



# Council Briefing

## *Hui Whakamōhio*

Wednesday, 28 May 2025  
*Wenerei, 28 Haratua 2025*

Tōtara Room, Whakatāne District Council  
14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne  
Commencing at 9:00 am



Chief Executive: Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 22 May 2025



**Recording the Briefing - *Ka hopuhia te hui****Recording the Briefing - Ka hopuhia te hui***PLEASE NOTE**

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All care will be taken to maintain your privacy however, as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded. By remaining in the public gallery, it is understood your consent is given if your image is inadvertently recorded.

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**A Membership - *Mematanga***

**A**      *Membership - Mematanga*

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Deputy Mayor Lesley Immink

Councillor Toni Boynton

Councillor Gavin Dennis

Councillor Andrew Iles

Councillor Wilson James

Councillor Julie Jukes

Councillor Tu O'Brien

Councillor John Pullar

Councillor Ngapera Rangiaho

Councillor Nándor Tánczos

**B Briefing Purpose - *Te Take o te hui*****B** *Briefing Purpose - Te Take o te hui*

Councillors have many complex issues about which to make decisions and rely on the advice they receive from the administration. Complex issues often require more extensive advice processes which culminate in the council report. Briefings are a key feature to help prepare Councillors with the appropriate background and knowledge for robust decision making during future meetings. They are sessions during which Councillors are provided with detailed oral and written material, and which provide Councillors with the opportunity to discuss the issues between themselves and with senior council staff.

Briefings are scheduled monthly; however due to the nature of Council business, additional Briefings may be held.

Briefings cannot be used to make final decisions, as final decisions and resolutions cannot lawfully be made outside the context of a properly constituted meeting.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Karakia .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Briefing Notices - <i>Ngā Pānui o te hui</i> .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies - <i>Te hunga kāore i tae</i> .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Presentations - <i>Whakaaturanga</i> .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Resource Management Reform Update .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Kerbside Contamination .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035 .....</b>	<b>37</b>

## **1 Karakia**

### [1](#) [Karakia](#)

### [2](#) [Briefing Notices - Ngā Pānui o te hui](#)

#### **1. Recording**

Welcome to members of the public who have joined us today.

Council Briefings are recorded. Public gallery attendees' presence implies your consent to being broadcast.

Recordings are available upon request.

#### **2. Health and Safety**

In case of an emergency, please follow the building wardens or make your way to the nearest exit. The meeting point is located at Peace Park on Boon Street.

Bathroom facilities are located opposite the Chambers Foyer entrance.

#### **3. Acknowledgements**

### [3](#) [Apologies - Te hunga kāore i tae](#)

#### **4 Presentations - *Whakaaturanga***

#### [4](#)     [Presentations - \*Whakaaturanga\*](#)

##### [4.1](#)     [Resource Management Reform Update](#)

David Bewley & Nicholas Woodley will speak to the attached presentation.



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)



# Resource Management Reform Update

28 May 2025

David Bewley, Nicholas Woodley



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

# Three Phases to Resource Management Reforms



## Phase One

Natural and Built Environment Act (NBEA) and Spatial Planning Act (SPA) repealed in 2023.

## Phase Two

Fast Track Consenting.

Amendments to the Resource Management Act.

Changes to national direction.

## Phase Three

Replacement of RMA by Planning Act and Natural Environment Act.



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## NBEA and SPA 2023



- Outcomes-based.
- Give effect to principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Regional Spatial Strategies.
- Natural and Built Environment Plans (region-wide).
- Informed by Community Outcomes and Regional Environmental Outcomes.
- National Planning Framework – strategic direction, environmental limits and targets, conflict resolution.
- Regional Planning Committee including local authorities and Māori.



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## Phase Two



### Amendments to RMA

- Bill currently in Select Committee following close of submissions in February.

### National Environmental Standards

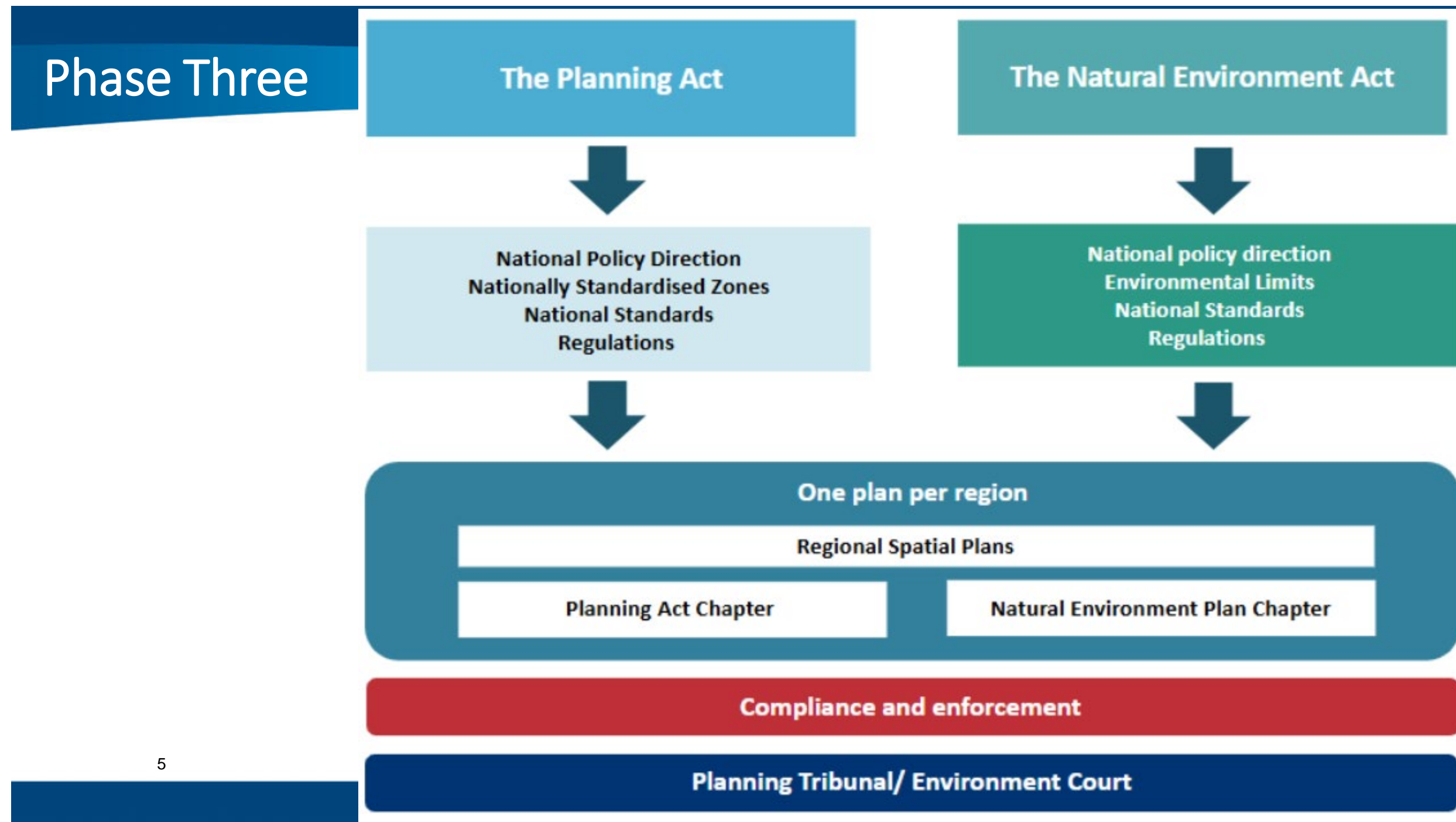
- Amend - Electricity Transmission Activities; Telecommunication Facilities; Commercial Forestry.
- New - Granny Flats; Papakāinga.

