing homeowners, would-be developers and people struggling to find affordable housing in the area. It isn't a blanket relaxation of consents and new builds but takes a tactical approach to infill housing consents.

The goals and principles of the SHP are:

- Supporting affordability;
- Creating high quality living conditions;
- Respecting neighbours;
- Complementing the neighbourhood; and
- Social and environmental sustainability.

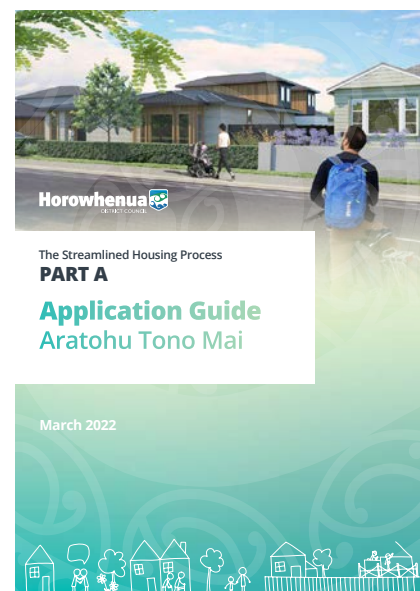
Here's how the SHP will work:

- A series of preferred 'design approaches' and technical solutions for infill housing have been prepared
- A new approval process to give developers and landowners a pathway through the consent process
- An improved and streamlined consenting process that is smoother and simpler
- A focus on moderate to medium infill housing, that is one- and two-storey dwellings, in the towns across our rohe
- In some cases, and if neighbours agree, three storey dwellings may be built
- Existing homes on larger sites can potentially be subdivided into smaller units

A comprehensive application guide has been developed alongside to assist those interested in the process.

As the SHP has been introduced as a pilot, we will need to test how effective it has been in delivering affordable housing, one- and two-bedroom houses and different housing types. If successful, then Council will consider formally changing the District Plan to make the SHP part of the District Plan rules. This could include making some additional refinements or

improvements to the current process. If it is identified that the process is not achieving the intended outcome or that it is creating other unintended adverse outcomes, then Council will consider withdrawing the process and reverting back to only offering the standard consent process.



CONCLUSION

All the important transformational work Council has completed this financial year to respond to growth will leave a legacy for the rohe and will have an impact for many years to come.

Supporting our Rangatahi into Mahi

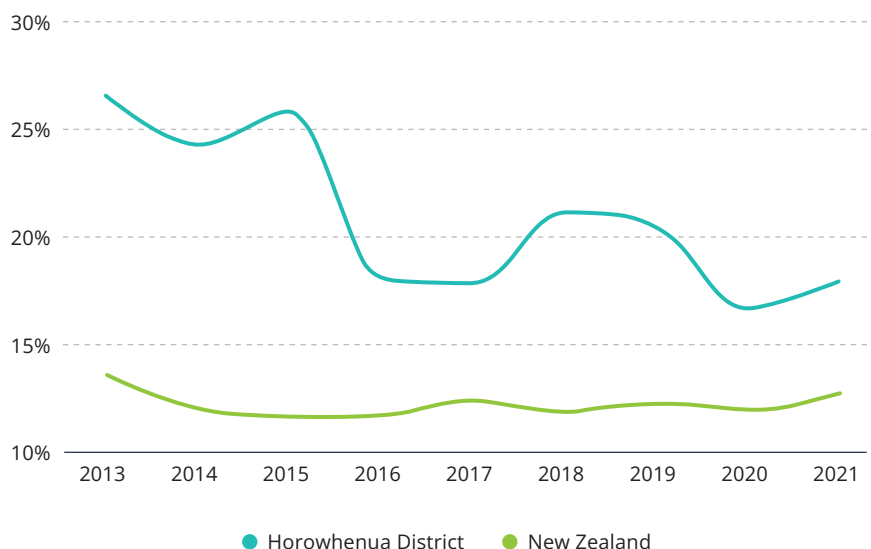


There are many important reasons to support our rangatahi (youth) into mahi (work). Rangatahi are our taonga (treasure). Not only is it beneficial for the individual rangatahi and their whānau to find employment, but it benefits our wider rohe and economy. When our businesses are thriving and successful, and when they have the right workforce for their needs, the community thrives.

