



Living Together Committee

Te Komiti noho tahi

Thursday, 19 June 2025
Tāite, 19 Pipiri 2025

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



Chief Executive: Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 13 June 2025

whakatane.govt.nz

Live Streaming the Meeting - *Ka whakapāho mataora te hui*

Live Streaming the Meeting - *Ka whakapāho mataora te hui*

PLEASE NOTE
The public section of this meeting will be Live Streamed via YouTube in real time. The live stream link will be available via Council's website.
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 broadcast.
The opinions or statements expressed during a meeting by individuals are their own, and they do not necessarily reflect the views of the Whakatāne District Council. Council thus disclaims any liability with regard to said opinions or statements.

A Membership - *Mematanga*

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Mayor Dr Victor Luca
Councillor Wilson James - Chairperson
Deputy Mayor Lesley Immink
Councillor Gavin Dennis - Deputy Chairperson
Councillor Toni Boynton
Councillor Gavin Dennis
Councillor Andrew Iles
Councillor Julie Jukes
Councillor Tu O'Brien
Councillor John Pullar
Councillor Ngapera Rangiaho
Councillor Nándor Tánczos

B Delegations to the Living Together Committee - *Tuku Mahi ki te Komiti*

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1. To provide governance advice on community wellbeing, facilities, strategies, economic development, and associated policy and bylaws.
2. To promote and foster social cohesion, connection, and wellbeing.
3. To ensure facilities and programmes are provided that enhance and support community health and wellbeing.

Specific functions and delegations

- a. Develop, and monitor implementation of, Council's Community Development and other related Strategies.
- b. Approve Council submissions to central government, councils and other organisations including submissions to any plan changes or policy statements.
- c. Monitor the implementation of Te Toi Waka Whakareī – Council's Māori Relationship Strategy.
- d. Approve all new road names in accordance with the Road Naming and Property Addressing Policy.
- e. Progress the sale of properties as approved in the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan.
- f. Consideration of proposals to change the status or revoke the status of a reserve as defined in the Reserves Act 1977 (including the hearing of submissions).
- g. Receive minutes of Community Boards.
- h. Consider any recommendations from Community Boards and make a recommendation to the Council.
- i. Develop and review associated bylaws (Note: the Council cannot delegate to a Committee the "make" (adopt) a bylaw).
- j. Develop, review and approve strategies, policies and plans on matters related to the activities of this Committee (Note: the Council cannot delegate to a Committee the adoption of policies associated with the Long-term Plan).
- k. To foster and promote strengthening civic engagement.
- l. Receive minutes of the:
 - Whakatāne District Youth Council.
 - Community Funding Committee.
 - Four Community Boards.

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1.1 Public Excluded Minutes Living Together Committee 6 March 2025 7

1 Prayer - *Karakia*

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2 Meeting Notices - *Ngā Pānui o te hui*

1. Live Streaming

The Whakatāne District Council livestreams Council and Standing Committee meetings held in Tōtara Room, within the Council building. The webcast will live stream directly to Council's YouTube channel in real time. The purpose of streaming meetings live is to encourage transparency of Council meetings.

Welcome to members of the public who have joined online and to those within the public gallery.

By remaining in the public gallery, it is understood your consent has been given if your presence is inadvertently broadcast. Please be aware the microphones in Totara Room are sensitive to noise, so please remain quiet throughout the meeting unless asked to speak.

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 (the entrance off Margaret Mahy Court).

3. Other

3 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae*

No apologies were recorded at the time of compiling the agenda.

4 Acknowledgements / Tributes - *Ngā mihi mihi*

An opportunity for members to recognise achievements, to notify of events, or to pay tribute to an occasion of importance.

5 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

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Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interests they might have. Elected Members are also reminded to update their register of interests when changes occur.

The [register of interest](#) can be viewed on the Council website.

1. Financial Conflict

- Members present must declare any direct or indirect financial interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.
- Members cannot take part in the discussion, nor can they vote on any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest, unless with an approved exception.
- Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw themselves from the table. If the meeting is public excluded, members should leave the room.

2. Non-Financial Conflict

- If a member considers that they have a non-financial conflict of interest in a matter they must not take part in the discussions about that matter or any subsequent vote.
- Members with a non-financial interest must leave the table when the matter is considered but are not required to leave the room.

6 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

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6.1 Public Forum - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

The Council has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each meeting. Each speaker during the forum may speak for five minutes. Permission of the Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak during the public forum.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

6.2 Deputations - *Ngā Whakapuaki Whaitake*

A deputation enables a person, group or organisation to make a presentation to Community Board on a matter or matters covered by their terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the Chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation. Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a longer timeframe may be allocated.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

Matatā Collective

The Matatā Collective was formed last year to oversee the development of the Matatā Community Plan. They are very pleased to have completed their final document and have spent the last few months presenting their plan to their community, local groups and organisations. The Collective would like to take the opportunity to present their community plan to Council and acknowledge its completion.

Appendix A - Matatā Community Plan Presentation

Appendix B - Matatā Community Plan

Piripai-Coastland Resident Association

The Piripai-Coastlands Residents' Association is seeking the opportunity to address the Committee regarding the Keepa Road Cycle Path. Their presentation is supported by the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board and reflects ongoing community interest in the development and use of the road condition.

Orange Sky Aotearoa

Appendix A - Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



Matatā Collective

Ngā puna ora e whitu ki Matatā

The Seven Vitality Springs in Matatā

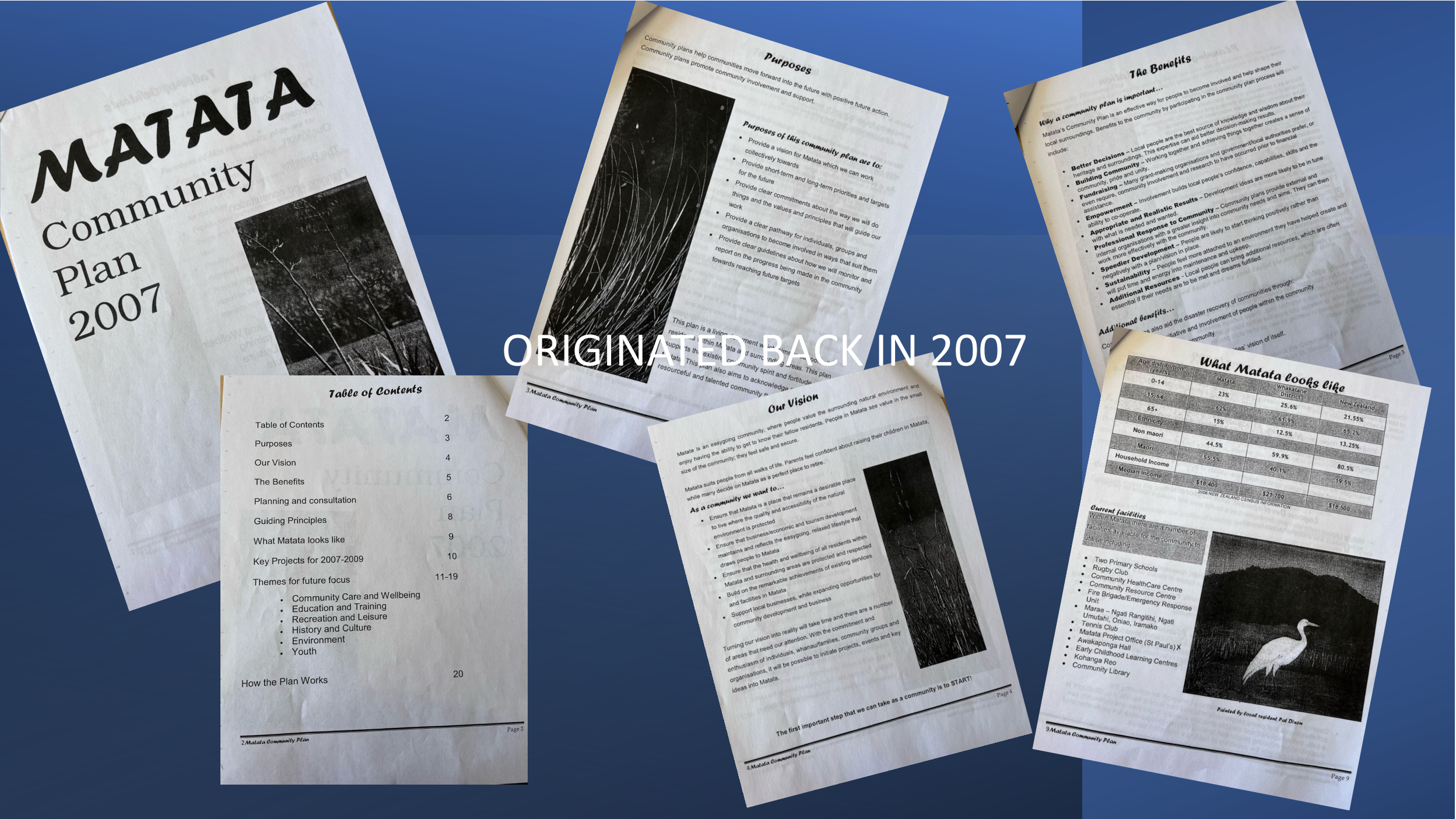
Puna: Water, Continuous flow. **Ora:** Vitality, Alive, Wellbeing. **Whitu:** The Seven Pou/Directions.

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



- **Introductions**

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)

Looking back
to look
forward

Cultural Narrative Kōrero Ahurea

Matatā, located on the Bay of Plenty coast in Aotearoa, New Zealand, is rich with Māori cultural narratives and history. This area is significant to various iwi (tribes), including Ngāti Rangitihī, who have deep connections to the land, sea and waterways.



Ngāti Rangitihī
and Matatā
Whakapapa and Settlement
He hononga whakapapa

Ngāti Rangitihī, an iwi of Te Arawa waka, has a strong presence in Matatā. The area has been inhabited for generations, with ancestral ties tracing back to the arrival of the Te Arawa waka. The whakapapa (genealogy) connects the people to the land, reaffirming their role as kaitiaki (guardians) of the region.



Matatā pā



Matatā pā

Key sites and stories
Ngā wāhi motuhake me ngā pūrākau

Te Awa o Te Atua

The Mataatua and Te Arawa waka arrived at Te Awa O Te Atua Ki Matatā. The three rivers that once ran out to sea at Matatā Orini Rangitāiki and Tarawera. Matatā was a thriving port until 1917 when the Drainage Board cut the Tarawera and Rangitāiki straights out to sea to drain the Rangitāiki plains for farms as today shows.



Fertile lands

The fertile lands around Matatā have been used for māra kai (traditional gardens) for generations. The cultivation of crops like kūmara (sweet potato) is guided by traditional knowledge passed down through the ages, with planting and harvesting cycles aligned with the lunar calendar and other natural indicators. The significance of the hills are told in many of our iwi stories, with names that represent the kōrero of our rohe – including Whakapoukōrero and Whakapoukarakia, among others.



Early roads into Matatā township



Early Matatā township 1950s

Sacred sites
and marae

Ngā wāhi
tapu me ngā
marae

Numerous wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and marae (meeting grounds) are spread throughout Matatā, each holding its own stories and histories. The marae are central to the cultural life of the community, serving as places for gatherings, ceremonies and the preservation of tikanga (customs).

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



Our community Tō tātāu hāpori

Matatā is the gateway to the Eastern Bay of Plenty

Matatā is a small coastal village 24km west of Whakatāne, and 70km from Tauranga. It's well-known for its long sandy beaches, great fishing and surfing spots and the beautiful lagoon, Te Awa o Te Atua.

Matatā has local stores, the finest fish and chips, first-class barista coffee and a great playground for the kids to chill out while having a delicious scoop icecream.

Within Matatā and surrounds we have facilities including:

- Two primary schools:
 - Matatā Public School
 - St Joseph Catholic School Matatā
- Early learning childhood centre
- Te Kōhanga Reo o Rangitihī
- Four marae:
 - Rangiaohia Marae - Ngāti Rangitihī te Iwi
 - Umutahi Marae (Ngāti Umutahi, Te Tawera, Ngāti Iramoko)
 - Ōnīao Marae (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Matatā)
 - Iramoko (Te Tawera, Ngāti Awa)
- Rugby club and sports fields
- Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Matatā Catholic Church
- Matatā Gym
- Local shops including fish and chips, coffee shop and the historic Hotel Matatā
- Public toilets
- Playground
- Basketball and netball hoops at the tennis courts
- Department of Conservation camping ground, beside the Matatā wildlife refuge
- Lagoon walking track
- Nearby Awakaponga Hall

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



Contemporary challenges and aspirations *Ngā wero me ngā wawata o nāianeī*

Environmental issues *Ngā take taiao*

Matatā has faced environmental challenges, including significant events that have impacted the community. Ngāti Rangitihi, along with other local iwi and authorities, have been involved in efforts to mitigate these risks and ensure the safety and resilience of the community.

Cultural revitalisation *Te whakaora ahurea*

There is a strong movement towards cultural revitalisation in Matatā. This includes efforts to teach and promote te reo Māori (the Māori language), ensure the transmission of traditional knowledge and strengthen the identity and unity of the iwi.