### National Policy Statements

- Amend - Renewable Electricity Generation; Electricity Generation; Coastal; Freshwater Management; Indigenous Biodiversity; Highly Productive Land.
- New – Infrastructure; Natural Hazards.



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## Greater National Direction



- National goals setting out main objectives.
- National Policy Direction under each Act.
- National standards under each Act including standardised zones.
- Environmental limits under the NEA.
- Narrower scope with matters to be addressed by other legislation – e.g. heritage.
- Standardised form and structure of spatial and regulatory plans.



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## Process Changes



- Public notification, submissions heard by Independent Hearing Panel, recommendations to local authorities, limited appeals to Environment Court.
- New Planning Tribunal.
- New national compliance and enforcement regulator with regional presence.
- Managing externalities.
- Details to come on how Treaty of Waitangi will be reflected – EAG recommended similar approach to RMA.





4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## Implications of new Acts

- Narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls.
- Shift from a precautionary to more permissive planning environment.
- Emphasis on property rights, big shift from outcomes-based approach of NBEA and SPA.

8





4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

# Planning Act



*“A more permissive and standardised system based on the presumption that land use is enabled unless it produces externalities that materially impact neighbours”*

- Goals include infrastructure provision, well functioning urban and rural areas.
- Combined district plan, each council prepares a chapter.
- Nationally standardised zones – evolution from National Planning Standards.
- There will be a zone with flexibility in land use on Māori land.
- Takings – if overlay more onerous than national standards prescribe, then would need to be considered.



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## Natural Environment Act

- Natural Environment Plan prepared by regional councils.
- Environmental limits to protect the life-supporting capacity of the natural environment.
- Natural resource allocation.
- Charging for natural resource use to recover administration and monitoring at the national and regional level.
- Specific charge in overallocated catchments for improvement plan actions.

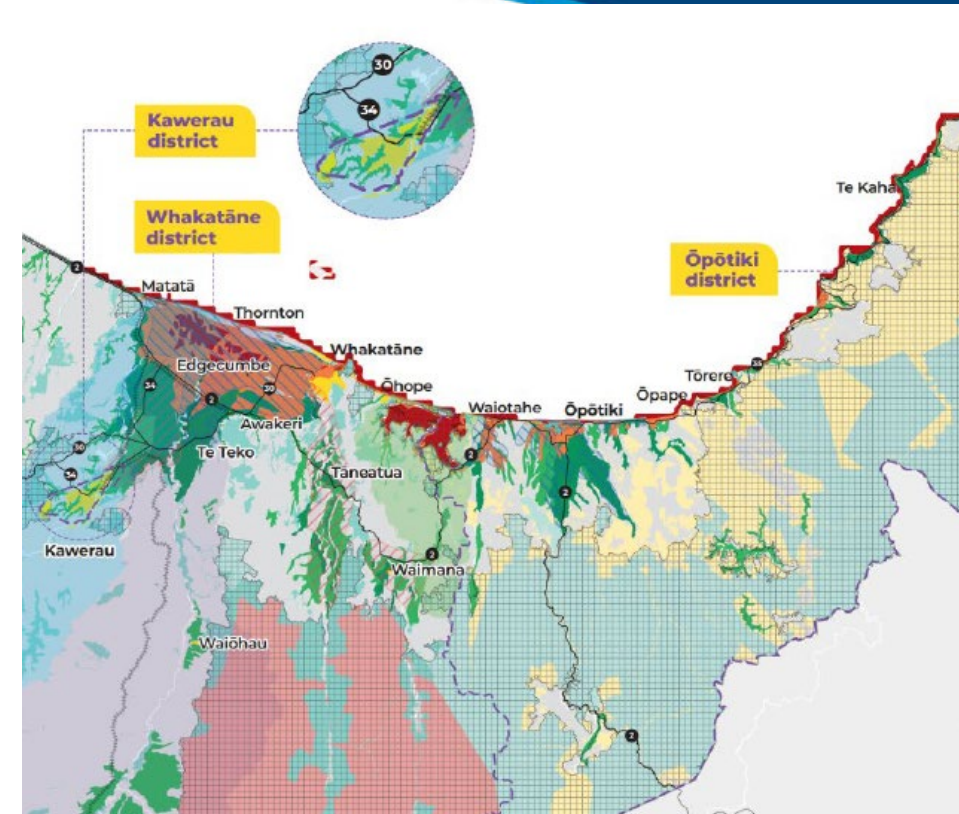


4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

# Regional Spatial Plan



- Strong regulatory weight and direct regulatory plans.
- LTPs and RLTPs required to align.
- Identifies constraints, existing and future infrastructure, future urban areas, and growth and development opportunities.
- Developed by local authorities in a region working with central government, infrastructure providers, Māori and others.
- Allocate responsibility for natural hazards management (between regional and territorial authorities).
- Separate coordination document to implement spatial plans, each local authority.



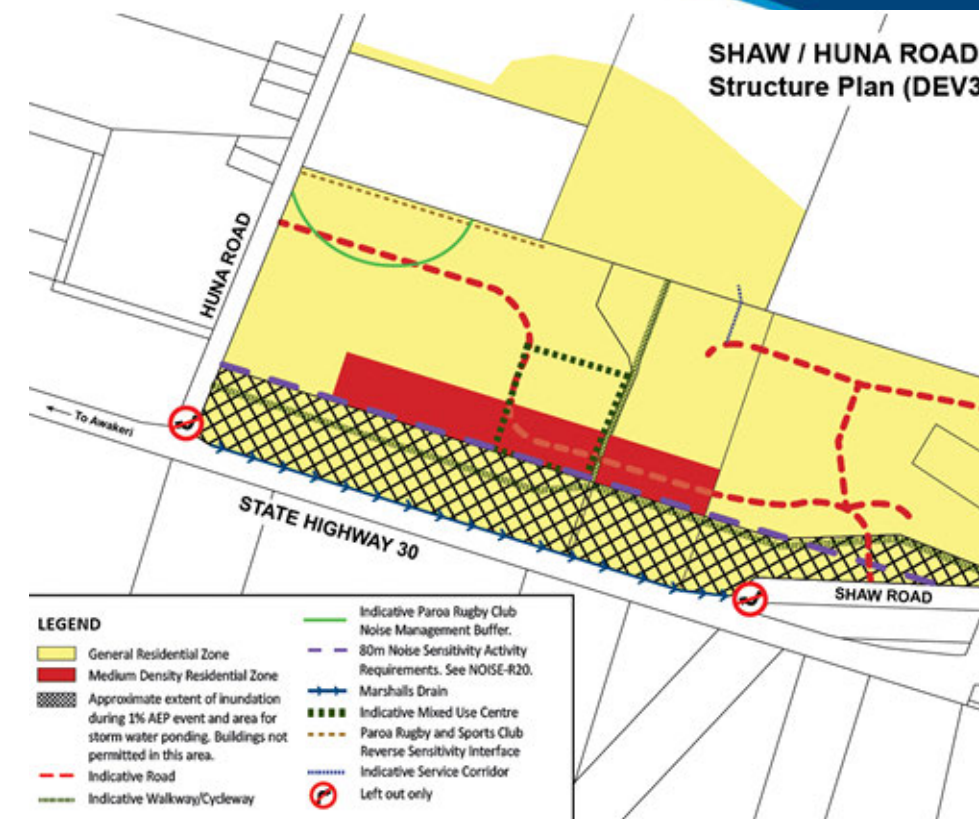


4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

# Combined District Plan – land use and subdivision



- Councils to select and apply zones
- Justification reports required for changes to zones
- Other standards and regulations applied through national direction
- More permitted activities
- No controlled or non-complying activities



4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## Natural Environment Plan

- Allocation of water and other resources.
- Air, water and soil.
- Indigenous biodiversity.
- Landscapes.