Rangatahi not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is so important that central government, councils and other interested organisations track statistics about this. You'll see in the graph below that while Horowhenua NEET rates have dropped considerably, they're still higher than the New Zealand average.

One of the issues identified was that local rangatahi were not clear about the pathways into employment or training. Council funds and/or facilitates two programmes that support rangatahi into work, supporting local businesses and boosting our local economy.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Rate, 2000-2021



MAYOR TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

The Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) programme is a nationwide network of New Zealand's mayors, working together towards the vision of having all young people 16–25 engaged in employment, education, training, or other positive activity in their communities.

In May 2020, MTFJ Horowhenua launched in Levin, with Council provided funding and partnering with Horowhenua Learning Centre (HLC) and Get-Go to support the initiative. Since then, three programmes have been offered and 75 young people have been placed in suitable, sustainable employment. Many of these young people had previously been disconnected from education and had not been able to find employment as they needed to build skills, resources and confidence first.

MTFJ offers a mixture of ready-for-work group courses combined with personalised support. The programme identifies barriers to employment and funds a wide range of resources to enable successful employment outcomes. The course helps rangatahi prepare a CV and set up online profiles, provides volunteering opportunities and supports young people to obtain credentials such as first aid certificates and/or driver's licences. Students are also taken to various local employers to experience the different types of jobs that are available.

Pastoral care is offered for up to six months after placement. The programme works with a growing group of employers with many offering more flexible workplace routines to help young people adjust to work life.

GET-GO

To ensure it gets the attention it deserves, Council contracts its economic development activity to the Horowhenua Company Limited (THCL), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Horowhenua

New Zealand Trust. Established in 2018, the Horowhenua New Zealand Trust is a community-owned not for profit trust that focuses on lifting the economic and social wellbeing of Horowhenua and is the independent economic development agency for Horowhenua. One of the roles of THCL is to support workforce development – an important aspect of economic development.

After applying for, and gaining, \$806,000 of funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) THCL initiated the Get-Go programme early in 2021. The Get-Go programme was developed following research undertaken in 2019 which showed that local rangatahi were not clear on the pathways into employment or training. Since then, the changes to the economy over COVID have meant that now many employers are crying out for staff. Get-Go is now working to meet the needs of both rangatahi and employers by trying different methods to find best practice in this area.

There are several facets of the Get-Go programme. A Get-Go website has been developed that informs rangatahi of the different employers in the rohe, the type of jobs that are available, what it's like to work with the employer, and if any specific roles are available. Rangatahi can also register on the website to express interest in finding work. The Get-Go programme, while not a recruitment agency, will facilitate connecting employers and people seeking work together.

Get-Go also co-designed a Work Ready Framework with the three local colleges. A big part of this programme is Futures Day where several hundred Year 10 students spend the day visiting local businesses. During the rest of their time at school rangatahi get increasingly personalised assistance so they have a plan and know what they need to do to achieve their goals for employment or training,

while simultaneously connecting with local employers.

Get-Go also works with local businesses improving employer capability, making them more appealing for jobseekers and therefore better placed to attract and retain staff. Get-Go provides training on inductions, communication techniques, training and career development.

The Get-Go Programme is funded till November 2023 and is governed by a reference group consisting of the Chief Executive of THCL, two large local business owners, a principal representing local colleges, student representatives and the Chief Executive of Muaupoko Tribal Authority (MTA).

Now that it is established, Get-Go is increasingly working with other like-minded organisations in the rohe such as Ministry for Social Development (MSD), Horowhenua Learning Centre (HLC), Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and Life to the Max to achieve the ultimate goal of developing a long-term sustainable pathway for local rangatahi into mahi or training, and employers gaining valuable employees.

Like many programmes and organisations, Get-Go has been impacted by COVID-19.


Employers in challenging economic environments find it difficult to take on new staff, or do not have the experienced staff to train new staff. Schooling has been significantly disrupted and traffic light levels meant events had to be cancelled. A review conducted in 2022, after a year in operation, confirmed Get-Go should focus directly on supporting businesses to meet their workforce needs and preparing rangatahi to be work ready. Despite the challenges, Get-Go supported 64 people into work this financial year.

Council will continue to look for opportunities that benefit both jobseekers and employers to build a vibrant economy and strong communities.