Economic development *Te tipuranga taiōhanga*

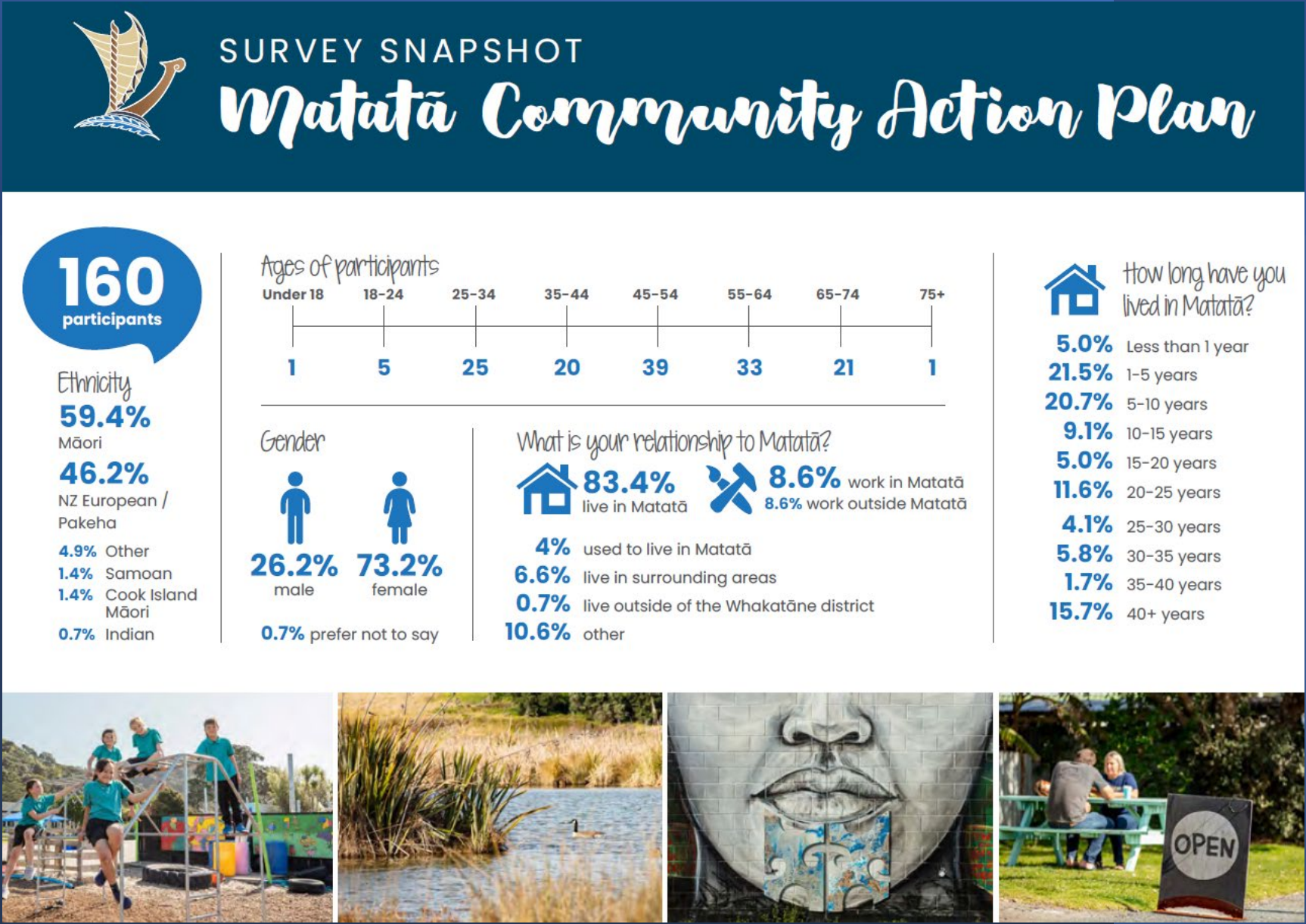
Ngāti Rangitihi and other iwi in the region are also focused on economic development initiatives that align with their cultural values. This includes sustainable tourism, fisheries and other ventures that provide opportunities for economic growth, while respecting the environment and cultural heritage.

Conclusion *Kupu whakatepe*

The cultural narrative of Matatā is one of deep connection to the land, rich traditions and a commitment to preserving and revitalizing the cultural heritage of the Māori people.

Ngāti Rangitihi, as kaitiaki of this region, plays a central role in maintaining the spiritual and cultural wellbeing of Matatā, ensuring that the stories and values of ancestors continue to thrive for future generations.

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



Matatā Collective
Ngā puna ora e whitu ki Matatā
The Seven Vitality Springs in Matatā

Puna: Water, Continuous flow. **Ora:** Vitality, Alive, Wellbeing. **Whitu:** The Seven Pou/Directions.

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)

Introduction - Kupu arataki

This community plan expresses the hopes and dreams for our Matatā community and village for the next 10 years. It sets out high-level objectives and principles that will help form a pathway to move forward and turn our community aspirations into reality.

To move forward, we must reflect on our past and acknowledge our unique village vibe, and how we can build on this for a better future for all residents of Matatā and future mokopuna.

By working together, we can ensure Matatā is a place where people value the surrounding natural environment, connect to each other and residents feel safe and secure.

This plan is not cast in stone and may evolve over time as we experience changes in the environment, Leadership, and political arenas and is to be reviewed every three years.

This plan is owned by the community of Matatā, with governance by the Matatā Collective.

This includes representatives from Matatā community groups and organisations such as Ngāti Rangitihī, Matatā Bluelight, Matatā Volunteer Fire Brigade, Matatā Residents Association and community members.



6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



Community Plan objectives Ngā whāinga Mahere Hapori

The following goals and aspirations have been identified by our community as priorities.
They have also informed the actions we aim to take to achieve these goals.

History and culture Hokinga whakamuri

Objectives – Ngā whāinga

- The history, culture and tradition of the Matatā rohe/area is a taonga/treasure to be preserved, respected and celebrated.
- It is important that any community development reflects the history of Matatā and encourages the community to learn about its uniqueness.



Priority Goals - *Whāinga Matua*

Actions - *Mahi*

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)

Environment Taiao

Objectives – *Ngā whāinga*

Ensure Matatā remains a desirable place to live where the quality and accessibility of the natural environment is protected.

Key features include:

- Te Awa o Te Atua / lagoon and wildlife refuge
- Matatā beach
- Matatā hills
- Ensure that no detrimental impacts through commerce or industry affects our environment and lifestyle.



Priority Goals - *Whāinga Matua*

Actions - *Mahi*

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)

Our people and community *Te hauora o te hāpori*

Objectives – *Ngā whāinga*

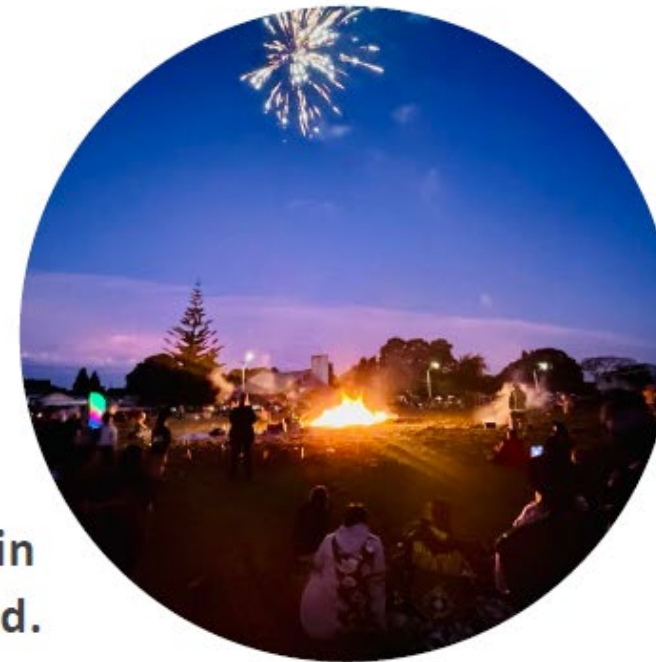
Ensure that the health and wellbeing of all residents within Matatā and surrounding areas are protected and respected.

- Provide opportunities for our community to engage in positive community activities, events and projects.
- Work collaboratively to strengthen, develop and build on what already exists in our community.
- Build on existing services and facilities in Matatā.

Support our people and community – *Tautokona to tatau hāpori*

Priority Goals - *Whāinga Matua*

Actions - *Mahi*



6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)

Local economy Te tāiohangā a-rohe

Objectives – Ngā whāinga

Ensure that business/economic development maintains and reflects the easy-going, relaxed lifestyle of the Matatā community.

- Support existing local businesses and their growth.
- Encourage and create new opportunities for small business growth and community development.



Priority Goals - *Whāinga Matua*

Actions - *Mahi*

6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)

What are we
doing now –
and what
next ?



6.2.1 Appendix A- Matatā Community Plan Presentation(Cont.)



He waka eke noa
Were all in this together

Our community loves our rohe

We are passionate about our beautiful village and are eager to build more partnerships to improve our community.

To celebrate our uniqueness culturally, environmentally and socially for all and our future generations.

Ngā mihi

6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan

6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan

6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)





Matatā Collective

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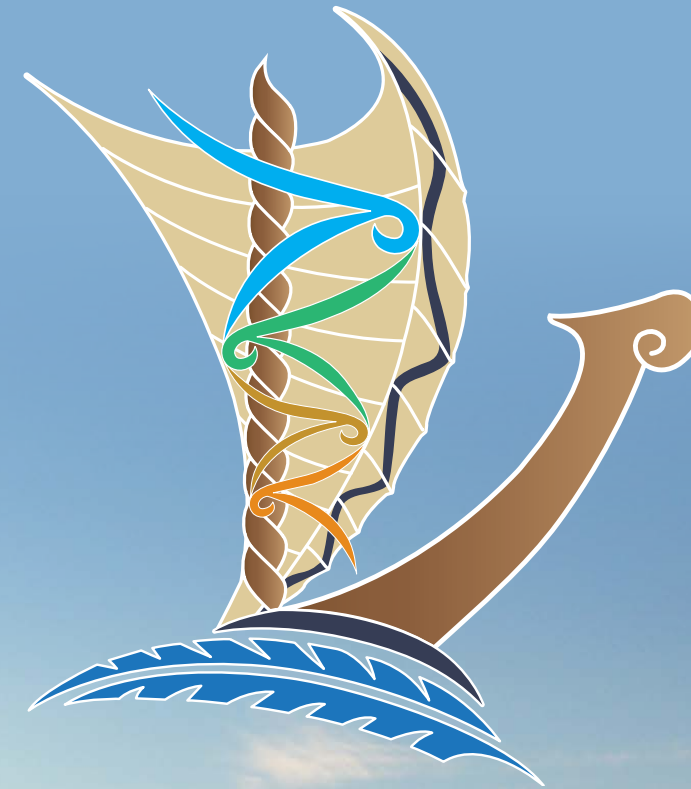
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Document version: 1.2 Date: March 2025

6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)

*E ngaki ana a mua,
e tōtō mai ana a muri*

*If the first group do the work properly (working group),
the following group can accomplish the task (community)*



Cultural Narrative Kōrero Ahurea

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Ngāti Rangitihi and Matatā Whakapapa and Settlement *He hononga whakapapa*

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The area has been inhabited for generations, with ancestral ties tracing back to the arrival of the Te Arawa waka. The whakapapa (genealogy) connects the people to the land, reaffirming their role as kaitiaki (guardians) of the region.

Key sites and stories

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Sacred sites and marae

Ngā wāhi tapu me ngā marae

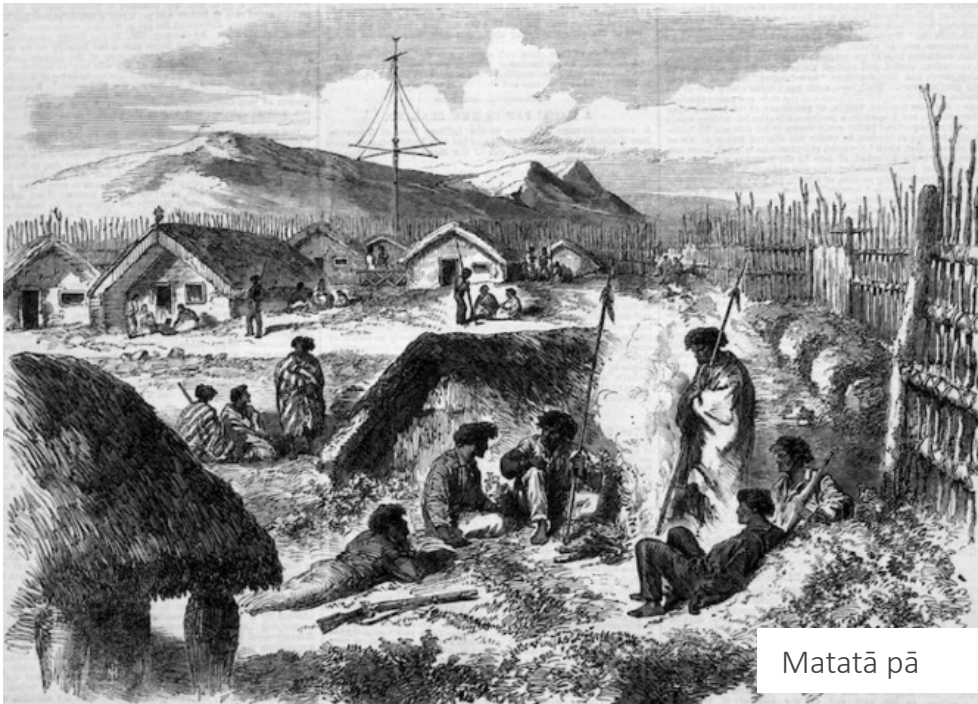
Numerous wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and marae (meeting grounds) are spread throughout Matatā, each holding its own stories and histories. The marae are central to the cultural life of the community, serving as places for gatherings, ceremonies and the preservation of tikanga (customs).



Matatā pā



Early roads into Matatā township



Matatā pā



Early Matatā township 1950s



Contemporary challenges and aspirations

Ngā wero me ngā wawata o nāianeī

Environmental issues *Ngā take taiao*

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Conclusion

Kupu whakatepe

The cultural narrative of Matatā is one of deep connection to the land, rich traditions and a commitment to preserving and revitalizing the cultural heritage of the Māori people.

Ngāti Rangitihi, as kaitiaki of this region, plays a central role in maintaining the spiritual and cultural wellbeing of Matatā, ensuring that the stories and values of ancestors continue to thrive for future generations.

6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)

Iwi affiliations

Ngā hononga ā-iwi

Ngāti Awa

According to Ngāti Awa traditional histories, the mountains of Pūtauaki and Tarawera were married. However one night Pūtauaki left Tarawera for the island of Whakaari, but he didn't make it before the rising of the sun and froze halfway. When Tarawera saw that Pūtauaki had left her she wept for him and her tears created the Tarawera River.

Ancestors of Ngāti Awa such as Te Tini o Toi, Te Tini o Awa and Te Tini o Kawerau once lived on the banks of the Tarawera River before the advent of the waka Mataatua.

The river’s resources were used by hapū like Ngāi Te Rangihouhiri II, Ngāti Hikakino and Te Tawera in more recent times, but this was well before the advent of European settlers. The Tarawera awa is the parent river of Waikamihī because Te Tawera (as well as Ngāi Te Rangihouhiri II and Ngāti Hikakino) have a spiritual connection with the river through Te Waikamihī.

Te Tawera, Ngāti Hikakino and Ngāi Te Rangihouhiri II used to catch fish, eel and white bait at the intersection of Waikamihī and Tarawera (Hughes, 2013).



Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau

Other descendants of the high priest Ngātoroirangi, who arrived in Aotearoa on the Te Arawa canoe, are the iwi of Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau. Tūwharetoa-i-te-aupōuri is the direct descendant of Ngātoroirangi.

In the sixteenth century, he and his people resided in the Kawerau region where they intermarried with the local iwi, Te Tini-a-Kawerau. His mother belonged to the latter and had ties to Ngāti Awa. From Otamarākau, where Tūwharetoa was born, his people migrated north to Kawerau and along the coast to Matatā.

Over time, he gathered his supporters in Waitahanui, not far from modern-day Kawerau. Tūwharetoa passed away and was interred there. Later, his remains were moved to Te Anakari hou o Tūwharetoa, a new name for the old Te Atua Reretahi burial cave close to Maungawhakarua.



