

AGENDA/KAUPAPA



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria, Colin Alder, Alexandra Boros, Larry Foster, Samuel Gibson, Debbie Gregory, Anne Huriwai, Jeremy Muir, Rawinia Parata, Rob Telfer, Daniel Thompson, Rhonda Tibble and Nick Tupara

COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA

DATE: Thursday 25 June 2026

TIME: 10:00AM

AT: Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

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Council

Chairperson:	Mayor Rehette Stoltz
Deputy Chairperson:	Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria
Membership:	Mayor and all Councillors
Quorum:	Half of the members when the number is even and a majority when the number is uneven
Meeting Frequency:	Six weekly (or as required)

Terms of Reference:

The Council's terms of reference include the following powers which have not been delegated to committees, subcommittees, officers or any other subordinate decision-making body, and any other powers that are not legally able to be delegated:

1. The power to make a rate.
2. The power to make a bylaw.
3. The power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the Long Term Plan.
4. The power to adopt a Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, or Annual Report.
5. The power to appoint a Chief Executive.
6. The power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government Act 2002 in association with the Long Term Plan or developed for the purpose of the Local Governance Statement.
7. The power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.
8. The power to approve or amend the Council's Standing Orders.
9. The power to approve or amend the Code of Conduct for elected members.
10. The power to appoint and discharge members of Committees.
11. The power to establish a joint committee with another local authority or other public body.
12. The power to make the final decision on a recommendation from the Ombudsman where it is proposed that Council not accept the recommendation.

13. The power to make any resolutions that must be made by a local authority under the Local Electoral Act 2001, including the appointment of an electoral officer.
14. Consider any matters referred to it from any of the Committees.
15. Authorise all expenditure not delegated to staff or other Committees.

Council's terms of reference also includes oversight of the organisation's compliance with health and safety obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Note: For 1-7 see clause 32(1) Schedule 7 Local Government Act 2002 and for 8-13 see clauses 15, 27, 30 Schedule 7 of Local Government Act 2002

3.1. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 7 May 2026

MINUTES

Draft & Unconfirmed



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria, Colin Alder, Alexandra Boros, Larry Foster, Samuel Gibson, Debbie Gregory, Anne Huriwai, Jeremy Muir, Rawinia Parata, Rob Telfer, Daniel Thompson, Rhonda Tibble and Nick Tupara

MINUTES of the GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Thursday 7 May 2026 at 10:00AM.

PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Colin Alder, Alexandra Boros, Larry Foster, Samuel Gibson, Debbie Gregory, Anne Huriwai, Jeremy Muir, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Rob Telfer, Daniel Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines Tim Barry, Director Internal Partnerships & Protection James Baty, Director Liveable Communities Michele Frey, Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships Anita Reedy-Holthausen, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Director Sustainable Futures Jocelyne Allen, Senior Governance Advisor Teremoana Kingi and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

Secretarial Note: Cr Huriwai attended the meeting via audio visual link.

The meeting commenced with a prayer/karakia.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cr Alder declared a pecuniary interest in Report 26-65 Flood Resilience Programme - Project Prioritisation in relation to the Te Arai River catchment and will refrain from voting.

Cr Parata declared an interest in Report-110 Memorandum of Understanding between Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning Ltd and Gisborne District Council and will not participate in the decision-making process, including voting.

3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 12 March 2026

MOVED by Cr Telfer, seconded by Cr Muir

That the Minutes of 12 March 2026 be accepted.

CARRIED

3.2 Governance Work Plan

Noted.

4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

5. Acknowledgements and Tributes

Her Worship the Mayor, on behalf of the Gisborne District Council, offered condolences to the family of our Harbourmaster Peter Buell who retired from Council early 2026 and moved to his hometown in Canada. Peter unexpectedly passed away last week, and we send our aroha and support to his wife and whanau in Canada.

Her Workshop the Mayor congratulated our Tamararo champions, and in particular Cr Ria, on qualifying for Te Matatini. There were four teams from Tairāwhiti who successfully progressed.

Cr Sam Gibson acknowledged the passing of Michael Savage from the Waimata community. Michael was a pillar of the community, and our condolences go to the Savage and the Watson whanau. Michael was a legendary multi-generational farmer, a pillar behind the Waimata School and contributed heavily to our community during the cyclones.

Cr Ria acknowledged Tamararo 2026 especially the volunteer groups whose dedication made the competition possible. Cr Ria also acknowledged the families of all the performers, noting the significant sacrifices made during the six months leading up to the Kapa Haka performance. Tairāwhiti will be represented by four teams at Te Matatini, and Cr Ria thanked the remaining twelve teams whose participation made the competition possible. A big thank you to the organisers and judges who have a very difficult time judging at the competition.

6. Public Input and Petitions

6.1 Te Aturangi Nepia Clamp - Chair Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust

Te Aturangi Nepia Clamp - Chair Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust and Kaumatua from Ngai Tawhiti Sam Pardoe attended and presented on the Gisborne District Council Transfer Station.

Points raised by Kaumatua Sam Pardoe:

- In 2010 our Waitangi Treaty Claims were signed on behalf of Rongowhakaata. An important part of this was the relationship with Gisborne District Council.
- The history of waste management collaboration between the Borough Council, Gisborne District Council and iwi has been challenging, and the partnership has often lacked effectiveness.

- The Waikanae Stream awa is still polluted today and the Paokahu site is another blight on our whenua. There was a time when the stream was a source of food.
- While the intent behind the new Transfer Station is acknowledged, Rongowhakaata must express that enough is enough—there has been a clear absence of partnership in the decision to locate the facility opposite our kaumatua flats.

Te Aturangi Nepia Clamp then presented on the Gisborne District Council Transfer Station.

Questions of clarification included:

- As Chairman of Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust there have been no direct discussions with the Trust, however, engagement did occur with the Marae where concerns were raised, and the discussions were not positive.
- While alternative sites may be near waterways, Rongowhakaata are willing to work with Council to identify a suitable location.
- If the proposed site is located on land belonging to another iwi, Rongowhakaata will step back. However, where the site is on Rongowhakaata land, they remain open to partnering with Council to determine the most appropriate solution.

6.2 Rob MacKenzie - Puariki Bridge

Rob MacKenzie attended and raised the following points.

- Acknowledge the support from all neighbours including the Tokomaru Bay Community.
- Outlined the history in relation to the Cyclones and the impact on their property following the failure of the bridge.
- Cannot sell or borrow money on our property and all expenditure on hold.
- Have lived on the property for 48 years but are now socially isolated, as it has become difficult to get out and engage with others.
- Invested in a tractor and loader to navigate the river to give us safety when crossing.
- The original flying fox was destroyed but reinstated.
- We request Council's support to work together in an open and collegial manner to identify and deliver a bridge solution that is both fundable and fit-for-purpose.

Questions of clarification included:

- Written records are available for meetings held on 30 March and 30 July to discuss the Puariki Bridge.

Philip Hope attended and raised concerns around Puariki Bridge and Pourau Road Maintenance.

Points raised:

- Puariki Bridge has stood for 87 years and is fundamental to farming operations. We work in partnership with the McNeills and there are four families that live above the Puariki Bridge and at Pourau Station.
- Lack of access is making farming impossible and impacts our welfare and lifestyle.
- Confidence a fit for purpose bridge could be built that meets the New Zealand Transport Agency Cost Benefit Analysis.
- Reiterated they were advised the bridge would be replaced or a bailey bridge built.
- Puariki Bridge is our only access and egress.
- Livestock cannot be trucked in or out.
- The bypass road was built on humanitarian grounds and to provide economic connectivity for primary industry.
- Requesting Council to work with them to replace a bridge that has served the community for 87 years. Also requesting a site visit to work out a responsible maintenance programme for the bypass road.

Questions of clarification included:

- The Business Case was considered tight but acceptable if delivered within budget, though it lacked cultural and social considerations and did not include consultation on economic drivers. Partnering with the McNeills has provided greater scale, strengthening livestock welfare, farming practices, resourcing, employment, and investment in erosion control.

6.3 John Wells - State Highway 2 Alternative

John Wells attended and presented on State Highway 2 Alternative - Tutira to TePohue Link - The Big Picture.

Questions of clarification included:

- There are a several farms forestry blocks located along the Link Road.
- Rough order costing is based on other rural arterial roads around the north island. Following investigation, a single span bridge would cost approximately \$17m.
- No consultation or partnering with our neighbouring Councils has been carried out.

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 11.15am for morning tea and reconvened at 11.30am.

7. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

8. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

9. Adjourned Business

There was no adjourned business.

10. Committee Recommendations to Council

10.1 26-86 Committee Recommendations to Council - 4 March 2026

MOVED by Cr Parata, seconded by Cr Boros

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Adopts the recommendation from the Audit & Risk Committee:
 - a. Approves the Draft Audit Plan 2025/26.

CARRIED

11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

11.1 26-65 Flood Resilience Programme - Project Prioritisation

Cr Alder declared a pecuniary interest in this Report and will refrain from voting.

Director Lifelines Tim Barry and Senior Project Engineer-Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme Joss Ruifrok attended. The Chief Executive noted that the Puariki Bridge was not included in the reallocation of the Black Bridge funding.

Points of clarification included:

- The Waipaoa Flood Control Scheme was included in the 2015 Long Term Plan, with construction commencing in 2019 and so would require inflationary adjustments to allow direct comparison with the Te Karaka estimates. The original Te Karaka scope did not include state highway road raising. Road raising has since been incorporated into the upgrades, along with property compensation costs. A P95 confidence estimate was applied, reflecting the likelihood of the project being completed within the approved budget. The base-line for the project is \$20m which provides a more appropriate comparison. It was also noted that the pricing predates the current fuel cost increases.
- Capital projects considered through the Te Arai preferred options process included stopbanks which were modelled. Stopbanking the Te Arai River to prevent flooding into the Opou Basin, combined with a spill event, would increase risk downstream by pushing water towards Manutuke township, making it a higher risk option than the current situation. At present, the Te Arai River overtops naturally, flowing over the northern bank into the Opou Basin. A constructed spillway was also considered but ultimately discounted due to uncertainties around riverbed levels. The existing natural overtopping pathway is therefore regarded as the most viable and safest approach for managing flooding.

- Promotion of willow removal will be undertaken through existing Long Term Plan funding as part of business-as-usual activities to manage and mitigate risk. However, willows along the Waipaoa River currently provide effective natural soft erosion protection along bends and banks and are an effective mitigation in the wide floodplain. Large-scale removals upstream of Te Karaka could increase water velocities and potentially exacerbate downstream flooding, including raising flood levels downstream in the Te Karaka area. Vegetation within the floodplain also plays an important role in trapping debris, acting as a natural filter and helping to break up material carried during flood events.
- The \$450k invested in the Te Arai Project has funded optioneering, hydraulic modelling, catchment assessments and the exploration and costing of a range of flood mitigation options. The business-as-usual operations and maintenance approach is not funded through the Crown allocation.
- A total of \$22m has been allocated for the East Coast Projects. Preferred options will be incorporated into a prioritisation plan by the end of May 2026, with the expectation that all can be delivered within the budget. To date, no physical construction work has been undertaken.
- If a surplus arises from the Te Karaka Project, there is an opportunity to reallocate those funds to the East Coast Projects.

The Chief Executive noted that the interventions identified through the Te Arai optioneering process are not capital works, and as a result, were not eligible for Crown funding.

The Chief Executive also noted that all proposed options require Crown approval. National Infrastructure Funding and Financing (NIFF) has clearly indicated a preference to avoid repeated ministerial approvals as doing so could place a risk on the funding. There is a possibility that the Minister may reallocate funding at their discretion if the Council does not deliver in accordance with the agreed project timelines and schedules. Ongoing discussions with the NIFF Team have considered the potential for projects to come in under budget; however, this would require certainty that other projects are sufficiently advanced and ready to proceed.

- There is no long-term sustainable solution for the Makarika community, with river levels rising by approximately 200mm per year. A potential short-term option is the construction of a ringbank—a low stopbank surrounding the community—however, this would only provide limited, temporary benefit. The decision on whether to fund this short-term, unsustainable solution sits with the Crown. An Adaptive Management Team will work with the community to support planning and future outcomes. Funding has been allocated for the preferred short-term option; final Crown approval is still required.
- The Pauriki Bridge budget is maintained as a separate allocation.

MOVED by Cr Ria, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Endorses the budget reallocation of up to \$6.4 million from East Coast and Te Arai within the \$71.1 million Flood Resilience Programme to enable delivery of the Te Karaka Stopbank Upgrade Project.

CARRIED

11.2 26-82 Adoption of Amended Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw

Director Sustainable Futures Jocelyne Allen attended.

Questions of clarification included:

- The approval process for headstones and monuments is undertaken in accordance with the Bylaw, with each application assessed against the currently adopted Bylaw at the time of submission.
- The clause introducing imagery restrictions was workshopped, where clarification was needed on what constituted offensive content.

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Telfer

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Confirms that a bylaw is still considered the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problems related to cemeteries and crematoria in the district.
2. Confirms that the amended Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2015 (Attachment 1) is the most appropriate form of the Bylaw and does not give rise to any implications under the NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990.
3. Adopts the amended Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2015 (Attachment 1) as the final Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2015.
4. Publicly notifies the adopted Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2015 (Attachment 1) on
5. 9 May 2026.
6. Specifies that the adopted Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2015 (Attachment 1) will come into effect on 12 May 2026.

CARRIED

11.3. 26-84 Amendments to Governance Structure and Terms of Reference (April 2026)

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Ria

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Approves the appointment of Councillor Sam Gibson to the Local Transport Committee.
2. Notes the request of Councillor Rhonda Tibble to be appointed to the internal operations Waste Minimisation Steering Group.
3. Approves the updated Governance Structure and Terms of Reference December 2025 for publication (Attachment 2).
4. Revokes any previous versions of the Governance Structure and Terms of Reference.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

11.4 26-103 Local Government New Zealand Remit - Long Term Plan Consultation and Audit Costs

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann attended.

Questions of clarification attended:

- Legislative changes are required to streamline and simplify the planning system to potentially reduce the long term plan timeframe.
- Based on legislation a robust process is required to prepare and adopt a Long Term Plan.
- Auditing of the Long Term Plan ensures it meets statutory purpose and is based on reasonable and supportive underlying information and assumptions. The audit also provides independent assurance to Parliament and the public, confirming that the plan's forecasts are consistent with what the Council intends to do. It also ensures that the Council has taken a financially prudent approach.

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Approves the submission of the Local Government New Zealand remit titled "Improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of Long Term Plan audit requirements".

CARRIED

12. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION

12.1 26-110 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning Ltd and Gisborne District Council

Cr Parata declared an interest in this report and will not participate in the decision-making process, including voting.

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann attended.

Questions of clarification included:

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between Council and the Community Commissioning Ltd and reflects discussions specific to those parties. It does not exclude Council from having discussions with other parties.
- The MoU is appropriate in this circumstance as it does not tie Council down—Council supports what the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning are doing.
- Trust Tairāwhiti are in direct discussions with Community Commissioning and may be looking at a shareholding model.
- There have been discussions about the available options to support the proposal being presented to Government. Legal advice indicates that adopting a shareholder model could expose Council to potential liability related to reputational risk, and that Council would not typically act as a shareholder in such circumstances.

Judy Campbell (Strategic Advisor, Manaaki Tairāwhiti) provided an overview of Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning Ltd noting that establishing a company requires initial shareholders and a founding Board. She advised that invitations are being sent next week to iwi, philanthropic organisations, and service providers. It is anticipated that three iwi will take up shareholding, including an invitation extended to Ngati Porou. Trust Tairāwhiti has indicated its intention to become a shareholder, and the Sunrise Foundation has also expressed interest.

Following discussions with staff, the proposed shareholding structure has been refined to focus on three sectors, excluding a local government sector. The Commission is supportive of using a Memorandum of Understanding as a Statement of Support. A working group comprising Trust Tairāwhiti, Gisborne District Council, Manaaki Tairāwhiti and the Iwi Maori Partnership Board is considering regional approaches to data use and investment.

There is an expectation that a separate Memorandum of Understanding will be established with Trust Tairāwhiti distinct from its role as a shareholder, to cover matters such as strategic investment and data sharing. The final step in the process will involve developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the public sector to support co-commissioning arrangements, noting that the entity is unlikely to assume full commissioning responsibilities for some time. Overall, the process aims to enable a connected, efficient, and effective model for local decision-making.

MOVED by Cr Gregory, seconded by Cr Ria

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Notes the proposed MoU between Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning Ltd and Gisborne District Council.

CARRIED

12.2 26-51 Strategic Planning Work Programme

Director Sustainable Futures Jocelyne Allen and Team Leader Strategy Elise Miller attended.

Staff were acknowledged for their ongoing mahi in raising awareness among Councillors and for their continued support in facilitating informed decision-making.

MOVED by Cr Parata, seconded by Cr Gibson

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Notes that the report is provided for visibility of the current Strategic Planning Work Programme.
2. Notes that Strategic Planning Team resources are fully allocated to the current work programme and any new projects or changes will require reprioritisation, delays to projects or additional resourcing.

CARRIED

13. Public Excluded Business

Secretarial Note: These Minutes include a public excluded section. They have been separated for receipt in Section 13 Public Excluded Business of Council.

14. Readmittance of the Public

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Parata

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Re-admits the public.

CARRIED

15. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.36pm.

Rehette Stoltz
MAYOR

3.2. Governance Work Plan

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM						Meeting Dates						
HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Finance & Affordability	Performance	Chief Executive Activity Report	Provide elected members with an update on Council activities for the covered period.	Information (I)	Torepe Taumaunu							
Finance & Affordability	Financial Services	Rates Setting Report	Provide the proposed rates for Council approval	Decision (D)	Fiona Scragg							
Finance & Affordability	Performance	Annual Plan Adoption	Provide the 2026/27 Annual Plan for Adoption	Decision (D)	Tim Muir / Mel Hartung							
Finance & Affordability	Financial Services	GHL Update		Public Excluded (D)	Nick Webb							
Finance & Affordability	Financial Services	Local Government Funding Agency AGM		Decision (D)	Lucy Gibson							
Finance & Affordability	Performance	2024/25 Annual Report	To provide the 2025/26 Annual Report for adoption.	Decision (D)	Pauline Foreman							
Sustainable Futures	SAS	26-5 Resource Management Planning Work Programme Update		Information (I)	Charlotte Knight							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Sustainable Futures	SAS	26-4 Proposed Plan Change 6	To provide new councillors with the background to the development of Urban Plan Change 6 (UPC6) to the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP), update Council on the status of the Plan Stop exemption application for this plan change, and to gain Council approval to make changes to UPC6 prior to public notification. The intention is not to reconsider UPC6, which was approved for public notification on 21 August 2025, but rather to consider changes that staff consider will improve policy intent and efficiency of implementation.	Decision (D)	Shane McGhie							
Sustainable Futures	SAS	26-10 Proposed Council Submissions	To decide which submissions on Government proposals Council will be submitting	Decision (D)	Tessa Buchanan							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Sustainable Futures	SAS	26-9 Close-out Report Cat 3	To present the information that Council needs to formally close off the Category 3 Voluntary Buyout Policy	Information (I)	Carrie White							
Sustainable Futures	Resource Consents	26-13 Update on Forestry Consents	To inform Council of amendments and updates to the forestry consenting practice.	Information (I)	Awhina White							
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Community Assets & Resources	26-2 In principle support for Wi Pere trust - Tangihanga Water Storage Scheme Business Case	Seeking Council's In-Principle approval to support Wi Pere Trust (WPT) in progressing a full business case for the Tangihanga Water Storage Scheme, located on the historic Pouarua Dam Site.	Decision (D)	Tony Robinson							
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Community Projects	26-26 Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)	Seeking Council's in-principle support for establishment of the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS) subject to commitment from other key stakeholders (central government, LGFA and other local authorities), acceptable final development and due diligence	Decision (D)	Tony Robinson							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Democracy Support Services	26-27 Proposed Amendment to the LG Elected Members (2025/26 Determination 2025 - Expenses for Members who Reside Outside the Local Authority Area		Decision (D)	Donna Shaw							
Liveable Communities	Solid Waste	26-44 Regional Transfer Station and Resource Recovery Centre	To present the findings of the master planning and due diligence undertaken on the purchased Lytton Road property and alternative sites, to inform the development of a regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) and Refuse Transfer Station (RTS).	Decision (D)	Michael Ayton							
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	26-41 Te Ara o Taruheru - Taruheru River Pathway	To update Council on the implementation pathway developed by steering group or some such of Path and explains the flexible approach required to complete it.	Decision (D)	Patrick Ferry							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Liveable Communities	Solid Waste	26-63 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) DRAFT	To seek Council approval to release the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2025-2031 for public consultation under the Special Consultative Procedure (SCP), in accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Local Government Act 2002.	Decision (D)	Charlotte Phelps							
Liveable Communities	Cultural Activities	26-88 Appointment of Trustees to Gisborne Museum of Art and History Trust	To fill the vacancies for the Council appointed trustees to the Gisborne Museum of Art and History Trust.	Public Excluded (D)	Pene Walsh							
Sustainable Futures	Strategic Planning	26-23 Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw Amendment and Approval to Consult	The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to consult on limiting the size of imagery and design on monuments from the Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw	Decision (D)	Karma McCallum							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Community Lifelines	Regional Rivers	26-62 Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme – Asset Performance Baseline (2021 APA)	The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the 2021 Asset Performance Assessment (APA) for the Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme (WRFCs) - a comprehensive, scheme-wide assessment of asset condition, performance, and flood risk - has been adopted as the baseline evidence document for scheme-wide asset performance and flood risk evaluation to manage flood control asset risks.	Information (I)	Stephanie Brew							
Sustainable Futures	Strategic Planning	26-57 Stocktake of new Strategies, Bylaws, Policies for upcoming Long Term Plan	The purpose of this report is to update Council on the outcomes of the Strategic Stocktake undertaken to support preparation of the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan (LTP)	Information (I)	Makarand Rodge							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Community Lifelines	Regional Rivers	26-65 Flood resilience project prioritisation.	This report gives effect to the delivery and funding implications considered at the Council workshop held on 22 April, where Councillors examined potential reallocations across the wider Flood Resilience Programme to prioritise flood resilience investments within existing funding constraints.	Decision (D)	Joss Ruifrok							
Sustainable Futures	Strategic Planning	26-82 Adoption of Amended Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw	For Council to decide on adoption of Amended Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw	Decision (D)	Karma McCallum							
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Democracy Support Services	Electoral System and Representation Review Decision -	Required to make a resolution on whether to change the electoral system used at the last election (was STV, other option is FPP) and to introduce the Representation Review ?	Decision (D)	Donna Shaw							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Sustainable Futures	Strategic Planning	26-126 Proposed Urban Plan Change 6 - Hearings Panel Delegations		Decision (D)	Shane McGhie							
Sustainable Futures	Strategic Planning	26-51 Strategy Work Programme	To present Council with a single, integrated Strategic Planning Work Programme. This programme consolidates all strategic planning activity into one coordinated and prioritised work programme, replacing previously fragmented workstreams.	Information (I)	Elise Miller / Charlotte Knight							
Sustainable Futures	Strategic Planning	Review of Gambling Venue Policy		Decision (D)	Makarand Rodge							
Community Lifelines	Regional Rivers	26-140 Flood resilience project prioritisation.	This report gives effect to the delivery and funding implications	Decision (D)	Joss Ruifrok							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Finance & Affordability	Recovery	26-136 Pauariki Bridge - Future Access and Property Options	The purpose of this report is to consider and assess options for Pauariki Bridge, after the bridge was destroyed in February 2023.	Public Excluded (D)	Darren Cox							
Finance & Affordability	Other	Trust Tairāwhiti - Enduring Trust	The purpose of this report is to receive the report from Council-appointed legal representatives Simpson Grierson on their findings	Public Excluded (D)	Pauline Foreman							
Internal Partnerships		Learn to Swim	The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the current status of the Learn to Swim Programme at Kiwa Pools	Public Excluded (D)	Campbell Macgregor							
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Democracy Support Services	Committee Recommendations to Council - June 2026	The purpose of this report is to approve recommendations from the Appointments Committee.	Public Excluded (D)	Donna Shaw							

2026 COUNCIL - From 10AM

Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	29-Jan	12-Mar	7-May	25-Jun	27-Aug	21-Oct	10-Dec
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Democracy Support Services	26-164 Local Government Remits	The purpose of this report is to provide direction to Her Worship the Mayor on how Gisborne District Council (Council) wishes to vote on the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) remits at the LGNZ Annual General Meeting (AGM) Friday 31 July 2026.	Decision (D)	Donna Shaw							
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Democracy Support Services	26-150 Head Start Pathway – Exploratory Regional Discussions	This report provides an overview of the Government’s recently announced “Head Start” pathway for local government reorganisation and seeks approval for the Gisborne District Council (Council) to undertake exploratory discussions	Decision (D)	Her Worship the Mayor							

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION



26-150

Title: 26-150 Head Start Pathway – Exploratory Regional Discussions
Section: Office of the Mayor
Prepared by: Her Worship the Mayor – Rehette Stoltz
Meeting Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Legal: Yes

Financial: No

Significance: **Medium**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

This report provides an overview of the Government's recently announced "Head Start" pathway for local government reorganisation and seeks approval for the Gisborne District Council (Council) to undertake exploratory discussions with the community, iwi and neighbouring councils regarding potential future governance arrangements and regional collaboration opportunities.

The report also seeks approval for a light-touch engagement approach that is proportionate to the exploratory nature of the discussions and recognises the significant organisational work programme currently underway across Council.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

On 5 May 2026, the Government announced the "Head Start" pathway as part of its Simplifying Local Government reform programme. The process provides a voluntary pathway for councils wishing to explore future governance and reorganisation arrangements, including the establishment of unitary authorities. Outline proposals are required to be submitted by 9 August 2026, with the Government also signalling that councils not progressing through the process may later be subject to a compulsory "Back Stop" process following the 2028 local government elections.

Gisborne District Council is already a unitary authority and is therefore not required to participate in the Head Start process. However, given the potential long-term implications of the Government's reform direction, it is considered prudent to undertake early exploratory discussions with the community, neighbouring councils and iwi to understand perspectives, keep options open, and ensure Te Tairāwhiti remains informed and engaged in any future regional discussions. At this stage, no proposal for amalgamation or governance change is being recommended. Given the significant programme of work currently underway across Council, any engagement proposed would be proportionate and light touch.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - **NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Notes the Government's Head Start pathway for local government reorganisation.
2. Notes that Gisborne District Council is already a unitary authority and is not required to participate in the Head Start process.
3. Approves the Council undertaking exploratory discussions with neighbouring councils regarding potential future governance arrangements and regional collaboration opportunities.
4. Notes that these discussions are exploratory only and do not commit Council to any future reorganisation proposal, amalgamation process, or governance change.
5. Approves a light-touch and time-limited engagement approach, recognising the compressed Government timeframe and the significant organisational work programme currently underway.
6. Notes that any future formal proposal or substantive governance change would require further Council consideration, analysis, and engagement.

Authorised by:

Nedine Thatcher Swann - Chief Executive

Keywords: Head Start, unitary authority, Back Stop, Local Government Act

BACKGROUND - HE **WHAKAMĀRAMA**

1. On 5 May 2026, the Government announced the “Head Start” pathway as part of the wider Simplifying Local Government reform programme. The pathway allows groups of territorial and/or unitary authorities to submit outline proposals for the establishment of unitary authorities covering part or all of a region. Outline proposals must be submitted by 9 August 2026.
2. The Government has stated that the objective of the reform programme is to simplify regional governance arrangements, improve coordination, and better align governance structures with the new planning system and regional infrastructure delivery requirements. The Government has also indicated that councils not progressing through the Head Start process may later be subject to a compulsory “Back Stop” process following the 2028 local government elections.
3. Gisborne District Council already operates as a unitary authority and therefore already combines regional council and territorial authority functions within a single organisation. While Council is not required to participate in the Head Start process, there may be value in understanding the wider community, neighbouring councils’ positions and ensuring Gisborne District Council remains informed and engaged regarding potential future reform discussions.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA **KŌRERO** me **ngā KŌWHIRINGA**

4. The Head Start process presents both uncertainty and potential long-term implications for local government structures across New Zealand.
5. At present, there is limited detail regarding:
 - future governance models
 - implementation arrangements
 - treatment of cross-boundary issues
 - regional service delivery structures
 - future transport and planning functions
 - financial implications
 - representation arrangements.
6. There is also uncertainty regarding the future “Back Stop” process signalled by Government for councils not participating in the voluntary pathway. Given this uncertainty, it is considered prudent for Council to undertake early exploratory discussions to:
 - understand the wider community and neighbouring councils’ perspectives
 - understand iwi perspectives regarding future governance arrangements
 - identify potential opportunities and risks
 - ensure Te Tairāwhiti interests are represented in any future regional discussions
 - maintain strategic flexibility while Government policy develops further.

7. It is important to note that these discussions would not commit Council to any future amalgamation or reorganisation proposal. The discussions would instead focus on:
 - understanding regional positions
 - sharing information
 - understanding potential implications of reform
 - identifying areas where further information or analysis may be required.
8. Given the scale of existing organisational priorities currently underway, including recovery delivery, infrastructure investment, affordability pressures, planning reform, and water services reform implementation, it is not considered appropriate at this stage to undertake a large-scale programme of work or extensive consultation process. A proportionate and light-touch approach is therefore proposed.
9. External legal advice prepared by Simpson Grierson for Local Government New Zealand confirms that councils remain subject to Local Government Act decision-making obligations when considering participation in the Head Start pathway and recommends councils actively consider targeted and time-limited engagement approaches where appropriate.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o **NGĀ** HIRANGA

10. The matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
11. Governance arrangements are matters of significant public interest and long-term importance to communities.
12. However, the recommendations within this report are limited to exploratory discussions only and do not involve any decision to progress a formal reorganisation proposal or governance change.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

13. The Government guidance specifically identifies the importance of maintaining Treaty settlement arrangements and engaging with iwi and Māori throughout any future reorganisation process.
14. Governance arrangements have significant implications for Treaty relationships, co-governance arrangements, regional decision-making, and the exercise of statutory and settlement-based responsibilities.
15. It is therefore considered appropriate that iwi and post-settlement governance entities are included early in exploratory discussions regarding the Government's reform direction and any potential implications for the region.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

16. It is proposed that early exploratory discussions occur with relevant iwi and post-settlement governance entities regarding the Government's reform direction and any potential implications for Te Tairāwhiti and neighbouring regions.
17. These discussions would be relationship-based and exploratory only and would not represent consultation on any formal proposal.
18. Any future substantive proposal would require dedicated engagement with iwi, hapū and post-settlement governance entities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

19. Given the exploratory nature of the discussions, a light-touch engagement approach is proposed at this stage.
20. This may include public communications outlining:
 - the Government's Head Start process
 - Council's current position as a unitary authority
 - the exploratory nature of discussions being undertaken
 - opportunities for community feedback.
21. A broader consultation process is not recommended at this stage given:
 - no formal proposal currently exists
 - the compressed Government timeframe
 - the substantial organisational work programme currently underway.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

22. No direct climate change implications arise from the recommendations in this report.
23. However, future governance arrangements may have implications for regional infrastructure planning, resilience, catchment management, and adaptation responsibilities.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

24. Any work associated with exploratory discussions and limited engagement can be managed within existing budgets.

Legal

25. Simpson Grierson legal advice prepared for Local Government New Zealand notes that councils remain subject to Local Government Act decision-making requirements when considering participation in the Head Start pathway. Portions of that advice are legally privileged and confidential.
26. Any future substantive proposal would require further legal analysis and advice.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me **ngā** RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

27. The Head Start pathway forms part of wider Government reform programmes relating to local government, planning, infrastructure, and regional governance.
28. The Government has indicated that future governance arrangements are intended to better align with the new planning system and regional service delivery requirements.

RISKS - **NGĀ TŪRARU**

29. Risks associated with the proposed approach include:
 - community concern or misunderstanding regarding amalgamation
 - uncertainty regarding future Government direction
 - reputational risks if discussions are mischaracterised
 - staff capacity pressures.
30. These risks are mitigated by maintaining a clearly exploratory, non-committal, and proportionate approach at this stage.

NEXT STEPS - **NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE**

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
July–Aug 2026	Exploratory discussions	Early strategic engagement only
Aug 2026 onwards	Light-touch public communications and feedback opportunity	Subject to Council approval
9 August 2026	Government deadline for outline proposals	No formal proposal currently contemplated

Relevant Documents:

- Government Head Start Pathway Guidance

Title: 26-139 2026/27 Annual Plan
Section: Finance & Affordability
Prepared by: Michaela Kocar - Team Leader Management Accounting
Meeting Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Legal: No Financial: Yes Significance: **Medium**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to present the 2026/27 Annual Plan (AP) for adoption (Attachment 1).

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

Gisborne District Council (Council) has prepared its Annual Plan for 2026/27, representing year 3 of the 2024-2027 Three-Year Plan (3YP). While the Annual Plan reflects the necessary updates and adjustments, it remains within the parameters and strategic limits established when the 3YP was consulted with the community and adopted by Council.

The Annual Plan continues to align with Council's financial strategy, maintaining a focus on prudent financial management while responding to regional recovery needs. As the final year of the 3YP, this plan prioritises the continued delivery of essential services and supports Tairāwhiti's ongoing recovery.

Key investments remain consistent with earlier commitments, including roads, bridges, water infrastructure, and flood protection, all aimed at strengthening resilience and supporting sustainable communities.

Projects and Priorities

- Infrastructure investment: \$156 million (91% of the capital programme) is allocated to core infrastructure, including water services, solid waste and roading.
- Flood Modelling: Updated modelling to include hazards like sediment, erosion, and river course changes, ensuring future flood protection designs are robust.
- Land Drainage: Stream widening projects, particularly on the Taruheru River, to increase capacity.
- Township Improvements: Footpath upgrades in Matawai and Ruatoria, and new pedestrian safety crossings in Tikitiki, Te Araroa, Rangitukia and Wharekahika.
- Strategic and environmental planning: Continued development of regional plans, climate response, and environmental programmes in partnership with tangata whenua and local communities.

Financial Overview

- Rates Increase: 8.49% (excluding growth).
- Forecast External Debt: \$245 million (161% debt to total revenue).
- Total Capital Expenditure: \$172 million.

Overall, the rates increase remain consistent with Year 3 of the 3YP, even though depreciation and some operational costs were higher than what was originally planned. As part of the Annual Plan process, a line-by-line budget review was completed, in order to fall within limits that were set for overall rates revenue thresholds.

Debt has increases by \$10 million when compared to Year 3, \$7m relates to an increase from Annual Plan 2025/26 report [25-20] with additional \$3m aligning to roading renewals increased New Zealand Transport Association (NZTA) "potholes" budget. The "potholes budget was approved by NZTA after the adoption of the 3YP. Debt has also increased because dividend income from the Council Controlled Trading Organisation was lower than expected over the past two years.

Importantly, forecast debt remains within Council's financial strategy threshold of 175% of total revenue.

Balanced Budget

Council must consider the balanced budget requirement under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), where its forecast operating revenue does not match its forecast operating expenditure.

Council has a general requirement to manage financial matters prudently, efficiently, and effectively, but also in a manner that promotes the current and future interest of the community. The AP budgets for an overall accounting surplus, mostly due to the capital grants/subsidies. However, while Council will have an overall surplus, some activities may have deficits as they will be funded by either loan or reserve funding.

Council adopted the Capital Works Programme at the Finance & Performance Committee meeting on 3 June 2026 [Report 26-135] and will formally set the rates for the year through Report [26-155] 'Setting of rates due dates and penalties for the 2026/27 financial year'.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - **NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Adopts the Gisborne District Council 2026/27 Annual Plan (Attachment 1) - subject to any minor changes, including formatting or external legal changes.
2. Approves the Capital Investment Programme of \$172m for 2026/27.
3. Agrees that it is financially prudent to budget for an accounting surplus in the Annual Plan 2026/27.

Authorised by:

Nedine Thatcher Swann - Chief Executive

Keywords: 2026/27 annual plan, capital investment programme, finance & performance committee, key projects

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

Legislative Background

1. The 2024–2027 Three-Year Plan (3YP) represents Council’s current planning cycle, adopted in place of the traditional ten-year Long-Term Plan. This shorter cycle was introduced to better support regional recovery and aligns with the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery (Local Government Act 2002 – Long-Term Plan) Order in Council, enacted on 7 September 2023.
2. Under Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, consultation on the Annual Plan (AP) is only required where there are significant or material differences from the 3YP. Given the nature of changes proposed, Council determined that formal consultation was not required. Instead, the community will be informed of the key changes and planned activities following adoption of the Annual Plan.
3. Report [26-39] on the Draft Annual Plan at Finance & Performance Committee on 18 February 2026 provided the draft estimates at that time and outlined the proposed approach for the delivery of the Annual Plan.
4. Subsequently report [26-135] on the Annual Plan Capital Programme at Finance & Performance Committee on 3 June 2026 provided details and gained approval for the full capital programme and its inclusion into the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

2024-2027 Three-Year Plan

5. The rates setting approach for the 3YP was to prioritise the most appropriate options to address the present and future needs of Tairāwhiti, while repairing the considerable damage that arose because of Cyclone Gabrielle. Rates caps were set at maximum threshold of 11.4%.
6. The 3YP recognised the need to invest in essential infrastructure but also to smooth as much as the costs as possible without transferring substantial costs to future ratepayers.
7. The 3YP recognised that affordability is an issue for our region, but it acknowledges that it was not universally felt across the district. As such, the 3YP increased our provisions for rate remissions. Rather than trying to provide blanket lowering of rates, rates remissions were increased to address directly those that may be facing hardship.
8. In doing so, the 3YP aims to balance supporting the needs of those in our community who may be facing financial hardship, without overly burdening future generations.

Annual Plan Review Processes

9. The Annual Plan process allows Council to review where things may have changed from when it was consulted in March 2024. This becomes especially important as we lead into the final year of the plan 2026/27, due to the length of time that has passed since adopting the 3YP.
10. By and large, while the overall changes to Year 3 are not significant, there still have been several changes.
11. For instance, since the 3YP was adopted there has increases to depreciation, new Three Waters mandated charges, alignment of roading costs and lower revenue in some areas.

12. These costs in total against the 2026/27 Annual Plan year, represent around 2.3% increase in rates, over and above what we originally expected. It should be noted that over 2024-2027 Three Year Plan the accumulated increases in costs represent 4.6%.
13. However, as part of the Annual Plan processes, budgets are reviewed line by line, in order to bring the rates requirements back down to what was consulted on. In most cases operational budgets were adjusted so to take account any shortfalls or loan funding to spread the impact over time (e.g. dividend).
14. These higher costs relate to:
 - Depreciation – Three Waters (Wastewater Treatment Plant completion and revaluation review) \$2m. The higher costs spread over both Year 2 & Year 3.
 - Levies – Taumata Arowai and Commerce Commission for Three Waters (\$282k)
 - Kiwisaver new rates from 1 April 2026 (\$200k)
 - Water metering volumes decrease (\$200k)
 - Alignment to New Zealand Transport Agency Potholes operational budgets (\$253k)
 - Lower revenue than expected Parking and Pool admissions (\$200k).
 - Lower than planned Dividend (\$1.25m).
15. Long term impacts of rising diesel prices have not been taken into account. Only known higher costs have been adjusted within the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA **KŌRERO** me **ngā KŌWHIRINGA**

Our Approach

16. In delivering the 2026/27 Annual Plan, Council remains focused on progressing key projects and services while advancing the region's recovery. This includes restoring and strengthening core infrastructure – roads, bridges, flood protection, and water systems to build long-term resilience.
17. Key outcomes and themes of the 3YP included in the 2026/27 Annual Plan:
 - Council continues to prioritise core infrastructure with \$156 million – or 91% of the 2026/27 capital programme allocated to water services, solid waste and roading.
 - Roading projects account for nearly 64% of the total capital expenditure (\$109.4 million). This includes bridge repairs \$29.8 million, phased work of Tiniroto road and bluffs \$19.6 million, slips and dropouts \$15.1 million and resilience works \$20.6 million.
 - Our Four Water infrastructure projects make up 20% (\$34.6 million) of the total capital programme.
 - We are finalising delivery of the Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme and investing in new flood protection initiatives to safeguard communities.
 - Land drainage upgrades, particularly along the Taruheru River Stream to widen and improve capacity.
 - Township projects including new footpaths in Matawai and Ruatoria; with safety crossings in Tikitiki, Te Araroa, Rangitukia and Wharekahika.
 - We continue to focus on building blocks -such as regional plans, climate change, the environment and working with Tangata whenua and our communities to deliver and prepare for the future.

Financial Summary – 2026/27 Annual Plan

18. The financial estimates in the 2026/27 Annual Plan align with Year 3 of the 2024–2027 Three-Year Plan and reflect Council’s ongoing strategic direction. Figures incorporate updates from Report [26-39] (February 2026) and Report [26-135] (June 2026).
19. The AP includes detailed prospective financial information for 2026/27, summarised in the financial overview, and outlined further in the ‘Our Finances’ section. Key points are noted below:

Operational Changes

20. Total Revenue: Forecast at \$277 million, an increase of \$31 million compared to Year 3 of the 3YP; primarily attributed to additional capital and operational funding from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) for roading projects.
21. However, offsetting some of overall revenue increases are lower dividends than what was forecast in Year 3 (lower by \$1.25m). Gisborne Holdings Limited recent Statement of Intent a lower dividend in 2026/27 but higher in 2027/28.
22. To adjust for the spike over the two years due to the differences in dividends, rates have been smoothed through debt.
23. Operational Expenditure: Projected at \$170 million – an increase of \$8 million. This reflects updated cost forecasts and revised budget allocations across various activities.
24. Total comprehensive revenue and expenses: Estimated at \$160.3 million, up \$24.4 million, mainly due to higher capital grants.
25. Several changes have been made, as outlined in Reports [26-39] and [26-135], including cost increases and budget realignments across multiple areas. Most of the changes relate to changes within Operating activities, Roading realignment and Depreciation costs.

Capital Programme

26. The capital programme for 2026/27 is now forecast at \$172 million, representing an increase of \$39 million compared to Year 3 of the 2024–2027 Three-Year Plan.
27. The main variations from the draft Year 3 programme are due to the inclusion of carryovers, which total \$38.4 million. These carryovers reflect revised timing and delivery expectations for several major projects, including:
 - Regional Transport – Recovery Projects \$27.1 million
 - Solid Waste initiatives \$11.8 million
 - Three waters projects \$3.1 million
28. These adjustments ensure continued delivery momentum on key infrastructure programmes while reflecting realistic timeframes for project completion.

Debt - Annual Plan view

29. Forecast debt for 2026/27 is \$245 million - an increase of \$10 million compared to the 3YP - \$7m relates to an increase from Annual Plan 2025/26 report [25-20] with additional \$3m aligning to roading renewals increased New Zealand Transport Association (NZTA) "potholes" budget. The "potholes budget was approved by NZTA after the adoption of the 3YP.
30. Debt has also increased because dividend income from the Council Controlled Trading Organisation was lower than expected over the past two years.
31. It should be noted that while debt has increased, so too has the capital investment. This investment is needed both to maintain the \$2.9 billion of total assets, but also to reinstate assets after Cyclone Gabrielle. Without raising debt, recovery will take longer, and the failure of critical infrastructure increases if renewals programmes were to be delayed.

Debt – Three-Year Plan view

32. Council's total investment over the Three-Year Plan is \$438 million. The majority of this investment has been funded externally, as net debt over the same period is forecast to increase by \$88m (or 20% of the total investment costs).
33. Of the \$88m increased debt, most of it has been driven by FOSAL and for infrastructure investment (\$74m). The remaining debt by in large for community facilities (outdoor pool, provision towards an Indoor stadium, walking and cycling, CBD revitalisation), and for operational projects (i.e. TRMP Freshwater Plan, and Enterprise Management System).

Balanced Budget

34. Councils operating income should be set at a level to meet each year's operational expenditure to ensure access to enough funding for the long-term provision of services. This is to ensure that those ratepayers who are receiving a benefit today should be paying towards the service that they receive, rather than transferring the costs to future generations.
35. There are activities where this approach may not be practical or prudent, due to the activity's long-term nature or they are being managed on behalf of the Crown, i.e., forestry assets and soil conservation nurseries.
36. Council is forecasting an accounting surplus of \$160 million for 2026/27. The surplus reflects the way capital grants are accounted for in Council's financial statements.
37. We are required under accounting standards to record capital grants as income even though it is not used for funding operational activities. When this occurs, it creates an accounting surplus. The surplus will go towards our capital projects and reduces the need to borrow funds.
38. While there is an overall bottom-line surplus, some activities have been funded by reserves or loans. For the most part, the 3YP acknowledged and provisioned for operational costs to be funded from loans when there was a step increase in rates.

39. The AP follows these provisions that have been made within the 3YP, and which affect the balanced budget, such as:
- Loan funding for the steep operational costs, including Freshwater Plan, Tairāwhiti Regional Management Plan, and the Enterprise Management project. The use of loan funding allows impact of rates to be smoothed over time.
 - Phase unfunded depreciation of wastewater, water supply, stormwater, and the pool over time – aligning to 3YP but noting that the funding portion of depreciation will not be less than the 3YP (and the provisions as laid out within the 2021-2031 LTP), nor less than meeting principal repayments.
 - Using some Reserves to fund some operational costs (such as Depreciation reserve for significant repairs and maintenance costs for water supply or when funds have been transferred to a reserve for a particular purpose).
 - Replenish depreciation reserves by capital rating for some depreciation repayments (e.g. wastewater, roading and flood control).
 - Not funding all the depreciation costs that arise from the subsidised roading network as a significant portion of the roading network is funded by Waka Kotahi.
 - Not funding depreciation for certain assets where:
 - The assets may not be replaced at the end of their useful life.
 - Where the asset has been funded in advance by capital rates.
 - Where the asset has been fully grant funded.
 - Running activity deficits/surpluses in some specific activities, including areas:
 - Wharekiri Reserve (costs transferred to the Crown account).
 - Staff and community housing (stays within the activity).
 - Airport (stays within the activity).
40. When preparing and reviewing the budget, Council has had regard to the following specific matters in relation to all activities of Council as per the LGA s100:
- Maintaining levels of service.
 - Maintaining the services capacity and integrity of assets.
 - Intergenerational equity.
 - Compliance with Council's funding and financial policies established under LGA section.
41. For more information, refer to the "Financial Overview" under "Our Finances" section of the Annual Plan document.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o **NGĀ** HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

42. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
43. While the overall process is considered of medium significance due to the rates impacts and interest of the community, the 2026/27 Annual Plan does not include any material or significant differences to the 3YP. As such, it carries a low level of significance in terms of departures from what has already been consulted with the community.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

44. This report demonstrates Kāwanatanga through the responsible stewardship of Council resources and the delivery of essential services for the benefit of current and future communities. The Annual Plan supports sound financial management, long-term infrastructure investment, and compliance with legislative requirements while balancing affordability, resilience, and service delivery across Tairāwhiti.

Rangatiratanga

45. This report supports Rangatiratanga by recognising the importance of working in partnership with tangata whenua and local communities in shaping the future of the region. The Annual Plan continues investment in strategic planning, climate change response, environmental programmes, and regional development initiatives that involve collaboration with tangata whenua and support community aspirations and participation in decision-making.

Oritetanga

46. This report reflects Ōritetanga through investment in infrastructure, resilience, and community projects that seek to provide equitable access to services and improve outcomes across the district. Projects such as flood protection works, land drainage upgrades, roading improvements, and township safety enhancements contribute to the wellbeing and resilience of both urban and rural communities throughout Tairāwhiti.

Whakapono

47. This report demonstrates Whakapono through transparent and accountable decision-making, clear reporting of financial information, and a commitment to maintaining community trust. The Annual Plan outlines the rationale for key decisions, funding approaches, and future investments while continuing to foster positive relationships with tangata whenua, stakeholders, and the wider community.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

48. There are no significant changes to the 2026/27 AP that require additional Māori engagement to what was consulted on in the 2024-27 3YP.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

49. Our community will be informed of the planned programme of work and any changes for Year 3 of the 3YP, with the adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Plan. This will be completed through social media, newspapers, and the Gisborne District Council website.

50. The 2026/27 Annual Plan was not consulted upon. Consultation on an Annual Plan is only required if it includes significant or material changes to the 3YP. The AP does not include any material or significant differences from what was consulted upon within the 3YP.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

51. The 2026/27 Annual Plan supports Council's response to climate change through continued investment in resilient infrastructure, including flood protection, land drainage, roading, bridges, and water services. Updated flood modelling and ongoing climate change planning will help inform future decision-making and improve community resilience to the impacts of severe weather events. Overall, the Annual Plan contributes positively to climate adaptation and resilience outcomes for Tairāwhiti.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

52. The 2026/27 Annual Plan includes budget estimates for next year. The budgets are up to a point in time, where it allows for provisions that are both probable and quantifiable.
53. It was noted within Capital carryover report [26-135], that projects that will now fall into 2026/27 and that were loan funded, the interest costs are not rated for again. This is because they were rated and provided within the 2026 budgets Loan and reserve funding.
54. Loan funding and reserve funding for operational costs (as set out above under the 'balance budget' discussion), are not in 'balance' as our operating revenue does not match our operating expenditure. Loan funding for these projects is not considered an operational cost.
55. It should be noted that while most of the loan funded operational costs are not in 'balance' under a legislative definition, the costs are spread over the period of benefit - usually more than one financial year. This means that the principle of intergenerational equity (i.e. the total costs are not imposed on today's ratepayers, where tomorrows ratepayers will also be receiving benefits) is being adhered to.
56. Therefore, the use of loan funding operational costs is applied when it is deemed prudent to do so, to meet the expenditure needs of the local authority, while taking into account the impact to the ratepayer. By smoothing the rates through the use of loans, levels out the spikes in rates that would have otherwise occurred.
57. The capital programme for Year 3 of the 3YP is consistent with the projects included in the 2026/27 Annual Plan. Any reprioritisation, deferral, or acceleration of projects does not represent a change to the intended levels of service consulted on through the 3YP process.
58. Annual Plan budgets and rates requirements are intrinsically linked. The lead in time for adjustments to budgets, rates modelling, audit checks and controls is minimum time period of three to four months.

Legal

59. The 2026/27 Annual Plan document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act.
60. The Local Government Act 2002 places five main financial obligations on Council:
 - Financial management that is prudent and in the current and future interests of the community (Sec 100, 101).
 - Funding decisions to follow two-step funding process that involves consideration of a set of funding principles and consideration of the impact on the community (Sec 101(3)).
 - Adoption of a Financial Strategy and an Infrastructure Strategy (Sec 101A, 101B).
 - Adoption of a set of Funding Policy and Financial Policy (Sec 102).
 - Balancing the budget (Sec 100).

61. In order to set the rates, Council must first adopt the Annual Plan before the start year that it relates too. Failure to do so means that Council cannot legally set or collect rates. Council's power to set rates its legal power to tax.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me **ngā** RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

62. There are no significant changes for the Capital Investment Programme for Year 3 of the 2024-27 3YP, from what is proposed in the Annual Plan 2026/27.

63. The programme is within the Financial Strategy limits, Treasury Management Policy and within the Revenue and Financing Policy.

64. Under the Revenue and Financing Policy, provision to use reserve funds (including depreciation reserves) and loan funding can be used when it is prudent to do so.

RISKS - **NGĀ TŪRARU**

65. The key risks associated with the 2026/27 Annual Plan relate to the delivery of the capital programme, cost escalation, availability of external funding, and the region's ongoing exposure to severe weather events. Delays in project delivery, inflationary pressures, contractor capacity constraints, or changes to funding from external agencies such as NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi may impact planned outcomes and financial forecasts.

66. There is also a risk that actual operating costs, revenue, and debt levels may differ from projections due to changing economic conditions or unforeseen events. However, the Annual Plan has been developed within Council's financial strategy, with forecast debt remaining within approved limits and provisions made to manage known risks and delivery challenges.

67. If Council fails to adopt the 2026/27 Annual Plan, before the start of the financial year (1 July 2026), Council will be unable to strike the rates. Failing to formally to adopt the Annual Plan, which in turn means failure to pass a rates resolution, would invalidate its annual revenue stream. There is a risk without the rates revenue being levied, services would be restricted, and capital works not funded by external grants to a halt, until such time that the Annual Plan, and rates resolution was passed.

68. Annual Plan budgets and rates requirements are intrinsically linked. The lead in time for adjustments to budgets, rates modelling, audit checks and controls is minimum time period of three to four months.

69. Essentially the core risks of non-adoption of the Annual plan are:

- Loss of Revenue and Cash flow
- Legal breaches – Missing statutory deadlines, leaves council exposed to judicial review.
- Credit Rating – while Council is not currently credit rated, we are looking to become rate. Missing key financial deadlines would signal poor fiscal management, and likely to impact on a credit rating, and increase cost of borrowing.
- Disrupted Rates Collection: Rates billing is typically divided into quarterly instalments (e.g., August, November, February, May). Delays force the council to charge rates in fewer, compressed instalments, causing sudden financial distress for ratepayers and forcing the council to rely on emergency overdraft borrowing to cover operational costs.

NEXT STEPS - **NGĀ** MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
25 June 2026	Adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Plan	Council Meeting
	Following the Adoption of the Annual Plan, the setting of rates occurs – Refer to report 26-155	

ATTACHMENTS - **NGĀ** TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Annual Plan 26-27 - Final 4 for Agenda [26-139.1 - 102 pages]



HEALING
OUR REGION
FOR OUR FUTURE

TE WHAKARAUORATANGA
O TŌ TĀTAU ROHE
MŌ ĀPŌPŌ

2026-2027
MAHERE A-TAU

Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
Gisborne District Council

Adopted by Council on 25 June 2026
COUNCIL - 25 June 2026

2026 -2027
ANNUAL
PLAN



**Nau mai ki te
Mahere ā- Tau
Welcome to the
Annual Plan**

Photo credit: Brook Sabin, Trust Tairāwhiti



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He kupu whakataki nā te Kahika me te Manahautū A message from our Mayor and Chief Executive



Ki ngā tōpito katoa o Te Tairāwhiti, mai Pōtikirua ki Te Paritū, ki ngā pae maunga o Te Ao Parauri hoki atu ki ngā hukahuka o ngā tai moana, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātau katoa. Tēnā tātau me o tātau mate huhua kua tahuri ki te mātoru o te pō, haere, ōti atu ai. Kāti, ki a tātau te hunga ora e kawē, e whakatairangatia nei i ngā hiahiatanga o ngā hapori, o te hunga tūmatanui, o ngā iwi katoa hoki, tihe mauri ora!

Welcome to the 2026/27 Annual Plan, the final year of our 2024–2027 Three Year Plan (3YP). This Annual Plan sets out how we will continue to deliver our major projects and recovery programmes, while meeting the everyday needs of our community. It builds on our shared commitment to Healing Our Region for Our Future, strengthening the foundations for a resilient and thriving Te Tairāwhiti.

Over the past two years, we have made meaningful progress across our recovery and infrastructure programmes, guided by the dedication of our communities and teams. As we move into the final year of the 3YP, this Plan continues that momentum, while recognising that recovery remains an ongoing and defining feature of our work.

Cyclone Gabrielle remains a critical moment for our region. Many whānau continue to feel its impacts, and communities remain vulnerable to ongoing severe weather. These realities remain central to our priorities and investment over the coming year.

This was reinforced in late January, when another significant weather event caused widespread disruption across parts of the Coast, particularly around Te Araroa, Onepoto and Wharekahika. Flooding and slips cut off communities, damaged homes and infrastructure, required evacuations to marae and welfare centres, and caused approximately \$14m in damage. Access along SH35 and key local roads was severely constrained. The event shows us that recovery is not linear, and that sustained support will continue to be required for affected communities.

In 2026/27 we will continue to focus on restoring and strengthening critical lifeline infrastructure. This represents approximately \$109.4m of investment. This includes around \$29.8m for bridge repairs and replacements, phased works on key recovery routes such as Tiniroto Road and the Hangaroa Bluffs, and approximately \$20.6m targeted toward resilience-focused roading projects.

To support this recovery work, Council is advancing a roading network review to reset how we plan, maintain and invest in our 1,899km local road network. The review looks beyond immediate repairs, recognising the impacts of severe weather, rising construction costs, heavier freight traffic and an ageing, dispersed network. It will guide more targeted and resilient investment decisions, prioritising vital routes, managing risk, and ensuring the network remains affordable, safe and reliable for the communities that depend on it.

We are strengthening flood protection and resilience across the region through a \$71.1m flood resilience programme, supported by \$64m of central government funding and \$7.1m from Council. The Waipaoa River Flood Resilience Project remains on track to be largely completed by 30 June 2026. Once functional, it will provide protection against a much larger flood event, with flows around 40% greater than Cyclone Gabrielle. Further resilience work is also planned this summer, including rock armouring on selected sharp river bends to provide additional protection.

Design and consenting for improved stopbanks at Tikitiki and Te Karaka are progressing, alongside region-wide flood hazard modelling to inform future land use and investment decisions. This programme also includes flood improvement work on the Taruheru River, directly upstream of the city. Options assessment is underway, with construction planned from late 2026 onwards, subject to funding and consent approvals.

Alongside recovery and infrastructure delivery, Council is navigating significant national policy and regulatory change. This includes the implementation of Local Water Done Well, which will see water services retained in house through a ring fenced financial model. Reform of the resource management system and the temporary pause on plan changes are also reshaping how and when planning decisions can be progressed, requiring Council to adapt how it plans, prioritises and delivers work over the year ahead.

Council continues to invest in maintaining and renewing essential infrastructure, including stormwater and wastewater renewals to improve our network performance. At the same time, community and place based initiatives are progressing in partnership with communities and iwi, supporting wellbeing, recreation and environmental outcomes. Community led recovery will continue to move into delivery, alongside rural township upgrades and ongoing collaboration with communities to advance locally identified priorities and support the long term liveability of the region.

While we remain committed to delivering these important projects, we are doing so with a strong focus on affordability and long term financial sustainability. Rising costs and substantial recovery obligations continue to be key factors in our decision making.

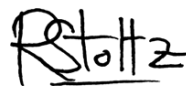
Council is maintaining a cautious and responsible approach to ensure investment needs are met without placing undue pressure on households. For 2026/27, rates are forecast to increase by 8.49% reflecting the balance between supporting recovery, maintaining essential services, and managing costs responsibly.

Our long-term financial settings remain stable, with debt levels below our limit of 175% of revenue. This allows our investments to remain sustainable over time. Alongside this, we are working closely with central government to secure ongoing recovery funding, acknowledging that many of the costs extend beyond the life of this plan.

The scale of recovery delivered through the Three Year Plan has required significant funding and difficult trade offs. As Council moves toward the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan, recovery will continue to place pressure on finances, alongside a more constrained funding environment driven by cost escalation and the likely introduction of rates caps. This will require a flexible approach to funding and prioritisation, including the continued use of a mix of rates funding, financing and partnership approaches to support essential investment while protecting long term affordability.

As we prepare for the year ahead, the focus remains on recovery, resilience and disciplined financial management. While challenges remain, Council is committed to prioritising what matters most for communities, working in partnership with government and iwi, and supporting Te Tairāwhiti through recovery and into the next Long Term Plan period.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.



Mayor
Rehette Stoltz



Chief Executive
Nedine Thatcher Swann



Photo credit: Trust Tairāwhiti

He mihi ki tō mātau Mahere ā-Tau 2026/27 Welcome to our Annual Plan 2026/27

The 2026–2027 Annual Plan is the third and final year of Council’s 2024–2027 Three-Year Plan.

It outlines what we plan to deliver in the year ahead, including project budgets and funding updates that reflect current costs. It also explains how Council is balancing affordability with ongoing investment in a resilient future for Tairāwhiti.

As there are no significant or material changes from the Three-Year Plan, Council is not required to consult with the community before adopting this Annual Plan.

This plan has four parts:

Part 1 Welcome to our Annual Plan

Sets the scene for our region. It includes a key message from our leadership, details our Treaty partnerships, and outlines our strategic framework, community outcomes, and wellbeings.

Part 2 Facing the future together

Outlines key projects, initiatives, budgets, and updates to performance measures. It also explains how rising costs and recovery needs affect rates and what this means for ratepayers.

Part 3 Our finances

Describes Council’s financial strategy for 2026/27. It explains how Council will manage rates, debt, and expenditure within the limits set in the 2024–2027 Three-Year Plan.

Part 4 Additional information

Includes glossary terms, statutory disclosures, supporting data tables and other supplementary material.

Tō tātau tirohanga whakamua Our vision

Oranga wai
Healthy water

Oranga tangata
Healthy people

Oranga whenua
Healthy land

Oranga mo āpōpō
Healthy future



Tō tatou rohe Our region

Community facilities

13	cemeteries
53	public toilets
40	playgrounds
35	sport parks
2,500m ³	gardens
4,000	street trees
1	library
1	Kiwa Pools
2	theatres
9	boat ramps
9	rural transfer stations

Our population by location

51,135	people (+7.6% since 2018 census)
73%	urban living in Gisborne
13%	rural and townships in Tairāwhiti
1%	national population of New Zealand
3%	national land area of New Zealand

Our population by age

22%	under 15 years old
19%	15–29 years old
42%	30–64 years old
17%	over 65 years old
36.7	average age
39%	under 25's (highest proportion in New Zealand)

Our tangata whenua

6	regional iwi (Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga a Māhaki, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, Te Whānau a Kai, Ngā Ariki Kaipūtahi)
71	operational marae
56%	of total population in rural areas (population +10.4% since 2018 census)
28,656	population count of Māori descent
16%	te reo Māori speakers (40% of national percentage of te reo Māori speakers)

Our ethnicities

56.5%	European
56%	Māori
5.6%	Pacific peoples
3.8%	Asian
1.6%	Other ethnicities

Services

- 56** parking meters
- 590** litter bins
- 14,851** houses on kerbside collection

Consents each year

- 1,524** building and resource consents
- 176** LIMs processed
- 9,800** registered dogs

Drinking water

- 4** water treatment plants (Waingake, Waipaoa, Te Karaka, Whataatutu)
- 8** water reservoirs
- 302km** water pipes

Stormwater

- 172km** stormwater pipes and drains
- 6,390** sumps
- 32km** channels and swales

Roads and footpaths

- 1,899km** roads
- 413** bridges
- 3703** streetlights
- 239km** footpaths
- 10.9km** cycleway shared paths
- 21** roundabouts

Wastewater

- 327km** wastewater pipes
- 2910** wastewater manholes
- 46** pump stations
- 2** wastewater networks

Flood protection

- 277km** rural land drains
- 303km** rivers and streams
- 77km** stopbanks

Ngā hononga tiriti Treaty relationships and partnerships

We continue to strengthen Treaty relationships, partnerships, and Māori outcomes, prioritising meaningful hononga with tangata whenua in Te Tairāwhiti. The diversity of Treaty rights and interests can make alignment challenging, however strong relationships help clarify roles and responsibilities and support better outcomes for the region. We acknowledge the contributions of ahi kā, marae, hapū, Māori landowners, trusts, iwi entities, and statutory agreements in shaping our approach.

With Māori making up over half of the rohe (region's) population, Te Tiriti o Waitangi is central to supporting lasting partnerships and a thriving region. Council's work is guided by a Treaty-based approach, supported by Te Matapihi an internal resource designed to strengthen engagement with tangata whenua. Te Matapihi provides tools, iwi narratives, and guidance to ensure strategy, policy, and planning align with tangata whenua priorities.

Te Tiriti Compass, adopted in 2022, continues to embed Treaty principles into decision-making. Operational tools introduced in 2023 and the Compass launch at Pahou Marae, Manutuke in 2024 have already improved how Treaty responsibilities are tracked and delivered.



Council continues to support tangata whenua participation in governance, though vacancies remain on the Emergency Management and TRMP committees, highlighting ongoing capacity needs. Engagement with marae and hapū remains extensive across recovery, freshwater, and resource management reform.

Te anga whakamua - The year ahead

A major focus for 2026/27 is developing a Māori Outcomes Framework to align Council's activities, investment, and monitoring with the priorities of iwi, hapū, marae, Māori

landowners, and Māori communities, providing a unified direction for the Long-Term Plan.

Council will keep utilising Te Tiriti Compass, Te Matapihi, and established partnership practices, refining these tools to ensure our work reflects the full range of Māori rights and interests across Te Tairāwhiti. The effectiveness of these tools will be reviewed to maintain responsiveness and support strong partnership outcomes.

The Local Leadership Body will remain a central forum for partnership. Council will support its establishment and operation so it can play an influential role in shaping strategic direction and enabling collective decision-making. Relationship agreements with iwi and hapū will also be reviewed to ensure they reflect shared aspirations and emerging priorities.

Māori Outcomes Framework

Council will work with iwi, hapū, marae and Māori communities to identify shared outcomes and priority areas for the Long-Term Plan. A Māori Outcomes Framework will be developed to align Council activity, investment and monitoring with tangata whenua priorities, supported by an implementation pathway that builds capability and provides clear internal guidance.

Provide support to the Local Leadership Body

This work positions the Local Leadership Body (LLB) to influence our strategic direction and advance shared outcomes. It includes secretariat support and coordinating organisational participation, to ensure the LLB becomes a central mechanism for regional partnership and shared decision-making.

Evaluate the effectiveness of Te Tiriti Compass and Te Matapihi

We will review how Te Tiriti Compass and Te Matapihi are supporting alignment with tangata whenua priorities and the Māori Outcomes Framework. This review will identify opportunities to strengthen partnership practice, clarify roles and responsibilities, and build organisational capability to deliver shared outcomes more effectively.

Review relationship agreements with iwi and hapū

Scheduled reviews of relationship agreements will ensure they continue to reflect shared aspirations and emerging priorities. Alignment with the Māori Outcomes Framework will be a focus, supported by guidance, facilitation, and consistent engagement practice across Council.

Develop co-designed evaluation metrics

Working alongside tangata whenua, we will develop measures that track progress toward shared Māori outcomes and partnership expectations. These metrics will support transparent monitoring, reporting to governance and partners, and continuous improvement over time.

Align policies to support Te Tiriti principles

Council policies and operational guidance will be reviewed and updated to ensure they support equitable outcomes for Māori and align with the Māori Outcomes Framework.

Together, these actions reinforce Council's commitment to embedding Te Tiriti principles in a way that upholds the mana of tangata whenua and strengthens partnership outcomes. The 2026/27 programme reflects a deliberate focus on accountability, alignment, and continuous improvement, ensuring Te Tiriti remains central to how we plan, invest, and make decisions for Te Tairāwhiti.