13





4.1 Resource Management Reform Update(Cont.)

## Implications for Council



- Policies and Plans will change before consenting/compliance.
- EBOP Spatial Plan, SmartGrowth and Rotorua FDS to form basis of BOP Spatial Plan.
- District Plan review due every 10 years, current review getting underway.
- Process may change, but issues remain, therefore forge on.
- Legislative certainty?



## **4.2 Kerbside Contamination**

### **4.2**    **Kerbside Contamination**

Bevan Gray & Nigel Clarke will speak to the attached presentation.

4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Kerbside Contamination

28 May 2025

Bevan Gray, Nigel Clarke



[whakatane.govt.nz](https://whakatane.govt.nz)

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4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# The Problem



Contamination in Kerbside Greenwaste and Recycling bins continues to create problems:

- Greenwaste and Kerbside Recycling are 'products'.
- We cannot process and market 'contaminated products'.
- Contamination comes from the households.
- Minority create the problem.
- Information and education does not have a long lasting change.



4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Kerbside Recycling Contamination



3



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4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Kerbside Recycling Contamination

- Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Audits: Contamination ranges from 10% to 67% (recorded in October 2024).
- Average so far this year – 23.5%.
- Rates for some areas are higher than others, but applies district wide.
- MRF will not accept kerbside recycling from Murupara. Has to be pre-sorted in Whakatāne.



4



WHAKATĀNE  
District Council  
*Kia Whakatāne au i ahau*

**Tauranga Materials Recovery Facility  
Incoming Product Audit Report**

**AUDIT LOAD**

Customer Name	Whakatane	Vehicle Registration	KCY481
Date	20/12/2024	Weighbridge Docket No	13356
Time	3:50pm		

**AUDIT RESULTS**

Product	Weight (kg)	Product	Weight (kg)
SMXD	11	PP Grade 5	0
OCC	11	Tin	1
Milk Clear	1	Aluminium	2
HDPE Grade 2	2	Glass	0
PET Grade 1 Clear	6	Waste	26
PET Grade 1 Colour	0		
Total Audit Weight	60	Waste Percentage	43%

**AUDIT PHOTOS**

SMXD	OCC	Milk Clear
HDPE Grade 2	PET Grade 1 Clear	PET Grade 1 Colour
PP Grade 5	Tin	Aluminium
Glass	Waste	Truck





4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Kerbside Greenwaste Contamination



5



## 4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Kerbside Greenwaste Contamination



- Contractor refuses to process some greenwaste.
- Cannot sell final product (compost).
- Loss of customers.
- 745.52 Tonnes to Landfill, \$143,000!
- Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) greenwaste is a good 'product', kerbside is the problem.

## Status Quo is not sustainable

- Do we;
  - Withdraw kerbside greenwaste service – RRC drop-offs only (contractor compensation)?
  - Employ full-time bin auditors?
- Plan of action.


6





# Current Information

[illegible]



Services

Residents

Documents

About the Council

Contact Us

Home > Services > Rubbish and Recycling > Greenwaste

## Greenwaste

Greenwaste collection is available for all residents with a Council refuse collection in urban areas of Whakatane, Ohope, Taranui, Te Tiro, Engaitua, Inverell and Muriwai. The large 340 l greenwaste bin is collected fortnightly on the same day as your residual waste and an alternate waste to your recycling.

To ensure your greenwaste is collected, **do not put any flammable contaminants in your bin.**

Check when your next Greenwaste collection is due on [Waste Collection Days](#).

[What can you put in your Greenwaste Bin](#)

Yes	No
✓ Lawn clippings	✗ Internal waste such as Rex, paint, fluids or grease
✓ Hedges	✗ Timber, egg box, 200m diameter
✓ Leaves (or Pallet)	✗ Tree stumps
✓ Old plants	✗ Soil or dirt
✓ Soft materials	✗ Rubbish

[illegible]

What goes in the greenwaste bin?  
*Ka raua te aha i te ipu para tipu?*



YES	NO
✓ Lawn clippings	✗ Fibrous leaves like flax, palms and yucca
✓ Weeds	✗ Timber, logs over 10cm diameter
✓ Leaves (no flax)	✗ Tree stumps
✓ Old plants	✗ Soil or dirt
✓ Soft prunings	✗ Rubbish

\* Fibrous leaves don't break down as quickly as other plants and affects the compost process

For more information on greenwaste go to [whakatane.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/greenwaste](http://whakatane.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/greenwaste)



**Recycle me / Hangaruatia**  
in your yellow bin



Find out how  
to recycle right  
[whakatane.govt.nz/recycling](http://whakatane.govt.nz/recycling)

Plastics 1, 2 and 5 only  
Kirilhou 1, 2, 5 snake

Tins and cens  
Tini me ngô kên

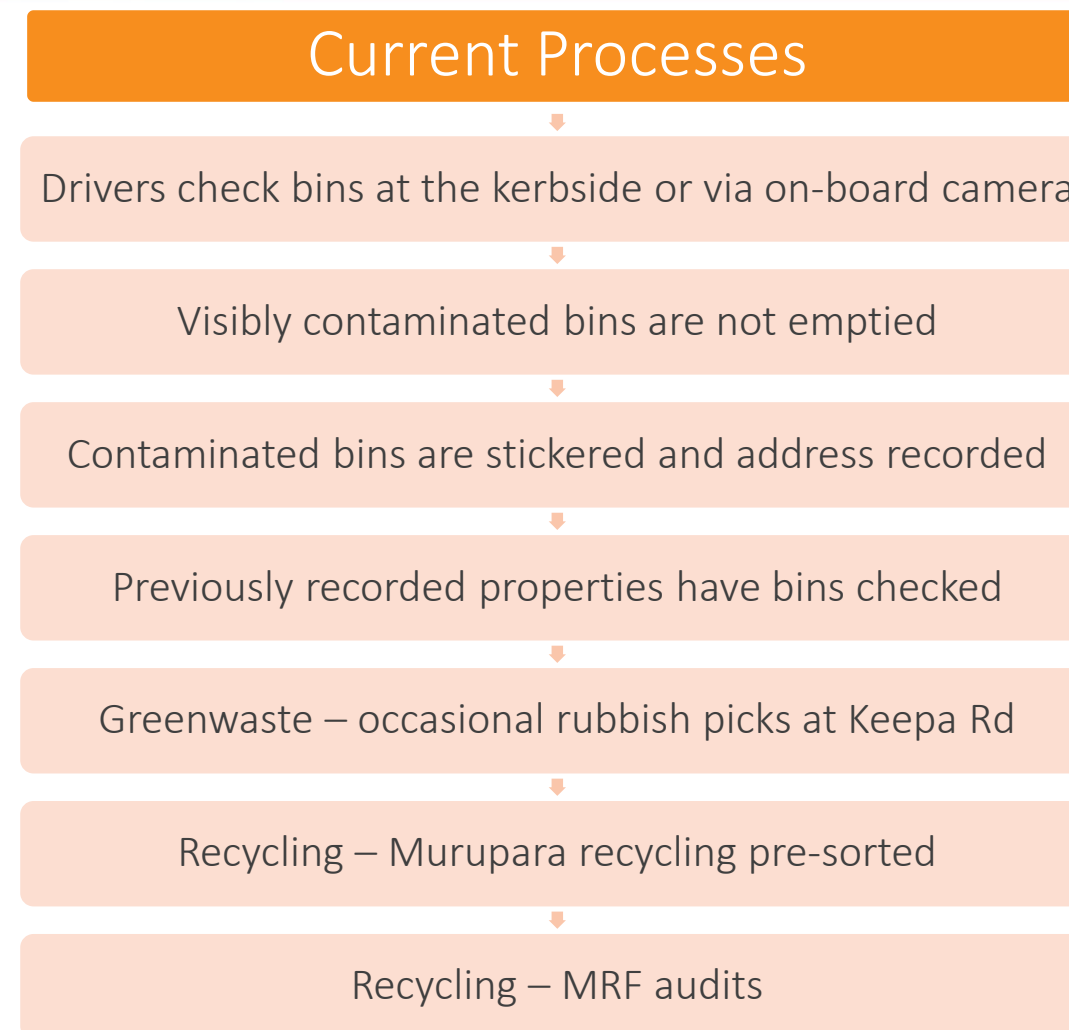
Paper and cardboard  
*Pepa me te pepamōro*