Our community Tō tātāu hāpori

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- Two primary schools:
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- Early learning childhood centre
- Te Kōhanga Reo o Rangitihī
- Four marae:
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 - Umutahi Marae (Ngāti Umutahi, Te Tawera, Ngāti Iramoko)
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- Local shops including fish and chips, coffee shop and the historic Hotel Matatā
- Public toilets
- Playground
- Basketball and netball hoops at the tennis courts
- Department of Conservation camping ground, beside the Matatā wildlife refuge
- Lagoon walking track
- Nearby Awakaponga Hall

Our community groups

Ngā rōpū hapori

Matatā Residents Association

The Matatā Residents Association was formed about 25 years ago when the local council disbanded the Matatā community board.

This group of residents meet once a month to discuss any issues about the village; for example, the sewerage system, maintenance of the lagoon and road safety. They then advocate on behalf of the community with the appropriate group or organisation for the betterment of Matatā.

They meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the Matatā rugby club at 6.30pm, with guest speakers often invited to attend.

All residents of Matatā are most welcome to attend these meetings, to have a say or just listen.

Matatā Volunteer Fire Brigade

Matatā Volunteer Fire Brigade was established in 1963 with one appliance. The response area is from the far end of the Pikowai Straights to Thornton Bridge, and to just past the Manawahe Eco Centre.

In 2004, the Brigade decided to form a medical first response unit (in partnership with St John Ambulance), which now makes up over half of our callouts in a dedicated medical response vehicle.

The Brigade is made up of locals who meet Monday nights at 7pm for training (except public holidays). They respond to property fires, vegetation fires, motor vehicle accidents, medicals and many more.

The Matatā Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T)

The Matatā C.E.R.T was formed to prepare the community for events such as tsunami, earthquake and severe weather episodes that could result in debris flow, flooding or sea surges etc.

The team is made up of representatives from organisations including local iwi, the schools, the Matatā Fire Brigade, the Residents Association and Matatā Bluelight.

The initial gathering point in an emergency would be the Matatā Public Primary School on the corner of Pollen Street and Pākehā Street, before a decision is made to go to the local marae or to the Awakaponga Hall. For a tsunami, the community should go straight to the Awakaponga Hall.

6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)

Matatā Rugby and Sports Club

Matatā Rugby and Sports Club is a proud club situated in Matatā, the gateway to the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Formed in 1887, it is the oldest club in the Bay of Plenty and one of the oldest nationwide, with a rich history.

The club has a senior rugby team and a small passionate JAB, along with a women's netball team.

The club has produced many successful athletes from across a range of codes, including rugby, netball and American football. Several have represented at an international level, as well as national and regional.

Every year, Matatā fields teams proudly pulling on the black and white shirt, playing for Matatā.

The clubroom is a community hub with weekly meal nights and regular functions where all are welcome.

Bluelight

Matatā Bluelight was established in 2007 and is a registered charity that works in partnership with the police to deliver an extensive range of youth programmes and activities.

Matatā Bluelight organises and runs a variety of supervised programmes and activities, including school holiday programmes, for youth aged 6 – 18 years.

The aims are:

- To encourage better relations between young people and their parents, the police and community;
- To prevent crime and anti-social behaviour by exposing young people to different experiences and a healthy socialisation process in a safe, supervised environment; and to raise self esteem among young people.

Matatā Bluelight leads some key community events such as:

- Yearly fireworks display in conjunction with the local fire brigade.
- Matatā cadet programme
- Driver licence programmes
- Survivor camps

They also lead many other activities for local youth.

Education

Matatā Early Learning Centre

Provides childhood services that are a home away from home, a place where every child is recognised and respected for who they are and want to become.

Te Kōhanga Reo o Rangitihi

Te Kohanga Reo o Rangitihi is a community-based te kohanga reo catering for ages 0- 5 years.

Morimoria a Tātou tamariki ko rātou hoki te iwi mō āpopo.

Nurturing our tamariki for they are our future generation.

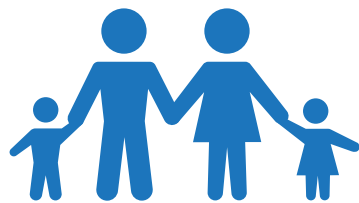
Matatā Public School est. 1872

Matatā Public School fosters children who will be caring and creative. They will develop a sense of identity, of community, of culture and of adventure, as they learn how to learn.

St Joseph's Matatā est. 1891

St Joseph's Catholic School Matatā is a Catholic school that strives for excellence and reflecting the values of Jesus and our dual heritage.

Demographics



Families
in Matatā

34.5% COUPLES WITH CHILDREN
41.4% COUPLES WITHOUT CHILDREN

59.9% Identify themselves
MĀORI

60.4% Identify themselves
NZ EUROPEAN

Compared with 43.5% Māori and
66.3% NZ European in the Whakatāne District, and
14.9% Māori and 74% NZ European in New Zealand.

Three iwi
NGĀTI RANGITIHI
NGĀTI AWA

NGĀTI TŪWHARETOA KI KAWERAU

Whakapapa to Matatā



645

people usually
live in Matatā

An increase of three people
since 2006 Census

Median income in Matatā

\$20,400

Compared to \$25,600 for the
Whakatāne District and \$28,500
for New Zealand

Majority of the population
ARE EMPLOYED
IN THE LARGER
CENTRES OF

Whakatāne and Kawerau,
or are retired.

a deprivation
index of



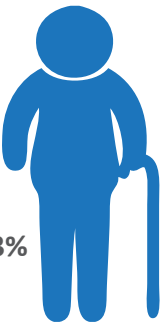
(1 represents the areas with the lowest deprivation
index and 10 the areas with highest)^[1]

^[1] The NZDep2006 Index of Deprivation

19.2%

of people in Matatā are
aged 65 years and over

Compared with 15.3% of the total
Whakatāne District population and 14.3%
of the New Zealand population



Median age is

41.6 years

FOR PEOPLE IN MATATĀ

39.6 years in the Whakatāne District
and 38.0 years in New Zealand

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS

13.7%

11.1% for the Whakatāne District
and 7.1% for New Zealand

Where to from here

Anga whakamua

The Matatā Collective would like to acknowledge the previous work from local groups which has been the foundation of this community plan.

This plan has been formed and collated from information pulled together over the years, including the 2007 Matatā Draft Community Plan, 2021 Matata Residents Association survey and the more recent 2023 Matatā Collective survey. This information has been reviewed and refined with a small working group of community representatives.

This plan will be out for consultation late 2024 and early 2025 to seek the community's feedback and ensure the plan has captured the community's aspirations for its future needs.

The plan is designed to enable working groups in the community to put together proposals and scoping documents that align with the plan's objectives. These can then be used as a basis for seeking and building relationships with stakeholders, which will enable goals and projects to come to life.

This plan is not cast in stone and may evolve over time as we experience changes in the environment, leadership, and political arenas.

This plan is to be reviewed every three years.



6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)



Community Plan objectives

Ngā whāinga Mahere Hapori



History and culture

Hokinga whakamuri



Objectives

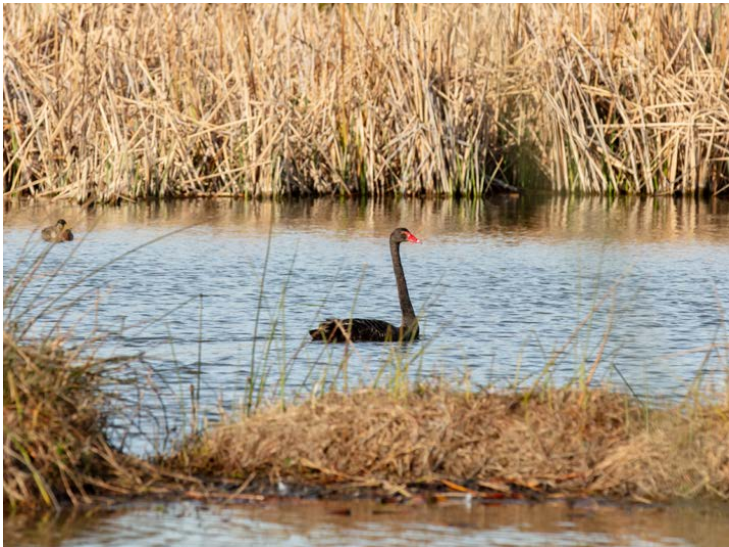
Ngā whāinga

- The history, culture and tradition of the Matatā rohe/area is a taonga/ treasure to be preserved, respected and celebrated.
- It is important that any community development reflects the history of Matatā and encourages the community to learn about its uniqueness.



6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Capture and share our local history and stories of Matatā and the surrounding area Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a resource that can be shared with local schools and community, which has local historical information, significant cultural sites and stories of area.• Hold annual wānanga/workshops inviting schools and the community to come along and learn about our local history.• Incorporate our local history onto story boards (e.g. stories, landmarks, significant cultural sites etc) to be placed at key locations including along walkways and cycle tracks.	Ongoing 2024 /2025 Ongoing
Support and promote the use of Māori and English signage Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify opportunities for use of Māori and English signage across our community.• Apply to Whakatāne District Council Reo Rua fund for support.	2025
Create a welcoming entrance to our town i.e. signage that represents our Matatā identity e.g. pou/mural Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective, Whakatāne District Council, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Kiwi Rail</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a design for an entrance into our town, which represents our Matatā community e.g. signage/mural/pou etc.• Submit this design proposal to key agencies and stakeholders seeking support of our project.• Identify funding opportunities to support this project.	2025 - 27



Environment Taiao

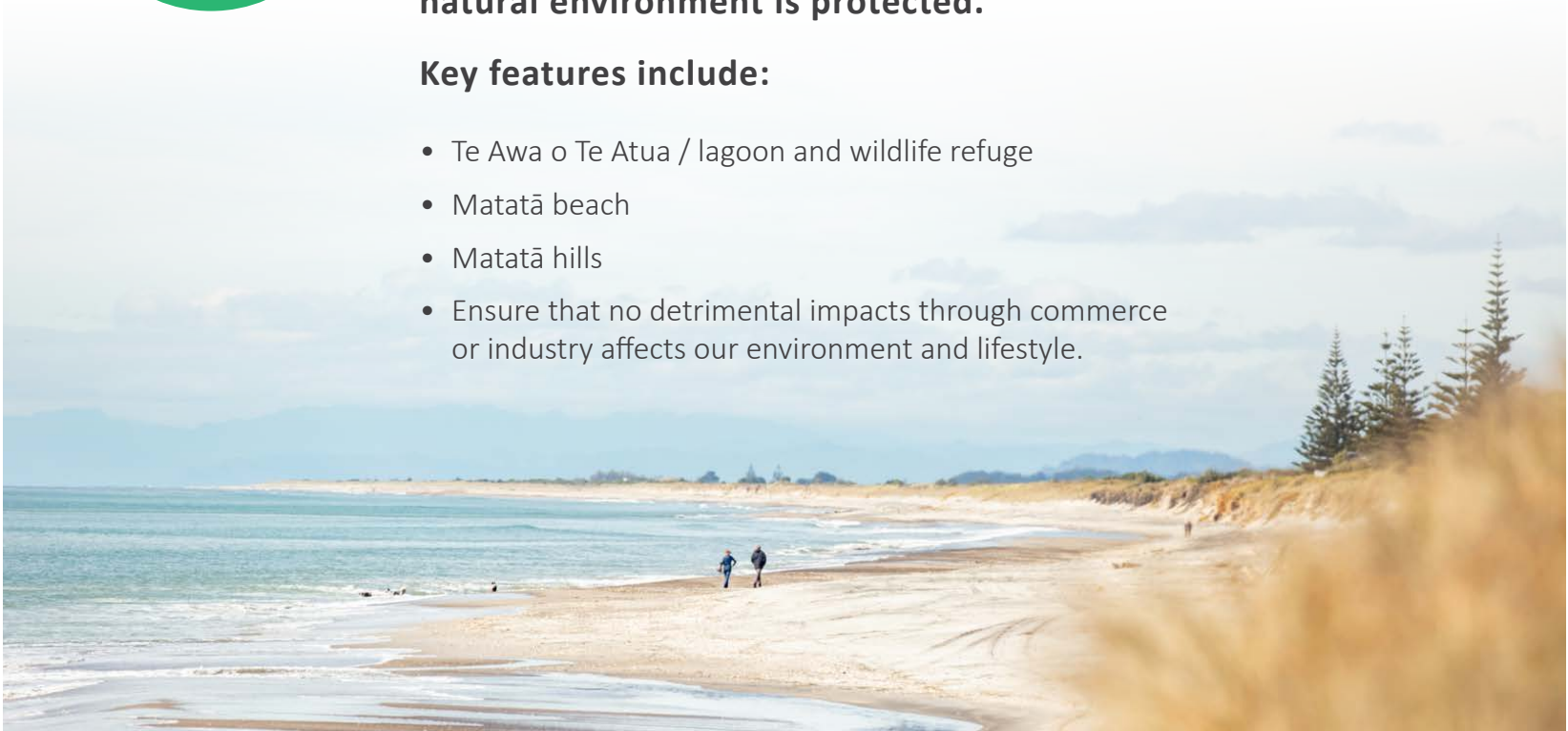


Objectives *Ngā whāinga*

Ensure Matatā remains a desirable place to live where the quality and accessibility of the natural environment is protected.

Key features include:

- Te Awa o Te Atua / lagoon and wildlife refuge
- Matatā beach
- Matatā hills
- Ensure that no detrimental impacts through commerce or industry affects our environment and lifestyle.