Ngā putanga me ngā painga hapori

Our community outcomes and wellbeings

Our Strategic Framework sets out the strategic priorities that determine what is important to focus on, invest in, and deliver to achieve our community outcomes.

See our 2024-2027 3YP on our website www.gdc.govt.nz

Our community outcomes

A driven and enabled community

Our whole community works together to achieve our dreams and aspirations.



We take sustainability seriously

We change the way we live and work in response to climate change. We work to lower carbon emissions and to improve our ecological footprint. We are more resilient, we end waste and we use our natural resources wisely.



Resilient communities

Our economy, infrastructure and communities spring back from difficult situations. We care for and plan for future generations and act in partnership with our community.



We celebrate our heritage

We are proud of and celebrate our Māori identity, culture, historic and natural heritage. We are all kaitiaki of our natural taonga which we protect for future generations.



Vibrant city and townships

We live balanced and happy lives. Our city and townships are vibrant. We attract visitors from across Aotearoa and the world. Our rural townships have sustainable infrastructure and services and we all have bright futures.



A diverse economy

We have world class facilities and services. Our people are in high value jobs and have a great standard of living. We have a strong economy which encourages entrepreneurship, innovation and we use emerging technologies.



Connected and safe communities

Our communities and businesses prosper. We have a safe, efficient and integrated transport network. We invest in supplying safe walking, cycling and public transport, and we use new technologies to our advantage.



Delivering for and with Māori

Iwi are significant partners in Council's decision-making. Māori communities and economies are booming, supported by affordable housing, quality infrastructure and fulfilling employment opportunities.



Our four wellbeings

Environmental wellbeing

We maintain the health of our soils, air, fresh water and coastal environments. Our region's biodiversity is restored and protected. We improve land uses to ensure they are environmentally sustainable.



Social wellbeing

Our communities have a deep sense of place and belonging. We are socially connected, recognise the importance of whakapapa and are committed to improving the education, health and safety outcomes of our people. Our communities are more resilient. Our townships have access to a network of fit-for purpose community facilities that reflect community need. We support affordable housing options and the sustainable management of urban growth.



Economic wellbeing

Our communities are financially secure and contribute to a growing regional economy. Infrastructure is provided to enable businesses to establish, thrive and create new employment opportunities. Our rural townships benefit directly from ongoing economic investment.



Cultural wellbeing

Communities and individuals experience vitality through kaitiakitanga, expressing their arts, heritage, history, identity and traditions. We work together to achieve common goals. Cultural activities are enabled by the activation of community spaces, our marae and place making.





Te whakahou penapena rawa Resource management reform



A new national planning system

Central Government is replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 with a new resource management system. The reform is intended to support economic growth, infrastructure delivery, housing supply and reduced regulatory complexity, with stronger reliance on national direction, standardised planning provisions and permitted activities.

The new system is expected to be based around two new pieces of legislation, the Natural Environment Act and the Planning Act. The Natural Environment Act will focus on the use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment, while the Planning Act will focus on planning, development and regulating land use.

These changes will replace the current RMA framework over time. Councils are expected to transition toward a more nationally directed planning environment, with less local variation and increasing emphasis on implementation, compliance, monitoring and infrastructure sequencing.

What this means for the TRMP

Resource management reform has direct implications for the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan. The TRMP is Council's current combined unitary plan under the RMA. It brings together the Regional Policy Statement, Regional Coastal Plan, Regional Plan and District Plan into one integrated framework for managing natural and physical resources across Te Tairāwhiti.

As a combined unitary plan, the TRMP guides how Council manages development, land use, subdivision, freshwater, coastal management, natural hazards, environmental effects and the protection of natural and cultural values. Under the new national system, the current TRMP framework will be replaced over time by new planning documents, including a regional spatial plan, natural environment plan and land-use plans.

This transition will affect the structure, timing and resourcing of Council's local planning work. It will also affect Council's work programme, planning capacity, iwi and hapū participation, environmental monitoring, infrastructure sequencing, growth enablement, compliance activity and future investment requirements.

Preparing through Te Ara Hou

Resource management reform will be a major focus for Council during 2026/27. Work will continue through Te Ara Hou, Planning for Readiness, which prepares Te Tairāwhiti for the new national planning system and helps preserve value from the TRMP review.

This work will carry forward technical evidence, mātauranga Māori and engagement insights from the TRMP review, while aligning future planning with the timing and structure of the proposed Planning Act and Natural Environment Act.

For Te Tairāwhiti, the reform needs to be managed carefully because local planning decisions are closely connected to growth, infrastructure, freshwater, land use, natural hazards, coastal management, environmental limits and Te Tiriti partnership. Council will need to keep enough flexibility in its planning and investment decisions to respond as national direction becomes clearer.

Te māmā whakamōhio kāwanatanga ā-rohe Simplifying local government

National policy context

Central Government is progressing local government reform. The reform is intended to simplify local government structures, reduce duplication and align council governance arrangements with the replacement resource management system.

In May 2026, the Government announced the Head Start pathway. This provides a voluntary process for councils that are ready to develop local government reorganisation proposals ahead of wider Government-driven reform from 2028. The pathway allows two or more territorial and/or unitary authorities to submit outline proposals to establish new unitary authorities covering part or all of a region.

Councils that do not progress through the Head Start pathway will be subject to a later Government-led process after the 2028 local elections, with further detail expected in 2027.

The Government's rapid review of regional council functions found that most regional functions are still best delivered at a regional or local scale, although further policy work is expected on some resource management and transport functions

Local context

Councils that do not progress through the Head Start pathway will be subject to a later Government-led process, with further detail expected in 2027. Gisborne District Council is already a unitary authority, carrying both regional council and territorial authority functions. This places Council in a different position from regions where those functions are split across two council layers. The implications for existing unitary councils are still being worked through, including whether there may be future expectations around scale, regional alignment, shared services, boundary changes or other structural options.

Wider reform will still shape how Council plans and works across regional coordination, resource management, transport, catchment management, infrastructure investment, asset management and affordability. It may also affect future service performance expectations.

Future direction

The local government reform programme forms part of a wider reform environment that Council will need to consider as it develops the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan. For Council, the immediate structural implications are less direct than for councils operating in two-tier regions, but Council will continue to monitor national policy direction as further detail becomes available.

For Te Tairāwhiti, any changes to local government structures or functions will need to be considered in the context of an existing unitary authority with significant rural, coastal, infrastructure, environmental and Te Tiriti partnership responsibilities. Council will need to retain flexibility in its long-term planning while continuing to plan for local needs, including infrastructure resilience, affordability, iwi and Māori relationships, rural service delivery, natural hazards and the specific geographic challenges of the region.



Tō Tātou Wai, Tō Tātou Ara

Our Water, Our Way

National policy context

Central Government has introduced a new national approach to water service delivery across Aotearoa New Zealand. Local Water Done Well replaces the previous Government's Three Waters Reform programme while still seeking to improve national water quality outcomes. Under this policy, water services remain under council control, although the way drinking water, wastewater and stormwater are delivered is changing.

The Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act, enacted in September 2024, required councils to prepare Water Services Delivery Plans that describe how water services will be delivered sustainably and meet future health, economic and environmental regulations. Each plan covers a 10-year period and provides a tool for councils to consider both current and future delivery of water services. Water Services Delivery Plans will be superseded by 30-year Water Services Strategies from July 2027.

A further Bill, the proposed Local Government Water Services Bill, is expected to be introduced to Parliament. This Bill will set out changes to the water services delivery system and regulatory system, including pathways for future economic regulation of charges for water, wastewater and stormwater services.

Our region's Water Services Delivery Plan

The region's Water Services Delivery Plan, Our Water, Our Way, was formally accepted by the Secretary for Local Government in November 2025. This reflects Council's obligations under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and sets the direction for locally delivered drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services.

Council adopted the plan on 21 August 2025, following public consultation in April and May 2025 where 90 percent of submitters supported a modified in house model that retains delivery within Council with ring fenced finances and reporting.

Council submitted the plan to the Department of Internal Affairs in September 2025. It underwent review by the Commerce Commission, the Local Government Funding Agency, National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited and Taumata Arowai, the new Water Services Authority. The plan was accepted without amendment in November 2025.

Implementation and future direction

From 1 July 2027, Council will move to the new water services delivery model. This includes establishing a ring fenced in house business unit supported by planned investment of \$214m over the decade, renewal of nearly 50 kilometres of underground mains and the creation of a dedicated Water Services Committee to support partnership with mana whenua.

This investment will renew ageing infrastructure, increase network capacity and ensure compliance with more stringent drinking water and environmental standards. Gisborne's reticulated urban population is forecast to grow from 36,232 in 2025 to more than 40,000 by 2053, which will require continued investment in water supply, wastewater treatment and stormwater systems.

Work is now focused on establishing the new business unit by July 2027, including meeting financial sustainability targets by June 2028. This implementation work will align with the development of the Water Services Strategy and the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan.





Arotake kōtuitui rori Roading network review

The roading network review is Council's major programme to reset how we plan, maintain and invest in our 1899km local road network. Severe weather events, rising construction costs and heavier freight traffic are putting increasing pressure on our roads. Many parts of the network are ageing, remote and expensive to maintain. The impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle showed how quickly communities can become isolated when roads fail.

The review looks beyond recovery. It sets out how Council can build a more resilient and affordable transport system, supported by clear evidence and long term planning. This work will guide future investment decisions, help us manage climate change risks, and ensure our network remains safe and reliable for the people who depend on it.

What we found

Analysis shows the network is deteriorating faster than we can repair it with current budgets. Key challenges include:

- soft geology and frequent landslides that increase repair costs
- more intense rainfall events
- escalating costs for construction materials
- increased wear from heavy freight vehicles
- local roads spread across a large and sparsely populated region.

Funding pressures mean council cannot maintain every road to historical levels. The review assesses where we should focus investment, where levels of service may change, and how we can better prepare for future hazards.

What is changing

The review proposes a more targeted approach to maintenance and renewal. This includes:

- strengthening and protecting vital routes that support lifeline services
- building stronger roads in high risk areas
- reducing maintenance on low use roads
- seasonal or temporary closures when conditions make roads vulnerable
- working with industry to coordinate heavy vehicle use during bad weather
- retiring roads that are no longer viable to maintain.

These changes reflect strong community feedback received during consultation in early 2025. Most respondents preferred prioritising key routes, maintaining fewer sealed roads, and investing in proactive improvements rather than reacting to failures.

Moving towards a more resilient network

The review recognises that climate change will continue to increase pressure on the network. Planning for resilience now will reduce the long term costs of disruptions and support community wellbeing. Council will focus investment on the most critical parts of the network, including routes that connect communities to schools, health services and economic centres.

A comprehensive risk assessment is underway. This work maps geology, land use, climate hazards and the importance of each road to determine future levels of service. The outcome will be a region wide investment plan that sets out where work will occur and how resilience funding will be prioritised.

What happens next

Council approved the Strategic Roading Network Resilience Programme Business Case in August 2025. The business case provides a 30 year prioritisation framework to guide fair, evidence based decisions about where limited maintenance, renewal and improvement funding is invested.

The focus is now on implementation. Key next steps include:

- establishing programme governance, reporting and delivery capability
- reviewing key roading policies and technical standards that support resilience outcomes
- refreshing the Activity Management Plan to identify priorities, phasing and delivery options
- continuing engagement with mana whenua, communities and stakeholders on investment priorities and levels of service
- integrating the programme approach into the next Regional Land Transport Plan and the next Long Term Plan.

The roading network review is a long term commitment. It will help ensure the transport system can adapt to climate change, support regional development and remain affordable for a small rating base. This work will guide investment decisions over the next 30 years and help secure reliable access across Te Tairāwhiti.







**Te anga piritahi
ki mua**
**Facing the future
together**



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A tātau mahi whakaoranga Our recovery projects

Our recovery programme was initiated following Cyclone Gabrielle and other severe weather events that caused widespread damage across the region. Since then, significant progress has been made to restore critical infrastructure, strengthen flood protection, and address erosion in vulnerable areas. The heavy rainfall, flooding, and erosion experienced in January reinforced the scale and complexity of the challenge, highlighting the need for long-term, climate-adaptive solutions alongside immediate recovery works. This programme reflects a continued focus on protecting communities, supporting recovery, and planning for a more resilient future.

Flood protection

Persistent heavy rainfall, two major cyclones and repeated severe weather events have significantly impacted our flood protection networks. These events have exposed how vulnerable our floodplains are, a challenge intensified by exceptionally high sediment loads that continue to reshape riverbeds and berm heights.

Understanding how these floodplains may respond to future events, including the effects of climate change, will be a key focus for 2026/27. Advanced hydraulic modelling and geomorphological assessments will help identify the most effective mitigation options and guide long-term resilience planning.

What we're planning for the year

Our work will focus on developing climate-adaptive mitigation options based on updated modelling and working closely with communities to ensure local insights inform future flood protection solutions.

Waipaoa River Flood Resilience Project

This project is nearing completion. Stopbank earthworks are expected to finish by June 2026, delivering the programme several years ahead of the original 2030/31 timeline. Final works will continue through 2026/27, including rock replenishment for existing revetments and upgrades to rock groynes to strengthen the wider flood protection system.

Tikitiki stopbank improvements

Upgrading the existing stopbank along the Poroporo River remains the preferred option to improve flood protection for the township. Detailed design and consenting will progress in 2026/27. Funding is in place for this stage, but cost pressures elsewhere in the programme mean future Crown decisions may affect priorities and construction timing.

Te Karaka township improvements

The preferred option under consideration is to build 3.5 kilometres of new stopbank, with targeted land retreats to allow more room for the river and reduce flood levels across the township. This is expected to provide greater resilience

than upgrading the current alignment. The project is estimated at \$27.6 million. Construction is planned to commence in early 2027, subject to securing additional funding, detailed design, and resource consents.

Taruheru Widening

Work is progressing to widen the Taruheru River channel through the rural reach to increase capacity and manage a flood event with a 10% annual exceedance probability, meaning a flood of that size has a 10% chance of occurring in any given year. Hydraulic modelling is nearing completion and will inform the design of the widening and associated improvements, with design model runs and a concept design and resource consent application due by mid-2026. Construction timeframes will be confirmed once funding decisions are made, and while wider programme reprioritisation may affect timing, the project remains important for a large and productive catchment; if Crown funding is not secured, Council will consider funding options through the Long-Term Plan.

Budget for the year

\$12.3m External funding | \$4.8m Council funding

\$66.3m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Of the \$66.3 million 3YP budget, \$50.6 million is Crown funded.

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website gdc.govt.nz

» [Flood protection](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



Roads to recovery

Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle caused significant damage to our roading network, cutting off communities for weeks, damaging and destroying dozens of bridges, and triggering over 3,000 faults on local roads, including major dropouts and slips. Rebuilding will cost an estimated \$465m, with an additional \$260m required to build back stronger. Despite \$241.5m in government support, a significant funding gap remains.

What we're planning for the year

In 2026/27, we will continue strengthening and reconnecting our local transport network by completing key rebuilds, major dropout repairs and the Tiniroto Bypass. These programmes focus on restoring access for isolated communities, improving safety and building long-term resilience.

Bridge repairs and replacements (\$107m)

Of the bridges damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle, a combination of replacements, repairs, and alternative recovery solutions are being delivered across the region. During 2026/27, construction will continue on approved bridge replacements, alongside completion of remaining repair works. Delivery is subject to programme sequencing and funding conditions, with the overall programme expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

Bridges progressing through repair or rebuild include:

- St Leger Bridge, Tiniroto
- Mata (Huiarua) inland Tokomaru Bay
- Grays Bridge, Kanakanaia

Across the wider network, more than 120 bridges were damaged, including 96 with significant structural damage and 34 requiring minor repairs. To strengthen the resilience of the network, \$9.8m will be repurposed within existing Red and Orange recovery funding to future proof up to 40 bridges.

Tiniroto Road and Hangaroa Bluffs (\$45m)

The Tiniroto Bypass will create a safer and more reliable connection with two single-lane bridges and about two kilometres of new road, avoiding the vulnerable Hangaroa Bluffs. Construction will begin after the Bluff 3 dropout repair is completed in late 2025.

Slips and dropouts - \$52.5m

More than 250 minor dropouts were repaired in 2025, and work is underway on 97 complex sites across the region. Priority routes include Tiniroto, Waimata Valley and Mata, with completion expected by mid-2027.

Resilience partnership projects with iwi - \$36.9m

Over 200 drainage sites have been repaired in partnership with iwi. The focus now shifts to more complex resilience upgrades, including raising and improving drainage at Coates Corner and Tapuaeeroa Road, rebuilding the Tokomaru Bay seawall, and delivering stabilisation works at Anaura Bay.

Budget for the year

\$85.2m External funding

\$0m Council funding

\$85m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Additional Crown and NZTA funding has since been approved to support expanded scope and emergency recovery works, resulting in an increase to the total programme budget compared to the 2024–2027 Three Year Plan.

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



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For more information about this project please see Council's website gdc.govt.nz

» [Roads to recovery](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



Community-led plans

We are actively supporting 25 communities across the region to develop community plans that identify and prioritise their recovery needs. These plans reflect the unique aspirations of each community and ensure recovery efforts are aligned with locally identified expectations and priorities. They also connect to Township Development Plans, which guide Council's investment in townships. This includes:

- **Rural communities:** Focused planning to improve sustainability and resilience, supporting communities to build back better.
- **Urban communities:** Recovery approaches tailored to the needs of city residents and designed to support sustainable growth.
- **Inclusive support:** Engagement with Pasifika communities, sports and recreation groups, and the whaikaha (disability and accessibility) sectors to ensure their needs are understood and supported.

What we're planning for the year

In 2026/27, the focus will be on turning community insights into action. Recovery initiatives will be aligned with the highest priorities identified through the community plans to ensure efforts are targeted, effective, and inclusive.

- **Integration of community input:** Communities will continue progressing in their Local Recovery Plans, including advancing Civil Defence training, securing support from external funders, and using Mayoral Relief funding to address priority needs identified by their communities.
- **Adaptive planning:** Plans will evolve as needs change, ensuring recovery remains responsive and effective. Council will continue to support communities with early climate planning to prepare for future impacts.
- **Defined goals:** Council's three-year strategy will continue to aim at improving the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of our communities.

Township development plans

Engagement to develop upgrade plans for two rural communities began in late 2025, with implementation occurring in 2026/27. Recent Better Off-funded improvements in Ruatoria and Te Karaka have been completed, and planning for the Waiomatatini South Road footpath will continue.

Rural township upgrades

- **Planned work:** Delivery of the Waiomatatini Road South footpath will progress this year. Other planned footpaths and crossings in Wharekahika and Tikitiki/Rangitukia have been deferred due to funding constraints.
- **Completed projects:** Cliff Road footpath in Te Karaka and the Wharekahika playground footpath.
- **Partnerships:** Work with two rural communities annually, focusing on township aspirations through engaged collaboration. Engage communities with philanthropy funders to assist with the cost of township upgrades when Council funding is not enough.

Workforce development

Council will continue partnering with local contractors to build workforce capability and support community and economic wellbeing. This includes promoting social procurement outcomes such as diversity, mentoring opportunities for senior students, and strengthened pathways through Toi Māori initiatives in local schools.

These developments will inform the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan and the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy, so planning remains aligned with community needs and current cost pressures.

Township development plans budget for the year

\$1m External funding

\$0.7m Council funding

\$4.3m Total funding - 3YP Budget

\$1m of Better Off Funding is carried over to allow for completion of rural township projects.

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website gdc.govt.nz

» [Community-led plans](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)

Ngā mahi matua Our major projects



DrainWise

DrainWise is about continuing to work together with property owners to help fix problems with wastewater and stormwater drains, to prevent wastewater overflows on private property and into our rivers during heavy rain. To prevent this, we inspect gully traps and downpipes on private properties to check they are in good condition and connected to the right outlet.

The Gisborne City wastewater network and stormwater network are separate systems. Homeowners are responsible for all the pipes and gully traps within their property boundary.

We have an on-going renewal programme to address old public network wastewater pipes to reduce groundwater.

What we're planning for the year

- **Addressing public drains on private property:** We will continue our programme to build public infrastructure on private properties to resolve persistent flooding in problem areas.
- **Renewing stormwater pipelines:** Our ongoing pipeline renewal programme will replace ageing or poor-condition stormwater assets to improve network performance and resilience.
- **On-property inspections:** We will conduct inspections of private property gully traps and stormwater systems to ensure they are functioning properly and contributing to an effective network.

- **Renewing wastewater pipelines:** The renewal programme for wastewater pipelines will focus on assets that have exceeded their useful life or are in poor condition, ensuring reliable service delivery.
- **Stormwater Resilience** Improve the stormwater network to reduce localised flooding and prevent stormwater entering the wastewater system.

Budget for the year

\$0m External funding

\$3.8m Council funding

\$14.1m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website [gdc.govt.nz](https://www.gdc.govt.nz)

» [DrainWise](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



Kiwa Pools - Stage two

Kiwa Pools is a modern, year-round aquatic centre created in partnership with Ngāi Tāwhiri and Rongowhakaata. In Stage Two, we plan to enhance the outdoor area by developing a new play space, involving local tamariki in designing play activities, putting in place a hydro slide maintenance plan, and progressing new features such as a splash pad and upgraded basketball courts.

What we're planning for the year

Outdoor play space

- Work with Ngāi Tāwhiri and Rongowhakaata to develop a concept plan with a play-based focus that is uniquely Tairāwhiti, connecting the old complex with the new Kiwa Pools.
- Involve local tamariki in the development of play activities.
- Put in place a hydro slide preventative maintenance plan.
- Advance the development of a splash pad as a key outdoor attraction. This will form a central part of reinvigorating the outdoor spaces and provide an accessible play experience for children and families.
- Advance the development of revitalised basketball courts, including a durable surface, benches for players and spectators, shade, drinking fountains, and inclusive design for wheelchairs.

Budget for the year

\$0m External funding

\$1.6m Council funding

\$6.5m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website [gdc.govt.nz](https://www.gdc.govt.nz)

» [Kiwa Pools](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



Waingake transformation

This is our transformational plan to restore the Waingake ecosystem to its natural state and return the whenua to indigenous forest, in partnership with tangata whenua, Maraetaha Incorporation.

We've planted thousands of natives, placed willow and poplar poles in erosion prone areas to protect our main water pipeline, removed wilding pine regrowth and reduced pest numbers. We're monitoring bats, birds, reptiles, freshwater species and forest regeneration to confirm that the project is meeting its outcomes.

This project provides meaningful training and employment, improves biodiversity, and helps ensure our water supply remains high quality.

What we're planning for the year

Waingake Restoration Project

- Complete the balance of native planting in harvested areas and monitor the success of enrichment species.
- Review and expand trapping network using automated self-setting traps and continue intensive ungulate control to reduce reinvasion into the restoration area and southern wetland.
- Continue large-scale wilding pine control and monitor pest animal densities. Maintain regular pest and weed control to support the establishment of indigenous plantings and natural regeneration.
- Complete annual 5MBC (5-minute bird counts), rat tunnel monitoring and annual bat survey.
- Continue pulse-feeding toxin operations targeting possums in the QEII bush and monitor using BMI (Bite mark Index) approach.

Budget for the year

\$0.5m External funding

\$1.4m Council funding

\$5.8m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website gdc.govt.nz

» [Waingake transformation](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)





Waipaoa River Flood Resilience Project (Stopbank Upgrades)

The Waipaoa River Flood Resilience Project (WRFPR) is one of Council’s most significant assets, protecting around 10,000 ha of fertile floodplain land. The project aims to increase the scheme’s flood protection to a 100-year level, accounting for climate change through to 2090. Upgrades include raising and widening 64 km of stopbanks built between 1953 and 1967, with eastern-side works completed and western-side upgrades progressing toward completion by June 2026 (weather permitting).

Once all stopbanks have been upgraded, the scheme will be functional to defend against a much larger flood event. Final resilience works, including rock armouring, bridge modifications and other protective measures, are planned for completion by June 2027.

What we’re planning for the year

Rock armouring and resilience

- Rock replenishments - Existing rock structures, including rock revetments and groynes are being assessed for replenishment or reinforcement with additional rock material.
- Whakaahu Stream protection - Design work is underway for rock armouring along the Whakaahu Stream and adjacent slope, where limited berm width requires additional protection for the upgraded stopbank.

Lavenham Road Bridge Modifications (next to Patutahi)

Preliminary investigations are underway to decide how the Lavenham Road Bridge can be modified to meet the stopbank design height, as the bridge sits slightly lower at the approaches. Options being considered include lifting the bridge or constructing retaining walls, with works planned for completion in 2027.

Budget for the year

\$12.3m External funding

\$4.8m Council funding

\$66.3mm Total funding - 3YP Budget

Of the \$66.3 million 3YP budget, \$50.6 million is Crown funded. Please see the Recovery section for further details on the Waipaoa stopbank works.

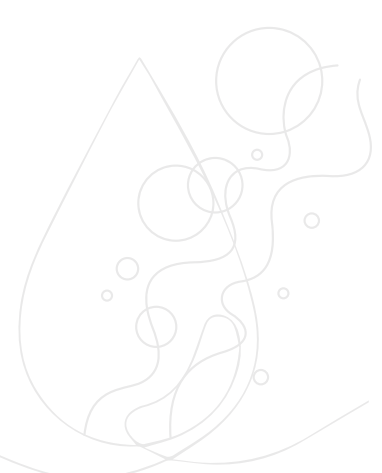
Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council’s website [gdc.govt.nz](https://www.gdc.govt.nz)

» [Waipaoa flood control](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)





Walking and cycling

The walking and cycling network includes footpaths, shared paths, footbridges, bike lanes, mountain-biking routes, boardwalks and cycleways. We are identifying key connection priorities to open up more of the city and better connect communities.

The programme brings together strategies, projects and initiatives between Council, Waka Kotahi NZTA and the community, with a focus on improving safety and encouraging recreation and alternative travel options. A connected, safe network supports people to move around easily and safely.

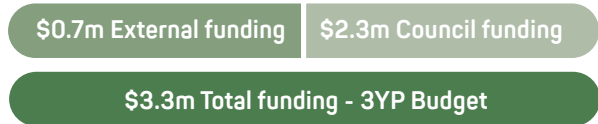
The only major project in the next three years is progressing the extension of the Taruheru River Shared Pathway.

What we're planning for the year

Taruheru River Shared Pathway

We will finalise and adopt the business case for extending the path from Mitre 10 to the Botanical Gardens and begin pre-construction planning for Stage One later this year.

Budget for the year



Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



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For more information about this project please see Council's website gdc.govt.nz

» [Walking and cycling](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)





Waste minimisation

This project focuses on strengthening how waste is managed across the region by developing a Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) and a Resource Recovery Centre (RRC). Together, these facilities will improve our ability to control waste disposal and processing, support recycling and resource recovery, and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The project also aims to create a more balanced and competitive waste industry by opening opportunities for additional operators to participate in the market.

What we're planning for the year

Resource Recovery Centre (RRC):

- Complete final site due diligence.
- Progress high-level concept design and cost modelling.
- Refine proposed structures and operational models to support detailed design and planning.

Implement the new 2025 - 2031 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP)

We have developed the draft and released it for community consultation, reviewed public submissions, and will present the final WMMP to Council in March 2026.

Community education and behaviour change

- Ongoing delivery of waste education, community workshops, and Enviroschools programmes.
- Established partnerships with local organisations and businesses to support waste reduction.
- Continue district-wide education and behaviour-change programmes guided by insights from the WMMP review.

- Deliver targeted workshops, waste education events, and school-based initiatives.
- Share updated data on waste and recycling volumes in Te Tairāwhiti to improve community understanding and awareness.

Budget for the year

\$3.4m External funding

\$1.9m Council funding

\$13m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website [gdc.govt.nz](https://www.gdc.govt.nz)

» [Waste minimisation](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



Ētahi atu whakatakanga Other projects

Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) review

Te Tairāwhiti is experiencing significant changes from development, population growth and increasing pressure on natural resources and infrastructure. The TRMP review was an important step in managing these pressures.

A 2025 RMA Amendment Act introduced 'Plan Stop' rules, which prevent councils from notifying new plan changes or reviews until 31 December 2027 unless an exemption is granted. The intent of this to stop most plan work while Central government is replacing the RMA with a new Planning Act and Natural Environment Act.

The TRMP review has now closed and Council has moved to a new work programme. In this 2026/27 Annual Plan period, the work is focused on two linked programmes:

- **Plan Stop Exemption Delivery**, which progresses priority plan changes under the Plan Stop rules. Urban Plan Change 6 (UPC6) has received a Ministerial exemption, while Sustainable Land Use Plan Change 7 (SLU PC7) is still awaiting an exemption decision.
- **Te Ara Hou - Planning for Readiness**, which is aimed at preparing Tairāwhiti for the new national planning system under the proposed Planning Act and Natural Environment Act.

What we're planning for the year

Plan Stop Exemption Delivery

This will be a major focus for 2026/27. Urban Plan Change 6 has received a Ministerial exemption and will continue through the statutory plan change process. Sustainable Land Use Plan Change 7 is still awaiting a Ministerial exemption decision.

If exemptions are granted, work will continue through notification, submissions, hearings and decisions. Where exemptions are declined, the work completed so far will be carried into the new planning system through Te Ara Hou.

Urban Plan Change 6 (UPC6)

UPC6 updates District Plan rules for the Gisborne city urban area to enable more homes in well-serviced, safe locations and support city centre revitalisation, consistent with the 2024-2054 Future Development Strategy.

A Ministerial exemption for UPC6 was granted in February 2026. Notification and consultation are complete, and submissions analysis is expected to be largely completed before the start of 2026/27. During 2026/27, the focus will be on independent hearings and the remaining steps in the statutory plan change process.

Sustainable Land Use Plan Change 7 (SLU PC7)

SLU PC7 strengthens the management of land use on highly erodible land in response to the impacts of Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle, as well as the findings of the 2023 Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use.

An exemption application has been submitted for the Minister's consideration. If a ministerial exemption is granted, staff will continue completing the plan change package and engagement with stakeholders, including mapping high-risk land, finalising plan provisions, supporting evidence, consultation materials and the Section 32 evaluation.

This engagement and preparation will enable notification to proceed if an exemption is granted. Staff will also monitor national direction changes that may affect the timing or final form of SLU PC7.

Te Ara Hou - Planning for Readiness

Te Ara Hou prepares Tairāwhiti for the new national planning system, so the region is ready when the new laws take effect. Work in 2026/27 will focus on preserving value and preparing material for re-use under the new system.

Council will carry forward technical evidence, matauranga Māori, and engagement insights from the TRMP review, aligning future work with the timing and structure of the proposed Planning Act and Natural Environment Act. In 2026/27, staff will close freshwater planning technical gaps and consolidate the evidence base and engagement record.

Budget for the year

\$0m External funding

\$2.9m Council funding

\$7.7m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website gdc.govt.nz

» [TRMP review](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



Indoor Multipurpose Centre

Gisborne has the lowest indoor court provision in Aotearoa, with a shortfall of 2.7 courts. The region needs additional indoor spaces to support sport, recreation, community activity, and events. A potential Indoor Multi-Purpose Centre (IMC) has been identified through the Community Facilities Strategy as a long-term regional opportunity.

Council has approved the business case and will focus in 2026/27 on securing funding and preparing the detailed design and planning material required to progress the project. Engagement with stakeholders continues to reinforce the need for a flexible, multi-use facility that supports both community and regional activity.

What we're planning for the year

Funding and Investment Readiness

- Explore partnership options and approach potential funding partners, including central government external funders.
- Prepare detailed material to support investment discussions.
- Prepare and submit external funding applications (Jan 2027 – mid-2028).

Design and Planning

- Complete concept and preliminary design for the IMC.
- Secure resource consent by December 2026 to ensure funding readiness.

Long-Term Plan (2027–2037) Consultations

- Consult on an additional \$6 million capital investment (total proposed capital: \$8.5 million).
- Consult on the proposed net operating costs for the IMC.

Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- Continue engagement with community, sport, and cultural groups.

- Integrate feedback on multi-use design needs, resilience features, and collaboration opportunities.

Budget for the year

\$0m External funding

\$2m Council funding

\$2.5m Total funding - 3YP Budget

The \$2.5 million previously committed funds have been carried over from the 2021-2031 LTP into the 2024-2027 3YP budget.

Community outcomes

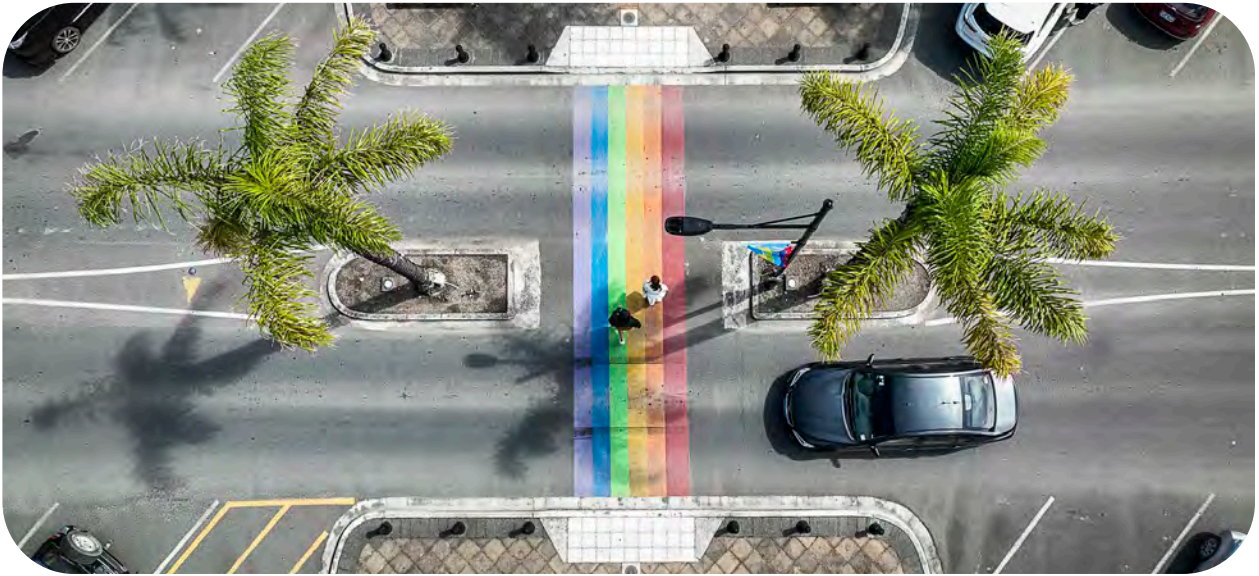
This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website [gdc.govt.nz](https://www.gdc.govt.nz)

» [Indoor Multipurpose Centre](#) | Gisborne District Council





City centre revitalisation

Gisborne’s city centre has incredible potential to become a vibrant and welcoming hub for residents and visitors. As the focal point, the city centre plays a vital role in attracting business and investment, enhancing visitor experiences and reinforcing the district’s overall destination appeal. To help realise this, we are working alongside Trust Tairāwhiti, Rongowhakaata, and other key partners to breathe new life into the central business district (CBD). The goal is to create an inviting, active, and thriving city centre where people want to connect, work, shop, and relax.

What we’re planning for the year

The revitalisation programme is driven by key projects that will deliver immediate, visible change and support long-term growth. Community feedback and stakeholder engagement have shaped these priorities. The focus is on actionable projects that can be implemented efficiently to create impact.

Catalyst Initiatives Project:

- Streetscape Improvements – Design and delivery underway.
- River Edge Whānau Play Space – Design and delivery underway.
- Hei Pipi Site Upgrade & 100 Peel Street Development – Options development in progress.
- Other initiatives include: The i-Site relocation, city centre management and night markets.

Early Wins Project:

- Council will continue funding and delivering proven “early win” activities:
- CBD Custodian role for improved maintenance and cleanliness
- Heritage Building Façade Incentive Fund (with Trust Tairāwhiti)

- Art in the City – activating empty shopfronts (with Trust Tairāwhiti)
- Downtown Lounge – summer series of city centre activations
- Replacement of broken CBD pavers
- Increased street tree maintenance
- Improved city centre lighting
- Support for more events and CBD activations

Action and Investment Plan:

- Begin drafting the Action and Investment Plan early in the year.
- Develop a staged investment roadmap for city centre upgrades.
- Finalise the plan in time to inform engagement for the 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan (LTP).
- Continue seeking significant Council and external funding to support delivery.

Budget for the year



Community outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council’s website gdc.govt.nz

» [City Centre Revitalisation](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)





Large woody debris

Cyclone Gabrielle caused extensive damage across our lands, waterways, and infrastructure, leaving an estimated 1.4 million tonnes of large woody debris across Tairāwhiti’s catchments. While more than 500,000 tonnes have been addressed in high-risk catchments, including Waimatā, Waiapu, Uawa/Hikawai, Waipaoa (including Te Arai), Pakarae, Hangaroa, Mangapoike, and on our region’s beaches, significant amounts are still present and continue to pose risks.

The next phase of the LWD Programme applies a prioritisation framework to target the highest-risk sub-catchments and forested areas, including areas beyond the forest gate. Catchments have been assessed and ranked based on the level of risk debris poses to life, infrastructure, community amenity, property, cultural heritage, and the environment.

The programme is largely funded through external support from MPI and DIA, with a Council contribution of \$910k allocated in 2026/27.

What we’re planning for the year

Over 2026/27, work will shift further upstream into priority rivers and sub-catchments, focusing on the sources of debris and moving from emergency response to targeted risk reduction and long-term management. This includes stronger collaboration with forestry, landowners, and community partners to prevent recurrence in future weather events and build long-term regional resilience.

Work will centre on reducing woody debris hazards in priority rivers and sub-catchments and includes:

Assess remaining high-risk sub-catchments

Reassess priority rivers and sub-catchments using the LWD Prioritisation Framework to confirm high-risk areas, identify hazards beyond the forest gate, and update risk rankings.

Deliver targeted mitigation works

Complete physical mitigation works in priority waterways, including debris removal, stabilisation measures, and riverbank protection to reduce mobilisation risk during storms.

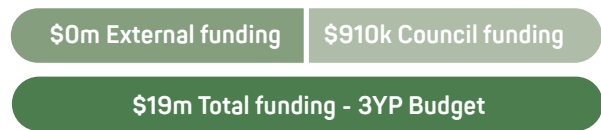
Finalise operational plans with forest owners

Support forest owners to complete and implement funded debris management plans, setting clear actions and timelines for debris removal or mitigation.

Advance jointly funded mitigation projects

Work with forestry to deliver co-funded mitigation activities that improve upstream practices, reduce debris risks, and strengthen shared accountability.

Budget for the year



Additional external grant funding has been approved to support Large Woody Debris mitigation works beyond the original three-year programme. More funding is expected to be drawn down during 2026/27.

Community wellbeings and outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



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For more information about this project please see Council’s website gdc.govt.nz

» [Large Woody Debris](#) | Gisborne District Council



Future of Severely Affected Land

In response to Cyclone Gabrielle, the Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) framework was established to address risks to properties severely impacted by flooding, silt inundation, and land erosion. Properties were categorised into Category 3 (high risk, unsafe to inhabit) and Category 2 (managed risk; mitigations required). Central Government allocated \$204m in cyclone support funding, including \$15m for voluntary buyouts of Category 3 properties and \$15m for property-level mitigations for Category 2P properties.

What we're planning for the year

Council has completed the FOSAL Category 3 voluntary buyout process. The Category 2P mitigation programme remains underway and is now expected to conclude in 2026.

- Category 3: All properties that voluntarily participated in the Category 3 buyout process have now settled. Demolition or relocation is underway, and once land remediation is complete, future land use will be determined in line with Council's policy framework. Ongoing maintenance and land-use decisions for these sites will gradually transition into Council's core operations. Whenua Māori properties are progressing through a separate process led by central government.
- Category 2P: Mitigation work is ongoing, with property owners required to provide evidence of eligible works to qualify for grant payments. GDC is proposing an extension to the 2P mitigation programme, with the aim of completing all remaining works by 2026. Properties are declassified from 2P once compliance evidence is received.
- Category 2C: Community-based mitigations will continue to be monitored, with classifications removed once agreed mitigation works are completed.

Budget for the year

\$0m External funding

\$520k Council funding

\$21.8m Total funding - 3YP Budget

Council funds are allocated towards administration and demolition of relevant properties.

Community wellbeing and outcomes

This project contributes to the following community outcomes:



For more information about this project please see Council's website gdc.govt.nz

» [FOSAL](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



Ngā whakarerekētanga ki o tātau tātai paearu mahi

Changes to our performance measures

We measure our performance using a range of tools and indicators that assess how well we deliver our services and achieve intended outcomes. Our levels of service and the performance measures we use were established in our 2024–2027 3YP.

From time to time, it is necessary to update these measures and descriptors to ensure they remain accurate, reflect changes in community needs or regulatory requirements, and better align with Council priorities. When we make changes, we are committed to clearly communicating these to our community along with the reasons behind them.

In this Annual Plan, we have made corrections to a small number of performance measures and associated details to:

- Correct minor errors or inconsistencies;
- Meet new regulatory or legislative requirements; and
- Reflect the evolving scope of services and programme priorities.

Lifelines

Retired measures

Measure	Target	2025 result	Reason for change
Number of unplanned local road closures where traffic was unable to pass in at least one direction	<40 by 2027	Not measured	Data not available and changes in national direction mean the measure cannot be reliably evidenced or audited..
Regionwide CO ₂ emissions caused by transport ²	<72kt CO ₂ e by 2030	Not measured	Measure is not supported by reliable local data and is not how transport emissions are currently monitored or managed.
Active travel mode share among students commuting to school	>25% by 2027	Not measured	National funding changes and data constraints mean the measure cannot be substantiated or reported consistently.

Communication and Engagement

Engagement – retired measures

Measure	Target	Reason for change
Percentage of Council engagement initiatives that meet or exceed targets	80%	The supporting framework was not developed, making the measure unreportable. Replaced with an external user feedback measure..
Percentage of residents satisfied with how Council engages the community in decision-making	50%	Updated to focus on engagement outcomes and closing the feedback loop rather than general satisfaction.
Percentage of residents satisfied with Council's provision of information	75%	Replaced with measures focused on clarity, usefulness, and understanding rather than overall satisfaction

Engagement – new measures

New measure	Target	Reason for change
Percentage of Council engagement initiatives that meet or exceed targets	80%	Focuses on external user experience rather than internal reporting, reducing bias and improving auditability.
Percentage of respondents who thought Council engaged well and kept them informed about outcomes of decisions or work	80%	Replaces the decision-making engagement measure with a clear focus on communication of outcomes.

Communication – new measure

New measure	Target	Reason for change
Percentage of respondents who found Council information useful and easy to understand	80%	Shifts focus from satisfaction to clarity and usefulness, enabling more targeted feedback methods..

Māori Partnerships

Retired measure

Existing measure	Target	Reason for change
Support the annual review of relationship agreements with Treaty Partners	Full review annually	This activity is now business as usual and managed within individual hubs.

New measures

New measure	Target	Reason for change
Establish the Māori Outcomes Framework	Year 1: Develop Year 2: Implement Year 3: Review	Provides a clear organisational approach to Māori outcomes, focusing on meaningful change rather than activity-based reporting.
Develop an implementation plan for the Māori Outcomes Framework	Year 1: Develop Year 2: Implement Year 3: Monitor/ Review	Provides a roadmap to support a planned and coordinated approach across the LTP period.

Harbour Master

Existing measure	Target	Updated measure	Reason for change
Our Port and Harbour Safety Code Safety Management System has been self-assessed with the port within the last 12 months	Compliant	Our Port and Harbour Safety Code Safety Management System has been assessed within the last 12 months	Minor wording change to reflect actual practice and improve clarity and audit alignment.

Recovery Measures

Flood protection – retired measure

Measure	Target	Reason for change
Completion rate of flood mitigation projects (e.g. Waipaoa Stopbank upgrades)	100% by June 2031	Long-dated programme measure that does not reflect staged delivery or provide clear annual performance insight.

Flood protection – new measure

Measure	Target	Reason for change
Confirm preferred flood protection mitigations for priority at-risk communities	Preferred mitigation options confirmed for at least 6 of 7 priority communities	Focuses on decision readiness rather than construction delivery, aligns with current programme stage, and is easier to evidence and audit.

Priority communities: Te Karaka Township, Te Arai / Manutuke, City North and Rivers, Uawa / Tolaga Bay, Tokomaru Township, Makarika Township, Tikitiki Township.

Community-led plans – retired measure

Measure	Target	Reason for change
Number of community-led recovery plans developed and implemented	100% of annual target	Programme has concluded, with remaining actions embedded into business-as-usual planning..

Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) – retired measure

Measure	Target	Reason for change
Category 2 and 3 property owners satisfied with process, engagement, and communication	80%	One-off survey completed in 2024/25 and will not be repeated.

Ka aha tēnei ki ngā kaiutu rēti? What does this mean for our ratepayers?

The 2024-2027 3YP acknowledges rising business costs, including interest, depreciation, and inflation, making rates increases unavoidable. In addition, significant recovery costs needed to be provided for to avoid shifting the financial burden entirely to future ratepayers.

Council’s rates setting approach prioritised the most appropriate options to meet the present and future needs of Tairāwhiti. Rates increases over the three years are set at a maximum threshold of 11.4%, made up of:

- 7.9% for business-as-usual costs
- 3.5% for recovery, mostly charged as a fixed amount against each rateable property

Council carefully considers affordability issues when setting rates levels. Keeping rates as low as practicable is a priority, but this must be balanced against transferring costs to future generations and the need to maintain our assets. Managing affordability in the context of recovery, economic uncertainty, infrastructural challenges, and the region’s comparatively low-income levels and high social deprivation scores is incredibly complex and challenging.

We have spread the majority of recovery response costs across the district, opting for an approach that distributes costs rather than applying a rate based on capital value. This acknowledges that the costs and benefits (after considering the benefits to impacted property owners) are district-wide and that it is difficult to easily differentiate between different groups.

It also acknowledges that parts of our community, such as pastoral and horticultural areas with high capital value, faced significant damage following adverse weather events. While the uniform charge is the most appropriate option for the next three years, it has an unintended consequence. The flat tax is regressive in nature and has a greater impact on lower-income households.

We also have parts of our community facing high deprivation and others still experiencing financial hardship due to the lasting impacts of severe weather events. To further address affordability, which affects everyone differently, we have increased our provisions for rates remissions to directly assist those facing hardship.

2026/27 Annual Plan

For 2026/27, total rates increases over the previous year is 8.49% (excluding growth).

In dollar terms, over 83% of properties will have an increase of \$400 or less. For rural properties 5,400 of those increases are less than \$150, mostly affecting properties without reticulated services, and 2,700 of those properties are in the East Coast area.

In Gisborne City, for 11,446 properties, the average increase is \$351 plus GST. This is primarily driven by the cost of reticulated services for wastewater, water supply, and stormwater, and the uniform annual general charge.

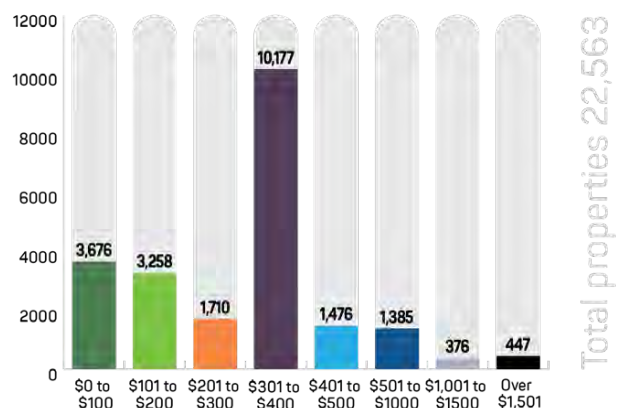
There are 374 commercial properties increasing between \$400 to \$750, mostly driven by increased costs in reticulated services; and the Uniform Annual General Charge.

For 2026/27, rates increase drivers across the district for most properties include increases to the general rate on capital value (which will vary from property to property based on capital value), and fixed charge increases for wastewater costs, which have increased by \$98 plus GST, the Uniform Annual General Charge, which has increased by \$59 plus GST (predominantly for recovery rates), and water supply costs, which have increased by \$53.

Most of the increases over \$1,500 are for high capital value properties in the district (pastoral, forestry, and residential complexes) or properties with a large number of reticulated services.

The targeted rating system means those receiving a service will contribute more towards its cost. City residents and businesses, which have greater access to reticulated services, will see higher charges than areas with fewer services. In rural areas, increases are primarily driven by general rates, uniform annual general charges, subsidised costs for roading, as well as costs associated with resource consents.

The graph below illustrates the financial impacts in dollar terms, consistent with the 3YP. For more details, refer to the “Our finances” section.





A tātāu pūtea Our finances

Photo credit: Trust Tairāwhiti



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Tirohanga whānui ahumoni

Financial overview

Financial strategy

The 2024-2027 3YP financial strategy set the total rates revenue at a maximum increase of 11.4%, which is composed of two sub-thresholds:

- 7.9% for business as usual costs.
- Recovery rate of 3.5% - mostly charged as a fixed amount against every rateable property.



This year rates increases are expected to be 8.49% excluding growth.

The financial strategy also has a quantified limit on external debt, where external debt is to be less than 175% of total revenue.

The strategy also provides key directions:

- Delivering critical activities and infrastructure which meets the community's needs during the 2024-2027 3YP period and beyond.
- Keeping rates as affordable as practicable while balancing the need to fund critical activities.
- Carefully managing expenditure and debt at prudent levels.
- Balancing user pays and public good funding.
- Increasing alternative revenue streams through investment, targeted distributions, growing our region and through partnerships.

Overview

The overarching aim of our financial strategy is for Council to be financially sustainable. This means that Council's commitments are funded in a way that the community can afford while meeting Council's obligation to be good stewards of the assets of the district.

The 2024-2027 3YP focused on repairing the damage after Cyclone Gabrielle, to maintain core services, the maintenance of our assets, and incrementally our resilience. We remain committed to progressing these critical infrastructure projects. For more information on key projects - Refer to Our Major projects section of this document.

The approach was to

- Loan fund the majority of the roading emergency works.
- Gradually funding additional depreciation costs arising from the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Kiwa Pools.
- Increasing budget provisions for the four waters (business as usual), and resourcing for regulatory functions as a stepped increase over the three years.

- Budgets to be aligned to contractual commitments.
- Raising a loan to smooth the impacts from the three years of not receiving a dividend from our Council Controlled Trading Organisation.
- Using reserves such as Water Supply Depreciation reserve to fund significant repairs and maintenance work and where the work was likely to protect the underlying assets. Applying a recovery rate as mostly a uniform charge, spreading the costs across the district.

2026/27 Annual Plan

We have a general requirement to manage financial matters prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. Council must consider the balanced budget requirement under the Local Government Act where forecast operating revenues are sufficient to meet forecast operating expenses.

We are budgeting for an operating surplus. This is mostly a result of receiving capital grants and not funding all the costs of depreciation. We do not fund all of the roading depreciation costs as they will be recovered from NZTA Waka Kotahi in the future.

We recognise capital grants and subsidies as income, even though the money is not used to fund operational activities. This creates an accounting surplus, which then goes towards our capital projects and reduces Council's need to borrow funds.

While there is an overall bottom line surplus, some activities have been funded by reserves or loans. For the most part, the 2024-2027 3YP acknowledged and provisioned for operating costs to be funded from loans where we were facing steep increases in rates.

- Refer to Prospective Statement concerning balanced budget for the year ending 30 June 2027 for more details.

Financial estimates

Overall the financial estimates for 2026/27 are within the key financial strategy measures.

- Total rates revenue is \$102m, with an overall increase of 8.49% over Annual Plan 2026. This is within the maximum 11.4% rates revenue threshold set out in our 3YP Financial Strategy.
- Total external debt is 161% of revenue, within the 175% revenue threshold.

Refer to Financial reporting and Prudence benchmarks within the "Our Finances Section".

Debt is forecast to be \$245m, or \$10m more than 3YP.

Total capital expenditure of \$172m, is made up of \$156m (91%) of infrastructure and \$15m of other core projects.

The main reasons for the increased debt compared to Year 3 of the 3YP, relates to the increased roading renewals program and reduced dividend. Waka Kotahi increased the Regional Land Transport "Potholes" budget after the 3YP was adopted. The capital expenditure included within the Plan reflects the revised increased budgets.

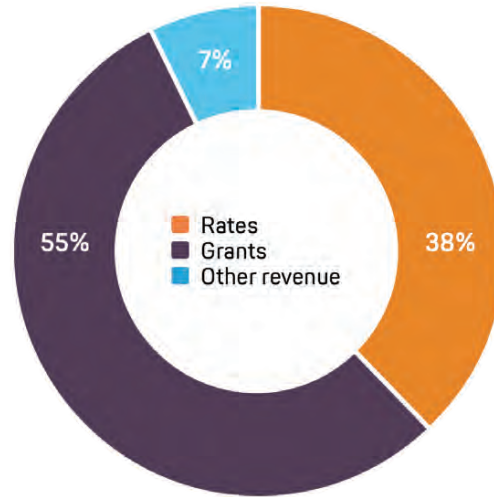
Net surplus

The Annual Plan forecasts a net surplus of \$107.2m, up \$22.7m on 3YP Year 3, mostly related to higher capital grants subsidies relating to recovery and resilience projects and also for NZTA Waka Kotahi funding for their costs towards our local roads.

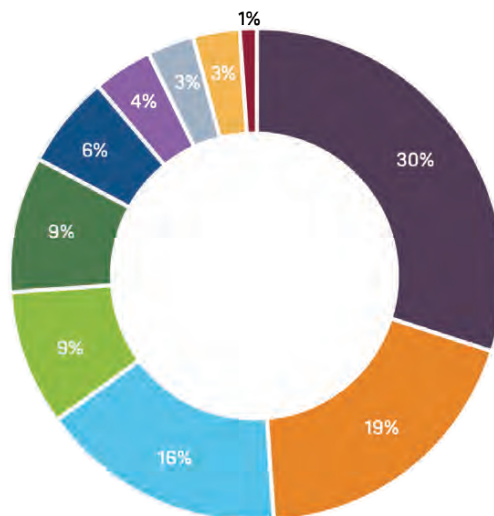
Net surplus after taxation is the difference between income received and expenses incurred. As noted under the Balanced budget section we record capital grants and capital subsidies as income, even though they are not used to fund operational expenses, as such this creates an accounting surplus. The surplus goes towards our capital projects and reduces Council's need to borrow funds.

Council's income

The 2026/27 AP forecasts that on average rates would be 38% of the total revenue required. The use of external funding has meant that most of the significant operational expenditure has been sourced from external sources, reducing reliance on rates.



Council's operational expenditure



- Roads and Footpaths
- Regional Leadership and Support
- Liveable Communities
- Environmental Services and Protection
- Wastewater
- Water Supply
- Solid Waste
- Land, Rivers and Coastal
- Stormwater
- Commercial Operations

Capital investment programme

The capital investment for 2026/27 AP is \$172m, up \$39m on the 3YP. The increase is the result of increased funding from Waka Kotahi for timing of recovery projects, related to replacement of bridges and Tiniroto repair work and other slips and dropouts. The focus of the AP is both the delivery and key outcomes:

- 91% of capital projects relates to infrastructure.
- Roading - \$109.4m
- Three waters - \$17.3m
- Flood resilience and protection - \$17.3m
- Waste, Waste minimisation/Recovery - \$13m



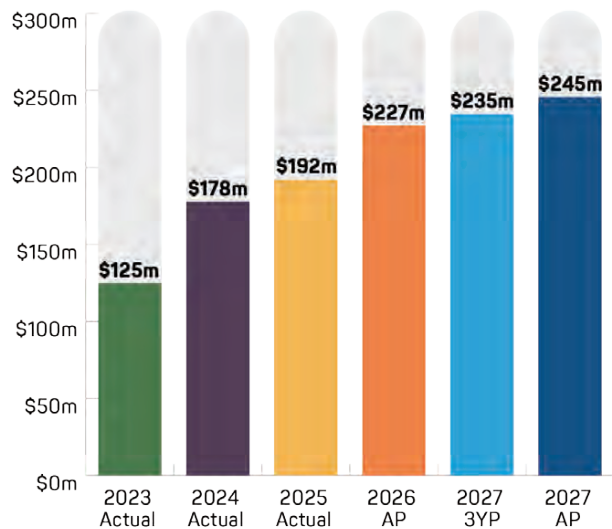
Council's debts

Council's ability to raise loans is based upon debt covenant thresholds around its revenue levels, where overall debt is to be less than 175% of revenue.

Council's actual debt to revenue is forecast to be 161% of recurring revenue in keeping with the 3YP. This excludes non-recurring revenue such as one-off grants (eg Recovery funding and grants relating to a specific one-off purpose).

Debt increased by \$10m over what was forecast within the 3YP, mostly due to matching roading renewals to the increased NZTA "Potholes" budget. The "potholes" budget was approved by NZTA after the adoption of the 3YP.

Council debts



Significant forecasting assumptions

The estimates contain prospective financial information. Actual results are likely to vary from the information presented and the variations may be material. For more detail see the Introduction section of Our Finances.

Fees and charges

The Council fees and charges are used to fund the operation and maintenance of a variety of services provided to the community. Fees and charges have predominantly increased by the rate of inflation for 2026/27. Fees were increased in some activities to meet Council's Revenue and Finance policies or to recover increased costs.

Full details of the fees and charges can be found on the Council's website: www.gdc.govt.nz

Timatatanga kōrero

Introduction

The Annual Plan sets out Council's priorities and identifies how Council intends to fund its operations and capital projects.

The forecasts prepared for Council have been prepared based on agreed levels of service for each activity. The levels of service are set out in detail in the 2024 - 2027 3YP .

The forecasts are presented in:

- Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses
- Prospective Statement of Financial Position
- Prospective Statement of Changes in Equity
- Prospective Statement of Cash flows
- Prospective Statement Concerning Balanced Budget.

Further detailed information is provided in the Notes to the Prospective Financial Statements which identifies revenue and expenditure for each group of activities (Note 2) and a full list of capital projects planned for 2026/27 with comparative figures to Year 3 of the 2024-2027 3YP (Note 14).

The operational and capital costs within the Annual Plan include:

- **existing costs** - costs to continue to deliver the current level of service
- **recovery costs** - costs to repair the damaged infrastructure resulting from Cyclone Gabrielle
- **project costs** - costs such as depreciation and interest that arise from Council undertaking capital projects
- **inflation** - increases in revenue and costs due to price changes.

The nature of the prospective financial information - cautionary note

The prospective financial information contained in the Annual Plan is a forecast. It has been prepared on the basis of assumptions as to future events that the Council reasonably expects to occur, associated with the action it reasonably expects to take at the date the forecast was prepared. The forecast relates to events and actions which have not yet occurred and may not occur. The actual results achieved for the period covered are likely to vary from the financial information presented and the variations may be material. Uncontrollable events will significantly affect the forecast.

Please note

Revenue from the Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital includes grants received where the associated expenditure will be capitalised. Expenditure relating to these projects will be recognised (primarily as depreciation) over the life of the capitalised assets. Council has budgeted for a net surplus in the 2026/27 Annual Plan. This is mainly the result of the capital grants and subsidies. Further information is available in the Prospective Statement Concerning Balanced Budget later in this section.

The financial information contained within the 2026/27 Annual Plan may not be appropriate for purposes other than those described.

There may be rounding differences throughout the financial statements and notes included in this section. They do not impact the overall usefulness of the information presented.

Ngā tauāki haurapa

Prospective statements

Prospective statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year ended 30 June

AP 2026 \$000s		Notes	Year 3 2027 \$000s	AP 2027 \$000s
REVENUE FROM NON-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
33,115	Grants and Subsidies - Operational		25,891	25,947
115,342	Grants, Donations, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital		92,543	125,072
1,984	Other Non Exchange Revenue		1,930	1,914
35,596	General Rates And Uniform Annual General Charge		39,612	39,237
57,791	Targeted Rates		61,735	62,822
REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
1,878	Development and Financial Contributions		1,888	1,888
14,935	Other Revenue		15,141	15,309
3,565	Targeted Water Rates		3,843	3,570
0	Dividends		2,500	1,250
850	Other Gains/(Losses) - Profit on Sale of Assets		950	50
265,054	Total Revenue		246,033	277,060
EXPENSES				
38,370	Employee Benefit Expenses		38,834	39,677
90,873	Expenditure on Operating Activities		79,737	87,887
32,857	Depreciation and Amortisation		34,439	33,791
8,078	Financing Costs		8,867	8,867
170,178	Total Expenses		161,877	170,222
94,876	Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Taxation		84,156	106,838
350	Subvention Payment from GHL		350	350
95,226	Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Taxation		84,506	107,188
68,751	Gains/(Losses) on Property Revaluation		51,386	53,132
163,977	TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES		135,891	160,320

Prospective statement of financial position as at 30 June

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
CURRENT ASSETS			
14,522	Cash & Bank ¹	28,728	2,498
28,945	Non Exchange Trade and Other Receivables	24,908	35,805
22,640	Exchange Trade and Other Receivables	24,540	19,476
104	Inventories	45	107
711	Current Investments	81	206
694	Derivative Financial Instruments	770	0
80	Non Current Assets Held for Resale	80	0
67,695	Total Current Assets	79,152	58,092
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
362	Deposits Held	573	386
64,916	Trade and Other Payables	72,599	41,377
4,032	Employee Benefits and Suspense	3,503	5,170
10,000	Borrowings ²	15,000	20,000
560	Provisions for Other Liabilities	468	479
0	Derivative Financial Instruments	0	648
79,869	Total Current Liabilities	92,143	68,060
(12,174)	Total Net Working Capital	(12,991)	(9,969)
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
334	Derivative Financial Instruments	958	0
3,214,904	Property Plant and Equipment	3,239,858	3,286,139
6,440	Intangible Assets	6,462	6,750
924	Biological Assets	1,263	1,011
35,911	Investments	35,294	37,750
3,258,513	Total Non Current Assets	3,283,836	3,331,651
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
217,090	Borrowings ²	219,586	224,969
89	Employee Benefit Liabilities	111	105
2,039	Provisions for Other Liabilities	2,226	1,543
0	Derivative Financial Instruments	0	484
812	Emission Trading Scheme Liabilities ³	795	824
220,029	Total Non Current Liabilities	222,718	227,924
3,026,310	Total Net Funds Employed	3,048,127	3,093,758
EQUITY			
763,606	Accumulated Surplus	828,702	825,101
32,330	Special Funds	31,365	37,603
2,230,375	Revaluation Reserves	2,188,059	2,231,054
3,026,310	Total Equity	3,048,127	3,093,758

¹Cash at bank represents the carrying value of short-term deposits with original maturity dates of three months or less approximate their fair value.

²Borrowing have increased due to recovery works for roading reinstatement and flood resilience and protection.

³The Council owns pre 1990 forest land that was compulsorily entered into the ETS. Compensation credits were received for this and the Council is required to ensure this land is replanted following harvest. The obligation to replant this land has not been quantified.

Prospective statement of changes in equity as at 30 June

AP 2026 \$000s		Year 3 2027 \$000s	AP 2027 \$000s
EQUITY OPENING BALANCES			
656,039	Accumulated Funds and Retained Earnings	743,862	709,918
44,671	Special Funds and Reserves	31,700	45,599
2,161,623	Revaluation Reserves	2,136,674	2,177,921
2,862,333	Total Equity Opening Balance	2,912,235	2,933,438
CHANGES IN EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus (Retained Earnings)/ Revaluation Reserves			
163,977	Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	135,891	160,320
12,342	Transfer to/(from) Special Funds and Reserves	335	7,995
Special Funds and Reserves			
(12,342)	Transfer to/(from) Retained Earnings	(335)	(7,995)
163,977	Total Changes in Equity	135,891	160,320
EQUITY CLOSING BALANCES			
763,606	Accumulated Funds and Retained Earnings	828,702	825,101
32,330	Special Funds and Reserves	31,365	37,603
2,230,375	Revaluation Reserves	2,188,059	2,231,054
3,026,310	Total Equity Closing Balance	3,048,126	3,093,758
Attributable to :			
3,026,310	Gisborne District Council	3,048,126	3,093,758

Prospective statement of cash flow for the year ended 30 June

AP 2026 \$000s	Notes	Year 3 2027 \$000s	AP 2027 \$000s
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Cash provided from:			
90,950	Rates Receipts	98,728	99,478
148,740	Government Grants and Subsidies	118,725	150,810
23,813	Receipts from Activities	24,917	24,335
	Interest Received	0	0
0	Dividends Received	2,500	1,250
350	Subvention	350	350
263,853		245,220	276,222
Cash provided to:			
128,191	Payments to Suppliers and Employees	118,017	126,452
1,001	Grants	1,002	1,001
8,085	Interest Paid	8,883	8,870
137,276		127,902	136,322
126,577	Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) Operating Activities	117,319	139,900
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Cash provided from:			
850	Sale of Property Plant and Equipment	950	50
0	Forestry stumpage adjustment	0	0
850		950	50
Cash provided to:			
163,212	Purchase of Property Plant and Equipment	132,932	172,143
0	Purchase (w/down or sale) of Investments	0	0
163,212		132,932	172,143
(162,362)	Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) Investing Activities	(131,982)	(172,093)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities			
Cash provided from:			
35,784	Increase/(Decrease) in Borrowings	14,662	32,193
35,784		14,662	32,193
35,784	Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) Financing Activities	14,662	32,193
0	Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	0	0
14,522	Cash at beginning of the year	28,728	2,498
14,522	Cash and Cash Equivalents at Year End	28,728	2,498

Explanation of terms used in the prospective statement of cash flows

Cash and Cash Equivalents is considered to be cash on hand and current accounts in banks, net of bank overdrafts.

Investing Activities are those activities relating to the acquisition, holding and disposal of fixed assets and investments. Investments can include securities not falling within the definition of cash.

Financing Activities are those activities which result in changes in the size and composition of the capital structure of the Group. This includes both equity and debt not falling within the definition of cash.

Operating Activities include all transactions and other events that are not investing or financing activities.

The GST (net) component of operating activities reflects the net GST paid and received with the Inland Revenue Department. The GST component has been presented on a net basis, as the gross amounts do not provide meaningful information for financial statement purposes. The GST rate assumed in these estimates is 15%.