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4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Current Bin Contamination Control Processes



8



4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

## Future Information



### Greenwaste Contamination Campaign – July 2025

- Public education campaign via print, radio, and social media.
- New brochure possibly distributed via letter drop or with rates notices.
- Increased bin stickering and potential service suspension for repeat offenders.

### Recycling Contamination Campaign – October 2025:

- Awareness campaign using print, radio, and social media.
- 2024 flyer possibly distributed via mail or included with rates notices.
- Increased bin stickering and potential service suspension for repeat offenders.





## So what are we planning?



### Our bylaw states:

"Customers will be notified about non-conforming material through Council's website, and by direct communication using stickers and leaflets. Repeated instances of non-conforming material placed in any collection container may result in these containers being removed".

### "3 Strikes and You're Out"

To commence with July 2025 Greenwaste Campaign.



4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Bin Contamination Control Processes



## Current Processes

Drivers check bins at the kerbside or via on-board camera

Visibly contaminated bins are not emptied

Contaminated bins are stickered and address recorded

Previously recorded properties have bins checked

Greenwaste – occasional rubbish picks at Keepa Rd

Recycling – Murupara recycling pre-sorted

Recycling – MRF audits

## Additional New Processes

Resource dependant – contractor drives and pre-checks bins

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> offence letter and flyer left

3<sup>rd</sup> offence – bin removed and new letter left (where possible)

Removed bin recorded and records checked weekly

Tag added to address in Ozone to identify property for queries

Bin returned after 3 months

Re-offend – remove for another 3 months



## 4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)

# Communications



What goes in the greenwaste bin?  
Ka raua te aha i te ipu para tipu?



YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lawn clippings</li> <li>✓ Weeds</li> <li>✓ Leaves (no flax)</li> <li>✓ Old plants</li> <li>✓ Soft prunings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Fibrous leaves like flax, palms and yucca*</li> <li>✗ Timber, logs over 10cm diameter</li> <li>✗ Tree stumps</li> <li>✗ Soil or dirt</li> <li>✗ Rubbish</li> </ul>

\* Fibrous leaves don't break down as quickly as other plants and affects the compost process

For more information on greenwaste go to  
[whakatane.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/greenwaste](http://whakatane.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/greenwaste)



## Recycling Hangarua



**Paper/Papa**  
YES, these can be recycled

- Newspaper
- Office paper
- Magazines
- Card mail
- Books
- Wrapping paper (plain only, not metallic or plastic-coated)

NO, these can't be recycled

- Photo copiers, paper
- Food wrapping paper
- Paper used for coloured inks, including tissues and napkins
- Coloured paper



**Cardboard/Papamānā**  
YES, these can be recycled

- Cardboard boxes
- Clean pizza boxes
- Egg cartons
- Boxes

NO, these can't be recycled

- Cardboard boxes with broken flaps
- Flaps of cardboard boxes
- Boxes with tape or staples
- Boxes with food residue
- Boxes with liquid residue
- Boxes with other debris



**Plastic/Kirihihi**  
YES, these can be recycled

- Plastic bottles (1 and 2 litre)
- Soft bottles, large jugs and milk containers
- Plastic tubs, jugs and containers
- Plastic bottles from the bathroom and laundry (eg. 1, 2, 3 litre)

NO, these can't be recycled

- Plastic bottles from the bathroom and laundry (eg. 1, 2, 3 litre)
- Soft plastic (e.g. cling film, bread bags, plastic bags)
- Plastic packaging (e.g. bubble wrap)
- Styrofoam
- Hard plastic (e.g. car parts, car wheel covers)
- Hard plastic (e.g. 1, 2, 3 litre)
- All lids



**Tins, aluminium can and steel**  
Ngā tini, ngā kēne, a ngā maitai

YES, these can be recycled

- Aluminium cans
- Steel cans
- Tin cans

NO, these can't be recycled

- Cans with a long neck, food or liquid residue
- Soda
- Aluminium foil
- Aluminium foil trays
- Aluminium foil containers
- Aerosols
- Metal car parts

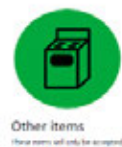


**Glass/Koraehe**  
YES, these can be recycled

- Glass bottles (all colours)
- Beer bottles
- Wine bottles
- Glass jars
- Glass containers (e.g. jam jars)
- Glass containers (e.g. jam jars)
- Glass containers (e.g. jam jars)

NO, these can't be recycled

- Glass containers (e.g. jam jars)
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- Glass containers (e.g. jam jars)



**Other items**  
YES, take these to the Resource Recovery Centre

- Car air conditioning units
- Car air conditioning units
- Car air conditioning units
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- Car air conditioning units
- Car air conditioning units

NO, these can't be recycled

- Car air conditioning units
- Car air conditioning units
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- Car air conditioning units
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- Car air conditioning units
- Car air conditioning units

### Electrical or electronic appliances

These are not to be put in the greenwaste bin and are not accepted at the Resource Recovery Centre. They must be taken to the Resource Recovery Centre.

Whakatāne District Council  
P.O. Box 1000  
Whakatāne 3140

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P.O. Box 1000  
Whakatāne 3140

Whakatāne District Council  
P.O. Box 1000  
Whakatāne 3140

Kia ora,

We're getting in touch because your recycling, glass crate, or greenwaste bin has, on several occasions, contained items that don't belong there.

As this has been an ongoing issue, the bin has now been removed for a 3-month period. There will not be a deduction of the general rates during this time that the bin has been removed.

When the wrong items are put in the bin, it can cause issues during collection and may lead to the entire truckload being sent to landfill, which isn't fair to those who are sorting their rubbish correctly.

To help reduce contamination, Council uses stickers, like the one's that have been placed on your bin, to let people know when there's a problem. We hope this helps you identify and correct any mix-ups.

Just a heads-up: under our local bylaw, continued contamination may lead to the removal of your collection containers. We'd much rather help you get it right than go down that track, so if you're unsure about what goes where, we're here to help.

You'll find a leaflet with sorting guidance attached. You can also visit our website or give our Customer Services team a call on 07 306 0500 for more information.