MĀORI CONTRIBUTION TO DECISION MAKING







Māori contribution to the decision-making process

Te Wahi o te Māori ki te Whakatakotoranga Whakatau

Horowhenua District Council is committed to continually enhancing our relationship with Tangata whenua and Māori. Council recognises the unique position of Tangata whenua in our district and we are dedicated to fostering the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the Council. While it is a requirement in Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002, Council aims to extend beyond the legislative framework, to build and maintain strong and meaningful relationships with the Māori community.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2002 recognises and respects the Crown's obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi by placing some specific obligations on councils. These obligations are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authorities' decision-making processes. The Act includes requirements for councils to:



provide relevant information to Māori



take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.



establish and maintain processes for Māori to contribute to decision-making



ensure they provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes



consider ways in which they can foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes

The Local Government Act 2002 charges local authorities with a clear responsibility to be informed about how their decision-making can impact on Māori community well-being. These provisions apply to all Māori. This means that local authorities need to understand Māori community values, issues and aspirations as they relate to economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being, just as they need to understand those of other communities. This includes understanding the challenges experienced by pre-settled Iwi as opposed to Iwi who have settled with the crown - two of our Iwi are currently undergoing Treaty negotiations.

The intent is for both local authorities and Māori organisations to move beyond engaging on matters of environmental or cultural importance only.

SIGNIFICANT IWI ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION DURING 2021/22

- Levin Taitoko Structure Plan Project
- Horowhenua NZ Identity Refresh
- Relocating Te Ao Māori library resources
- Representation Review
- Emergency Management
- Creative Communities NZ Committee
- Shannon Development Trust
- Community Wellbeing Committee
- Sound and lighting installation at the Whare at Te Maire park;

- The concept design for the south-west portion of Te Maire Park
- The use of Mavis Vinsen Pavilion in Shannon as an out of school program centre for Rangatahi
- Developing a dune lake system at the Wairarawa Stream at Waitarere Beach including fish passages and development of a dune land lake
- Development and installation of a mural at the Foxton Beach surf life-saving club
- A series of working Bees to reduce/remove some of the more invasive species appearing at Muaupoko Park.
- Iwi representatives involved in planning and implementation of community based activities associated with Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori.
- Iwi and hapū representation on the Matariki working group
- Kapahaka representation – Ngā Mātāwaka ki Horowhenua are a rangatahi group who perform at various Council events.

ADDITIONALLY COUNCIL WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MĀORI, AND PROVIDED INPUT AND ASSISTANCE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Taitoko Vibes
- Youth Week
- Parliament Trip 2021 (Postponed due to COVID)
- Te Tihi support for Muaupoko Tribal Authority
- Kaumatua & Kuia Ball
- Poutu Marae Rangatahi Capacity Building Workshops x2

Māori see people and the environment as closely interrelated – Ko au Ko te taiao, Ko te taiao Ko au (I am the environment, the environment is me), and share with Council a strong interest in maintaining and protecting the environment as well as developing the economic future of the area. Council is committed over the period covered by this LTP and beyond, to continuing the process of consultation and engagement with Māori.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTRE FACILITIES

- Partnership arrangement remains between Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou, (Iwi Partner), Oranjehof, (Dutch Partner) and Horowhenua District Council.
- Shared Gallery operations, processes and decisions /Exhibitions
- Mapua Gallery space in Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
- Karakia for staff after a serious police incident at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.

EVENTS

- Iwi representation for all major HDC Co-ordinated events. A process is also unfolding where Iwi will be informed of other community events that they may have an interest in.

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES





Key Performance Measures Overview

Tirohanga Whānui ki ngā Paetohu Aromatawai Mātāmua



The Local Government Act 2002 requires all councils to report on a set of performance measures for roading, water, wastewater, stormwater and flood protection.

Councils also develop other performance measures in consultation with their community during the Long Term Plan process.

Performance measures provide valuable information on how Council is performing in a wide range of Council activities.

This section is a summary of some of our performance measures. A high-level summary can be found in the 'Performance at a Glance' section, and you can see the full set of performance measures, outcomes and commentary in the Performance Measures section of the Annual Report.