6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Keep our beaches clean Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Local schools, Matatā Residents Association and community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regular clean-up days coordinated by community members, local schools and Residents Association.Support and link community clean-up projects wherever possible.Promote and encourage involvement with national campaigns e.g. Keep NZ Beautiful.Work with local councils to create positive signage that can be erected in key locations. These should include positive messaging to encourage responsibility e.g. pack-in/pack-out.	Ongoing
Clean up entrances to our town Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective, Whakatāne District Council, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Kiwi Rail</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate to key stakeholders e.g. Whakatāne District Council, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Kiwi Rail for ongoing maintenance of our entrances.	2024 / 2025
Community planting projects Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Local schools, community, Matatā Bluelight, Coast care, Department of Conservation, Bay of Plenty Regional Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage community to be involved with local planting projects that are coordinated by local groups, schools, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Coast Care etc.Identify funding opportunities to support planting projects e.g. Bay of Plenty Regional Council Enhancement fund.Support and promote community planting projects on our local community Facebook pages, newsletters and notice board.	Ongoing
Lagoon area management and restoration Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group, Department of Conservation, Whakatāne District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborate with key stakeholders Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group on the management of Te Awa o Te Atua e.g. to support the delivery of a work plan and maintenance schedule.Advocate to Whakatāne District Council and Department of Conservation for regular maintenance of Te Awa o Te Atua and creating a regular schedule.	Ongoing



Our people and community

Te hauora o te hāpori

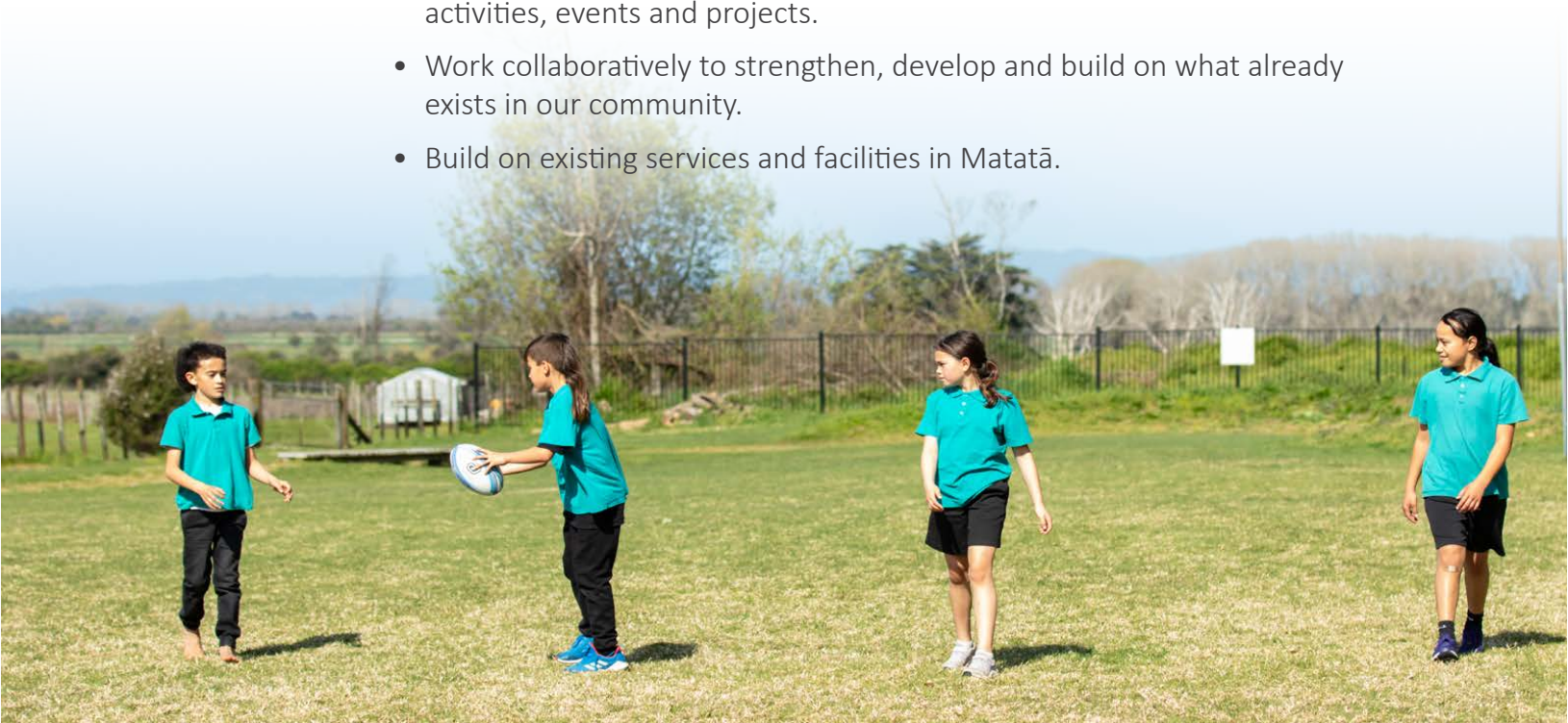


Objectives

Ngā whāinga

Ensure that the health and wellbeing of all residents within Matatā and surrounding areas are protected and respected.

- Provide opportunities for our community to engage in positive community activities, events and projects.
- Work collaboratively to strengthen, develop and build on what already exists in our community.
- Build on existing services and facilities in Matatā.



Support our people and community

Tautokona tō tatāu hapori

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Supporting all sectors of our community e.g. whānau, rangatahi, kaumatua/elderly etc. Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Local groups, service providers, Bluelight, Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitahi, schools, clubs, community members</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote and encourage participation of activities and services that are being delivered in our community for our whānau, rangatahi/youth and kaumatua/elderly e.g. 'keep on your feet' classes, weekly cuppa group, rangatahi training programmes etc.• Share all opportunities through our local networks, Facebook pages, newsletter and notice board.• Investigate support and interest for coordinating a hui with local rangatahi/youth, to identify and confirm what their aspirations and priorities are.	Ongoing
Our community is prepared in the event of an emergency Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Emergency Management, Civil Defence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community evacuation plan is kept updated and reviewed by Matatā Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).• Evacuation plan brochure is distributed throughout the community via letterbox delivery, at key locations and online options through community social media pages.	Ongoing

Community infrastructure

Ngā hangaroto o te hāpori

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Wastewater improvements (sewerage system) Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective, Whakatāne District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a submission to both councils' Long Term Plan process for support of wastewater improvements.• Encourage our community to keep updated through participation to attend public meetings.• Continue to advocate on behalf of community for sewerage reticulation.	Ongoing
Roading and traffic speed Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective, NZ Transport Agency NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Whakatāne District Council, community and local schools</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a submission to both council’s Long Term Plan process for seeking support of traffic calming measures, including options for safe crossings in our community and for our schools.• Continued dialogue with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi around reducing speed limit from 60km to 50km in a residential area - Pākeha Street /State Highway 2.• Continued dialogue with Whakatāne District Council on preferred locations for new residential footpaths and/or kerbing.	Ongoing

Community events

Ngā pāpono hapori

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Community events Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Bluelight, local schools, Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihī, Residents Association, Matatā Collective and community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form a community working group to plan and coordinate events and activities.• Promote and support an annual Matariki celebration event held during the week of Matariki.• Establish annual festival events e.g. sports day, midwinter festival, tamariki event etc.• Promotion of events and activities by creating an events calendar that can be posted on community Facebook pages, website and local notice board.• Support existing events like Matatā Christmas in the Park, Guy Fawkes, fishing competitions etc.	2024 / 2025



Community recreation and facilities

Ngā mahi a te rēhia

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Goals and aspirations around the lagoon (Te Awa o Te Atua) Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Tarawera Awa 'Restoration Strategy' Group, Matatā Collective, Local schools, Residents Association and community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connect with Tarawera Awa Forum Group to confirm what plans it has for the lagoon area.• Identify opportunities to support or partner with plans for development around the lagoon.• Continue to collectively advocate to both councils and Department of Conservation for upkeep and maintenance around the lagoon e.g. mowing, spraying.• Promote and support local clean up days around the lagoon.	Ongoing
Playground project Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Rugby Club, Whakatāne District Council, Matatā Collective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for our current playground or an additional new one to be located to a more appropriate site that is accessible and safe e.g. Matatā rugby fields.• Make a submission to Whakatāne District Council seeking support.	2024 / 25

6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Cycle trails - connecting to other local communities e.g. Thornton, Edgecumbe, Otamarakau. Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective, Whakatāne District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Iwi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify a lead group to coordinate the actions for this project.• Make a submission to both councils' Long Term Plan process seeking support.• Identify potential partnerships and funding opportunities to support the project.	2024 / 2025
Multi-purpose community centre that caters for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation• Community activities hub (art and crafts, café, book library etc)• Youth space Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective, Whakatāne District Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a working group that will lead the project and oversee the undertaking of a feasibility study to establish a case for the building of a community centre / hub.• Once the feasibility study is completed and findings confirmed, the next steps will be to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a submission to Whakatāne District Council seeking support for the project and build.• Identify potential sources of funding and partnership support.• Create and implement community fundraising ideas.	2025 – 2027
Bush walks and treks (maintenance of all our walking tracks) Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective, Department of Conservation, Whakatāne District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connect with Department of Conservation and local councils to support the maintenance of walking tracks along the lagoon and walkway on the hill.• Information boards created and installed to showcase environmental information and site history.• Encourage community support and locals to be involved.• Include in submissions to both councils' Long Term Plan process.	Ongoing



Local economy

Te taiōhanga ā-rohe



Objectives

Ngā whāinga

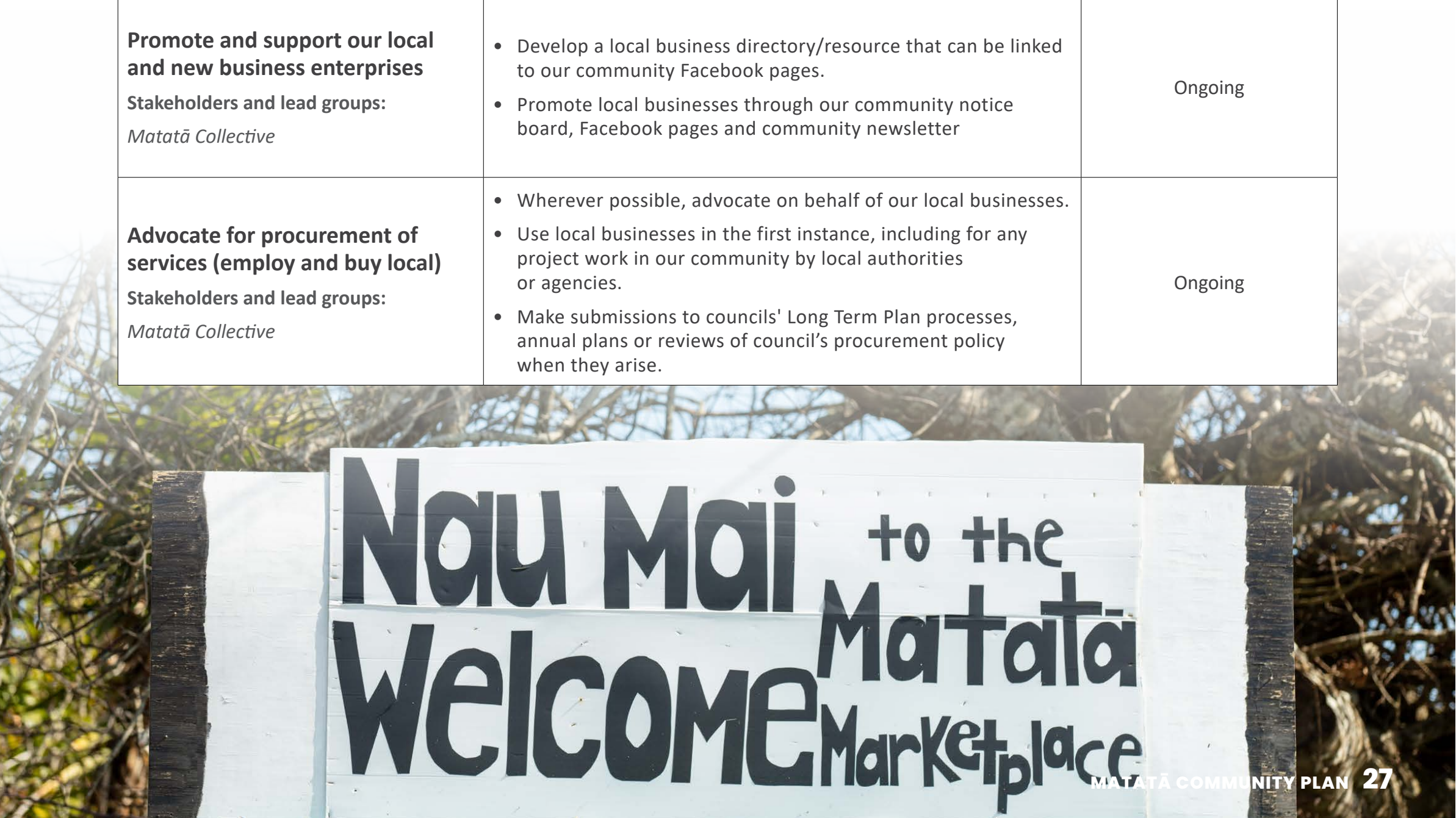
Ensure that business/economic development maintains and reflects the easy-going, relaxed lifestyle of the Matatā community.

- Support existing local businesses and their growth.
- Encourage and create new opportunities for small business growth and community development.



6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)

Priority Goals <i>Whāinga Matua</i>	Actions <i>Mahi</i>	Timeframes <i>Wā</i>
Promote and support our local and new business enterprises Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a local business directory/resource that can be linked to our community Facebook pages.• Promote local businesses through our community notice board, Facebook pages and community newsletter	Ongoing
Advocate for procurement of services (employ and buy local) Stakeholders and lead groups: <i>Matatā Collective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wherever possible, advocate on behalf of our local businesses.• Use local businesses in the first instance, including for any project work in our community by local authorities or agencies.• Make submissions to councils' Long Term Plan processes, annual plans or reviews of council's procurement policy when they arise.	Ongoing



6.2.2 Appendix B- Matatā Community Plan(Cont.)



Matatā Collective

The Matatā Collective includes representatives from Matatā community groups, organisations and community members.

Ngāti Rangitihi [W ngatirangitihi.iwi.nz](http://www.ngatirangitihi.iwi.nz)  [ngatirangitihi](#)

Matatā Bluelight  [matata.bluelight](#)

Matatā Volunteer Fire Brigade  [MatataFire](#)

Matatā Residents Association  [MatataResidentsAssociation](#) (Facebook group)



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview

6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview

6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



OVERVIEW OF ORANGE SKY AOTEAROA



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



HOMELESSNESS & HARDSHIP IN AOTEAROA

The recent Aotearoa Homelessness Summit, held in Tauranga, brought together organisations and individuals on the front lines of this growing crisis.

The numbers (Census 2023) are confronting — and they reflect what we see every day on shift:

- **1 in every 1000 people** in Aotearoa are without a safe, stable place to live. Thousands are sleeping rough in cars or on the streets — with nowhere else to go.
- **Over 112,000 people across Aotearoa are homeless.** This includes those in emergency accommodation, shelters, couch surfing and in severely overcrowded homes.

The statistics are sobering. But behind each one is a person — a story — a reason to act.

Last year, **Orange Sky saw a 106% increase in demand**, and as we continue to support a diverse range of whānau, we have ambitious goals to double our impact each year—ensuring that those who need us most can access our support.



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



HOW ORANGE SKY IS TAKING ACTION

At Orange Sky, we know we can't solve homelessness, but we are committed to playing our part in supporting our community.

It may be a simple service—washing and drying clothes and offering a hot shower — but it can have a profound impact. For many who feel unseen, these moments of connection help enhance dignity and mana.

We work alongside trusted community partners across the motu, including City Missions, Soup Kitchens, Community Centres, and Churches. By providing free laundry and shower services, we help remove barriers for those facing hardship—creating opportunities for connection, care, and community.

SINCE LAUNCHING OUR FIRST SERVICE IN AOTEAROA IN 2018, ORANGE SKY HAS DELIVERED...



31,700+ LOADS OF WASHING



14,900+ SHOWERS



46,000+ HOURS OF KŌRERO

LAST YEAR WE DELIVERED \$2,048,026* IN SOCIAL IMPACT

*In 2018, Deloitte Access Economics developed a social impact framework for Orange Sky, enabling us to measure and communicate our impact through key outputs—washes, showers, conversation hours, and friend referrals—assigning economic and social value to these metrics and calculating a social return ratio to track our effectiveness over time.