Prospective statement concerning balanced budget for the year ended 30 June

AP 2026 \$000s		Year 3 2027 \$000s	AP 2027 \$000s
265,054	Operating Revenue	246,033	277,060
170,178	Operating Expenditure	161,877	170,222
350	Subvention Payment	350	350
95,226	Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) After Taxation	84,506	107,188
	LESS		
4,986	Capital Rates Income	6,852	6,055
115,342	Capital Grants and Subsidies	92,543	125,072
1,878	Other Capital Grants, Donations and Contributions	1,888	1,888
(12,543)	Operations Funded by Reserve Funds	(3,239)	(13,041)
	PLUS		
14,200	Depreciation not Funded	13,542	12,702
237	Increase/(Decrease) in Deficit	(4)	85
0	Balanced Budget - operating income agrees to operating expenditure	0	0

Balancing the budget

Council sets operating income at a level to meet each year's operating expenditure. This is to ensure that those ratepayers who are receiving the benefit today should be paying towards the service that they receive, rather than transferring costs to future generations.

Council is forecasting an accounting surplus for 2026/27. Most of surplus relate to capital grants and subsidies. When we account for the capital grant as revenue, it creates a surplus as there are no corresponding capital expenditure recorded within the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses. The surplus goes towards the capital investment programme, thereby reducing Council's need to borrow or increase debt.

Council intends to:

- Not fund a portion of depreciation on specific assets or components of assets funded through capital rates or subsidies. (i.e. Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kiwa Pools and the NZTA Waka Kotahi share of the local roads).
- Run activity deficits/surpluses in specific activities, including:
 - Wharekiri Reserve (costs transferred to Crown account).
 - Staff and Community Housing (stays within the activity).
 - Airport (stays within the activity).
- Use loan funding for some operational costs, (such as Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan, the Freshwater Plan, the Enterprise Solutions project).

- Use some Reserves to fund some operation costs (such as Depreciation reserve for significant repairs and maintenance costs for water supply or when funds have been transferred to a reserve for a particular purpose)
- Replenish depreciation reserves by capital rating for some principal repayments (i.e. wastewater, roading and flood control).
- Phase unfunded depreciation of wastewater, water supply, stormwater and the pool - overtime, aligning to the underlying 2024-2027 LTP. But noting that the funded portion of depreciation will be not less than the 3YP, nor less than meeting principal repayments.
- Fund depreciation costs for revalued Three water assets to the extent that was provided within the 3YP and to the extent of meeting renewals.

When preparing and reviewing the budget, Council has had regard to the following specific matters in relation to all activities of Council, as per the LGA section 100:

- Maintaining levels of service
- Maintaining the service capacity and integrity of assets
- Intergenerational equity
- Compliance with Council's funding and financial policies established under LGA section 102.

Kupu tāpiri ki ngā tauāki haurapa

Notes to the prospective statements

Note 1: Statement of accounting policies

Reporting entity

Gisborne District Council ("Council") is a Unitary Authority governed by the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002.

The Gisborne District Council Group (the "Group") consists of Gisborne District Council and its subsidiary, Gisborne Holdings Ltd (100% owned). Gisborne Holdings Ltd is incorporated in New Zealand, and pursuant to the Local Government Act 2002 is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation.

Council has not presented economic entity prospective financial statements because the Council believes that the controlling entities, prospective statements are more relevant to users. The main purpose of prospective financial statements in the Annual Plan is to provide users with information about the core services that Council intends to provide ratepayers, the expected cost of those services and, as a consequence, how much Council requires by way of rates to fund the intended levels of services. The level of rates funding required is not affected by controlled entities, except to the extent that the Council obtains distributions from, or further invests in, those controlled entities. Such effects are included in the prospective financial statements presented.

The Council is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE) for the purposes of Financial Reporting. The Financial Bill, enacted in December 2013, defines a PBE as "entities whose primary objective is to provide goods or services for community or social benefit, and where equity has been provided with a view to supporting that primary objective, rather than for a financial return to equity". Gisborne District Council is defined as a Tier 1 entity with expenditure in excess of \$30m.

Basis of preparation

The Council's prospective financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA 2002, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP). They comply with Public Benefit Entity (PBE) Standards and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities. This includes compliance with PBE Financial Reporting Standard No. 42 (PBE FRS-42) 'Prospective Financial Statements'.

The prospective financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, forestry assets, livestock assets and certain financial instruments to reflect fair value.

The prospective financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000). The functional currency of Council is New Zealand dollars.

The nature of the prospective financial information - cautionary note

The prospective financial information contained in the Annual Plan is a forecast. It has been prepared on the basis of assumptions as to future events that the Council reasonably expects to take at the date the forecast was prepared. The forecast relates to events and actions which have not yet occurred and may not occur. The actual results achieved for the period covered are likely to vary from the financial information presented and the variations may be material.

A number of assumptions need to be made about the economic and financial conditions which will apply over the life-time of the model. The major assumptions underpinning this Plan are set out in the Significant Assumptions section.

The financial information contained within the Annual Plan may not be appropriate for purposes other than those described.

Specific accounting policies

The following specific Accounting Policies which materially affect the measurement of financial performance and the financial position have been applied.

Revenue recognition

Revenue has been split into Exchange and non Exchange as per the requirements of the Public Benefit Entity (PBE) accounting standards. Non Exchange revenue is categorised as receiving value without giving approximately equal value in exchange e.g. general rates, government grants.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received. The following specific recognition criteria must be met before revenue is recognised.

Rates revenue

Rates are set annually by a resolution from Council and relate to a financial year. All ratepayers are invoiced within the financial year to which the rates have been set. Rates revenue is recognised when invoices are raised.

Government grants and subsidies

Government grants are initially recognised as income at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with.

Council receives government subsidies from Waka Kotahi, which subsidises part of Council's costs in maintaining the local roading infrastructure.

The subsidies are recognised as revenue upon entitlement as conditions pertaining to eligible expenditure have been fulfilled.

Other revenue

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised, based on the actual service provided on an accrual basis.

Sales of goods are recognised when a product is sold to the customer. Sales are usually in cash or by electronic payment. The recorded revenue is the gross amount of the sale, excluding GST. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

Dividends are recognised when the right to receive payment has been established.

Where a physical asset is acquired for nil or nominal consideration the fair value of the asset received is recognised as revenue. Assets vested in Council are recognised as revenue when control over the asset is obtained.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs (except borrowing costs incurred as a result of capital work) are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

When the construction of assets are loan funded, all borrowing costs incurred as a result of the capital work are capitalised as part of the total cost of the asset up until the point where the asset enters service.

Grant expenditure

Non-discretionary grants are those grants that are awarded if the grant application meets the specified criteria. They are recognised as expenditure when an application that meets the specified criteria for the grant has been received.

Discretionary grants are those grants where Council has no obligation to award on receipt of the grant application and are recognised as expenditure when a successful applicant has been notified of Council's decision.

Income tax

Income tax expense in relation to the surplus or deficit for the period comprises current tax and deferred tax.

Current tax is the amount of income tax payable based on the taxable profit for the current year, plus any adjustments to income tax payable in respect of prior years. Current tax is calculated using rates that have been enacted or substantially enacted by balance date.

Deferred tax is the amount of income tax payable or recoverable in future periods in respect of temporary differences and unused tax losses.

Temporary differences are differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax basis used in the computation of taxable profit.

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which the deductible temporary differences or tax losses can be utilised.

Deferred tax is not recognised if the temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or from the initial

recognition of an asset and liability in a transaction that is not a business combination, and at the time of the transaction, affects neither accounting profit nor taxable profit.

Deferred tax is recognised on taxable temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries and associates, and interests in joint ventures, except where Council can control the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled or the asset is realised, using tax rates that have been enacted or substantially enacted by balance date.

Current tax and deferred tax is charged or credited to the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses, except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the tax is dealt within equity.

Leases

Operating leases

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset.

Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Finance leases

A finance lease is a lease that transfers to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset, whether or not title is eventually transferred.

At the commencement of the lease term, the Council recognises finance leases as assets and liabilities in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position at the lower of the fair value of the leased item or the present value of the minimum lease payments.

The amount recognised as an asset is depreciated over its useful life.

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for uncollectible amounts.

A provision for impairment of receivables (doubtful debts) is established when there is objective evidence that the Council will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted using the effective interest method. Non-current receivables are recognised at the present value of their expected future cash flows, discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar asset.

Inventories

Inventories are recognised at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated costs of completion and selling expenses. The cost of inventories is based on the first-in first-out (FIFO) principle and includes expenditure in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition.

Financial assets

Council classifies its financial assets in the following two categories:

- available-for-sale financial assets
- loans and receivables.

The classification depends on the purpose for which the assets are held. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates the designation at every reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs unless they are carried at fair value through the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses in which case the transaction costs are recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade-date, the date on which the Council commits to purchase or sell the asset.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the balance sheet date. The quoted market price is the current bid price. The fair value of financial instruments not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. Council uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance date.

Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for long-term debt instruments held. Other techniques, such as estimated discounted cash flows are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Council has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

Council presently has the following categories of financial assets:

a. Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Council's general and community loans are designated as loans and receivables. They are recognised initially at fair value, and subsequently carried at amortised cost less impairment losses.

Loans to community organisations made by Council at nil, or below-market interest rates are initially recognised at the

present value of their expected future cash flows, discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar asset/investment. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The difference between the face value and present value of the expected future cash flows of the loan is recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses as a grant. Loans to other parties at market rates are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Non-current loans are discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar asset.

b. Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories.

The Council's investments in equity securities are classified as available for sale and are stated at fair value. Gains and losses are recognised directly in equity except for impairment losses, which are recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

In the event of impairment any cumulative losses previously recognised in equity will be removed and recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses even though the asset has not been derecognised.

Impairment of financial assets

At each balance sheet date Council assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. Any impairment losses are recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

Accounting for derivative financial instruments and hedging activities

Council uses derivative financial instruments such as interest rate swaps ("hedges") and forward rate agreements to manage its cash flow and interest rate risk. In accordance with its treasury policy, the Council does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value at each balance date.

Council does not satisfy all the conditions for hedge accounting and therefore all gains or losses in fair value of instruments used to manage cash flow and interest rate risk are recognised through the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

Financial liabilities - borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at their fair value. After initial recognition, all borrowings are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Non-current assets held for sale

Non-current assets held for sale are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction, not through continuing use. Assets held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Any impairment losses for write-downs of assets held for sale are recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

Any increases in fair value (less costs to sell) are recognised up to the level of any impairment losses that have been previously recognised.

Non-current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale. Interest and other expenses attributable to the liabilities of a disposal group classified as held for sale continue to be recognised.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment consists of:

Operational assets

These include land, buildings, improvements, library books, wharves, floating plant, plant equipment, and motor vehicles.

Infrastructural assets

Infrastructural assets are the fixed utility systems owned by Council and comprise the sewer, water, storm water, roading, flood control and the waste disposal infrastructures.

Each asset type includes all items that are required for the network to function, for example, sewer reticulation piping and sewer pump stations.

Biological assets

Forestry Assets

Forestry assets consist of the Council's forestry holdings. Forestry assets are valued on the basis of fair value less estimated point of sale costs. Fair value is determined based on the present value of expected net cash flows discounted at a current market determined pre-tax rate. Forestry assets are revalued annually. Valuation movements pass through surplus/(deficit). The costs to maintain the forestry assets are included in surplus/(deficit).

Council has transferred forestry rights in respect to relating to land to Juken New Zealand Limited. The transfer relates to one harvest cycle. Under the agreement Council has contributed land and is entitled to a percentage of stumpage. All costs of development are borne by Juken New Zealand Limited. The value of the land (excluding the trees) and Council's right to a share of the stumpage is reflected in the Statement of Financial Position.

Council has committed to reverting 70% of the current net stocked area of exotic planting to native.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets predominately comprise computer software and carbon credits.

Software acquisition and development

Acquired computer software licenses are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software.

Costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as an expense when incurred. Costs that are directly associated with the development of software for internal use or with the acquisition of software licences by Council, are recognised as an intangible asset.

Amortisation

The carrying value of an intangible asset with a finite life is amortised on a straight line basis over its useful life.

Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use and ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised. The amortisation is charged to the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses on a straight line basis over the useful life of the asset.

Typically, the estimated useful lives of these assets are as follows:

- computer software three to six years.

Emissions Trading Scheme

The Groups forestry holdings incorporates forestry assets held by Council.

Gisborne Holdings Limited (GHL) has voluntarily entered the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in respect of 1,224.2ha of forest land located in the Tauwhareparae area. This entitles GHL to receive emissions units (units) for carbon stored in the specified area from a 1 January 2008 baseline.

Council's forestry holdings separate from the subsidiaries holdings, consisting of small woodlots and a further area held by the Pamoā Forest Joint Venture. These forestry blocks were registered with ETS in November 2011. This entitles the Council to receive emissions units (units) for carbon stored in the specified area from 1 January 2008 baseline.

Units received are recognised at fair value on the date they are received and subsequently measured at cost subject to impairment. While there are no specific conditions attached to units received, should carbon stored in the specified area fall below the amount compensated for, a portion of the units received must be returned.

Units received are recorded on the Prospective Statement of Financial Position as an intangible asset until it is clear that they will not be required to meet future emissions obligations. The value of units is then recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Where there is an obligation to return units this liability is recognised on the Prospective Statement of Financial Position, measured with reference to the carrying value of units on hand. Where there is insufficient units on hand to meet the emissions obligation, this is measured by reference to the current market value for units held.

Property, plant and equipment valuation

Council has elected to use the Public Benefit Entities exemption to revalue property, plant and equipment on an asset class basis. The results of revaluing are credited or debited to an asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset. Where this results in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is expensed in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses. Any subsequent increase on revaluation that off-sets a previous decrease in value recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses will be recognised first in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses up to the amount previously expensed, and then credited to the revaluation reserve for that class of asset.

Additions

Additions between valuations are recorded at cost, except for vested assets. Certain infrastructural assets and land have been vested in Council as part of the subdivision consent process. Vested assets are recognised as revenue when control over the asset is obtained. Vested assets are valued at fair value when received.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are included in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to retained earnings.

Subsequent costs

Costs incurred subsequent to the initial acquisition are capitalised only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be reliably measured.

Operational assets valuations

All Operational assets are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses except for:

- operational land
- operational land is valued at fair value and is not depreciated
- operational buildings.

Operational buildings are revalued to optimised depreciated replacement cost and depreciated between valuations. These assets are independently revalued every 3 years, or more frequently when there are indications that the values may have changed substantially from carrying value.

Library books - general collection

All new and replacement books are capitalised in the year they are purchased and subsequently depreciated based on useful lives. The valuations are performed by the Head Librarian and

are not subject to independent review because there are readily available market prices to determine fair value.

Library books permanent collection

The permanent collection is carried at deemed cost.

Infrastructure assets valuations

Infrastructural assets

Infrastructural assets are initially recorded at depreciated replacement cost. Infrastructure assets other than roading are independently valued every 3 years at depreciated replacement costs, unless conditions indicate that carrying value is materially different to fair value, in which case assets are revalued more frequently.

Roading assets

Roading assets are independently revalued annually.

Airport assets

Airport assets include land, buildings, runway aprons, roading and below ground infrastructure. Airport assets are independently valued every 3 years or more frequently when there are indicators that the fair values may have changed substantially from carrying value.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all fixed assets other than land and land under roads.

The depreciation rates used will write off the cost (or valuation) of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful lives. The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Infrastructure assets

Roads	
Pavement Surface (seal)	5 - 20 years
Pavement Surface (unsealed) - Wearing Course	5 years
Pavement Layers (basecourse)	40 - 100 years
Formation	(not depreciated)
Culverts	70 years
Footpaths	20 - 75 years
Surface Water Channels	75 years
Signs	12 years
Street Lights	15 - 25 years
Bridges	25 - 80 years
Retaining Structures	80 years
Traffic Signals	15 years
Parking Meters	15 years
Railings	10 - 15 years

Roads	
Safety Projects	10 - 13 years
Water reticulation	
Pipes	30 - 165 years
Valves, Hydrants	25 years
Pump Stations	15 - 100 years
Dams	400 years
Structures	16 - 200 years
Sewage reticulation	
Pipes	60 - 100 years
Pump Station	15 - 100 years
Manholes	100 years
Treatment Plant	15 - 50 years
Laterals	100 years
Stormwater systems	
Pipes	62 - 100 years
In-drain Structures	25 - 100 years
Flood Control Systems	25 - 100 years
Solid Waste	4 - 25 years
Operational assets	
Land	(not depreciated)
Buildings/Land Improvements	3 - 100 years
Plant/Machinery/Motor Vehicles	2 - 20 years
Office Equipment/Furniture	3 - 50 years
Other Equipment	3 - 25 years
Library Books	1 - 50 years
Wharves	50 years
Floating Plant	25 years
Leased Assets	3 - 8 years

Assets under construction

Assets under construction are valued at cost but they are not depreciated. The total cost of a project is transferred to freehold buildings, plant and equipment or infrastructural assets on its completion and then depreciated.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets that have a finite useful life are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

If the recoverable amount of a non-financial asset is less than its carrying amount, the item is written down to its recoverable amount. The write down of an item recorded at cost is recognised as an expense in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Income. When a re-valued item is written down to recoverable amount, the write down is recognised as a downward revaluation to the extent of the corresponding revaluation reserve and any

balance recognised in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

The carrying amount of a non-financial asset that has previously been written down to a recoverable amount is increased to its current recoverable amount if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the amount of the write down. The increased carrying amount of the item will not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined if the write down to recoverable amount had not occurred.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are non-interest bearing and are normally settled on 30-day terms. Therefore, the carrying value of trade and other payables used in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position approximates their fair value.

Financial liabilities: borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at their fair value. After initial recognition, all borrowings are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Employee entitlements

The provision for annual leave employee entitlement and other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of balance date has been calculated on an actual entitlement basis at current rates of pay while the other provisions have been calculated on future rates of pay, discounted using an appropriate discount rate.

Provision for accumulated sick leave is made only to the extent that it is expected to be used in future periods. The expected usage is assessed using historical average rates of use.

Long service leave and retirement leave

For retiring leave and long-service leave not expected to be taken within 12 months of balance date, the liability is equal to the present value of the estimated future cash outflows, calculated on an actuarial basis, as a result of employee services provided at balance date.

Superannuation schemes

Defined benefit scheme

Council belongs to the Defined Benefit Plan Contributors Scheme (the scheme), which is managed by the Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund. The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme.

Insufficient information is available to use defined benefit accounting, as it is not possible to determine from the terms of the scheme, the extent to which the surplus/deficit will affect future contributions by individual employers, as there is no prescribed basis for allocation. The scheme is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised for future expenditure of uncertain amount or timing when the Council has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reasonable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

If the time value of money is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

Where the Group expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, for example under an insurance contract, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. The expense relating to any provision is presented in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses net of any reimbursement.

Public equity

This represents the ratepayer's net ownership of Council. It is made up of the following components:

- Accumulated funds and retained earnings
- Special funds and reserves
- Asset revaluation reserves.

Accumulated funds

Comprise accumulated surpluses over the years.

Special funds and reserves

Reserves are a component of public equity and represent a particular use to which parts of equity have been assigned. Reserves may be legally restricted or created by Council.

Special funds are recorded at cost plus accumulated interest. These funds are restricted in nature and can only be used for the special purpose for which they were set up.

Also included are reserves restricted by Council decision. These funds are subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by Council which may not be revised by Council without reference to a third party or the Courts.

Asset revaluation reserve

Comprise accumulated revaluation increments or decrements.

Detail on the movement of reserves held by Council (with exception of revaluation reserve) can be found in Note 12.

Prospective statement of cash flows

Cash flows from operating activities are presented using the direct method.

Definitions of terms used in the Prospective Statement of Cash Flows:

- **operating activities** - These activities include all transactions and events that are not investing or financing activities

- **investing activities** - These comprise those activities relating to the acquisition, holding and disposal of fixed assets and investments. Investments can include securities not falling within the definition of cash
- **financing activities** - These are activities which result in changes in the size and composition of the capital structure of Council; inclusive of both equity and debt not falling within the definition of cash.

Changes to accounting policies

There has been no changes in accounting policies during the Annual Plan. All accounting policies have been applied on a consistent basis throughout the years presented.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

In preparing these prospective financial statements Council has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results. Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Landfill post closure costs

Paōkahu

As former operator of the Paōkahu landfill site, Council has an obligation to ensure the ongoing maintenance and monitoring services at this landfill site after closure.

A landfill after care provision has been recognised as a liability in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position. Provision is made for the present value of post closure costs expected to be incurred in restoring the area to its former status. The calculated cost is based on estimates of future site maintenance, supervision and monitoring costs. The estimated length of time needed for post closure care for the Paōkahu site is 35 years from 31 December 2002.

The calculations assume no change in the legislative requirements or technological changes for closure and post closure treatment.

Waiapū

As operator of the Waiapū landfill site, Council has an obligation to ensure the ongoing maintenance and monitoring services at this landfill site after closure.

A landfill after care provision has been recognised as a liability in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position.

Provision is made for the present value of post closure costs expected to be incurred in restoring the area to its former status. The calculated cost is based on estimates of future site maintenance, supervision and monitoring costs. The estimated

length of time needed for post closure care for the Waiapū site is 35 years from 30 June 2025.

Infrastructural assets

There are a number of assumptions and estimates used when performing the depreciated replacement cost valuations in respect of infrastructural assets. These include:

- The physical deterioration and condition of asset, for example, Council could be carrying an asset at an amount that does not reflect its actual condition. This is particularly so for those assets which are not visible, for example storm water, wastewater and water supply pipes that are underground. This risk is minimised by Council performing a combination of physical inspections and condition-modeling assessments of underground assets.
- Estimating any obsolescence or surplus capacity of an asset.
- Estimates are made when determining the remaining useful lives over which the asset will be depreciated. These estimates can be impacted by the local conditions, for example, weather patterns and traffic growth.
- If useful lives do not reflect the actual consumption of the benefits of the asset, then Council could be over or under-estimating the annual depreciation charge recognised as an expense in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses. To minimise this risk, Council's infrastructural asset's useful lives have been determined with reference to the NZ Infrastructural Asset Valuation and Depreciation Guidelines published by the National Asset Management Steering Group, and have been adjusted for local conditions based on past experience.
- Asset inspections, deterioration and condition modelling are also carried out regularly as part of Council's asset management planning activities, which provides Council with further assurance over its useful life estimates.

Experienced independent valuers perform Council's infrastructural asset revaluations.

GST

The financial statements have been prepared exclusive of GST with the exception of receivables and payables, which are stated with GST included.

Budget figures

The budget figures are those approved by Council and published in the 2024-2027 3YP and this Annual Plan.

The Annual Plan 2026/27 figures have been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Public Benefit Entity (PBE) accounting standards.

Cost allocation

Expenditure has been reported by the nature of the expense.

Capital management

Council's capital is its equity (or ratepayers' funds) which comprises accumulated funds and reserves. Equity is represented by net assets.

The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires Council to manage its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and general financial dealings prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. Ratepayers' funds are largely managed as a by-product of managing revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and general financial dealings.

The objective of managing these items is to achieve inter generational equity, which is a principle promoted in the Act and applied by Council. Inter generational equity requires today's rate payers to meet the costs of utilising the Council's assets and not expecting them to meet the full cost of long-term assets that will benefit ratepayers in future generations. Additionally, Council has in place asset management plans for major classes of assets detailing renewal and maintenance programmes, to ensure that ratepayers in future generations are not required to meet the costs of deferred renewals and maintenance.

The Act requires Council to make adequate and effective provision in its Annual Plan to meet the expenditure needs identified by those plans. The Act sets out the factors that the Council is required to consider when determining the most appropriate sources of funding for each of its activities. The sources and levels of funding are set out in the funding and financial policies in the Council's 3YP.

Note 2: Prospective summary cost of services by activity

AP 2026 \$000s		Year 3 2027 \$000s	AP 2027 \$000s
Revenue From Non-Exchange Transactions			
1,334	Environmental Services & Protection	1,380	1,344
2,946	Regional Leadership & Support Services	2,643	1,626
688	Land, Rivers & Coastal	0	0
23,811	Roading	23,529	24,623
5,400	Solid Waste ¹	0	0
920	Liveable Communities	269	269
35,098	Total Revenue From Non-Exchange Transactions	27,820	27,862
Revenue From Exchange Transactions			
1,852	Commercial Operations	1,786	1,886
6,714	Environmental Services & Protection	6,962	6,962
1,748	Regional Leadership & Support Services	4,360	2,154
241	Land, Rivers & Coastal	305	247
154	Roading	157	157
842	Wastewater	564	696
277	Solid Waste	281	311
3,935	Water Supply	4,358	3,950
3,586	Liveable Communities	3,660	3,817
19,350	Total Revenue From Exchange Transactions	22,434	20,179
Expenses			
2,286	Commercial Operations	2,301	2,358
15,411	Environmental Services & Protection	15,722	15,978
31,491	Regional Leadership & Support Services	26,831	31,974
5,061	Land, Rivers & Coastal	4,606	5,122
49,960	Roading	51,639	51,440
14,360	Wastewater	14,192	15,260
4,583	Urban Stormwater	4,200	4,717
11,445	Solid Waste ¹	6,509	6,210
9,560	Water Supply	10,419	10,282
26,020	Liveable Communities	25,460	26,881
170,178	Total Expenses	161,877	170,222
115,730		111,622	122,181

1. Large Woody Debris project costs and funding will likely be included in 2027 however will be confirmed in the next few months and included within the final AP2027.

Note 3: Rates revenue

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
96,951	Rates Revenue	105,191	105,628
	Rates revenue consists of:		
10,761	General Rates	12,521	12,933
24,834	Uniform Annual General Charge	27,092	26,304
57,791	Targeted Rates	61,735	62,822
3,565	Metered Water Rates	3,843	3,570
96,951	Rates Revenue	105,191	105,628
	Less		
2,047	Remissions	2,307	2,000
94,904	Net Rates Revenue	102,884	103,628

Forecast rating base information

	Rating Units	Total Capital Value \$000s	Total Land Value \$000s
Rateable Units	22,560	20,731	11,926
Non Rateable Units	1,499	413	255
Total	24,059	21,144	12,181

Note 4: Revenue from grants and subsidies

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
	Revenue from Grants and Subsidies		
77,687	Central Government Grants & Other Grants and Subsidies ¹	52,334	71,872
70,769	NZ Transport Agency Rooding Subsidies ²	66,099	79,148
148,456	Total Revenue from Grants and Subsidies	118,433	151,020

¹Central Government Grants/Other - mostly relates to Central Government grants for the recovery and reinstatement of damaged infrastructure post cyclone Gabrielle.

²NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi - Rooding subsidies - the increase is due to the provision of emergency reinstatement works after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Note 5: Revenue from operating activities

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
	Revenue from Operating Activities		
1,878	Development Contributions	1,888	1,888
650	Rates Penalties	550	570
15,903	Activity Revenue	16,156	16,288
0	Dividends	2,500	1,250
365	Petroleum Tax	365	365
18,796	Total Revenue from Operating Activities	21,459	20,361

Note 6: Revenue from other gains/(losses)

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
	Revenue from Other Gains		
850	Gain / (Loss) on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment	950	50
850	Total Revenue from Other Gains	950	50

Note 7: Employee benefit expense

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
	Employee Benefit Expense		
48,147	Salary and Wages	47,160	47,874
1,307	Defined Contribution Plans Expense	1,237	1,507
(11,084)	Less Recharged to Other Expense Categories	(9,562)	(9,705)
38,370	Total Employee Benefit Expense	38,834	39,677

¹Most of the difference against Year 3 relates to resourcing for the recovery program and the timing of projects, these costs are funded by external grants.

Note 8: Depreciation and amortisation expense

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
	Depreciation and Amortisation Expense		
870	Commercial Operations	864	864
60	Environmental Services & Protection	58	58
216	Land, Rivers & Coastal	245	463
4,149	Liveable Communities	4,269	3,927
1,906	Regional Leadership & Support Services	1,978	2,233
15,694	Roading	17,082	15,754
501	Solid Waste	656	325
1,602	Urban Stormwater	1,674	1,968
4,265	Wastewater	3,880	4,744
3,595	Water Supply	3,732	3,455
32,857	Total Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	34,439	33,791
32,857	Total Depreciation	34,439	33,791
32,857		34,439	33,791

Note 9: Expenditure on operating activities

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
	Expenditure on Operating Activities		
2,901	Administration Expenses	3,081	3,220
305	Audit Fees - Financial Reporting	445	445
2,608	Consultants and Professional Services	3,155	3,301
996	Elected Members and Director's Fees	1,017	1,017
227	Indirect Employment Costs	317	303
1,001	Grants and Donations	1,002	1,001
2,217	Insurance Costs	2,439	2,410
2,113	Rental and Operating Leases	2,210	2,159
16,374	Repairs and Maintenance	17,219	17,492
1,547	Bad Debts Written Off - Rates	1,784	1,500
(92)	Bad Debts Written Off - Other	(90)	(60)
179	Change to Impairment of Receivables	178	147
178	IRD Compliance Costs	182	182
2,479	Litter Bins and City Cleaning	2,599	2,599
10,173	Emergency Works	10,542	10,542
47,666	Other Operating Expenditure ¹	33,656	41,629
90,873	Total Expenditure on Operating Activities	79,737	87,887

¹ Other operating expenditure - includes items such as electricity, operational contracts, treatment plants, pump stations, internal interest costs, vegetation planting contracts, facilities contracts. The main difference against Year 3 relates to changes in special operational projects, driven mostly by timing adjustments. Many are externally funded and result in limited direct impact on ratepayers.

Note 10: Finance costs

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
Finance Costs			
7,316	Interest on Debentures and Interest Rate Swaps	5,435	8,801
702	Interest on Bank Borrowings and Commercial Paper	3,372	6
60	Line Fee	60	60
8,078	Total Finance Costs	8,867	8,867

Note 11: Development contributions revenue

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
Development Contributions Revenue			
66	Reserves & Open Spaces	66	66
440	Roading	440	440
182	Water Supply	182	182
850	Wastewater	850	850
340	Stormwater	350	350
1,878	Total Development Contributions Revenue	1,888	1,888

Note 12: Movements in reserves

	Opening Balance	Transfers	Transfers	Closing Balance
	1 July 2026	to Reserves	from Reserves	30 June 2027
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Special Funds and Other Reserves				
Civil Defence Disaster Relief	402	7	46	363
Capital Development Fund	2,497	49	0	2,546
Depreciation	32,081	33,841	38,090	27,833
GHL Forestry Reserve	(2,145)	(51)	900	(3,095)
HMNZ Blackpool Scholarship Fund	8	0	0	8
Land Subdivision	400	8	0	408
Land Transport - Urban Development Contributions	888	460	214	1,134
Olympic Pool Development	34	1	0	35
Organisation Development Reserve	3,745	0	2,232	1,513
Pamoa Restoration Reserve	2,740	53	363	2,429
Quarry Rehab	1,332	26	0	1,358
Reserves Contributions	957	19	0	976
Reserves - District Development Contributions	570	71	643	(2)
Stormwater - Urban Development Contributions	(184)	349	121	43
Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme	851	17	0	868
Water Supply - Urban Development Contributions	25	184	41	168
Wastewater - Urban Development Contributions	1,397	873	1,252	1,018
Total Special Funds and Other Reserves	45,599	35,907	43,903	37,603

Note 13: Reconciliation of funding impact statement with prospective statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses

AP 2026 \$000s		Year 3 2027 \$000s	AP 2027 \$000s
RECONCILIATION OF REVENUE			
Sources of operating funding			
146,984	Total operating funding (A) as per Funding Impact Statement	150,652	150,049
Add Sources of capital funding			
115,342	Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	92,543	125,072
1,878	Development and financial contributions	1,888	1,888
850	Profit / (Loss) on Sale of Assets	950	50
0	Lump sum contributions	0	0
265,054		246,033	277,060
265,054	As per Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Income - Total Operating Income	246,033	277,060
RECONCILIATION OF EXPENDITURE			
Applications of operating funding			
137,322	Total applications of operating funding (B) as per Funding Impact Statement	127,438	136,431
32,857	Add depreciation and amortisation expense	34,439	33,791
170,178		161,877	170,222
170,178	As per Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Income - Total Operating Expenditure	161,877	170,222
RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
115,342	Add subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	92,543	125,072
9,663	Surplus/(deficit) of operating funding (A-B)	23,214	13,619
350	Add Subvention Payment	350	350
850	Add Profit / (Loss) on Sale of Assets	950	50
1,878	Add development and financial contributions	1,888	1,888
(32,857)	Add depreciation and amortisation expense	(34,439)	(33,791)
68,751	Add gains/(loss) of property revaluation	51,386	53,132
163,977		135,892	160,320
163,977	As per Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Income - Total Comprehensive Income	135,891	160,320

Note 14: Capital expenditure

Description	Level Of Service	Year 3	AP	Variance
		2027	2027	
		\$000s	\$000s	
Commercial Operations				
Commercial Property - Staff Housing Upgrades	MAINTAIN	55	55	-
Community Housing - Upgrades	MAINTAIN	225	225	-
Commercial Property - Office Furniture	MAINTAIN	-	20	(20)
Total		280	300	(20)
Land, Rivers and Coastal				
Flood resilience - Cat 2	INCREASE	17,501	13,280	4,221
Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme Resilience Improvements	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	3,462	3,462	-
Waipaoa River Flood Ctl Scheme - Cat 2	INCREASE	6,357	354	6,003
Flood Scheme Renewals	MAINTAIN	-	205	(205)
Total		27,320	17,301	10,019
Liveable Communities				
Amenities	MAINTAIN	350	410	(60)
Aquatic Facilities Renewals	MAINTAIN	25	25	-
CBD Revitalisation	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	700	1,601	(901)
Cemeteries Renewals	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	82	82	-
Jetties and Boat Ramps	MAINTAIN	65	65	-
Kiwa pools - Outdoor Pool	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	3,500	1,440	2,060
Land Remediation (asbestos contamination on Reserve land)	MAINTAIN	200	200	-
Land Stability Projects	MAINTAIN	250	200	50
Library Renewals	MAINTAIN	243	243	-
New urban cemetery	INCREASE	150	150	-
Parks - Kopututea Private Reserve - Co-Governance	MAINTAIN	15	15	-
Parks & Reserves	MAINTAIN	779	999	(220)
Public Art	MAINTAIN	60	60	-
Signage	MAINTAIN	35	35	-
Sportsground Facilities - Indoor Stadium	INCREASE	2,000	1,500	500
Sportsground Facilities Upgrades and Renewals	MAINTAIN	150	150	-
Street Trees Planting	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	85	35	50
Waihirere Domain Development	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	11	-	11
Waingake Restoration (Pamoa)	INCREASE	1,817	1,817	-
WMT - Capital Upgrades	MAINTAIN	25	25	-
Parks & Reserves Land Improvements	GROWTH	643	643	-
Museum Renewals	MAINTAIN	-	24	(24)
Total		11,184	9,718	1,466

Description	Level Of Service	Year 3	AP	Variance
		2027 \$000s	2027 \$000s	
Regional Leadership and Support				
Air Quality And Noise Monitoring Equipment	MAINTAIN	95	95	-
Bore Drilling and Renewals	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	229	407	(178)
Business Analytics	MAINTAIN	50	50	-
Digitisation of records- capex	INCREASE	600	925	(325)
Existing Core Hardware & Software Renewal	MAINTAIN	767	747	20
Freshwater Improvement Fund	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	-	280	(280)
Orthophoto Regeneration - Aerial Photography	MAINTAIN	40	40	-
Resilience Upgrades	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	50	50	-
Software Renewals & Updates	INCREASE	-	50	(50)
Telemetry And Hydrological Equipment	MAINTAIN	97	97	-
Vehicle & Minor Plant Renewals	MAINTAIN	564	564	-
Civil Defence Upgrades	INCREASE	-	150	(150)
Total		2,492	3,455	(963)
Roading				
CBD Revitalisation	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	50	-	50
Community connectivity	INCREASE	1,250	2,945	(1,695)
Footpath Replacements - Funded	MAINTAIN	64	177	(113)
Gisborne City Carpark Facility	MAINTAIN	21	21	-
Minor Improvements Projects	MAINTAIN	1,136	1,000	136
Regional Transport Projects - recovery	MAINTAIN	58,000	85,181	(27,181)
Resilience Improvement	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	797	1,050	(254)
Roading Renewals	MAINTAIN	13,721	18,374	(4,653)
Taruheru Subdivision Improvements	GROWTH	669	669	-
Total		75,708	109,418	(33,710)
Solid Waste				
Heritage Landfill Remediation	MAINTAIN	50	6,430	(6,380)
Landfill Capital Works	INCREASE	1,000	1,500	(500)
Paokahu Closed Landfill	MAINTAIN	-	60	(60)
Resource Recovery centre	INCREASE	-	1,500	(1,500)
Solid Waste Renewals	MAINTAIN	118	376	(258)
Waste Minimisation	INCREASE	-	90	(90)
Waiapu Landfill - Stage 3	MAINTAIN	-	295	(295)
Transfer Stations	MAINTAIN	-	478	(478)
Waste Resilience	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	-	2,230	(2,230)
Total		1,168	12,959	(11,791)

Description	Level Of Service	Year 3	AP	Variance
		2027 \$000s	2027 \$000s	
Stormwater				
Stormwater Renewals & Upgrades	GROWTH / INCREASE / MAINTAIN	1,154	1,374	(220)
Stormwater resilience	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	1,000	1,000	-
Total		2,154	2,374	(220)
Townships				
Township upgrades	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	1,006	1,700	(694)
Total		1,006	1,700	(694)
Wastewater				
Wastewater renewals and Urban upgrades	GROWTH / INCREASE / MAINTAIN	6,361	7,541	(1,180)
Kaiti Area Pumpstation & Rising Main	GROWTH	100	100	-
Wastewater Treatment Plant Further Treatment	MAINTAIN	-	260	(260)
Te Karaka Wastewater Land Disposal	MAINTAIN	-	100	(100)
Mortuary Waste Field	INCREASE	-	20	(20)
Total		6,461	8,021	(1,560)
Water Supply				
Taruheru Block Water Extension	GROWTH	372	-	372
Water supply renewals and upgrades	MAINTAIN	3,086	3,086	-
Water supply resilience	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	1,700	2,456	(756)
Sang Dam Slump Remedial Works	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	-	65	(65)
Waipaoa Treatment Plan Infiltration Galery	INCREASE / MAINTAIN	-	90	(90)
Dams Resilience	MAINTAIN	-	1,200	(1,200)
Total		5,158	6,897	(1,739)
Grand Total		132,932	172,143	(39,211)

The increases in capital expenditure programme against Year 3 are due mostly timing of capital works for project completion.

Te pūrongo ahumoni me ngā taumata matawhāiti

Financial reporting and prudence benchmarks

The purpose of this statement is to disclose Council's planned financial performance in relation to various benchmarks to enable the assessment of whether the group is prudently managing its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, and general financial dealings.

Council is required to include this statement in its Annual Plan in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 (the regulations). Refer to the regulations for more information, including definitions of some of the terms used in this statement.

Benchmark

Benchmark	Limit	Planned	Met
Rates affordability benchmarks:			
- quantified limit on rates income (per 3YP)	104,780	102,059	Yes
- quantified limit on rates increase (per 3YP) ¹	11.4%	8.49%	Yes
Debt affordability benchmark			
- quantified limit on borrowing	<175%	161%	Yes
Balanced budget benchmark >100% ²	100%	162%	Yes
Essential services benchmark >100% ³	100%	341%	Yes
Debt servicing benchmark <10% (borrowing costs/revenue)	10%	5.9%	Yes

¹ Quantified limit on rates increase is 11.4% plus growth.

² Higher balanced budget benchmark is due to higher revenue than operational expenditure. This is due to the capital grants from central government for the reinstatement of damaged infrastructure resulting from Cyclone Gabrielle that impacted our region in February 2023. Capital grants goes towards reducing our need to borrow, and supports the capital expenditure program.

³ Higher essential services benchmark resulting from increased capital costs to reinstate the damaged infrastructure resulting from Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. This is reflected in the increased capital to depreciation results.

Notes

Rates affordability benchmark

- For this benchmark, Council's planned rates income for the year is compared with a quantified limit on rates contained in the financial strategy included in the Council's 3YP; and
- The Council's planned rates increases for the year are compared with a quantified limit on rates increases for the year contained in the financial strategy included in the Council's 3YP.

Council meets the rates affordability benchmark if

- Its planned rates income for the year equals or is less than each quantified limit on rates; and
- Its planned rates increases for the year equals or are less than each quantified limit on rates increases.

Debt affordability benchmark

- For this benchmark, the Council's planned borrowing is compared with a quantified limit on borrowing contained in the financial strategy included in the Council's 3YP.
- The Council meets the debt affordability benchmark if its planned borrowing is within each quantified limit on borrowing.

Balanced budget benchmark

- For this benchmark, the Council's planned revenue (excluding development contributions, vested assets, financial contributions, gains on derivative financial instruments, and revaluations of property, plant or equipment) is presented as a proportion of its planned operating expenses (excluding losses on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant, or equipment).
- The Council meets the balanced budget benchmark if its revenue equals or is greater than its operating expenses.

Essential services benchmark

- For this benchmark, the Council's planned capital expenditure on network services is presented as a proportion of expected depreciation on network services.
- The Council meets the essential services benchmark if its planned capital expenditure on network services equals or is greater than expected depreciation on network services.

Debt servicing benchmark

- For this benchmark, the Council's planned borrowing costs are represented as a proportion of planned revenue (excluding development contributions, vested assets, financial contributions, gains on derivative financial instruments, and revaluations of property, plant or equipment).
- Because Statistics New Zealand projects that the Council's population will grow slower than the national population growth rate, it meets the debt servicing benchmark if its planned borrowing costs are less than 10% of its planned revenue.

Ngā whakamārama hiranga

Significant assumptions

The following section details the assumptions Council has made in preparing this Annual Plan. These assumptions are necessary as they ensure that readers are aware of the basis for the estimates and forecast. The Annual Plan provides forecast financial information in accordance with New Zealand Financial Reporting Standard 42 (FRS42), Prospective Financial Statements. Actual results are likely to vary from the information presented and the variations may be material.

Significant forecasting assumptions and risks

Schedule 10 (Section 11) of the Local Government Act 2002 contains provisions relating to 'significant forecasting assumptions'. The Act requires that Council identifies the significant forecasting assumptions and risks underlying the financial estimates. Where there is a high level of uncertainty, Council is required to state the reason for that level of uncertainty and provide an estimate of the potential effects on the financial assumptions.

General

It is assumed there will be no changes in the nature of the Gisborne District Council's business.

Interest rates

The interest rate on Council external debt is approximately 3.9% in this Annual Plan. Council covers its interest rate exposure using interest rate swaps. The interest rates are based on estimates of the 90-day bank bill rate and include bank margins and the effect of continuing use of interest rate swaps.

Inflation

The forecast financial information includes provision for inflation. Council has used forecasts of price level changes prepared by Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL) to calculate the inflation rate for each year of the 3YP. Council has left the inflation at levels used in the 2024-2027 3YP. Council has not included any inflation on Roading operation costs for the 2026/27 financial year. This is based on firm indications from National Roading bodies.

Renewability of funding

Bank facilities are arranged with multiple banks and structured to ensure there is a range of maturity dates. Bank facilities are reviewed annually. The Annual Plan assumes that the necessary level of funding will continue to be available through a mixture of bank facilities and debentures.

Forecast returns on investment and strategic assets

Council maintains a range of commercial and strategic investments. Council has used forecast the return for significant investments and business units. Council is currently reviewing all its investments and strategic assets to ensure it is receiving an adequate rate of return. The Annual Plan does not currently include any significant strategic or investment asset disposals.

External funding

Included in the forecast financial statements are a number of operational and capital projects that are assumed to be either significantly or 100% funded by another agency or grant. There are also a number of major projects to be funded by a combination of Council and external funding.

Council has \$172m planned for capital projects in the 2026/27 Annual Plan (after project prioritisation). Of this, \$125m is budgeted to be funded from grants, subsidies or donations. There is a risk that sources of funds for some capital projects may not eventuate. It is assumed that if the external funds budgeted are not available then the projects will be reviewed and the availability of other funding sources will be assessed.

Depreciation

All assets, excluding those listed below, are assumed to be replaced at the end of their useful life. The following assets are assumed not to be replaced at the end of their useful life:

- Tolaga Bay Wharf
- Pātūtahi Hall.

Council does not fund depreciation on these assets.

Council does not fully fund the depreciation on its roading assets in the Forecast Financial Statements. It is assumed that a set proportion of the Land Transport capital expenditure will continue to be funded through Waka Kotahi financial assistance subsidies. It is therefore considered appropriate to only collect rates revenue on the portion of roading depreciation funded from Council reserves.

Council does not fund depreciation on the Airport assets as it is assumed that the Council lease of the Airport assets and operations to East land Infrastructure Ltd will result in the assets being returned to Council at the end of the lease in the same condition as when the lease began on 1 April 2005.

Council funds depreciation costs for revalued Three water assets to the extent that was provided within the 3YP and to extent of meeting its renewals.

Useful lives of assets are as recorded in Asset Management Plans or based upon professional advice. There is a risk that some assets may wear out and fail sooner or later than calculated. There is no certainty that asset components will last exactly their design lives. However, replacement is budgeted at the expected end of useful life and earlier replacement will result in a loss on disposal of any residual value.

Earlier replacement may result in deferring other discretionary capital projects in order to remain within the total Annual Plan capital budget and Council's borrowing limits as set out in the Council Liability Management Policy.

The depreciation rates used for planned asset acquisition are in line with current policies.

Depreciation on planned asset acquisitions

The depreciation rates used for planned asset acquisitions are in line with current policies.

Asset sales

The forecast financial information does not make any provision for income from the sale of Council assets.

Resource consents

All of Council's works projects require resource consents to be granted before works can commence. It has been assumed that resource consents can be obtained for all capital works, and that obtaining those resource consents will not significantly impact on the timing of capital works shown in the Annual Plan.

It is also assumed that the currency and conditions of existing resource consents held by Council will not be altered significantly during the term of the Annual Plan.

Revaluation of assets

The forecast financial information includes an annual estimate to reflect the change in asset valuations and depreciation. The effect of the revaluations, is a best estimate based on historical asset values, forecast capital expenditure, the BERL inflation indices and recent revaluation information.

The most recent revaluation of Council's assets were Land, Buildings & Gisborne Airport landside/airside 30 June 2025; Roading infrastructure, utilities and flood assets are revalued annually. It is assumed revaluations will result in an increase in the asset values, revaluation, reserves and the depreciation expense.

Emissions trading scheme

Council has made no provisions for the effects of the Emissions Trading Scheme in this Annual Plan. The effects of the scheme are difficult to predict. It is anticipated that any increase in costs will be mostly offset by increased efficiency gains.

Revenue and financing mechanisms

The following information is presented solely and for the purpose of clause 20 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulation 2014 with additional information provided to assist ratepayers in understanding the rates for the financial year commencing 1 July 2026 and ending 30 June 2027.

These statements are not NZ GAAP compliant. The information presented is incomplete, (in particular it does not include depreciation and internal overheads).

This statement should not be relied upon for any other purpose than compliance with the local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulation 2014.

We have provided a reconciliation between Council's Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses and Councils Funding Impact Statement in Note 13.

In addition to rating income, Council has a number of other sources of revenue including:

- **subsidies and grants** - From government and non-government organisations to fund maintenance or capital projects
- **fees and charges** - Council charges for services provided, for example building consents and dog licences
- **interest received and dividends income** - From funds invested or Council investments
- **capital rates** - Rates used to repay Loans and Capital Expenditure, for example solid waste loan
- **development contributions** - Money received to fund capital expenditure for new development
- **asset sales** - Money received from the sale of assets
- **reserves** - Money set aside to fund expenditure for a specific purpose. For further details of Council's revenue funding mechanisms, please refer to the Revenue and Financing Policy in 2024-2027 3YP.

Funding impact statement

This statement sets out the information required by Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, together with additional information provided to assist ratepayers in understanding the impact of the Annual Plan.

AP 2026		Year 3 2027	AP 2027
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s
Sources of operating funding			
34,575	General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	40,162	38,004
63,026	Targeted rates	65,579	68,195
33,115	Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	25,891	25,947
13,597	Fees and charges	13,729	14,043
0	Interest and Dividends from Investments	2,500	1,250
2,671	Local authorities fuel Tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	2,792	2,610
146,984	Total Operating Funding (A)	150,652	150,049
Applications of operating funding			
129,259	Payments to staff and suppliers	118,587	127,580
8,063	Finance costs	8,851	8,851
0	Other operating funding applications	0	0
137,322	Total applications of operating funding (B)	127,438	136,431
9,663	Surplus/(deficit) of operating funding (A-B)	23,214	13,619
Sources of capital funding			
115,342	Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	92,543	125,072
1,878	Development and financial contributions	1,888	1,888
12,982	Increase/(decrease) in debt	9,781	13,218
850	Gross proceeds from sale of assets	950	50
0	Lump sum contributions	0	0
131,052	Total sources of capital funding (C)	105,162	140,229
Applications of capital funding			
Capital expenditure			
2,164	- to meet additional demand	3,516	3,227
53,742	- to improve level of service	40,217	66,099
107,306	- to replace existing assets	89,199	102,817
(22,497)	Increase/(decrease) in reserves	(4,556)	(18,295)
0	Increase/(decrease) of investments	0	0
140,714	Total applications of capital funding (D)	128,375	153,848
(9,663)	Surplus/(deficit) of capital funding (C-D)	(23,214)	(13,619)
0	Funding balance ((A-B)+(C-D))	0	(0)

Tauāki Whakakohuki Pūtea Rēti

Rates funding impact statement

Rating information

- This year Council will collect \$117.3m including GST
\$102m excluding GST.

Rates base information

The Revenue and Financing Policy within the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan outlines the choices Council has made in deciding the appropriate sources for funding its operating and capital expenditure. One of these sources are rates.

There are three broad categories of rates:

- A general rate under Section 13 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA). These are set on all rateable land in the district, at a set rate in the dollar of the rateable value of land. The Council sets a uniform general rate based upon the capital value of the land.
- A Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) under Section 15 of the LGRA for all rateable land within the district. This may be set per "rating unit" or per "Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a rating unit" (SUIP). The Council sets its UAGC per SUIP.
- Targeted rates under Section 16 and 19 of the LGRA. Targeted rates may be set on all rateable land within the district or on certain identified categories of land and are used to fund identified activities or groups of activities.

Under Section 18 of the LGRA, targeted rates may be calculated based upon different factors of liability. These are set out under Schedule 3 and include:

- capital value
- land value
- number of SUIPs
- number of water closets and urinals (pans).

Differentials and factors of liability

The general rate and targeted rates may be set differentially, with different categories of land attracting a different level of rate. The matters that may be used to define different categories of land are set out in Schedule 2 of the LGRA, and include:

- the use of the land
- the area of the land
- the provision or availability to the land of a service provided by, or on behalf of, the Council
- where the land is situated.

The Council uses different categories of rateable land to set rates differentially. These include categories of property use, Differential Rating Areas (DRAs) and drainage scheme areas.

Rating definitions

Inner zone

The inner zone is the land area in DRA1, DRA1A and DRA2 as provided in the map at the end of this section.

Outer zone

The outer zone is the land area in DRA3, DRA4 DRA5 as provided in the map at the end of this section.

Residential, lifestyle and other sector

This is a general rating category. It includes residential, lifestyle, arable, utilities network and other properties units, as well as any other properties that do not fall into the horticulture, pastoral, commercial, industrial and forestry (exotic) categories. native forests and vacant forest land are rated in this category. A horticultural or pastoral property that is less than 5ha is rated in this category. There is a weighting of 1.0 for subsidised, and flood damage and emergency reinstatement roading rates.

Horticulture sector

Properties used for horticulture that are 5ha or greater in area. There is a weighting of 1.5 for subsidised, and flood damage and emergency reinstatement roading rates.

Pastoral sector

Properties that have a pastoral use and are 5ha or greater in area. There is a weighting of 1.5 for subsidised, and flood damage and emergency reinstatement roading rates. Where 20ha or more of the property is planted in exotic forestry, the area will be rated with the forestry weighting of 13.75. That area will also contribute to the 70% forestry share for the recovery woody debris rate.

Forestry sector

Properties that are planted in exotic forestry. There is a weighting of 13.75 for subsidised, and flood damage and emergency reinstatement roading rates and the recovery woody debris rate. The forestry differential weighting is based on industry specific forecast forestry maintenance costs, updated with AP 2026/27 planned roading expenditure.

Where 20ha or more of the property is used for pasture, the area will be rated with the pastoral weighting of 1.5 for subsidised, and flood damage and emergency reinstatement roading rates. That area will also contribute to the 30% pastoral share for the recovery woody debris rate.

Properties that are native forests or vacant forestry land are included for rating in the residential, lifestyle and other general category. There is a weighting of 1.0 for subsidised, and flood damage and emergency reinstatement roading rates.

Commercial and industrial sector

Properties that have a commercial, industrial or utilities use other than where it is a utilities network. There is a weighting of 2.0 for subsidised, and flood damage and emergency reinstatement roading rates.

Rates as the Council sets them:

Targeted rates

- Rates which can fund a particular activity or group of activities and can apply to certain areas, categories or to certain ratepayers.
- The matters and categories used to define categories of rateable land and calculate liability for targeted rates are set out in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Schedule 2 and Schedule 3.

Aquatic and recreation facilities rate - The cost of maintaining the Kiwa Pool complex and our recreational facilities is based on the properties capital value. Properties in the inner zone contribute at a weighting of 1.0 and the outer zone contribute less with a weighting of 0.3.

Animal control rate - The cost of minimising danger, distress and nuisance caused by stray dogs and controlling stock on roads. This is a uniform targeted rate on residential properties throughout the district.

Building services rate - The cost of providing advice to the public on regulatory requirements with the Building Act and cost of resolving complaints about building related issues including stormwater on private property based on a properties capital value. Residential and lifestyle properties in Gisborne City and Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay contribute 85%. The remaining 15% is paid by rural properties.

Business area patrols in CBD rate - The cost of providing security in the CBD and operating CCTV security cameras for crime prevention as set out on the map at the end of this section. This is based on capital value in the CBD.

Commercial recycling rate - A targeted rate on non-residential properties within Gisborne City on each separately used or inhabited part of a property which elect to receive the recycling collection service.

Cyclone recovery rate - woody debris - A targeted rate to cover maintenance and preemptive work to protect Council assets. The targeted rate share is apportioned on capital value between the forestry sector (70%) and the pastoral sector (15%). Where 20ha or more of the property is planted in forestry, that portion will be rated as forestry. Where 20ha or more of the property is pastoral, that portion will be rated as pastoral. The remaining 15% public good component is collected from the UAGC.

Drainage rates - The cost of providing land drainage in the designated areas of benefit. There are two groups - direct beneficiaries and contributors. Both rates are based on the area of land receiving the benefit. Maps of the drainage areas are at the end of this section.

Economic development and tourism rate - The costs of preparing for and supporting economic and tourism activity throughout

the district. This rate is payable by all industrial and commercial properties over the whole district based on capital value.

Flood control schemes rate - This is the cost of operating flood protection works. General rates fund 60% and the balance is targeted collection from those who receive benefit from the scheme in the city and Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay. Maps of the flood control schemes are available at the end of this section.

- Waipaoa there are six classes of the scheme from A-F.
- Te Karaka – the targeted rates are split between residential and non-residential properties.

Noise control rate - This is the cost of responding to noise complaints. This is uniform targeted rate to residential properties in Gisborne City, Makaraka, Wainui and lifestyle properties in Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay.

Non-subsidised road rate - This is the cost of non-subsidised road works in the district. This is a differential targeted rate on the inner zone and outer zone based on capital value.

Passenger transport rate - This is a uniform targeted rate for providing a subsidised passenger transport service payable on residential properties per separately used or inhabited part of a property in Gisborne City.

Parks and reserves rate - The cost of maintaining all the parks, reserves, playing fields, beach access points. This is a fixed amount per rating unit. The inner zone contributes 85% of costs and Outer Zone 15%.

Plant and animal pests rate - To keep nuisance pests and noxious plants under control. All properties contribute, but farms pay a larger contribution. The inner zone contributes 20% and the outer zone contributes 80%. This is rated on land value.

Resource consents rate - The focus is to allocate the use of natural resources to consent holders and to protect the quality of the natural and physical environment and to provide assistance and clarity to the public. This is rated on land value.

Roading flood damage and emergency and subsidised local roads rate - Roading maintenance and repair costs are partly fund by NZTA Waka Kotahi. The rate targeted portion is based on capital value and is split into differential rating groups that are weighted as follows: residential, lifestyle and other properties 1.0; horticulture and pastoral farming 1.5; industrial and commercial 2.0; forestry 13.75. The remaining portion is collected as part of the UAGC

Subsidised roading rate - residential lifestyle and other properties - This is a general sector that includes residential, lifestyle, arable, utilities network and other properties that do not fall into the horticulture, pastoral, commercial, industrial and forestry sectors. A horticultural or pastoral property that is less than 5 ha is rated in this sector. This is rated on capital value.

Subsidised roading rate - horticulture properties - Have horticulture use and are 5ha or greater in area. This is rated on capital value.

Subsidised roading rate - pastoral properties - Have pastoral use and are 5ha or greater in area. Where 20ha or more of the property is planted in forestry, that portion will be rated with the weighting for forestry roading rates. This is rated on capital value.

Subsidised roading rate - forestry exotic properties - Have a forestry use. Where 20ha or more of the property is pastoral, that portion will be rated with the weighting for pastoral roading rates. This is rated on capital value.

Subsidised roading rate - commercial and industrial properties - Have a commercial and industrial and utilities use other than where it is a utilities network.

Flood damage and emergency works rate - This rate covers approximately 25% of cost of repairs to roading network from an adverse event. The remaining balance is funded by a NZTA Waka Kotahi subsidy. Properties are rated on capital value using the weightings of 1.0 for residential properties, 1.5 for horticulture and pastoral properties, 2.0 for commercial and industrial properties and 13.75 for forestry properties. Where 20ha or more of the property is either pastoral or forestry, that portion will be rated with the corresponding weighting (pastoral 1.5, forestry 13.75). This is rated on capital value.

Rural transfer stations rate - Partially covers the cost of operating eight transfer stations at Tolaga Bay, Tokomaru Bay, Te Puia Springs, Tikitiki, Waiapū, Te Karaka, Whatatūtū and Matawai. This includes the cost of cartage to Waiapū Landfill or Gisborne City. Residential properties within a 15km radius of a rural transfer station contribute to this rate per separately used or inhabited part of a property eg if a property has multiple dwellings, the rate will be charged per dwelling. Refuse stickers are issued to use when taking refuse to a transfer station. Ruatōria township have both kerbside collection and the use of the transfer station. A charge is payable for each service.

Soil conservation rate - Advocacy and land use – This rate is concerned with erosion, land stabilisation and the effective use of land and the advice, communication and enforcement of this legislation. The soil conservation rates are split between DRA1, DRA1A and DRA2 -40%, DRA3 and DRAS4 30%, and DRA5 30%. This is based on land value.

Stormwater and drains rate - This is for the cost of stormwater reticulation to dispose of rainwater and maintain assets in Gisborne City and rural townships. Funded by a charge per separately used or inhabited part payable by residents living in Gisborne City, Wainui, Okitu and rural towns including Pātūtahi and Manūtukē. The basis for stormwater and drains on commercial properties is capital value.

Theatres rate - This is for the cost of maintaining theatres in the district. Some costs are part funded by fees and charges and part funded by a targeted rate on capital value in the inner zone and the outer zone.

Water conservation rate - This is the cost of monitoring the quality and volume of natural water, and ensuring that we are using these water resources wisely and is based on land value.

Waiapū River erosion control scheme rate

Covers the operating costs and loan repayments of protection works on the river. This activity is partially (60%) funded by the general rate with the balance split between:

- direct beneficiaries in Ruatōria township and around the river pay 60% of the cost of the activity balance on capital value

- indirect beneficiaries inside the catchment area pay 15% of the cost of the activity balance on capital value
- contributors at the edges of the catchment pay 15% of the activity balance based on rate on the dollar per hectare.

Wastewater rate - 10% of costs are funded in the general rate with the balance paid by a **pan charge rate** to connected users.

Wastewater (pan charge) rate - A usage charge based on the number of toilet pans and urinals connected. A residential dwelling pays only one pan charge, no matter how many toilet pans are installed. All other properties pay one pan charge for each toilet pan or urinal installed and connected. This includes but is not limited to commercial properties, schools and hospitals.

Waste management charge rate - Solid waste/household refuse collection including the cost of recycling where the service is provided throughout the district. This is a uniform amount for each separately used or inhabited part of a property.

Water rate

10% of costs are funded in the general rate.

- **Uniform water charge** is the cost of delivering drinking water where the service is provided, payable per separately used or inhabited part of a property, for example if there are three flats on the property there will be three water charges.
- **Availability charge** - the charge if you are in an area where water service is supplied, but the property is not connected.
- **Fixed water by meter rate** per cubic metre to properties identified as an extra-ordinary use and some rural domestic users as defined in the Water Supply Bylaw 2015. Metered domestic users receive a free of charge allowance of 300 cubic metres per annum.

Lump sum contributions will not be invited in respect of the targeted rates.

General rates

A general rate in accordance with the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 13(2)(a) based on the capital value of each rating unit in the district, on a uniform basis. The general rate is used to fund Council activities that are deemed to generally benefit all ratepayers in Te Tairāwhiti.

The general rate funds rivers control, storm water, treasury, economic development, animal and plant pests, strategic planning and engagement, coastal erosion management scheme maintenance, waste minimisation, solid waste legacy and aftercare provision, water and wastewater.

Uniform Annual General Charges (UAGC)

A fixed amount charged to each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.

The UAGC for 2026-2027 is \$1,298.09 inclusive of GST

Activities funded by UAGC 2026/27

- Cemeteries
- Libraries
- Subsidised local roads
- Civil Defence
- Litter bins and cleaning public areas
- Cyclone recovery - general and woody debris
- Strategic planning and customer engagement
- District civil and corporate expenses
- Managing solid waste and transfer stations
- Tairāwhiti Museum
- Economic development and tourism
- Mayor and councillor representation costs
- Environmental and public health protection
- Public conveniences- cleaning and maintaining

Definition of a Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a rating unit (SUIP)

A SUIP includes any portion inhabited or used by the owner/a person other than the owner, and who has the right to use or inhabit that portion by virtue of a tenancy, lease, licence, or other agreement.

This definition includes separately used parts, whether or not actually occupied at any particular time, which are provided by the owner for rental (or other form of occupation) on an occasional or long-term basis by someone other than the owner.

Interpretation rules

Each separate shop or business activity on a rating unit is a separate use, for which a separate UAGC is payable. (See guidance note 1.)

Each dwelling, flat, or additional rentable unit (attached or not attached) on a residential or rural property which is let for a substantial part of the year to persons other than immediate family members is a separately inhabited part of a property, and separate UAGCs are payable. (See guidance note 2.)

- a. Each residential rating unit which has, in addition to a family dwelling unit, one or more non-residential uses (ie home occupation units) will be charged an extra UAGC for each additional use. (See guidance note 3.)
- b. Each non-residential activity which has, in addition to its business or commercial function, co-sited residential units which are not a prerequisite part of the business or commercial function, will pay additional UAGCs for each residential unit. (See guidance note 4.)

- c. Individually tenanted flats, including retirement units, apartments and town houses (attached or not attached) or multiple dwellings on Māori freehold land are separately inhabited parts, and will each pay a separate UAGC. (See guidance note 5.)
- d. Each title on a multiple-managed forestry holding (that is, where the forest is broken into several individual small titles) is a separately used part except when one or more titles are adjacent and under the same ownership, in which case the rules of contiguity apply.
- e. Each block of land including rural land for which a separate title has been issued is liable to pay a UAGC, even if that land is vacant. Note: for the purpose of this definition, vacant land and vacant premises offered or intended for use or habitation by a person other than the owner and usually used as such are defined as 'used'.
- f. Two or more adjacent blocks of vacant land are not eligible for remission under "Contiguity" (S.20 of LG(R)A02) because they are not "used for the same purpose" (i.e. they are not used at all).
- g. Each dwelling, flat, or additional rentable unit (attached or not attached) on a pastoral, horticultural or forestry property which is let for a substantial part of the year to persons other than immediate family members is a separately inhabited part of a property, and separate UAGCs are payable.
- h. For the avoidance of doubt, a rating unit that has a single use or occupation is treated as having one separately used or inhabited part.
- i. A substantial part of the year is considered to be three months or more (this total period may be fragmented, and may occur at any part of the rating year).

Guidance notes

The following notes are not rules, but are intended to aid officers in the interpretation of the rules and apply to both urban and rural land.

1. Commercial properties

- A single building on one title with 24 separate shops would pay 24 UAGCs.
- A motel with an attached dwelling would pay only one UAGC, because the attached dwelling is essential to the running of the motel. (See rule d above).
- A motel with an attached restaurant which is available to the wider public has two separately used parts, and would pay two UAGCs. Likewise, a motel with an attached conference facility would pay an additional UAGC.
- A business which makes part of its income through the leasing of part of its space to semi-passive uses such as billboards, or money machines, is not regarded as having a separately used or inhabited part, and would not be charged a separate UAGC.
- For the avoidance of doubt, an apartment block, in which each apartment is on a separately owned title, is merely a series of co-sited rating units, and each will pay a UAGC.
- If, however, in the above example a management company leases the individual titles for 10 years or more, and those leases are registered on the titles, and the leases stipulate that the management company is responsible for paying the rates, and if the management company then operates the apartments as a single business operation, that business operation may be considered for a remission under Council's remission policies and have all but one UAGC remitted.
- An apartment block with a separate laundry, or restaurant, which are available to the general population as a separate business enterprise, would pay an additional UAGC for each of these functions as separately used parts.

2. Residential properties

- The rule will apply to properties identified as "flats" on the valuation record, administered by Council's valuer. Sleep-outs and granny flats will generally be identified as "sleep-out" on the valuation record and will not normally qualify for additional UAGCs.
- If a property is identified on the valuation record as having flats, but these in fact are used only for family members or for others for very short periods, then the additional UAGCs may be remitted on Council receiving.
- Proof of their use, including a signed declaration from the property owner (see remission policies). A property owner who actively advertises the flats for accommodation will not qualify for the remission.
- A property such as a large house which is identified as being split into, for example, three internal flats at the time the valuation records were established, but which is not actually used as such, will need to apply for remission under Council's remission policy. (Note: This property should be referred to Council's valuer for correction on the next valuation cycle).