Regulatory Services

Ngā Ratonga Whakariterite ā-Ture

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
Processing of applications under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991.	95% of applications under the RMA will be processed within statutory timeframes.	✗	326 approved 54% within statutory timeframes
Carry out Building Consent Authority functions including enforcement of legislation relating to construction of buildings and structures.	98% of building consent applications are processed within statutory timeframes.	✗	755 granted 88% were processed within statutory timeframes 94 processed outside the statutory timeframe
	Council will maintain its accredited status as a Building Consent Authority.	✓	IANZ reconfirmed accreditation on 11 January 2022
Food safety – Food businesses are monitored to ensure compliance with legislation.	All food businesses operating under the Food Act 2014 are verified at the frequency determined by the Food Regulations 2015.	✗	86 food businesses 36 verifications processed at extended timeframes granted due to COVID
Monitoring of licensed premises to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.	All premises are inspected annually to check for compliance with their licence conditions.	✓	All 71 licensed premises were inspected
Carry out territorial authority functions including enforcement of legislation.	All reported cases of illegal building work will be responded to within 5 working days.	✓	Two reports were received which were responded to within five days
	> 33% of private swimming pools on register inspected annually for compliance.	✗	295 pools are on the register. Zero inspections occurred during the year
Monitoring of District Plan requirements, resource consent compliance and complaints.	All known and reported instances of non-compliances with the District Plan and any resource consents will be responded to within 5 working days.	✗	All complaints were responded to however due to limited resource available only 48% were responded to within five working days
Reported instances of non-compliances and dog nuisances will be responded to.	100% of reported instances of non-compliances and dog nuisances will be responded to.	✓	1,001 complaints 100% were responded to
Noise complaints response service will be provided.	Noise complaints services are provided all year round and 90% of complaints will be responded to within 60 minutes.	✓	1,750 complaints 95% were responded to within 60 minutes
Public safety bylaws and other legislation will be enforced.	100% of reported non-compliances and complaints that are responded to within 5 working days.	✗	165 complaints received 125 complaints responded to in 5 working days



Community Facilities

Ngā Taiwhanga ā Rēhia me nga

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
All aquatic facilities are compliant with relevant standards including Pool Safe Accreditation.	Achieve	✓	Both Foxton and Levin pools have received Pool Safe Accreditation
Percent of customers satisfied, based on the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.	≥ 90%	✓	92% rating received
Number of participants in Learn to Swim classes.	≥ 400 per term	✓	As at 30 June 2022: 466 = Term Three 512 = Term Four 463 = Term One (2022) 494 = Term Two (2022)
Percent of residents and non-residents satisfied with library and Community services based on the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.	> 90%	✗	85% satisfied
Number of booking counts for community facilities	≥ 1,400	✗	1,248 bookings Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō 75% Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom 25%
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō	70%		
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom	30%		
Number of programmes delivered	500	✗	445 programmes delivered
Levin	≥ 50%		
Foxton	≥ 30%		
Shannon	≥ 20%		



Representation and Community Leadership

Te Whakakanohi me te Hautū i te Hapori

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
Council provides open, accessible information and processes to local government and the community.	< 2 successful challenges to Council's decision making processes.	✓	0 successful challenges to Council's decision making processes
	100% official information requests are processed in accordance with the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987.	✗	138 received 120 processed on time
Council supports residents and ratepayers to have their views heard and considered in Council decision making.	> 50% of residential and non-residential ratepayers who are satisfied with the way Council involves the public in its decision making, based on the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.	✗	21% rating achieved
Council's planning documents meet statutory requirements and have unqualified audit opinions.	The Annual Report will include an unqualified audit opinion.	✗	The Annual Report was qualified due to audit unable to verify the completeness of SSP data which was collected by Palmerston North City Council



Land Transport

Ngā Ara Whenua

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
A safe road network	0% change from the previous financial year in the number of fatalities and serious injury crashes on the local road network.	✗	3 more fatal crash than the previous year 9 more serious injury crashes
Roads in good condition*	Minimum 85% quality of ride on a sealed local road network measured by smooth travel exposure.	✓	93% Smooth Travel Exposure rating
Roads that are maintained well*	Minimum of 5% of total area of the sealed local road network that is resurfaced annually.	✓	27km of road was resealed, which is above the 26.6km required for 5% of the network
Footpaths are in an acceptable condition*	Minimum 30% in excellent condition. Maximum 10% in poor condition Target footpath condition rating (% compliant with Council's standards found in the Land Transport Activity Plan).	✗	11% of footpath is in excellent condition < 5% is in poor condition
Good response to service requests*	> 95% of customer service requests relating to roads and footpaths to which Council responds within 15 working days.	✓	1,737 customer service requests received 95% closed within 15 working days

* These performance measurements are provided by the Department of Internal Affairs and they are mandatory.