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



ORANGE SKY IN WHAKATĀNE

We’re excited to be expanding into Whakatāne with a laundry van, launching in partnership with Waiariki Whānau Mentoring Trust and supported by Whakatāne District Council on 20 August 2025.

This service will provide a free laundry service and a safe place for kōrero, supporting local whānau experiencing hardship. Your support helps us create spaces where people feel connected, valued, and seen by their community

At the time of the 2023 Census, an estimated **112,496 people across Aotearoa — or 2.3% of the population — were experiencing severe housing deprivation.**

While specific data for **Whakatāne** is not yet available, local socio-economic indicators point to significant housing and wellbeing challenges in the region.

Introducing a Community-Led Service in Whakatāne, in partnership with Waiariki Whānau Mentoring, provides an opportunity to respond to these needs by delivering access to a free laundry service. More than that, it creates a safe, welcoming space for connection — promoting health, restoring dignity, and supporting the hauora of the local community.



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



EMERGENCY & CRISIS RESPONSE

In times of crisis, clean laundry and hot showers might not seem like an immediate priority, but they are essential for maintaining health, dignity, and a sense of normalcy.

Disasters can leave communities with no power, flood-damaged clothing and belongings, or with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

In these challenging moments, access to clean clothes and warm showers offers more than just comfort—it provides a small but vital step toward recovery.

At Orange Sky, we actively monitor crises to determine when and where our services are needed most. In the event of an emergency, we either coordinate with local civil defence and emergency management agencies or respond to their requests for support.

Below are two examples of emergency situations we’ve been involved in. Our van in Te Matau-a-Māui, Hawke’s Bay, was also supported by both Councils in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle for future emergency responses in the area.



Auckland Anniversary Floods

In January 2023, devastating floods caused by Cyclone Gabrielle swept through Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, causing many locals to be displaced.

In response, our vans and volunteer teams mobilised to provide the community with free laundry services, warm showers, and a space for connection. It was a challenging time, with many in the community finding themselves in need of our services due to circumstances they had never envisioned.

Loafers Lodge Fire

In the aftermath of the tragic Loafers Lodge fire on May 16, 2023 in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, Orange Sky provided essential laundry and shower services for those displaced by the disaster.

Our volunteers quickly discovered that offering a listening ear and supporting people through their grief was just as important as providing clean clothes and hot showers.

See Team Leader Cathy’s interview about this [here](#).





Hear from our friends & whānau

“When our clothes are clean, we feel just about normal. I connect with Orange Sky three times a week where possible. When we connect, we connect on a very personal level, with very personal people. Having the communication is great because we are on our own on the street. Having those people is truly amazing.”

Mark, Orange Sky friend & whānau.



Albert has faced his share of life’s challenges. Limited in what he can do because of disability, he relies on community services to ease some of his daily struggles. For the past two years, Orange Sky’s free mobile laundry service has been a cornerstone of his week – not just for clean clothes, but for the human connection and kōrero he shares with volunteers and others using the service.

“Coming to get my laundry done by the Orange Sky team is the highlight of my week,” Albert says, his face lighting up as he speaks about the volunteers he now considers friends. **“Everyone is really loving and caring. I look forward to my day out.”**



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



Hear from our tūao

Paddy is one of our amazing tūao who turns up rain, hail and shine to support those doing it tough in her community.

“We remind you that you are a great person. Everyone who comes here is a great person. Orange Sky is more than just a laundry service, it is a safe space for our community people to come and sit without judgement to be part of our happy group.”

– Paddy, Orange Sky Volunteer. Hear more from Paddy, and the friends and whānau, by [clicking here](#).



Volunteering has shifted Stephen’s perspective and deepened his understanding of what community means. **“It’s about contributing to something greater,” he says. “Being present for people, no matter what they’re going through.”**

“I think it’s the people,” he says when asked what keeps him coming back. **“As a man in my fifties, I get so much energy from the other volunteers—particularly the younger ones. The fact that they’re giving up their time is just spectacular.”** Volunteering alongside people from different generations and walks of life, he says, brings a real sense of shared purpose.

To anyone thinking about volunteering, Stephen’s message is simple: give it a go. **“Try it. If you don’t like it, you don’t have to keep going. But you get an awful lot from doing it.”**

– Stephen, Orange Sky Volunteer.



6.2.3 Appendix A- Orange Sky Aotearoa Overview(Cont.)



Keep in touch

Please reach out if you have any further questions in regards to Orange Sky.

Every dollar raised directly supports our kaupapa — from fuel, maintenance and insurance, to detergent, solar panels and the recruitment and training of our incredible volunteers. Your support keeps our services running and ensures we can continue to show up where we’re needed most.

As requests to expand into new communities grow, partnerships like this are critical. You’re helping us deliver more than just clean clothes and warm showers — you’re helping to foster dignity, connection and stronger, safer communities.

Ngā mihi.

Kat Doughty
Senior Impact Manager
E. Kat.Doughty@orangesky.org.nz



7 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

7 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

The minutes from the Living Together meeting held 6 March 2025 can be viewed via the Council website.

Click on the link below in order to view the 'unconfirmed minutes'.

- Unconfirmed Living Together Committee Minutes - [Thursday, 6 March 2025](#)

8 Community Board Recommendations and Minutes - *Ngā Tohutohu me ngā Meneti hui o te Poari Hapori*

The minutes from the Whakatāne District Council Community Board meetings can be viewed via the Council website.

Click on the appropriate link below in order to view the 'unconfirmed minutes'.

Recommendation

THAT the minutes from the following Whakatane District Council Community Board Meetings be received:

- Tāneatua Community Board [7 April 2025](#)
- Rangitāiki Community Board [9 April 2025](#)
- Murupara Community Board [12 May 2025](#)
- Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board [12 May 2025](#)
- Community Funding Committee [20 May 2025](#)
- Youth Council Minutes:
 - 24 February 2025
 - 11 March 2025
 - 31 March 2025

8.1 Youth Council Minutes - 24 Feb 2025

8.1 Youth Council Minutes - 24 Feb 2025

8.1 Youth Council Minutes - 24 Feb 2025(Cont.)



Whakatāne District Youth Council Meeting Minutes

24 February 2025, 4:00pm

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Holly Russell, Waiwhakaata Hunia, Molly Thompson-Brine, Nate Parsons, Corey Haycock, Puhinoa Tangaroatuane, Annabel Caudwell, Erin Walker, Jack Karetai-Barrett, Frederik Dumat (Freddy), Nanami Hayter, Harry Edwards, Martina Lowry, Julian Cardinal, Rene Koolen, Lochie Holding, Syanna Gedson-Hill, Nico Bruce

Council Staff:

Jemma Rudkin, Karen Summerhays (online)

Apologies:

Mannat kaur, Jiko Bryant, Hannah White, Sophie Clyde, Akemi Tutua,

Agenda Items Covered:

- Opening Karakia and Food
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy Presentation and Feedback session
 - All in agreeance with policy suggestions, comments were “looks amazing” and “spot on”
 - 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.3.3
 - Would this also include spaces as well for example around schools in Kopepeopeo where students hang out
 - Concern raised around the safety of students in Kope
 - Youth Council would support a Kope community plan to help work towards making it safer.
 - 7.4.2, 7.4.3
 - Will this translate into the issues like in Kope where they are blocking off alleyways and stuff?

8.1 Youth Council Minutes - 24 Feb 2025(Cont.)



- How different is this to what the Council already has, shouldn't this stuff be standard
- Can you get government funding for projects related to the DEI policy?
- Other Questions/Comments
 - Would projects include getting brail signs for the blind at pedestrian crossings
 - How are iwi consulted during this?
 - Could we put in a speed limit in Kope to be slower around by schools – and a pedestrian crossing by the school main entrance?
 - All like the idea of having the policy translated into simple English as they found it hard to read and didn't fully feel like they could understand it.

Break – 4:50pm to 5:00pm

Meeting Updates:

- Start narrowing down what Youth Council think should be the key priorities this year
 - Murals
 - Bike trails
 - Advocating/supporting the creation of a community plan for Kope
 - Making Kope a safer place for students
 - Slower speeds
 - Speed bumps
 - Pedestrian crossings – especially on Goulstone Road
 - Recycling bins (like colourful ones in town)
 - Events
 - Youth Week: Scavenger Hunt, Youth gathering/Movie Night
 - Marathon/Event for Mental Health
 - Tamariki Food Fair
 - Public Transport Education
 - Bus times
 - Safety on buses
 - Signs on how to use our buses
 - Cost of buses
- Whakatane High School Mural Club want to collaborate on a mural in Kope on the blank wall at the Bakehouse
 - Need to find out who owns that building and get permission
 - Mural Club is working on a concept

8.1 Youth Council Minutes - 24 Feb 2025(Cont.)



- Youth Council are happy to support.

Closing Karakia

Meeting ended - 5:20pm

8.2 Youth Council Minutes - 11 March 2025

8.2 Youth Council Minutes - 11 March 2025

8.2 Youth Council Minutes - 11 March 2025(Cont.)



Whakatāne District Youth Council Meeting Minutes

11 March 2025, 4:00pm

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Mannat Kaur, Jiko Bryant, Holly Russell, Molly Thompson-Brine, Hannah White, Nate Parsons, Corey Haycock, Puhinoa Tangaroatuane, Annabel Caudwell, Erin Walker, Jack Karetai-Barrett, Frederik Dumat (Freddy), Martina Lowry, Syanna Gedson-Hill, Akemi Tutua, Rene Koolen, Shanika, Zane Windle.

Council Staff:

Jemma Rudkin

Apologies:

Nico Bruce, Nanami Hayter, Sophie Clyde, Waiwhakaata Hunia

Agenda Items Covered:

- Opening Karakia
- Mural updates
 - Mural Club is in the process of developing the concept
 - Looking at Keith Haring style as inspiration
 - Mural Club to provide budget once design completed
- Youth insight for the Library 'Youth Space' concept
 - 'What would you want in a teen area in the library?'
 - The space to be separate to the main library area
 - Movie Screen – cast to it
 - More computers
 - Comfy couches/seating – bean bags
 - Study cubicles
 - Vending machine
 - Board games

8.2 Youth Council Minutes - 11 March 2025(Cont.)

- Notice board – job applications, events etc.
- Other ideas included:
 - Involving youth and Youth Council in promoting the space to get teenagers interested
 - Having social events such as art showcases where youth display their work
 - Being able to book the space
- Role assignments
 - Chairperson: Akemi
 - Deputy Chairpersons: Puhinoa and Jack
 - Social media team: Nate, Martina, Syanna, Hannah, Mannat, Jiko, Shanika
 - Admin: Zane
- Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD) workshop 22 to 24 April
 - Members to email Jemma if interested in attending

Meeting Updates:**Youth Scavenger Hunt, Planning Session One**

Date: 19 to 25 May – Youth Week

Objective: To get youth outside and having fun while connecting with other youth.

Idea One

- Have one event day. Create three different maps for different age groups e.g. 12-14, 14-16, 16-18. Different difficulty levels for each age group. Do the hunt in groups of four.

Idea Two (Favoured Option)

- Run the event over the entire week. Use social media to post clues. People must find clue and bring it to Council to collect prize. Can do one or two prizes each day throughout the week. Can pre-record clues and post throughout the day. For those who are not on social media they can post printouts on noticeboards at schools.

Prize ideas

- For younger teens – video game vouchers, food vouchers e.g. pizza hut, movie vouchers, board games
- For older teens – Stirling sports vouchers, petrol vouchers, supermarket vouchers, Harvey Norman/Noel Leeming vouchers,

Clue Hiding Spot Ideas

- The strand, Library, Skatepark, Murals, Rex Morpeth,
- Partner with businesses to hide clues there with passwords.

- Closing Karakia
- Meeting ended 5:30pm

8.3 Youth Council Minutes - 31 March 2025

8.3 Youth Council Minutes - 31 March 2025

8.3 Youth Council Minutes - 31 March 2025(Cont.)



Whakatāne District Youth Council Minutes

Monday, 31 March 2025

Minutes complied by: Annabel Caudwell

People who are present: Nico Bruce, Nate Parsons, Marting Lowry, Shanika Juan, Annabel Caudwell, Molly Tompson-Bryan, Holly Russell, Corey Haycock, Harry Martin, Mannat Kur Waiwhakata, Jack Karetai-Barett, Freddy Dumat, Rene Koolen.

WDC Mayor - **Victor Luca**, WDC Deputy Mayor - **Lesley Immink**
WDC Councillor - **Toni Boynton**, WDC staff - **Richard Hamer**

Agenda

- **Welcome our guest/s**
- **Karakia and blessing of kai**
- **Mayoral request for feedback** on 1a Climate Change - Townhall Event
Mayor Luca explained why he is keen on running a townhall type of event for the community focusing on climate change and why he is seeking feedback from the group on how best to engage with young people to ensure authentic participation.
TASKS BY NEXT MEETING: Group agreed to assess with peers at school the likelihood of student engagement in a climate change townhall event. Thinking of what strategies should be implemented to enhance student engagement.
- **Council 101 Presentation**
Deputy Mayor Leslie Immink and Cr Toni Boynton presented the 'what, why, and how' of Council to the group. The presentation covered representation, including Māori Wards, roles and responsibilities of elected members, how much time it takes to be an elected representative and the current annual remuneration.
Also covered was what is actually delivered by Council, how much is spent and who pays for things.
- **Tour of Council Building**
Richard showed Youth Council members around the Council building informing them of some of the building's set-up and functions and the style of working environment staff operate in. Open plan and hot desks, with staff areas.
- **AOB**
SADD Conference – Two members have indicated their interest in attending but not confirmed.
Tamariki Food Fair – This will be followed up offline as it was not discussed in the meeting.
- **Meeting finished** 5:47pm.

9 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

9 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

9.1 Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub – Phase 1 update report



To: **Living Together Committee**

Date: **Thursday, 19 June 2025**

Author: **K Hogg / Project Manager Open Spaces**

Authoriser: **A Pickles / GM Community Experience**

Reference: **A2905079**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide an update on the Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub Phase 1 project;
- outline the project establishment activities undertaken to date;
- highlight the project governance structure and Steering Group membership; and
- provide an overview of key next steps.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. THAT the Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub - Phase 1 Update report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Living Together Committee **notes** the established project governance structure, including the membership of the Project Steering Group for the Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

The Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub — comprising the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall (WWMH), Rex Morpeth Park, Rugby Park, the Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre, and the Whakatāne Arts and Craft Centre — is one of the district's most loved and heavily used community assets.

While the Hub has served Whakatāne well, significant upgrades, expansion, and maintenance are now urgently needed to meet modern challenges, evolving community needs, and health and safety standards. Chronic underinvestment has now left the facilities inadequate for the district's growing sporting, cultural, and wellbeing needs. If this situation is not addressed, Whakatāne risks losing an important emergency management facility and will face ongoing limits to the district's ability to host large events - reducing community wellbeing opportunities and forfeiting potential revenue streams that drive economic growth.