3. Residential with non-residential part

- A residence with a separately accessible "office" such as may be used for surveyor, architect, or medical services, will pay an additional UAGC for the office, because it is a separately used part which generates additional use of roads, services, planning resources, and democratic processes.
- A residence with a "home occupation" (commonly called a "hobby business") will not generally be charged a separate UAGC unless the intensity of operation is high. For example, a resident who occasionally manufactures boat trailers in his garage on the weekends would not incur an additional UAGC, but someone who works for most of the week panel beating or painting, particularly if the activity is accompanied by advertising, clearly has a separately used or inhabited part of the rating unit, and would incur an additional UAGC.
- A residential property, part of which is used continually for storage of large industrial machinery, has a separately used part, and would incur an additional UAGC.

4. Non-residential activity with co-sited dwelling

- A fish and chip shop, with a flat above which can be accessed without passing through the shop, does have a separately used part, and would normally incur an additional UAGC charge.
- A dairy which has an integral dwelling attached, would not incur an additional UAGC, because the home is an integral part of the operation of the dairy.
- A boarding house containing a caretaker's apartment and several separately let rooms (with or without facilities) all within the structure of the one building, is a single (commercial) use and would not incur an additional UAGC. (The same applies to home-stays and bed and breakfast homes).
- Certain government agencies, churches, marae, and the like are automatically rate exempt (except for service charges such as water and wastewater) but if these organisations undertake accommodation or business activities which are not related to their core function, they may be charged rates and additional UAGCs for each separately used or inhabited part of the rating unit.

5. Individually tenanted flats

- Each flat, apartment, or retirement or disability home, and each property under a "licence to occupy", is a separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, no matter how many people may be living in the unit, and each does pay an additional UAGC charge.
- If, because of construction work, poor condition, public health, or specific conditions pertaining to the property owner, one or more flats cannot be let on the open market, then the unit may be granted a remission under Council's remission policy. (A specific condition pertaining to the property owner might include the use of one of the units for

a live-in caregiver). (Note: This property should be referred to Council's Valuer for correction on the next valuation cycle).

Council rates

The rates will be set by Council for the financial year commencing 1 July 2026 and ending 30 June 2027. All financial statements are excluding GST, except rates information which must be stated including GST. **All figures in the rates funding impact statement include GST.**

Council's Revenue and Financing Policy must set out how Council intends to use the available funding sources to fund its activities having undertaken a funding needs analysis using the criteria set out in s101(3) of the Local Government Act. The Revenue and Financing Policy (RFP) is in the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan (3YP). This policy determines when debt and rates will be used as a funding source. This includes targeted rates for the cost of an activity or service that should be paid for by particular groups or ratepayers who benefit from the activity or service. The Revenue and Financing Policy can be found on our website.

The 2024-2027 3YP revised rates in light of what needed to be updated (roading differential weightings) changes where the rate was inconsistent with other rates (soil conservation) or new changes (recovery rate).

Individual ratepayers could pay more or less depending on:

- the capital value of the property
- increases in some fixed service related targeted rates that apply to some properties
- eligibility for rate remissions

Rates information 2027

The rates will be set by Council for the financial year commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. This year Council will collect \$117.3m including GST or \$102m plus GST (all financial statements are excluding GST, except rates information which must be stated including GST) All figures in the Rates Funding Impact Statement include GST. This is an increase of 8.49% (excluding growth) in overall rates revenue over the 2025/26 rates.

Penalties

Under Section 57 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, any portion of the rates invoices not paid by the due date will incur a 10% penalty.

Rate instalment dates	Rates due date	Date penalty is to be added	Penalty amount
Invoiced quarterly			
Instalment 1	20 August 2026	26 August 2026	10%
Instalment 2	20 November 2026	26 November 2026	10%
Instalment 3	22 February 2027	26 February 2027	10%
Instalment 4	20 May 2027	26 May 2027	10%

Due dates for water charges

Water meters are read on a monthly, quarterly, or six-monthly cycle and are payable on the month following the issue of the invoice as set out below. There is a free 300 cubic metre domestic allowance on rural domestic supplies each year.

Penalties on water charges

Under Sections 57 & 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, any portion of the water rates invoices not paid by the due date will incur a 10% penalty on the following dates.

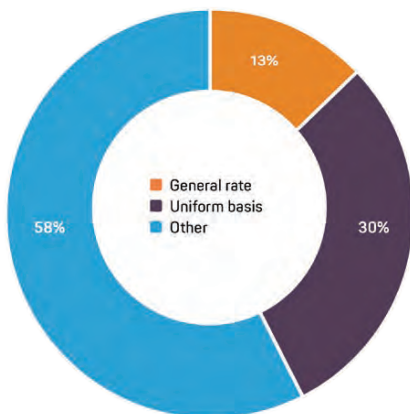
Month of invoice	Due date	Date penalty added
Invoiced annually		
June-2026	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
Invoiced six-monthly		
June-2026	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
December-2026	20 January 2027	26 January 2027
Invoiced quarterly		
June-2026	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
September-2026	20 October 2026	27 October 2026
December-2026	20 January 2027	26 January 2027
March-2027	20 April 2027	27 April 2027
Invoiced monthly		
June-2026	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
July-2026	20 August 2026	26 August 2026
August-2026	21 September 2026	25 September 2026
September-2026	20 October 2026	27 October 2026
October-2026	20 November 2026	26 November 2026
November-2026	21 December 2026	5 January 2027
December-2026	20 January 2027	26 January 2027
January-2027	22 February 2027	26 February 2027
February-2027	22 March 2027	25 March 2027
March-2027	20 April 2027	27 April 2027
April-2027	20 May 2027	26 May 2027
May-2027	21 June 2027	25 June 2027

Cap on certain rates

The total of uniform or fixed charges that Council can rate cannot exceed 30% of the total rates collected. This is referred to as the uniform cap. The uniform cap for 2026/27 is 28.5%. If the 30% cap is in threat of being exceeded Council may move the uniform rates to the general rate based on capital value for these activities:

- planning and performance, and strategic planning and engagement (Funding Stream FS-019)
- economic development (funding stream FS-020)
- civic and corporate expenses of the district (FS-049)

Council's rates for 2026/27



Rate examples 2026/27

Rates Examples for 2026-2027 Including GST	Capital Value	2025/26 GDC rates	2026/27 GDC rates proposed	\$ change	% change
City -Residential Low Value	332,000	3,959	4,324	483	9.2%
City -Residential Mid Value	545,000	4,335	4,738	533	9.3%
City -Residential High Value	1,209,000	5,634	6,160	694	9.3%
Rural Town - TeKaraka/Whatatutu	217,000	3,159	3,341	241	5.8%
Rural Town - Other	209,000	2,190	2,304	151	5.2%
Commercial - with more than 10 Toilet Pans	5,340,000	44,105	47,979	5,123	8.8%
Commercial -	2,670,000	20,937	23,264	3,078	11.1%
Industrial	742,000	5,322	5,781	607	8.6%
Rural- Lifestyle	1,040,000	3,604	3,857	335	7.0%
Rural Horticulture- with G3 Kiwifruit*	22,350,000	42,058	46,074	5,310	9.6%
Rural Horticulture - Other	2,220,000	6,755	7,260	668	7.5%
Rural Pastoral-Large Farm	12,831,000	32,991	35,594	3,443	7.9%
Rural Pastoral-Medium Farm	2,360,000	8,222	8,805	583	7.1%
Forestry High Value	9,115,000	81,538	84,966	4,533	4.2%
Forestry	1,460,000	13,648	14,235	776	4.3%

* Does not include Permanent Crop Remission

Allocation of payments

Any payments received will be applied to the oldest outstanding rates before being applied to the current rates. All payments are allocated to the oldest debt first. In a situation where the instalment amount is paid but the amount is allocated to an older debt, a 10% penalty is added to any amount of the instalment still outstanding.

Rate changes for 2026/27

The Revenue and Financing Policy is part of the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan (3YP). This policy determines when debt and rates will be used as a funding source and can be found on our website.

For more details refer to 'What does this mean for our ratepayers' section on page 31.

Rates funding impact statement

Rates funding source	Categories of rateable land	Category	Factors	Factor used	Revenue sought 2026/27 \$ (Includes GST)
Category = (Sch 2) s14, 17 Local Govt (Rating) Act 2002					
Factors = (Sch 3) Local Govt (Rating) Act 2002					
General Rate	Capital value on all Rateable land.			Capital Value	14,871,946
Uniform Annual General Charge		All rateable land.		Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit (SUIP)	30,250,111
Targeted Rate					
Environmental Services and Protection					
Animal Control	A uniform targeted rate on Residential properties: DRA1, DRA1A and Residential Rural Townships in DRA3, DRA4 and DRA5.	6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit	669,497
Building Services	Differential targeted rate on Inner Zone 85% of Revenue Sought.	6	2	Capital Value	857,128
	Differential targeted rate on Outer Zone 15% of Revenue Sought.	6	2	Capital Value	151,258
Noise Control	A uniform targeted rate on Inner Zone Residential Properties.	6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit	63,387
Resource Consents And Planning	A uniform targeted rate on all rateable land.	6	3	Land Value	5,136,760
Land, Rivers and Coastal					
Land Drainage - Contributors	Drainage Rate - Contributors. Eastern Hill Catchment 8 and Western Hill Catchment F. See map of scheme area at end of this section.	6	5	Per hectare	17,283
Land Drainage - Direct Beneficiaries	Drainage Rate - Direct Beneficiaries, per Drainage Scheme maps at end of this section. 1. Ormond 2. Eastern Taruheru 3. Western Taruheru 4. Willows 5. Waikanae Creek 6. City/Wainui 7. Taruheru, Classes A-D 8. Waipaoa 9. Patutahi 10. Ngatapa 11. Manutuke 12. Muriwai.	6	5	Per hectare	727,715
Te Karaka Flood Control	A differentiated targeted rate on Non Residential properties based on Capital Value. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	2	Capital Value	6,654
	A differentiated targeted rate on Residential properties based on Capital Value. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	2	Capital Value	29,607

Rates funding source	Categories of rateable land	Category	Factors	Factor used	Revenue sought 2026/27 \$ (Includes GST)
Waiapu River Erosion Protection Scheme	Direct Beneficiaries within the defined area on Capital Value. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	2	Capital Value	20,944
	Indirect Beneficiaries within the defined area on Capital Value. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	2	Capital Value	5,042
	Contributors within the defined area per hectare. See map at end of this section.	6	6	Per hectare	5,042
Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme	Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme classes A - F. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	2	Capital Value	581,688
Liveable Communities					
Aquatic And Recreation Facilities	Differential targeted rate on Inner Zone 1.0 weighting.	6	2	Capital Value	2,370,469
	Differential targeted rate on Outer Zone 0.3 weighting.	6	2	Capital Value	299,450
Parks And Reserves	Differential targeted rate on Inner Zone 85% of revenue sought.	6		Per Rating Unit	6,900,239
	Differential targeted rate on Outer Zone 15% of revenue sought.	6		Per Rating Unit	1,217,689
Pests & Plants	A differential targeted rate on Inner Zone (20%).	6	3	Land Value	149,506
	A differential targeted rate on Outer Zone (80%).	6	3	Land Value	598,029
Soil Conservation-Advocacy And Land Use	A differential targeted rate on Inner Zone (20%).	6	3	Land Value	987,573
	A differential targeted rate on DRA3 & DRA4 (30%).	6	3	Land Value	740,679
	A differential targeted rate on DRA5 (50%).	6	3	Land Value	740,679
Theatres	Differential targeted rate on Inner Zone 1.0 weighting.	6	2	Capital Value	878,608
	Differential targeted rate on Outer Zone 0.3 weighting.	6	2	Capital Value	110,992
Water Conservation	Differential targeted rate on Inner Zone 70% of revenue sought.	6	3	Land Value	2,030,239
	Differential targeted rate on Outer Zone 30% of revenue sought.	6	3	Land Value	870,103
Regional Leadership and Support Services					
Business Area Patrols	Commercial Properties within the CBD Area: Non-residential properties on both sides of the roads bounded by Carnarvon Street, Childers Road, Reads Quay and Palmerston Road and all roads inside this area and also that part of Grey Street as far as the skateboard park and Customhouse Street as far as the Waikanae Cut. See map at end of this section.	1,2 & 6	2	Capital Value	130,744

Rates funding source	Categories of rateable land	Category	Factors	Factor used	Revenue sought 2026/27 \$ (Includes GST)
Economic Development Including Tourism	All Industrial, Commercial retail and Accommodation Properties.	1 & 2	2	Capital Value	507,986
Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery	Recovery Woody Debris Pastoral 15%	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	156,904
	Forestry 70%.	1,2 & 5	2	Capital Value	732,217
Roads and Footpaths					
Flood Damage And Emergency Reinstatement	Residential and Lifestyle Properties weighting of 1.0.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	270,632
	Industrial and Commercial weighting of 2.0.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	79,819
	Horticulture and Pastoral farming weighting of 1.5.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	202,200
	Forestry weighting of 12.5.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	228,908
Non-Subsidised Local Rooding	Differential targeted rate on Outer Zone 50% of Revenue Sought.	6	2	Capital Value	65,136
	Differential targeted rate on Inner Zone 50% of Revenue Sought.	6	2	Capital Value	65,136
Passenger Transport	DRA1 Residential.	5 & 6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit	726,660
Subsidised Local Roads	Residential and Lifestyle blocks weighting of 1.0.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	4,672,521
	Industrial and Commercial weighting of 2.0.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	1,378,080
	Horticulture and Pastoral farming weighting of 1.5.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	3,491,029
	Forestry weighting of 12.5.	1,2 & 4	2	Capital Value	3,952,131
Solid Waste					
Commercial Recycling Charge	Within scheme recycling collection area, being non-residential area within the CBD who have elected to receive the service.	5 & 6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit	1,513
Refuse And Recycling - Gisborne District	Within scheme refuse collection areas - Residential properties in Gisborne City and environs and Ruatoria. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit	2,256,131
	Within scheme refuse collection areas - Residential properties in Gisborne City and environs and Ruatoria.	5 & 6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit	36,329
Rural Transfer Stations	Within 15km radius scheme area. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit	569,257
Urban Stormwater					
Stormwater	A differential targeted rate. DRA1 and DRA1A all Commercial and Industrial properties.	6	2	Capital Value	697,314

Rates funding source	Categories of rateable land	Category	Factors	Factor used	Revenue sought 2026/27 \$ (Includes GST)
	A differential targeted rate. All Rural Towns in DRA3,DRA4 and DRA5 and also Manutuke and Patutahi.	6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a rating unit	181,376
	A differential targeted rate. DRA1 and DRA1A Residential properties.	6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a rating Unit	3,770,071
Wastewater					
Gisborne City Wastewater	Wastewater charge per water closet or urinal connection.	5 & 6	12	Per water closet or urinal	15,660,494
	Te Karaka Wastewater charge per water closet or urinal. See map at end of this section.	5 & 6	12	Per water closet or urinal	106,492
Water Supply					
Water - Availability	Within scheme areas, where service can be supplied but is not supplied (being a rating unit within 100 metres of any part of the waterworks).	5 & 6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a rating unit	83,406
Water - Connection	Within scheme areas where the service is supplied and connected.	5 & 6	7	Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a rating unit	6,056,866
Subtotal					117,367,669
Metered Water Rates 1	Extraordinary and Rural Domestic users.		8		4,105,500
Subtotal					121,473,169
Rates Penalties					570,000
Net Rates Revenue					122,043,169
OTHER FUNDING SOURCES					
Grants and Subsidies					173,672,752
Development and Financial Contributions					2,171,200
Other Revenue					19,208,601
Dividends and Interest					1,250,000
TOTAL FUNDING					318,345,722

¹ Water by meter has 300 cubic meter no charge domestic allowance on rural residential and lifestyle properties.

Rating definitions

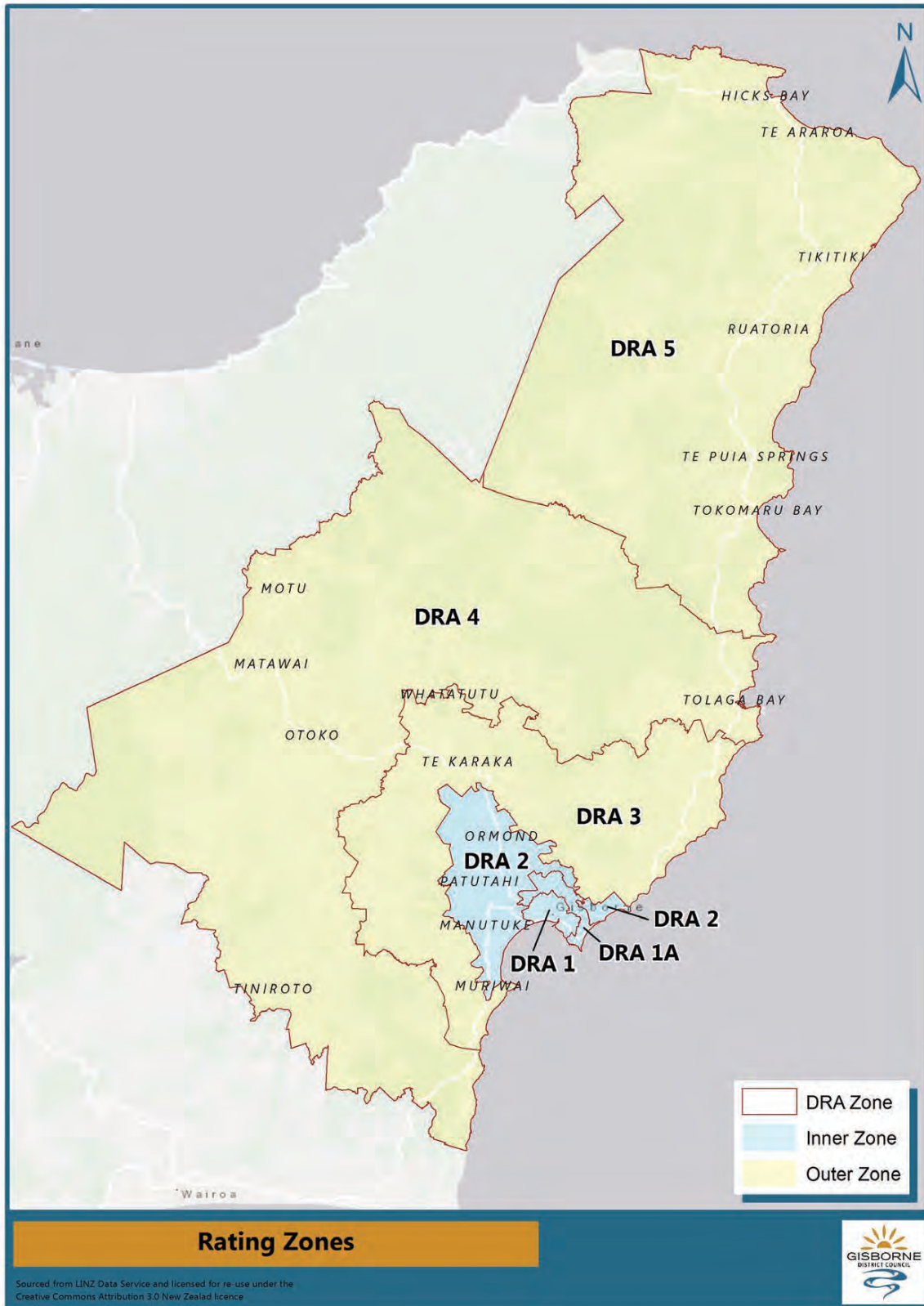
Note: Differential Rating Areas (DRAs) such as DRA1, DRA2, DRA3, DRA4 and DRA5 and Inner and Outer zones are categorised based upon location under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 schedule 2 and are shown on the map on the next page.

Short title	Differential Rating Areas (DRA) covered	Sub types
Inner Zone	The total land area of DRA1, DRA1A and DRA2.	Urban and rural properties
See map of Differential Rating areas at the end of this section		
DRA1	Former Gisborne City Council boundaries, excluding Rural Farm Land.	Residential, commercial, industrial and other
DRA1A	All Rural Farm Land within the previous Gisborne City Boundaries and the area surrounding the City, including Wainui and Mākaraka.	Residential, other rural, commercial and industrial
DRA2	Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay Flats including fringe hill properties; Muriwai, Ormond, Waihirere, Waerenga-a-hika, Bushmere, Manutūkē and Pātūtahi.	Residential, rural, all other properties
Outer Zone	The total land area of DRA3, DRA4 and DRA5.	All other properties
DRA3	The area within reasonable and currently exercised commuting distance to Gisborne, including part Waerenga-o-kuri and Ngatapa, Whatatūtū and Te Karaka.	Rural and all other properties and rural townships
DRA4	The inland rural areas beyond DRA3, up to the boundary of DRA5 Tolaga Bay, Matawai, Tiniroto and Otoko.	Rural and all other properties and rural townships
DRA5	The whole of the East Cape area from a line running inland from a point in the vicinity of Rural and all other properties and Mangatuna north of Tolaga Bay Township, to the tip of the East Coast. Hicks Bay, Te Araroa, Tikitiki, Ruatōria, Waipiro Bay, Te Puia Springs and Tokomaru Bay.	Rural and all other properties and rural townships

Rates funding impact statement maps

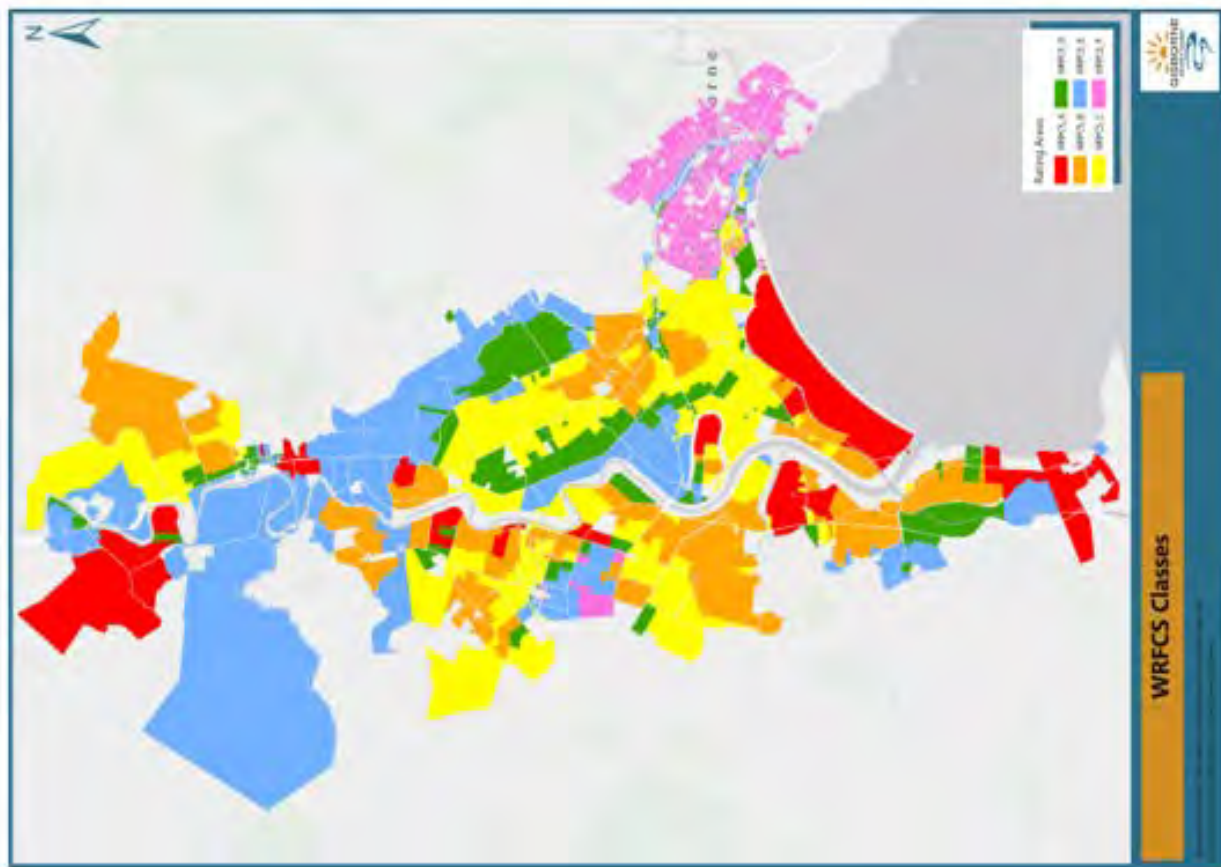
These maps display the differential rating areas in the district, and targeted rating zones for certain rates as set out in the Rates Funding Impact Statement

Map showing the area in each differential rating area

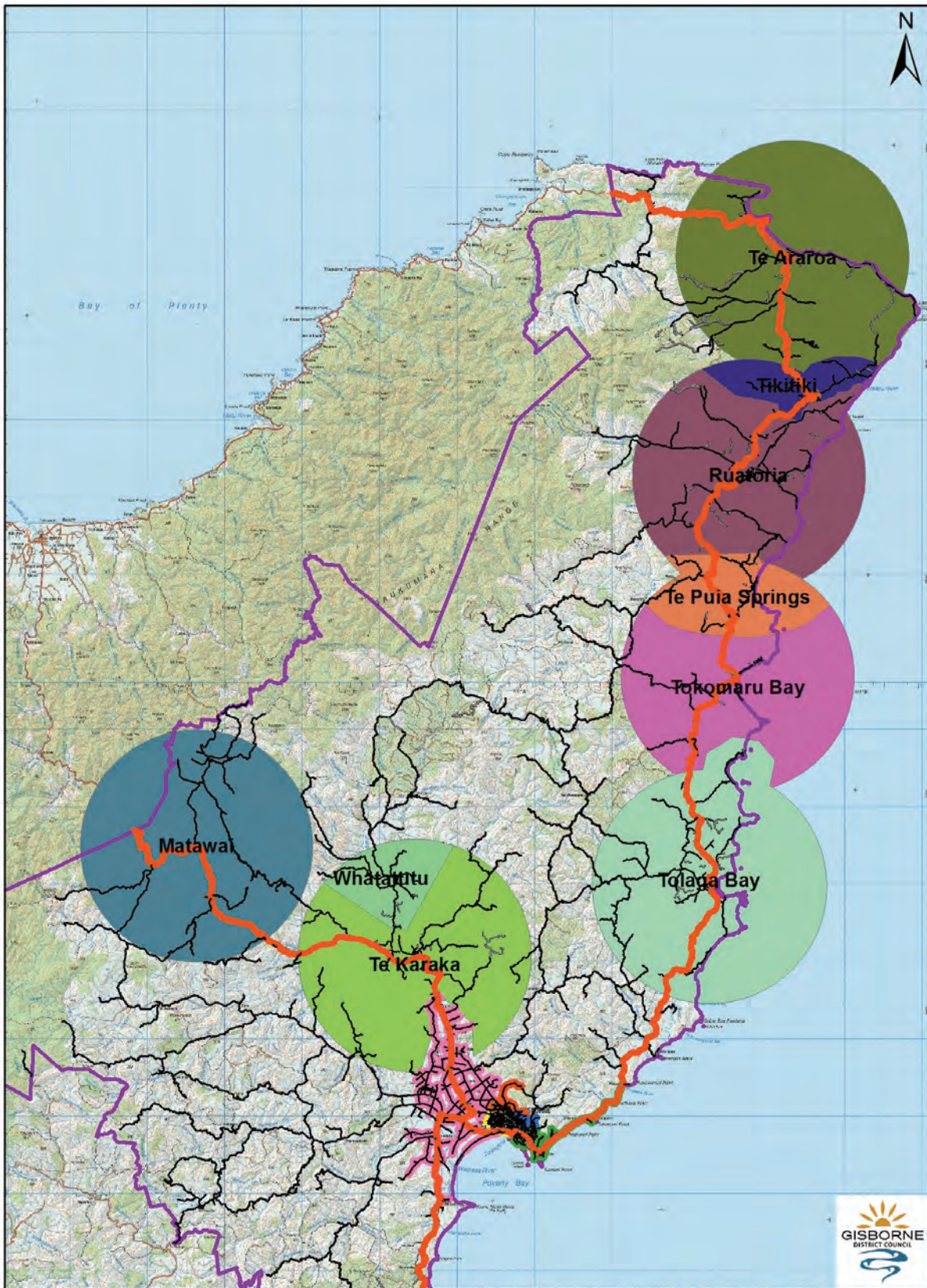


Maps of targeted rating zones





Rural transfer stations

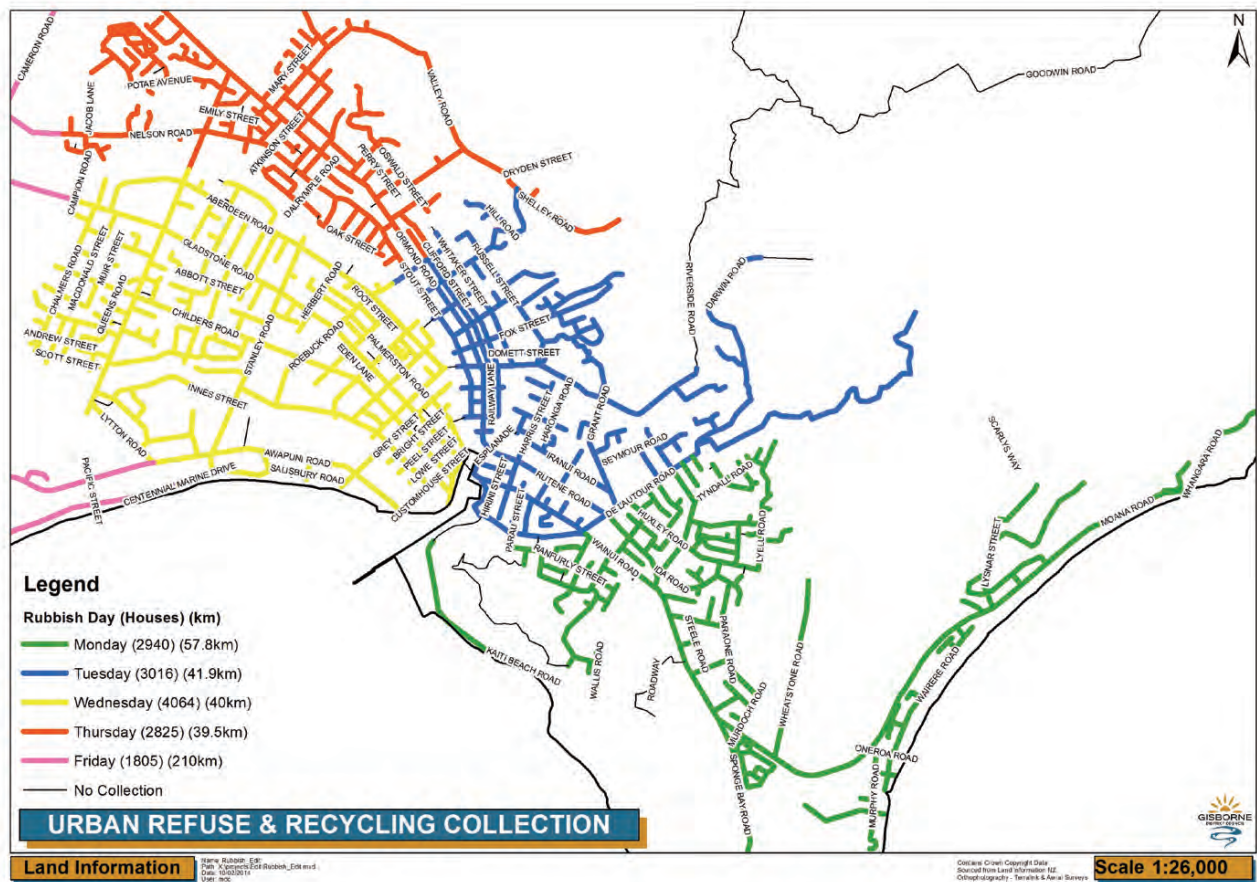
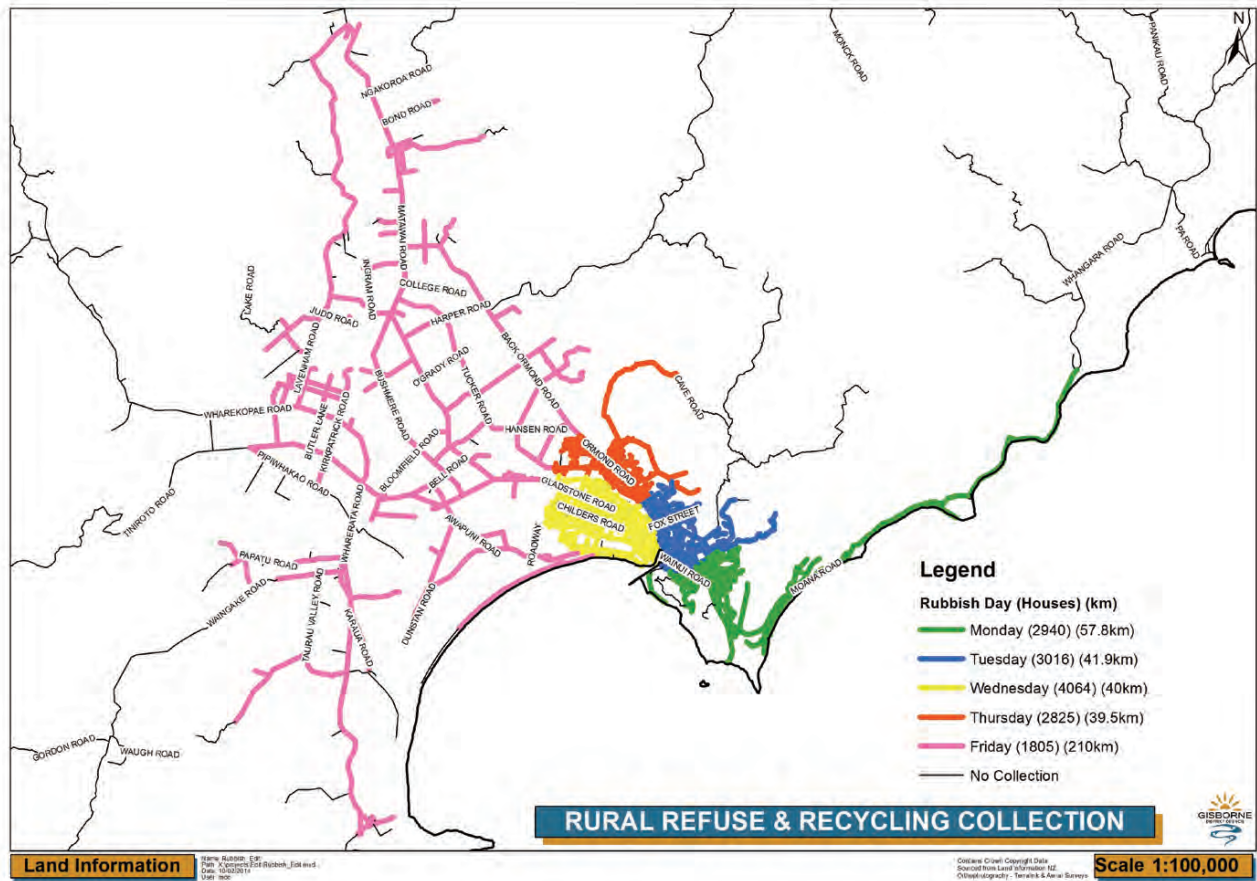


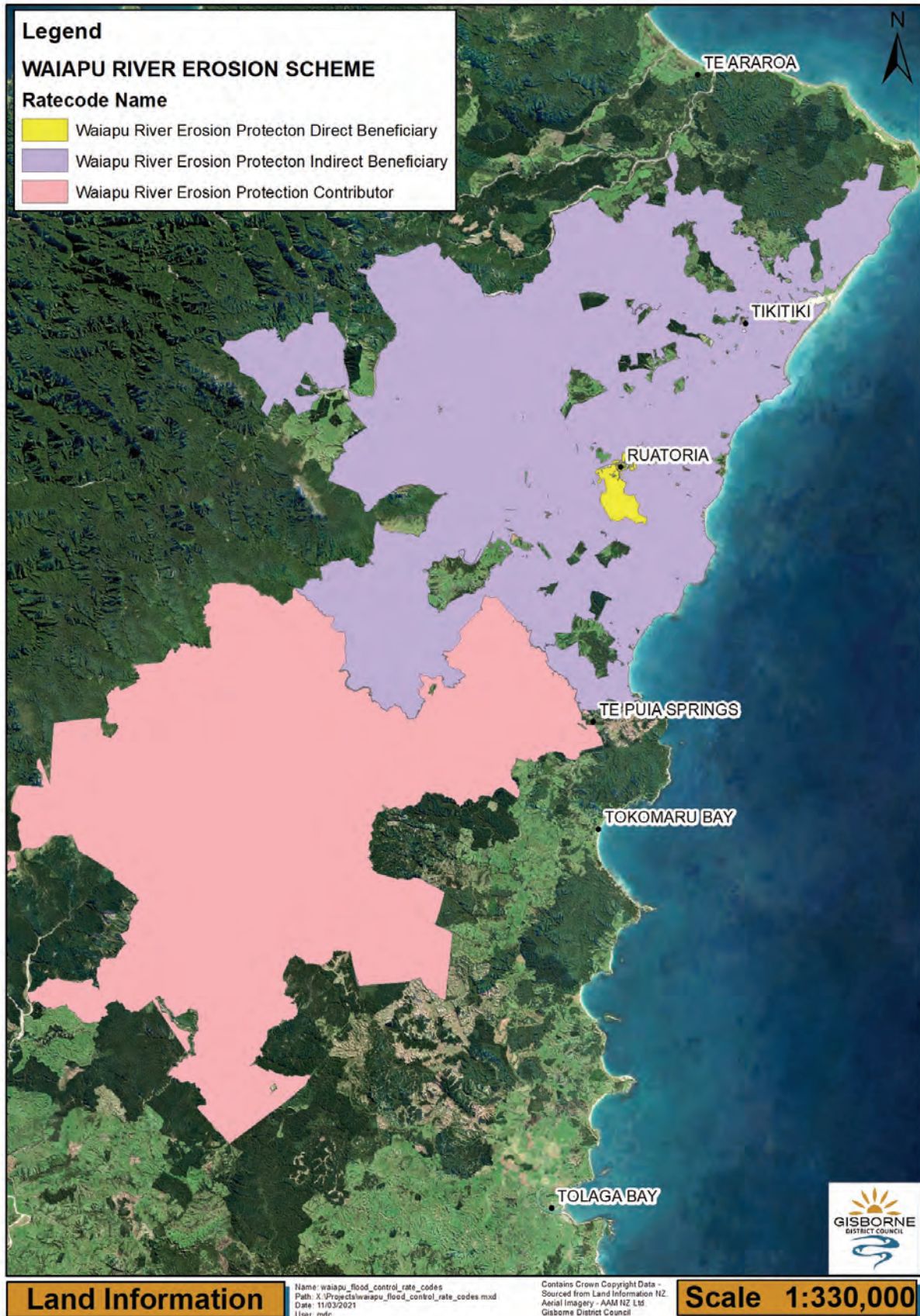
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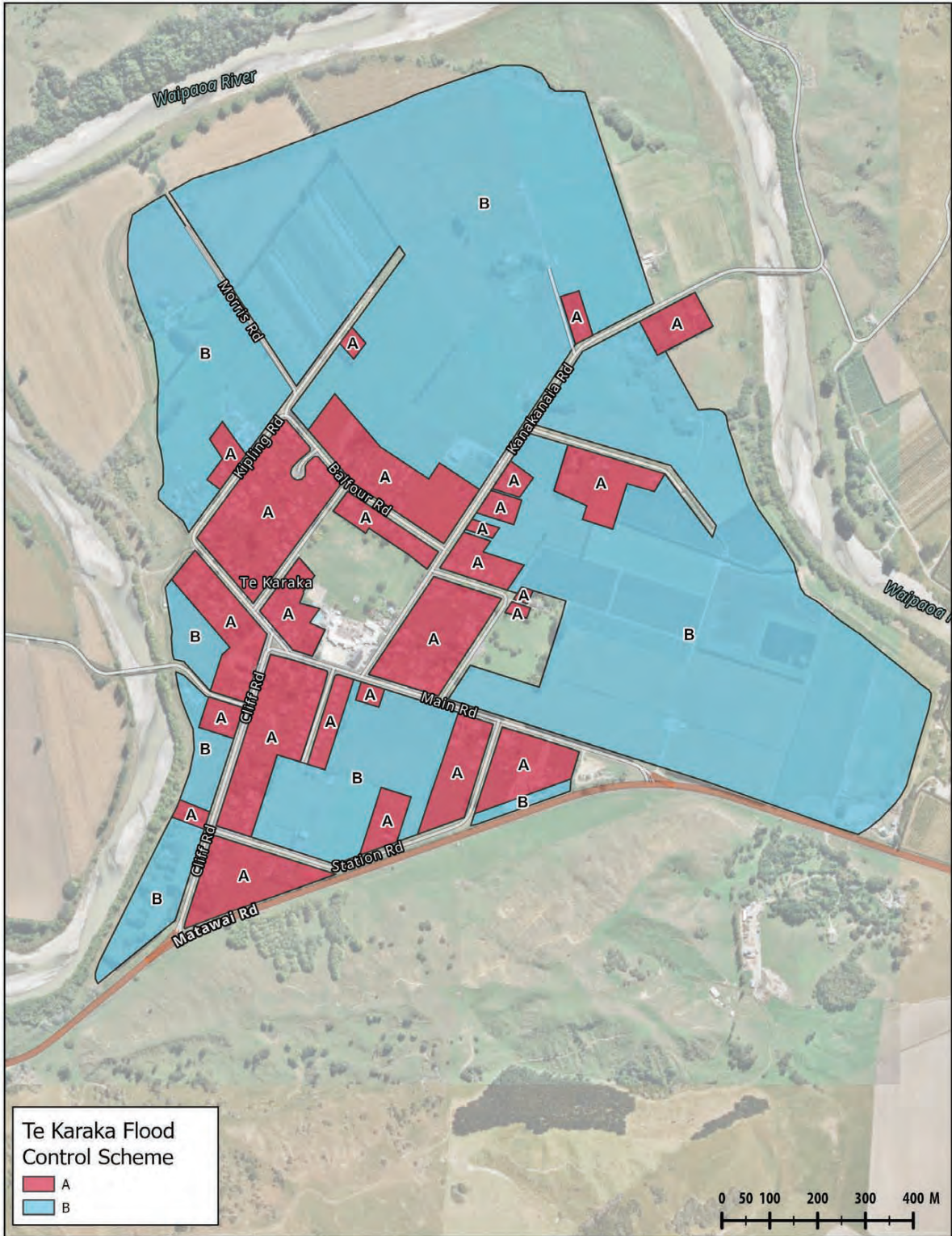
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Te Karaka Flood Control Scheme

- A
- B

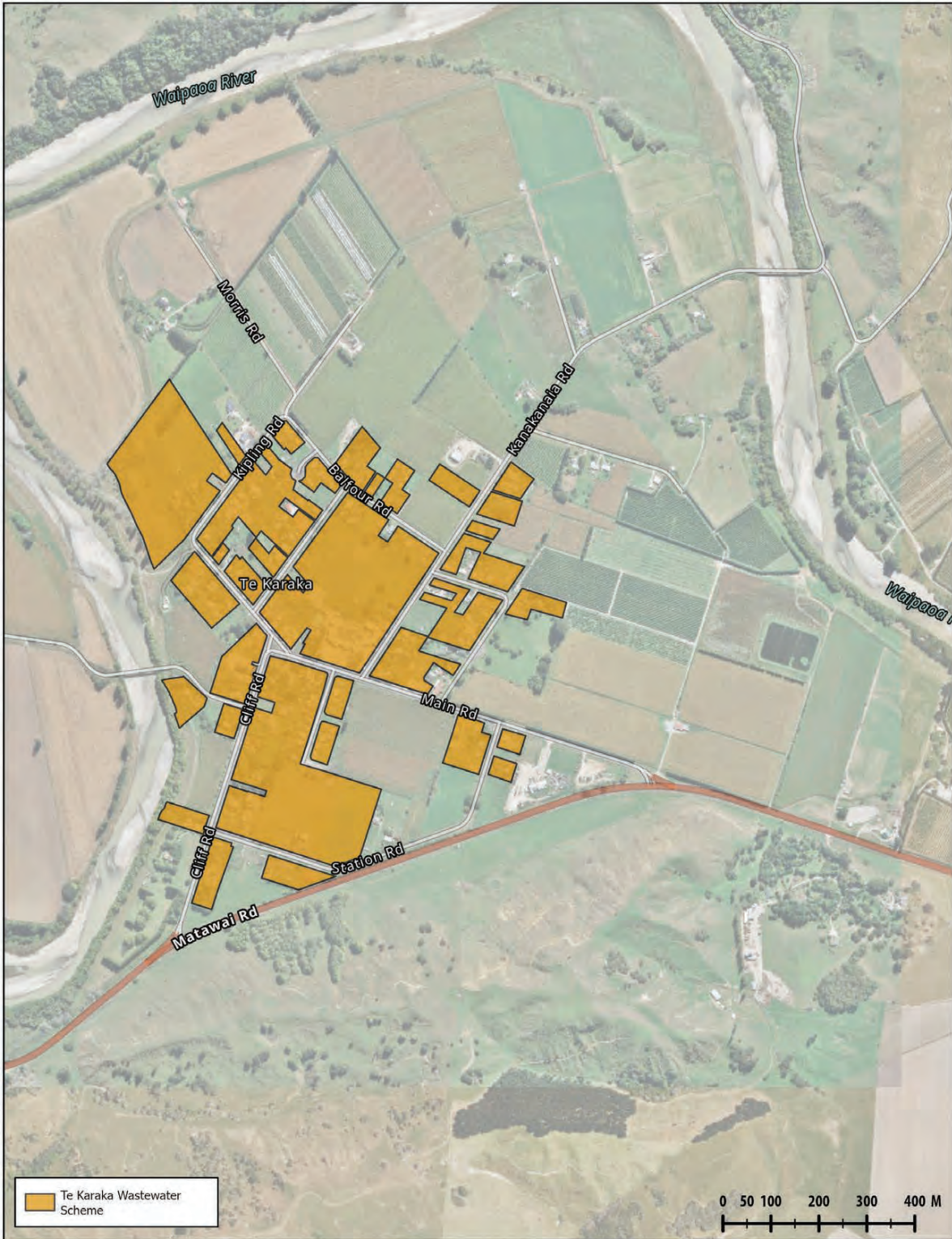


Te Karaka Flood Control Scheme | Scale: 1:10,000

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Te Karaka Wastewater Scheme | Scale: 1:10,000



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Name: Te Karaka Wastewater Scheme Date: 11/03/2024 User: old
 Path: X:\ArcPro Projects\rating_schemes\rating_schemes.aprx
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Gisborne City Wastewater | Scale: 1:29,000

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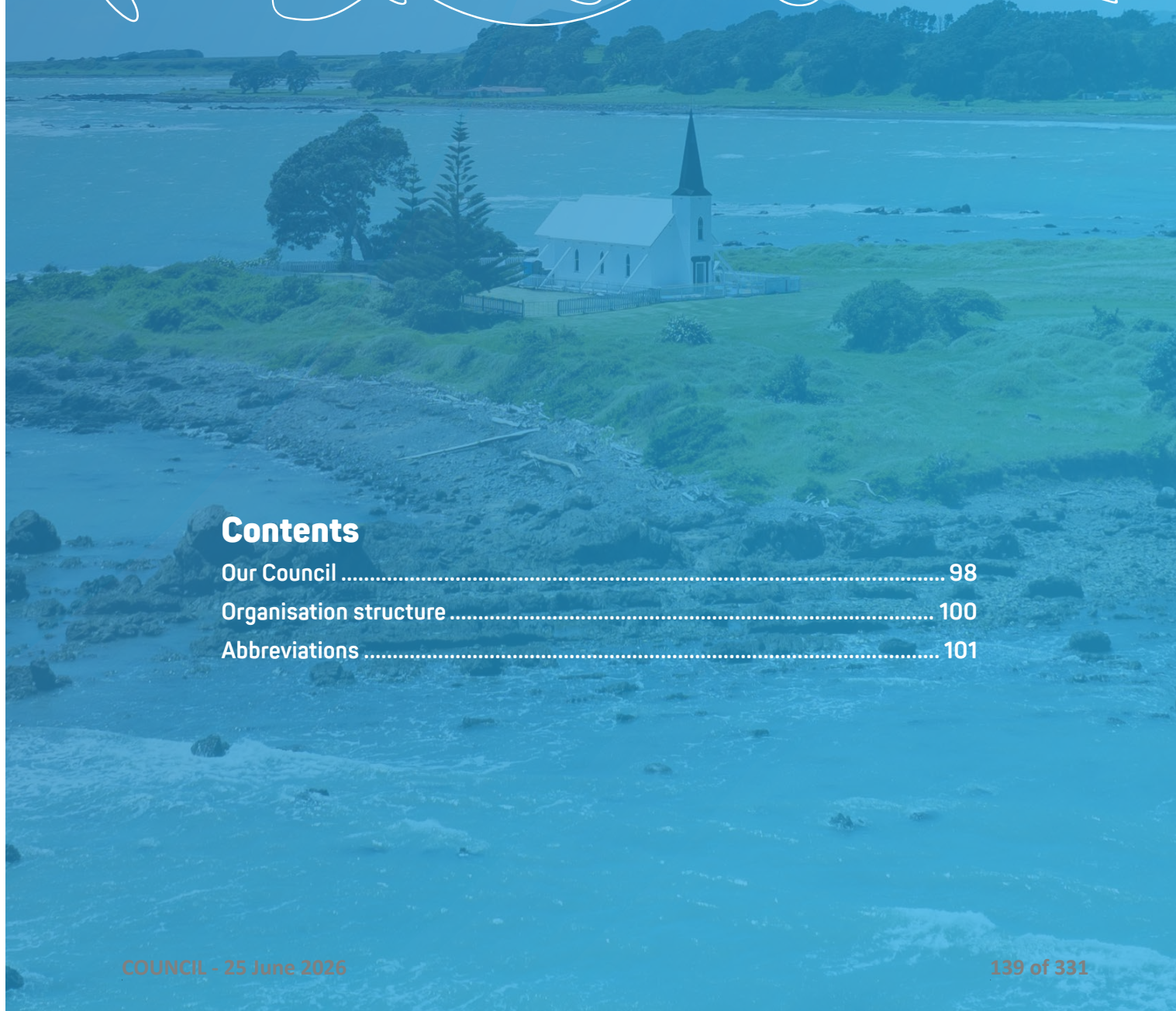






He whakamarāma anō Additional information

Photo credit: Gray Clapham, Trust Tairāwhiti



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Tō tātau Kaunihera Our Council



Absent from photo: Councillor Anne Huriwai

Functions

The Gisborne District Council is one of six unitary authorities (also called unitary councils) in New Zealand.

We have the combined functions, duties and powers of a territorial council and a regional council as outlined below:



Biosecurity

Including control of regional plant and animal pests.



Civil defence

Including natural disasters, marine oil spills.



Regional land transport

Including planning and contracting of passenger services.



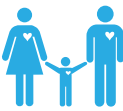
Environmental Science

Including quality of water, soil, coastal planning.



River management

Including flood control and mitigation of erosion.



Community wellbeing and development

Including advocacy, funding, partnerships and long term planning.



Environmental health and safety

Including building control and environmental health matters



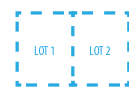
Infrastructure

Including roading and transport, sewerage, water/stormwater.



Recreation and culture

Including parks, aquatics and community facilities



Resource management

Including land-use planning and development control

Responsibilities

Council has two key responsibilities outlined under [Section 10](#) of the LGA, which are:

- to enable democratic decision-making and action by and on behalf of communities
- to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.

Councils are responsible for providing good quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions. The four wellbeings also recognise the major role councils play in enhancing community wellbeing and supporting overall quality of life.

Council leadership

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Te anga ā-mahi Organisation structure

Council has one appointed employee, the Chief Executive, who is responsible for implementing and managing Council’s policies and objectives within the budgetary constraints established by the Council.



Names and titles are correct as at time of production.

Ngā whakapotonga Abbreviations


AP	Annual Plan	LLB	Local Leadership Body
AR	Annual Report	LoS	Level of Service
AUD	Alternate Use Disposal	LTP	2021–2031 Long Term Plan
BAU	Business as Usual	MBIE	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
BoPLASS LTD	A company owned by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua District Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Kawerau District Council, Tauranga City Council, Opotiki District Council, Whakatane District Council, Taupo District Council and Gisborne District Council.	MCI	Macroinvertebrate Community Index
GDC	Gisborne District Council	MFE	Ministry for the Environment
CCC	Code Compliance Certificate	MPI	Ministry for Primary Industries
CBD	Central Business District	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CDEM	Civil Defence and Emergency Management	MRF	Mayoral Relief Fund
CLS	Cook Landing Site	NAASRA	National Association of Australian State Road Authorities
CME	Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement	NES	National Environmental Standards
CCTO	Council-Controlled Trading Organisations	NPS	National Planning Standards
COR	Central Organising Rōpū (Leadership Team/Directors)	NES-PF	National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry
DIA	Department of Internal Affairs	NPS – FW	National Policy Statement for Freshwater
DRT	Disaster Relief Trust	NZIER	New Zealand Institute for Economic Research
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre	NZTA	New Zealand Transport Agency
ECFP	Erosion Control Funding Programme	OPC	Olympic Pool Complex
ETS	Emissions Trading Scheme	PBE	Public Benefit Entity
FEP	Farm Environmental Plans	QMS	Quality Management System
FOSAL	Future of Severely Affected Land	RfS	Request for Service
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	RLTP	Regional Land Transport Plan
GHL	Gisborne Holdings Limited	RMA	Resource Management Act
GIS	Geographic Information System	RPMP	Regional Pest Management Plan
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard	RSS	Resident Satisfaction Survey
IPAS	Inflation Protected Annuity	SOE	State of Environment
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards	SOI	Statement of Intent
JMA	Joint Management Agreement	SWERL	Severe Weather Event Emergency Legislation Act
KPI	Key Performance Indicators	TEMO	Tairāwhiti Emergency Management Office
LAWA	Land, Air, Water Aotearoa	TRMP	Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan
LGA	Local Government Act	TRONPnui	Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou
LGFA	Local Government Funding Agency	UCP	Urban Cycleways Programme
LGNZ	Local Government New Zealand	WMC	Wastewater Management Committee
LIM	Land Information Memorandum	WMMP	Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
		WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
		3YP	2024-2027 Three Year Plan



TE WHAKARAUORATANGA
OTŌ TĀTAU ROHE
MŌ ĀPŌPŌ

HEALING
OUR REGION
FOR OUR FUTURE


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2026-2027 Annual Plan
Content correct as of 25 June 2026

Title: 26-155 Setting of Rates, Due Dates and Penalties for 2026/27
Section: Finance & Affordability
Prepared by: Fiona Scragg - Revenue Team Leader
Meeting Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Legal: Yes

Financial: Yes

Significance: **High**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to set the rates, due dates, and penalties for the 2026/27 financial year after the 2026/27 Annual Plan (AP) has been approved.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

Report 26-139, being the 2026/27 Annual Plan adoption report, asks Gisborne District Council (Council) to adopt the 2026/27 AP. After the AP is adopted, Council must then set the rates for 2026/27 under Section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

The rates requirement for 2026/27 is \$117.3m (including GST) or \$102m (excluding GST). This report recommends that the Council set the rates as below for the 2026/27 financial year. All amounts are set out below exclusive of GST, but Council will collect inclusive of GST.

Different categories of land are used to set some targeted rates and to set rates differentially. These categories include property use, rating areas and drainage scheme areas. These categories are defined in the 2026/27 Annual Plan Funding Impact Statement, as is the Council's definition of a "separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit".

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **High** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - **NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Having adopted the 2026/27 Annual Plan (report 26-139) including the 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement, Council resolves under section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to set the following rates for the year commencing 1 July 2026 and concluding 30 June 2027:

General Rate-

- 1.1 A uniform general rate of \$0.00064737 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value, set on all rateable land in the district.

Uniform Annual General Charge

- 1.2 A uniform annual general charge of \$1128.77 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on all rateable land in the district.

Animal Control Targeted Rate

- 1.3 A uniform targeted rate for animal control of \$37.28 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on Residential land in areas DRA1 and DRA1A and Residential Rural Townships in areas DRA3, DRA4 and DRA5.

Building Services Targeted Rate

- 1.4 A targeted rate for building services set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:
 - 1.4.1 Inner Zone: A rate of \$0.00005302 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.
 - 1.4.2 Outer Zone: A rate of \$0.00002222 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.

Noise Control Targeted Rate

- 1.5 A uniform targeted rate for noise control of \$3.53 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on Residential land in the Inner Zone (DRA1, DRA1A and DRA2).

Resource Consents and Planning Targeted Rate

- 1.6 A uniform targeted rate for resource consents and planning of \$0.00038188 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value, set on all rateable land in the district.

Land Drainage (Contributors) Targeted Rate

- 1.7 A uniform targeted rate for land drainage of \$0.57069619 (exclusive of GST) per hectare, set on all rateable land in the following Drainage Scheme Areas.
 - Eastern Hill Catchment 8
 - Western Hill Catchment F

Land Drainage (Direct Beneficiaries) Targeted Rate

- 1.8 A uniform targeted rate for land drainage of \$29.55272153 (exclusive of GST) per hectare, set on all rateable rating units in the following Drainage Scheme Areas as set out in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement for:

Ormond, Eastern Taruheru, Western Taruheru, Willows, Waikanae Creek, City/Wainui, Taruheru Classes A-D, Waipaoa, Patutahi, Ngatapa, Manutuke, Muriwai.

Te Karaka Flood Control Targeted Rate

- 1.9 A targeted rate for Te Karaka Flood control set on all rateable land in the Te Karaka Flood Control Non-Residential and Residential Areas as set out in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement, differentiated as follows:

1.9.1 Non-residential: A rate of \$0.00040262 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land in the Te Karaka Flood Control Non-Residential Area.

1.9.2 Residential: A rate of \$0.00047009 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land in the Te Karaka Flood Control Residential Area.

Waiapu River Erosion Protection Scheme Targeted Rate

- 1.10 A targeted rate for the Waiapu River Protection Scheme set on all rateable land in the Waiapu River Erosion Protection Scheme Area as set out in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement and differentiated as follows:

1.10.1 Contributors: A rate of \$0.05963473 (exclusive of GST) per hectare on rateable land in the Contributors Area.

1.10.2 Direct Beneficiaries: A rate of \$0.00029427 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land in the Direct Beneficiaries Area.

1.10.3 Indirect Beneficiaries: A rate of \$0.00001097 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land in the Indirect Beneficiaries Area.

Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme Targeted Rate

- 1.11 A uniform targeted rate for the Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme of \$0.00005655 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value, set on all rateable land in the Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme Area Classes A-F as set out in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement.

Aquatic and Recreation Facilities Targeted Rate

- 1.12 A targeted rate for aquatic and recreation facilities set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:

1.12.1 Inner Zone: A rate of \$0.00014664 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.

1.12.2 Outer Zone: A rate of \$0.00004399 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.

Parks and Reserves Targeted Rate

1.13 A targeted rate for parks and reserves set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:

1.13.1 Inner Zone: A rate of \$388.69 (exclusive of GST) per rating unit.

1.13.2 Outer Zone: A rate of \$207.29 (exclusive of GST) per rating unit.

Plant and Animal Pests Targeted Rate

1.14 A targeted rate for animal and plant pest control set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:

1.14.1 Inner Zone: A rate of \$0.00001892 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value on rateable land.

1.14.2 Outer Zone: A rate of \$0.00010788 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value on rateable land.

Soil Conservation, Advocacy and Land Use Targeted Rate

1.15 A targeted rate for soil conservation, advocacy and land use, set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:

1.15.1 Inner Zone: A rate of \$0.00012489 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value on rateable land.

1.15.2 DRA3 and 4: A rate of \$0.00016905 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value on rateable land.

1.15.3 DRA5: A rate of \$0.00063735 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value on rateable land.

Theatres Targeted Rate

1.16 A targeted rate for theatres set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:

1.16.1 Inner Zone: A rate of \$0.00005435 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.

1.16.2 Outer Zone: A rate of \$0.00001631 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.

Water Conservation Targeted Rate

1.17 A targeted rate for water conservation set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:

1.17.1 Inner Zone: A rate of \$0.00025690 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value on rateable land.

1.17.2 Outer Zone: A rate of \$0.00015696 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of land value on rateable land.

Business Area Patrol Targeted Rate

- 1.18 A uniform targeted rate for monitoring the Central Business District Area of \$0.00031692 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all commercial land within the Central Business District area as set out in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement.

Economic Development and Tourism targeted rate

- 1.19 A uniform targeted rate for economic development and tourism of \$0.00025597 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Industrial, Commercial, Retail and Accommodation land as defined in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement.

Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Targeted Rate

- 1.20 A targeted rate for Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery for woody debris to cover maintenance and pre-emptive work to protect Council assets including our bridges and protection of water supply assets; and our beach fronts, on all pastoral and forestry rateable land as defined in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement and differentiated as follows:

1.20.1 Pastoral: A rate of \$0.00003247 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Pastoral land over 5 hectares, and on forestry properties with 20 hectares or more of pastoral land.

1.20.2 Forestry: A rate of \$0.00088451 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Forestry land and on Pastoral properties with 20 hectares or more of forestry.

Flood Damage and Emergency Works Targeted Rate

- 1.21 A targeted rate for flood damage and emergency reinstatement works set on all rateable land in the following differential categories as defined in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement:

1.21.1 Residential, Lifestyle and other: A rate of \$0.00002011 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on the following:

- Residential, Lifestyle, Arable and other land.
- Horticulture and Pastoral land with land area less than 5 hectares.

1.21.2 Industrial and Commercial: A rate of \$0.00004022 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Industrial and Commercial land.

1.21.3 Horticultural and Pastoral: A rate of \$0.00003017 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Horticulture and Pastoral land over 5 hectares, and on forestry properties with 20 hectares or more of pastoral land.

1.21.4 Forestry: A rate of \$0.00027652 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Forestry land and on Pastoral properties with 20 hectares or more of forestry.

Non-subsidised Local Roads Targeted Rate

1.22 A targeted rate for local roading set on all rateable land in the district and differentiated as follows:

1.22.1 Outer Zone: A rate of \$0.00000957 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.

1.22.2 Inner Zone: A rate of \$0.00000403 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on rateable land.

Passenger Transport Targeted Rate

1.23 A targeted rate for passenger transport of \$50.75 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on Residential land in area DRA1.

Subsidised Local Roothing Targeted Rate

1.24 A targeted rate for local roading, set on all rateable land in the following differential categories as defined in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement:

1.24.1 Residential, Lifestyle and other: A rate of \$0.00034721 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on the following:

- Residential, Lifestyle, Arable and other land.
- Horticulture and Pastoral land with land area less than 5 hectares.

1.24.2 Industrial and Commercial: A rate of \$0.00069442 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Industrial and Commercial land.

1.24.3 Horticultural and Pastoral Farming: A rate of \$0.00052081 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Horticulture and Pastoral land over 5 hectares, and on forestry properties with 20 hectares or more of pastoral land.

1.24.4 Forestry: A rate of \$0.00477412 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value on all Forestry Exotic land and on Pastoral land with 20 hectares or more of forestry.

Commercial Recycling Targeted Rate

1.25 A uniform targeted rate for commercial recycling of \$65.80 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on participating non-residential land within the CBD who have elected to receive the service.

Uniform Waste Management Targeted Rate

1.26 A uniform targeted rate for waste management for refuse and recycling of \$131.62 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on all rateable land in the district for which the service is provided, area as defined in the Annual Plan 2026/27.

Rural Transfer Stations Targeted Rate

- 1.27 A uniform targeted rate of \$211.00 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on all rateable land within a defined 15 km radius scheme area of a Rural Transfer Station, as identified in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement.

Stormwater Targeted Rate

- 1.28 A targeted rate for stormwater, set on all rateable land in the following differential categories as defined in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement:
- 1.28.1 Commercial and Industrial land in DRA1 and DRA1A: A rate of \$0.00044805 (exclusive of GST) per dollar of capital value.
 - 1.28.2 All Rural Townships in DRA3, DRA4 and DRA5 and also Manutuke and Patutahi: A rate of \$82.59 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.
 - 1.28.3 Residential land in DRA1 and DRA1A: A rate of \$245.94 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.

Wastewater Targeted Rate

- 1.29 A targeted rate for wastewater, set on all connected rating units in the following differential categories as defined in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement:
- 1.29.1 Gisborne City: A rate of \$839.10 (exclusive of GST) per pan (water closet or urinal) on all land in the Gisborne City area connected to the wastewater system as identified in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement.
 - 1.29.2 Te Karaka: A rate of \$482.30 (exclusive of GST) per pan (water closet or urinal) on land in the Te Karaka area connected to the wastewater system as identified in the Annual Plan 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement.

Water (Availability) Targeted Rate

- 1.30 A uniform targeted rate for water supply of \$185.49 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on all rateable land that is not connected to the water supply, but for which connection is available. Connection is deemed available where a rating unit is situated within 100 metres of any part of the water supply network.

Water (Connection) Targeted Rate

- 1.31 A uniform targeted rate for water supply of \$370.98 (exclusive of GST) per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set on all rateable land that is connected to the water supply network.

Water (Metered) Targeted Rate

1.32 A targeted rate for extraordinary and rural domestic water supply as defined in the Water Supply Bylaw 2015 for connected rating units and differentiated as follows:

1.32.1 A rate of \$2.32 (exclusive of GST) per cubic metre of water supplied for identified extraordinary users.

1.32.2 A rate of \$2.32 (exclusive of GST) per cubic metre of water supplied for identified extraordinary domestic users for water supplied above 300 cubic metres.