Ngā mihi,

Whakatāne District Council Solid Waste Team

Kia ora,

We're getting in touch because your recycling, glass crate, or greenwaste bin has contained items that don't belong there.

When the wrong items are put in the bin, it can cause issues during collection and may lead to the entire truckload being sent to landfill, which isn't fair to those who are sorting their rubbish correctly.

To help reduce contamination, Council uses stickers like the one on your bin to let people know when there's a problem. We hope this helps you identify and correct any mix-ups.

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Ngā mihi,

Whakatāne District Council Solid Waste Team



4.2 Kerbside Contamination(Cont.)



# Questions?



#### **4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035**

#### **4.3     Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035**

Alexandra Pickles, Ian Molony & Gareth Moore-Jones will speak to the attached presentation.



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# Whakatāne District Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035 - Draft

Setting the Framework from Current State to Future View

28 May 2025:

Alexandra Pickles, Ian Molony, Gareth Moore-Jones



[whakatane.govt.nz](https://whakatane.govt.nz)

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4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# Briefing Outline



## What we would like to cover:

- Why the Strategy,
- Where we are at,
- Process to date,
- Some key points,
- Principles,
- Journey from Current State to Future View.



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

## The Why & the Journey to date:



- Demands on open space continue to evolve from users of the land for sporting, community, and cultural events, as well as requests from the private and public sector to meet other needs, including housing supply.
- Historically, strategic planning for open spaces has occurred on an ad-hoc basis.
- To address issues arising from this approach and changing demands, Council commenced the process of developing a Whakatāne District Open Spaces Strategy (previously called Open Spaces Strategy).
- The development of the Strategy commenced in June 2021, however due to various circumstances this was not finalised. This project recommenced in March 2025 and included a review of all previous work and further development to update the scope and finalise the document.

3





4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# Purpose & Objectives:



## Partnership and Kaitiakitanga

- Council enhances relationships with whānau, hapū and iwi.
- Council develops and maintains, in partnership with the community, those open spaces and in a way that is financially prudent and sustainable.
- Council acts as kaitiaki for future generations, recognising the truth that once open spaces are lost or disposed of, they are never recovered.

## Community Wellbeing

- Current and future open spaces match, as accurately as possible, the 'needs' of the community, avoiding wish-lists and wants, now and into the future.
- Open spaces reflect district community outcomes, plans and strategic priorities.
- Council always considers diversity, equity and inclusion in open space development and management.

## Strategic Management

- Te taiao/environmental health and sustainability is considered at every step.
- Implementation of a strategic and purposeful approach to activities such as land acquisitions, disposals, partnerships, and volunteer programmes.



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# Input and Sources



The draft Strategy is currently with iwi for pre-engagement through Toi Kōtuia, and feedback initially closes on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The draft to date has been informed by a broad range of inputs, including:

- Analysis of our current open spaces and how they are used.
- Insights gathered through the Long-Term Plan 2024–2034 (LTP) community engagement.
- Iwi submissions to the LTP consultation.
- Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Master Plan: Mā Koutou Mā Tātau consultation.
- Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy.
- Annual Resident Satisfaction Surveys.
- Ongoing kōrero with Strategic Māori Partnership, Toi Kōtuia and our Communications team.



# Description and Scope



## Open spaces

Places where public can access the natural environment to engage in a variety of activities. Open spaces include ‘green space’, rivers, lakes and beaches<sup>3</sup>, civic centres, tracks and trails, cycleways, walkways and cemeteries. They are places which help to establish connections and linkages where people can move through, visit, congregate and offer respite and connection with nature and with each other.

The draft strategy has as a focus *Council-managed* open space.

**In Scope:** Parks, gardens, reserves, cemeteries, playgrounds, skateparks, green-linking corridors and dual-use recreation and flood alleviation infrastructure.

**Out of Scope:** Sports built facilities, aquatic centres, holiday parks.



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# What is this about?



## Draft vision

As our taiao/environment flourishes our people thrive

Ka ora te taiao,  
ka ora te hapori

“People feel connected to Whakatāne District’s reserve and open space network. They are attracted to our reserves and open spaces because they provide the appropriate environments and facilities to experience a broad range of recreation opportunities; they foster respect for our history and rich cultural heritage, and pride in our unique natural environments.”

## Our Principles | Ngā mātāpono

**Tiaki Taiao | Caring for the Environment**

**Oranga Hapori | Community Wellbeing**

**Mahi tahi | Working Together**

**Mana Taketake | Mana Whenua Prominence**

We aspire to give prominence to mana whenua

**Toitūtanga | Sustainability**

Everything we do is sustainable and efficient in resource use

**Tautika, Manarau me te Āheinga tomopai  
| Equity, Diversity and Accessibility**

Equity of access and quality

**Whakawhanaketanga Ōhanga | Economic Development**

Enhancing economic development through quality open spaces





4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)



## Current view – open spaces *Ngā tarawaha ināiane*

Approximately 1,440 hectares or 330 public open spaces

  
**37** Playgrounds

  
**6** Cemeteries and  
a crematorium

  
**2**  
Campgrounds

  
**2**  
Aquatic centres

  
**15** Sports  
reserves  
  
  


Open Spaces and facilities used for parks, sports fields, cemeteries, outdoor courts, indoor sports facilities<sup>6</sup> and nature reserves are treasured by our communities and people who visit our district. These spaces also provide a sanctuary for people to relax, a place to fly a kite (just mucking around) or are valued just for their wide-open green amenity - they are where community happens. A map representation and analysis of open spaces by town are in [appendices xxx](#)

<sup>6</sup> Whilst noted in this asset inventory, indoor sports facilities are not within the scope of this Open Spaces Strategy

4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# What the Community has told us to date



## Strategy Draft: What you have told us so far

### *Te Rautaki hukihuki: He aha tā koutou i kī mai*

Together with an analysis of our open spaces and use, the voices of people across the district have provided insights that we have drawn on heavily to develop this draft strategy. Input provided through community engagement for the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Master Plan Mā Koutou Mā Tātau consultation, the Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy and the Annual Resident Satisfaction Surveys have also helped to inform the development of this draft strategy.

These insights have helped to inform the draft visions and principles that guide both our strategic direction and our 10-year priority actions and operational delivery.

Whilst there is general agreement that there are 'plenty of open spaces' in the district, feedback also point towards ensuring equity of **access**, ensuring similar **quality** across townships in the district and a desire for more quality and accessible playgrounds.<sup>5</sup>

Our open spaces are easy to access, we can bike and walk to access the activities we want to (if you live in town).	The way our parks are cared for makes accessing these spaces easier and accentuates their beauty and useability.	I value connection to te ao Māori and to te taiao.
Lots of open spaces and parks around our rohe that are multi use and not restricted in their purpose. Love it!		I love the natural beauty of our spaces. We have everything here. Rivers, beaches, forests, parks, lagoons.
There's heaps of space - we have lots of spaces and we need to keep them.		Maintenance and management of parks and reserves should be a priority.
Large spaces for whānau and friends to come together.	Add food sovereignty and climate change action into our spaces, e.g., bee pollinating areas, don't mow where you don't need to, create food forests.	
Consider which spaces need high attention and which don't e.g., are there areas that could be planted in high carbon capture / low maintenance plants rather than regular mowing.		Green space promotes mental health and our community's mental health.

<sup>5</sup> A goal also targeted in Sport Bay of Plenty 'Spaces and Places Strategy' 2024





#### 4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

## Future view



Council's future view is that open space continues to foster opportunities where communities meet for their wellbeing whilst working with our partners to ensure and enhance the health of te taiao.

