

## ANNUAL PLAN 2020/21

## TE MAHERE Ā-TAU 2020/21

A summary of key decisions

He whakarāpopototanga o  
ngā whakataunga matua

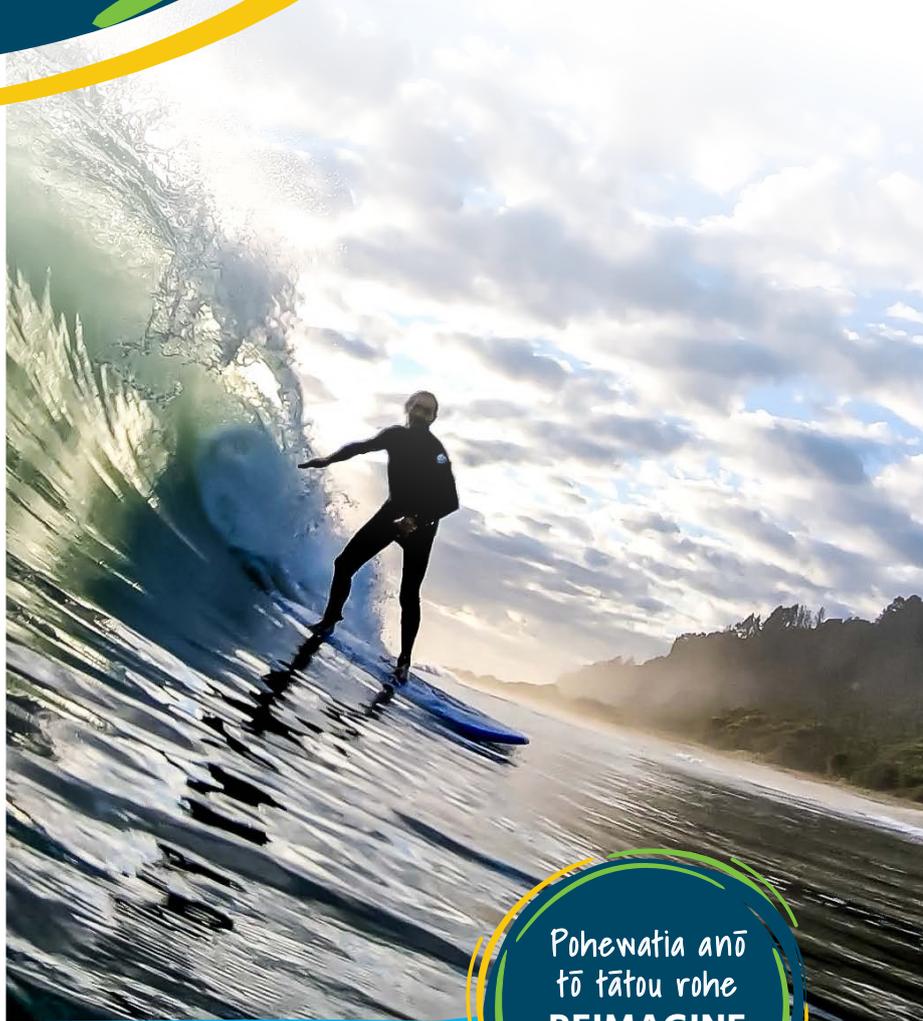
Your feedback helped  
shape and confirm  
our priorities, projects  
and budgets in the  
Annual Plan.

This document outlines the key decisions  
that were made through this year's  
Annual Plan process.

We appreciate the time and effort  
that many have taken to provide  
their thoughts and feedback to the  
development of the Whakatāne District  
Council Annual Plan 2020/21.

The full Annual Plan document  
can be found here

[whakatane.govt.nz/annual-plan](http://whakatane.govt.nz/annual-plan)



Pohewatia anō  
tō tātou rohe  
**REIMAGINE  
OUR DISTRICT**



## OUR KEY PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR

### *Ngā mahi matua o te tau*

Consultation for the Annual Plan focused on four overarching priorities of the Council for the coming year. Through our consultation, we acknowledged that some further changes might be needed to the Annual Plan before being finalised. Overwhelmingly, the feedback we received from the community supported the four priorities, and we also received feedback on a variety of other specific matters.

**Consultation has helped confirm our four overarching priorities for the coming year:**

- *Immediate response to COVID-19*
- *A plan with a strong focus on people, jobs and the economy*
- *A plan that thinks of the future*
- *A plan that balances the financial pressure*

The key changes to the budget for the coming year are outlined on the following pages.

## An accelerated Whakatāne Regeneration Programme

### Te Kaupapa Whakahaumanu o Whakatāne

In March 2020, a \$36.8 million injection from Central Government's Provincial Growth Fund was announced for the Whakatāne District. The funding aims to support sustained economic development, improve utilisation of existing assets and develop new infrastructure for the betterment of our communities.

On 26 June 2020, a further \$2.5 million from the Government was announced to accelerate the Whakatāne Boat Harbour Development and the Whakatāne Riverfront Revitalisation Programme, as well as Ngāti Awa Group Holding Limited's Kāinga development at the Whakatāne Army Hall.