2. Resolves under section 24 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 that all rates (excluding the Water (Metered) Targeted Rate) be payable in four equal instalments, with each instalment due on the rates due date stated in Table 1.
3. Resolves under sections 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to authorise the addition of a penalty of 10% of the amount of any rates (excluding the Water (Metered) Targeted Rate) unpaid after the rates due date, with the penalty to be added on the Penalty Date stated in Table 1 below:

Table 1 for Rates Penalty dates

Rate Instalment Dates	Rates Due Date	Date Penalty is to be added	Penalty amount
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Invoiced Quarterly

Instalment 1	20 August 2026	26 August 2026	10%
Instalment 2	20 November 2026	26 November 2026	10%
Instalment 3	22 February 2027	26 February 2027	10%
Instalment 4	20 May 2027	26 May 2027	10%

4. Resolves under sections 24 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 that the Water (Metered) Targeted Rate be payable on the rates due date stated in Table 2.

5. Resolves under sections 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to set the following due dates for the payment of the Water (Metered) Targeted Rate, and to add a penalty of 10% of the amount remaining unpaid after the due date. The penalty will be added on the Penalty Date in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Water Penalty Dates

Month of invoice	Due date	Date penalty added
Invoiced Annually		
Jun-26	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
Invoiced Six-Monthly		
Jun-26	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
Dec-26	20 January 2027	26 January 2027
Invoiced Quarterly		
Jun-26	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
Sept-26	20 October 2026	27 October 2026
Dec-26	20 January 2027	26 January 2027
Mar-27	20 April 2027	27 April 2027
Invoiced Monthly		
Jun-26	20 July 2026	24 July 2026
Jul-26	20 August 2026	26 August 2026
Aug-26	21 September 2026	25 September 2026
Sept-26	20 October 2026	27 October 2026
Oct-26	20 November 2026	26 November 2026
Nov-26	21 December 2026	5 January 2027
Dec-26	20 January 2027	26 January 2027
Jan-27	22 February 2027	26 February 2027
Feb-27	22 March 2027	25 March 2027
Mar-27	20 April 2027	27 April 2027
Apr-27	20 May 2027	26 May 2027
May-27	21 June 2027	25 June 2027

Authorised by:

Pauline Foreman - Chief Financial Officer

Keywords: Rates, rate setting, penalties, Water meter, waste management, noise control, LGRA, 3YP, rates funding, charges

BACKGROUND - HE **WHAKAMĀRAMA**

1. After the 2026//27 Annual Plan (AP) is approved, and under Section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA), Council must set the rates by Council resolution in accordance with the Council's AP and the Funding Impact Statement for 2026/27.
2. Total rates revenue is \$117.3m (including GST) or \$102m (plus GST). This is an overall increase of 8.49% (excluding growth) over Year two of the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan, which is within the rates revenue threshold set out in our Financial Strategy.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA **KŌRERO** me **ngā KŌWHIRINGA**

3. The 2026/27 Rates Funding Impact Statement budget for the 2026/27 year aligns to total rates revenue. Refer to 2026/27 Annual Plan [26-139] "Rates Funding Impact Statement" section (page 74).
4. The schedule of rates charges, due dates and penalty dates is set out in the recommendation.
5. Key Rates Movements for 2026/27 Annual Plan
 - For 2026/27, rates increase drivers across the district for most properties include increases to the general rate on capital value (which will vary from property to property based on capital value), and fixed charge increases for wastewater costs, which have increased by \$98 plus GST, water supply costs which have increased by \$53 and the Uniform Annual General Charge which has increased by \$59 plus GST (predominantly for recovery rates).
 - Across the District over 83% of properties will have an increase of \$400 or less. For rural properties 5,400 of those increases are less than \$150, mostly affecting properties without reticulated services, and 2,700 of those properties are in the East Coast area.
 - In rural areas, increases are primarily driven by general rates, uniform annual general charges, subsidised costs for roading, as well as costs associated with resource consents.
 - In Gisborne City, for 11,446 properties, the average increase is \$351 plus GST. This is primarily driven by the cost of reticulated services for wastewater, water supply, and stormwater, and the uniform annual general charge. There are 374 commercial properties increasing between \$400 to \$750, mostly driven by increased costs in reticulated services; and the Uniform Annual General Charge.
 - For full details refer to 2026/27 Annual Plan report [26-155], sections "What does this mean for our ratepayers" (page 41) and Rates examples (page 80).

LGRA Section 21 Cap

6. Section 21 of the LGRA sets a limit of 30% on the revenue sought by Council from targeted rates set on a uniform basis and the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC). This is referred to as the Section 21 cap.
7. The Section 21 cap for 2026/27 AP is 28.5% of the rates, including water by meter rates. The cap is made up of the UAGC being \$26.38m plus GST and other fixed targeted rates of \$3.75m plus GST.

Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)

8. The UAGC for 2026/27 is \$1,295.09 inclusive of GST. The UAGC is a fixed charge on all Separately Used or Inhabited Parts of a rating unit in the district. The activities funded by the UAGC are set out in the 2026/27 AP Funding Impact Statement.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o **NGĀ** HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **High** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

9. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **High** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

10. Council recognises its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, particularly the principle of Kāwanatanga, which affirms the right to govern while actively protecting Māori interests. In delivering the 2026/27 Annual Plan and in setting rates for 2026/27 we demonstrate this commitment by ensuring that our rating practices align with the intent and requirements of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and its provisions relating to Māori freehold land. The Act affirms the importance of supporting the retention, use, and development of whenua Māori, and Council reflects this through transparent decision making, fair application of rating policies, and processes that recognise the collective ownership and cultural significance of Māori land. Engagement with iwi and hapū on rating matters ensures that Māori perspectives contribute to shaping Council policy and decision making.

Rangatiratanga

11. Council upholds the principle of Rangatiratanga by recognising the right of Māori to exercise authority over their taonga, whenua, and decision making. Within the framework of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, Council acknowledges the unique status of Māori freehold land and the intent of the Act to support its retention, development, and use by its owners. Engagement with iwi and hapū on rating policy, remission processes reflect our commitment to supporting Māori and their whenua. We remain committed to ongoing collaboration with Māori on rating policy

Oritetanga

12. Council affirms its commitment to Ōritetanga, the principle of equity, by ensuring that rating practices within Council's 2026/27 Annual Plan and under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 are applied in a way that is fair, transparent, and responsive to the needs of Māori communities. The 2026/27 Annual Plan reflects a continued focus on reducing disparities by supporting infrastructure, recovery, and resilience projects, some of which council funds through rates and that serve the needs of all communities, including Māori. While rating policies must meet statutory requirements, Council recognises the importance of identifying and responding to the specific circumstances of Māori landowners—such as the collective nature of ownership, cultural significance of whenua, and barriers to development. By aligning rating approaches with the intent of the Act and the aspirations of tangata whenua, we aim to contribute to more equitable outcomes across the district.

Whakapono

13. Council is committed to building Whakapono—trust and confidence—in its relationships with iwi, hapū, and Māori communities, including in the administration of rating responsibilities under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Through consistent engagement, transparency in rating policy development, and a willingness to review processes to reflect Māori input, we aim to strengthen our role as a trusted Treaty partner. Whakapono is essential to enduring partnership, and we continue to develop practices that foster mutual respect, clarity in rating obligations, and long-term collaboration.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

14. There are no significant changes to the 2026/27 rates setting that required additional Iwi/hapū engagement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

15. The 2026/27 AP includes the Rates Funding Impact Statement, which informs the community of the Rates Information for 2026/27.
16. Once the 2026/27 Annual Plan is adopted, our community will be informed through social media, newspapers, and our website, which includes a rates calculator for ratepayers to check their estimated rates for 2026/27.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - **NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI** – **ngā** whakaaweawe / **ngā** ritenga

17. Climate change affects many local authority functions and responsibilities. The 3YP Revenue and Financing Policy puts Council in a position to respond to such changes. Some of the functions and responsibilities are funded from Council rates. There is a portion of rate funding for at-risk activities like water security, coastal communities, and natural ecosystems, which is detailed in the 2026/27 Annual Plan Funding Impact Statement.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

18. The adoption of the 2026/27 AP budget enables Council to collect rates revenue to fund its operations as set out in the AP Funding Impact Statement and in the 3YP Revenue and Financing Policy.
19. The rates set are based on the budgets prepared for 2026/27 financial year are in line with our Financial Strategy.
20. Rates examples are included within the 2026/27 AP under the section Our Finances Rates Funding Impact Statement, and rates information for 2026/27.

Legal

21. This rates resolution is made under the local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Section 23 of the Local Government Rating Act 2002 requires Council to set the rates by Council resolution after the Annual Plan 2026/27 has been adopted.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me **ngā** RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

22. The recommendation proposed is detailed in the AP Funding Impact Statement for 2026/27.
23. The recommendation is consistent with the Revenue and Financing Policy in the 2024-2027 3YP and AP 2026/27 Funding Impact Statement.
24. The decision is not expected to directly affect any of the community outcomes or strategic challenges.

RISKS - **NGĀ TŪRARU**

25. The risks associated with the setting of the rates for the 2026/27 year are around financial and legal risks. If we do not set the rates, then there is risk of Council not being able to meet its financial commitments.
26. There is a risk when setting rates, that they must be fully compliant with legislation, primarily the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. However, the rates setting process have rigorous checks and balances for each stage of rates required for a new year, including legal review, and subsequent external audit, risks that rates are not set within legal requirements are minimal.

NEXT STEPS - **NGĀ** MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
26 June 2026	Council sets rates for 2026/27 after the approval of the 2026/27 AP	
July 2026	Send Ratepayers rate assessments and rates invoices for instalment one.	Due date for payment 20 August 2026
October 2026	Send Ratepayers rate assessments and rates invoices for instalment two.	Due date for payment 20 November 2026
January 2027	Send Ratepayers rate assessments and rates invoices for instalment three.	Due date for payment 20 February 2027
April 2027	Send Ratepayers rate assessments and rates invoices for instalment four.	Due date for payment 20 May 2027

Approval of the prioritisation framework will provide a consistent, defensible basis for investment decisions and ensure funding is directed to the highest priority flood risk reduction outcomes across Tairāwhiti.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - **NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Endorses the programme-wide prioritisation framework and preferred flood resilience projects to advance into Stage 2 (detailed concept design & consenting).

Authorised by:

Tim Barry - Director Lifelines

Keywords: Flood Resilience programme, Crown funding, Programme Prioritisation, NIWE

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. In response to the North Island Weather Events of 2023, Central Government approved \$71.1m funding for a locally driven recovery and flood resilience programme in Tairāwhiti. This funding is to deliver flood and climate resilience, reduce risk to life and to maintain insurability of residential properties.
2. The programme is 90% funded by the Crown (\$64m), with an additional 10% contribution by Council (\$7.1m) to make up the initial \$71.1m of approved Flood Resilience funding.
3. The Crown funding portion is administered by National Infrastructure Funding and Financing (NIFF). This funding is to deliver flood and climate resilience, reduce risk to life and to maintain insurability of residential properties.
4. The Te Karaka Project had \$13.2m in approved funding; however, \$27.6m is required to deliver the preferred stopbank upgrade, resulting in a significant funding shortfall.
5. Council and the Crown jointly addressed this funding gap, including reprioritising co-investment within the wider Regional Infrastructure portfolio of the Recovery department. A cross-programme review identified \$8.89m of underspend within the Regional Infrastructure budget.
6. Approval for the reallocation of these funds was recommended via the Department Of Internal Affairs and subsequently approved by ministers.
7. The remaining shortfall was resolved as approved in the Council decision report from 7 May 2026 (Report 25-65) and is also discussed in more detail in the Financial Section of this report.
8. The additional \$8.89m reallocation from the wider Recovery portfolio has increased the Flood Resilience Programme budget from \$71.1m to \$79.99m with 90% being funded by the Crown (\$72M) and an additional \$7.99M Council contribution to make up the total.
9. The core principles of the funding agreement include:
 - Risk reduction: Reducing the risk to life and residential property from future severe weather events.
 - Building resilience: Enabling communities to improve resilience beyond the pre-NIWE state, and that critical infrastructure is resilient to climate change and future weather events.
 - Insurability: To achieve long-term flood risk mitigation that maintains the confidence of insurers and the ongoing insurability of residential properties.
10. The agreed Project Schedules proposed flood resilience improvements for:
 - Makarika
 - Tolaga Bay/Ūawa
 - Gisborne City + Rivers
 - Tokomaru Bay (Waiotu & Mangahauini Rivers)
 - Te Ārai
 - Tikitiki (Poroporo River)
 - Te Karaka
 - Waipaoa Stopbanks Improvements
11. Flood mitigation optioneering targeted a 1% AEP (100-year flood) level of service, accounting for climate change and sea level rise out to the year 2130. River aggradation and other geomorphic processes have also emerged as key drivers worsening flood risk over time for some communities.

12. The Investigations stage of these projects has carried out technical assessments, including flood modelling and geomorphic assessments, and optioneering following the 'PARA'¹ framework through to preferred option recommendations.
13. Flood mitigation options common to all investigation areas that are being recommended (but excluded from Crown funding) for each catchment include:
 - Community Education on flood risk and how to manage it.
 - Nature-Based Solutions/land use transition mainly to moderate the geomorphic drivers of flood risk over time.
 - Flood Warning and flood forecasting.
 - CDEM planning.
 - Operational Maintenance Programmes such as ongoing willow/woody weed removal and management, or stream mouth cutting.
 - District Plan mapping/controls to restrict development in high hazard areas.
 - Managed Retreat in the longer term of properties subject to very high hazard, noting that Council's position is that this approach should be 'community-led'.
14. Many of these operational activities are already underway as part of Council Business-as-Usual (BAU), and the work done in the investigations stage of these projects will feed into these (for example, flood hazard mapping informing Civil Defence Emergency Management planning and future District Plan maps). Some options will require commitment to increased operational spend by Council, and these will be progressed/prioritised through Council's normal Long-Term Plan and/or 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy processes.
15. Funding for the Category 2 Risk Mitigation Projects (NIFF-funded), which are the subject of this report, is available for community-scale capital works and is not available for operational spending or options at the individual property-scale.
16. The NIFF-funded projects therefore tend to be physical works projects and sit in the "Protect" category of the PARA framework.
17. The delivery of all the 'preferred option' flood resilience projects is planned to be completed before 2030.

Floodplain Management Planning

18. The recommendations and proposed 'preferred option' projects are recommended to be documented in *Floodplain Management Plans* for each catchment to monitor and implement all agreed projects and recommendations over time. These Floodplain Management Plans should align with Council's Asset Management Plan, Infrastructure Strategy, and Long-Term Plans, and be managed by the Rivers Team.
19. Funding to develop and implement Floodplain Management Plans for each flood resilience catchment is being sought in the next Long-Term Plan (LTP) for delivery in Year 2 (2028/2029 FY).

1. ¹ The 'PARA' Framework - Flood mitigation options were investigated following the 'PARA' natural hazard adaptation hierarchy (*Protect, Avoid, Retreat, Accommodate*).

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA **KŌRERO** me **ngā KŌWHIRINGA**

20. This section outlines the options and processes Council staff undertook to land at the preferred flood resilience options for East Coast projects (Ūawa (Tolaga Bay), Tokomaru Bay, Makarika and Tikitiki), Gisborne City and City Rivers and the Te Ārai River catchment.
21. This was followed by a structured prioritisation of projects across the Gisborne and East Coast Flood Resilience programmes, integrating quantitative analysis with expert judgement, which is detailed in the Project Prioritisation Section.
22. The flood resilience options were identified through a robust and consistent assessment process that combined hydraulic modelling, technical analysis, economic appraisal and community engagement. This work considered a wide range of potential measures to determine the most effective, practical and affordable solutions for reducing flood risk, while recognising local catchment conditions, cultural values and future climate change impacts.
23. Engagement with iwi and hqpū, alongside partnerships with community focus groups and regular updates provided at public hui, has represented a sustained and authentic engagement approach to guide flood resilience investment decisions across all the funded catchments.
24. The final 'Preferred Option Reports' for all the flood resilience areas covering; investigation, engagement, modelling and optioneering through to preferred option/s can be found on the Council website at www.gdc.govt.nz/our-recovery/flood-resilience.
25. For clarity, only the final preferred option/s for each of the flood resilience areas covered under the Crown funding are covered within the body of this report.

'East Coast' Communities Preferred Options Process (**Ūawa**, Tokomaru Bay, Makarika and Tikitiki) and Te Ārai

26. A consistent optioneering process was applied across the Te Ārai, Ūawa, Tokomaru Bay, Mākarika and Tikitiki catchments to identify preferred flood risk reduction options under the East Coast Flood Resilience Programme.
27. For each catchment, the process began with the development of a comprehensive longlist of potential flood risk management measures, structured using the PARA framework to ensure a full range of responses were considered. A high-level longlist of options was informed by the best available flood information, understanding of local flooding mechanisms, geomorphic processes and known areas of risk.
28. The initial longlist was refined to a final longlist using expert screening and then assessed using a structured multi-criteria analysis. This assessment considered likely flood risk reduction effectiveness, delivery feasibility, sustainability, environmental and geomorphic considerations, and community and cultural factors. The output of this stage was a shortlist of options for further development. This stage of the process wasn't informed by detailed flood risk mapping.
29. Shortlisted options were progressed to higher-level technical assessment, including detailed hydraulic modelling and geomorphic analysis. These assessments were used to test performance under present-day and future scenarios, including climate change and aggradation where relevant, and to assess scale, location and delivery considerations.

30. Preferred short list options were identified by drawing together the outcomes of technical assessment, deliverability considerations and community input. Only the preferred options have been costed. While the process was consistent, the preferred options differ between catchments due to differences in flooding mechanisms, geomorphic drivers, topography and the scale and location of risk.
31. The recommendations for each East Coast catchment are described in detail in Attachment 1. A summary for each catchment focussing on the proposed capital works is provided in the sections below.

Te Ārai Preferred Option summary

32. No capital construction works projects have been identified that would require NIFF funding.
33. The preferred option for Te Ārai is a non-structural, operational programme-based package that improves and maintains channel capacity, preserves the existing spill behaviour of the river when it breaks out of the river channel, moderates geomorphic pressures in the upper catchment in the long-term, and strengthens community resilience. Key components include willow removal (and ongoing eradication / management) and river and spill crest monitoring.
34. With no capital work proposed, the remaining budget surplus Te Ārai (~\$700k) has been reallocated across to support the Te Karaka stopbank flood resilience project. This decision was covered in the Council report tabled 7 May (Report 25-65).

Ūawa (Tolaga Bay) Preferred Option summary

35. In the Ūawa catchment, flood risk is concentrated within the low-lying basin upstream of Tolaga Bay township and is sensitive to future changes in channel capacity and river mouth conditions. The best estimate of flood risk to the township is that it would not be flooded by the Ūawa River in a 1% AEP "present-day" flood. This is great news, although this is highly sensitive to assumptions about riverbed levels and the depth of scouring that occurs during a flood.
36. The western part of the township is shown to be subject to flood hazard when climate change factors out to the year 2130 are included into modelling assumptions.
37. The preferred option includes construction of a stopbank to the northwest of the township, between State Highway 35 and the Uawa River, tying into higher ground along Ūawa Parade. Hydraulic modelling shows that this provides a substantial reduction in residential flooding (~50 houses no longer flooded) under a 1% AEP event with climate change, without creating material adverse effects elsewhere. The exact alignment of a stopbank has not yet been worked through with the community or discussed with affected landowners.
38. This stopbank forms the primary capital intervention for managing flood risk to residential properties in the township under the NIFF funding. No other feasible capital works projects that align with the project objectives have been identified in the wider floodplain.
39. Overall, Tolaga Bay presents an emerging flood risk with high uncertainty, rather than an immediate or well-defined hazard today. Flood risks to the community are expected to increase as a result of climate change and geomorphic trends, and additional flood protection is recommended to protect the community (especially to the western side of the township) for medium to long term (30yr +).

40. Figure 1 below illustrates the band of possible stopbank alignments that have been modelled to protect against a 1% event accounting for climate change and sea level rise out to 2130.



Figure 1 – Tolaga Bay band of possible stopbank alignments

Tikitiki (Poroporo) Preferred Option Summary

- 41. Flood risk to properties in the Poroporo catchment is concentrated at the Tikitiki township and Tikitiki school, where aggradation, channel migration and overbank flows interact.
- 42. The preferred option is a stopbank-based solution, with scope potentially delivered in stages to respond to future changes in bed levels and flood behaviour. The NIFF-funded physical works include upgrading the existing Council stopbank located behind the Tikitiki School and extending it further downstream to improve the current level of service and reduce short to medium-term flood risk for the community, with an indicative height of 2.2 m at the school and an average height of 1.0 m over approximately 700 m. Minor improvements to stormwater drainage are also proposed.
- 43. Associated physical works include targeted erosion protection; most likely a short length of rock revetment to armour the outside of the river bend beside the school, to protect the stopbank from lateral erosion risk.
- 44. A combined stopbank and overflow/diversion channel package is considered more robust than a stopbank upgrade alone, given the key drivers of bed aggradation and potential changes in flood conveyance under future conditions. If not incorporated immediately, an overflow path or diversion channel, or additional stopbank raising, can be integrated into future adaptation planning (i.e. staged). An overflow path could have the potential to be deepened into a permanent diversion along the same alignment.
- 45. Staging decisions and the selection of an initial stopbank height will be progressed through further engagement with the community and landowners, who have not yet been consulted on potential alignments and land requirements. Future adaptation options beyond the immediate capital works should be picked up within Council's climate change adaptation planning process.
- 46. No other feasible capital works projects that align with the project objectives have been identified in the wider floodplain.

- 47. While the proposed stopbank will improve flood protection, rural land and roads in the wider Poroporo catchment will remain exposed to flood hazard. Residual risk will be managed through community education, flood warning systems, emergency management, planning controls, and nature-based solutions. Managed retreat has not been ruled out for high-risk areas but would need to be community-led.
- 48. Figure 2 below indicates the stopbank alignment that has been modelled to protect against a 1% event accounting for climate change out to 2130.



Figure 2 – Tikitiki indicative stopbank alignment

Tokomaru Bay Preferred Option Summary

Mangahauini River

- 49. The preferred option for Mangahauini River is to upgrade the existing Council maintained stopbank on the southern side of the river directly upstream of the SH35 NZTA Bridge to protect against a 1% AEP flood event accounting for climate change and sea level rise out to 2130.
- 50. The recommended upgrade of the existing stopbank mainly involves stopbank widening (rather than stopbank raising), although minor top-ups are required along the length of the stopbank.
- 51. A review of existing rock revetment edge protection between Paikea Street and the SH35 NZTA Bridge is also recommended to be undertaken and any issues to be remediated.
- 52. Ongoing monitoring of river aggradation and channel vegetation management will be required. Recognising that holding this stopbank alignment long-term (30yr+) may be unsustainable due to anticipated riverbed aggradation and erosion threats, it is recommended that a future retreated stopbank alignment (towards the south) be identified with the community in parallel with the upgrade (if needed in the longer term).

Waiotu River

53. The preferred option for Waiotu Stream includes construction of bunds to address flooding at Hatea-A-Rangi Primary School, full channel widening from the bridge to near the river mouth, and construction of an Arthur St stopbank. Ongoing maintenance will be required to maintain the channel widening in the long-term.
54. Further work is needed before proceeding, including landowner engagement, additional modelling, and assessment of residual risk behind the stopbank. In particular, the alignment of the proposed stopbank and bunds needs to be refined.
55. These proposed works differ from those in the other catchments, because it has not been possible yet to define a level of service in terms of an Annual Exceedance Probability/return period. Flood modelling on the Waiotu Stream proved tricky, because flooding is highly influenced by variable channel conditions, debris blockages, aggradation and backwater effects. Matching the observed flooding from 2021 and 2022 was challenging. As a result, a representative design scenario was adopted based on the 1% AEP plus climate change and future geomorphic conditions, as this best reflects recent observed flood behaviour, while acknowledging uncertainty in its true return period and performance.
56. The performance of the proposed stopbank will need to be tested further in the next stage of design to confirm it is able to adequately manage risk at this location. A cost-benefit ratio exceeding 1 must also be demonstrated to satisfy Crown funding criteria.
57. For Waiotu, a "mouth opening protocol" should be agreed with the community, with Council taking responsibility for this. Council should also prioritise prompt removal of debris and blockages, given the significant role these played in the 2021 flood event. Even if the Arthur St stopbank is constructed, District Plan controls should be implemented to ensure that there is no further intensification or unsuitable development in the protected area, given the uncertainty in the performance of the stopbank.

Mākarika Preferred Option Summary

58. Mākarika Stream is subject to rapid aggradation, meaning that the riverbed level is rising quickly (~200mm/year on average). This, combined with its 'perched' nature above its floodplain, mean that flood risk is increasing over time. The likelihood of an avulsion (channel breakout, possibly permanent) in the direction of the Mākarika settlement is high today and increasing.
59. A close-in stopbank/localised bund was identified as the only plausible short-term structural option to reduce flood risk for the Mākarika settlement. It is intended as a targeted life-safety intervention with a potential period of effectiveness of perhaps no more than a decade, rather than a long-term protection solution. Community feedback reinforced the urgency of intervention, citing repeated flooding, night-time evacuations, loss of access, debris hazards, and active erosion threatening homes and the school.
60. If progressed, the stopbank should be explicitly framed as an interim measure and paired with a community-led managed-retreat pathway to avoid creating a false sense of long-term security. Any advancement should be subject to further design, costing, land access agreements, consenting, and agreement about a managed retreat pathway.

61. Despite proposed mitigations, significant residual flood risk remains for rural land and critical infrastructure in the Mākarika catchment, notably threatening houses on Karewa Road and the access to approximately 20 households to the west of the bridge under future climate and aggradation scenarios. To manage this ongoing risk, the project emphasises the following non-structural measures, while acknowledging that managed retreat may still be explored through separate, community-led Council adaptation planning.
- Investigating the feasibility of installing a rain gauge in the upper catchment to improve flood warnings;
 - Development of a community CDEM plan;
 - Planning for a future road and bridge alignment; and
 - Nature-based solutions, including vegetative measures to target hillslope erosion in areas where this has potential to be effective. It is not thought that nature-based solutions can be effective in the worst areas of gully erosion in this catchment.
62. Discussions with the Crown have queried the likelihood of securing funding for a close-in stopbank at Makarika, which is considered unsustainable and expected to deliver benefits for less than 10 years. The Crown has indicated that such an option is unlikely to be approved. Given that the main assets behind the proposed close-in stopbank (the school) are Crown assets, Council officers propose to continue exploring options for the use of the NIWE funding for Mākarika settlement, including the possibility of using this funding to support managed retreat if this is the most effective long-term investment option.
63. Council staff to initiate discussions with Ministry of Education about investigation findings for Makarika from mid-June.

Gisborne Rivers + City North Preferred Options Summary

Gisborne North (Whataupoko & Mangapapa)

64. North Gisborne flooding is primarily driven by constrained waterway conveyance and blockage risk, with limited channel capacity and debris accumulation significantly increasing flood extent and depth in urban areas.
65. The preferred North Gisborne solution focuses on targeted conveyance improvements and blockage reduction, including debris racks, key culvert upgrades, and channel capacity widening.
66. Modelling indicates moderate reductions in flood impacts, particularly in reducing dwellings flooded above floor level, though benefits are more limited under future climate scenarios.

Taruheru, Waimata & Turanganui Rivers

67. Gisborne Rivers flooding is driven by large upstream catchment flows, tidal influences, and debris accumulation at bridges.
68. Flood levels in the Taruheru River is typically dominated or controlled by the flood level in the Waimata/Turanganui River.
69. The preferred option to increase conveyance is via dredging of the Turanganui River (~1m), enabling improved discharge from the Waimata and Taruheru systems and lowering flood levels.

70. Modelling shows measurable reductions in high hazard exposure and floor-level flooding, though overall flood risk remains substantial, particularly under climate change scenarios.
71. Significant uncertainty remains around dredging feasibility, cost, and longevity of benefits, with ongoing sedimentation likely requiring repeat intervention.
72. A number of higher-cost structural interventions (e.g. bridge 'clear-spanning', river widening) are identified but sit outside current funding envelopes and are considered feasible longer-term options to mitigate flood levels.
73. Even with implementation of preferred options, a substantial residual flood risk remains, particularly for properties adjacent to river corridors and within constrained urban areas.
74. Non-structural measures are critical, including asset maintenance, planning controls, community preparedness, and targeted property-level mitigation.
75. Catchment management and nature-based interventions are required to address underlying drivers such as sediment and debris generation.
76. Operational responses led by Councils Journeys team to clear woody debris off bridges will mitigate flood levels if delivered during a flood event in a timely manner.

Te Karaka Flood Resilience Improvements - Update

77. Te Karaka Preferred stopbank alignment was endorsed by Council on 21 Aug 2025 (Report 25-183).
78. The original Crown funding allocation (\$13.2M) was materially below the estimated delivery cost (~\$27.6M P95), resulting in a funding shortfall. The shortfall was resolved and funding secured via reallocations from the wider Recovery Portfolio as approved in the Council decision report from 7 May 2026 (Report 25-65).
79. Detailed designs are now largely completed, and the consenting phase is underway with the resource consent application lodged in late May. Public notification is anticipated in late June 2026.
80. Target is to commence construction in the coming earthworks season (next summer), subject to funding and consenting approvals.
81. Consenting risk remains a critical path item and will directly influence programme certainty and delivery timeframes.
82. Te Karaka performed strongly in the prioritisation assessment (outlined below), ranking first when equal weightings are applied or when emphasis is placed on residential floor-level flooding (insurability).

Project Prioritisation

Approach to prioritisation

- 83. The prioritisation of projects across the Gisborne and East Coast Flood Resilience programmes was undertaken through a structured process, combining quantitative analysis with expert judgement. Metrics were adopted that aligned with the project objectives (set via the funding agreements with the Crown) and could be consistently applied across the flood resilience programme (Table 1). These metrics were all scored on the basis of the 1% AEP (100-year) present day modelled flood hazard.
- 84. Each metric was also assessed as a value metric, allowing the projects to be compared on the basis of best ‘bang for buck’.

Table 1. Metrics aligned with objectives

Objective	Metric	Value metric
Reduce risk to life	Number of buildings no longer exposed to ‘high’ hazard	Buildings made ‘safe’ per \$1M spent
Support ongoing insurability	Number of dwellings no longer flooded above floor level	Dwellings protected per \$1M spent
Building community resilience incl. critical infrastructure	<p>“Improvement value” of buildings on non-residential parcels (i.e. commercial, schools, etc)</p> <p>List of community assets/critical infrastructure protected</p>	<p>\$ value non-residential buildings no longer exposed to flooding, per \$1M spent</p> <p>Not scored - qualitative only</p>

- 85. The assessment took place over two facilitated workshops with Council project team members to review, challenge, and finalise priorities
- 86. This approach was designed to ensure that recommendations are robust, transparent, and defensible, while recognising that not all relevant factors can be captured in a purely quantitative framework.
- 87. The prioritisation process and the project team workshop outcomes were discussed with Councillors at a third workshop on 3 June 2026.

Data and decision making

- 88. For each option, benefits were quantified using flood modelling outputs and supporting datasets (including building, valuation, and infrastructure data) and compared to the estimated cost of delivering the option. Cost estimates were available for each project on a ‘P95’ (high (95%) confidence the project will be delivered for this cost or lower) and a ‘P50’ (50/50 confidence the project will be delivered above or below this cost) basis.
- 89. A relative score was calculated for each project across the three scored value metrics. All three metrics were given equal weighting in calculating this score, but sensitivity testing was also carried out on varying these weightings.
- 90. Two project team prioritisation workshops were held to guide the decision-making process:
 - Workshop 1 (19 May 2026) established the methodology, tested assumptions, and narrowed the list of options.
 - Workshop 2 (25 May 2026) reviewed refined results and confirmed a recommended prioritisation for Council consideration.

91. The workshops were critical to:
- testing the robustness of the metric-based results,
 - incorporating local knowledge and engineering judgement, and
 - addressing matters not captured directly in the metrics (such as asset condition, broader risk, sustainability and deliverability).
92. The process was comparable to a multi-criteria analysis (MCA), where the quantitative outputs informed, but did not dictate, the final decisions.

Key decisions

93. Some important high-level decisions were made in the project team workshops:
- Prioritisation was undertaken within each package (Gisborne, and East Coast) to reflect concerns about fairness of reallocating funding from one set of projects to another, and the ability of East Coast ratepayers to fund flood resilience works if this Crown funding was not available.
 - The assessment focused primarily on present-day flood risk, while still recognising that there are differences in how different projects will perform into the future.
 - Costs were presented on both a P95 (conservative) and P50 (less conservative) basis, to give a range of which projects may be deliverable within the available funding.
94. Several project-specific decisions were also made:
- Only one of the four Gisborne dredging options was taken forward to prioritisation, due to feasibility concerns and where the most benefits were realised.
 - Only one of the Gisborne North options was taken forward to prioritisation, as the costs for the other five options exceeded the available budget by a considerable margin and the incremental benefits were small.
 - The Mangahauini stopbank improvements option was promoted to the top of the list. Although the flood model results show no houses or businesses being flooded, the reality is that this stopbank (an existing Council asset) has little freeboard, variable performance, is narrow, and poses a high risk of failure. This lower relative cost project was considered to be 'low hanging fruit' and an upgrade (mostly stopbank widening) easily justified to the top of the list for East Coast.
 - The Tikitiki stopbank upgrade, although it scored lower than the close-in Makarika stopbank, was promoted above it in the priority list. This is because the Tikitiki stopbank is able to provide a flood resilience benefit well into the future (i.e. is more sustainable), whereas the Makarika stopbank is considered a short-term (<10yr) option at best.
 - The Mangahauini Rock protection at the end of Toa St was not included in the final prioritisation, as it was estimated to cost \$1.8M (P95 estimate) and protected only one property. It is also unlikely to meet NIFF's approval criteria around cost-benefit.
 - The Tolaga Bay stopbank concept will be included, but is only expected to be funded to Stage 2 at this point, to allow future delivery (possibly staged) under the LTP. Depending on the delivery and cost outcomes of higher-ranked projects, it may be possible to progress this project to Stage 3 earlier.

Outcomes – Gisborne projects

95. Table 2 shows the ranking of the Gisborne projects. The remaining available budget for Gisborne projects is currently \$14.1M.

Table 2. Gisborne project ranking

Rank	Project	Score	Cost estimate P50	Cost estimate P95	Community assets/ infrastructure
1	Turanganui River - dredging (downstream of Railway Bridge)	2.57	\$7.91M	\$10.17M	1 ECE centre, 1 emergency centre, 1 other facility, 3 electricity lifeline sites, 1 water lifeline site
2	Gisborne North: Matokitoki Stream / Valley Road – Stormwater Improvements	0.61	\$14.74M	\$18.95M	Electricity lifeline site x 2
		TOTAL	\$22.65M	\$29.12M	

96. The proposed approach (given uncertainty in the feasibility and long-term effectiveness of the dredging option) is to progress both projects in Stage 2 to a consent-level design, including further assessments on the dredging option. The dredging option is estimated (via modelling) to protect far more homes and businesses than the Gisborne North stormwater option.

97. If the dredging option is feasible and funded by the Crown, it will be the preferred option, and remaining budget will be allocated to the best-performing elements of the Gisborne North option.

98. If the dredging option is not proceeded with, the Gisborne North option will be value engineered to deliver the maximum benefits while remaining within approved budget.

Outcomes – East Coast projects

99. Table 3 shows the ranking of the East Coast projects. The remaining available budget for the East Coast projects is currently \$14.1M.

Table 3. East Coast project ranking

Rank	Project	Score	Cost estimate P50	Cost estimate P95	Community assets/infrastructure
1	Tokomaru Bay – Mangahauini Stopbank improvements	-	\$0.46M	\$0.59M	Shops, café, holiday park, potentially school
2	Tokomaru Bay – Waiotu Stream Capacity Improvements	0.68	\$3.35M	\$4.31M	School
3	Tikitiki – Poroporo River Stopbank Upgrade	0.55	\$5.31M	\$6.82M	School
4	Mākarika – Close-In Stopbank Upgrade	0.62	\$2.07M	\$2.67M	School
5	Tolaga Bay – Uawa River Northern Stopbank Scheme	-	\$5.85M	\$7.57M	-
		TOTAL	\$17.04M	\$21.95M	

100. The available budget is sufficient to deliver three, or potentially four of the projects (as noted in red above). The following projects will be delivered to Stage 2 (design and consenting) and Stage 3 (implementation):

- Mangahauini stopbank improvements – Primarily stopbank widening with minor ‘top-ups’, including reviewing the existing rock armouring edge protection.
- Waiotu Stream capacity improvements – school bunds and channel widening confirmed. The Arthur St stopbank concept will be further developed and may also proceed to Stage 3 provided it’s confirmed as the most suitable and cost-effective approach to managing the risk to the three houses. Value engineering will likely be needed to reduce the stopbank cost.
- Poroporo River stopbank upgrade, including rock erosion protection at the river bend by Tikitiki school.

101. The following projects will likely be delivered to Stage 2 only at this point:

- Makarika close-in stopbank upgrade. A consent-level design will be developed. This will proceed to Stage 3 if budget is available and if a managed retreat pathway can be agreed in conjunction with the short-term stopbank. Discussions with NIFF are ongoing, as they’ve indicated they’re unlikely to fund the NIWE funding being spent to implement a short-term option. As noted earlier in this report, Council officers propose to continue discussions with NIFF as to whether this funding can instead be used to support managed retreat, if this proves to be the best investment in managing flood risk to this settlement and the school (a Crown asset) in the long term.
- Ūawa River Northern Stopbank Scheme. A stopbank alignment will be confirmed, followed by design and consenting (if proceeding to Stage 3). NIWE funding may not extend to be available to deliver this stopbank and its future delivery may be funded via Council’s LTP.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o **NGĀ** HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council’s delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

Inconsistency with Council’s current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **High** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **High** Significance

102. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

103. This report is part of a process to arrive at a decision that will/may be of **Medium** level in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

104. The Flood Resilience Programme demonstrates kāwanatanga through responsible governance, informed by technical evidence (including hydraulic modelling and optioneering) and community input.

Rangatiratanga

105. This was demonstrated through early and ongoing engagement with local Iwi and hapu. Affected whenua and wai was identified and the recommended flood mitigation options support tino rangatiratanga.

Oritetanga

106. The projects covered under the overarching Flood Resilience Programme promote equity by addressing flood risks that affect communities disproportionately impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, with a predominantly Māori population in the rural East Coast communities.

107. For communities where stopbank upgrades are anticipated, retreats are being considered to restore natural river processes, enhance community resilience, improve public safety and wellbeing, and align with Te Mana o te Wai by prioritising the health of waterways and connected communities

Whakapono

108. The programme reflects whakawhirinaki and good faith by aligning infrastructure development with tikanga and recognising the cultural significance of whenua Māori.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - **TŪTAKITANGA** TANGATA WHENUA

109. Engagement with Iwi and hapu was integral to the optioneering process. The engagement approach supported open sharing of technical information while recognising local mātauranga, lived experience, and the importance of whenua within tikanga and kawa frameworks.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

110. Engagement with local communities was integral to the optioneering process. Community flood focus groups were established in each catchment to ensure local knowledge, mātauranga, values, and priorities directly informed flood resilience planning. Feedback from these groups was used to test, refine, and narrow the longlist of mitigation measures, supporting development of the shortlist and identification of the preferred option(s) for each catchment.

111. A high-level summary of community engagement since mid-2024 has been attached for Tikitiki, Uawa, Tokomaru, Makarika and Te Arai.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

112. The region-wide Flood Resilience Improvement project directly has the potential to mitigate the region's increasing exposure to extreme weather events driven by climate change. Cyclone Gabrielle exemplified the intensifying rainfall patterns and flood flows that are predicted to become more frequent under future climate change scenarios.

113. While the proposed flood resilience improvement works significantly enhance the community's medium-term flood protection, river aggradation trends coupled with ongoing climate-induced changes will gradually lower the level of service of the scheme in the long term for most catchments. Managed retreat may need to be considered in the future.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

114. Central Government approved \$71.1m in response to the 2023 North Island Weather Events to support a locally led flood resilience programme in Tairāwhiti.

115. The programme is 90% funded by the Crown (\$64m), with an additional 10% contribution by Council (\$7.1m) to make up the initial \$71.1m of approved Flood Resilience funding.

116. This funding was agreed shortly after Cyclone Gabrielle and was based on low-confidence cost estimates using the best available information at the time. The Crown acknowledged this uncertainty, with an expectation that funding would be reprioritised or reallocated following the investigation phase as higher-confidence cost estimates became available.

117. The Te Karaka Project had \$13.2m in approved funding; however, to deliver the preferred stopbank upgrade, \$27.6m is required, identifying a significant funding shortfall.

118. Council jointly worked with the Crown to address the funding shortfall, including considering reprioritisation of co-investment within the Crown Funding (Recovery) Agreement. A six-month review across the Flood Resilience, Regional Infrastructure, and FOSAL programmes assessed performance, expenditure, and updated forecasts.

119. This review identified \$8.89m of underspend budget, \$8m of Crown funding (90%) and \$890k in Council contribution (10%) within the Regional Infrastructure budget. A proposal to reallocate this funding to the Flood Resilience Programme was formalised through an official-level agreement.

120. Council, through the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) sought Crown approval in March 2026, which was granted in June 2026. This approval enabled the reallocation within the agreement and allowed the Te Karaka Project to progress at pace.
121. The additional \$8.89m reallocation from the wider Recovery portfolio increases the Flood Resilience Programme budget from \$71.1m to \$79.99m.
122. A remaining shortfall of \$5.5m for Te Karaka was addressed through internal reallocations within the Flood Resilience Programme, specifically from the Te Arai and East Coast budgets. This approach was endorsed by Council on 7 May 2025 (Report 25-65).
123. Te Karaka now has a total approved budget of \$27.6m. Expenditure to date is \$1.29m, leaving a remaining balance of \$26.3m.
124. Te Arai had an approved budget of \$1.2m, with \$0.5m spent to date. Investigations confirmed no capital works will be delivered using Crown funding. Instead, increased vegetation management will be undertaken through LTP funding and business-as-usual activities. As a result, a \$0.7m surplus was available for reallocation.
125. The East Coast programme had an approved budget of \$21.2m, with \$2.28m spent to date. The proposed \$4.83m reallocation to Te Karaka is proposed, leaves a remaining East Coast budget of \$14.1m.
126. Reallocations of \$0.7m from Te Arai and \$4.83m from East Coast close the remaining funding gap, fully funding delivery of the Te Karaka Project.
127. The table below summarises the proposed allocation of \$79.99m of available funding (\$71.1m approved Flood Resilience Programme budget and the additional approved \$8.89m budget which was reallocated from the wider Recovery portfolio), along with expenditure to date (as at 1 June 2026).

Table 4. Tairāwhiti Flood Resilience Programme & Budget Table

Provisional Budget (including reallocations)	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	Budget Spent (01/06/26)	Remaining Available Budget
Stage 3 - Waipaoa Stopbank Flood Resilience Improvements									
\$20.5M								\$20.5M	\$0M
Stage 2 - Te Karaka Flood Resilience Improvements									
\$27.6M								\$1.3M	\$26.3M
Stage 1 - Projects - Flood Resilience Investigations									
East Coast (Uawa, Tokomaru, Makarika, Tikitiki)									
\$16.4M								\$2.3M	14.1M
Te Arai									
\$0.49M								\$0.49M	\$0M
Gisborne City (Whataupoko & Mangapapa) + Rivers									
\$15M								\$0.9M	\$14.1M
\$79.99M (Total Provisional Budget)								\$25.49M	\$54.5M*
Budget Commentary: * 90%/10% Funding Split of Remaining Available Budget: \$54.5M (Crown \$49.05M / Gisborne District Council \$5.45M)									

Legal

128. The key pieces of legislation for the proposed projects are:

- a. Public Works Act 1981 (PWA).
- b. Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 (SCRCA).
- c. Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.
- d. Local Government Act (LGA 2002).
- e. Resource Management Act (RMA).

129. The Public Works Act 1981 provides the legal framework for local authorities to acquire land for public purposes, such as stopbank upgrade infrastructure projects. Under the Act, the Council must first attempt to negotiate with landowners in good faith and offer fair compensation. If agreement cannot be reached, the land can be compulsorily acquired, but special provisions apply when Whenua Māori is involved. The Public Works Act also allows for objections and appeals and requires that any acquisition or use of land be necessary, proportionate, and in the public interest.

130. Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 governs the administration and use of Māori land, aiming to retain land in Māori ownership and promote the sustainable development of that land by its owners. The proposed stopbank upgrades are likely to affect Māori land and the Act requires that any interference or use of Māori land—such as easements, acquisitions, or changes to access— must align with its principles, including the protection of ownership, consultation with landowners, and securing their informed consent. Council may be required to seek approval from the Māori Land Court for access and demonstrate that the project respects the status and cultural significance of the land while balancing public infrastructure needs.

131. Councils also have more general responsibilities regarding flood management and infrastructure under a variety of other legislation including the LGA 2002 (e.g. ss 10, 11A 101A and 101B), RMA (s30), Civil Defence Emergency Management Act (CDEMA) (s17 (1)(a)) and under common law (i.e. implied duties).

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me **ngā** RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

132. The preferred options approach that was undertaken to arrive at the proposed infrastructure upgrades is generally consistent with Council's strategic objectives for climate resilience, community wellbeing, and sustainable land and water management.

133. The planning process must balance the broader environmental and resilience benefits of each proposal with the specific and, in some cases, adverse localised effects. A robust assessment of environmental effects, cultural impacts, and further engagement will be required to support the resource consent applications and demonstrate that the proposals meet both statutory and strategic planning obligations.

RISKS - **NGĀ TŪRARU**

134. Property Risk: Where stopbank upgrades are proposed, general and Māori-owned land will be affected, including unadministered Whenua Māori parcels that cannot be compulsorily acquired under the Public Works Act. This presents a heightened risk that failure to reach agreement with owners or trustees could stall a project; accordingly, this will be mitigated through early and ongoing engagement with support by property specialists in this field of expertise.

135. Stakeholder Impacts: In areas where landowners are affected through changes in flood risk, either through loss of protection or increased exposure, there is a risk of formal objections, reputational impacts, and delays if concerns are not adequately addressed through engagement and compensation processes; accordingly, this will be mitigated through early and ongoing stakeholder engagement as well as consequential flood assessments (if required).

136. Environmental and Cultural Risks: Although extensive iwi and hapu consultation has taken place, the proposed recommended projects may still encounter issues relating to wāhi tapu, culturally significant sites, or impacts on tangata whenua values. The aim is to identify, understand and mitigate such risks early in the engagement, design and consenting stages to avoid consent delays or legal challenge.

137. Design and Structural Risks: Structural or geotechnical challenges identified during detailed concept design may lead to scope changes or increased costs. Further analysis of these factors will be understood during the detailed design and consenting phase (Stage 2).
138. Funding and financial risks: Although high level estimates with significant contingencies were used for project prioritisation there is potential risk that cost escalations (e.g. inflation, land value increases, construction complexity, petrol prices) may exceed the available contingency, placing particular focus on value engineering in the upcoming detailed design and consenting phase (Stage 2).
139. Programme and delivery risks: Tight project timelines imposed by the Crown means that progression through the detailed design and consenting phase (Stage 2) is contingent on multiple parallel workstreams - detailed design, property negotiations, consenting, and procurement. Minor delays in any one of these areas could impact the ability to commence physical works within the planned construction window (2027/28 summer onwards).
140. Public and political risk: Stopbank upgrades are subject to significant public interest and political oversight. Transparent communication, particularly with impacted property owners and tangata whenua, is essential to maintain trust and avoid reputational risk.

NEXT STEPS - **NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE**

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
Jul/Aug 2026	Crown Approvals	Formal funding "gate way" decision approvals from the Crown to proceed with Stage 2.
Sept 2026	Update Communities	Update to flood resilience communities on the preferred options, crown approvals and next steps.
2026/2027	Procurement	For the delivery of consent level design/s.
2026/2027	Property negotiations	Engage with owners, negotiations, instruct valuations, reach agreements for general land. Ongoing engagement with owners/trustees of Māori land.
2027 onwards	Lodgement of Resource Consents	For Stage 3 Delivery.
Aug - October 2027	Crown Approvals	Formal funding "gate way" decision approvals from the Crown to proceed with Stage 3 Delivery (exact dates to be confirmed)

ATTACHMENTS - **NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA**

- Attachment 1 - Recommendations Summary East Coast Catchments [26-140.1 - 10 pages]
- Attachment 2 - Recommendations Summary Gisborne City Rivers Catchments [26-140.2 - 7 pages]
- Attachment 3 - Community Engagement Summaries Since Mid 2024 [26-140.3 - 10 pages]

Recommendations Summary – East Coast Catchments

General Recommendations Common to All Catchments

While specific structural interventions vary based on the unique hydraulic and topographical features of each catchment, the ECFRP identified a universal suite of non-structural, catchment-scale recommendations. These are critical for managing residual risk and are common to all East Coast catchments.

These general recommendations and non-capital works are also targeted to address residual risk management across the catchments, providing an interim framework for reducing flood risk during the period prior to, or in the absence of, the delivery of preferred capital works.

Some of these recommendations will depend on funding being made available via Council's LTP to implement them.

Community education

Community education should be established as a coordinated, risk-based programme to improve public understanding of flood hazards, available flood warnings and their limitations, land-use planning requirements, and appropriate preparedness actions. The programme should have clear ownership within Council to ensure consistent messaging across teams and to support coordinated engagement with residents, landowners, and community groups. Education material should explain how to access hazard information, interpret flood mapping and planning overlays, understand relevant building and planning controls, and respond appropriately before and during flood events. It should also communicate council-led flood management activities and identify practical ways communities can contribute to flood-risk reduction through aligned actions, including nature-based solutions. A key objective should be to support community participation while reducing the risk of well-intentioned but misaligned local interventions.

Flood warning and emergency management

Flood warning and emergency management capability should be strengthened through improved monitoring, clearer warning triggers, and effective information sharing between technical teams and emergency management agencies. Where monitoring coverage is limited, Council should investigate installing appropriate rainfall or river gauges, with input from hydrology specialists on suitable locations, access requirements, data integration, and maintenance implications. Cost estimates should account for installation as well as ongoing operation and maintenance, recognising that access and long-term servicing may be significant constraints. Monitoring data should be used alongside forecasts, local observations, and agreed thresholds to support warning and response planning. Warning systems should recognise the limitations of short-response or flash-flood environments, where lead times may be limited and early decision-making is critical. Flood depth, hazard, velocity, and time-to-inundation mapping should be provided by the Rivers Team to Toirāwhiti Civil Defence, along with assistance to understand it, to support targeted preparedness, evacuation planning, and response, particularly for high-hazard areas with limited access or evacuation options.

Nature-based solutions (NBS)

Nature-based solutions should be considered as part of a long-term approach to reducing flood and geomorphic risk, improving catchment resilience, and supporting wider environmental outcomes. Priority should be given to measures that reduce sediment generation, improve slope and bank stability, slow runoff, increase floodplain storage, and provide space for natural river processes where appropriate. This may include retirement and revegetation of erosion-prone land, permanent native planting, riparian restoration, wetland enhancement, managed floodplain reconnection, and application of “Room for the River” principles. Such measures should be targeted to locations where they can reduce risk without increasing adverse effects elsewhere. Hard engineering should generally be reserved for locations where protection of critical assets or life-safety risks require structural intervention and should be integrated with nature-based or adaptive approaches where practicable.

NBS recommendations have been tailored to each catchment in the ECFRP to address the geomorphic hazards and drivers observed in the catchment.

Planning controls

Implementing planning controls for flood risk mitigation should focus on integrating flood hazard modelling and mapping into district planning processes. Modelling outputs should inform updated flood hazard overlays, maps, and planning provisions, helping to guide development and building controls. Ongoing technical support by the Rivers Team is important to ensure the modelling remains accurate, up to date, and sufficiently detailed for planning purposes. A key component of this approach is identifying areas of elevated flood hazard, such as those subject to high flow velocities, rapid inundation, or significant flood depths. Clearly mapping these areas enables the development of planning rules that restrict or manage new activities likely to increase risk. This includes limiting development, such as buildings, fencing, and earthworks, that could obstruct natural flow paths or worsen flood impacts on surrounding properties.

Floodplain Management Planning

The recommendations and proposed projects should be documented in a Floodplain Management Plan for each catchment to monitor and implement all agreed projects and recommendations over time. This should align with Council’s Asset Management, Infrastructure, and Long-Term Plans, and be managed by the Rivers Team.

Catchment -Specific Preferred Option

The following sections provide an overview of the preferred options for each of the catchments within the ECFRP, including capital works and other specific recommendations to address residual flood risk.

Te Ārai Catchment Preferred Option

Capital works

No capital works have been identified for implementation in the Te Ārai catchment.

Other recommendations

The preferred option for Te Ārai is a non-structural, programme-based package that improves and maintains channel capacity, preserves the existing spill behaviour of the river, moderates geomorphic pressures in the upper catchment in the long-term, and strengthens community resilience. Key components, other than the general recommendations common to all ECFRP catchments including willow removal (and ongoing management) and river and spill crest monitoring.

- Willow removal and ongoing management: The ongoing willow removal programme along the Te Ārai River channel should be continued and expanded, with dedicated budgets secured for willow and woody weed regrowth control, given the well-documented tendency of willows to reestablish if not actively managed following removal. Budgets should also be made available to address the forecast increase in bank erosion rates resulting from the loss of willow root stabilisation, through a combination of physical protection measures at erosion hotspots and direct support to affected landowners. Suitable riparian replanting with native or less-invasive species should be reestablished at key locations to restore a degree of bank protection, with landowner permission, and may require battering-back of over-steep banks prior to planting. Willow removal and riparian vegetation management activities should be managed by the Regional Rivers Team.
- River and spill crest monitoring: To ensure the river continues to spill at a predictable location and at a known frequency, regular surveying of channel cross-sections and spill crest heights should be implemented at key locations, to be carried out and interpreted by the Rivers Team. The existing natural spill into the Ōpou Basin (refer Figure 1 below) should be permitted to continue at its present locations, with a monitoring programme established to track changes in riverbed levels, channel geometry, spill crest height, and vegetation within the flow path. Model-derived information on expected flood extents and inundation frequencies should be made available to the community as part of the broader community education programme.



Figure. 1 Location of spill into Ōpou Basin

Specific NBS recommendations for the Te Ārai catchment include:

- Retire steep, erosion-prone hillslopes from production and reforest them with dense native vegetation such as mānuka, kānuka and mixed native forest to improve slope stability, reduce landslides, and decrease sediment and woody debris entering waterways.
- Prioritise revegetation in erosion “hotspots” including the Kauwaewaka and Waimatā sub-catchments, where Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted high sediment generation from harvested forestry and grazed pasture.
- Coordinate Te Ārai hill country afforestation with similar work in the Waipaoa catchment, recognising that aggradation in the Waipaoa River influences flooding and bed levels in lower Te Ārai.
- Establish wide riparian and streamside management zones along steep tributaries and headwaters to trap sediment and forestry debris before it reaches the main river system, while excluding forestry harvesting and road building from these areas.
- Restore and plant native riparian vegetation along floodplains and main river reaches to stabilise banks, slow flood flows, encourage controlled sediment deposition, and reduce downstream sediment loading.
- Replace problematic willow-dominated margins in lower catchment areas with native riparian vegetation to improve bank stability while reducing blockage and clogging risks.

Ūawa Catchment Preferred Option

Capital works

A concept-level stopbank design has been developed for Tolaga Bay, confirming initial feasibility and approximate scale, with no significant adverse flooding effects anticipated. Two alignment options have been identified: a northern “further-out” alignment, approximately 900 m in length and 2.0 m average height, which would provide protection to additional properties on Waiapu Road; and a southern “close-in” alignment, approximately 600 m in length and 1.3 m average height (Figure 3.2). The further-out alignment would require approximately three times the earthworks volume and twice the footprint area of the close-in option.

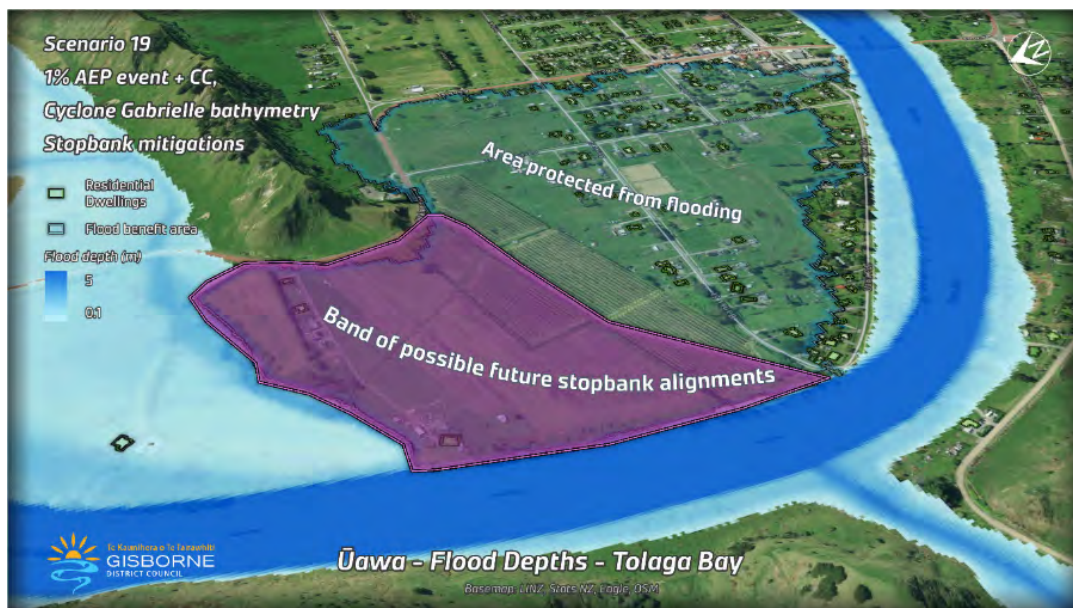


Figure 2: Possible stopbank locations for Tolaga Bay township.

The concept requires further development in the next programme stage, including landowner engagement, confirmation of a preferred alignment, consenting and detailed design, and refined cost estimates.

Other recommendations

Specific NBS recommendations for the Ūowa catchment include:

- Transition erosion-prone plantation forestry on steep hillslopes to permanent native forest to improve slope stability and reduce sediment and woody debris generation.
- Establish wide Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) along steep tributaries to trap sediment and slash before it reaches waterways.
- Improve forestry harvest and slash management practices, including reducing debris left in connected areas and maintaining root strength through forestry cycles.
- Use shelterbelts, riparian planting and floodplain trees to slow flood flows and trap large woody debris.
- Establish mānuka and kānuka shrub zones in floodplain areas to promote sediment deposition and capture smaller debris.
- Prioritise these measures in high-risk sub-catchments and upstream of bridges, communities, infrastructure and productive land.

Tikitiki (Poroporo) Catchment Preferred Option

Capital works

The preferred option for Tikitiki is an upgrade of the existing stopbank to accommodate future climate change and aggradation scenarios, with an indicative height of 2.2 m at the school and an average height of 1.0 m over approximately 700 m (Figure 5.1). This corresponds to a stopbank height that can accommodate a degree of expected channel aggradation, but not the full aggradation and climate change scenarios considered out to 2130

A combined stopbank and overflow/diversion channel package is considered more robust than a stopbank upgrade alone, given the key drivers of bed aggradation and potential changes in flood conveyance under future conditions. If not incorporated immediately, an overflow path or diversion channel can be integrated into future adaptation planning. An overflow path could have the potential to be deepened into a permanent diversion along the same alignment.

Staging decisions and the selection of an initial stopbank height will be progressed through further engagement with the community and landowners, who have not yet been consulted on potential alignments and land requirements. Future adaptation options beyond the immediate capital works should be picked up by within GDC's climate change adaptation planning process.

The design must account for site constraints near the school, ensure reliable upstream and downstream tie-ins, and incorporate targeted erosion protection to manage risk to the stopbank. Final stopbank geometry and the extent of protection will be confirmed through detailed design in the next programme stage.

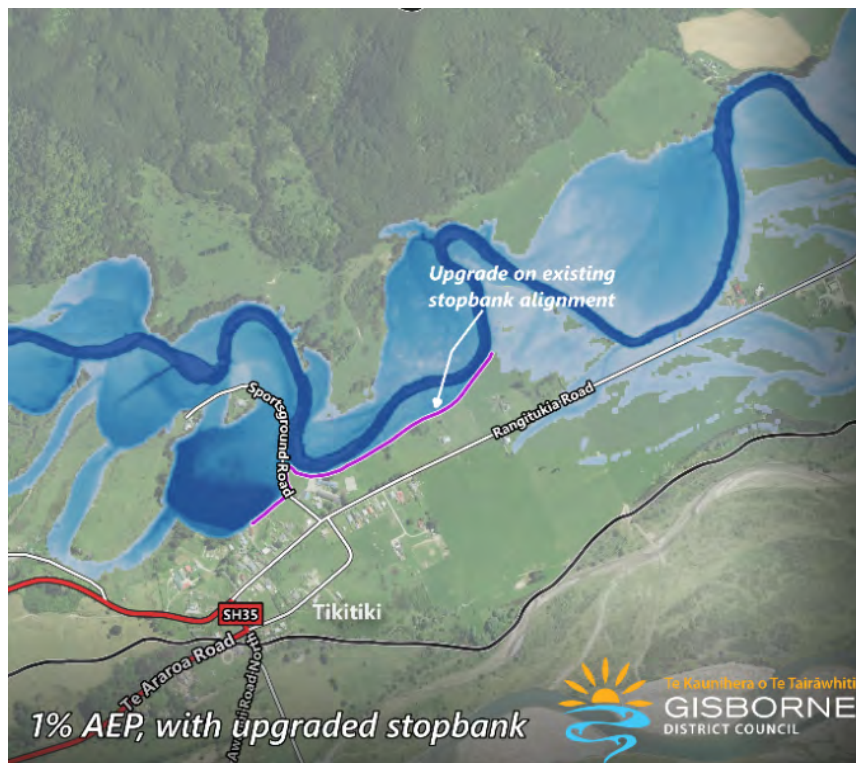


Figure 3: Upgraded stopbank along existing alignment at Tikitiki.

Other recommendations

While the proposed stopbank will improve flood protection, rural land and roads in the wider Poroporo catchment will remain exposed to flood hazard. Residual risk will be managed through community education, flood warning systems, emergency management, planning controls, and nature-based solutions. Managed retreat has not been ruled out for high-risk areas but would need to be community-led.

Specific NBS recommendations for the Tikitiki catchment include:

- Restore and enhance existing wetlands in the Poroporo catchment to store sediment, reduce stream power, slow flood peaks, and improve water quality, biodiversity and amenity values.
- Develop constructed wetlands and increase floodplain engagement to slow flows, encourage sediment deposition, reduce extreme sediment pulses, and maintain natural floodplain processes rather than constraining the river channel.
- Expand and strengthen riparian planting along the Poroporo River and tributaries to stabilise banks, reduce erosion, buffer hillslope sediment inputs, and help trap woody debris.

Tokomaru Bay Catchment Preferred Option

Capital works for Mangahauini River

The preferred option for Mangahauini River is to upgrade the existing southern stopbank to the 1% AEP plus climate change level with 600 mm freeboard (Figure 6.1). Ongoing monitoring of river aggradation and channel vegetation management will be required. Recognising that holding this line long-term may not be sustainable, it is recommended that a future retreated stopbank alignment be identified with the community in parallel with the upgrade. Rock revetment edge protection is also recommended at the end of Toa Street. This will need to be coordinated with works being undertaken by TREC immediately upstream of this location.

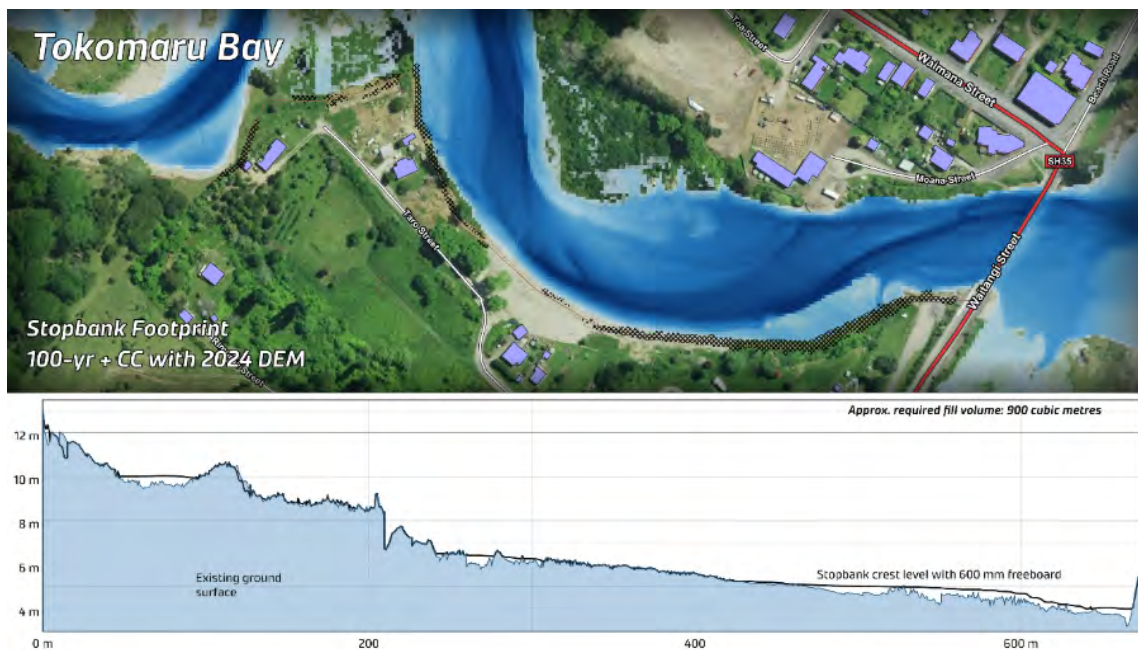


Figure 4: Upgraded stopbank along existing alignment at Tokomaru Bay along Mangahauini River.

Capital works for Waiotu Stream

The preferred option for Waiotu Stream includes construction of bunds to address flooding at Hatea-A-Rangi Primary School, full channel widening from the bridge to near the river mouth, and construction of an Arthur St stopbank. Ongoing maintenance will be required to maintain the channel widening in the long-term. Figure 6.2 displays the modified topography and typical profiles of the Arthur St stopbank and school bunds, including channel widening on the true left. A regrading of Arthur St will be required to account for the approximately 1.7 m height of the stopbank at the northern tie-in point.

