



# Rangitāiki Community Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028

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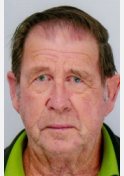




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## Introduction – *Kupu whakataki*

Community boards were created by the local government reforms in 1989 and are designed to bring government closer to communities. As of 2022, there are 110 community boards that operate in both urban and rural areas within local authorities throughout New Zealand. Board Members are elected every three years along with all other elected members. Through being successfully elected, community board members have been given the trust of local citizens to make decisions on their behalf and exercise community leadership.

The responsibilities and powers of the Rangitāiki Community Board are delegated by the Whakatāne District Council. Our Community Board makes local government more accessible; we advocate and champion for the Rangitāiki ward and keep ‘the local’ in local. We help the Council deal with diversity in our communities and we help raise ratepayer awareness of services, issues and events.

As detailed in [Clause 52](#) of the Local Government Act 2002, the role of a community board is to:

- a. Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of the community.
- b. Consider and report on all matters referred to it by Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the community.
- c. Maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community.
- d. Prepare an annual submission to the Council for expenditure within the community.
- e. Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- f. Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Council.

## Our ward – *Tō mātou rohe*

Our ward includes the communities of Awakaponga, Awakeri, Edgumbe, Manawahe, Matatā, Onepū/Braemar, Ōtākiri, Paroa, Pikowai, Poroporo, Te Mahoe, Te Teko and Thornton.

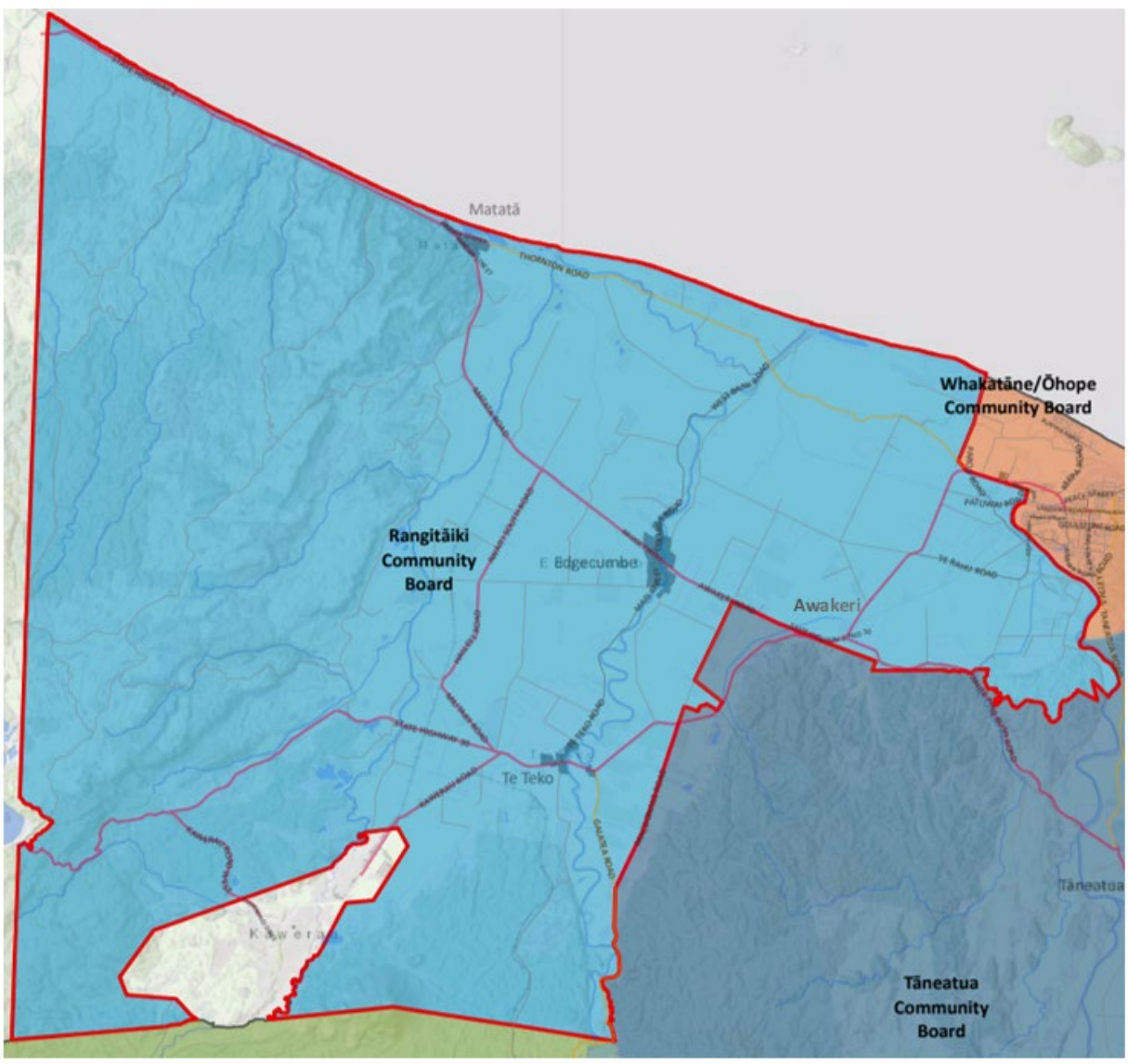
The Rangitāiki ward is not a single community of interest. Geographically, communities are diverse in terms of farming practice, lifestyle, access, culture, employment, education, opportunities, and other issues such as levels of crime. One part of the community could have significant differences and desires from another.