Work has begun on the remediation of the in-town wharf, and later in the year the project partners will be working with the community on the design phase of the riverfront revitalisation projects to develop a vibrant town centre that we can all enjoy. For more information, visit [whakatane.govt.nz/wrp](http://whakatane.govt.nz/wrp).

## Kia Kaha Whakatāne

On 15 June 2020, \$8.2 million Provincial Growth Fund investment was announced for a worker redeployment package of projects. The investment is aimed at supporting local contractors and workers most impacted by the economic downturn associated with COVID-19, and following the eruption of Whakaari and subsequent impact on tourism. Kia Kaha Whakatāne will see a range of roading, water, parks and green projects completed and aims to redeploy at least 160 people. The projects are being overseen by Whakatāne District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council, working in collaboration with several organisations and agencies, such as the Ministry of Social Development and local iwi.

## Enhancing our capacity to deliver

### E whakahaumako ana tō mātou āheinga ki te tutuki mahi

Smart organisations invest in their people, systems and technology to ensure they are efficient and effective. To be able to advance our extended work programme and realise the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for the community, we have added new roles to increase our capability, as well as enhancing the capacity of our existing teams.

The budget reflects an increase in resourcing across selected areas of Council to enable key priorities to be progressed. COVID-19 has made this need to invest wisely in the organisation even more apparent, as we, and others, have rapidly adapted our ways of working. This plan will increase the resilience of our workforce and support our ability to deliver the best possible outcomes for our communities.

## Whakatāne Civic Centre improvements

### Ngā whakapainga o te Whare o te Kaunihera

As set out in our Long Term Plan, we have been progressing a project to earthquake strengthen the Whakatāne Civic Centre so it can continue to be used as a Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre, with the structural work to be undertaken in the coming year.

We have included an additional \$3.4 million to extend this budget, recognising that it is a sensible opportunity to make further improvements and future-proof the building. The Civic Centre has had no major improvements since it was built in the 1980s, and workplace systems, tools and expectations have changed substantially in that time. This project will generate significant employment across a variety of trades and support the district's recovery.



## OTHER DECISIONS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

### *Ngā whakataunga e whai ana i te uiuinga*

Several submissions requested that Council consider specific additions to the budget or workplans for the upcoming year. The major new additions as a result of public feedback are outlined below.

#### *Sealing of Awakeri Events Centre carpark*

The Awakeri Events Centre is a well-used community facility that operates on Council land. Submissions were received during the Annual Plan process requesting that the Council seals the carpark, because it is well-used, particularly as a school pick-up and drop-off point, including by buses.

The Council agreed to include \$300,000 in the budget to seal the carpark in the coming year. It favoured a slightly more expensive option that would see a fit-for-purpose carpark for both heavy and light vehicles, to accommodate buses.

#### *Shade sails for our district's playgrounds*

Several submitters requested shade sails are installed at playgrounds throughout the district. These submissions pointed out the benefits of installing shade sails and their relative affordability, and the Council agreed that investing in shade sails is a good idea.

Funding has been included in the budget to support the installation of a shade sail over Holly's Playground at Lake Aniwhenua, and one additional playground in the district, to be determined. Alongside this, the Council agreed to develop a priority list for shade sails and a sunsmart approach for our playgrounds.

#### *Decisions with no financial impact*

The Council has further agreed to other actions following submissions that have no financial impact in the coming financial year.

Following a submission from the Matatā Resident's Association, Council will strongly advocate to Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) for a change to the speed limit on State Highway 2 / Pākehā Street from 60kph to 50kph.

Council will liaise with other agencies, such as the Department of Conservation and the Eastern Bay Energy Trust, to investigate providing amenities at a number of parks and beaches around the district, as requested by the community



## Affirming commitment to existing work programmes

Council also affirmed its commitment to existing work programmes, such as recommencing the maintenance programme on the Matatā lagoon, and ensuring robust consultation on Whakatāne carparking as a part of the Te Ara Hou programme to revitalise the Whakatāne riverfront.

## Requests requiring further investigation

Other feedback requested changes that Council will discuss further as we continue to progress the Reimagine our District project in the lead up to the Long Term Plan 2021-31. This includes requests for infrastructure, such as a second bridge for Whakatāne, a crossing on Stewart Street and increasing the frequency of mowing of roadside berms in certain locations. Requests such as a cap on off license premises in Murupara will be considered during appropriate policy reviews. Other requests, such as for a solar farm in Whakatāne, will require Council to work with submitters to understand how to best realise their vision.

Unfortunately, Council isn't always in a position to deliver all requests from the community. There were some requests that Council members felt were unaffordable for the community at this time, or didn't align with the Council's key priorities. However, these requests will help Council understand community preferences to inform future decision-making.

Thank you for being a part of this process.

**The Annual Plan and Future in Focus conversations were the first steps on our journey to Reimagine our District.**

**To stay in touch and follow this process, please visit [koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz](https://koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz) and register to keep up to date.**