Council identified the need for significant upgrades to the WWMH some time ago, and for the past ten years has been in the process of planning its redevelopment. A commitment was made to upgrade the WWMH and the recreation precinct (Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub) in the 2021/31 Long Term

9.1 Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub – Phase 1 update report(Cont.)

Plan. In September 2022, Council tendered the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Master Plan alongside the Whakatāne Open Spaces Strategy. The project was awarded to Veros (led by Adele Hadfield) in partnership with DCA Architects (Darryl Church) and GHA (Kererua Savage) by November 2022.

Throughout 2023, a range of redevelopment options was developed and refined through extensive community and stakeholder engagement. Three master plan options and an “enhanced status quo” option, each with unique aspects to drive conversation about priorities, were released for public consultation in October 2023. Feedback from workshops and consultations informed a preferred masterplan option: Optimising for Now and the Future, presented to the Living Together Committee in December 2023. Recognising public interest in this project, as well as the significant cost (\$100m) associated with the recommended plan, Councillors chose to seek further input through the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan consultation process before finalising any decision.

Community consultation in April 2024 revealed mixed views. While many agreed on the urgent need for upgrades, some called for deferral due to current financial pressures or opposed funding via rates, citing the need to prioritising core infrastructure. However, strong support remained for redevelopment, with many emphasising the Hub’s critical role in recreation, arts, emergency management, and community wellbeing. Securing external funding was widely recognised as essential to reduce the burden on ratepayers.

In summary, despite financial challenges, there is strong community recognition that the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub is essential social and sporting infrastructure. Addressing the longstanding underinvestment now is critical to delivering a resilient, multipurpose facility that meets the needs of today’s community and future generations.

3.1. Council direction 2024/2025

As a result of the LTP process, including public engagement and submissions, Councillors ultimately agreed the following parameters for the future investment into the Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub:

- Integrate a stop/go decision-making point into the 2027/28 Long Term Plan regarding the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub’s redevelopment budget.
- Retain budget allocation for co-funding the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub project.
- Prioritise health and safety, making the building watertight, and functionality-focused improvement works during the next four years, up to \$7.8 million.
- Finalise the Masterplan for the hub and explore the feasibility of a separate indoor court facility.
- Develop an external funding plan before the next Long-Term Plan.
- Advance discussions with potential partners for the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub redevelopment.

4. Issue/subject – *Kaupapa*

4.1. Project Approach

In response to Council direction, staff have now structured the project into two phases, recognising the need to complete immediate functional upgrades, while planning for a wider redevelopment that remains subject to external funding and Council approval to proceed. The two phases of work are as follows:

9.1 Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub – Phase 1 update report(Cont.)

4.1.1. Phase 1: Pre-major redevelopment

- Health & Safety and functional improvement works (Functional Upgrades).
- Develop and Finalise RMRH Master Plan.
- Develop Funding plan to support Stop/Go decision point for commencing Phase 2.

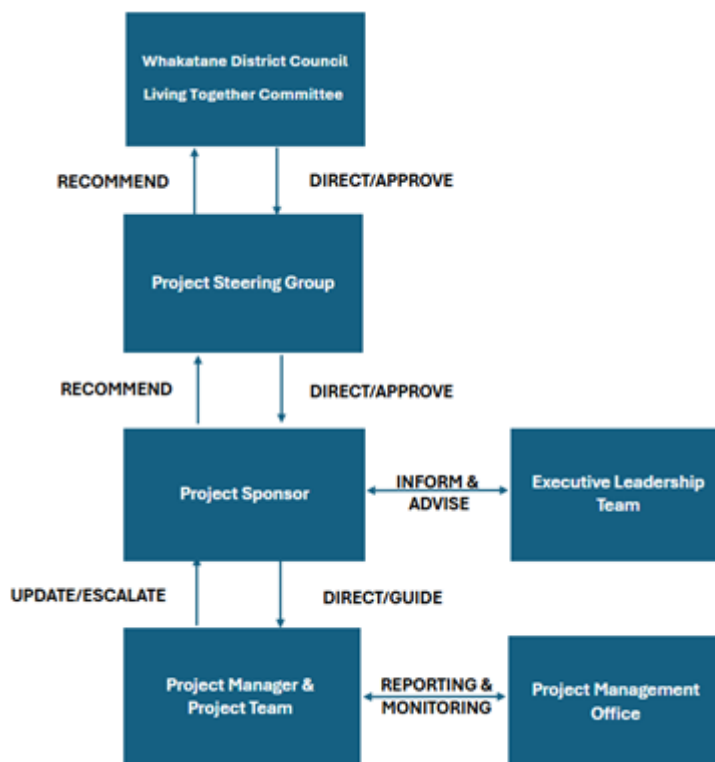
4.1.2. Phase 2: Major redevelopment 2029

Phase 2 will not commence until the funding has been secured, estimated circa 2029.

A project structure including governance arrangements are now being established to support Phase 1 of the project, noting that these will be reviewed should Council approve the project to proceed to Phase 2.

4.2. Project structure

The following project and governance structure is being established for the RMRH Phase 1 project:



Within this structure, the Project Steering Group will have project decision and approval rights within the Council approved scope and budget for the Phase 1 project, excluding those matters reserved for Living Together Committee approval, which are:

- Selection of the preferred Master Plan for wider public engagement
- Final approval of the RMRH Master Plan
- Final approval of the Funding Plan

9.1 Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub – Phase 1 update report(Cont.)

- STOP/GO decision regarding progression to Phase 2 (wider redevelopment)
- Approval of any budget escalations

Regular project updates will be provided to the Living Together Committee, with Council briefings scheduled to support decision making as required.

4.3. Project Steering Group establishment

The purpose of the Project Steering Group is to provide ongoing oversight, strategic direction and approvals to the project during Phase 1 project. The proposed membership is as follows:

Two members appointed by the Mayor	Councillor Gavin Dennis (Chair) Carolyn Hamill, Chair Whakatāne- Ōhope Community Board
One Ngāti Awa representative appointed by Te Runanga o Ngāti Awa	TBC
Two independent specialists appointed by Whakatāne District Council	Duncan Pearce (Spaces & Places Team Lead - Sport Bay of Plenty) Fred Terblanche (Project Director, Advisory Services - BECA)
Three senior leadership members appointed by the Whakatāne District Council Executive Team	Alexandra Pickles: General Manager Community Experience (Project Sponsor) Bevan Gray: General Manager Finance and Commercial Services Emlyn Hatch: General Manager People and Partnerships

The ***Draft Project Steering Group Terms of Reference*** are attached as **Appendix 1**. These will be reviewed and adopted by the Project Steering Group at their first meeting.

4.4. Workstream status update

Phase 1 Workstream	Approx Timing	Project status	Progress Update
Masterplan Development & Adoption	November 2024 – March 2026	In progress	<p>Following a procurement process, RSL consulting was engaged in October 2024 to progress the development of a masterplan. A Peer Review of the previous 'Preferred Master Plan' was completed by RSL consulting in December 2024. This review was undertaken to inform the development of alternative Master Plan options. The key deliverables of this Peer Review were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of Investment Objectives and Design Principles. • Key findings for each component of the previous 'Preferred Master Plan'. • A review of the previous 'Preferred Master Plan' costings. <p>A Masterplan design brief is now in development and will underpin the creation of alternative Masterplan options.</p>
Functional Upgrades	July 2024 – June 2028	In progress	<p>A project plan for this workstream will be developed and provided for Project Steering Group approval.</p> <p>Note that minor initial works under this workstream have been completed and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full roof replacement over the reception area, including the roof over the Little Theatre lighting control area • Asbestos removal from the stadium bathrooms and foyer • Replacement of damaged ceiling tiles in the reception area <p>There are also plans to install sports field lighting on the main field of Rugby Park later in the year. Trust Horizon have confirmed funding support (to the value of \$224,092) towards the installation of the lights. This funding is estimated to cover 90% of the total project cost.</p>
Funding Plan Development & Approval	March – September 2026	Not started	<p>Once a preferred Masterplan option with high-level costings is agreed, a Funding Plan will be developed to secure external co-funding for the wider RMRH development to inform LTP 2027-37 decision making. A STOP/GO decision on the preferred masterplan will be made by Council Q4 2026 - Q2 2027.</p>

9.1.1 Appendix 1 - DRAFT RMRH Project PSG Terms of Reference

5. Next steps - *Ahu whakamua*

Once the Project Steering Group is established the project team will develop and seek approval of a high-level work programme that will guide the Masterplan development process and the staging of the functional upgrades works. Progress against this plan will inform future updates to the Living Together Committee, alongside in-depth briefings on those key deliverables that the Committee is responsible for approving.

Key next steps for the project team include:

- Develop Functional Upgrades Plan: June – July 2025
- Develop Project Communications and Engagement Plan: June – July 2025
- Establish Project Steering Group: July 2025
- Update Living Together Committee on programme schedule, progress and next steps: 21 August 2025

5.1. Attachments:

- Appendix 1 - DRAFT RMRH Project PSG Terms of Reference

9.1.1 Appendix 1 - DRAFT RMRH Project PSG Terms of Reference

9.1.1 Appendix 1 - DRAFT RMRH Project PSG Terms of Reference(Cont.)



APPENDIX 1- Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Project Steering Group Terms of Reference

Background

The Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub (RMRH) is a vital community asset, encompassing a range of sports and recreational facilities and serving as the designated civil defence centre in Whakatāne for emergencies. While the RMRH experiences consistently high usage and is of significant value to the community, chronic underinvestment now threatens ongoing service levels and associated economic development opportunities. Investment in RMRH is now necessary to retain and enhance the facilities to meet existing and growing demand.

Through the Long Term Plan 2024, Council agreed to a two-phased approach to investment in RMRH:

Phase 1: Pre-major redevelopment (\$7.72m)

- Health & Safety and functional improvement works (Functional Upgrades)
- Develop and Finalise RMRH Concept Design
- Develop Funding plan to support Stop/Go decision point for commencing Phase 2.

Phase 2: Major redevelopment 2029 (tbc)

Phase 2 will not commence until the funding has been secured, estimated circa 2029.

Purpose

To provide a specialised forum to oversee and strategically direct Phase 1 of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub (RMRH) project.

Roles and Responsibilities of Steering Group Members

Steering Group members are responsible for providing strategic direction and making key approvals within the Council-approved scope and budget for Phase 1 of the RMRH project, ensuring its successful delivery. Specific responsibilities include:

- **Project Oversight:** Approve the Phase 1 Project Management Plan and oversee its delivery, ensuring:
 - Timely achievement of key milestones
 - Adherence to programme budgets and cost controls
 - Continued alignment with strategic goals
 - Effective identification and management of key risks and challenges across design, development, and implementation stages
- **Decision-Making and Recommendations:** Make recommendations on decisions reserved for Living Together Committee / Council approval, including:
 - Selection of the preferred Concept Design for engagement
 - Final approval of the RMRH Concept Design
 - Final approval of the Funding Plan
 - STOP/GO decision regarding progression to Phase 2 (wider redevelopment)
 - Approval of any budget escalations
- **Implementation Oversight:** Support and oversee the implementation of decisions made by the Committee or Council.

9.1.1 Appendix 1 - DRAFT RMRH Project PSG Terms of Reference(Cont.)

- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Receive regular project updates and reports from the Project Sponsor and Project Manager and monitor progress accordingly.
- **Deliverables Review:** Review, endorse, and provide constructive feedback on key project deliverables.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** Consider advice from Council staff, consultants, community input, stakeholders and key users when making recommendations or decisions for the project.
- **Project Advocacy:** Act as champions for the project, promoting effective and timely engagement with key partners, stakeholders, and users.

Project Structure

<i>Decisions on reserved matters</i>	Living Together Committee Final approval on key project deliverables, any budget escalations & decision to proceed to Phase 2
<i>Strategic direction & approvals</i>	Project Steering Group Guide and strategically direct the Phase 1 RMRH project within Council approved limits in alignment with Project Management Plan
<i>Manage and deliver</i>	Project Team Deliver Phase 1 RMRH project in alignment with Project Management Plan

Membership

Steering Group Members

Two members appointed by Whakatāne District Council	Councillor Gavin Dennis (Chair) Carolyn Hamill, Chair Whakatāne- Ōhope Community Board
One Ngāti Awa representative appointed by TRONA - TBC	TBC
Two independent specialists appointed by Whakatāne District Council	Duncan Pearce (Spaces & Places Team Lead - Sport Bay of Plenty) Fred Terblanche (Project Director, Advisory Services - BECA)
Three senior leadership members appointed by the Whakatāne District Council Executive Team	Alexandra Pickles: General Manager Community Experience (Project Sponsor) Bevan Gray: General Manager Finance and Commercial Services Emlyn Hatch: General Manager People and Partnerships

9.1.1 Appendix 1 - DRAFT RMRH Project PSG Terms of Reference(Cont.)

Supporting Roles

Whakatane District Council Management	Ian Molony: Manager Open Spaces Operations (Business Owner)
	Paul Check: Manager Properties and Facilities Assets (Business Owner)
Project Management & Support	Kevin Hogg: Project Manager
	Kristen Stasiewicz: Project Coordinator

Additional team members may attend PSG meetings to present relevant agenda items.

Delegations The Steering Group has no specific financial delegation but can make project decisions and approvals within the Council-approved RMRH Phase 1 scope and budget, except where decisions are reserved for the Living Together Committee/Council.

Duration and Review: This Steering Group will remain active throughout Phase 1 of the RMRH project and be reviewed should the project be approved by Council to progress to Phase 2 (wider RMRH redevelopment), or earlier should this be requested by Council or the Living Together Committee.

Principles

The Project Steering Group (PSG) will operate on the following principles:

- Seek to achieve consensus decision-making.
- Open, frank and respectful communication.
- Willingness to collaborate.
- Allocate the time necessary to read the papers provided, attend meetings and provide appropriate input.
- Clarity in decisions and direction provided.

Chairperson: Mayor Victor Luca has appointed Councillor Gavin Dennis as Chair of this Project Steering Group.

Quorum: The quorum for decision making is four members which must include the Project Sponsor, an Elected Member and an Independent Member.

Meeting Particulars

- Monthly meetings will be scheduled in calendars and cancelled if not required.
- Meeting frequency will be reviewed as required.
- While in-person attendance is preferred, online participation is permitted and should be communicated in advance to the Project Manager or Project Coordinator.
- To maintain project momentum, decisions may also be made via:
 - Ad-hoc meetings arranged as needed, or
 - Out-of-cycle email approvals.
- Meeting agendas and relevant papers will be distributed to PSG members at least three business days before each meeting.
- Formal minutes will be recorded and shared within four working days of the meeting.

9.1.1 Appendix 1 - DRAFT RMRH Project PSG Terms of Reference(Cont.)

- Action items will be documented, including assigned responsibilities and expected timeframes for completion.
- Approval of the previous meeting's minutes and review of outstanding actions will be a standing agenda item.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakareī, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakareī, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report



To: **Living Together Committee**

Date: **Thursday, 19 June 2025**

Author: **H Patrick / Kaihautū Strategic Māori Partnerships**

Authoriser: **S Perdia / Chief Executive**

Reference: **A2905263**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

The purpose of this report is to present an update on the progress of the Te Toi Waka Whakareī, Whakatāne District Council ('WDC') Māori Relationship Strategy ('MRS') mid-year report for 2025.