Community Support Te Tautāwhi i te Hapori

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
Council provides effective leadership in advocating, coordinating and facilitating on behalf of community needs.	≥ 4 Community Wellbeing Committee meetings per year.	✓	4 Community Wellbeing Committee meetings held
Horowhenua is New Zealand's foremost District in taking joint responsibility for the success of our community through education.	≥ 4 Education Horowhenua meetings per year.	✓	4 Education Horowhenua meetings held
Council supports the promotion of Horowhenua as a tourism destination.	≥ 10,000 visitor information enquiries conducted from Horowhenua i-Sites.	✗	6,349 visitor information enquiries
Council promotes community group empowerment and provides opportunities for community-driven initiatives and projects, and to grow and develop.	≥ 85% satisfaction with Capacity and Capability Building Programme workshops or training.	✓	100% satisfaction has been recorded from 5 programme workshops or training
	≥ 10 Community Capacity and Capability Building Programme workshops or trainings offered.	✓	10 Community Capacity and Capability Building workshops/trainings held
Council provides opportunities for businesses to collaborate and network resulting in a stronger business sector.	≥ 10 business networking meetings organised per year.	✓	10 Business Networking events held. 3 online business support webinars focused on the changing COVID situation
Council advocates for and facilitates business development and new business investment in the Horowhenua District.	> 75% of the District's Business Community that are satisfied or more than satisfied with Council's overall performance in the Economic Development Activity.	✓	80% of the Horowhenua business community indicated they would be likely, very likely or highly likely to refer the Horowhenua Company to other businesses

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
An adequate stormwater system*	<5 per year of flooding events that occur in the District.	✓	0 flooding events that met the set definition
	For each flooding event 2 or less of habitable floors affected per 1,000 connections to Council's stormwater networks.	✓	0 flooding events that met the set definition
Response to faults*	< 1 hour to attend a flooding event, measured from the time that Council receives notification to the time that service personnel reach the site.	✓	There were zero flooding events that met the set definition
Customer satisfaction*	<10 per year of complaints received by Council about the performance of its stormwater system expressed per 1,000 properties connected to the system.	✓	3.69 complaints received per 1,000 connections
Customer satisfaction	≥80% of customers satisfied with the stormwater service. As per the Annual Resident Satisfaction Survey.	✗	35% rating achieved
A sustainable stormwater service	0 abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders, and convictions received by Council in relation to Horizons Regional Council resource consents.	✓	0 received

* These performance measurements are provided by the Department of Internal Affairs and they are mandatory.

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
Safe water supply*	All Council's drinking water supply complies with: (a) part 4 of the Drinking Water Standards (bacteria compliance criteria).	✓	100% compliance
	All Council's drinking water supply complies with: b) part 5 of the Drinking Water Standards (protozoa compliance criteria).	✓	100% compliance
Water supply is sustainable*	Average consumption of drinking water per person per day (lpcd) within the water supply areas (target based on Horizons One Plan - Section 5.4.3.1). lpcd litres per capita per day.	✗	362 lpcd
Drinking water that tastes and looks satisfactory*	The total number of complaints received about any of the following (expressed per 1,000 connections): Drinking water clarity; Drinking water taste; Drinking water odour; Drinking water pressure or flow; Continuity of supply; and Council's response to any of these issues.	✓	0.95 complaints received per 1,000 connections
Response to faults*	The median time from the time that Council received notification, to the time that service personnel:	✓	
	<1 hour Reach the site for urgent call-outs;		Received one urgent call-out which was attended within less than an hour
	<8 hours Confirm resolution of the fault or interruption of urgent call-outs;		Received one urgent call-out and resolved 1 within 8 hours or less
	<3 days Reach the site for non-urgent call-outs; and		Received 442 non-urgent callouts and attended to 402 within 3 days or less
	<3 days Confirm resolution of the fault or interruption of non urgent call-outs.		Received 442 non-urgent call-outs and resolved 397 in 3 days or less
Minimal water losses*.	Band "B" real water loss performance of the network as measured by the standard World Bank Institute Band for Leakage.	✗	Levin Band C Shannon and Mangaore Band C Foxton Band C Foxton Beach Band A Tokomaru Band B
Sustainable water supply management	0 abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders, and convictions received by Council in relation to Horizons Regional Council resource consents.	✓	0 received

* These performance measurements are provided by the Department of Internal Affairs and they are mandatory.