A strategy that has a long-term vision must also be flexible enough to change in response to needs, such as Climate Impacts, Local Growth Strategy and trends.

New trends enabling recreation such as e-bikes allow for more people to stay active for longer in their lives meaning the need for more active transport green corridors, Linkage Reserves and new ways of enabling technology.

In a not-too-distant future, residents are likely to use green open spaces in diverse ways that emphasise sustainability, community and well-being.

- Recreational and well-being activities.
- Urban farming and community gardens.
- Biodiversity and education.
- Social and cultural gatherings.
- Sustainable infrastructure and energy.
- Work and study environments.
- Climate resilience and adaptation.
- The changing nature of structured sports in the future may not need all the open space currently provided for Saturday sport. An increased focus on individual activities and spontaneous play may change the entire concept of dedicated sports fields and will free up open space for other uses (the space is fit-for-purpose to whoever is using it at that time).

All of these, and other changes, will require Council to be flexible, to manage and create spaces that are multi-use or are re-purposed in the intervening years until they are needed.



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# Achieving our Future View



The role of Whakatāne District Council is to promote and enhance the social well-being of our te taiao and residents, and to ensure that all services meet the needs of the community in a fiscally appropriate manner. Open spaces contribute significantly towards these aims and as such managing these open spaces is a critical function of Council. We have identified six key roles that Council should play in supporting open space outcomes, achieving our goals and working within our principles now and for the term of the strategy.





#### 4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

## Types of Open Space *Ngā momo tarawaha*

Council manages open spaces for different purposes. We use eight different categories of open space to explain what we manage and why, and the categories also guide our decisions on how to invest in each. Collectively these spaces comprise the open space network and dictate how we will implement this strategy over time. While many open space reserves are multi-use, allocation of a primary purpose category for all open space enables efficient and effective planning.

A full version of these categories<sup>7</sup>, including where each of the current council open spaces sit, their levels of service and their ideal volume and size and closeness to residents can be found in the [Appendices \(xx\)](#). The eight categories are:



### Premier district reserves

Larger multi-use spaces with a high amenity value and an emphasis on providing for the needs of the wider community. Examples include Whakatāne Rose Gardens and Thornton Beach Park Recreation Reserve.



### Neighbourhood (local and amenity) reserves

Smaller low-profile spaces often located on a pedestrian/commuting route and typically bordered on several sides by houses. Examples include Mananui Crescent Reserve and Galatea Recreation Reserve.



### Local sport and recreation reserves

Spaces for sport and recreation activity for the local area. Small scale and less infrastructure than the Sport and Recreation (District) category. Examples include Waimana Domain and Eivers Park.



### District sport and recreation reserves

Parks with the primary purpose of providing for sport and recreation and activity, as well as recreation facilities and buildings. Examples include Rex Morpeth Park and Warren Park.



### Cultural and heritage reserves

Localities for protection of built cultural, historical, and archaeological environment to provide for commemoration, understanding, appreciation, and remembrance. Examples include Puketapu Pā and Tāneatua Cemetery.



### Natural reserves

Areas for experience and protection of the natural environment. Types of use/value include conservation, education, ecosystem management, low-impact recreation, and landscape protection. Examples include Kōhī Point Scenic Reserve and Port Ōhope Recreation Reserve.



### Utility and linkage reserves

Land containing link strips, access ways, drainage, or other service ways where their primary purpose is to support services other than recreation. Examples include Plantation Reserves and Whakatāne Airport Reserve.



### Civic amenity open space

Land adjacent to roadways/streets and other civic open space predominantly for pedestrian provision to civic, retail and commercial services in the CBD areas. Examples include Whakatāne CBD and Edgumbe College Road/Bridge Street.

<sup>7</sup> Recreation Aotearoa Parks Categories 2017. These categories have established a national model and are due to be updated in 2025/26



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# Access Maps

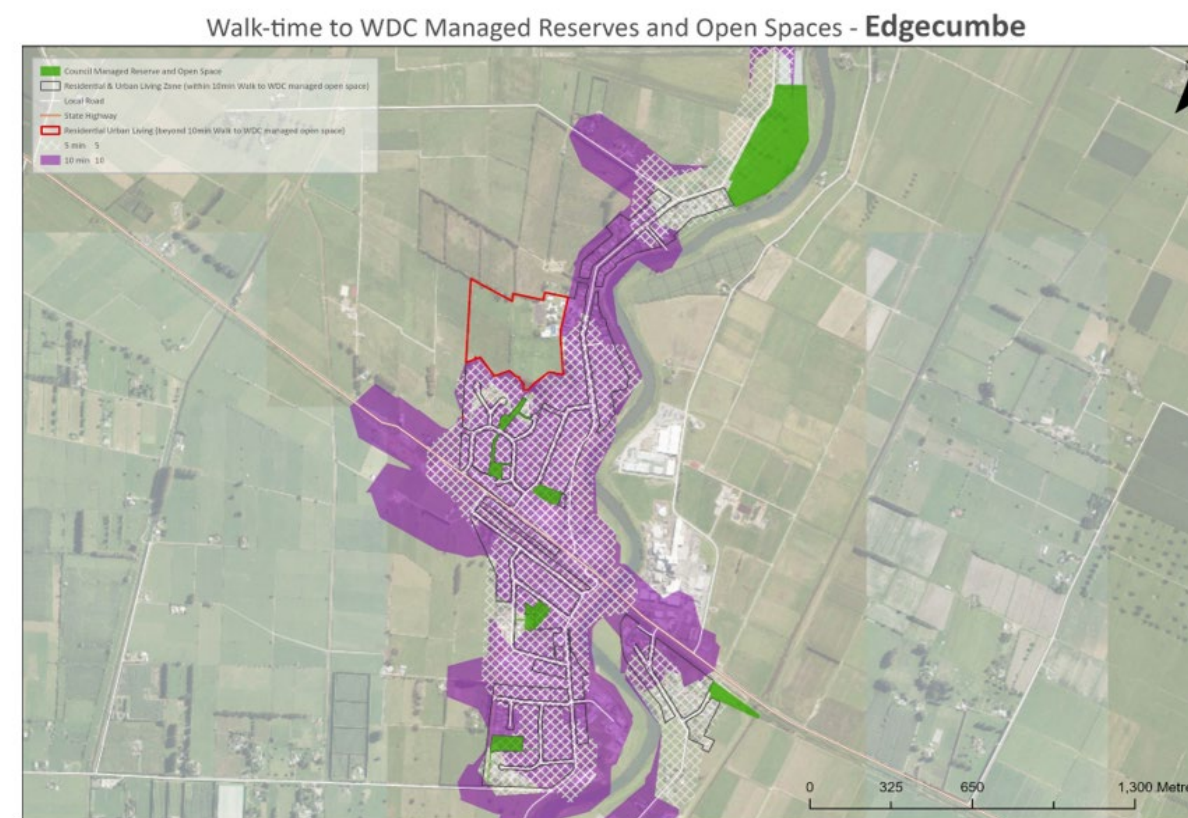


Producing access maps to identify future needs:

- Where are open spaces.
- 5 & 10 minute walk access.

Points to note:

- Residential zone based.
- Strategy action is to find out what is the 'best' provision metric.