2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Te Toi Waka Whakareī, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy Year Three mid-year report be **received**.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

In July 2022, WDC adopted Te Toi Waka Whakareī, the Council's Māori Relationship Strategy. This strategy outlines Critical Success Factors (CSFs) and Objectives to guide WDC in improving its operations and achieving its Long-Term Plan (LTP) priority of strengthening relationships with iwi, hapū, and whānau. It also focuses on building the Council's capability, capacity, and confidence to engage with Te Ao Māori, while ensuring compliance with legislative and relationship obligations.

This report gives an overview of the focus of activities against the strategy for the previous six months and a snapshot of the areas of priority going forward. It is not an exhaustive list of all activities the organisation has carried out, which given the complexity and breadth of Council's business is significant.

3.1. MRS Themes/Critical Success Factors

The MRS framework outlines six Critical Success Factors (CSF) and Objectives to guide the Toi Kotuia Business Group under the direction of the Executive Leadership Team. These CSFs establish key themes and objectives, which align with organisational priorities and annual work plans. The six factors are:

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

The Success Factors support four primary objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1:	OBJECTIVE 2:	OBJECTIVE 3:	OBJECTIVE 4:
Improving the participation of Māori in democracy	Building meaningful and trusted relationships	Upholding our treaty-based agreements	Partnering on critical projects, programmes & services

These objectives direct improvements necessary for WDC to achieve best practices and advance its Long-Term Plan (LTP) priority of strengthening relationships with iwi, hapū, and whānau within the District and achieving success within Te Toi Waka Whakarei.

3.2. A Changing National Landscape

This reporting period has taken place against a backdrop of significant national policy change. Since late 2023, there have been several legislative and policy shifts with direct and disproportionate implications for Māori, and by extension, for how local government works with iwi, hapū and whānau. Key changes include:

- The repeal of the Three Waters reform legislation, which previously included strong provisions for mana whenua involvement in water governance.
- The proposed Treaty Principles Bill, which seeks to redefine how the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are interpreted in legislation.
- The removal of the Māori Health Authority (Te Aka Whai Ora), which was established to improve Māori health outcomes.
- A shift away from co-governance arrangements in areas such as freshwater, conservation, and resource management, which may impact how central and local government recognise Māori decision-making roles.
- Changes in support for te reo Māori and tikanga Māori across education and public institutions, raising questions about the long-term impact on Māori cultural development.
- The proposed Fast Track Approvals Act has potential to override environmental protections and weaken iwi and hapū input into decisions affecting their ancestral lands and waterways.

Looking forward to the next six months and beyond:

- **Māori Wards Referendum** - The reinstatement of binding local referenda on Māori wards risks undermining Māori representation in local government.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

- **RMA (Resource Management Act) Changes** - Proposed changes risk sidelining Māori environmental values and Te Tiriti obligations in land, water, and resource decisions.
- **Regulatory Standards Bill** – Policy makers' commentary suggests economic and individual property rights will be elevated over collective Māori rights, potentially constraining future legislation that upholds Te Tiriti and Māori interests.

These changes, while nationally driven, have local consequences. As national discourse on the impact of these policies on Māori deteriorates - fuelled by racial, cultural, ideological and political divisions - it will also play out in the Whakatane District. Local debate will be further compounded by pending local elections and the Māori wards referendum dictating the level of participation of Māori in local democratic institutions. For the Council, the need for strong, values-based relationships with tangata whenua is more critical than ever. Government policies come and go, but tangata whenua remain constant.

This report reflects not only our organisational activity and relationships, but also our ongoing responsibility to uphold Māori aspirations and deliver positive, measurable outcomes for our communities.

3.3. High-level summary of mid-year report

The Council's Māori Relationship Strategy (MRS), "Te Toi Waka Whakarei," has made significant progress in the first half of 2025, actively working to build strong and trusted relationships with iwi, hapū and whānau in the rohe, while also lifting the cultural capability of staff through "Te Kahupapa" Council's Cultural Competency Framework.

Key initiatives include facilitating the Iwi Chairs Forum and the Te Au o te Awa Punga (Iwi Policy Hub). The Toi Kōtuia team has also provided crucial support for the 2025 Local Elections and the Māori Wards Referendum, focusing on voter education, accessibility, and bilingual election materials to encourage greater Māori engagement in local governance.

In fostering meaningful relationships, Toi Kōtuia has streamlined communication and engagement to address contentious issues, as well as continuing iwi resourcing agreements to support Māori partners in council processes. An independent "Iwi Relationship Health Check" is underway to gather feedback for continuous improvement, and an "Iwi Engagement Wānanga" was held to embed best practice principles for engagement. The Council remains committed to upholding its Te Tiriti obligations and is actively discussing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements with iwi and hapū.

Furthermore, the Council has consistently partnered with Māori on critical projects and services, embracing co-design and co-governance practices across diverse areas such as infrastructure development, climate change assessments, and wastewater consent renewals. The "Reorua" bilingual initiatives are advancing the use of te reo Māori in public spaces and within the organization, supported by a dedicated Project Manager.

The "Te Kahupapa" Cultural Competency Framework – continues to strengthen WDC's cultural integrity through various programs, including the Kiingitanga presentation, regular Mihi Whakatau for new staff, Noho Marae experiences, and Te Puāwaitanga o Te Reo and Tikanga sessions, all contributing to a deeper organisational understanding and appreciation of Te Ao Māori.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

4. Discussion – Kōrerorero

4.1. Objective 1: Improving the Participation of Māori in democracy

"Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi"

(With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive)

4.1.1. Iwi Chairs Forum – Final Meeting of the Triennium

The Iwi Chairs Forum (ICF) met on 17 June 2025 at the Council offices for what was the final meeting of this local government term. The ICF continues to serve as a valuable platform for open, strategic, and meaningful dialogue between iwi leaders and Council representatives. Currently, the ICF holds four meetings each year. Two of these are attended solely by iwi chairs to allow for independent discussions, while the other two include the Mayor, Chief Executive, and selected elected members, creating opportunities for direct engagement and alignment between iwi and Council leadership.

With it being an election year, and the Iwi Chairs Forum currently operating within the formal committee structure, the forum will be dissolved at the end of the current triennium, alongside all other formal committees and forums within the current 2022-2025 committee structure. As a result, the tentative meeting scheduled for 2 December 2025 (hosted by WDC) will not proceed. Following the election, the newly elected Mayor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, will develop a proposed committee structure with assigned delegations for the incoming Council to consider and adopt. At that point, it will be determined whether the ICF will continue as part of the formal committee structure in its current form and delegations, or whether changes will be made.

Continuation of the regular meetings between iwi leaders, the Mayor, and the Chief Executive is essential for maintaining and deepening trust built over time. These engagements foster shared understanding, support early alignment on priorities, and demonstrate the Council's genuine commitment to honouring Treaty-based relationships.

4.1.2. Te Au o te Awa Punga (Iwi Policy Hub)

Te Au o te Awa Punga (TAOTAP), established under the Better Off funding agreements with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), is governed by the Chief Executives (or delegates) of Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare, Ngāti Rangitihi, and the Council's Chief Executive.

TAOTAP plays a key role in the engagement between Council and iwi on significant projects that impact tangata whenua. TAOTAP provide expert technical advice, support the writing of major documents and submissions, and provide feedback and guidance to Council on the engagement process.

This innovative policy hub strengthens the partnership between the Council and iwi, helping to alleviate capacity gaps in strategic areas.

Over the past six months, the hub's focus has been on:

- **Local Water Done Well** - Iwi engagement ensuring iwi perspectives and feedback are provided to WDC and supporting drafting of any official outputs by WDC.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakareiri, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

- **EBOP Spatial Plan** - Support the final drafting, including facilitating wrap-up comms to iwi and hapū on the programme and the plan and how to engage in next steps (implementation).
- **Local Growth Strategy** - Support engagement where appropriate, supporting the direct integration of iwi and hapū perspectives and opportunities for partnership and development support.



4.1.3. *District Plan Changes, Policy Drafting and Reviews*

Several policies requiring varying levels of iwi and hapū engagement have required Toi Kōtuia involvement over the past six months. The Toi Kōtuia team review requests, complete an iwi impact assessment and determine engagement options. Feedback and engagement plans are produced and provided to department lead, or the iwi relationship lead will implement alongside department lead.

The iwi engagement process, templates, and defined roles have streamlined interactions, ensuring iwi feedback is properly captured, considered, and securely stored.

Recent policy and plan changes involving Toi Kōtuia include:

- Freedom Camping Bylaw
- Open Spaces Strategy
- Road Naming Policy
- Climate Change Strategy
- Enforcement Policy
- Plan Change 4 – Building Level Platforms
- Waste and Litter Act
- Tsunami evacuation signage funding application support.

4.1.4. *Support 2025 Local Elections and Māori Wards Referendum*

The Kaihautū Strategic Māori Partnerships sits on the Governance Services 2025 Local Election Project Steering Group, providing guidance on:

- Strategy and tactics for voter education in Māori communities, including on Māori Wards Referendum, driving an increase in Māori voters.
- Greater access to voting booths, including partnering with iwi and rūnanga for placement of voting bins at locations
- Bilingual election materials, encouraging Māori participation in running and voting in the election

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)



4.2. Objective 2: Building meaningful and trusted relationships

“Kia kotahi te kaihoe i te waka, kia ū ki uta”

(Only by rowing our canoe in unison will we reach our destination)

4.2.1. Relationships in a changing landscape

Significant legislative changes continue to present challenges for WDC and test the strength of our relationships with iwi, hapū and whānau. In the past six months, we have responded to the realities of the Local Water Done Well policy programme, and the Fast Track Approvals Act. We have already started to see the impacts of the Māori Wards Referendum, RMA changes, and the Regulatory Standards Bill being consulted on and/or finalised.

Iwi and hapū partners continue to express concerns about the pace of change and the demands on their limited resources to respond in short timeframes. Toi Kōtuia and Council staff have been agile in providing critical support during these demanding times and remain committed to alleviating this pressure and fostering a sense of reassurance as we navigate these shifts together.

4.2.2. Relationship Lead roles

The Relationship Lead plays a critical interface role in maintaining and strengthening the relationship between iwi and hapū, and the Council. This position is responsible for managing effective engagement, ensuring clear and consistent communication. The Relationship Lead also works to address and progress contentious issues, facilitating resolution through collaboration and negotiation. Their focus is on fostering a positive, productive relationship, ensuring that both parties' needs and expectations are met while working towards shared goals and solutions.

Over the past six months, the role has been responsible for:

- Managing high-risk consents that may impact iwi–Council relationships
- Developing and implementing Cultural Monitoring and Koha Guidelines.
- Coordinating the Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa–WDC operations team briefing day
- Co-developing Iwi–Council joint work plans
- Supporting Reorua ki Murupara and Reorua ki Whakatāne initiatives
- Establishing iwi resourcing funding agreements
- Establishing Partnership Agreements, MOU and Mana Whakahono ā rohe
- Providing training programmes, E.G Project Management
- Engaging trusted consultants to lead iwi engagement and contribute to the Minginui and Murupara Masterplans.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

The positions streamline communication by triaging requests, reducing direct email traffic to iwi (and thus alleviating strained iwi resources), and supporting timely project delivery. It helps Council stay attuned to iwi priorities and maintain strong, trusted relationships.

4.2.3. *Iwi resourcing*

Te Rūnanga play a critical role as Treaty partners in decision-making processes that affect their people, lands, and resources. The Council have increasing obligations to engage with iwi and hapū across a wide range of policy, planning, and operational activities. However, the scale, complexity, and frequency of required engagement often strain iwi resources while balancing their own priorities and responsibilities.

Iwi resourcing agreements provide direct support to iwi so they can effectively participate in council processes, contribute culturally appropriate input, and lead their own initiatives. It acknowledges that iwi should not carry the cost of fulfilling the Council's legal and Treaty obligations. The agreement aims to build genuine partnerships through adequate resourcing, co-designed engagement, and a more equitable, sustainable model of collaboration.

In the past six months this has resulted in the following:

- Creation of refuse solutions for the Minginui community
- Appoint of a Liaison officer within Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa to coordinate with WDC, align shared work programmes, connect council staff with relevant TRoNM personnel, and oversee delivery of the agreed workplan.
- Resource support for board member participation in WDC activities where appropriate.
- A component of the CEO time and overhead provision to attend WDC initiated hui.
- Initiated a long-term capability plan to scale iwi resourcing in response to increasing Council engagement and consultation requests.
- Planning community information sessions for landowners in Matatā focused on understanding Māori land ownership frameworks, whenua succession, and planning tools for future-proofing
- Worked closely with Council to align timelines and key milestones for wastewater and climate workstreams.
- Developed internal tracking tools for Council requests to ensure timely responses and coordination.
- Identified overlaps between project scopes and streamlined engagement across departments.
- Supported the governance board by preparing analyses and draft responses to District Plan and policy changes.

4.2.4. *Iwi relationship health check survey*

As part of our strategy and Long-Term Plan (LTP) outcomes, we have engaged an independent consultant to undertake an Iwi Relationship Health Check. Carlo Ellis, former Manager of Strategic Māori Relations at Tauranga City Council, spoke a-kanohi (face-to-face) with iwi leaders in our rohe to obtain unbridled feedback on Toi Kōtuia and Council's engagement with iwi and hapū. Contributors retain anonymity, allowing for more honest commentary.

The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Evaluate the current state of our relationships.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

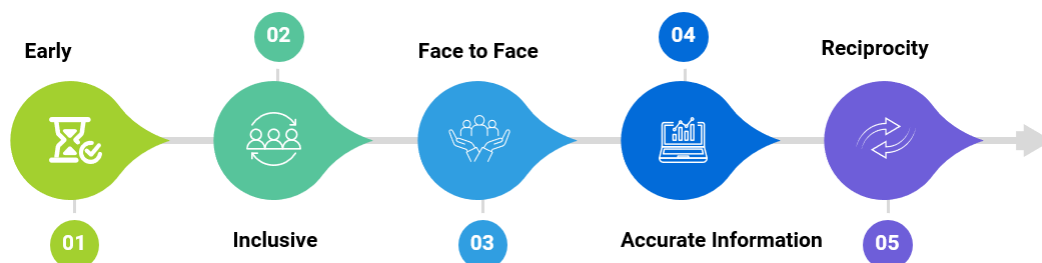
- Identify opportunities to strengthen our connections.
- Provide actionable recommendations that align with our strategic priority of strengthening relationships with iwi, hapū, and whānau, as well as our Māori Relationships Strategy – Te Toi Waka Whakarei.

Due for completion in July 2025, we look forward to receiving the feedback, responding to areas of improvement and sharing results in due course.