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
Reliable wastewater collection and disposal	≤2 dry weather wastewater overflows from the wastewater system per 1,000 connections.	✓	19 overflows 1.46 per 1000 connections
Safe disposal of wastewater	0 abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders, and convictions received by Council in relation to Horizons Regional Council resource consents.	✓	0 received
Council provides a good response to wastewater system faults reported	<1 hour from the time that Council receives a notification, to the time that services personnel reach the site in responding to an overflow resulting from a wastewater blockage or other fault.	✓	47 mins response time
	<12 hours from the time that Council receives a notification, to the time that services personnel confirm a resolution of a blockage or other fault within the wastewater system causing the overflow.	✓	41 mins response time
The service is satisfactory	A total of <22 complaints received (expressed per 1,000 connections to the wastewater system)	✗	14.64 complaints in total, however wastewater system blockages received 11.42 complaints when the target was < 8

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
Provision of landfill but minimising the amount that is sent there.	≤400 kg per person per year of waste going to the landfill per person per year.	✗	500kg estimated per person per year
Waste transfer and recycling stations have a minimal impact on the immediate and surrounding environment.	4 per month odour complaints and minimal reports of solid waste in or around: Waste transfer stations; Recycling stations per month.	✓	0 complaints per year waste transfer 5 complaints per year recycling stations
Response to service requests regarding Council's Solid Waste Activities is timely.	All requests are responded to within 3 working days.	✗	1,073 customer service requests received 66% resolved within three days
Sustainable solid waste management.	0 abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders, and convictions received by Council in relation to Horizons Regional Council resource consents.	✓	0 received
Recycling and refuse is collected on time and in a sanitary manner.	<6 per month complaints about non collection of kerbside recycling and kerbside refuse.	✗	16 complaints on average each month about non collection of kerbside recycling 5 complaints on average each month about non collection of kerbside refuse



Community Infrastructure Tūāhanga Hapori

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
All playground facilities comply with relevant National Play-ground standards.	Achieve	✓	100%
Percent of time that sports grounds are available for use during their opening hours.	≥95%	✓	100%
Number of uses per fortnight for Community Halls.	10	✓	256 times, an average of 10 times a fortnight



Property Ngā Rawa

Service	Target	Achieved Target	Comment
Number of hours and days Levin, Foxton and Shannon Memorial Halls Facilities available for public hire outside of maintenance closedowns.	8 hrs per day, 7 days a week	✓	All halls available 8 hrs a day, seven days a week
Conduct an annual review of hire charges.	Achieve	✓	Review conducted 2% increase in the charges
All buildings with compliance schedules will have current building WOF.	Achieve	✓	100%

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





Summary of Financial Statements

Whakarāpopoto Tauāki Ahumoni

These summary statements cover Horowhenua District Council (Council) and the Horowhenua District Council Group comprising Council and the Shannon Community Development Trust (Group).

The primary objective of Horowhenua District Council is to provide local infrastructure and local public service, and perform regulatory functions for the community for social benefit rather than making a financial return

Accordingly, Council has designated itself as a public benefit entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes.

The full financial statements of Council and the Group have been prepared in accordance with and are fully compliant with Tier 1 PBE accounting standards.

Council's summary annual report complies with PBE FRS 43 Summary Financial Statements.

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000s).

The summary financial statements of Council are for the year ended 30 June 2022. The full annual report was authorised for issue by Council on 10 May 2023.

The full report received an unmodified audit opinion excluding the Statement of Service Performance, meaning there was a qualified opinion on the Statement of Service Performance.

Copies are available from Council on request (refer to back page for contact details).

Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

The Income and Expenses for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2022	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2021	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2021
Revenue					
Rates revenue	43,408	43,447	39,268	43,408	39,268
Other revenue	28,536	29,666	32,833	28,541	32,840
Total income	71,944	73,113	72,101	71,949	72,108
Expenditure					
Finance costs	3,088	2,964	2,565	3,088	2,565
Other expenses	70,399	59,723	60,615	70,402	60,622
Total expenses	73,487	62,687	63,180	73,490	63,187
Operating Surplus / (deficit) before taxation	(1,543)	10,426	8,921	(1,541)	8,921
Income Tax Expense	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Surplus / (deficit) after taxation	(1,543)	10,426	8,921	(1,541)	8,921
Write back of revaluation losses on land & buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to: Horowhenua District Council	(1,543)	10,426	8,921	(1,541)	8,921
Other Comprehensive Income					
Gain / (loss) on infrastructural assets revaluations	43,213	3,700	16,451	43,213	16,451
Gain / (loss) on operational assets revaluation	16,293	-	-	16,293	-
Gain / (loss) on restricted assets revaluation	30,282	-	-	30,282	-
Total other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year	89,788	3,700	16,451	89,788	16,451
Total Comprehensive Income for the year	88,245	14,126	25,372	88,247	25,372
Total comprehensive revenue and expense attributable to Horowhenua District Council	88,245	14,126	25,372	88,247	25,372

Statement of Changes in Ratepayer Equity

The ratepayers' stake in Council's assets for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2022	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2021	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2021
Equity at 1 July	616,436	581,914	591,064	616,811	591,439
Total Comprehensive Income	88,245	14,126	25,372	88,247	25,372
Equity at 30 June	704,681	596,040	616,436	705,058	616,811
Equity is represented by:					
Retained Earnings	252,588	261,402	254,154	252,965	254,529
Revaluation Reserve	442,305	324,660	352,517	442,305	352,517
Reserves and Special Funds	9,788	9,978	9,765	9,788	9,765
	704,681	596,040	616,436	705,058	616,811

Statement of Financial Position

The assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2022

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2022	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2021	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2021
Equity is represented by:					
Current	12,481	27,512	18,450	12,507	18,474
Non-current	842,860	721,407	731,004	842,860	731,004
Total assets	855,341	748,919	749,454	855,367	749,478
Liabilities and ratepayers' equity:					
Current	44,162	24,811	46,102	43,811	45,751
Non-current	106,498	128,068	86,916	106,498	86,916
Total liabilities	150,660	152,879	133,018	150,309	132,667
Ratepayers' equity	704,681	596,040	616,436	705,059	616,811
	855,341	748,919	749,454	855,367	749,478

Statement of Cashflows

The inflows and outflows of cash for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2022	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2021	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2022	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2021
Net cash flows from:					
Operating activities	11,528	25,130	20,632	11,530	20,632
Investing activities	(30,932)	(45,152)	(29,122)	(30,932)	(29,122)
Financing activities	16,000	20,022	2,000	16,000	2,000
Net increase in cash and bank	(3,404)	0	(6,490)	(3,402)	(6,490)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	9,402	11,519	15,892	9,426	15,916
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5,998	11,519	9,402	6,024	9,426

Summary Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents – The lower cash balance is due to it now being cheaper to reduce borrowing than to hold cash.

Other financial assets – The budget relates to inventories held and term deposits. A \$5m term deposit was used to reduce loans.

Non-current assets for sale – The sale of Focal Point Cinema is no longer expected to be completed in the next financial year and so has been recorded within Plant, property and equipment assets.

Plant, property and equipment assets – The significant increase in value of the assets relates to the three waters and roading asset revaluation. This was higher than originally forecast in the Annual Plan. The unbudgeted vested assets also contributed to the increase in Plant, property and equipment assets to a lesser extent.

Investment property – Due to the sale of Focal Point Cinema no longer expected to be completed in the next financial year, it has been reclassified back to investment property.

Derivative financial instruments – The derivative asset is due to the increase in long-term interest rates.

LIABILITIES

Payables and deferred revenue – The increase is due a higher level of capital work and operational work occurring in the last two months of the year and not being paid until July.

Total borrowings – The overall lower borrowings is due to major projects pushed back into future years.

Derivative financial instruments – The lower derivative liability is due to the increase in long-term interest rates.

Provisions – This increase reflects the increased cost of the best practicable option for remedying the old dump site in Hokio.