Walk-time  
example



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)



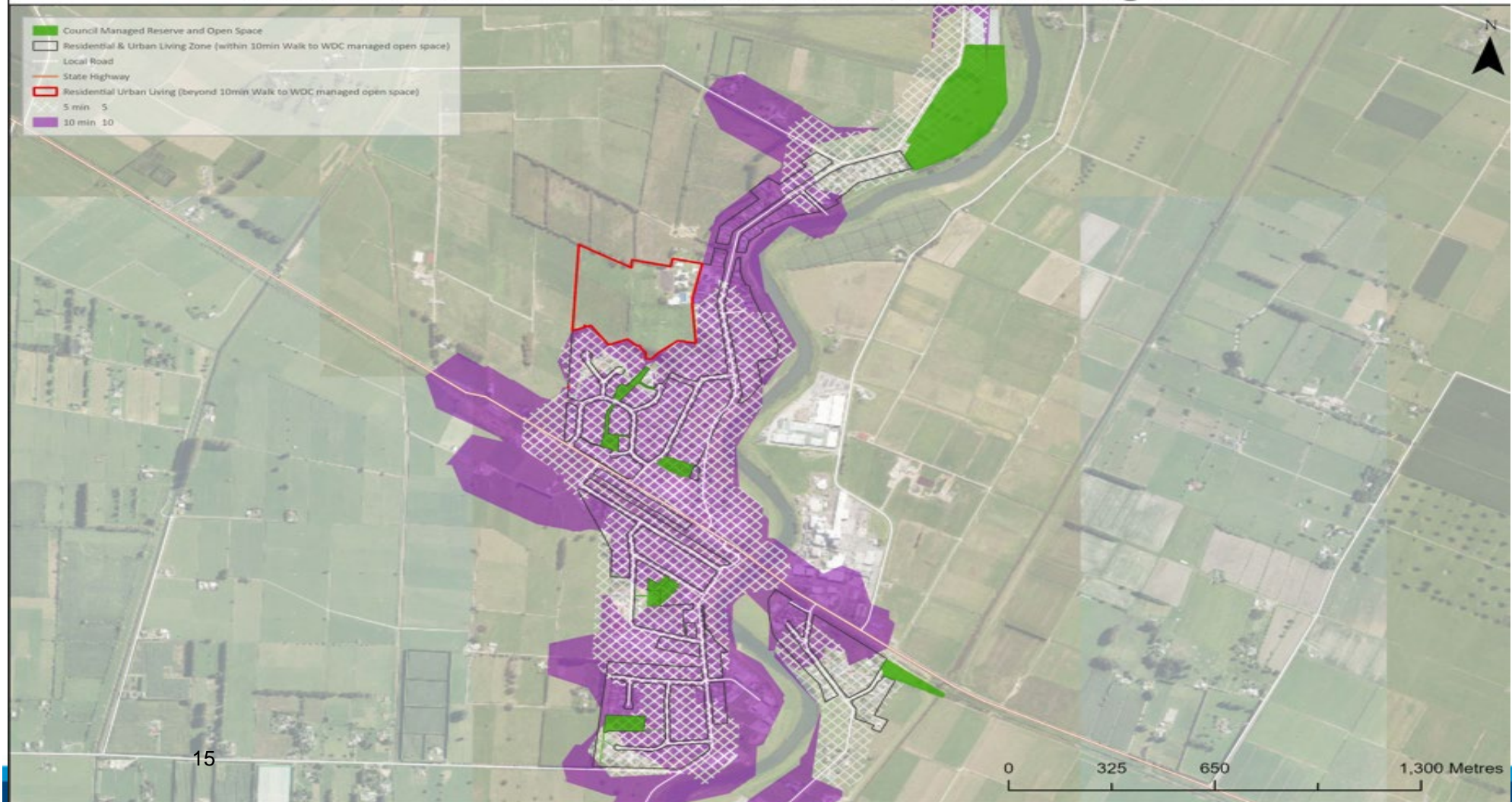


4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# Access Maps – Walk Times



Walk-time to WDC Managed Reserves and Open Spaces - **Edgecumbe**



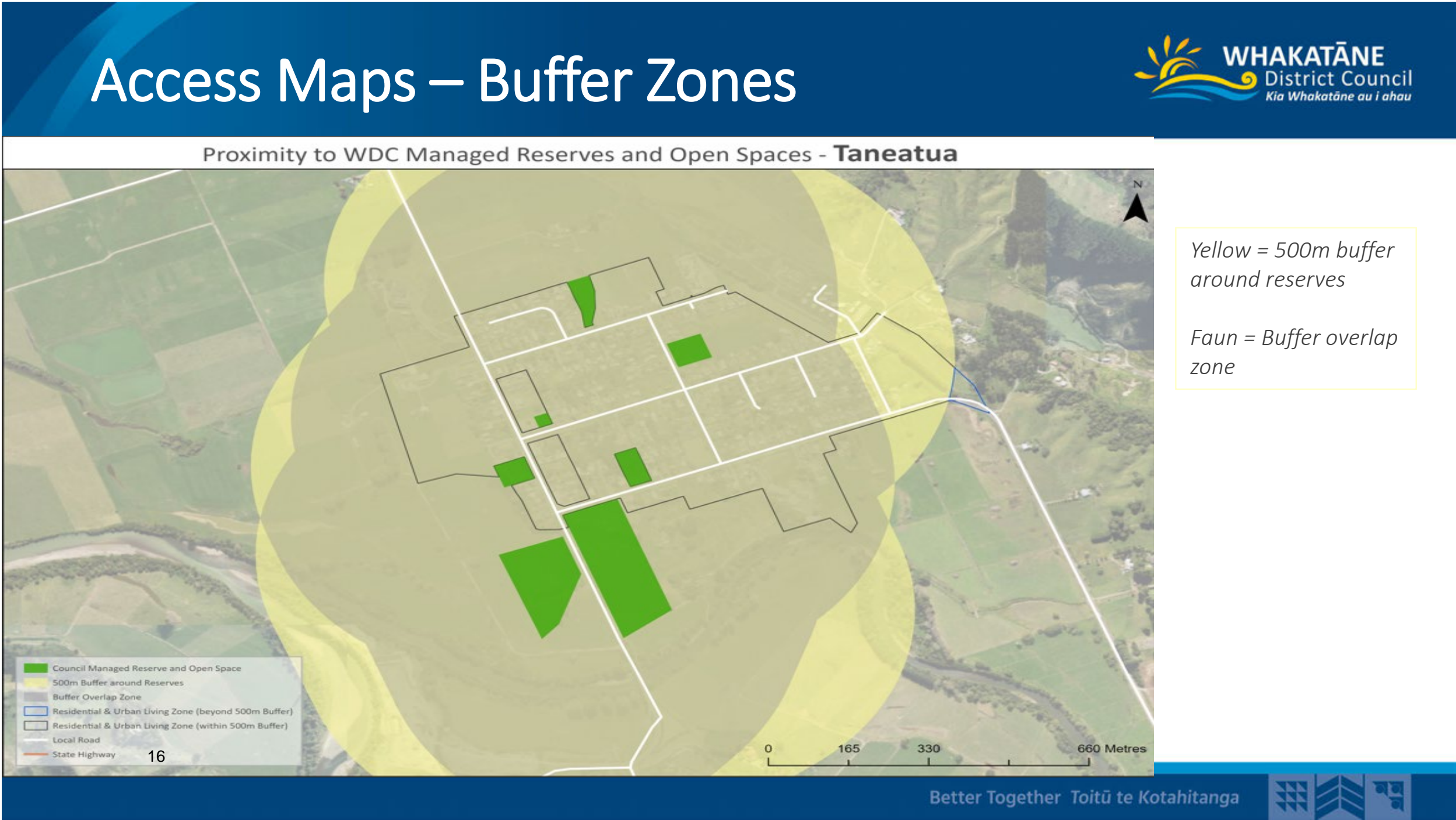
White hatches = 5  
minute walk

Purple = 10 minute  
walk





4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)