4.2.5. *Iwi engagement wānanga*

In April, the wider Māori engagement team at Council took part in a wānanga with Consultant Carlo Ellis on Best Practice Iwi Engagement. This wānanga allowed the team to reflect on past work programmes, what is working well, and how we can improve these practises in the future. Going forward, the team will utilise the following key principles of Māori engagement:

1. **Early** – engaging early as projects are being conceptualised allows for critical conversations, ensuring issues are resolved at the outset.
2. **Inclusive** – ensures partnership, co-design, and early buy-in from iwi, hapū and whānau.
3. **Kanohi-ki-Kanohi (Face-to-Face)** - strengthens relationships, allows for constructive dialogue and ensures the mana of all parties is upheld.
4. **Accurate information** – engaging early can mean not all information is available but we commit to providing accurate and transparent information that informs dialogue.
5. **Reciprocity** – a win-win for all. Ensuring priorities and outcomes are balanced and fair.



4.3. **Objective 3: Upholding our Treaty of Waitangi based agreements**

"Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua"

(I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past)

4.3.1. ***Upholding our Treaty of Waitangi based agreements***

While our three other objectives – building meaningful and trusted relationships, improving the participation of Māori in democracy, and partnering on critical projects, programmes and services - ensure the Council upholds its obligations under Te Tiriti, there are on-going specific Tiriti-based agreements.

To date, the legislative amendments that have been significant are:

- Local Government Act (Maori Wards) Act
- Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

- Fast Track Approvals Bill
- Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) (Customary Marine Title) Amendment Bill
- Local Water Done Well.

4.3.2. **Marine and Coastal Area Act (MACA)**

Navigating the complexities of legislative change has been a significant challenge for Council. This work intensified in 2024 in preparation for the Ngāti Awa MACA applications hearing.

4.3.3. **Key Challenges and Implications**

- **Crown Funding Halt:** As of May 2024, the Crown ceased additional funding for MACA claims beyond the annual \$12–13 million allocation. This decision has significantly delayed the resolution of MACA applications and places further strain on iwi and hapū.
- **Impact on WDC:** Local authorities must rely on operating budgets to fulfil their obligations, creating potential resourcing pressures. Planning and scheduling work programmes around hearings remain challenging amidst this uncertainty.

There has been no date set for the MACA applications hearing. Toi Kōtuia will continue monitoring developments closely, providing updates to elected members as needed, and ensuring that WDC can adapt to evolving circumstances.

4.3.4. **Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement**

While not a Te Tiriti agreement, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWAR) are an agreement between iwi or hapū and local government authorities that give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti, particularly the Crown's obligation to engage with Māori and protect their interests. They were designed to assist tangata whenua and local authorities to discuss, agree and record how they will work together under the RMA.

Over the past six months, Council has been discussing possible MWAR with one iwi and one hapū. Despite a time of legislative uncertainty due to a programme of reform, the intention is for parties to seek to establish ways in which iwi/hapū authorities meaningfully participate in resource management decision making with Council.

Toi Kōtuia plan to conduct a Council Briefing on Mana Whakahono ā Rohe soon.

4.4. **Objective 4: Partnering on critical projects, programmes and services**

Ko koe ki tēnā, ko ahau ki tēnei kīwai o te kete
(You at that and I at this handle of the basket)

Since implementing the MRS, the organisation has proactively explored new approaches to strengthen relationships with iwi and hapū. This includes embracing co-design, partnership, and co-governance practices, which reflect a commitment to meaningful collaboration. These initiatives underscore the strategy's success in fostering trust and ensuring relationships are maintained and respected.

Toi Kōtuia has leant in to support Council's subject matter experts across the organisation. Below are some of the projects over the past six months where WDC continues to prioritise proactive, relationship-driven initiatives:

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakareii, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

- **Gravel Extraction at bridges crossing Horomanga River, Mangamate Stream, and Waikokopu Stream** – A stalled two-year project progressed via a MOU in place and resource consent in progress.
- **Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)** - WDC CCRA team ran workshops with iwi and hapū to identify known and potential climate risks in their rohe, and communities across the district. This information will inform the Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
- **Local Growth Strategy** - Engaging with iwi to collaborate on a Local Growth Strategy (LGS) that supports growth and change, resilience, and wellbeing over the next 30+ years.
 - **2025 Local Elections** - Partnering with iwi to host 2025 Elections voting bins to uplift voter participation and accessibility.
 - **Infrastructure Projects with Ngāi Tūhoe** - Progressing roading and housing developments.
 - **Matatā Wastewater and Tarawera River Restoration** - Collaboration across three iwi.
 - **Reorua Murupara and Papakāinga Developments with Ngāti Manawa** - Bridging tradition and innovation.
 - **Minginui and Murupara Masterplan** - Laying foundations for sustained growth.
 - **Wastewater Consent renewal work:** Co-design with iwi/hapū. These partnerships reflect the value of Council's investment in capacity, enabling a focus on strategic collaboration over reactive problem-solving.

4.4.1. *Reorua (Bilingual)*

Reorua is a national movement that supports towns and cities across New Zealand to become bilingual centres. Iwi partners work with Council to develop a bilingual strategy for their centre to create more spaces, places, and opportunities where te reo Māori is seen, heard, and celebrated alongside the English language.

A six-month fixed term Reorua Project Manager was appointed in March 2025, providing a dedicated resource and focus to progress Reorua in Whakatāne and Murupara townships.

Reorua ki Whakatāne

Supported the Council Tourism team on the Te Tuhi Matarau (Cultural Signage project). This included securing formal endorsement from Ngāti Awa kaumātua, developing a funding proposal for current and future cultural signage projects, and the translation of 16 public signs in Whakatāne, ensuring accurate te reo Māori content in collaboration with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa.

Reorua ki Murupara

The Reorua Project Manager completed a stocktake of Murupara signage and identified gaps in bilingual or te reo Māori content and provided accurate and culturally appropriate translations to support the district's Reorua goals. The Project Manager is also designing a cultural induction programme for WDC staff on local iwi, starting with a Ngāti Manawa-focused pilot rollout planned for late July.

4.4.2. *Te Kahupapa (WDC Cultural Competency Framework)*

Toi Kōtuia continues to lead the strengthening of WDC's capacity and confidence to engage with te ao Māori, build the cultural integrity of the organisation, and increase the effectiveness of the organisation's engagement with iwi, hapū, and our wider Māori communities.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

An existing role has been reshaped within Toi Kōtuia to give greater prominence and support the growth of Te Kahupapa, our organisational cultural capability framework. The re-scoping of the team support function to a Team Support and Cultural Capability Lead has enhanced the team's effectiveness in ensuring tikanga Māori, te reo Māori, and mātauranga Māori are authentically embedded throughout the organisation.

In October 2024, an organisational survey - Te Ara ki Tua – was conducted to assess the needs of the organisation and ensure the Te Kahupapa framework is fit for purpose. The results revealed a strong cultural shift within the organisation, demonstrating a commitment and appetite to integrate Te Ao Māori and a deep appreciation for Te Reo Māori and its relevance to staff work.

In response to the results, the team has increased opportunities for further growth and learning in Te Ao Māori, Te Reo Māori, and an understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This focus on development provides a pathway for continuous learning, fostering more meaningful relationships and a deeper connection with Te Ao Māori. Integrating tikanga and cultural practises into our Onboarding Processes is another method of implementation of Te Kahupapa that is being developed. This will ensure that these practises are an integral part of work life for every new starter at WDC from the beginning of their journey with us.

There is recognition that there is no 'one size fits all' approach for this type of training and they are working with People Leaders on best methods of delivery.

The updated training programme will be focused, effective, and accessible, supporting the professional development of both Elected Members and staff.

TE KAHUPAPA CULTURAL CAPABILITY PROGRAMME	Māori Identity: We aim to recognise, reflect, and promote Māori culture and identity within the environment, and to value mātauranga Māori.												Status
	Objective 4: Partnering on critical projects, programmes & services												
	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	
Te Puawaitanga o te Reo - Level 1 & 2													BAU ongoing
Tikanga Training													BAU ongoing
Kiingitanga Training													One off
Noho - Marae													BAU ongoing
Treaty Principals Councillors Workshop													One off
Te Tiriti Training													In progress
Matariki													BAU ongoing
Te Wiki o te reo Māori													BAU ongoing
Waitangi Day													BAU ongoing
Team Support & Cultural Capability Lead													BAU ongoing

4.4.3. Kiingitanga Presentation for staff

In April, we were extremely lucky to have Rahui Papa come and present to us about the Kiingitanga. Rahui (Tainui, Ngaati Korokii-Kahukura) was one of the closest advisors to the late Kiingi Tuheitia and is the spokesperson for the Kiingitanga. He plays an integral role in the Iwi Leaders' Forum, providing advice to Ministers and Crown officials on matters of national significance. This event was well attended by WDC staff and Elected Members.

Rahui was an outstanding speaker who captivated the audience with his kōrero and ability to recall significant events and dates in the history of Aotearoa. Rahui and the various Kiingitanga members then visited Te Whare Taonga o Taketake to view some of the taonga of Rua Kenana. The presentation is available on request.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)**4.4.4. Mihi Whakatau**

Mihi whakatau (Welcome) for new staff have become regular practise at Whakatāne District Council. Over the past months, we have consulted Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and our Māori staff to establish a set of tikanga for the Council as we had not previously had agreed tikanga, leading to confusion and debate. From this “Council tikanga” we have established Mihi Whakatau guidelines that will ensure our new starters are warmly welcomed into our WDC whānau. The intention is to hold these bi-monthly for all new staff who start in that period to make it a realistic and achievable practise for the organisation.

The latest mihi whakatau was held in May. This was well attended by the Executive Leadership team, teams of the new staff, and the wider organisation. A highlight was one of our ‘new starters’, Wikus Esterhuizen doing a whaikōrero/speech in te reo Māori after recently attending our organisation’s Noho Marae at Ruaihona, Te Teko.

4.4.5. Noho Marae – Ruaihona, Te Teko

A group of approximately 30 staff attended the first organisational Noho Marae for 2025 in May and were lucky enough to stay at Ruaihona Marae in Te Teko.

These noho marae are a great opportunity for our staff to increase their awareness and understanding of te ao Māori me ōna tikanga/the Māori world view and practises, become more comfortable and knowledgeable about and in these spaces and places, and build a deeper connection to their own self-awareness and our wider hapori/communities.



9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

4.4.6. *Te Puāwaitanga o Te Reo Tikanga Sessions*

Te Puāwaitanga o Te Reo Tikanga sessions for 2025 started in May, under the facilitation of Moerangi Black and Matetu Herewini.

These sessions are all about tikanga practice and interaction, with four focused sessions leading to a half-day marae visit on the Friday of week 4 to round the sessions off. It's a chance for staff to ask why tikanga/practices are carried out the way they are, and apply their learnings in a practical, safe setting.

The short-block format has continued from feedback received in the Te Ara ki Tua evaluation survey of Te Kahupapa, where staff highlighted the value of practical skills they can apply in settings they may find themselves in through their work with WDC.

Another block of Tikanga sessions will be held in October.



4.4.7. *Matariki 2025*

With Matariki this month, we have a programme of events for staff to celebrate the Māori new year during the week of 16-20 June. Guided by the Principles of Matariki—reflection, celebration, and preparation—the council will once again offer initiatives that encourage togetherness, wellbeing, and introspection for staff.

The programme includes guest speaker Ranginui Rikirangi-Thomas to talk with staff about Matariki, a tribute video for loved ones who have passed, the offering of Romiromi and Reiki through the provision of a koha, a remembrance and aspirations wall for the year ahead, as well as promoting local events being held in our rohe.

Through this programme of events, the council strengthens cultural ties, deepens staff knowledge, and honours this significant event in te ao Māori that is now a national holiday.

4.5. **A look ahead at the next six months**

Toi Kōtuia has a busy schedule of programmes to deliver to staff in the next six months. These include:

- Treaty Training
- Mana Whakahono ā-rohe Workshops

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

- Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori
- Te Puāwaitanga o Te Reo Tikanga Sessions
- Noho Marae
- Targeted one day workshops for teams
- Bi-monthly Mihi Whakatau

5. Significance and Engagement Assessment - Aromatawai Pāhekoheko

5.1. Assessment of Significance

The recommendations of this report are assessed to be of low significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed to be of low significance, in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

5.2. Engagement and Community Views

Engagement on this matter is not being undertaken as this report is a half-year update on work completed by Toi Kōtuia.

6. Considerations - *Whai Whakaaro*

6.1. Strategic Alignment

This strategy is consistent with Council's LTP priority and strategic direction to strengthen whānau, hapū and Iwi partnerships, and deliver on WDC legislative obligations.

There have been no inconsistencies with any of the Council's policies or plans which have been identified in relation to this report.

6.2. Financial/Budget Considerations

Funding secured through the Long-Term Plan has provided essential resources, enabling the team to continue and enhance efforts to achieve the goals and objectives of Te Toi Waka Whakarei.

6.3. Climate Change Assessment

The matters of this specific report are procedural and there are no significant climate change impacts.

6.4. Risks

There are no significant or notable risks associated with the matters of this report.

9.2 Te Toi Waka Whakarei, WDC Māori Relationship Strategy – Year 3 mid-year report(Cont.)

7. Next Steps – E whai ake nei

The significant legislative changes impacting Māori has transformed Council's operating landscape. In addition to our BAU, Toi Kōtuia's main priority for the next six months is to review our Te Toi Waka Whakarei strategy and workplan in consultation with iwi leaders. Our broad assumption is that the strategic outcomes will need to be lifted and ensure our objectives and tactics are suitable for the current and foreseeable climate.

Furthermore, we will also focus on (non-exhaustive list):

- Reviewing Toi Kōtuia's internal processes for supporting Council's engagement with iwi, hapū and whānau on projects and policy changes.
- He Kahupapa (WDC Cultural Competency Framework) 2025 refresh and rollout to the organisation.
- Ensuring Council's iwi resourcing is deployed to maximise outputs.
- Workshops for Councillors and staff on impact of legislative changes on Māori.
- A more concerted effort to include hapū in engagement in addition to iwi.
- Progressing forward and ensuring compliance with LTP Measures.
- Support the Whakatāne District elections and Māori Wards referendum.
- Continued strategic advice across WDC and relationship support to iwi, hapū and whānau.

Attached to this Report:

There are no appendices attached to this report.

10 Resolution to Exclude the Public - *Whakataunga kia awere te marea*

10 Resolution to Exclude the Public - *Whakataunga kia awere te marea*

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Living Together Committee **agree** to exclude the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

The PX Minutes - Living Together Committee 6 March 2025.

This resolution is made in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be).

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for excluding the public	Plain English reason for passing this resolution
PX Minutes - Living Together Committee 6 March 2025.	(s 7(2)(i)) To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7	The minutes include sensitive information such as business strategies and discussions relating to other organisations. Having this information available publicly would unfairly impact Council's ability to carry out negotiations it needs to complete.

1 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

1 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

1.1 Public Excluded Minutes Living Together Committee 6 March 2025