EQUITY

Revaluation Reserves – The significant increase in value of the assets relates to the asset revaluations of three waters and land and buildings being higher than forecast. This is due to significant market increases after the budget was set.

Additional Notes

EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

Legislation passed in December 2022 established four publicly owned water services reform programme to take over responsibilities for service delivery and infrastructure from local authorities with effect from 1 July 2024. The impact of these reforms will mean that District Council will no longer deliver three water services or own the assets required to deliver these services. There is a water services Bill to enable the transfer of these assets and liabilities to the water services entity, until the Bill is passed, the financial impact of the transfer on the Horowhenua District Council remains uncertain.

On 13 April 2023, the Government announced further proposed amendments to the number of water services entities and to stagger their establishment dates starting from 2025, with all the water services entities to be established by 1 July 2026. The timing of the transfer of assets and liabilities is therefore uncertain until amendments to existing legislation are passed.

COVID-19 IMPACT DISCLOSURE

COVID-19 Disclosure – Due to the unique circumstances that have faced New Zealand (and the world) over the past two and a half years, Council has continued to recover from COVID-19 and contribute to the district's economic and social recovery.

Whilst the impact of COVID-19 on some of Council's facilities revenue has been significant, as Council provides a wide range of services and facilities to residents, due to the nature of these services, there have been no noticeable impacts to service delivery results due to COVID-19 lockdown as the services continue to operate, despite lower numbers.

The financial statements presented in this report include the direct and indirect impact from the changes in alert levels due to the global coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Council and its subsidiaries continued to be impacted to varying degrees both financially and non-financially due to on-going supply chain constraints, increased costs and border closures.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of the Horowhenua District Council and Group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Horowhenua District Council and Group (the District Council) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 36 to 55:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in ratepayer equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2022;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include other explanatory information; and
- the summary of performance information (described as "Key Performance Measures Overview").

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

However, the summary of performance information includes a limitation in scope to the equivalent extent as the full audited statements of service provision in the full audit report. This limitation is explained below in *The full annual report and our audit report thereon* section.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed a qualified opinion on the statement of service provision (reported as Activity performance measures) and an unmodified opinion on the other audited information in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022 in our auditor's report dated 10 May 2023. The basis for our qualified opinion on the statement of service provision is explained below.

Qualified opinion on the statement of service provision (reported as Activity performance measures): Our work was limited with respect to the verification of the number of complaints for some services

Our opinion was qualified because the District Council did not count complaints in accordance with the Department of Internal Affairs' guidance and its method of counting was likely to have understated the actual number of complaints received in the current year and prior year. The District Council also did not maintain complete records of all complaints for us to determine whether the reported results for these performance measures were materially correct.

Emphasis of matter - uncertainty over the water services reform programme

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to the developments in the Government's water services reform programme which will affect the District Council in future years. Legislation passed in December 2022 established four publicly owned water services entities to carry out responsibilities for the delivery of three waters service delivery and related assets and liabilities currently controlled by local authorities. A water services Bill to enable the transfer of these assets and liabilities to the water services entities, is currently before Parliament. Until the Bill is passed, the financial impact of the transfer on the District Council remains uncertain.

On 13 April 2023, the Government announced further proposed amendments to the number of water services entities and to stagger their establishment dates starting from early 2025, with all the water services entities to be established by 1 July 2026. The timing of the transfer of assets and liabilities is therefore uncertain until amendments to existing legislation are passed.

This matter is disclosed in the additional notes of the summary financial statements.

Our audit was completed late

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes a paragraph acknowledging that our audit was completed later than required by section 98(7) of the Local Government Act 2002. This was due to an auditor shortage in New Zealand and the consequential effects of Covid-19, including lockdowns.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

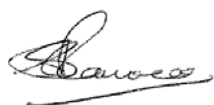
The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our reporting on the summary and full annual reports, we have audited the District Council's 2021-2041 long-term plan amendment consultation document and carried out a limited assurance engagement related to the District Council's debenture trust deed. These engagements are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with or interests in the District Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.



Clint Ramoo

Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand

9 June 2023

Statement of Compliance

Horowhenua District Council hereby confirms that all statutory requirements relating to the annual report, as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002, have been complied with.



Bernie Wanden

District Mayor

10 May 2023




Monique Davidson

Chief Executive

10 May 2023



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