4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

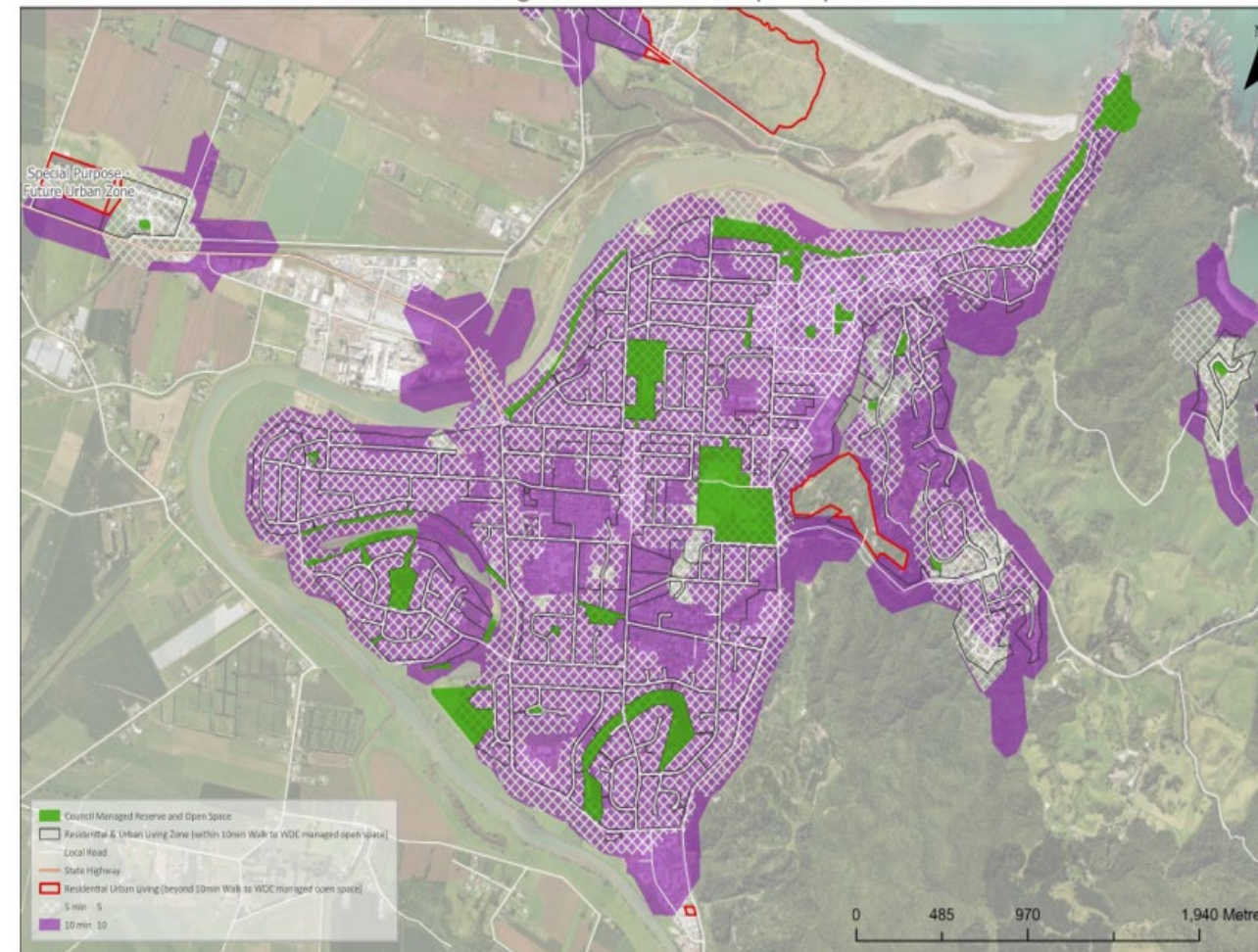
# Future Provision Metrics



What provision metrics are best for Whakatāne District?:

- xx hectares: xx population?
- Walk-time?
- Distance?
- Others such as 3-30-300?
- District or township?
- Journey from Current State to Future View.

Walk-time to WDC Managed Reserves and Open Spaces - Whakatane





#### 4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

## Key Projects: A 10-year plan *Ngā Waitara matua: Mahere ia tekau tau*

The actions relate to and are informed by the Vision, Principles, and Strategic Priorities outlined in this draft strategy. It is to be noted that Council provide and manage many other actions and activities annually relating to open spaces that form annual and seasonal activity and business as usual – the Key Projects and Priority Actions below are over and above daily provision.

These open space actions focus on supporting a great network of places and spaces that provide amazing experiences that connect people to each other and to place.

Key projects (KP) – 10 years	Related principle	Long-term plan activity area
Awatapu Lagoon Wetland construction (KP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tiaki Taiao</li> <li>• Oranga Hapori</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
New Cemetery - Site development (KP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oranga Hapori</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
Accessible Play Spaces - across the district (KP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oranga Hapori</li> <li>• Equity, Diversity and Accessibility</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub - Park and War Memorial Hall redevelopment (KP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oranga Hapori</li> </ul>	Community Facilities
Eve Rimmer Carpark (PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity, Diversity and Accessibility</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
Murupara Parks Improvements (PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oranga Hapori</li> <li>• Rangapu</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
<sup>18</sup> Maraetotara Improvements (PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oranga Hapori</li> <li>• Equity, Diversity and Accessibility</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves

4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

# 10-Year Actions (cont.)



Key projects (KP) – 10 years	Related principle	Long-term plan activity area
Southern Regeneration – Murupara (PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oranga Hapori</li> <li>Rangapu</li> <li>Mana Taketake</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
Wairaka Park Upgrade (PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oranga Hapori</li> <li>Equity, Diversity and Accessibility</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
Southern Regeneration – Minginui (PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oranga Hapori</li> <li>Rangapu</li> <li>Mana Taketake</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves
Tāneatua Cemetery Expansion (PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oranga Hapori</li> </ul>	Parks and Reserves





4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)

## Action Plan – future initiatives



On adoption of the Strategy, other Actions will be developed. These might include as examples:

- Research, identify and embed Whakatāne District Open Spaces Provision Metric.
- Develop town-based metric implementation Business Plans.
- Analysis of the District Playground Audit in line with Local Growth Strategy and first tranche of Climate Change Impact Assessments.
- Research Water Infrastructure as Open Space and adopt future provision principles.
- Research relationships between new technologies and open space provision and experiences and devise 10-year Implementation Plan.
- Investigate partnership arrangements with Schools, Marae, Land Trusts and other open space providers to maximise community access to spaces across the district.




# Proposed Timeline

Milestone	Timeframe
Council Briefing	28 May 2025
Living Together Committee – seek approval for public engagement	19 June 2025
Formal Consultation	14 July 2025 – 4 August
Update Open Spaces Strategy with feedback and final comms and design prepared	August 2025
Executive Leadership Meeting – approve final report for Council	16 September 2025
Present final Whakatane District Open Spaces Strategy to Council for adoption	2 October 2025

4.3 Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035(Cont.)




# Your Thoughts and Questions



**DRAFT**

## WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT OPEN SPACES STRATEGY 2025-35

[whakatane.govt.nz](https://whakatane.govt.nz)



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