The Board meets at the Edgumbe Library (unless publicised differently) at 5:30 pm on a Wednesday evening, typically every eight weeks.

A map showing the ward boundaries and the different areas within the ward follows.



# Map of boundaries – *Mahere rohe*





## Our vision – *Tō mātou tirohanga*

*"Nā tō tātou whakawhiti i te rā, ka whakatutuki tātou i ngā moemoeā."*  
*"Together, we weave the future we dream of."*

## Our history – *Tō mātou hītori*

**DISCLAIMER: The following information represents the Board's interpretation of the history of the Rangitāiki. It is not definitive and reflects the Board's views only.**

The cultural history of Rangitāiki is deeply connected to Ngāti Awa, the tangata whenua (people of the land) of this region. Ngāti Awa's roots here go back centuries. The name "Rangitāiki" itself holds meaning reflecting Ngāti Awa's skills in celestial navigation, guiding their ancestors across the Pacific Ocean. Communities thrived on the fertile lands and abundant waters. Today, Ngāti Awa's traditions, stories, and spiritual ties to the land honour their role as enduring kaitiaki (guardians) of this cherished landscape.

## Our direction – *Tō mātou ahunga*

*By Rangitāiki, For Rangitāiki, One Voice, One community, rowing our canoe in strength in unison to achieve all things in the present and the future.*

*Nā Rangitāiki, mō Rangitāiki, he reo kotahi, he hāpori kotahi, e hoe tahi ana tō tātou waka kia tutuki ai ngā whāinga inamata me ngā whāinga.*

Our Strategic Plan helps set our direction to:

- Create a vision for the Rangitāiki community.
- Set our Pou (Focus Areas) and our Objectives that will drive the Board's projects.
- Provide the basis for the Board's submissions.
- Acknowledge, uphold and implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori.

The Strategic Plan is a living document which is monitored and reviewed regularly.