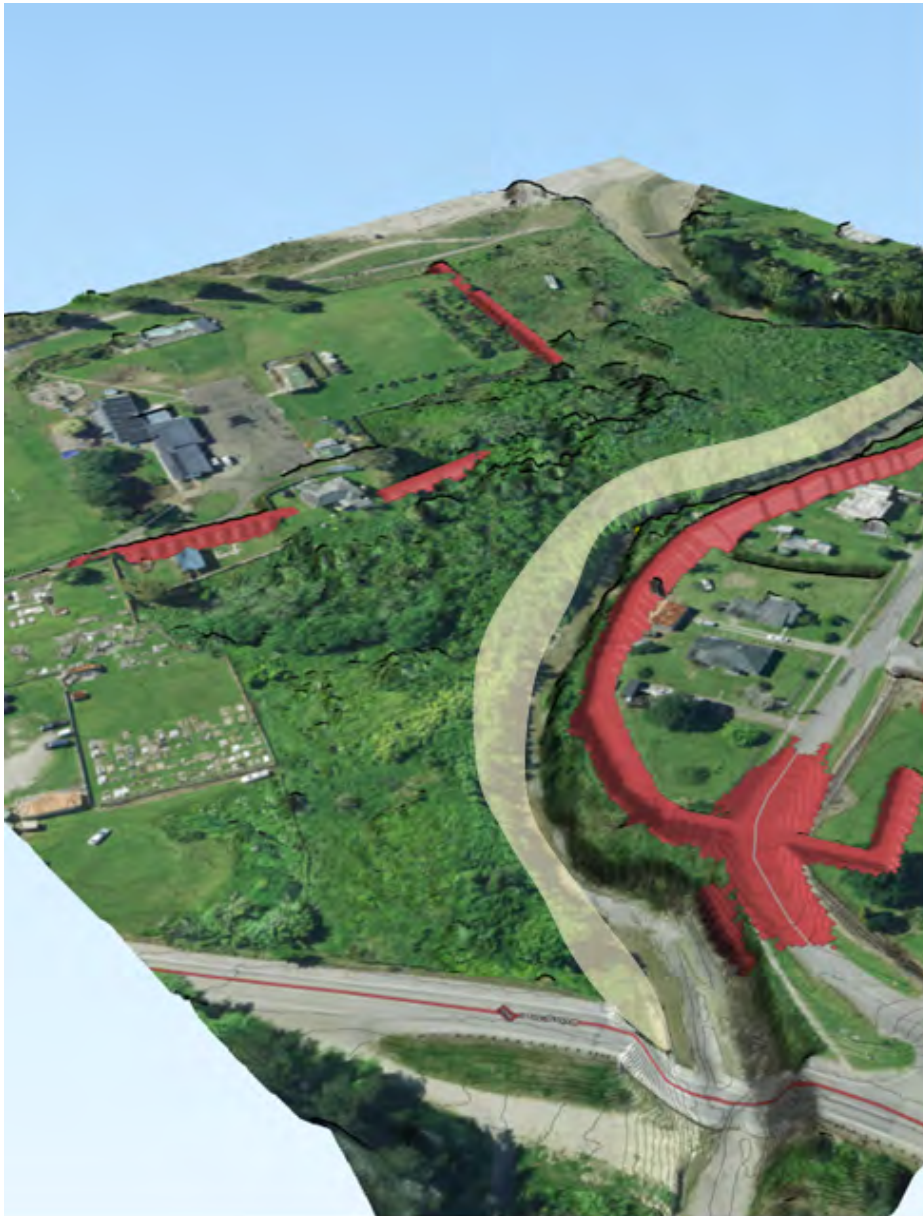


Figure 5: Proposed school bunds and Arthur St Stopbank (red) and stream widening (light green)

Further work is needed before proceeding, including landowner engagement, additional modelling, and assessment of residual risk behind the stopbank. In particular, the alignment of the proposed stopbank and bunds needs to be refined.

These proposed works differ from those in the other catchments, because it has not been possible yet to define a level of service in terms of an Annual Exceedence Probability/return period. Flood modelling on the Waitotu Stream proved tricky, because flooding is highly influenced by variable channel conditions, debris blockages, aggradation and backwater effects. Matching the observed flooding from 2021 and 2022 was challenging. As a result, a representative design scenario was adopted based on the 1% AEP plus climate change and future geomorphic conditions, as this best reflects recent observed flood behaviour, while acknowledging uncertainty in its true return period and performance.

The performance of the proposed stopbank will need to be tested further in the next stage of design to confirm it is able to adequately manage risk at this location.

Other recommendations

For Waiotu, a "mouth opening protocol" should be agreed with the community, with GDC taking responsibility for this. GDC should also prioritise prompt removal of debris and blockages, given the significant role these played in the 2021 flood event.

Even if the Arthur St stopbank is constructed, District Plan controls should be implemented to ensure that there is no further intensification or unsuitable development in the protected area, given the uncertainty in the performance of the stopbank.

Specific NBS recommendations for the Tokomaru Bay catchments include:

- Permanent afforestation and native revegetation of steep, erosion-prone land to stabilise hillslopes, reduce sediment and woody debris inputs, and moderate flood flows.
- Apply "Room for the River" principles by restoring floodplain space, riparian buffers, and allowing controlled channel movement to reduce erosion, sediment build-up, and flood risk.
- Establish riparian planting, shelterbelts, and floodplain roughness features to trap and manage large woody debris before it impacts critical infrastructure.

Mākarika Catchment Preferred Option

Capital works

The Mākarika Stream is subject to rapid aggradation, meaning that the bed level is rising quickly. This, combined with its 'perched' nature above its floodplain, mean that the flood risk is increasing over time. The likelihood of an avulsion (channel breakout, possibly permanent) in the direction of the Mākarika settlement is high.

A close-in stopbank/localised bund was identified as the only plausible short-term structural option to reduce flood risk for the Mākarika settlement. It is intended as a targeted life-safety intervention with a potential period of effectiveness of perhaps no more than a decade, rather than a long-term protection solution. Community feedback reinforced the urgency of intervention, citing repeated flooding, night-time evacuations, loss of access, debris hazards, and active erosion threatening homes and the school. If progressed, the stopbank should be explicitly framed as an interim measure and paired with a managed-retreat pathway to avoid creating a false sense of long-term security.



Figure 6: Indicative location of close-in stopbank for Mākarika (purple) and new drain to the south (light green). Mākarika Stream is on the right.

Any advancement should be subject to further design, costing, land access agreements, consenting, and agreement about a managed retreat pathway.

Other recommendations

Despite proposed mitigations, significant residual flood risk remains for rural land and critical infrastructure in the Mākarika catchment, notably threatening houses on Karewa Road and the access to approximately 20 households to the west of the bridge under future climate and aggradation scenarios. To manage this ongoing risk, the project emphasises the following non-structural measures, while acknowledging that managed retreat may still be explored through separate, community-led Council adaptation planning.

- Investigating the feasibility of installing a rain gauge in the upper catchment to improve flood warnings;
- Development of a community CDEM plan;
- Planning for a future road and bridge alignment; and
- Nature-based solutions, including vegetative measures to target hillslope erosion in areas where this has potential to be effective. It is not thought that nature-based solutions can be effective in the worst areas of gully erosion in this catchment.

Specific NBS recommendations for the Mākarika catchment include:

- Retire steep, erosion-prone hillslopes from pastoral and forestry use and establish permanent native cover to reduce gully initiation, stabilise slopes, and limit sediment supply.
- Apply “Room for the River” principles by restoring floodplain space, riparian buffers, and allowing controlled channel adjustment to reduce erosion, avulsion risk, and downstream sediment build-up.
- Establish native riparian planting to improve bank stability, reduce localised erosion and sediment inputs, enhance water quality and biodiversity, and help trap woody debris.

Recommendations Summary – Gisborne City (North Gisborne + Rivers)

Catchment Specific Preferred Option

North Gisborne (Matokitoki–Mangapapa urban catchments) Preferred Option Approach

The flood risk issues in North Gisborne are primarily due to there not being space for flood waters to pass safely through the urban area. Flooding is highly sensitive to localised conveyance constraints and blockage mechanisms, particularly within the Matokitoki–Mangapapa system. The streams are prone to blockage from urban debris/rubbish in the floodplain. Blockages at culverts and channel structures significantly increase flood extent and depth. Channel overtopping and overland flow pathways contribute to widespread (but often shallow) flooding and climate change is expected to increase the frequency and extent of flooding, particularly where upstream contributions increase flow volumes.

In the Matokitoki – Valley Road area, the upstream rural catchment is close to three times larger than the urban area. The capacity of the engineered and natural stream channels (including culverts) which are currently in place to intercept rural runoff are inadequate to protect the downstream urban area. The Mangapapa area also has a large upstream rural catchment (similar in size to the urban area), with the at-risk properties predominantly being located close to streams and in the floodplain.

A long-list of mitigation options was considered, ranging from upstream storage (e.g., detention dams) through to channel/culvert upgrades, debris racks and property-scale measures (e.g., lifting properties and targeted protection). High-level hydraulic modelling of options showed that the most effective way to reduce flood depth and extent is by increasing conveyance by reducing blockage risk and through increasing channel and culvert capacity.

CAPITAL WORKS – North Gisborne Preferred Option

The preferred option for North Gisborne is a targeted conveyance and blockage reduction package, focused on addressing key capacity constraints and blockage mechanisms within the urban drainage network. The physical works shown in Figure 1. include:

- Installation of debris racks (x3) upstream of key culvert structures to reduce blockage risk and maintain conveyance capacity during flood events.
- Matokitoki conveyance upgrades:-
 - Cutoff drains to intercept and redirect overland flow before it reaches urban areas.
 - Channel capacity upgrades, including regrading, widening and improvement works.
 - Upsizing and lowering the Valley Road and Howarth Street culverts to tie in with the upstream/downstream channel improvements.

The modelled benefits of the preferred North Gisborne option are shown in Table 1 for present day and future climate scenarios.

Table 1. Expected benefit of preferred North Gisborne option

Design event	Number of buildings subject to high hazard (H3-H6)		Number of dwellings with flooding above habitable floor level	
	Baseline	With Option (improvement)	Baseline	With Option (improvement)
1% AEP present day	95	91 (4)	54	35 (19)
1% AEP future climate	165	146 (19)	117	66 (51)

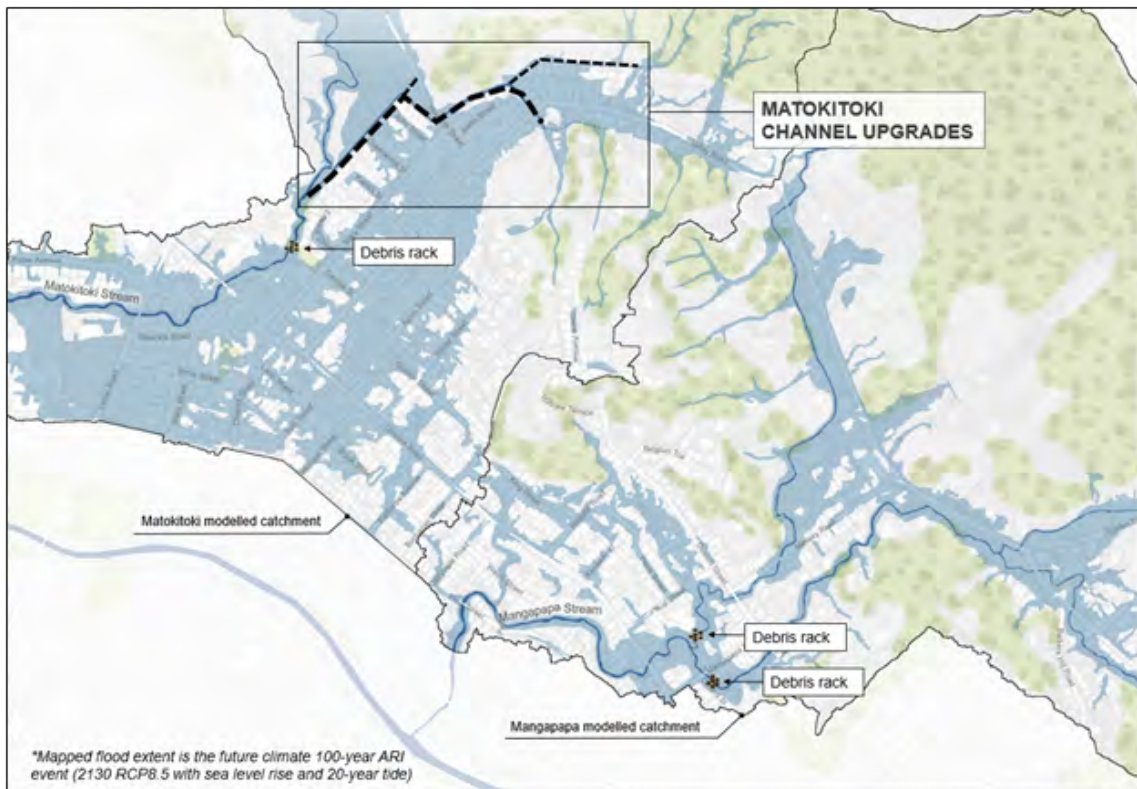


Figure 1. North Gisborne Preferred Option

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS - North Gisborne

Other major culvert upgrades (significant upsizing or upgrade to bridges) were identified and should be considered for future Long Term Plan funding or inclusion in the Infrastructure Strategy:

- Mangapapa Road culvert (highest priority due to demonstrated benefits)
- Lytton Road culvert (moderate benefits, particularly under future climate scenarios)
- Ormond Road culvert (limited additional benefit but contributes to overall conveyance)

While the preferred works will reduce risk for a significant number of properties:

- Some locations (e.g. confined urban corridors such as Valley Road and Shelley Road) have limited scope for effective large-scale intervention
- In these areas, property-level mitigation may be more appropriate.

Non-structural recommendations:

- Proactive asset maintenance—including regular sediment, plant, and weed management—is essential for effective flood mitigation and to reduce risk of blockages in waterways.
- Non-infrastructure strategies, through the update to the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan, such as updating planning rules to reduce potential debris within floodplains, and restricting development in high-risk areas, could help reduce future flood risks and impacts.
- Community education and engagement with landowners are vital, focusing on preparing for heavy rain events, securing loose items within the floodplain, discouraging improper waste disposal, and collaborating to minimise materials entering waterways from upstream properties.

Gisborne Rivers (Taruheru–Waimata–Turanganui system) Preferred Option Approach

Flooding associated with elevated flows in the Taruheru and Waimata Rivers can be considerable. In the modelled 1% AEP design event, 960 buildings are predicted to be exposed to high hazard (H3-H6) (may affect a person's ability to evacuate the property), with 149 habitable buildings predicted to be at risk of floor level flooding. Looking ahead, 1% AEP flood risk is expected to increase substantially under a future climate scenario, with increased rainfall intensity and sea level/tidal effects lifting peak river levels and prolonging inundation; under this scenario, the number of buildings predicted to be exposed to high hazard increases to 1,867 (with habitable floor level flooding increasing to 538). Current and future climate flood extent and at-risk dwellings are shown in Figure 2.

There are two main components to the flooding. Widespread, shallow flooding across the wider Taruheru flood plains and deeper confined flooding along the Taruheru and Waimata river corridors. While there are at-risk properties scattered across the catchment, the highest concentration and highest risk properties are concentrated along the Taruheru and Waimata river corridors through the urban area. Woody debris washed down from the upper Waimata catchment is a major contributor to elevated river levels; it accumulates on bridge piers and restricts flow. River levels are also significantly impacted by tide levels, with sea level rise a big factor in the increased flood risk seen in the future climate modelling. High flows from the much larger Waimata catchment dominate discharge into the Turanganui, which can limit the ability of the Taruheru to convey flow downstream during peak events and contributes to wider inundation across adjacent residential and commercial areas.

Flooding within the Taruheru–Waimata–Turanganui system is driven by:

- High river flows from large upstream catchments, particularly the Waimata
- Debris accumulation at bridges, which significantly increases river levels
- Tidal boundary effects, which reduce downstream conveyance during peak events

Flood risk within the Gisborne Rivers system is driven by large catchment flows (particularly from the Waimata River), tidal boundary effects, and significant debris loading, resulting in complex flood behaviour across the lower floodplain and river corridors

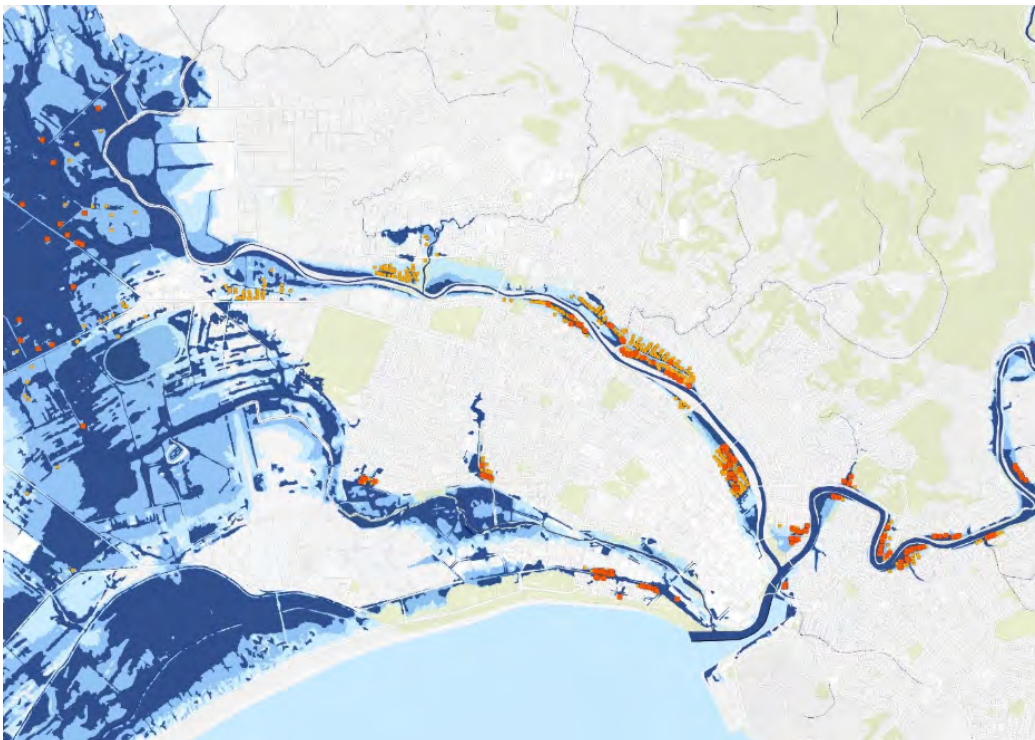
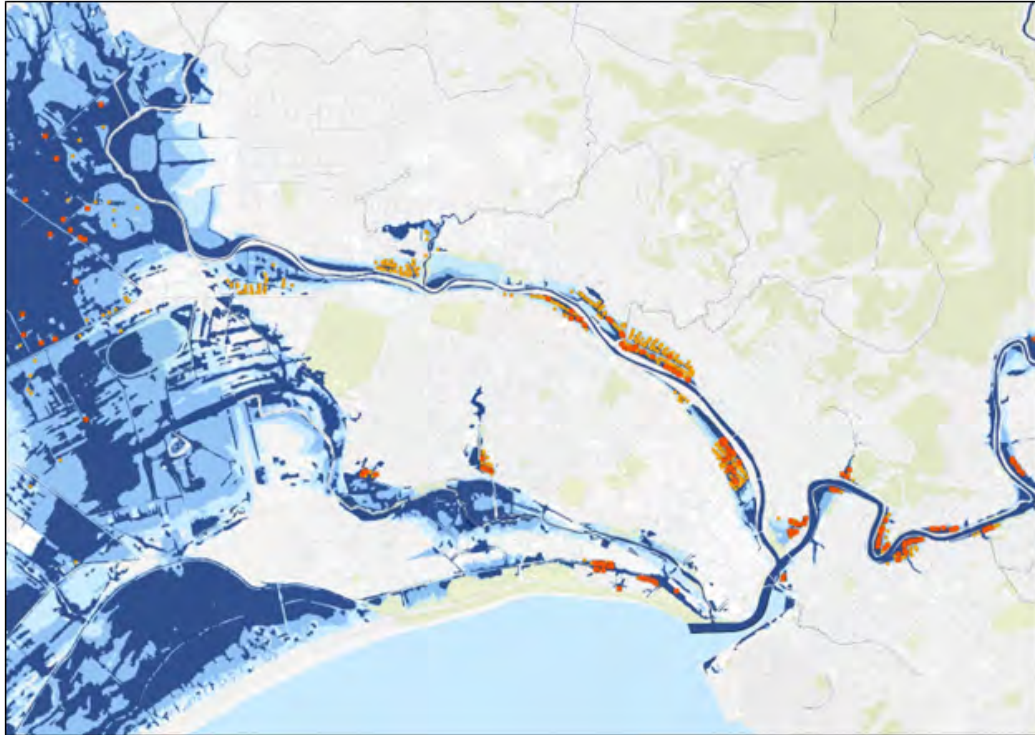


Figure 2. Current and future climate flood extent and at-risk dwellings

A long-list of mitigation options was considered, informed by previous investigations and historical responses to flooding in the Taruheru catchment. Options spanned structural and hydraulic measures (e.g., diversions, floodways, barriers and pumping), upstream storage (e.g., detention basins and dams), catchment and land use measures (e.g., revegetation and land retirement), river management (e.g., dredging and removal of constrictions), and property-scale measures (e.g., lifting properties and targeted protection).

High-level options hydraulic modelling showed that the most effective way to reduce river levels is by increasing conveyance along the Waimata. In the modelling, this was achieved through several combinations, including removing bridge constrictions (by raising and clear-spanning the bridges to eliminate blockage risks from large woody debris), widening the Turanganui at the river mouth and dredging.

CAPITAL WORKS

The preferred option focuses on increasing conveyance in the Turanganui River through dredging, from the river mouth up to the rail bridge (assumes bed levels are lowered by approximately 1.0 m). Dredging the Turanganui riverbed increases the capacity for conveying flood flows downstream of the confluence, which in turn allows more flow to discharge from the Waimata and Taruheru rivers, resulting in an overall reduction in flood levels. This is shown in Figure 3.

The modelled benefits of the preferred Gisborne Rivers option are shown in Table 2 for present day and future climate scenarios.

While the dredging option shows good potential for reducing flood risk, there are some significant unknowns in the feasibility and how long these benefits will be realised. There is ongoing deposition of sediment in the Turanganui from the upstream catchment plus potential accumulation from coastal processes. This could mean that to remain effective, dredging may need to be a regular exercise.

Table 2. Expected benefit of preferred Gisborne Rivers option

Design event	Number of buildings subject to high hazard (H3-H6)		Number of dwellings with flooding above habitable floor level	
	Baseline	With Option (improvement)	Baseline	With Option (improvement)
1% AEP present day	960	860 (100)	149	110 (39)
1% AEP future climate	1867	1618 (249)	538	426 (112)

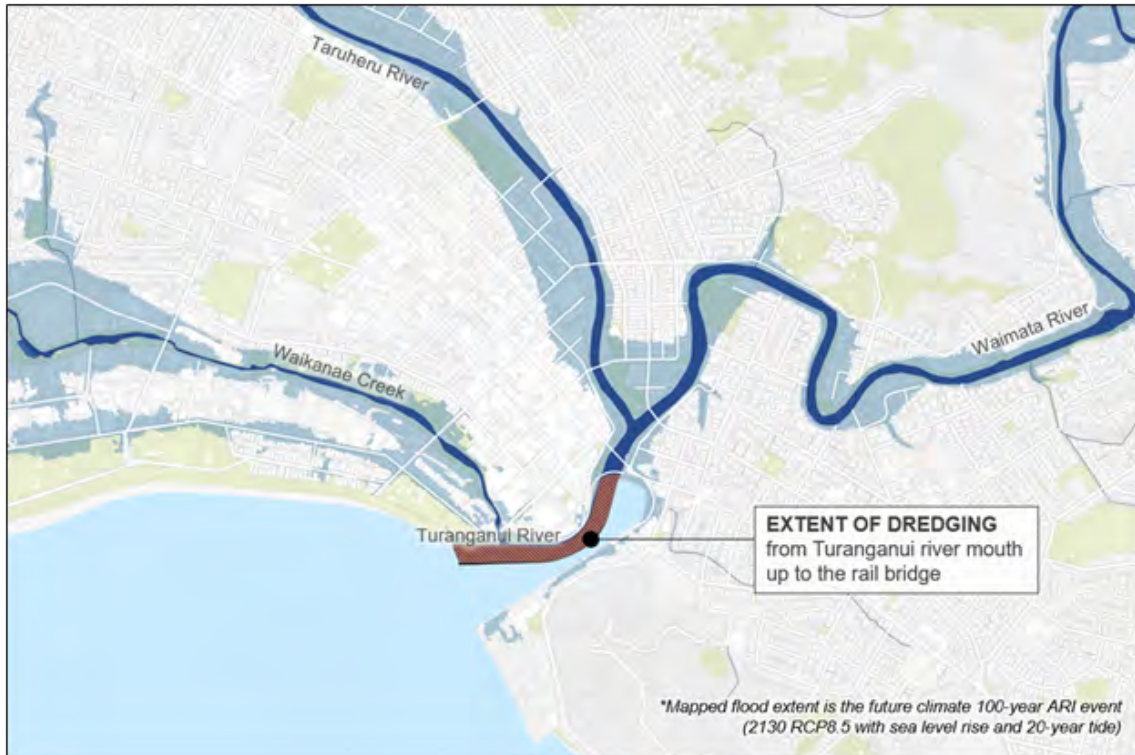


Figure 3. Gisborne Rivers preferred option.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Raising and clear-spanning the William Petty and Gladstone Road bridges is beyond current funding and should be considered as a longer-term measure aligned with the planned bridge replacement programme. Widening of the Turanganui is another longer-term measure that will involve significant third party consultation to align with port response to climate change and management of the port wall.

Some properties will remain highly vulnerable, even after mitigation, necessitating site-specific solutions or managed retreat. Proactive strategies are needed for homes exposed to deep flooding, focusing on emergency preparedness and targeted support.

Non-structural recommendations:

- Establish monitoring programmes for:
 - River bed levels and aggradation trends
 - Performance of dredging and conveyance improvements
 - Effectiveness of debris management interventions.
- Non-infrastructure strategies, through the update to the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan, such as restricting development in high-risk areas, could help reduce future flood risks and impacts.
- Community education and engagement with landowners are vital, focusing on preparing for heavy rain events.
- Flood warning and emergency management improvements, including enhanced monitoring and warning trigger thresholds

- Targeted property-level mitigation in the highest-risk areas, particularly areas which remain at high-risk regardless of any of the identified community scale structural mitigation options.
- Nature-based solutions and catchment management interventions, to:
 - Reduce sediment and debris inputs
 - Improve hillslope and riverbank stability
 - Support long-term reduction in geomorphic drivers of flood risk

These measures are critical to ensuring the effectiveness of capital works and managing residual risk across both the urban and river systems.

Gisborne City (North Gisborne + Rivers) Summary

The Gisborne City preferred option represents a dual-strategy approach that reflects the fundamentally different flood mechanisms across the catchment:

- North Gisborne - Targeted urban drainage and conveyance improvements focused on reducing blockage risk and increasing local capacity.
- Gisborne Rivers - Strategic, system-scale interventions focused on increasing river conveyance, with dredging as the current priority and larger works identified as longer-term options.

WSP comment - We include the following as we consider an edited version may be a relevant concluding statement for the city's catchments, but we were not involved in the Prioritisation Workshop.

[The following taken from Summary table after Prioritisation Workshop 2] 'Dredging to be implemented if confirmed to be feasible and able to deliver these benefits. Low-hanging fruit from within Matokitoki option to be delivered within the remaining budget. If dredging is found not to be feasible or unlikely to deliver these benefits, Matokitoki option to be delivered (subject to value engineering to budget)'

Even with implementation of the preferred option a substantial number of properties will remain exposed to flooding, particularly those located adjacent to river corridors. Therefore, residual risk will need to be managed through emergency preparedness and response planning, planning controls and development restrictions and targeted property-level mitigations.

Community engagement summaries since mid-2024

Te Arai

11 October 2024 – Rongowhakaata kupu arataki hui – meeting was to be held at Council with CEO Teina Moetara. Unfortunately this was later cancelled. Information was shared in lieu of hui including regional works summary (September 2024). Summary outlined pre-engagement sought in line with Maori Engagement Framework, outline of Te Arai Water Supply Intake included.

18 February 2025 – Community Hui - - Pre-engagement community lifelines infrastructure hui held in Manutuke Fire Station to create awareness and provide opportunity to discuss upcoming flood resilience projects, and seek willing participants to create a flood steering group. Full works summary provided and update to investigations including upcoming LiDar bathymetry and river channel mapping (17 February 2025).

10 April 2025 – Rongowhakaata Workshop Hui – follow up hui with Francis Hare and Te Rina Whaanga of Rongowhakaata with Sarah Comber, Gene Takurua of GDC. Discussed works within rohe including priorities for Rongowhakaata, Flood Resilience project, anticipated engagement and next steps agreed engagement to be led through Maori Partnerships team in respect of engagement rahui currently in place. Full works summary was provided ahead of hui (19 March 2025).

26 June 2025 – Community Hui - - Pre-engagement community lifelines infrastructure hui held in Ōhako Marae with hapu, landowners, residents and members of Freshwater catchment group in attendance. Category 2 property owners were also invited to attend. Aim was to create awareness and provide opportunity to discuss upcoming flood resilience projects, and seek willing participants to create a flood steering group. It was agreed at the hui that the existing freshwater catchment group would also serve as the Te Ārai flood group.

12 August 2025 – Flood Steering Group Online Survey – Online survey opened through participate page with all members encouraged to complete survey online with results to be discussed at next hui.

28 August 2025 – Flood Steering Group Hui – Meeting held at landowners property with focus on foundational tikanga and kawa to ensure a partnered approach to enable co-design of final preferred option. Overview of Te Ārai flood project stage one – investigations was discussed including constraints to investigations, how funding is sourced and proposed timeline. Agreed community assumptions within MCA to be replaced with direct community feedback through survey that was completed via participate portal on GDC website. For those who had not accessed survey, this was workshopped on the day to enable participation.

15 October 2025 – Flood Steering Group Hui – Further meeting held to discuss findings of survey, Meeting held to discuss long list options, initial geomorphology reports and survey. Agreed that survey to be completed in person during hui so all questions can be explained further. Results collated, short list options confirmed, shared and updated within MCA results ensuring community direction is clearly identified and supported in short list option results

16 November - Flood Steering Group Hui - cancelled due to tangi

24 November 2025 – Willow Management Hui – representatives of flood/freshwater catchment group, local landowner representative and consultants Zealandia attended workshop

meeting in Council chambers to further discuss willow management in Te Ārai It was noted iwi were not in attendance and all in agreement for iwi to partner in solutions. Engagement to be further sought to be held in Manutuke with Rongowhakaata and hapu.

9 February 2026 – Community hapu hui – Meeting held at Ōhako Marae with hapu leading hui Confirmation gained to preferred option of nature-based solutions and other mitigating works such as flood warning systems, CDEM, and community education. It was confirmed that willow management plan was widely accepted however further information to the impacts of spray used, drone use and riparian planting is to be confirmed with the community at the next hui. It was also agreed that the willow management survey will be utilised to capture any directly impacted landowner concerns with understanding any impacted landowners would be further consulted as part of stage two – concept design.

29 March 2026 – Community Hui – Meeting to be held at Ōhako Marae was cancelled due to sad passing of Matua Owen Lloyd. Currently working to confirm suitable date to return and provide further information requested in support of preferred option.

23 May 2026 – Community Hui – Meeting to be held at Manutuke Fire Station providing further detail to sprays used, drone use and riparian planting. Additional willow management outside of flood resilience project was also presented in relation to willows on private land with sustainable land use information also shared. Discussions expanded on reallocation of initial flood area estimates due to nature-based solutions not applicable for NIFF funding applications. This was widely unsupported with community affirming desire for central government funding to include natural solutions. Scope of preferred solutions being presented to Council on 25 June for further prioritisation were shared and accepted including such as flood warning systems, CDEM, and community education. It was reiterated continued collaboration with our community is critical and supported by all in attendance with an update to both Council and NIFF funding outcomes to be shared with Community in September with date to be determined once outcomes are confirmed.

Tokomaru Bay (Waiotu & Mangahauini)

September 2024, November 2024, January 2025, March 2025 - Regional Infrastructure Works Summary (including flood resilience project updates) provided to all iwi, hapū, and community stakeholders by email, and prior to each community and iwi/hapū hui.

9 September 2024 – *Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou kupu arataki hui – pre-reading*. A full Ngāti Porou summary of works and agenda was circulated in advance of the 16 September 2024 hui. This included a request to understand the anticipated level of engagement and preferred approach, along with a flood resilience project summary and update.

16 September 2024 – *Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou kupu arataki hui*. A meeting was held at Council with CEO George Reedy and Henare Walker to introduce the flood resilience project and discuss the proposed approach across Poroporo, Makarika, Ūawa, Waiotu, and Maungahuini awa, ahead of pre-engagement community hui. The purpose was to uphold mana kōrero with iwi partners. Key concerns discussed included impacts on whenua Māori bordering the rivers, historical impacts of land confiscation, kai sovereignty, and Public Works Act decisions. It was agreed that engagement would occur at the hapū level within each catchment to support local mātauranga and self-determination. George Reedy confirmed that engagement for each township would be undertaken at hapū level, with Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou (TRoNP) kept informed and able to request further information if required.

13 October 2024 – *Community hui*. A pre-engagement hui was held at Tokomaru Sports Club in collaboration with other Council departments. The purpose was to raise awareness of upcoming flood resilience projects, discuss initial concepts, and seek participants for a flood steering group. Discussions with hapū and community members interested in participating continued throughout the pre-engagement phase. Upcoming LiDAR bathymetry and river channel mapping were explained, and the East Coast Regional Works Summary was provided as supporting information.

12 December 2024 – *Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou hui*. A follow-up hui was held at Council offices with CEO George Reedy and Nāti Growth GM Josiah Cook. Feedback from the Ruatōria community hui was shared, with discussions focused on Poroporo and Makarika awa, as well as Tokomaru (Waiotu and Maungahuini) and Ūawa catchments.

17 December 2024 – *Waipiro Community Hui*. An additional community hui was held at Iritekura Marae at the request of the community. A regional East Coast overview of the flood resilience project was presented alongside other infrastructure works of interest to both whenua Māori and the wider community. A Regional Works Summary was provided, with no further queries raised.

4 March 2025 – *Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou hui*. A follow-up hui was held at Council offices with CEO George Reedy and Housing General Manager Lisa Whakataka. Updates included LiDAR bathymetry and river channel mapping currently underway, access to results, and upcoming engagement hui for each catchment.

3 May 2025 – *Community hui – Tokomaru Sports Club*. A further meeting was held with iwi and hapū members of the Waiotu and Maungahuini awa, along with affected property owners (including Cyclone Gabrielle Category 2 properties) and freshwater catchment stakeholders. The focus was to confirm membership and approach for establishing a community flood focus group. Members were agreed and endorsed, including hapū representatives from both awa. Stage One (investigations) was discussed, including constraints, funding sources, and indicative timelines.

5 July 2025 – *Flood Steering Group Hui*. The inaugural meeting of the group was held at Tokomaru Sports Club, with the primary focus on whakawhanaungatanga and establishing tikanga and kawa for working together. Preliminary investigation updates for both Waiotu and Maungahuini were presented. It was agreed that both awa would be considered together, with mana kōrero given to those directly impacted when detailed information or decisions were required. The group agreed to rename itself *Te Awa o Tokomaru* to better reflect its purpose. Initial discussions were held on moving from long-list to short-list options. It was agreed that assumptions used in the Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) would be replaced with direct community input via survey, although concerns were raised about inclusivity beyond group members.

4 August 2025 – Catchment flood hazard summaries were distributed to Te Awa o Tokomaru members, hapū, and TRoNP in advance of the next hui.

12 August 2025 – The online flood survey was opened.

13 September 2025 – *Te Awa o Tokomaru hui*. A meeting was held at Tokomaru Sports Club to review MCA inputs and survey design. It was agreed that survey results would initially reflect steering group input, but that a kanohi ki te kanohi (in-person) survey was required to ensure broader input from mana whenua residing within affected areas. The in-person survey was to be completed by hapū and Te Awa o Tokomaru members. Subsequently, Sanft consultancy was engaged to undertake the survey, with results provided to Council and incorporated into the MCA as community input.

17 December 2025 – *Te Awa o Tokomaru hui (online)*. An online hui was held due to venue availability constraints, ensuring continued communication of project progress. Survey and MCA results were presented and compared against previous assumptions. Short-listed options were confirmed in principle; however, due to low attendance, it was agreed this would be revisited at a subsequent hui. Concerns were also raised regarding impacts on landowners, and it was agreed that a wider community hui was required to support informed decision-making.

22 February 2026 – *Te Awa o Tokomaru Community Hui*. A hui was held at Tokomaru Sports Club to present full data modelling, short-listed options, and the emerging preferred option. It was agreed that a further community hui was required to raise awareness of preferred options and potential impacts ahead of reporting to Council in May. Community members expressed concern about limited awareness of decisions and potential impacts on whenua. Council and Te Awa o Tokomaru agreed to meet directly with affected landowners and trustees, and to return to the community with confirmed outcomes, updated timelines, and Stage Two next steps.

1 May 2026 – *Preferred Option Impacted Landowner Hui*. A hui was held at Council with whānau and trustees of land affected by the preferred option. An apology was provided for the limited prior communication regarding potential impacts to their whenua. Discussions covered whakapapa connections to the land, including pito burial sites and the strong cultural and spiritual significance. Historical Council actions were acknowledged as contributing to mistrust.

All parties agreed that a relational partnership approach, grounded in transparency, was essential moving forward. Council confirmed that detailed one-on-one engagement would occur during Stage Two (concept design), and that ongoing engagement was critical to ensure impacts to whenua Māori were appropriately addressed. The outcome was that whānau agreed to support the preferred option being presented to the community and for NIFF funding consideration, and endorsed a wider community hui prior to the Council reporting phase.

20 May 2026 – *Tokomaru Community Hui*. A hui was held at Tokomaru Sports Club to reconfirm the preferred option ahead of reporting to Council, alongside outlining next steps and Stage Two (concept design). Council reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing partnership with Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou, local hapū, and the Tokomaru community, ensuring that future design and delivery reflect local values, protect whenua Māori, and support long-term resilience and community understanding of flood risk. In addition, proactive measures to remove the existing footbridge across Waiotu has been programmed for removal on 2 June with partnered representation of Tokomaru hapu through Kapuārangi Takutai Moana Trust. Takutai kaitiaki will review the area with Council contractors, ensure waahi tapu are known and respected and site works are blessed with karakia. All preferred options were supported and welcomed by the community with Council committing to returning in September once NIFF outcomes to funding application is known and to begin direct discussions with landowners. In addition, sustainable land use and climate adaption team will be included in future hui to support holistic approach to community long term options.

Uawa / Tolaga Bay

16 September 2024 – Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou kupu arataki hui – meeting held at Council with CEO George Reedy and Henare Walker to introduce flood resilience project and discuss approach across Poroporo, Makarika, Uawa, Waiotu, and Mangahauini awa ahead of pre-engagement community hui to uphold mana korero with our Iwi partners. Discussed concerns to Whenua Māori bordering river and main interests and concerns including historic impacts of confiscated lands, kai sovereignty and public works act decisions. Agreement to work with and at hapu level in each catchment to support local matauranga and self-determination.

19 November 2024 – Community hui – Pre-engagement community lifelines infrastructure hui held in Reynolds Hall, Uawa to create awareness and provide opportunity to discuss upcoming flood resilience projects, and seek willing participants to create a flood steering group. Upcoming LiDAR bathymetry and river channel mapping explained.

12 December 2024 – Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Hui – follow up hui with CEO George Reedy and Nati Growth GM Josiah Cook at Council offices providing further pre-engagement and feedback from community hui held in Ruatoria to discuss Poroporo awa. In addition, Tokomaru (Waiotu and Mangahauini) and Uawa were also discussed.

4 March 2025 – Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Hui – follow up hui with CEO George Reedy and Housing General Manager Lisa Whakataka at Council offices sharing LiDAR bathymetry and river channel mapping currently underway and upcoming hui for each catchment.

31 March 2025 – Haurangi Iwi Hui – meeting held in Uawa with CE Anne MacGuire to discuss our Treaty partnership including approach toward flood resilience, formation of a working group.

10 May 2025 – Community hui – Further pre-engagement community lifelines infrastructure hui held at the Fire Station to reply to concerns raised in previous hui, further detail to project, with confirmation of those attending they would be part of Uawa Flood Steering Group. Focus given to foundational tikanga and kawa to ensure a partnered approach to enable co-design of final preferred option. Overview of Uawa flood project stage one – investigations was discussed including constraints to investigations, how funding is sourced and proposed timeline.

5 July 2025 – Flood Steering Group Hui – Meeting held at Fire Station to discuss long list to short list options. Agreed community assumptions within MCA to be replaced with direct community feedback through survey to be made available online.

12 August 2025 – Online Flood Survey Opened

13 September 2025 – Flood Steering Group Online Survey Hui – Meeting held at Hauora Health. Online survey results preliminary results shared with members agreeing to complete this as a group and not online. Survey was completed as a group with results being shared and compared to previous assumptions. Short list options confirmed.

19 September 2025 – Keitietiki Whenua Hui – Council staff attended Haurangi iwi Keitietiki whenua hui to listen and learn from a Te Ao Māori perspective, research completed and NIWA/NIWE involvement. This included lowland forests in flood plains Taiao work undertaken by Mere Tamanui of Haurangi iwi. Agreed by NIWE to pass on results to GDC for inclusion into flood resilience investigations.

15 December 2025 – Online Flood Survey Closed

6 March 2026 – Flood Steering Group Hui - Meeting held at Tolaga Bay Fire Station with full data modelling, short list and preferred options shared and discussed as a group. Agreement reached that future stopbank consideration was endorsed as were all other options (flood warning, education, nature based solutions etc,..). Noted that as waahi tapu and urupa exist our ongoing partnership with both Hauiti iwi and community will be integral through stage two concept stage – and to ensure long term uplift in community education and understanding of flood risk, safety. Agreed next hui to be with community to share progress and inform of endorsement. Hauiti iwi offering marae and date of 10 April with awa hikoi priori to hui with Te Taiao Mere Tamanui leading Kaupapa.

24 April 2026 – Uawa Community Hui – Meeting held at Tolaga Bay Fire Station with a full overview of the flood resilience project, creation and involvement of Uawa flood steering group including data modelling, short list and preferred options shared. Community members Agreed to further endorse future stopbank consideration and all additional options listed. (flood warning, education, nature based solutions etc,..). Council shared how funding allocations and prioritisation will be set by Council and form part of NIFF formal report due in June reiterating that original estimates for each area noted on website were indicative only and as NIFF do not financially support nature based solutions, redissembment to other areas requiring structural solutions will be provisioned from Uawa estimates to ensure full use of funding available for Te Tairāwhiti. This was accepted by community members attending. Council reiterated our ongoing partnership with both Hauiti iwi and community will be integral through stage two concept stage – and holistic approach to ensure long term uplift in community education and understanding of flood risk, safety is needed. All group members were thanked for their time, matauranga and advocacy for their community with special acknowledgement given to Anne McGuire, CE of Hauiti iwi who was unable to attend.

Makarika

September 2024, November 2024, January 2025, March 2025. *Regional Infrastructure Works Summaries* (including flood resilience project updates) were provided by email to all iwi, hapū, and community stakeholders ahead of, and following, each relevant community and iwi/hapū hui.

9 September 2024 – Te **Rūnanganui o Ngāti** Porou Kupu Arataki Hui (Pre-reading). A full Ngāti Porou summary of works and hui agenda was provided in advance of the 16 September 2024 hui. This included a flood resilience project overview and a request to understand the anticipated level of engagement and preferred engagement approach.

16 September 2024 – Te **Rūnanganui o Ngāti** Porou Kupu Arataki Hui. Hui held at Council offices with CEO George Reedy and Henare Walker to introduce the flood resilience project and discuss engagement approaches across the Poroporo, Mākarika, Ūawa, Waiotu, and Maungahuini awa. Discussions included concerns regarding Whenua Māori adjoining waterways, historic impacts of land confiscation, kai sovereignty, and Public Works Act decisions. Agreement was reached to engage at a hapū level within each catchment to uphold local mātauranga and self-determination. George Reedy confirmed engagement would occur at the hapū and settlement level, with Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou kept informed and able to request further information if required.

12 December 2024 – Te **Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou** Hui. Follow-up hui held at Council offices with CEO George Reedy and Nāti Growth General Manager Josiah Cook. Council provided further pre-engagement information and shared feedback from community hui held in Ruatōria relating to the Poroporo and Mākarika awa. Flood resilience considerations for Tokomaru (Waiotu and Maungahuini) and Ūawa were also discussed.

11 February 2025 – Community Hui (**Ruatōria**). Pre-engagement community lifelines infrastructure hui held at the Ruatōria RSA to raise awareness of upcoming flood resilience projects, discuss potential impacts, and seek expressions of interest for a Flood Steering Group. Planned LiDAR bathymetry and river channel mapping were outlined.

4 March 2025 – Te **Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou** Hui. Follow-up hui held at Council offices with CEO George Reedy and Housing General Manager Lisa Whakataka. Council shared information on LiDAR bathymetry and river channel mapping underway, as well as upcoming catchment-specific community hui.

18 May 2025 – Community Hui (**Mākarika** School). Further pre-engagement lifelines infrastructure hui held at Mākarika School to respond to concerns raised at earlier hui and provide additional project detail. Attendees were asked to confirm participation in the Mākarika Flood Steering Group. Strong emphasis was placed on tikanga and kawa to support a partnered, co-design approach. Stage One (Investigations) of the Mākarika Flood Project was discussed, including investigation constraints, funding sources, and proposed timelines.

12 July 2025 – Flood Steering Group Hui (**Mākarika** School). Initial hui held with Flood Steering Group members. The primary focus was whakawhanaungatanga and agreement on principles for working together (tikanga and kawa). Council shared investigations completed to date and sought agreement on next steps. Long-list and short-list options were discussed, and it was agreed that community assumptions within the MCA would be replaced with direct feedback via an online survey.

4 August 2025 – Catchment Summaries Distributed. Catchment summaries were provided to Flood Steering Group members, hapū, and Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou ahead of the next hui.

12 August 2025 – Online Flood Survey Opened.

20 September 2025 – Flood Steering Group Hui (Survey Results). Hui held at Mākarika School to discuss preliminary online survey results. It was agreed to accept late survey responses, and hard-copy surveys were distributed (later returned to Council in mid-January). Preliminary results were compared with earlier assumptions, and short-listed options were confirmed, subject to further review should additional responses materially change outcomes. Concern was raised about the absence of formal hapū representation, and agreement was reached to confirm representatives by the next hui.

28 October 2025 – **Mākarika** Awa Site Visit. Site visit (hīkoi) led by hapū, attended by Flood Steering Group members and GDC staff. The hīkoi focused on observing flood impacts and sharing lived experiences. Access approval was provided in advance by all adjacent landowners. A follow-up kōrero was held, and historic aerial imagery was shared with the group both in person and digitally.

18 November 2025 – Hikurangi **Takiwā Hapū** Hui (Online). Online hui held to discuss partnership with hapū and confirm the steering group and engagement approach.

12 November 2025 (Rescheduled to 14 December 2025) – Flood Steering Group Hui. Hui held at Mākarika School to discuss outcomes of the site visit, hapū and GDC partnership arrangements, geomorphology and flood modelling updates, MCA survey results, timeframes, and next steps. Particular concern was raised about increasing river levels relative to bridge height, highlighting limited long-term options for the community. Hazard summaries and East Coast technical report updates were presented.

5 March 2026 – **Hapū Kōrero** (Pre-Hui). Written response provided to pre-reading material, outlining hapū concerns regarding limited short-term mitigation options and reaffirming the partnered approach ahead of the next hui.

11 March 2026 – Flood Steering Group Hui (Online). Hui held online due to recent weather conditions. Full flood modelling, short-list options, and preferred options were presented and discussed. The group agreed that a community hui was needed to build wider awareness of solution limitations and longer-term options. Council reaffirmed ongoing support for the Mākarika community, including coordination through Rivers and ongoing transitions with other Council teams. It was confirmed that hapū and community engagement would be integral through Stage Two (Concept Design), with a focus on improving long-term flood risk education and safety awareness.

14 May 2026 – Community hui at Rongohaere Marae. Meeting held at Rongohaere Marae (at invitation of hapū) with online option for those unable to attend in person. The Mākarika Community Hui focused on flood resilience and CDEM support following Cyclone Gabrielle, combining community engagement with presentation of technical investigations into the Mākarika catchment.

The hui opened with a mihi and acknowledgement of attendees, setting a culturally grounded and inclusive tone. The facilitator outlined that the project is a staged programme three phases progressing from investigation through to design, consents, and delivery. The purpose of the session was to share findings from post-Gabrielle investigations and outline potential mitigation pathways.

Technical presentations (supported by Tonkin & Taylor) covered flood modelling and geomorphology. Flood models simulate rainfall moving through the river system into floodplains and were calibrated against the 2022 event. These indicate that larger storm events result in widespread inundation across the valley floor. Under climate change scenarios, flood magnitude may increase by approximately 50%, significantly increasing event frequency. A key risk identified is channel avulsion under combined high-flow and sediment-loading conditions.

Geomorphology findings highlighted rapid and ongoing sediment supply from upstream erosion. The riverbed is rising at an average of ~0.2 m per year, with projections of 2–3 m of aggradation over 50 years. This sediment pressure significantly constrains long-term effectiveness of traditional engineering solutions. Limitations of the modelling were acknowledged, particularly the use of a fixed-bed approach that does not dynamically simulate erosion and deposition over time.

In terms of mitigation, a targeted short-term option was presented: a localised stopbank (bund) protecting the school and nearby homes. This is positioned as a life-safety intervention with an approximate 10-year lifespan. Larger-scale stopbanks and diversion channels were discounted due to increased failure risk and sedimentation issues. The proposed stopbank requires further design, land access agreements, consenting, and funding decisions.

Community members shared lived experiences of repeated flooding, including night-time evacuations, loss of access, debris hazards, and active erosion threatening homes and the school. These insights reinforced the urgency of intervention and highlighted the practical realities not always captured in modelling.

Funding and prioritisation were discussed, noting a Crown allocation of approximately \$64 million across affected regions, which is insufficient to address all catchment needs. Council will develop prioritisation recommendations, with a report due by 25 June. Nature-based solutions were acknowledged as important for long-term resilience but not viable for immediate risk reduction.

Tikitiki / Poroporo River

16 September 2024 – Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou kupu arataki hui – meeting held at Council with CEO George Reedy and Henare Walker to introduce flood resilience project and discuss approach across Poroporo, Mōkarika, Ūawa, Waiotu, and Mangahauini awa ahead of pre-engagement community hui to uphold mana korero with our iwi partners. Discussed concerns to Whenua Maori bordering river and main interests and concerns including historic impacts of confiscated lands, kai sovereignty and Public Works Act decisions. Agreement to work with and at hapū level in each catchment to support local mātauranga and self-determination.

12 December 2024 – Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Hui – follow-up hui with CEO George Reedy and Nāti Growth GM Josiah Cook at Council offices providing further pre-engagement and feedback from community hui held in Ruatoria to discuss Poroporo awa. In addition, Tokomaru (Waiotu and Mangahauini) and Ūawa were also discussed.

11 February 2025 – Community hui – pre-engagement community lifelines infrastructure hui held in Ruatoria to create awareness and provide opportunity to discuss upcoming flood resilience projects and seek willing participants to create a flood steering group.

4 March 2025 – Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Hui – follow-up hui with CEO George Reedy and Housing General Manager Lisa Whakataka at Council offices sharing LiDAR bathymetry and river channel mapping currently underway and upcoming hui for each catchment.

18 May 2025 – Community hui – meeting held at Tikitiki School to support awareness of the flood resilience project and seek agreement with the community to establish a flood steering group. Agreed group would be formed with both hapū and community members confirming they would participate.

12 July 2025 – Flood Steering Group hui – meeting held at Tikitiki School with a focus on foundational tikanga and kawa to ensure a partnered approach to enable co-design of the final preferred option. An overview of the Poroporo flood project Stage One – Investigations was discussed, including constraints to investigations, how funding is sourced, and the proposed timeline. It was agreed that community assumptions within the MCA would be replaced with direct community feedback through a survey.

12 August 2025 – Flood Steering Group online survey – online survey opened through the Participate page, with all members encouraged to complete the survey online, with results to be discussed at the next hui.

12 October 2025 – Flood Steering Group hui – meeting held at Tikitiki School to discuss long-list options, initial geomorphology reports, and survey approach. Agreed that the survey would be completed in person during the hui so all questions could be explained further. Results were collated, shortlist options confirmed, shared, and updated within MCA results, ensuring community direction was clearly identified and supported.

16 November 2025 – Flood Steering Group hui – cancelled due to tangihanga.

18 November 2025 – **Hapū** hui – full infrastructure works summary provided to hapū. Flood steering group members noted a preference for the next hui to include the full community to update on progress, answer queries, and collectively agree preferred options.

15 December 2025 – Online flood survey closed.

19 January 2026 – Flood Steering Group hui – cancelled due to tangihanga.

29 March 2026 – Community hui – meeting held at Hinepare Marae with hapū leading the hui and Councillor and community member Anne Huriwai in attendance. Confirmation was gained of the preferred option of raising the stopbank, with the understanding that any impacted landowners would be further consulted as part of Stage Two – Concept Design.

Title: 26-126 Proposed Urban Plan Change 6 - Hearings Panel Delegations
Section: Sustainable Futures
Prepared by: Shane McGhie - Principal Policy Planner
Meeting Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Legal: Yes

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to:

- update Gisborne District Council (Council) on the status of the Proposed Plan Change 6 (PC6) and next steps for the statutory hearing requirements, and to
- request Council provide direction on whether they prefer the independent Hearings Panel have delegated authority to either Hear and Decide or Hear and Recommend decisions.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

PC6 was publicly notified on 25 March 2026, and submissions closed on 25 May 2026. A total of 132 submissions were received during the submission period. Submissions cover a broad range of matters, including residential intensification, future urban growth areas, transport and infrastructure integration, commercial zoning, neighbourhood amenity, and rural-residential interface issues. A summary of decisions requested by submitters is expected to be publicly notified in early July 2026. This will be followed by a statutory 10-working-day “further submissions” period.

Submissions covered a broad range of planning matters. The highest level of engagement relates to:

- the Medium Density Residential Zone (MDRZ)
- the City General Residential Zone (CGRZ); and
- the location and extent of the proposed Medium Density Residential, City General Residential, and Future Urban zones.

Under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Council must hold a hearing if any submitter requests to be heard. A number of submitters have indicated they wish to be heard, meaning hearings are required for PC6, and more may request to be heard through the “further submission” process.

Council [Instrument of Statutory Delegation](#) has previously delegated authority to the Director of Sustainable Futures to appoint hearings commissioners and determine whether the Panel will:

- hear and decide submissions; or
- hear submissions and make recommendations to Council.

This report seeks Council's direction on which approach Council would prefer to be used for PC6 given the nature of this plan change and the high public interest. Officers recommend that the Independent Hearings Panel be delegated authority to hear and recommend decisions on submissions, the final decisions would remain with Council.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as they are procedural matters and not policy intent or plan-making decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS - **NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Directs staff to set up the Independent Hearings Panel for Proposed Plan Change 6 (PC6) (as per officer delegations), with the Panel having delegated authority to hear and recommend decisions on submissions for PC6.

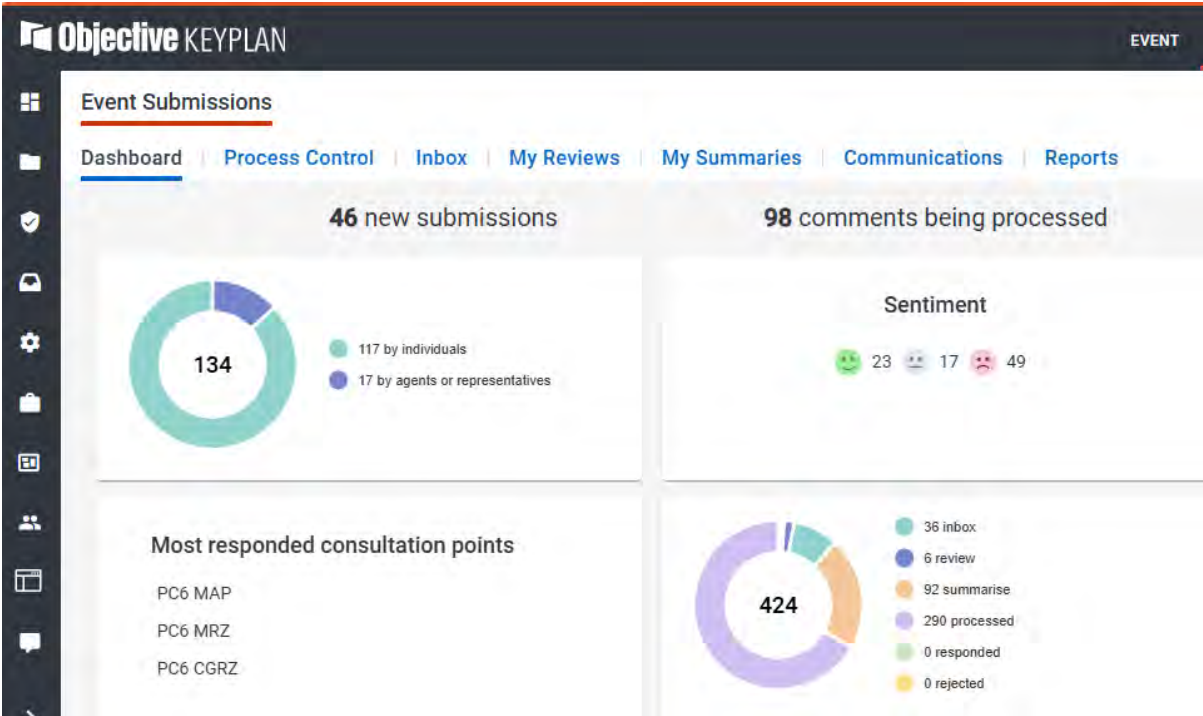
Authorised by:

Jocelyne Allen - Director Sustainable Futures

Keywords: Proposed Plan Change 6, PC6, Resource Management Act, RMA, Hearings, TRMP

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. Proposed Plan Change 6 (PC6) implements key elements of the Tairāwhiti Future Development Strategy 2024–2054 and introduces a package of urban planning changes intended to support housing capacity, business growth, and long-term urban development in Gisborne.
2. Since 2023, Council has considered a series of reports relating to the Future Development Strategy, urban growth planning, and the development and notification of PC6. Those reports provide the strategic and procedural context for this Report for Decision and are included as Attachment 1 for reference.
3. PC6 was publicly notified on 25 March 2026, with submissions closing on 25 May 2026. A total of 132 submissions were received.
4. Submissions covered a broad range of planning matters. The highest levels of engagement related to:
 - the Medium Density Residential Zone (MDRZ)
 - the City General Residential Zone (CGRZ); and
 - the location and extent of the proposed Medium Density Residential, City General Residential, and Future Urban zones.
5. The map-based submission tool provided a way for submitters to engage with the spatial components of the plan change, particularly where feedback related to locations, zoning patterns, or development areas rather than specific provisions within the proposed zones.



6. The next statutory step in the plan-making process is the notification of a summary of decisions requested by submitters. Staff are working to have this ready for early July 2026.

7. Under Schedule 1 ([Preparation and change of policy statements and plans by local authorities](#)) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) Council will notify submitters directly that this Summary of Decisions is about to be published and indicate that there will be 10 working days allowed for anyone who wishes to make a further submission.
8. It is important to note that further submissions must be based on what was raised during this most recent notification period (25 March-25 May 2026). Under clause 7 of RMA Schedule 1 ([Public notice of submissions](#)) there is no opportunity during this further submission period to introduce new matters.
9. There are already several submitters that have requested to be heard, and it is likely that through the further submissions, this number will increase. Regardless, hearings are now required for PC6 under [RMA Schedule 1 clause 8B \(Hearing by local authority\)](#).
10. [Section 34A of the RMA](#) enables Council to delegate hearings functions to independent commissioners, including the authority to:
 - hear and decide submissions on behalf of Council; or
 - hear submissions and make recommendations to Council for final decision-making.
11. On 12 November 2025 [Instrument of Statutory Delegation](#) authority to the Director of Sustainable Futures to appoint hearings commissioners and determine the appropriate delegation arrangements for PC6, under S34A of the RMA. Staff have started the process of seeking expressions of interest for an Independent Hearings Panel with experience relevant to urban planning, hearings processes, and our local Tairāwhiti context.
12. Section 34A(1A) of the RMA also requires Council to consult iwi authorities on whether it is appropriate to appoint a commissioner with understanding of tikanga Māori and local iwi and hapū perspectives, and where appropriate, appoint at least one commissioner with that expertise.
13. This report seeks Council direction on the preferred panel delegation model for the PC6 hearings process to inform the next steps for the plan-making process.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA **KŌRERO** me **ngā KŌWHIRINGA**

14. Section 34A of the RMA provides Council with two delegation options for the PC6 hearings process.

Option 1 – Hearings Panel Commissioners [Hear and Decide](#)

15. Under this option, the Independent Hearings Panel would hear submissions and make final decisions on PC6 on behalf of Council.
16. If commissioners were delegated authority or delegated and appointed as per our delegations to:
 - a. hear submissions; and
 - b. make decisions, aka their decision *is* the Council’s decision in law.
17. Council generally cannot “decline to accept” any panel decisions afterward if this delegation is in place. Council is bound by the delegation. Doing so may be ultra vires (exceeds the power granted by law) or procedurally invalid.

18. Once authority is delegated:
- the commissioners exercise the statutory power;
 - the decision is legally effective when issued.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Streamlined and efficient decision-making process.	Reduced Council involvement in final decision-making on matters raised through submissions.
Decisions made by commissioners who directly heard all evidence and submissions.	
Reduced risk of delays between hearings and decisions.	
Clear separation between hearings and governance decision-making	

Table 1: summary of advantages and disadvantages of Option 1: Panel Hear & Decide

Option 2 – Hearings Panel Commissioners Hear and Recommend (Recommended)

19. Under this option, the Independent Hearings Panel would hear submissions and provide recommendations to Council, with final decisions made by Council.
20. If commissioners make recommendations only, Council remains the statutory decision-maker. So, Council can:
- accept the recommendations;
 - partially accept the recommendations;
 - reject the recommendations entirely; or
 - modify the recommendations.
21. All options are legally permissible because the commissioners are advisory only.
22. Council must genuinely consider the recommendations - Council cannot simply ignore the report of the Hearings Panel; or reject it without proper planning reasons provided as part of that decision-making process.
23. If Council chose to only partially accept, reject or modify the recommendations of the Independent Hearings Panel, under this option, Council would have to:
- read and consider all of the hearing evidence, including transcripts of what was presented in verbal form at the hearing, in support of written submissions
 - understand the recommendations
 - apply the RMA Part 2 and Schedule 1 tests
 - document and make its own reasoned planning judgment.
24. If Council departs from expert recommendations, it should provide clear planning reasons, evidential justification, and explicit reasoning. If challenged, the record would need to show that Councillors had:
- received the evidence
 - deliberated properly
 - understood the issues
 - received appropriate legal/planning advice on their alternative/amended approach.

- 25. There is litigation risk where reasons for changes by Council from what the Panel have recommended are weak. A weak rationale can expose the decision to Environment Court appeal, judicial review allegations, or natural justice/procedural fairness arguments.
- 26. Even if rejecting recommendations, Council still cannot make decisions beyond submission scope or introduce relief not fairly and reasonably raised through submissions. That remains a Schedule 1 constraint.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Retains Council oversight of final decisions on submission matters.	If Council does not accept a Panel recommendation on a matter where it has not heard the evidence directly, parts of the process may need to be reheard or revisited.
Allows elected members visibility of recommendations before decisions are released.	Potential for additional time, cost, and process complexity.
Provides additional governance oversight for a significant urban growth plan change.	
Clear separation between hearings and governance decision-making	

Table 2: summary of advantages and disadvantages of Option 2: Panel Hear & Recommend

- 27. Officers consider this option provides the best balance between independent technical assessment and Council oversight of matters raised through submissions.
- 28. For the avoidance of doubt, the key practical differences between the two options are described in Table 3.

Matter	Panel Decision	Panel Recommendation
Final decision-maker	Commissioners	Council
Delegation required?	Yes (s34/s34A)	Yes (s34/s34A)
Political involvement	Lower	Higher
Independence	Higher	Lower
Hearing efficiency	Generally faster	Slower
Councillors can change outcome?	No (unless delegation limited)	Yes
Risk of perceived political influence	Lower	Higher

Table 3: Key practical differences of Option 1: Panel Hear & Decide; and Option 2: Panel Hear & Recommend.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o **NGĀ HIRANGA**

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council’s delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

29. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as they are procedural matters and not policy intent or plan-making decisions.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

30. This report relates to the statutory hearings process for Proposed Plan Change 6. The Resource Management Act 1991 requires Council to receive, consider, and make decisions on submissions.
31. The recommendations in this report support a transparent and legally robust process for hearing and considering all submissions, including those made by tangata whenua.

Rangatiratanga

32. Tangata whenua have participated in the Proposed Plan Change 6 process through pre-notification engagement and the formal submissions process. The submissions received from iwi authorities raise a range of matters relating to housing, urban growth, infrastructure planning, and future participation in planning processes.
33. The hearings process provides an opportunity for those views to be presented directly to the Independent Hearings Panel and considered as part of the decision-making process.
34. Urban Plan Change 6 has explored how to improve housing outcomes for Māori across the proposed residential zones, which includes enabling Māori Enabled Housing development and multigenerational living. Feedback received through the Clause 4A process resulted in changes that reflect the views of Te Aitanga a Māhaki Trust, and submissions and further submissions are expected to further develop these provisions.
35. In addition, as noted in paragraph 12 of this report, Section 34A(1A) of the RMA requires Council to consult iwi authorities on whether it is appropriate to appoint a commissioner with an understanding of tikanga Māori and local iwi and hapū perspectives, and where appropriate, appoint at least one commissioner with that expertise.