# Pou – Focus Area 1

## SOCIAL NEEDS & WELLBEING: TANGATA ORA – Vibrant Communities of Rangitāiki

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	OUR SUPPORT
<p><b>Connecting with our communities</b></p> <p><i>Ensure we reach all sectors of our communities to keep well informed and connected</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new opportunities or events to meet with our communities</li> <li>• Connect more with our isolated communities</li> <li>• Ensure board representation and attendance at community group meetings across our ward</li> <li>• Improve communication links between Council and our communities through our networks, including updates on the RCB Facebook page.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Council updates and activities that improve customer service and delivery across our communities, e.g. request for service (RFS) process etc</li> <li>• Promote initiatives that keep our communities safe, such as community readiness and resilience plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supporting our communities' goals and aspirations</b></p> <p><i>i.e. Community plans, projects, activities, and events</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate discretionary funds to support local community projects, events, and activities.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to partner with and provide backing for locally driven events, and community plan projects.</li> <li>• Create legacy projects and a framework for future and ongoing delivery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with local communities to assist and promote the development of their own community-led plans.</li> <li>• Commit to being visible at local community events and activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Representing and advocating on behalf of our communities:</b></p> <p><i>Through our relationships built with all our communities we have knowledge and understanding of our communities' needs, so we can advocate and represent them well.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for our communities by making submissions to council Long-Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan (AP) processes and speaking to these.</li> <li>• Ensure RCB is represented at and participates in Combined Community Board meetings.</li> <li>• Ensure RCB is represented at and participates in at local community group meetings across our ward, e.g. Residents Associations, Community Collective groups, CERT etc</li> <li>• Actively provide assistance during national civil defence events within our jurisdiction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorse existing community-led plans and provide support for emerging and new community plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supporting and empowering our youth of Rangitāiki</b></p> <p><i>Through opportunities we help support and grow our youth leadership</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate funding towards initiatives that encourage more education and training experiences for our local youth.</li> <li>• Connect more with our local school communities.</li> <li>• Identify and invite local youth to attend our RCB meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and support mentoring and leadership initiatives for our local youth, e.g. Youth Council.</li> </ul>

## Pou – Focus Area 2

*ECONOMIC NEEDS & WELL BEING: PAKIHI ORA –  
Thriving, well supported local businesses*

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	OUR SUPPORT
<p><b>Economic Growth of our Rural Community</b></p> <p><i>Promoting and advocating on behalf of our local businesses</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the dissemination of insights from WDC, EPIC, EB Chamber of Commerce, Farmers Association, Tourism, and Innovation Industry to bolster our community's enterprises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and partner with locally driven initiatives, such as the "Buy Local" campaigns.</li> </ul>

## Pou – Focus Area 3

*ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS & WELL BEING: WHENUA ORA -  
Potential of Land and Water within our Rangitāiki Ward*

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	OUR SUPPORT
<p><b>Environmental Sustainability</b></p> <p><i>Support opportunities that take care of our significant environmental, cultural and natural resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endorse community-driven initiatives that focus on caring for our environment, such as restorative planting and enhancements etc.</li> <li>Make submissions to council LTP processes on behalf of the Rangitāiki community in support initiatives that support our environment, including major infrastructure projects such as wastewater reticulation upgrades.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in Rangitāiki ward-specific environmental awareness gatherings.</li> <li>Support initiatives that enhance the recognition of the Rangitāiki's important environmental and cultural landmarks and resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infrastructure Projects</b></p> <p><i>Support and advocate for improvements for community infrastructure and facilities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively engage and represent our community during council LTP and AP submission processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our focus will be on safeguarding and enhancing our community's natural resources, valuable assets, and facilities.</li> </ul>

# Pou – Focus Area 4

*CULTURAL NEEDS & WELL BEING: AHUERA ORA -*

*Uniting through opportunities that provide understanding, sharing and learning*

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	OUR SUPPORT
<p><b>Growing our Cultural Identity</b></p> <p><i>Through support and active participation in opportunities that celebrate our culturally diverse communities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate on behalf of our community’s cultural goals and aspirations, including attending events and activities that celebrate our multi-cultural and diverse communities.</li> <li>• Make submissions to council LTP processes on behalf of our Rangitāiki communities for support of cultural initiatives that have been identified by our communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Reo Rua Funding opportunities that promote the implementation of bilingual signage.</li> </ul>

## Development – *Whakapiki pūkenga*

Development of the Community Board Elected Members relates across all focus areas.

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS
<p><b>Support Development of Board Members</b></p> <p><i>Support our Board Members to undertake appropriate upskilling and training</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate collective participation of Board Members in social gatherings/events to foster team cohesion and relationship development.</li> <li>• Ensure active presence of Board Members at Zone 2 meetings and LGNZ conferences.</li> <li>• Explore options for enhancing the skill sets of interested board members to bolster their effectiveness in fulfilling their roles.</li> </ul>