Oritetanga

36. The hearings process provides all submitters with the same opportunity to be heard and have their submissions considered. The recommendations in this report support an independent and impartial process that enables all perspectives to be considered before decisions are made.

Whakapono

37. The appointment of appropriately qualified commissioners, including consideration of expertise in tikanga Māori and local iwi and hapū perspectives as required under section 34A of the RMA, supports confidence in the integrity and fairness of the hearings process.
38. The hearings process provides a formal mechanism for tangata whenua to present evidence and perspectives on matters of importance to them.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

39. Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Oneone, Te Aitanga a Māhaki Trust and Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust responded to our invitations to engage on the early drafts of PC6. Preliminary feedback received from iwi technicians working on behalf of Te Aitanga a Māhaki, and from members of te hapu ki Ngati Oneone have been incorporated into PC6.
40. Council-wide discussions with Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust took place, reaffirming key principles for effective engagement from a Council-wide perspective.
41. Te Aitanga a Māhaki Trust provided their feedback on the urban form and development chapter in the full Regional Policy Statement review.
42. We recognise that the area prescribed to the PC6 is the ancestral whenua and awa of many more iwi entities than this and will continue in our best efforts to engage meaningfully with all our Treaty partners on Urban Growth and Development through the development of the Regional Spatial Plan, and subsequently the Planning and Natural Resources Chapters of the Combined Plan for the Tairāwhiti region.
43. However, for PC6 this has been limited to those iwi that have accepted the invitation to engage.
44. Now that public notification has occurred, iwi engagement as part of PC6, will become limited to what can be achieved through formal submissions, through any appointment to the Hearings Panel, and any other advisory role that may be agreed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

45. Community engagement to date for Proposed PC6 occurred through the development of the Plan Change and continued through the statutory public notification and submissions process which was open from 25 March to 25 May 2026.
46. Consistent with the requirements of the RMA and Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, engagement during this phase focused on informing the community about the proposed plan change and providing opportunities for people to make submissions. This included direct notification, online information, hard-copy material at Council facilities, community information sessions, stakeholder meetings, and discussions with planning staff.

47. A total of 132 submissions were received during the submission period. A more detailed summary of engagement activities and participation levels will be published alongside the matters raised by submitters (Summary of Decisions Requested) (the Summary) in July 2026.
48. The next stage of the statutory process is notification of the Summary followed by a further submissions period (10 working days). This provides an opportunity for eligible persons to support or oppose matters raised in original submissions before the hearings process commences.
49. In addition to publishing a public notice in the new paper, all submitters will be emailed or posted a copy of the Summary of Decisions Requested public notice, advising them where they can view the summary report and invite further submissions.
50. Further submissions are open to:
 - a) any person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest; and
 - b) any person that has an interest in the proposed policy statement or plan greater than the interest that the general public has; and
 - c) the local authority itself.
51. The further submission process provides additional community engagement, because it allows persons that could be affected by something requested in submissions (an interest greater than the general public has), to either support or oppose what is being requested.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - **NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI** – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

52. There are no climate change impacts associated with the decision being requested in this report as it is procedural.
53. The climate change implications associated with PC6 have previously been reported to Council (see Attachment 1 for all related reports).

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

54. There are no direct financial implications of this report. The costs of the public notification, and Panel Hearings for PC6 are part of the approved TRMP review budget.

Legal

55. There are no specific legal issues arising from this report. Prior to public notification, PC6 underwent legal review and was provided to iwi authorities as part of meeting the statutory requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).
56. The proposed hearings panel appointment and delegation process is consistent with the requirements of the RMA, including section 34A relating to the use of hearings commissioners. The process includes seeking appropriately qualified and experienced independent commissioners, and consultation with tangata whenua through iwi authorities.

57. Section 10 of RMA Schedule 1 is clear that:

A local authority must give a decision on the provisions and matters raised in submissions, whether or not a hearing is held on the proposed policy statement or plan concerned.

(2) The decision—

(a) must include the reasons for accepting or rejecting the submissions and, for that purpose, may address the submissions by grouping them according to—

(i) the provisions of the proposed statement or plan to which they relate; or

(ii) the matters to which they relate; and

(ab) must include a further evaluation of the proposed policy statement or plan undertaken in accordance with [section 32AA](#); and

(b) may include—

(i) matters relating to any consequential alterations necessary to the proposed statement or plan arising from the submissions; and

(ii) any other matter relevant to the proposed statement or plan arising from the submissions.

(3) To avoid doubt, the local authority is not required to give a decision that addresses each submission individually.

(4) The local authority must—

(aaa) have particular regard to the further evaluation undertaken in accordance with subclause (2)(ab) when making its decision; and

(a) give its decision no later than 2 years after notifying the proposed policy statement or plan under [clause 5](#); and

(b) publicly notify the decision within the same time.

(5) On and from the date the decision is publicly notified, the proposed policy statement or plan is amended in accordance with the decision.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me **ngā** RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

58. The recommendations in this report are procedural in nature and relate to the statutory hearings and decision-making process for PC6 under RMA. The recommendations do not create any inconsistency with Council's adopted policies, plans, or Long-Term Plan. No amendments to existing Council policies or plans are required as a result of this decision.

59. This report is consistent with previous Council decisions relating to the preparation, notification, and progression of PC6, including the decision [[Report 25-212](#)] to publicly notify the plan change in August 2025. This list is included as Attachment 1.

RISKS - **NGĀ TŪRARU**

Relationship and process risk

60. There is a risk that submitters may perceive the process as lacking fairness or independence if hearings are not conducted by appropriately qualified and experienced commissioners.
61. This can be mitigated by:
 - a. The appointment of an independent hearings panel.
 - b. The use of commissioners with relevant planning and hearings expertise, for example urban plan changes, urban design, infrastructure, and Te Ao Maori.
 - c. Including perspectives and experience relevant to the Tairāwhiti context.
 - d. Keeping to statutory hearing requirements.
62. The RMA is silent on what we need to do if Council does not accept recommendations or if it disagrees with decisions. In the extreme case of this happening, we would have to consider if PC6 needed to be renotified or reheard. However, there are a range of things to consider in such a scenario.

Legal risk

63. There is potential for legal challenge if statutory plan-making requirements are not correctly followed.
64. This can be mitigated by ongoing legal and procedural oversight, keeping to statutory requirements and timeframes, and the use of experienced hearings commissioners and established hearings processes.

NEXT STEPS - **NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE**

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
Early July 2026	Notification of summary of decisions requested.	Required under Schedule 1 of the RMA.
July 2026	Further submission period	10 working days, this is set out in the RMA.
Nov 2026- Feb 2027 (dates TBC)	Hearings	To be held in Awarua, Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers)
April -May 2027	Decisions released	Subject to Hearings timeframe

ATTACHMENTS - **NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA**

1. Attachment 1 - PC6 Hearings Panel delegations [26-126.1 - 1 page]

Attachment one

Previous reports relating to the Future Development Strategy, urban growth planning & PC6

Date	Report Type	Report Link
12 October 2023 Council	Info Report 23-230	Update on Tairāwhiti FDS
15 November 2023 Council	Decision Report 23-245	Draft Tairāwhiti Future Development Strategy
14 March 2024 Council	Decision Report 24-26	Tairāwhiti Future Development Strategy 2024 - 2054
8 August 2024 Council	Decision Report 24-223	FDS 2024: Implementation Plan
3 September 2024 TRMP Committee	Information Report 24-230	Urban spatial layers
18 December 2024 TRMP Committee	Information Report 24-306	Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan Review - Progress Update
18 December 2024 TRMP Committee	Decision Report 24-326	Details of aspects of the 2025 plan change to support urban growth and development
13 March 2025 TRMP Committee	Decisions Report 25-42	Draft Urban Plan Change -To iwi authorities for advice
9 April 2025 Extraordinary Council	Decision Report 25-69	Draft Urban Plan Change – To send a copy to iwi authorities for comment
8 May 2025 Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee	Decision Report 25-121	Draft Urban Pan Change - Decision to send draft to Iwi authorities
25 June 2025 TRMP Committee	Decision Report 25-175	Draft Urban Plan Change - Further Refinement Options
21 August 2025 Council	Decision Report 25-212	Draft Urban Plan Change - Public Notification Decision
29 January 2026 Council Report	Council Report 26-4	Proposed Plan Change 6 - Recommended Amendments

Title: 26-164 Local Government Remits
 Section: Democracy & Support Services
 Prepared by: Donna Shaw - Manager Democracy & Support Services
 Meeting Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Legal: No Financial: No Significance: **Low**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide direction to Her Worship the Mayor on how Gisborne District Council (Council) wishes to vote on the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) remits at the LGNZ Annual General Meeting (AGM) Friday 31 July 2026.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

Paperwork has been completed appointing Her Worship the Mayor as the presiding delegate.

Council determines how its delegate/s vote at the AGM and, in this instance, there are 9 remits to consider.

At the AGM, after remits are approved, members will rank them in order of priority. This is something to consider when you are discussing the remits.

Council is asked to consider the remits sent by LGNZ in June in the document attached and decide whether to support – or not support – each remit:

1. Priorities for Dog Control Act reform
2. Improved regulation of vape retailers
3. Financial support for government reform implementation costs
4. Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform
5. Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities
6. Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy
7. Bulk funding of transport activities
8. Improving LTP audit requirements
9. A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - **NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Instructs the Mayor, as presiding delegate, to vote to support – or oppose – the Local Government New Zealand remits as follows:
 - (1) That Local Government New Zealand advocate to government for the reform of the Dog Control Act 1996 to provide councils with more effective powers and tools to undertake their dog control responsibilities including:
 - a) greater scope for earlier intervention
 - b) stronger consequences for non-compliance
 - c) better ability for councils to set minimum requirements for dog owners - including for desexing and containment.
 - (2) That Local Government New Zealand advocate to central government for legislative change to:
 - a) provide territorial authorities with greater regulatory and enforcement powers over vape retailers, including the ability to control the location, density, operation, advertising, product visibility and compliance standards of vape stores within their districts.
 - (3) That Local Government New Zealand advocate to central government to provide:
 - a) specific targeted financial support to councils to implement the operational and governance changes that are proposed through the legislative reform programme, for example Simplifying Local Government and RMA reforms.
 - (4) That Local Government New Zealand advocate to government on behalf of its members for:
 - a) compliance relief from the upcoming representation review requirements in light of the significant reforms proposed through the Simplifying Local Government programme and the recent Head Start pathway, which may render any review undertaken before the 2028 elections redundant.
 - (5) That Local Government New Zealand advocate for legislative changes to:
 - a) devolve authority for officiating geographic place names from the Minister for Land Information to local authorities.
 - (6) That Local Government New Zealand advocate to government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to:
 - a) formalise and increase its role in supporting subnational diplomacy including developing clear policy and capability to support and grow local government's contribution.

- (7) That Local Government New Zealand calls on government, opposition parties and NZTA to:
- a) support a move to bulk funding for basic and repeatable transport activities, thereby acknowledging the efficiency and financial gains, and reduction in funding risk, this change would provide to local government, and supports a trial of this proposed bulk-funding approach for the 2027 2030 funding round amongst a group of councils which have demonstrated strong performance in delivering public transport services and/or maintaining transport infrastructure.
- (8) That Local Government New Zealand advocate to government for improvements to the efficiency, proportionality, and cost-effectiveness of audit requirements for Long Term Plans and Consultation Documents, including:
- a) Greater proportionality in audit requirements, ensuring that audit effort is aligned with council size, complexity, risk, and materiality; and
 - b) Reducing duplication across audit stages, particularly where similar information and assumptions are subject to repeated review; and
 - c) Improving standardisation, transparency, and cost control in audit delivery, to reduce rework and improve consistency across the sector, and to constrain excessive or escalating audit fees through greater transparency of audit pricing and benchmarking of costs across the sector.
- (9) That Local Government New Zealand advocate for:
- a) a fairer approach towards uneconomic transport infrastructure, where either NZTA commits to co-funding this infrastructure if councils remain legally obligated to own and maintain it, and/or the Government provides clearer guidance and support for councils downgrading or ceasing service to low traffic volume areas.

Authorised by:

Anita Reedy-Holthausen - Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships

Keywords: Remits, Local Government New Zealand,

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. Remits are positions or policies proposed by member Councils that are put to LGNZ's AGM for a vote.
2. All remits submitted to LGNZ for consideration must be supported by either an LGNZ Zone, Sector or five councils.
3. LGNZ's Remit Screening Committee considers all eligible remits and determines if they meet the criteria, and whether or not to put if forward for upcoming Annual General Meeting.
4. The successful remits are then notified to member Councils for consideration and decision on how the presiding delegate at the AGM will vote on behalf of their council.
5. Remits are voted on in a secret ballot at the AGM and once passed become official policy to be actioned by LGNZ.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

6. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

7. The decisions being requested in this report are to instruct the Presiding Delegate how to vote on each of the proposed remits going to this year's LGNZ AGM. The outcome of the vote by all Member Councils determines whether or not each remit becomes official policy to be actioned by LGNZ. If passed, LGNZ will advocate with Central Government on the business of the remit, but this does not guarantee that any action will be taken.
8. Should any action be taken by Central Government as a result of any remit which changes the legislative framework under which Council operates, or the operational processes or scope of Council's work, these would be considered in their own right including the significance of the matter and any consultation required.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

9. The decisions being requested in this report are to instruct the Presiding Delegate how to vote on each of the proposed remits going to this year's LGNZ AGM. The outcome of the vote by all Member Councils determines whether or not each remit becomes official policy to be actioned by LGNZ. If passed, LGNZ will lobby Central Government on the business of the remit, but this does not guarantee that any action will be taken.
10. Should any action be taken by Central Government as a result of any remit which changes the legislative framework under which Council operates, or the operational processes or scope of Council's work, these would be considered in their own right including the significance of the matter and any consultation required.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

11. This decision does not have any climate change impacts or implications.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

12. Should any action be taken by Central Government as a result of any remit which changes the legislative framework under which Council operates, or the operational processes or scope of Council's work, these would be considered in their own right including any financial implications.

Legal

13. Should any action be taken by Central Government as a result of any remit which changes the legislative framework under which Council operates, or the operational processes or scope of Council's work, these would be considered in their own right including any legal implications.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me **ngā** RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

14. Should any action be taken by Central Government as a result of any remit which changes the legislative framework under which Council operates, or the operational processes or scope of Council's work, these would be considered in their own right including any policy or planning implications.

RISKS - **NGĀ TŪRARU**

15. There are no major risks associated with the decisions or matters.

NEXT STEPS - **NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE**

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
31 July 2026	Remits are voted on at the LGNZ AGM by the Presiding Delegate as per the decisions made from this paper.	
Post-July 2026	Outcomes from the AGM dictate LGNZ's policy advocacy priorities for the coming year.	
Post-July 2026	Any outcomes from the advocacy will be advised to councils as changes to legislation or operational arrangements are progressed.	

ATTACHMENTS - **NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA**

1. Attachment 1 - Remits 2026 (1) [26-164.1 - 33 pages]



Remits

// Remits to LGNZ's Annual General Meeting

// 2026





1. Priorities for Dog Control Act reform

Proposed by:	Rotorua Lakes Council
Supported by:	Invercargill City Council, Gisborne District Council, Tauranga City Council, Hamilton City Council and Far North District Council
Remit:	<p><i>That LGNZ advocate to government for the reform of the Dog Control Act 1996 to provide councils with more effective powers and tools to undertake their dog control responsibilities including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>greater scope for earlier intervention</i> • <i>stronger consequences for non-compliance</i> • <i>better ability for councils to set minimum requirements for dog owners - including for desexing and containment</i>

Why is this remit important?

Councils across New Zealand are experiencing increasing issues with dog aggression, uncontrolled breeding, roaming dogs, and low compliance with microchipping and desexing requirements. Current provisions in the Dog Control Act 1996 limit councils' ability to respond effectively to these challenges. Without stronger tools and clearer powers, these issues will continue to pose real and ongoing health and safety risks to the communities we serve. Legal advice indicates that many of the measures needed to deliver sustainable, long-term improvements can only be achieved through amendments to the Act itself, rather than through a Local Bill or council bylaw. For this reason, advocacy through LGNZ is important to help enable the legislative change needed to better protect communities and support responsible dog ownership and councils' regulatory role in this.

Background and context

Councils across New Zealand are experiencing increasing challenges relating to dog aggression, uncontrolled breeding, roaming dogs, and low compliance with microchipping and desexing requirements. These issues are occurring within the framework of the Dog Control Act 1996, which was introduced to promote responsible dog ownership, ensure public safety, and minimise nuisance caused by dogs. However, many councils now find the Act limits their ability to respond effectively to modern dog control issues. Recent tragic dog attack incidents across the country have heightened public concern and renewed calls from communities and councils for stronger tools to manage high-risk dogs and irresponsible ownership. Local authorities report increasing numbers of roaming dogs, dog attacks, and ongoing pressure on council pounds due to the statutory seven-day minimum impoundment period. Enforcement can also be difficult where dogs are not microchipped or cannot be easily traced to an owner.



Rotorua Lakes Council and many other councils have explored a range of options to address these issues locally. This includes reviewing dog control bylaws, strengthening local enforcement practices, and seeking legal advice on whether a Local Bill or bylaw amendments could introduce measures such as mandatory desexing of impounded dogs, mandatory vaccination for pound-released dogs, or extending microchipping requirements to working dogs. However, legal advice confirms that many of these measures cannot be implemented through local bylaws because they would be inconsistent with the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996. For example, working dogs are currently exempt from mandatory microchipping under the Act, meaning councils cannot require this through a bylaw. Similarly, councils are limited in their ability to require mandatory desexing except in very specific circumstances, and there is currently no legislative basis for requiring vaccinations such as parvovirus. Other challenges include outdated infringement penalties (currently capped at \$3,000 for many offences), delays in prosecution and destruction order processes, and limited powers to intervene early in escalating risk situations.

Because dog control is a national regulatory issue rather than a district-specific one, legal advice indicates that a Local Bill would have little prospect of success. As a result, meaningful and consistent improvements will require amendments to the Dog Control Act 1996 at a national level. Many councils have signalled support for changes such as mandatory microchipping for all dogs, stronger seizure powers, improved containment requirements for high-risk dogs, reduced impoundment periods, and updated penalties and enforcement tools. Collectively, these changes would strengthen councils' ability to manage risk and better protect communities.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit directly relates to LGNZ's strategic purpose to serve members by championing, connecting and supporting local government and advocating for local government on critical issues.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Rotorua Lakes Council has already shared proposed legislative improvements with LGNZ and the Minister of Local Government to support advocacy work already underway to strengthen the Dog Control Act. Rotorua Lakes Council is committed to continuing to support this work and is willing to provide further information, operational insights and data, and feedback to assist any review of the Act. Our first-hand experience with dog control and enforcement provides useful evidence about the challenges councils face and the legislative barriers that currently limit effective responses. We are also willing to work closely with LGNZ, other councils, and sector partners to help build support for these changes. This includes sharing data, contributing to working groups, assisting with policy development, and supporting advocacy to central



government. Rotorua Lakes Council has proactively started work in this space and is ready to further contribute to the collaborative work needed to make meaningful improvements to the Act and ensure councils have the tools needed to better protect their communities.



2. Improved regulation of vape retailers

Proposed by:	Wairoa District Council
Supported by:	Manawatū District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Gisborne District Council, Napier City Council, Hastings District Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council
Remit:	<i>That LGNZ advocate to central government for legislative change to provide territorial authorities with greater regulatory and enforcement powers over vape retailers, including the ability to control the location, density, operation, advertising, product visibility and compliance standards of vape stores within their districts.</i>

Why is this remit important?

The rapid growth of vape retailers across New Zealand has raised increasing concerns regarding youth exposure, public health impacts, community wellbeing and the concentration of vape stores near schools, community facilities and town centres. Territorial authorities currently have limited ability to influence where vape retailers operate; how many may establish within a district or how vaping products are promoted and accessed locally.

Councils are increasingly responding to community concerns regarding the normalisation of vaping among rangatahi, and the long-term social and health impacts associated with nicotine dependence. However, unlike alcohol or gambling regulation, councils currently lack sufficient legislative tools to effectively manage vape retailers through local planning, licensing or policy mechanisms.

This remit seeks stronger local government powers to enable councils to respond appropriately to local circumstances, protect vulnerable communities and ensure communities have a greater role in shaping decisions that impact public health, youth wellbeing and the character of local town centres.

Background and context

The number of vape retailers operating throughout New Zealand has increased significantly in recent years, including within smaller provincial and rural communities. Many councils are experiencing growing public concern regarding the concentration of vape stores near schools, playgrounds, community hubs and town centres, and the increasing visibility and normalisation of vaping among young people.

Vaping products are primarily regulated under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 (SERPA) and associated regulations administered by central government.



Current legislation includes restrictions on sales to persons under 18 years of age, advertising and promotion controls, product safety requirements and specialist vape retailer approvals through the Ministry of Health.

Despite these controls, territorial authorities currently have very limited ability to influence:

- where vape retailers establish within a district;
- the concentration or density of vape stores;
- proximity of retailers to schools or youth facilities;
- shopfront presentation, signage or visibility, or
- local licensing or consent requirements.

Unlike alcohol regulation under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 or gambling venue policies under the Gambling Act 2003, councils currently have no equivalent statutory mechanisms to manage the local impacts of vape retailers.

Communities have raised concerns regarding youth access and exposure, increasing nicotine dependence among rangatahi, retail saturation in vulnerable communities, and inconsistent compliance monitoring and enforcement. These concerns are particularly significant in rural and provincial communities already experiencing inequitable health outcomes.

While councils are increasingly expected to respond to these issues, existing legislative pathways through district plans or bylaws are limited and not specifically designed to regulate vape retail activities. This creates uncertainty and inconsistency nationally.

This remit seeks legislative reform to provide councils with fit-for-purpose powers to regulate the location, density and operation of vape retailers, better protect vulnerable communities and ensure local communities have greater input into decisions affecting public health, youth wellbeing and town centre environments.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit aligns with LGNZ's broader advocacy focus on strengthening local decision making, improving community wellbeing outcomes, and ensuring councils have fit-for-purpose legislative tools to respond to emerging community issues.

The proposed remit supports LGNZ's advocacy regarding public health, community resilience and empowering local government to respond to place-based challenges. It also aligns with wider conversations around community safety, youth wellbeing and ensuring local authorities have appropriate regulatory mechanisms to manage activities that significantly impact local communities.

This remit does not duplicate existing legislative mechanisms currently available to councils and instead seeks to address a recognised regulatory gap within the current framework.



How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Wairoa District Council would support LGNZ by sharing local experiences, community feedback and operational challenges associated with the growth of vape retailers within provincial and rural communities. Council would also assist in identifying the impacts that vape retailer concentration can have on youth wellbeing, public health outcomes and town centre environments.

The Council would be willing to participate in sector discussions, working groups and engagement processes relating to vaping regulation and local government powers. This may include contributing to the development of national policy positions, providing practical case studies and supporting evidence gathering to demonstrate the need for stronger local regulatory tools.

Wairoa District Council would also support collaboration with other councils and Zone networks to identify common concerns, share approaches and collectively advocate for legislative reform. In addition, Council would be prepared to engage with central government agencies and relevant stakeholders to help develop practical, enforceable and locally responsive regulatory solutions that better enable councils to respond to community expectations and local circumstances.

Vape Retail Regulation – Supporting Statistics Snapshot

National Vaping Trends

- Daily vaping among NZ adults increased from 3.5% in 2019/2020 to 11.7% in 2024/2025.¹
- Over 509,000 New Zealanders now vape daily.²
- Approximately 23% of 18-24 year olds vape daily.³

Youth & Māori Impacts

- Daily vaping among 15-17 year olds increased from 2.6% to 13.6% since 2019/2020.⁴
- Māori youth continue to experience disproportionately high vaping rates.⁵
- School stand-downs for vaping/smoking increased by 73% between 2021-2023.⁶

Vape Retailer Concerns

- Approximately 71% of vape retailers nationally operate within 800m of schools.⁷
- Around 29% of vape retailers are within 400m (5 minute walk) of schools.
- Research shows vape retailers are disproportionately concentrated in higher deprivation communities.⁸

Legislative Gap

Under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990, councils currently have limited powers to:

- Restrict vape shop locations or density.
- Prevent vape stores near schools.
- Introduce local licensing frameworks; or
- Manage local retail visibility and concentration.

Unlike alcohol regulation under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 or gambling venue policies under the Gambling Act 2003, councils currently have no equivalent statutory tools to manage local vape retail impacts.

¹ [Annual Update of Key Results 2024/25: New Zealand Health Survey | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

² [Vaping prevalence and trends: Findings from the 2024-25 NZ Health Survey | PHCC](#)

³ [Annual Update of Key Results 2024/25: New Zealand Health Survey | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

⁴ [Vaping prevalence and trends: Findings from the 2024-25 NZ Health Survey | PHCC](#)

⁵ [Vapefree schools | Health Professionals](#)

⁶ [‘Kids are doing this everywhere’: New Zealand wrestles with rise of primary school vaping | New Zealand | The Guardian](#)

⁷ [New Zealand researchers find more vape stores in deprived areas and near schools](#)

⁸ [Investigating the spatial and temporal variation of vape retailer provision in New Zealand: A cross-sectional and nationwide study - ScienceDirect](#)



3. Financial support for government reform implementation costs

Proposed by: Whangārei District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to central government to provide specific targeted financial support to councils to implement the operational and governance changes that are proposed through the legislative reform programme, for example Simplifying Local Government and RMA reforms.*

Why is this remit important?

It is recognised that the Department of Internal Affairs is providing great support across the board for district and regional councils throughout the various reform programmes that are underway.

The toll of the changes and implementation is being felt at a local level, and it would be appropriate for central government to recognise this burden on the local government sector and provide some financial certainty to ratepayers by providing ring-fenced financial support for the reforms. Additional support could be included that ensures nationwide alignment on approach, or the provision of a suite of core document templates for use by all with a view to reducing workload at a local level.

Background and context

Since September 2025, central government has introduced significant legislative reforms affecting local government, including amendments to the Local Government Act and the replacement of the Resource Management Act.

These changes impose substantial new statutory, planning, system, and reporting obligations on councils, many of which involve one off and transitional implementation costs not provided for in existing funding arrangements.

We want to acknowledge that the Department of Internal Affairs is providing great support across the board for district and regional councils throughout the various reform programmes that are underway. This includes the support that has been provided over the last couple of years in relation to the water reforms.

It does need to be recognised that a council's ability to raise revenue is constrained. This is due to the current cost of living crisis and the proposed rates caps to be introduced in this



triennium. Council is asking LGNZ to recognise that the toll for the legislative changes and their implementation is being felt at a local level and it would be appropriate for central government to recognise this burden on the local government sector and provide some financial certainty to ratepayers by providing ring-fenced financial support for the reforms.

Central government funding is required to enable timely and effective implementation of these mandated reforms, while avoiding significant increase in the cost to ratepayers or reduction in existing services.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

LGNZ has an influencing role with central government, and they understand that New Zealanders need to value their local council and trust that it is financially sustainable. LGNZ has a key priority in maintaining a constructive relationship with central government but also to ensure that the membership base has the support it needs to implement changes that come from updated legislation. We believe that this remit is directly aligned to LGNZ's current work programme.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Whangarei District Council will support LGNZ in conversations in relation to this remit. We are willing to provide evidence of additional costs, some of which is already gathered in public meeting agendas, and additional resource requirements the Council is having to support without any budget to fund these activities.



4. Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform

Proposed by: Waikato District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 2

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to the Government, on behalf of its members, for compliance relief from the upcoming representation review requirements in light of the significant reforms proposed through the Simplifying Local Government programme and the recent Head Start pathway, which may render any review undertaken before the 2028 elections redundant.*

Why is this remit important?

Councils are required under the Local Electoral Act 2001 to undertake a representation review in preparation for the 2028 local government elections.

The current local government reform environment creates significant uncertainty about the long-term relevance and durability of representation arrangements determined through this review process.

Key contributing factors include:

- the Government's Simplifying Local Government reform programme;
- the recently announced Head Start pathway;
- potential future structural and governance changes, and
- the removal of Māori wards from some districts from 2028 onwards.

Requiring councils to commence representation reviews at this time would impose unavoidable and unjustifiable costs when ratepayer affordability pressures are already significant.

It would also require communities to participate in a complex statutory process that is likely to be superseded and ultimately rendered redundant by current government reform proposals, potentially necessitating a second review shortly thereafter.



Background and context

Representation reviews are a statutory requirement under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and must be undertaken by all local authorities at least every six years.

The purpose of a representation review is to determine how communities are democratically represented through local government arrangements. This includes consideration of:

- electoral voting systems (FPP or STV);
- Māori representation arrangements;
- the number of elected members;
- ward structures and boundaries;
- community board structures;
- population equity requirements;
- governance effectiveness, and
- compliance with Local Government Commission requirements.

Waikato District Council's last representation review was completed in 2021 for implementation at the 2022 local elections. The programme ran from March 2020 to September 2021 and included elected member workshops, a governance working group, public consultation, and hearings. The review was extensive, resource-intensive, and required substantial operational support across the Council.

A further key consideration for the upcoming representation review is the binding 2025 poll on Māori wards, through which the Council did not retain its two Māori wards. This position will vary across the country depending on the outcomes of local referendums. As a result, Māori wards in Waikato District will cease from 2028 onwards. This creates an additional structural change that must be considered as part of any future representation arrangements.

In February, the Waikato Mayoral Forum wrote to the Minister of Local Government and the Minister for the Environment in response to the Simplifying Local Government proposal and reinforced the need for compliance relief in key areas affected by the reform, including representation reviews.

In March 2026, Mayor Bech wrote to the Minister of Local Government seeking relief or a formal transition arrangement from the upcoming representation review requirement. This followed earlier engagement with both the Department of Internal Affairs and the Electoral Commission, each of which advised that it had no legal authority to grant relief. The letter set out concerns that undertaking a full review during a period of significant national reform would create unnecessary duplication, cost, and uncertainty.

The Mayor's correspondence specifically referenced:

- the Government's Simplifying Local Government reform programme;
- potential future boundary and governance changes;
- the removal of Māori wards;
- the lack of legislative discretion available for councils to defer reviews; and



- the estimated \$80,000–\$100,000 cost of undertaking a full representation review process.

While the Minister's office acknowledged receipt of the letter, no formal relief mechanism had been provided at the time this paper was submitted (22 May 2026).

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit aligns closely with LGNZ's current advocacy on the Simplifying Local Government reforms and practical transition pathways for councils navigating significant system change.

This remit supports that advocacy by seeking practical compliance relief for councils currently required to undertake representation reviews during a period of significant reform uncertainty.

It reinforces LGNZ's broader focus on localism, reducing unnecessary duplication, supporting fiscally responsible decision making, and ensuring councils can direct resources towards delivering long-term community outcomes rather than potentially redundant statutory processes.

The remit complements rather than duplicates LGNZ's existing reform advocacy by seeking a nationally coordinated response on behalf of affected councils.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Waikato District Council would be willing to actively support LGNZ in progressing this remit through sector advocacy, evidence gathering, and engagement with central government agencies.

The Council has already undertaken significant work in this area, including:

- preparing a strategic governance paper outlining the implications of the Head Start pathway and wider reform programme for representation review obligations;
- engaging directly with the Minister of Local Government, the Department of Internal Affairs, and the Electoral Commission to seek transitional relief, and
- working collaboratively across Zone 2 councils to raise shared concerns regarding reform sequencing, affordability, and duplication risks.

The Council would be willing to:

- share analysis, correspondence, and supporting material to inform LGNZ advocacy;
- contribute to discussions with Ministers, DIA, and sector working groups;
- support the development of a nationally consistent position on representation review relief and transition arrangements, and
- provide practical insight into the operational, governance, and financial implications of undertaking representation reviews during a period of significant reform uncertainty.



The intent of this remit is not to avoid statutory obligations, but to ensure that councils are not required to undertake potentially duplicative and resource-intensive processes while broader local government reform remains unresolved.



5. Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities

Proposed by:	Far North District Council
Supported by:	Northland Regional Council, Porirua City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Rangitikei District Council and Whakatāne District Council
Remit:	<i>That LGNZ advocate for legislative changes to devolve authority for officiating geographic place names from the Minister for Land Information to local authorities.</i>

Why is this remit important?

Local communities are best placed to make decisions about names that reflect their identity, history, and sense of belonging. While councils already name roads and streets, authority over official geographic names - such as mountains, rivers, towns, and bays - sits with the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa and the Minister for Land Information under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008. This centralised system has produced outcomes that lack local knowledge, overlook iwi and hapū relationships, or fail to reflect a community's lived history. Councils have highlighted examples such as the decline of locally supported historical names (Russell, Kororāreka), or cases where official spellings have been approved that do not reflect how names are commonly used, spoken, or understood locally.

Devolving authority to local government, in partnership with mana whenua, would ensure place naming is grounded in authentic local voice while reducing unnecessary bureaucracy. At the LGNZ Rural and Provincial meeting in November 2025, Minister Penk indicated support for this remit and the localised outcomes it seeks to achieve.

Background and context

Under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) holds sole authority to assign, approve, alter, or discontinue official geographic place names. While the Board includes representatives from local government and Māori development, its decision-making framework remains national, centralised, and governed by statutory processes that do not always reflect local identity or lived experience.

Local authorities already demonstrate strong capability in place-based naming through their delegated authority for naming roads and streets. These decisions routinely incorporate local history, community values, and the guidance of mana whenua. However, when it comes to naming mountains, rivers, settlements, bays, and other significant features, councils and iwi



must defer to a national body, even in cases where local expertise, whakapapa, and historical evidence are well established.

This centralised model can create a disconnect between official names, and the communities that hold whakapapa and lived connection to those places. Consultation occurs but local knowledge is not determinative and decisions may not align with regional dialects, historical narratives, or cultural contexts. Councils have highlighted examples where locally supported names or spellings were not adopted or where national decisions did not fully recognise the depth of local iwi and hapū relationships with place. In the Far North, we refer to the name restoration process for Russell (Kororāreka) which while strongly supported at a local level, failed to receive centralised support.

Returning decision making to local authorities would strengthen the integrity and authenticity of geographic names. It would allow naming processes to better reflect regional narratives, uphold te reo Māori orthographic conventions, and ensure communities have a meaningful role in shaping the identity of the landscapes they inhabit. Devolving authority would also streamline the process by reducing a layer of central bureaucracy while retaining opportunities for national consistency through guidelines and shared standards.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit aligns strongly with LGNZ's long term goal of "local decisions matter", and aligns with LGNZ's advocacy for:

- strengthened local decision making;
- improved Crown-local government-iwi partnerships, and
- recognition of local identity and community driven governance.

It also enhances LGNZ's ongoing work to promote localism, reduce unnecessary centralisation, and strengthen community wellbeing through place-based decision making.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

The Far North District Council will support LGNZ's advocacy on this remit by contributing sector leadership and local, practical insights. We have extensive experience working with LINZ on the correction and officiating of Māori place names, including active participation in the "Approving of Unofficial Place Names" workstream. With 1,682 unofficial Māori place names currently progressing through LINZ processes, we hold a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the present system.

FNDC is committed to supporting this remit's progression alongside LGNZ.



6. Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy

Proposed by: Palmerston North City Council

Supported by: Metro Sector

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to formalise and increase its role in supporting subnational diplomacy including developing clear policy and capability to support and grow local government's contribution*

Why is this remit important?

Subnational diplomacy (such as the work councils do through their sister cities) extends the reach of national diplomacy by connecting communities and exporters from local areas with overseas communities and export opportunities. This has been demonstrated by the complementary role sister city relationships with cities in China has played in maximising the benefits of the free trade agreement.

Background and context

A number of other nations play a more explicit role in supporting and setting direction for sub-national diplomacy.

Examples of countries which engage in this space include:

- United States of America – the US Department of State has a specific Subnational Diplomacy Unit headed by a Special Representative for City and State Diplomacy. This unit, and the ambassador, supports US national security priorities by integrating local ideas into foreign policy and fostering connections among cities, municipalities, and communities in the United States and abroad.
- Australia – the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has offices across each state capital which supports local and state government foreign and trade relationships.



How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit aligns with LGNZ's long-term goal that New Zealanders value councils given the direct financial benefits this could provide. There is also potential alignment with the Advocacy Priority resilient communities, economies, and environments.



7. Bulk funding of transport activities

Proposed by: Waikato Regional Council

Supported by: Zone 2

Remit: *That LGNZ calls on government, opposition parties and NZTA to support a move to bulk funding for basic and repeatable transport activities, thereby acknowledging the efficiency and financial gains, and reduction in funding risk, this change would provide to local government, and supports a trial of this proposed bulk-funding approach for the 2027-2030 funding round amongst a group of councils which have demonstrated strong performance in delivering public transport services and/or maintaining transport infrastructure.*

Why is this remit important?

Central government via NZTA tightly controls the distribution of transport funding to achieve national outcomes even though around 50% of all costs are funded via rates.

Most transport funding is approved project by project, requiring achievement of defined business case and approval requirements, before funding is committed. Stringent compliance and reporting requirements are imposed on the local government sector, increasing costs for councils, and reducing efficiency and productivity.

Accelerating the move to bulk funding for basic transport activities, as is seen in many countries globally, would enable local government to operate more flexibly, optimising investment and improving efficiency. Councils have detailed knowledge of their networks, good awareness of resilience and lifeline requirements, and a good understanding of local need.

Maintenance and renewal programmes, public transport services, and the delivery of safety and minor works packages would all benefit from predictable, multi-year funding certainty.

Background and context

In the OECD context, New Zealand is highly centralised. Central government via NZTA tightly controls the distribution of transport funding to achieve national outcomes.

Internationally, bulk funding models for transport are widely used to provide transport authorities with predictable, flexible, multi-year funding approvals. This enables the central government focus to shift from assessing and approving individual projects to supporting strategic policy outcomes. It also enables a reduction in compliance and reporting requirements. It supports local and regional stewardship of networks while improving



procurement and delivery performance. A SWOT analysis and global examples of bulk funding for public transport services are provided in Attachment One.

Councils across the country are about to commence work on Long Term Plans and the Regional Land Transport Plan. These are delivered as required by the Local Government Act and the Land Transport Management Act (LTMA). The LTMA requires regions to demonstrate alignment to the priorities of central government even if around 50% of the funding comes from ratepayers rather than the Crown.

Due to this complex legislative structure, transport programmes (in all respects, from maintenance and renewals to public transport services, and from safety works to minor and major improvements) are required to follow multiple local, regional and national processes to secure funding.

The process of prioritising and funding transport activities could be simplified and de-risked significantly if central government and NZTA trusted local government to act in good faith on behalf of communities, and, with the reassurance of accountability and appropriate performance frameworks, provided bulk funding (perhaps at regional level and perhaps in 3 or 5 year blocks) for simple, repeatable, ongoing work programmes. This would enable regions and communities to prioritise and optimise their investment in transport through smarter procurement, resulting in lower administrative and regulatory burden.

Recently announced local government reform is focussed solely on amalgamation within regions and currently proposes no change to the delivery of transport activities.

Over recent funding rounds, NZTA is acknowledged for making limited progress in moving towards bulk funding, for example for some smaller councils. There may be further tweaks in the 2027-30 funding round.

This remit supports the progress made and seeks acceleration of this for all other basic, repeatable transport activities nationally. There are multiple benefits that could be achieved from this change.

At national level, removal and de-politicisation of basic transport activities (estimated at approximately 80% of the total spend) would enable the Minister of Transport, via the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, to fully focus on prioritising significant investment (the remaining 20%) on central government priorities such as resilience, safety, emissions reduction or roads of national significance.

There would be a large reduction in the requirements of the National Land Transport Programme prepared by NZTA. Bulk funding of basic transport activities would save NZTA significant time and cost.

Regional Land Transport Plans could be simplified and would be fully focussed on more significant inter-regional and system-change priorities. This presents a resource and cost-saving to regional councils.

Local and regional government would be able to undertake the transport portion of their Long Term Plans with less risk and more funding certainty.



How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

The issue directly relates to several of LGNZ's 'key issues for councils'.

- **Transport:** New Zealand needs greater investment from central government and more joined-up central and local government planning that prioritises building and better asset management. The current approach to investment and planning is not working, nor is it fit for the future. How to make public transport more affordable and accessible.
- **Funding & Financing:** Advocacy for a 'toolbox' approach to funding and financing to provide councils with a range of options to align national goals with local needs.
- **Localism:** Harnessing the power, knowledge, skills and views of local people to drive better outcomes.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Zone 2 councils are willing to trial this proposed bulk-funding approach for the 2027 to 2030 funding round, including development of appropriate accountabilities and performance frameworks.

Attachment One: Further Information

SWOT Analysis – Bulk Funding compared with Project-based Funding

Definition and focus

Bulk funding

- Funding is provided as a programme-level envelope (often multi-year).
- The funder agrees *what outcomes and activity types* the money is for, but not every individual project.
- The recipient has delegated authority to prioritise and deliver works within agreed rules.

Project-based funding

- Funding is approved project by project.
- Each project must meet defined appraisal, business-case, and approval requirements before funding is committed.
- Control is retained centrally by the funder at each decision point.

Decision-making and flexibility

Aspect	Bulk funding	Project-based funding
Decision locus	Decentralised (recipient decides within limits)	Centralised (funder approves each project)
Ability to re-prioritise	High – funding can shift within the programme	Low – changes often require re-approval
Response to changing conditions	Fast (e.g. weather damage, demand shift)	Slower, constrained by approval cycles

Implication: Bulk funding suits environments where needs change frequently and trade-offs must be made continuously. Project funding suits situations where scope is fixed and certainty is required.

Transaction and administrative cost

Bulk funding

- Fewer funding applications and approvals.
- Lower appraisal cost per dollar spent.
- More emphasis on ex-post performance monitoring.

Project-based funding

- High upfront transaction costs (business cases, reviews, approvals).
- Repeated effort for similar or small projects.
- Strong ex-ante assurance but higher overhead.

Implication: Bulk funding is more efficient for many small or routine activities; project funding is defensible for large, discrete investments.

Risk allocation

Risk type	Bulk funding	Project-based funding
Delivery risk	Largely sits with recipient	Shared or retained by funder
Cost overrun risk	Managed within programme envelope	Often escalated back to funder
Portfolio risk	Actively managed by recipient	Managed implicitly via approvals

Implication: Bulk funding assumes the recipient is capable of portfolio and asset-management discipline. Project funding reduces funder exposure to poorly governed organisations but can shift risk management into bureaucratic processes.

Accountability and performance

Bulk funding

- Accountability is outcomes- and performance-based.
- Requires strong monitoring frameworks (KPIs, benchmarking, audits).
- Less visibility of individual project decisions, more focus on results.

Project-based funding

- Accountability is project- and compliance-based.
- Easier to trace decisions and costs to specific assets.
- Can encourage compliance behaviour rather than outcome optimisation.

Implication: Bulk funding works best where there is high trust and mature capability. Project funding suits lower-trust or high-scrutiny environments.

Suitability by activity type

Activity type	Better suited model	Why?
Routine maintenance & renewals	Bulk funding	Predictable, ongoing, portfolio-based

Public transport operations	Bulk funding	Requires service optimisation over time
Low-cost safety improvements	Bulk funding	Many small, standardised interventions
Major new infrastructure	Project-based funding	High cost, unique, high political and fiscal risk
Complex, novel investments	Project-based funding	Uncertainty requires detailed appraisal

Behavioural effects

Bulk funding encourages

- Long-term planning and asset stewardship.
- Trade-offs across a network.
- Innovation and adaptive management.

Project-based funding encourages

- Project promotion and “salami slicing”.
- Optimisation of individual projects rather than systems.
- Risk-averse design to satisfy approval gates.

Strengths and weaknesses summary

Bulk funding

Strengths

- Efficient delivery at scale
- High flexibility and responsiveness
- Strongly aligned with asset-management principles

Weaknesses

- Requires mature governance and capability
- Harder for outsiders to see “what was funded”
- Risk of under-investment in politically visible projects

Project-based funding

Strengths

- High transparency at project level
- Strong control of large or novel investments
- Clear political and fiscal accountability

Weaknesses

- High transaction costs
- Slow to respond to change
- Can undermine network-level optimisation

Conclusion

- Bulk funding is best for *ongoing, repeatable, network-wide activities* where flexibility and value-for-money over time matter most.
- Project-based funding is best for *large, discrete, high-risk investments* where certainty, scrutiny, and one-off decisions dominate.

In practice (including in New Zealand), effective transport systems use both models together, allocating each to the activity types they are best suited for rather than treating them as competing alternatives.

International examples – Delivery of Public Transport Services

Internationally, bulk funding models for public transport are widely used to give transport authorities predictable, flexible, multi-year funding while shifting the focus from approving individual routes or projects to outcomes, performance, and network stewardship. Below is a structured overview of the main models in use globally, with concrete country examples.

Block grants to sub-national governments or transport authorities

How the model works

Central government provides a multi-year block grant for public transport. Money is not tied to specific projects or routes; instead, the recipient authority decides how to allocate funding across operations, service improvements, fleet renewal, or minor infrastructure within an agreed framework.

Countries using this model

- United Kingdom (England, outside London)
 - Local authorities receive consolidated Local Transport Grants, replacing older fragmented funding streams. These grants can be used for buses, public transport priority, accessibility, and service support, with local discretion over spending priorities.
- Germany
 - Federal “Regionalisation funds” are provided to Länder as block transfers to finance regional and local public transport services, especially rail, with states responsible for detailed allocation (documented by OECD trends).

- Canada
 - Cities and provinces receive long-term federal transfers (e.g. public transit streams under infrastructure programmes) that are broadly scoped rather than project-specific, supporting operational and capital needs.

Strengths: predictability, local optimisation, lower administrative burden.

Trade-off: relies on strong oversight and capable local institutions.

Formula-based operating subsidies (network or service level)

How the model works

Funding is allocated using objective formulas (population, service km, ridership, social need). The operator or authority manages services within the resulting financial envelope.

Countries using this model

- Sweden & Nordic countries
 - Regional Public Transport Authorities receive predictable operating funding largely detached from individual line approvals, enabling network-wide planning.
- Japan (urban public transport)
 - Local and national governments provide formula-driven operating support combined with fare revenue, with strong emphasis on efficiency and service quality benchmarks.

Strengths: stability for operators, incentives for efficiency at network scale.

Trade-off: formulas must be kept current to reflect demand and cost changes.

Earmarked payroll or local tax funding (hypothecated bulk revenue)

How the model works

A dedicated tax or levy is assigned directly to public transport authorities. Revenues flow automatically and can be used flexibly for both operations and investment.

Countries using this model

- France – Versement mobilité
 - A mandatory payroll levy on employers (≥ 11 employees) within transport authority areas. It is the single largest funding source for urban public transport and can be used as a bulk operating and capital funding pool.
- United States (selected metro areas)
 - Local sales taxes (e.g. Los Angeles, Seattle) fund transit agencies through dedicated, voter-approved taxes allocated as multi-year funding envelopes (OECD comparative analysis).

Strengths: stable, locally controlled, strongly aligned with beneficiaries.

Trade-off: revenue growth tied to economic cycles.

Service contracts with global budgets (gross-cost or net-cost)

How the model works

Public authorities enter multi-year contracts with operators. Instead of funding individual routes, a global operating budget is set, with performance incentives and penalties.

Countries using this model

- Europe (widely used): Germany, Netherlands, France
 - Authorities specify service outputs and quality standards while paying operators via bulk payments, often linked to punctuality, reliability, or customer satisfaction.
- Australia (bus networks)
 - State governments fund metropolitan bus networks through long-term contracts with operators, using bulk payments rather than route-by-route approval (OECD evidence).

Strengths: cost control, clear accountability, flexibility to redesign networks.

Trade-off: requires sophisticated contract management.

City-region multi-year settlements (outcome-based bulk funding)*How the model works*

Large metropolitan regions receive bespoke, multi-year funding settlements covering all local transport, including public transport operations, sometimes linked to agreed performance outcomes.

Countries using this model

- United Kingdom (mayoral city-regions and London)
 - City-region transport authorities receive long-term settlements enabling integrated planning across buses, metro, rail, and active transport.
- France (Île-de-France Mobilités)
 - Combines national funding, payroll levy revenue, and regional contributions into a large, flexible funding pool for the Paris region's transport system.

Strengths: supports system integration and long-term planning.

Trade-off: complex negotiation and governance arrangements.

Summary

Bulk funding model	Typical users	Key feature
Block grants	UK, Germany, Canada	Local discretion within national envelope
Formula-based subsidies	Nordics, Japan	Predictable, objective allocation
Hypothecated taxes	France, US metros	Dedicated, stable revenue source

Global service contracts	EU, Australia	Budget + performance incentives
City-region settlements	UK metros, Paris	Integrated, outcome-focused funding

Conclusion

Across countries, bulk funding for public transport is used to stabilise finances, enable network-level optimisation, and reduce transaction costs. While design details vary, successful models share three features:

1. Multi-year certainty,
2. Local discretion paired with accountability, and
3. Performance or outcome-based oversight rather than project approval.



8. Improving LTP audit requirements

Proposed by:	Gisborne District Council
Supported by:	Central Hawke’s Bay District Council, Hastings District Council, Stratford District Council, Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Wairoa District Council, Manawatū District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Tararua District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council
Remit:	<p><i>That LGNZ advocate to government for improvements to the efficiency, proportionality, and cost-effectiveness of audit requirements for Long Term Plans and Consultation Documents, including:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Greater proportionality in audit requirements, ensuring that audit effort is aligned with council size, complexity, risk, and materiality; and</i> <i>2. Reducing duplication across audit stages, particularly where similar information and assumptions are subject to repeated review; and</i> <i>3. Improving standardisation, transparency, and cost control in audit delivery, to reduce rework and improve consistency across the sector, and to constrain excessive or escalating audit fees through greater transparency of audit pricing and benchmarking of costs across the sector.</i>

Why is this remit important?

Local authorities are required to prepare Long Term Plans (LTP) that are subject to statutory audit by the Auditor-General. While audit plays a critical role in supporting transparency and accountability, the current approach imposes significant direct and indirect costs across the sector.

Audit requirements apply at multiple stages, including the consultation document and final LTP, and involve detailed supporting information, iterative review, and tight timeframes. This creates substantial organisational pressure and requires significant staff time, consultant input, and rework.

Audit effort is applied consistently across councils regardless of size, complexity, or risk, and can be disproportionate to risk or materiality.

As these requirements are set through legislative and assurance frameworks, individual councils have limited ability to influence them. Sector-level advocacy is required to ensure



audit processes remain proportionate, efficient, and cost-effective while maintaining appropriate assurance.

Background and context

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires local authorities to prepare and adopt an LTP using the special consultative procedure, supported by an Auditor-General's audit opinion. This includes audit of both the consultation document and the final LTP.

These requirements are intended to support transparency, accountability, and sound long-term decision making. However, in practice, the audit component of the LTP process has become a significant cost driver for councils.

Audit processes apply at multiple stages and require extensive supporting information, detailed modelling, and iterative engagement with auditors. Councils must respond to audit queries, revisit assumptions, and undertake rework within constrained statutory timeframes. This creates sustained organisational pressure across finance, strategy, infrastructure, and governance functions.

The cost of audit is not limited to external audit fees. It includes substantial internal staff time, consultant support, and opportunity costs associated with diverting resources from service delivery and implementation.

Audit requirements are applied consistently across the sector, regardless of council size, complexity, or risk profile. This can result in audit effort that is disproportionate to the scale or materiality of the underlying issues.

In addition, the requirement to audit both the consultation document and final LTP creates duplication, with similar information and assumptions subject to repeated review.

This issue is sector-wide and cannot be addressed by individual councils, as audit requirements are set through legislative and assurance frameworks. There is an opportunity to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of audit processes while maintaining appropriate levels of assurance.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit aligns with LGNZ's role in advocating on matters of sector-wide significance and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of local government.

It supports LGNZ's focus on value for money, reducing unnecessary costs, and ensuring regulatory and assurance settings remain proportionate to risk and scale.

The remit is targeted and practical, focusing specifically on statutory audit requirements that apply across all councils and contribute to rising costs and organisational pressure.



Based on publicly available information, this issue does not appear to be the subject of a specific LGNZ workstream. The remit would support LGNZ to advocate for improvements to audit processes that maintain transparency and accountability while improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Gisborne District Council will:

- work with LGNZ and other councils to articulate the practical impacts of current LTP audit requirements;
- provide evidence of direct and indirect costs, including audit fees, staff time, and organisational impacts;
- contribute examples where audit effort is not proportionate to risk, scale, or materiality;
- support the development of practical improvements, including proportional audit approaches, reduced duplication, and improved pricing transparency, and
- participate in any sector engagement, working groups, or discussions with the Auditor-General and Government to progress improvements to audit processes.

The Council is committed to supporting sector-wide solutions that reduce unnecessary cost while maintaining robust public accountability.



9. A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding

Proposed by:	Stratford District Council
Supported by:	South Taranaki District Council, New Plymouth District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Manawatū District Council and Wairoa District Council
Remit:	<i>That LGNZ advocate for a fairer approach towards uneconomic transport infrastructure, where either NZTA commits to co-funding this infrastructure if councils remain legally obligated to own and maintain it, and/or the Government provides clearer guidance and support for councils downgrading or ceasing service to low traffic volume areas</i>

Why is this remit important?

The development of the Rooding Activity Management Plan includes the replacement of our structural assets. Included in the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan (LTP), we have four uneconomic bridges that require replacement at an estimated cost of \$4.5m. If NZTA will not co-fund these replacements and we cannot opt out of ownership, the burden will fall on ratepayers. We are not alone in this scenario: this is a national issue that New Zealand has to resolve.

Background and context

Within the Stratford District there are 18 bridges that will fall into the category of uneconomic transport infrastructure. The definition of this category being “bridges built and currently maintained by council that generally only provide access to individual properties, or bridges built by council that are for private use.”. It should be noted that NZTA is considering a position whereby it will not co-fund the replacement of any uneconomic bridge unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the Gross Domestic Product generated from the land served by the bridge exceeds the cost of replacing the structure over its lifecycle. Legal advice obtained in 2016 states that “if the Council previously maintained/erected the bridge, then the responsibility for maintaining the bridge continues.”. In layman’s terms, if a public body (County, Borough or District Council), has spent public funds either constructing or maintaining a bridge, irrespective of its location, whether it is located on a maintained road or an un-maintained road (paper road), the Council still has a responsibility to maintain this bridge.



How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

LGNZ is focussed on helping councils meet the costs of maintaining their transport networks as part of its infrastructure work programme, especially in the face of rapidly rising costs for labour and materials. The unwillingness of the NZTA to fund this sort of infrastructure while still requiring councils to maintain it could also be considered a form of unfunded mandate imposed by central government, which has long been a focus area for LGNZ.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

We have requested clarification of NZTA's stance on this issue through our relationship with the Director, Regional Relationships.

We are happy to make our existing legal opinion on Road Controlling Authority responsibilities available.

We are open to any other contribution that would be helpful.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o **NGĀ** HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

1. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

ATTACHMENTS - **NGĀ** TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Chief Executive Activity Report, 1 March - 31 May 2026 [26-130.1 - 45 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Tairāwhiti Recovery Report up to 30 April 2026 [26-130.2 - 26 pages]



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Rīpoata a te Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive's Report

25 June 2026





Photo credit: Hinemihi Elliot



Ngā Kaupapa

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He Kupu Whakataki nā te Tumu Whakarae

Introduction from the Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa,

This Chief Executive's Report provides an overview of key activity across Council and the wider operating environment for Te Tairāwhiti for the period 1 March to 31 May.

The period has continued to reflect the complexity of delivering for our communities while responding to ongoing recovery needs, severe weather impacts, infrastructure pressures, national reform and long-term planning requirements. These challenges continue to shape the way Council prioritises its work, manages risk and plans for the future.

Although this report represents activities to the month of May, I'm proud to share that the Waingake Transformation Programme has just been announced winner of the Large-Scale Restoration Project Award at the 2026 Growing Native Forests Champions Awards, held at Fieldays at Mystery Creek in Hamilton on Friday 12 June. This award recognises Waingake as a leading example of large-scale native restoration in Aotearoa.

Recovery remains a central focus across the organisation. Recent weather events have again tested parts of our roading network, flood protection systems, community facilities and emergency response arrangements. They have also reinforced the importance of sustained investment in critical infrastructure, resilience planning, and strong local partnerships.

At the same time, Council is progressing a broad programme of work across water services, resource management, emergency management, climate change, biodiversity, land management, community facilities, township upgrades, and environmental monitoring. Much of this work is long term in nature and will help inform the choices ahead through the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan.

Our relationships with tangata whenua remain fundamental to this work. Across governance forums, operational partnerships, environmental programmes and planning processes, Council continues to focus on building strong, practical and enduring relationships that support shared outcomes for Te Tairāwhiti.

This report highlights the ongoing efforts of Council staff, contractors, iwi partners, community organisations, emergency services, government agencies and funding partners. Their commitment and collaboration continue to support communities, maintain essential services, and progress important work across the region.

While the challenges facing Te Tairāwhiti remain significant, this report shows the range of work continuing across the organisation. Council remains focused on delivering for our communities, strengthening resilience and progressing the work needed to support the long-term wellbeing of our region.

Ngā mihi nui,
Nedine Thatcher Swann



Ngā Rangitaki Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

Central Government Updates

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL PROGRAMME (LWDW)

Local Water Done Well (LWDW) replaced the Three Waters reforms, returning ownership of water services to councils while establishing ongoing regulatory and economic oversight led by Taumata Arowai and the Commerce Commission. Councils were required to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) by 3 September 2025, outlining their preferred service delivery model, infrastructure condition, investment needs, and regulatory compliance. The programme also set a requirement to separate water service revenue and costs from other council activities by 1 July 2027. Its overall aim was to ensure water services, including drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater, are safe, sustainable, and meet government standards. The LWDW programme involved three key bills reforming water services across New Zealand:

Water Services Acts Repeal Act (14 February 2024)

This Act reinstated earlier legislation related to the provision of water services (including local government legislation). This restored continued council ownership and control of water services and responsibility for service delivery.

Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act (September 2024)

This Act sets out the framework for the new three waters management system and includes a requirement for councils to prepare a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) by September 2025, that outlines their future service delivery arrangements. It enables borrowing through the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA).

The Local Government (Water Services) Bill

This Bill establishes the enduring settings for the new water services system and ensures water services are safe, reliable, environmentally resilient, customer-responsive and delivered at the least cost to consumers and businesses.

◆ Updates:

- The Local Government (Waters Services) Bill ascended 26 August 2025.
- Council's Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) was approved by the Department of Internal Affairs, confirming the establishment of a financially ring-fenced internal Water Services Business Unit (WSBU) as Council's future three waters delivery model.
- An Interim Water Services Committee has been established to provide strategic governance oversight and direction for Council's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services, including operational performance, regulatory compliance, asset management and implementation of the Water Services Delivery Plan transition programme.



- Project Manager has been appointed to coordinate and hold the cross functional project team accountable for delivering the agreed statutory, financial, governance and regulatory outcomes required to establish the internal Water Services Business Unit (WSBU).
- Key programme workstreams are progressing, including development of the Water Services Strategy (WSS), Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP), Asset Management Plans (AMPs), Investment and Delivery Plan (IDP), and implementation of stand-alone water services financial reporting frameworks.
- The WSBU programme has been closely aligned with Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP) process to ensure integrated strategic planning, investment prioritisation, financial sustainability, and community engagement.
- Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) WSDP quarterly monitoring report for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026 submitted 30 April 2026.
- The programme remains on track to meet the legislated milestones associated with establishment of the WSBU and adoption of the Water Services Strategy by 30 June 2027.

The WSDP outlines \$213m in planned investment over 10 years from 2024 to 2034. This investment supports:

- renewal of ageing assets, particularly in water and stormwater networks
- compliance with environmental and drinking water standards
- resilience improvements, including system redundancy and emergency response capacity
- infrastructure upgrades to support projected urban growth.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Government is progressing an update of Aotearoa's emergency management system. This work aims to strengthen how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, incorporating lessons from recent severe weather events and inquiries such as the North Island Severe Weather Events (NISWE) Inquiry. This programme sits under the Government's five-year strategy, Strengthening Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management, released in October 2024.

The strategy outlines five key priorities:

1. Empowering a whole society approach.
2. Supporting consistent and effective local delivery.
3. Professionalising the emergency management workforce.
4. Enhancing national coordination.
5. Driving strategic investment and long-term system improvement.

Emergency Management Bill

As part of this national improvement programme, the Government is introducing a new Emergency Management Bill, which will replace the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. It proposes a more modern, integrated approach to emergency management, with a stronger focus on local leadership, iwi partnerships and community resilience.



Key proposed changes include:

- clearer roles and responsibilities across agencies
- consistent minimum national standards
- enhanced powers to support essential services in emergencies.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REFORM

Phase One - of resource management reform has been [completed](#) with the repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBEA) and Spatial Planning Act (SPA).

Phase Two - Targeted RMA amendments and RMA national direction instruments

Phase two includes fast-track approvals and targeted RMA amendments to make it easier to approve new infrastructure and renewable energy projects, build more houses and reduce the regulatory burden on key sectors including farming, mining and other primary industries. The first set of RMA amendments, the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act took effect on 25 October 2024.

Phase Three - Developing legislation to replace the current RMA

Phase three of the work programme is to introduce new resource management legislation to replace the current RMA. Key principles being considered include:

- How resource management laws can more clearly separate urban and spatial planning from environmental protection (this may result in separate spatial/urban planning and environment legislation).
- How the enjoyment of property rights can be reflected as a guiding principle of the system.
- The role of a legislative framework for spatial planning to enable longer term, integrated planning.
- The plan-making and consenting system to speed up processes and reduce the need for consents.

The new resource management system will be rules-based and embed respect for property rights and the rule of law.

The new system will have three core tasks:

1. Unlocking development capacity for housing and business growth.
2. Enabling delivery of high-quality infrastructure for the future, including doubling renewable energy.
3. Enabling primary sector growth and development (including aquaculture, forestry, pastoral, horticulture and mining).

The new system must achieve these objectives while also:

- safeguarding the environment and human health
- adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing risks from natural hazards
- improving regulatory quality in the resource management system
- upholding Treaty of Waitangi settlements and other related arrangements.

**◆ Update:**

The Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill had their first reading on 16 December 2025. The submission period closed on 13 February 2026. Select committee report is due at the end of June 2026. Council lodged a submission on these Bills.

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

This is a stand-alone Act with its own purpose. It prioritises locally, regionally and nationally significant infrastructure and development projects. The Act sets out a 'one-stop shop' process for approvals under a range of legislation, including the RMA.

Resource Management Act Amendment #2

This Bill focuses on changes that contribute to the Coalition Government's priority programmes: Electrify NZ, Infrastructure for the Future, Going for Housing Growth and the Primary Sector Growth Plan. Key changes proposed include:

- extending the duration of port occupation permits
- requiring renewable energy generation and wood-processing facility consents to be decided within one year of application
- enabling Councils to recover costs for review consent conditions when the review is a result of a national direction
- a default 35-year consent durations for renewable energy and long-lived infrastructure
- allowing the minister to approve industry body organisations to deliver farm plan certification and audit services
- allowing the decline of land-use consents or attachment conditions, where there are significant risks of natural hazards.
- increasing penalties for non-compliance to deter offences.



REVIEW OF NATIONAL DIRECTION

Four national direction instruments under the Resource Management Act 1991 have been amended and came into effect from May 2026. They are outlined in the table below.

NATIONAL DIRECTION INSTRUMENT	CHANGES SIGNALLED
NES for Commercial Forestry	These standards provide nationally consistent regulations to manage the environmental effects of forestry. Consultation closed on 27 July 2025. Changes to the NES-CF were gazetted on 7 May and came into force on 4 June 2026.
NES for Marine Aquaculture	The standards replace regional council rules for existing marine farms. In some instances, they allow regional council rules to remain in force. Consultation closed on 27 July 2025. Changes to the NES-MA were gazetted on 7 May and came into force on 4 June 2026.
Stock Exclusion Regulations	The stock exclusion regulations prohibit the access of cattle, pigs and deer to wetlands, lakes and rivers. These regulations were developed as part of the Essential Freshwater reforms. Consultation closed on 27 July 2025. Amendments were notified in the New Zealand Gazette on 9 April 2026 and came into force on 7 May 2026.
National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities	These standards extend coverage and enable operation and maintenance works, including EV charging infrastructure. Amendments were notified in the New Zealand Gazette on 9 April 2026 and came into force on 7 May 2026.



Ngā Mahere Kaunihera me ngā Kaupapa Rangitaki Council Plans and Policy Updates

CLIMATE CHANGE

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities continue to cause warmer temperatures and change weather patterns globally. Tairāwhiti has experienced adverse natural events, including floods and landslides, which may now occur more frequently due to climate change. Our team is working on a holistic workplan covering all aspects of climate change and its impacts.

A lot of progress has been made across Council's mitigation and adaptation priorities.

◆ Updates:

- We have developed a Draft Climate Scenario Policy to direct how climate change scenarios should be applied across climate impact modelling and decision-making. We are currently getting feedback from staff after which the policy paper will be finalised and presented to TRW for endorsement.
- A draft Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan which guides organisational emissions reduction actions was presented to Sustainable Tairāwhiti on 11 June 2026. We are now working with teams to ensure priority actions are included in Activity Management Plans for the 2027-37 LTP.
- We are working with contractors Urban Intelligence on a Community Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to inform future adaptation planning.
- The team have begun early engagement with iwi/hapū partners and communities across Tairāwhiti to support the development of a Tairāwhiti Climate Action Plan and localised climate adaptation plans. We are currently establishing a climate change advisory group and assigning co-convenors for Action Plan workstreams.
- Work is continuing work on a strategic case for a regional emissions reduction and resilience plan. This will be the basis of further stakeholder engagement and co-design of the regional plan.
- The team is progressing the Wainui Climate Adaptation Plan. Poipoia have delivered a Cultural Values Assessment on behalf of Ngāti Oneone. Next steps will be to work with Ngāti Oneone to embed values into the Wainui CAP process.
- Internally we are progressing Climate Change mainstreaming guides to include climate change considerations in all Council functions and operations, starting with activity/asset management planning, procurement and project management frameworks.
- An internal climate change working group has been established to help facilitate collaboration and build cross-council climate change response. Climate Change Strategic objectives and corresponding programmes have been developed and were presented to TRW for endorsement on the 9th of June 2026.



- The team is working to finalise its very first draft Activity Management Plan (AMP) by the end of June 2026 deadline. Subsequently, the AMP will comprise the Team's detailed work programme for the 2027-37 LTP period made up of 1) GDC corporate sustainability plan and 2) the Tairāwhiti Climate Action Plan (TCAP).

Ngā Pūrongo Whakamaru Tūmatanui

Emergency Management Updates

Tairāwhiti Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Plan Review

Development of the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Plan is progressing, with a hazard and risk workshop having been completed in September 2025 to review and assess regional hazards and risks. A draft Risk Assessment report is ready for review and feedback from those who were engaged in the risk assessment process. The assessment is a large volume of work and a separate Chief Executive Group (CEG) workshop to review results is being arranged for early July.

Emergency Management Bill

The Emergency Management Bill (No 2) has been introduced to Parliament to replace the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, implementing key recommendations from the Government Inquiry into the North Island Severe Weather Events. The Bill is part of the Government's programme to modernise emergency management legislation, strengthen community and iwi roles, clarify responsibilities, and raise the minimum standard for emergency management across all levels. The Bill was introduced 8 December 2025 and is still progressing through Parliament. As of late May–early June 2026, it is still at the select committee stage, with the committee report due around early June 2026.



Whakawhānaungatanga Relationships

I want to acknowledge with deep respect the recent passing of Ian Ruru, a highly regarded environmental leader, kaitiaki and advocate for mātauranga Māori in Te Tairāwhiti. Ian worked closely with Gisborne District Council over many years, making a significant contribution to the integration of cultural and scientific knowledge in environmental management. His collaborative work with Council (inspired by the late Bill Ruru – Ian's father) led to the development of the Mauri Compass, an innovative mātauranga Māori-based assessment tool used to monitor and restore the mauri of water bodies, including the Makauri Aquifer, the Gisborne wastewater outfall in Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay, and other culturally significant waterways and discharge environments across the region.

Ian was also instrumental in supporting Council's work to address the culturally unacceptable practice of mortuary waste entering the wastewater system, contributing to the development of the Trade Waste Bylaw provisions that recognised and upheld the principles of Te Mana o te Wai and the cultural values of tangata whenua.

Ian's legacy will endure through the environmental frameworks, partnerships and community capability he helped build across Te Tairāwhiti and beyond.

On behalf of Gisborne District Council, we extend our condolences to Ian's whānau, friends, colleagues and the many communities whose lives he touched through his service and leadership.

In line with Council's commitment to fostering tangata whenua participation in decision-making processes, this section provides updates on current co-governance arrangements we're working through with tāngata whenua, including Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGE). The current government has shifted the focal point of relationships with iwi, placing a stronger focus on regional relationships and mechanisms to continue advancing partnership priorities.

This quarter has reflected a period of transition across several iwi relationships. While some partnerships are now focused on implementing agreed work programmes and progressing shared priorities, others are working through governance renewal, organisational change, or the implications of the evolving resource management landscape.

Council's focus remains on creating the conditions for enduring partnerships that are supported by clear governance settings, agreed priorities, and effective operational delivery.

The Local Leadership Body (LLB)

No further activity has occurred in relation to the Local Leadership Body this quarter. Momentum has slowed following leadership changes alongside competing priorities associated with resource management reform and emerging Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements.



As a result, no progress has been made toward convening an inaugural meeting, nor has there been movement regarding secretariat arrangements or resourcing.

Council intends to reconnect with iwi representatives over the coming months to assess readiness and determine whether there remains collective appetite to progress the establishment of the committee at this time. A patient approach will be required to ensure any future effort is genuinely partner-led rather than Council-driven.

Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust (RIT)

Operational engagement with Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust remains paused. However, a governance-to-governance hui was held on 6 May, providing an opportunity for both parties to acknowledge challenges within the relationship and discuss a pathway forward. Shared themes included the need for a governance reset, clearer accountability mechanisms, early engagement, and the development of a Tiriti-based framework to guide future interactions. While operational workstreams have not resumed both parties expressed a commitment to rebuilding a constructive relationship founded on mutual respect, trust and shared outcomes.

The relationship remains in a rebuilding phase. Continued governance leadership and clarity around priorities will be critical to creating the conditions for successful operational engagement.

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou (TRoNP)

Council governance met with Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou (TRoNP) on 16 June. There was a shared focus on shifting from a reactive approach to a future-focused, partnership-based model that supports sustainability for both Council and TRoNP. Staff will work with staff from TRoNP to consider options to give effect to their aspirations for future governance consideration.

Operational relationships remain largely positive across freshwater planning, flood resilience, recovery activities and catchment initiatives throughout the Waiapu and northern catchments. Work also continues for iwi-prioritised roading projects and associated infrastructure programmes.

The relationship remains positive, with growing momentum toward restoring governance oversight and strengthening strategic alignment across shared priorities.

Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou (NRMoNHNP)

Engagement with Ngā Rohe Moana has recently recommenced following a period of focus on the development of an environmental covenant with the Crown. Council understands this process is nearing completion and will provide an important foundation for future engagement and work programmes.



As a result of the covenant, progress on both the draft Memorandum of Understanding and participation in planning-related initiatives has been slower than anticipated. Recent discussions have focused on re-establishing momentum with Ngā Rohe Moana signalling a desire to revisit the draft MOU and clarify how the relationship interfaces with Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou and other strategic initiatives.

The relationship remains positive and constructive with both parties committed to strengthening how they work together moving forward.

Te Aitanga-ā-Māhaki (TaM)

A significant milestone this quarter was the signing of the relationship agreement between Council and Te Aitanga-ā-Māhaki. Attention has now shifted toward implementation and progressing the agreed work programme. Discussions regarding Mana Whakahono ā Rohe continue, with draft arrangements under review by legal advisors to ensure they are fit for purpose and responsive to the changing resource management landscape. The relationship remains positive, supported by strong operational engagement and Te Aitanga-ā-Māhaki's active participation in Council's Long-Term Plan strategic direction discussions. The relationship agreement provides a strong platform for advancing future partnership opportunities.

Ngāi Tāmanuhiri (NT)

Ngāi Tāmanuhiri has undergone governance and leadership change with Daniel Proctor appointed Chair, Tangiwai Wilson appointed Deputy Chair, and Beth Tupara-Katene confirmed as Chief Executive.

Council continues to work with Ngāi Tāmanuhiri on a range of matters including future relationship arrangements, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, planning priorities, and shared work programmes. Draft Mana Whakahono arrangements have been prepared and are progressing through legal review.

Ngāi Tāmanuhiri remains actively engaged in Local Water Done Well discussions and holds representation on the Interim Water Services Committee. Particular interest has been expressed in the establishment of future water service delivery arrangements and the management of water infrastructure within Ngāi Tāmanuhiri's area of interest. The relationship remains positive and constructive, supported by strong participation in Long-Term Plan strategic discussions and ongoing dialogue regarding future priorities.

Te Awapuni Moana Trust (TAMT)

While formal engagement has been limited this quarter, there are positive indications that discussions regarding the relationship agreement and future partnership opportunities may recommence soon.



The Trust has successfully progressed aspects of its development aspirations and secured further funding to advance this work. Council remains interested in understanding how future opportunities may align with broader regional objectives.

The relationship remains positive, with both parties maintaining open lines of communication while priorities continue to evolve.

Paokahu Trust (PT)

Engagement with Paokahu Trust has remained limited this quarter despite several attempts by Council to progress discussions regarding the aftercare plan and wider 50-year roadmap. Opportunities to engage with trustees have been explored but have yet to materialise.

No developments have occurred in relation to Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust involvement, with Paokahu Trust continuing to lead decisions regarding how and when broader parties are brought into discussions. This does not hinder our ability to fulfil any statutory obligations.

Council remains committed to maintaining communication and supporting the Trust when it is ready to progress the next phase of work.

Maraetaha Joint Steering Group (JSG)

The Maraetaha Joint Steering Group met in May, including a site visit to the Waingake Water Treatment Plant. The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen understanding of Council infrastructure and discuss future partnership opportunities.

Progress on the Patemaru access arrangements remains linked to broader relationship discussions and future aspirations for the partnership. Similarly, work to establish a dedicated implementation role remains a priority, recognising the need to build additional capacity to support delivery of agreed actions.

Work continues with Mr Elmers regarding a proposed addendum to the historical land report prepared by Jane Luiten. Council, the Joint Steering Group and the report author will work collaboratively to determine an appropriate process for considering these requests.

The relationship remains positive and continues to demonstrate the value of long-term partnership built on shared understanding and respect.

WAIAPU JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT / WAIAPU KŌKĀ HŪHUA/RESTORING THE WAIAPU CATCHMENT

The Waiapu Kōkā Hūhua is a 100-year restoration programme, established via a Memorandum of Understanding between Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou (TRONPnui), Gisborne District Council and the Crown (Ministry for Primary Industries).

- This long-term partnership was born from the Waiapu Accord in 2014 and aims to address impacts of erosion and restore the health of the Waiapu Catchment. It recognises a deep connection between healthy land, healthy rivers and healthy people: Ko te mana ko te hauora o te whenua; ko te hauora o ngā awa; ko te hauora o te iwi.



- The Waiapu Joint Management Agreement (JMA) sits alongside this to support shared resource management decision-making within the catchment. While the Waiapu Kōkā Hūhua programme provides overarching restoration vision and intent, the JMA guides how work will be implemented - particularly in relation to development and delivery of the Waiapu Catchment Plan.
- This Catchment Plan will provide a long-term vision for managing freshwater and natural resources in the Waiapu, integrating both mātauranga-a-Porou and western science to support holistic and effective resource management.

◆ **Update:**

Good progress was made throughout 2025 on both technical work and engagement to inform the Waiapu Catchment Plan. With ongoing uncertainty around freshwater reform, staff have paused work on the freshwater planning programme, including the Waiapu Catchment Plan mahi. Some technical work is continuing in the background, including technical guidance to inform sustainable gravel management. Further planning progress will depend on having more clarity about what the new Resource Management system will look like and what it will require. Once that new direction is provided, staff will be able to recalibrate their approach and complete the mahi.



Ngā Whakahaere Mahi

General Management

PEOPLE AND CAPABILITY

Our ongoing focus remains on strengthening recruitment and retention, supporting staff wellbeing, and building leadership capability across the organisation. We continue to invest in initiatives that enhance employee engagement, develop future talent, and support a high-performing, future-ready workforce.

◆ Updates:

- **Organisational Development Strategy:** Implementation of the new employee engagement tool is nearing completion. The platform will provide improved insights into employee engagement, enabling more timely feedback and supporting continuous improvement across the organisation.
- **Learning and Development Review:** Work has commenced on a comprehensive review of Council's learning and development framework and the development of a Learning and Development Strategy. This work will help ensure our approach to capability development aligns with organisational priorities, supports career growth, and equips our people with the skills needed for the future.
- **Cadetship Programme:** The third collaborative Cadetship Programme with MSD has commenced, continuing our commitment to creating pathways for local people into meaningful local careers and supporting workforce development across the region.
- **Emerging Leaders Programme:** Participants successfully completed the programme, further developing their leadership capability through practical learning experiences. Two teams also represented Council at the Australasian Management Challenge in Wellington, providing valuable exposure to complex organisational problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership in a national forum.

● Next Steps:

- Complete implementation and embed the new employee engagement platform across the organisation.
- Continue the review of Council's learning and development approach and develop a Learning and Development Strategy to support future capability needs.
- Continue supporting and developing participants in the third Cadetship Programme.
- Evaluate outcomes from the Emerging Leaders Programme and identify opportunities for future leadership development initiatives.
- Continue initiatives that engage and develop local talent, including future workforce and succession planning activities.



HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

Our Health and Safety team has set strong best practice standards to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. However, our focus goes beyond meeting legal requirements. It is about building a culture where everyone goes home safe and well every day. You can view our current Health and Safety Policy on Council's website.

We continue to support our staff across several important health and safety matters, including:

- Acting on the findings of the SafePlus Assessment. A three year strategic Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan has been developed and presented to TRW.
- Proposed changes to the Health and Safety at Work Act, including a greater focus on managing critical risks, which are incorporated into the three year strategic Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan, and lower compliance requirements for smaller businesses with fewer than 20 workers.

FOCUS AREAS

Recovery Workstreams - Recovery workstreams are progressing well including Large Woody Debris removal, slips and drop out repairs, FOSAL demolitions.

Council continues to provide active oversight and support to Logic Forest Solutions through ongoing health and safety audits, assurance processes, and verification activities to ensure risks are appropriately identified and effectively managed.

Health, Safety, and Security - Incidents of abuse and inappropriate behaviour are continuing across several workstreams. Events are trending down from January.

Injury Summary - No injuries of note.

INCIDENT TYPE	INCIDENT DESCRIPTION	MARCH – MAY EVENTS*	ROLLING 12 MONTHS
Near miss	An event or incident that someone has been exposed to that could have caused injury.	4 x near miss	52
Injury	Someone has been physically hurt and reported.	1 x minor	46
Incident	An event or incident that has caused damage to equipment, property, or environment and includes	0 x moderate 16 x minor	329



INCIDENT TYPE	INCIDENT DESCRIPTION	MARCH – MAY EVENTS*	ROLLING 12 MONTHS
	threats and abuse to staff members.		
Notifiable event	Any of the following events that arise from work: death, notifiable illness or injury, or notifiable incident that triggers requirements to preserve the site and notify WorkSafe NZ.	0	1
Illness	Someone has seen or been involved in an event or exposed to a situation that has resulted in individual becoming ill or unwell, e.g. lung disease, asbestosis, legionnaires disease. This is from workplace exposure and does not include common illness such as personal illness, cold and flu.	0 x major 0 x minor	4

FINANCIAL REPORTING

At the time of this report, financial results for May 2026 were not finalised at the time of reporting. The latest available results have been presented to the Finance and Performance Committee 2 June 2026 ([Report 26-134](#)).

The summary below is for 30 April 2026 taken from the report:

Council has a net surplus of \$65.7 million, \$7.5 million behind the YTD Annual Plan forecast. In financial reporting, the net surplus represents the difference between Council's total revenue and its total expenses for the period.

The key driver of the lower surplus is the timing of capital grants. Capital grants revenue is recognised when the related projects are completed. Most of the lower grant revenue relates to the timing of roading recovery projects and flood resilience.

While this creates a lower-than-expected surplus to the Year-to-Date Annual Plan, the roading recovery works are still on track to be completed within the overall 3-4 years of recovery programme.



Both the grants and capital expenditure will transfer to the following financial years, with no adverse cash flow or financial impacts to Council.

A summary of the key financial indicators for February year to date:

YTD total revenue: \$222 million, with approximately \$99m from subsidies relating to roading reinstatement works, FOSAL Category 2P (house lifting) and Category 3 (relocation grants) and large woody debris.

YTD total expenditure: \$157 million, including approximately \$40m for emergency reinstatement costs, FOSAL grants and large woody debris.

YTD capital expenditure: \$88.9 million, represents 77% of Annual Plan. Most of the expenditure to date relates to roading network for reinstatement works and bridge repairs; FOSAL Category 3 voluntary property buyouts and Waipaoa Flood Control Resilience project. Carryovers totalling \$15.8m are being recognised within the 2026/27 Annual Plan, as outlined in [\[Report 26-135\]](#) to align with timing of project delivery where the work is expected to occur in the first half of 2026/27 financial year.

Last year total capital expenditure for the same period (2024/25 YTD) was \$76m.f



Ngā Mahi Arotahinga

Focus Projects

RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

A [feasibility study](#) has been completed as part of Council's investigation into a potential Community Resource Recovery Centre for Te Tairāwhiti. These centres operate successfully in other parts of the country and offer a range of benefits, including:

- Extending the life of local landfills.
- Reducing the volume and cost of transporting waste out of the region.
- Creating opportunities for education, training and employment.

Findings of the study were presented to Council and a decision made to progress to the next phase - with a key focus on exploring potential funding options, which is essential to the viability of the project.

◆ Update:

Council has endorsed progression of the Resource Recovery Centre project to Phase 2 following presentation of the feasibility study. This phase is now underway, with a variation scope received from Tonkin + Taylor to advance site requirements, option development, concept design and procurement advice for the proposed redevelopment at 275 Lytton Road.

The focus is on developing a design that maximises use of existing infrastructure, enables early delivery of priority services, and supports staged implementation as funding allows. Emphasis is also being placed on financial prudence and maintaining flexibility to adapt the design as required.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Indoor Multipurpose Centre (IMC)

Te Tairāwhiti has a recognised need for additional indoor court facilities to support recreation, sports, and community activities. The Community Facilities Strategy has identified a potential indoor multipurpose facility as a long-term opportunity to strengthen regional recreational infrastructure.

◆ Updates:

- The IMC remains a regional priority investment, with Tairāwhiti confirmed as having the lowest indoor court provision nationally, as confirmed by the Sport New Zealand National Facilities Strategy and a shortfall of 2.7 courts.
- To address this, the IMC Single Stage Business Case was developed and confirmed Kiwa Pools as the preferred site for the IMC based on the 2024 feasibility study, community consultation, and business case.
- The IMC Single Stage Business Case received unanimous endorsement from Council at an Extraordinary Meeting on 9 April 2025, enabling the project to progress to its next phase.
- Council has committed \$2.5 million to the project and endorsed community consultation on a proposed additional \$6 million contribution through the upcoming Long Term Plan



(LTP). A significant level of work is required to raise capital funds needed to build the Indoor Multipurpose Centre.

- Since then, The Y Gisborne has indicated its Childers Road facility is nearing end of life and has approached Council with a partnership proposal, including:
 - potential participation as a co-design/co-delivery partner
 - consideration of an operator role for the IMC (and potentially Kiwa Pools)
 - A proposed capital contribution of around \$3million.
- This development may create a credible alternative site option at Childers Road/Victoria Domain, requiring a structured and transparent comparative assessment across both sites.
- To support this work, a Heads of Agreement has been signed between Council, Trust Tairāwhiti, and The Y Gisborne, with all parties contributing funding toward the next stage of analysis.
- A Steering Group and Working Group have also been established (with our mana whenua partners invited to be part of this process), and Stefan Pishief, Chief Executive of Whiti Ora Tairāwhiti (formerly Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti), has joined Council in a part-time Project Manager role.
- The current programme aims to complete the Childers Road analysis and confirm a final site recommendation by late 2026, in time to align with LTP consultation timeframes.
- The project team has engaged with key stakeholders who either utilise the Childers Road precinct or have an interest in the potential development of an IMC at this location. These stakeholders include:
 - The Y Gisborne
 - Thistle Football Club
 - Badminton Eastland
 - Victoria Sport and Recreation Hub
 - Central Football
 - Rangataua o Aotearoa
 - Tairāwhiti Adventure Trust / Climbing NZ
 - Trust Tairāwhiti
- Feedback from other potential IMC user groups, including basketball, volleyball and netball, was captured through the earlier Single Stage Business Case process.
- An architect has been engaged and preliminary concept designs are being developed for a range of sites spread across Childers Road and Victoria Domain.
- The project team will continue working closely with stakeholders to identify concerns and explore practical solutions as the project develops.

● Next Steps:

- Assessment of the preliminary concept designs for the Childers/Victoria Domain site to determine what is viable and the implications for any preferred location.
 - Continued engagement with key stakeholders regarding the preferred location.



- Further analysis to be undertaken including:
 - Preliminary site investigations.
 - Master Plan and concept design development.
 - Capital cost estimation.
- Communication update to be provided to the wider community on the progress of the IMC and the re-assessment of the Childers site.
- Capital funding strategy to be developed.

City Centre Revitalisation Programme

The City Centre Revitalisation Programme is a key initiative in the 2024–2027 Three Year Plan, reflecting strong community support for a more vibrant, welcoming and resilient Gisborne city centre. The programme combines early-win activations with longer-term transformational planning to improve how our city centre looks, feels and functions.

◆ Updates:

- Preparation of the draft Action and Investment Plan (AIP) is well advanced. This includes development of design scenarios, a programme business case and investment logic mapping to support a phased delivery approach. Delivery of the AIP will require funding through the next Long-Term Plan, alongside significant co-investment from central government and other partners.
- The Art in the City programme continues to expand, with new installations including artwork by Te Wharau School students displayed in the shopfront of an empty building on the Lowe Street/Gladstone Road corner.
- Restoration of the 31 Gladstone Road heritage façade has been completed with incentivisation funding from Council and Trust Tairāwhiti (up to \$10,000 contribution).
- The CBD Custodian role continues to provide a visible presence in the city centre, with hours adjusted for the winter period.
- Delivery of the Catalyst project, led by Trust Tairāwhiti, is experiencing delays while the Trust and Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust work to establish a governance framework to support the next phase of the project.

● Next Steps:

- Deliver a series of community engagement opportunities to inform the final Action and Investment Plan.
- Work with community groups and local kura to develop further installations for the Art in the City programme.
- Deliver additional city centre activations as part of Phase 2 of the Downtown Lounge programme.
- Monitor the impact and effectiveness of the CBD Custodian role.
- Continue processing applications to the Heritage Facade Fund.
- Develop a parklet trial to further enhance streetscape activation within the city centre.



RURAL TOWNSHIP UPGRADE SCHEDULE

RURAL TOWNSHIP	FUNDS AVAILABLE	FINANCIAL YEAR UPGRADE TO BE COMPLETED	FORECASTED COMPLETION DATE	REASON FOR VARIANCE IN COMPLETION
Matawai	\$350,000	June 2025	December 2025	Completed
Te Karaka	\$350,000	June 2025	December 2026	Delayed due to the need to remove unsafe equipment. Council is planning the removal of items.
Tolaga Bay	\$350,000	June 2025	March 2026	Completed in May 2026, with additional funding secured to cover new basketball hoops, line marking and contractor costs associated with the new full multipurpose court.
Manutuke	\$350,000	June 2026	Delay likely	Two community engagements conducted April and May 2026 post analysis and presentation of survey aspirations. A final meeting will be facilitated early June 2026 to endorse all short, medium and long term aspirations.
Patutahi	\$350,000	June 2025	December 2026 - Delayed	Additional funding is required to complete the upgrades, with applications currently underway to Trust Tairāwhiti and the Eastern & Central Community Trust. Installation is planned for December 2026.
Tokomaru Bay	\$350,000	June 2026	TBC	Township upgrade plan completed and endorsed. Council is currently sourcing quotes.



RURAL TOWNSHIP	FUNDS AVAILABLE	FINANCIAL YEAR UPGRADE TO BE COMPLETED	FORECASTED COMPLETION DATE	REASON FOR VARIANCE IN COMPLETION
Muriwai	\$350,000	June 2027	N/A	Community engagement is scheduled to commence between July and September 2026. The upgrade is planned to be completed by June 2027.
Wharekahika	\$350,000	June 2027	N/A	The playground was reinstated following the January 2026 weather event, with some residual work still required. Community engagement is scheduled to commence between July and September 2026.
Te Araroa	\$350,000	June 2028	N/A	Community engagement is scheduled to commence in January 2027 and be completed by April 2028.
Waerenga o Kuri / Tiniroto	\$350,000	June 2029	N/A	The current focus is Waerenga o Kuri, with Tiniroto upgrades completed in 2022. Community engagement is scheduled to commence in January 2028 and completed by April 2028.
Tikitiki/ Rangitukia	\$350,000	June 2029	N/A	Community engagement to commence February 2028 and completed by April 2028.
Ruatōrea	\$350,000	June 2030	N/A	Community engagement to commence February 2029 and completed by April 2029.



CURRENT UPGRADES UPDATES

Matawai

The township upgrade is complete. The team is now focusing on the Better off Funded project. Engagement to commence with landowners along Motu Road to install a footpath from the Motu Road Bridge to Matawai Marae.

Manutuke

Hard copy and online surveys were analysed and presented to the community in April, where further discussions and considerations presented. A follow up meeting was facilitated on the 9th of May, where community members prioritised the available funding be utilised for upgrades to the Domain. A final community meeting will be held on Tuesday the 9th of June 2026 to confirm short, medium and long term aspirations.

Te Karaka

Council has completed a safety audit of the playground and identified end-of-life equipment for removal. Council's Rural Liaison Manager will re-engage with the Tu Ake Te Karaka community group to present the findings and seek approval of a concept plan. Councils Liveable Communities team will oversee delivery of the playground upgrade.

Tolaga Bay

All new playground equipment and bark were installed in April 2025. Additional funding was required to complete the multipurpose court, and Basketball New Zealand, supported by Council, successfully secured this funding from the Eastern and Central Community Trust. The court, including hoops and line marking, was completed under the oversight of the Uawa Skate n Park collective with Council input. It remains closed for two weeks to allow the grass to regrow. The Uawa Skate n Park collective will officiate the court's official opening in the near future.





Patutahi Township Safety Improvements

In May 2024, Council received the results of a Patutahi community survey, with 68 responses identifying speeding as a significant local safety concern. Feedback highlighted increasing pedestrian activity associated with school enrolments, visiting whānau during school holidays, and community events, alongside ongoing concerns about vehicles travelling at excessive speeds through the village.

Community engagement also identified the development of a new playground as a priority for Patutahi, with Council currently pursuing additional funding opportunities to support this project.

In response to the safety concerns raised by the community, Council engaged Urban Connection to undertake a Safe System Audit of the proposed transport improvements.

The following safety improvements have now been completed:

- Two safer pedestrian crossing facilities on Atkins Street
- Speed humps on Biggs Street, Lavenham Road and Atkins Street
- Associated signage and road markings.

Tokomaru Bay

During the 2025 Christmas and New Year period, the community was invited to complete surveys online and in hard copy. From this engagement, residents identified the following priorities for the Tokomaru Bay Township Upgrade.

Short-term priorities/aspirations

- Traffic calming on Beach Road.
- Partner with Gisborne District Council to establish a water collection site at Hatea-a-Rangi Domain, including water tanks and a filtration system to improve water resilience.
- Upgrade the Cenotaph and Memorial Gates.
- Provide an additional water tank and a 20-foot container for the Community Native Nursery to support storage and create a dry work area.
- Set up two tsunami zone shelter sites with water tanks and 20-foot storage containers.
- Use any residual funds for vegetation management, with work contracted locally to support employment.
- Support water, land, and catchment planning, monitoring, and management.
- Ensure hapū endorsement of civil construction contractors working in the Tokomaru Bay area.



Medium-term with climate change aspirations/priorities

- Flood mitigation, including stop banks and upgrades to drainage and culvert systems.
- A rangatahi zone or conference facility.
- A circular economy supported by central and local government, initially focused on education and tourism.
- Greater self-sustainability and self-sufficiency.
- Improved community resilience and preparedness.
- Resilient access and critical infrastructure management.
- A wharf or marina to support tourism and civil defence responses.



The above is a picture of the Tokomaru Bay Community Native Nursery located at Hatea-a-Rangi School.

Better Off Funding Projects (BOF) – Rural Township Upgrades

The focus now shifts to the installation of safer crossings in Wharekahika, Te Araroa, Tikitiki and Rangitukia with the installation of a footpath in Wharekahika and an extension to the footpath in Rangitukia. Council has completed the invitation to tender procurement process and is now considering the appointment of a contractor. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by October 2026, weather permitting. The final BOF projects include the installation of a footpath on Waiomatatini Road South, Ruatoria and Motu Road, Matawai to improve the safety of pedestrians. It is vital that this piece of work is delivered before the end of February 2027 to meet contractual funding requirements.



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE UPDATE

The Environmental Science and Monitoring team continue to progress state of the environment monitoring programmes and the science programme, with a focus on freshwater and the coastal environment and completing projects started under the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) review.

SCIENCE & TRMP RESEARCH UPDATE

The following projects and annual monitoring programmes have been completed:

- Draft State of the Environment 2025 report (now in design production phase)
- State of Coastal and Estuarine Water Quality in Tairāwhiti-Gisborne (2026)
- Long-term shoreline changes for sandy embayed beaches (2026)
- Annual summer crop survey
- Waiapu river mean bed level trends (1958-2025)
- Intertidal reef monitoring at Onepoto, Kaiti Beach (2026)
- Annual estuary monitoring (Te Wherowhero Lagoon, Kaitawa estuary and Turanganui estuary)
- Environment telemetry systems review and options assessment.

MONITORING UPDATE

The following annual monitoring programmes have been completed:

- Database management: successful transition of our Hilltop system to a new server
- Completed biomonitoring (aquatic life surveys) at 85 sites
- Weekly summertime recreational water quality (freshwater and coastal sites) testing completed
- Completed quarterly groundwater quality sampling and water level monitoring programme.
- Hydrology field site inspections and maintenance programmes completed – including six flood warning sites
- National drought management workshop attended (potential pilot project for new dry weather tool, like is used at HBRC)
- Ongoing maintenance and review of new flood warning system.



Te Whakapanoni Rerenga Rauropi ā-rohe

Regional Biodiversity and Biosecurity

We are responsible for driving biodiversity improvement across Council's land portfolio and implementing Council's strategic direction for biodiversity and biosecurity.

Our biodiversity team provides specialist terrestrial and freshwater advice for Council and our diverse communities to facilitate best practice and improved outcomes for biodiversity across the region. We also deliver major projects in partnership with tangata whenua, including Waingake Transformation Programme and Haumanu Tū Ora Programme and the Titirangi Restoration Programme led by Ngāti Oneone.

The biosecurity team play a key role in delivering Council's statutory functions. We implement the Regional Pest Management Plan, provide education and advocacy to landowners and the community, and collaborate with national and regional partners on priority biosecurity issues including pathway management.

◆ Updates:

- Finalised uploading forest monitoring data for the first two surveys of Waingake Waterworks (QEII) Bush permanent vegetation plots into the National Vegetation Survey (NVS) database.
- Delivery and support of Te Wiki o Te Taiao - Conservation Week activities, including Greys Bush Night Walks, Makorori dune care, Te Wherowhero Lagoon weed control, and a community hui around freshwater improvement.
- Delivered a presentation to a recent wetland wānanga on the Natural Heritage Fund and how it can and has been used to support wetland restoration.
- Ongoing support for Anaura Incorporation to create and implement their native revegetation plan for parts of their whenua. This has included site visits to the station, PMA visits to identify key species in the landscape and determine natural resilience potential, and a site visit to Waingake to share learnings.
- Resource Consent technical advice- providing comment on vegetation clearance, replanting proposals, commercial forestry activities and works in areas of ecological significance, where an activity is likely to impact the natural environment.

● Next Steps:

- Preparation of Activity and Asset Management plans.
- Finalise design of spatial monitoring framework for indigenous vegetation.
- Applications open for 2026 Natural Heritage Fund round.



WAINGAKE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

The Waingake Transformation Programme is one of Council's major flagship projects. Working together with mana whenua Maraetaha Incorporation, we have an ambitious plan to transition 1600ha of plantation pine forestry in our water supply catchments back to a thriving indigenous ngahere. The programme aims to restore the cultural and environmental heritage of Waingake, restoring biodiversity and delivering natural infrastructure to ensure the protection and resilience of Tairāwhiti's water supply.

◆ Updates:

- Waingake-Pamoā Joint Steering Group and Councillor site visit to Waingake.
- Work continues on implementing priority actions from the JSG work programme, including an access agreement for Patemaru Station and capacity building within Maraetaha Inc to support ongoing operational mahi.
- The project has made significant progress in several areas with the establishment of the new boundary fence between the Waingake Waterworks QEII Bush and Patemaru Station, the roll out of the Waingake fire plan and the launch of the Waingake Ngahere Ora Teams communications plan and social media platforms.
- A new supplier has been engaged for the next three years for planting and maintenance tasks and pre-planting work for the 2026 season has begun.
- Wilding Pine contractors continue to make steady progress and the final round of ungulate control for this financial year is planned for June.
- 130 fully automated traps have been ordered to boost pest animal control within the Waingake Waterworks QEII Bush.
- Secured ongoing funding from One Tree Planted for the 2026 planting season.

● Next Steps:

- Complete pre-plant spot spraying and commence planting.
- Undertake final round of ungulate control for this financial year.
- Work with the Drinking Water team to implement the recommendations in the Waingake fire plan in preparation for this summer.

I am pleased to share that the Waingake Transformation Programme has been announced as the winner of the Large-Scale Restoration Project Award at the 2026 Growing Native Forests Champions Awards, presented on 12 June at Fieldays in Mystery Creek, Hamilton.

This national recognition acknowledges Waingake as a leading example of large-scale native forest restoration in Aotearoa New Zealand and reflects the significant commitment, collaboration and long-term vision that underpin the programme.

The Waingake Transformation Programme represents a sustained commitment to restoring and protecting our whenua, safeguarding the region's water supply, enhancing biodiversity, and creating enduring environmental and community benefits for future generations.



It also reflects the foresight shown by Council in 2018 when it committed to a long-term vision of large scale native reversion across Waingake, recognising the environmental, cultural and community benefits this would deliver over generations."

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise of those involved. My sincere congratulations to our team Amy England, Scott Sharp, Leon Tarsau, Jimmy Brown, Ariana Ngaronoa and Haykim Smith, together with our valued partners at Maraetaha Incorporated and Ngāi Tāmanuhiri. To see this kaupapa recognised on a national stage is a testament to the passion, leadership and hard work that each of you has contributed.

If you would like to follow the ongoing journey of Waingake Ngahere Ora, please connect with their Facebook and Instagram pages.





HAUMANU TŪ ORA (TŪRANGANUI ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT)

This is a four-year project aiming to restore the mauri and ora of the Tūranganui Estuary, including the Taruheru, Waikanae and Waimatā waterways. The programme is delivered in partnership with Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust, Ngāti Oneone and Te Whanau a Kai.

Part funded by the Ministry for the Environment through to June 2026, the programme delivers riparian and wetland restoration, fish passage remediation, pest animal and plant control (including a community trapping programme), education and community engagement, and ongoing monitoring.

◆ Update:

The programme is currently on track to achieve 95–100% of all contracted objectives under the funding deed with the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

Our focus is now on completing the remaining deliverables, alongside progressing programme handover and close-out activities in line with MfE and Council requirements. The biodiversity team will continue to lead:

- Ongoing site maintenance to ensure successful establishment
- A benefits-led monitoring framework aligned with national best practice guidance
- Meeting ongoing reporting commitments to external funders
- Community activation across Tū Taiao, schools, iwi and hapū, and private landowners
- Building long-term stewardship, alignment, and delivery capacity beyond council land

This approach will enable Haumanu Tū Ora to transition from a time-bound restoration programme into a long-term, urban biodiversity enhancement programme designed to deliver enduring ecological resilience and lasting community outcomes for Tūranganui-a-Kiwa.

BIOSECURITY

◆ Update:

Council and Biosecurity NZ engaged the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to undertake Marine Biosecurity surveillance at the Gisborne Port. The surveillance was carried out from April 21st to 23rd, 2026 to determine the presence of Marine Pests including Mediterranean Fan Worm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) and other invasive species.

No pest species were located in the search area, a very positive result. This is the third consecutive dive with zero Fan Worm or other pest species located. Elimination can officially be declared in the 2027/2028 financial year should no further Fan Worm be located.

The team continues to focus on Moth Plant education and advocacy within the urban area, responding to requests for service, and engaging with property owners and occupiers to encourage control.



1,224 pest plant sites were visited this quarter. 545 of these had no pest plants present. Sites with progressive containment species have the highest levels of infestation, with a significant number of sites at Level 4 (50+ plants per ha).

Classification	Zero pest present	Level 1 1-5 plants/ha	Level 2 6-25 plants/ha	Level 3 26-50 plants/ha	Level 4 50+ plants/ha
Eradication	101	19	12	5	6
Progressive containment	443	211	214	62	114
Site led	0	1	2	0	5
Sustained control	1	0	1	0	0

Significant planning and preparedness work for the arrival of High-Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI/bird flu) continues with national agencies and the regional sector. Funding has been secured through Te Uru Kahika to bring regional plans into alignment, secure PPE stocks and supply Councils with signage for use during an outbreak. TUK has also engaged external support to determine appropriate disposal mechanisms and pathways.



Ngā Mahinga Whakahaere Whenua

Land Management

The Land Management Team is the part of Council that sits between policy and landowners. We are responsible for the on the ground implementation of outcomes that are set through strategy and regulation in the Sustainable Land Management space.

Our team delivers a set of essential, statutory-linked services that underpin Councils ability to manage land and natural resources across the region. The team provides education and advocacy on all things 'sustainable land use', manages our soil conservation nursery, supports the current Farm Environment Plan (FEP) system, provides technical recommendations to resources consents (including afforestation and harvest consents) and supports community/catchment groups and landowners throughout the region.

◆ Update:

- Ministry for the Environment (MfE), Essential Freshwater Programme.
 - The final report (due March 2026) has been approved by MfE and the project is now complete.
 - This project has been a success for the Land Management Team and for many rural communities in our region.
 - We have assisted (and continue to assist) seven community catchment groups to various stages, some of which have received external funding to undertake projects high on their priority list, including; wetland workshops, stream assessments and a mauri compass workshop, and the implementation of a pest control project.
- Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Hill Country Erosion Programme (HCEP).
 - Milestone 7 is complete. Over 12 hectares of land treatment undertaken and over 13,000 hectares of land that has been assessed through 13 Erosion Control Plans setting out recommendations for sustainable land use for the landowner.
 - Milestones 8 & 9 are due for completion and reporting by 30th June. We are well on the way to completing both milestones. The coastal nurseries looking good and planting sites being prepped for the winter planting season and the team is working hard and completing LUC mapping and Erosion Control Plans across the region.
 - The Team has refocused the LUC mapping and Erosion Control Plans to the Te Arai Catchment for the rest of the year. This will allow us to assess the Erosion and Interim Transition Zone (ITZ) at a catchment scale, working with landowners to understand treatment priorities at a farm scale as well as at a catchment level. We will be working alongside the Te Arai Community Catchment Group to make this happen.
 - An application to the MPI HCEP fund was submitted under the name Transition Tairāwhiti – Catchment Delivery Programme, with an update expected in September. This funding would support a multi-year catchment resilience and land transition programme aimed at addressing erosion, sediment loss and long-term land instability across highly erosion-prone areas of the district.



● Next Steps:

- Preparation and completion of Activity and Asset Management plans.
- Continue Te Arai Catchment work programme.
- Start planning Waimata Catchment work programme.
- Continue to support landowners from around the region with LUC Mapping and Erosion Control Plans if requested.
- Work alongside Woody Debris Team to ensure that we are aligning the work of both teams to ensure a transition focus.

Transition Advisory Group (TAG) and Business Case and Implementation Plan

The Transition Advisory Group work is complete in principle. The Transition Guidelines, Business Case and Implementation Plan have been completed and delivered to Council, the Government and the community.

◆ Update:

- Work continues on advocacy for the Business Case, with close communication with MPI to find a funding pathway forward to uplift the programme.
- The Transition Advisory Group reconvened in April. This was a chance to inform all members of where Council was at with the Transition Programme.
- The Land Management Team will be supporting the transition work through our education and advocacy service to the community, providing comms and engagement where required.

Waiapu Catchment

The Whakaoratia Trust has continued to operate over recent years despite the challenges posed by cyclones, persistent wet weather, and limited site access. Ground and access conditions improved significantly over the recent summer. The Land Management Team provides 2 days of support per month. The Trust has established 2 willow nurseries that are now in full production. This year the Trust team built debris dams and planted poles throughout the Waiapu Catchment. There is 1 year of funding left for the programme.

◆ Update:

The team provides one FTE for two days a month to the project. This is spent checking sites, recording locations of newly built dams and providing advice where required. We are looking to be more involved in the site selection over the next year.



Ngā Pūtea Tauawhi

Grant Funding

COUNCIL-ADMINISTERED GRANTS

We receive and distribute funds on behalf of the following funding schemes:

Creative Communities Fund

The [Creative Communities Fund](#) provides funding for local community projects that encourage arts participation. Under the scheme, 'arts' includes all forms of creative and interpretative expression. The annual distribution is received in two lots of \$22,840.50 for each funding round and any unused funds or returned funding is carried over.

◆ Updates:

- The last round closed on 27 February: we received 19 applications from a diverse range of arts activities, 18 were deemed to fit the criteria for funding. Application requests totalled just over \$55,000 with only \$24,709 to allocate.
- At the meeting to allocate the funds, held on 9 March 2026;
 - Four applications were unsuccessful.
 - One received funding but subsequently declined the funds due to the value not being enough for their project. This amount will be carried forward to the next financial year.
 - Thirteen applicants were successful in receiving funding toward their projects.
- Advertising of the fund was done through our He Panui and Gizzy Local who have a good following of creatives in our district.

Sport NZ Rural Transport Fund

The [Sports NZ Rural Transport Fund](#) is designed to subsidise rural travel for junior teams (between five and 19-years-old), also helping school and club sports teams take part in local competitions. There are two funding rounds each year, one for winter and another for summer sports codes. The fund has been reduced to a four-year contract of \$10,700 annually plus anything carried over from the previous round.

◆ Updates:

- The Winter funding round closed on 24 April; four applications were received requesting \$19,624. Available funding totalled \$11,900.
- The applicants all received funding apportioned according to travel and distance for the school or club, all funds were allocated.
- The next round is for summer sports and officially closes on 27 November at 5pm.



Natural Heritage Fund (NHF)

The [Natural Heritage Fund](#) (NHF) is an annual contestable fund of \$100,000 that helps private landowners protect or enhance indigenous biodiversity on their land. Many of the projects funded in the 2025 round are now completed. Projects funded in the 2026 round of the fund are now underway.

◆ Updates:

- 19 projects were approved to receive funding in 2026. Five of these projects are already completed.
- Five extensions were granted until June 2026 for uncompleted 2025 projects. Four of these remain outstanding.

● Next Steps:

- Follow up with outstanding 2025 projects before 30 June. If they remain incomplete, then we will request to roll the unspent budget into the next financial year to be re-allocated to new projects.
- New funding round for 2027 will open for applications on 1 July.
- Staff are making amendments to the funding application form ahead of the next funding round as a result of feedback from previous applicants.
- A report on the outcome of the projects funded by the 2025 round of the fund will be presented to the Operations Committee at the August meeting.

Waste Minimisation Fund

The [Waste Minimisation Fund](#) supports local initiatives that reduce waste, prevent environmental harm, and improve resource efficiency. Up to \$20,000 is available in the 2026 funding round to boost locally-led projects.

Funding can be awarded to a single applicant or shared among multiple recipients.

◆ Update:

Four applications were received and are currently being assessed. Additional information has been provided by the applicants to support the assessment process. Assessments are nearing completion, with funding decisions and grant allocations anticipated in June 2026.



EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS DURING 2024/26

Table 1 below provides an overview of funding applications awaiting a decision:

ACTIVITY/PROJECT	DECISION	FUNDER	TOTAL AMOUNT
Taruheru Catchment Flood Resilience Project	June 2026	Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit	\$1.6M – \$5.9M <i>Funding ranges reflect different intervention scales and delivery methodology options</i>
Historic Churchill Park Gaol Conservation and Strengthening Project	June 2026	Lotteries Environment Heritage Fund	\$98,400
Transition Tairāwhiti – Catchment Delivery Programme	September 2026	MPI Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF)	\$2,452,000

Table 2 below provides an overview of income from external funds granted for activities that are in progress in the 2025/26 financial year:

ACTIVITY/PROJECT	GRANTED	FUNDER	TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
Tairāwhiti Woody Debris Treatment Fund	August 2025	Ministry For Primary Industries	\$26,750,000
Tairāwhiti Community Emergency Resilience Programme Urban Emergency Water Filtration System Tsunami Evacuation Pou for Tairāwhiti kura and ECE Tairāwhiti Disaster App Resourcing Urban Emergency Hubs	April 2025	Lotteries Community Recovery Funding	\$255,000
Additional Capability to support Tairāwhiti Recovery Programme	August 2024	Cyclone Recovery Capability Grant Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)	\$485,840



ACTIVITY/PROJECT	GRANTED	FUNDER	TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
Tairāwhiti Tourism Enhancement and Resilience Programme Titirangi Tracks Restoration Project	October 2024	Ministry for Business and Innovation (MBIE) – Tourism Infrastructure Fund	\$66,498
Additional Capability to support Tairāwhiti Recovery Programme	August 2024	Cyclone Recovery Capability Grant Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)	\$4,755,200
Post Cyclone Resource Support – Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use (MILU)	August 2024	Ministry for te Environment (MfE)	\$500,000
Tokomaru Bay Legacy Landfill Contaminated Site Remediation	February 2024	Ministry for the Environment (MfE) - Contaminated Site Remediation Fund	\$4,985,891
Kopuawhakapata Awa Beautification and Restoration	February 2024	Trust Tairāwhiti	\$28,000
Cyclone Support Package Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) Flood Risk Mitigation Category 3 Property Buyout Local Road and Bridge Repairs	November 2023	Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)	\$64,000,000 \$15,000,000 \$125,000,000
Local Government Flood Resilience Fund Enhanced Flood Intelligence and Resilience Resilient Homes – Elevating Tairāwhiti	September 2023	Cyclone Recovery Unit (CRU) Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)	\$16,200,000
Hill Country Erosion Project	July 2023	MPI Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF)	\$903,283
Post Cyclone Resource Support – Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use (MILU)	June 2023	Ministry for te Environment (MfE)	\$180,000
Nature Based Solutions – Feasibility Study Waimata Awa – Maunga to Motu	July 2023	Ministry for te Environment (MfE)	\$350,000



ACTIVITY/PROJECT	GRANTED	FUNDER	TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
Extreme Weather Event Recovery – Sediment and Debris	February 2024 May 2023	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)	\$23,600,000 \$38,800,000

EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES DELIVERED DURING 2024/26

Table 3 below provides an overview of external funding that has been completed in the 25/26 financial year:

ACTIVITY/PROJECT	DECISION	FUNDER	TOTAL AMOUNT
North Island Weather Event – Recovery Structure Support	June 2023	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)	\$3,760,000
Tairāwhiti Fire in the Sky Event	December 2024	Trust Tairāwhiti	\$15,000
It's a Gizzy Christmas Event and Christmas Parade	October 2025	Trust Tairāwhiti – Regional Event Fund	\$15,000
New Years Fire in the Sky Event	September 2025	The Lion Foundation	\$5,000
Tūranganui Estuary Pest Eradication Programme	May 2024	Lottery Environment Heritage Fund (LEHF)	\$50,000
Local Water Done Well Support Package	September 2023	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)	\$183,000
Tairāwhiti Tourism Enhancement and Resilience Programme Waihirere Domain Redevelopment Project	August 2023	Ministry for Business and Innovation (MBIE) – Tourism Infrastructure Fund	\$42,000

◆ Update:

Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund Application – Historic Churchill Park Gaol Conservation and Strengthening Project

Council has submitted an application to the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund to support the Historic Churchill Park Gaol Conservation and Strengthening Project. Funding is sought to prepare a Conservation Plan and structural strengthening assessment to at least 50% New Building Standard (NBS) for the former Gisborne Gaol at Churchill Park, Marine Parade.

These investigations will inform future redevelopment options for the site and provide the foundation for wider community and mana whenua engagement on its long-term use. A joint working group comprising of Council, Trust Tairāwhiti, Ngāi Tāwhiri and Heritage Tairāwhiti Inc. has been established to guide planning for the site, with Ngāi Tāwhiri leading engagement on behalf of iwi and hapū.



The project aims to support the preservation of a historically significant building in a prominent beachfront location while exploring opportunities to enhance cultural connection, community use and broader site revitalisation.

MPI Hill Country Erosion Fund Application – Transition Tairāwhiti Catchment Delivery Programme

Council has submitted an application to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF) to support a multi-year catchment resilience and land transition programme aimed at addressing erosion, sediment loss and long-term land instability across highly erosion-prone areas of the district.

The programme proposes a coordinated catchment-scale approach to sustainable land management and landscape restoration through activities including native revegetation, pole planting, riparian planting, stock exclusion fencing, gully stabilisation and farm and catchment transition planning. The project aims to reduce sediment entering waterways and downstream environments, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience and support the long-term sustainability and productivity of vulnerable hill country land.

The application also recognises the significant impacts erosion and sedimentation have on rivers, infrastructure, productive land, and coastal receiving environments, particularly following severe weather events experienced across the region in recent years. If successful, the funding would support a staged three-year programme of on-the-ground works and provide a foundation for long-term catchment restoration and sustainable land transition across the region.

Kānoa Regional Infrastructure Fund Proposal – Taruheru Catchment Flood Resilience Project

Council has prepared a proposal to Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit seeking co-investment support through the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) for the Taruheru Catchment Flood Resilience Project.

The proposal seeks support for targeted flood resilience and river capacity improvements within the wider Taruheru catchment to improve the performance and resilience of the interconnected drainage and flood management network servicing the area. The project is focused on reducing flood risk to productive horticultural land, rural residential properties, critical drainage infrastructure and associated community assets within an area that contributes significantly to the regional economy.

The wider catchment supports a substantial horticultural and agricultural base, including kiwifruit, apple, viticulture, and mixed land-use activities, and relies heavily on the effective operation of the Taruheru River and associated drainage infrastructure. The proposal identifies that constraints within sections of the river network are impacting overall system performance and increasing vulnerability during significant rainfall events.



The proposal has been informed by preliminary hydraulic modelling, engineering assessments, and economic analysis undertaken to better understand flood behaviour, conveyance constraints, and the wider economic and infrastructure benefits associated with improved catchment performance. Initial assessments indicate the project would support improved resilience across a broader network of interconnected drainage and conveyance infrastructure throughout the catchment.

The proposal also recognises the increasing impacts severe weather events and climate change are having on existing flood management infrastructure and the importance of investing in long-term resilience measures to support the ongoing productivity, accessibility and sustainability of the area. If progressed, the project would be delivered through a staged approach to support effective implementation while minimising downstream impacts during delivery.

Ngā Mahinga Rori Ā-Rohe

Regional Roding Activities

LOCAL ROAD NETWORK RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Council has now endorsed the Strategic Roding Network Review as the long-term direction for managing the affordability, resilience and sustainability challenges facing the region's transport network. The review acknowledges that the current network is no longer financially sustainable at existing levels of service, particularly with increasing severe weather impacts, rising maintenance costs and constrained funding.

The preferred "Balanced Reach" approach provides a framework for prioritising investment on the routes that deliver the greatest social, economic and community benefit, while also signalling that some lower-volume routes may require different service levels, including seal reversions or alternative maintenance approaches over time.

The next phase of work will focus on translating the review into practical delivery and investment planning through the development of the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan, Regional Land Transport Plan and supporting asset management planning processes. This will include further engagement with communities, iwi, industry and key stakeholders to confirm future levels of service expectations, resilience priorities and affordability trade-offs across the network. Council officers will also continue working with NZTA Waka Kotahi to align future investment discussions with the strategic direction endorsed through the review, ensuring decisions are evidence-based, financially realistic and focused on maintaining a safe and connected network for Tairāwhiti into the future.



All images in this document are the property of Gisborne District Council, unless otherwise specified.

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Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PROGRAMME DASHBOARD

TAIRĀWHITI RECOVERY PROGRAMME

FINANCIALS TO 30 APRIL 2026

Overall

Finance

GDC/NIFF/DIA Quarterly Governance Meeting Agenda - Monday, 18 May 2026 (11.00am - 12.30pm)



Total Budget
 \$361.8m

Funding split

NIFF \$217.4m
 NZTA \$119.6m
 GDC \$24.9m

Spend to date
 \$152.9m

% of budget
 42%

1. Opening
2. Items or actions from previous minutes
3. Regional Transport highlights
4. Flood Resilience
 - a. Te Karaka project update
 - b. Land Strategy TPG
5. FOSAL
 - a. Cat 2P update
6. General Business
 - a. Next 6 months planning
 - b. Next meeting date

	Healthy
	Improvement plan implemented
	Critical - intervention required

Status	Project	Finance	Budget	Spend to Date	% of Budget	PHASE
	Regional Transport		\$233.5m	\$84.1m	36%	Delivery
	Flood Resilience		\$80.0m	\$24.2m	30%	Delivery
	Enhanced Flood Intelligence & Resilience		\$1.45m	\$1.45m	100%	Complete
	Category 3 Buyout		\$32.7m	\$32.6m	100%	Complete
	Category 2P Mitigation - Raising Tairāwhiti		\$11.2m	\$8.0m	72%	Delivery
	Building Capacity & Capability		\$3.0m	\$2.6m	87%	Delivery

Regional Transport

REGIONAL TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME DASHBOARD

Status



Overall progress has been satisfactory, however some projects have had time slippage over March as the projects try to regain time lost over the January/February weather. We're confident we can recover this time, and no significant time variations have been requested to date. The projects are still looking to finish within original timeframes. A large part of the programme has gone into the delivery phase with the focus shifting from procurement to delivery and quality of works

Finance status



The slips and drop outs works are well underway with the bulk of the works procured and with construction underway, the last couple of months has meant a number of sites have been completed quickly, the final tranche of works will be released to market mid-June with the works to be complete by mid 2027.

Total Budget

\$233.5m

Iwi led projects have completed tranche 2, the complex sites have progressed through design with resource consents now being finalised ready to be lodged for works to be able to start in October 2026. Tendering for the physical works is expected to begin in July 2026. We are still awaiting NZTA sign off on the January weather events and this continues to hold the scoping of more works until the funding approvals from NZTA are known. This has not reached critical path yet, as the works cannot be undertaken in winter, but decisions will be needed soon so that works can be procured.

Spend last month

\$5.2m

HEB has taken possession of the Tiniroto site and enabling works are well underway with access track improvements and drainage started, the designs are progressing well for the super structures which will enable offsite fabrication over the winter months with the majority of physical works onsite being undertaken next construction season. A revised Risk and Opportunities workshop has been held with HEB, BBO and the project team to help revise the budgets and to quantify the risks for the project, a verbal update can be provided at the meeting.

Spend to date

\$84.1m

The Bridge programme is now underway with 3 of the 4 bridges now in construction, the Burgess Bridge has progressed to preferred contractor.

% of budget

36%

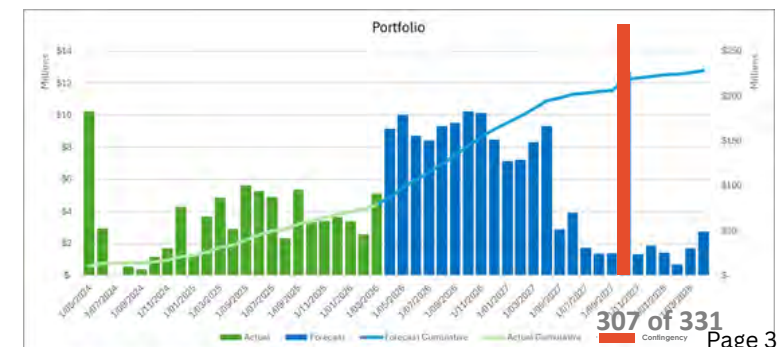
STATUS	PROJECT	FINANCE	BUDGET	SPEND TO DATE	PHASE
	Slips and dropouts		\$51,815,915	\$26,501,100	Delivery
	Roadside Drainage Supporting Iwi Communities		\$36,876,400	\$10,669,815	Delivery
	Tiniroto Road		\$44,585,475	\$6,883,865	Delivery
	Bridge programme		\$100,243,952	\$40,006,291	Delivery

Funding split

\$113.9m NIFF
 \$119.6m NZTA

Financial update

- Fuel cost fluctuations - the Roothing Recovery team has worked closely with NZTA and GDC legal to develop the approach to cost fluctuation requests from contractors. A Council-approved framework has been implemented that follows the NZTA guidance. At this stage the fuel fluctuations have not had a material impact on the programmes financials, as cost increases are only applying to contracts that are in play now. The impacts of the increases are able to be picked up within the project's contingencies, the range of impact so far has been between 2%-8% on those specific contracts and items. We will be including fluctuations in tender documents going forward to reduce the risk to contractors and the programme.
- The team has been revising programme forecasts and financials, to provide more certainty of spend. The forecasts have had their contingencies removed from monthly calculations and instead have been moved out to the end, hence the disproportionate spike at the end of the programme. The contingencies being spread over the monthly programme was making actual progress difficult to show.
- The revised budget spend to June 2026 has been split out to give visibility of the phasing as per the project schedules, so they align better to approval gateways and milestone payments.



RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Programme	Project	Budget	Spend to Date	Estimate at Completion (EAC) Including Contingency	NIFF Contingency	Variance: Budget Less EAC	
BRIDGE PROGRAMME	Red Orange Bridges	\$23,082,857	\$19,812,593	\$23,082,857	\$2,066,243	\$0	
	Bridge Resilience	\$9,870,905	\$812,573	\$9,870,905		\$0	
	Green Bridges	\$1,000,000	\$794,146	\$1,000,000		\$0	
	St Leger	\$17,102,129	\$8,857,768	\$17,102,129		\$0	
	Mata	\$16,699,509	\$1,881,626	\$16,699,509		\$0	
	Grays	\$9,037,221	\$1,649,500	\$9,037,221		\$0	
	Pauariki	\$14,752,309	\$1,342,894	\$14,752,309		\$643,417	\$0
	Burgess	\$4,639,425	\$795,595	\$4,639,425		\$0	
	Mangatai Access	\$531,721	\$531,721	\$531,721		\$0	
	Hangaroa	\$178,368	\$178,368	\$178,368		\$0	
	Hollywood	\$3,349,509	\$3,349,509	\$3,349,509		\$0	
	Total Bridge Programme	\$100,243,952	\$40,006,291	\$100,243,952	\$2,709,660	\$0	
DROPOUTS	Phase 1 and 2 Physical Works	\$37,833,759	\$23,514,542	\$51,815,915	\$1,134,000	\$0	
	Phase 3 Detailed Design, Procurement, Consenting & Land Costs	\$2,250,000	\$1,463,712				
	Phase 3 Simple Physical Works	\$1,085,572	\$1,474,424				
	Phase 3 Complex Sites	\$5,792,584	\$48,423				
	Practical Completion, PIR and Contingency	\$4,854,000	\$0				
	Total Dropouts	\$51,815,915	\$26,501,100	\$51,815,915	\$1,134,000	\$0	
TINIROTO BYPASS	Stage 1 Site investigations	\$350,469	\$350,469	\$44,585,475	\$2,408,710	\$0	
	Stage 2 Pre-Construction	\$5,186,014	\$3,350,475				
	Land Acquisition	\$2,097,067	\$2,072,067				
	Stage 2 Construction incl. Post Investment Report	\$34,343,214	\$1,110,853				
	Contingency (NIFF Gate 2 Approved)	\$2,608,710	\$0				
	Total Tiniroto Bypass	\$44,585,475	\$6,883,865	\$44,585,475	\$2,408,710	\$0	
COMMUNITY PROJECTS	Practical Completion - Tranche 1 Physical Works	\$6,188,586	\$6,151,342	\$31,876,400	\$5,487,640	\$5,000,000	
	Tranche 2 Preliminary and Detailed Design	\$5,581,075	\$695,230				
	Tranche 2 Simple Sites - Physical Works	\$1,169,518	\$3,241,573				
	Tranche 2 Complex (Toko Seawal, Whatatutu & Anarua Road)	\$5,698,038	\$476,781				
	Tranche 2 Complex (Tapuaeroa & Waingake Road)	\$5,698,038	\$104,889				
	Tranche 2 Complex (Arakihī & Hiruharama Road)	\$5,698,038	\$0				
	Practical Completion, PIR and Contingency	\$6,843,109	\$0				
	Total Community Projects	\$36,876,400	\$10,649,815	\$31,876,400	\$5,487,640	\$5,000,000	
TOTAL	Total Regional Transport (Excluding Capacity Building)	\$233,521,742	\$84,061,071	\$228,521,742	\$11,940,010	\$5,000,000	

RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

Status	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Oct-27	Nov-27	Dec-27	Jan-28	Feb-28	Mar-28	Apr-28		
Bridges																											
St Leger Bridge rebuild	●	Bridge substructure	Bridge superstructure				Roading/close out																				
Mata Bridge rebuild	●	Enabling works	Bridge sub structure	Bridge superstructure				Roading/close out																			
Grays Bridge rebuild	●	Enabling works	Bridge sub structure	Bridge superstructure				Roading/close out																			
Burgess Bridge rebuild	●	Procurement		Enabling works	Bridge sub structure		Bridge superstructure			Roading/close out																	
Bridge repairs and resilience	●	Construction																									
Tiniroto Bypass	●	Enabling works	Drainage and bulk earthworks		Bridge structures			Bridge superstructures				Road corridor works					Close-out										
Slips and dropouts																											
Packages 1-4 - Waimata Valley, Matokitoki Valley, Tiniroto, Mangatu, Tahora, Taumata	●	Construction																									
Packages 5-9 - Tauwhareparae, Whareponga, Pehiri, Riverside, Shelton, Waihuka Puketifi, Mata (upper)	●	Construction																									
Packages 10-14 - Mata, Swarbrick, Moanui, Tuparoa, Waikura, Poroporo, Ihungia, Kopuaroa, Glenroy, Mangamaia, Whakarau, Motu Falls	●	Construction																									
Packages 15-19 - Rakauroa, Wharekopae, Parikanapa, Paritu, Paroa, Waiau, Armstrong, Te Weraroa, Fernside, Kiore, Hokoroa	●				Procure	Construction																					
Tranche 2 - Roadside drainage supporting iwi communities																											
Coates Corner Whatatutu	●	Resource consent					Construction																				
Anaura Bay drainage solutions	●			Planting			Construction																				
Tokomaru Bay sea wall rebuild	●	Resource consent					Construction																				
Tapuaeroa Road drainage	●	Resource consent					Construction																				

PROJECT: TINIROTO ROAD

Status	Project description	Assessment of various options to secure the route (SH2 alternative) and implement remedial measures
Financial	Project update	
Total Budget	HEB construction are well underway on the project. The site access track from Tiniroto Road, laydown area, and new steel deck over the existing box culvert have all been completed in April. Access track upgrades to the West of the site and the North Bridge site are ongoing; an additional laydown area will commence late May.	
\$44.6m	On Health & Safety there have been 32 personnel inducted on site; with zero (Lost Time Injuries / Medical Treatment Injuries) LTIs/MTIs and 100% MTI-free workdays.	
Funding source	Our ecologists at SLR completed bat roosting surveys (7-10 April) with cultural monitors present during initial stages; Stage 1 tree felling around the Northern Bridge site has been complete. Stage 2 bat monitoring at southern bridge site will commence later in the year after the Bat Roosting Season.	
NIFF		
Spend last month	SLR are being engaged to help oversee upcoming instream works to ensure adherence to required environmental inspections and controls. Cultural monitoring has been embedded into the project as per CIA recommendations, building on engagement with Te Whānau a Kai and Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa	
\$1.4m		
Spend to date	Updated Resource Consent conditions have been issued by the GDC compliance manager; along with water extraction consent approved. HEB's suite of contract management plans (CEMP, ESCP, H&S, QMP, CTMP Etc) has also been certified by the compliance team. This was followed by the first GDC compliance walk-around on 4 May with no issues raised.	
\$6.9m		

The 50% design for the new bridges was issued on 20 April for review, with minor comments now being incorporated. With the North Bridge scheduled to commence from July 2026. Large culvert design development is ongoing in parallel with the workshop drawings submitted for review.

The first delivery of drainage pipes, concrete culverts and wingwalls is scheduled for May.

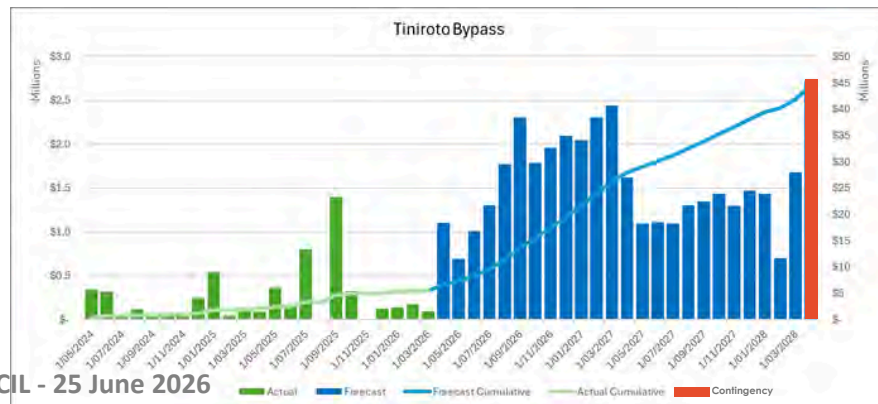
A Risk & Opportunities workshop is scheduled for 14 May to identify and develop risks / mitigations and also explore potential cost and time saving opportunities.



Bridge design reviews (north above, south below) have increased resilience and certainty in key areas.



ACTUAL AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



COUNCIL - 25 June 2026

Status Project description



Repairs to the region's most critical slip and dropout sites, of which 95 are complex and require engineering design.

Total Budget Project update

\$51.8m

Significant progress has been made throughout the last two months due to dry weather and construction on more packages starting! A procurement plan is in place with tendering of the final work packages expected to commence in early to mid-June 2026 allowing for programme completion towards mid-2027.

Funding split

\$11.3m NIFF
\$40.5m NZTA

Complex works are underway on Mangatū, Tiniroto, Waimatā Valley, Tahora, Riverside, Tauwhareparae, and Mata Roads. Weather conditions have been relatively steady, allowing good progress to continue.

Spend last month

\$1.8m

Direction has been provided regarding fuel price escalation linked to ongoing conflict in the Middle East, and this is being worked through with relevant contractors to ensure works continue uninterrupted.

Spend to date

\$26.5m

ACTUAL & CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



COMPLEX PROGRAMME TIMELINE

	2026			2027	
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Designs	COMPLETE				
Procurement					
Construction					

COMPLEX DROPOUTS PROCUREMENT PLAN

Road Name	RP	Design	Tender	Construction	Construction Start	Completion Date
BUSHY KNOLL ROAD	11935	100%	100%	100%	1/10/2025	1/12/2025
BUSHY KNOLL ROAD	7399	100%	100%	100%	1/10/2025	1/12/2025
BUSHY KNOLL ROAD	10404	100%	100%	100%	1/10/2025	1/12/2025
MANGATU ROAD	5251	100%	100%	100%	24/11/2025	12/02/2026
KANAKANAIA ROAD	7965	100%	100%	100%	24/3/2026	15/4/2026
MANGATU ROAD	3633	100%	100%	80%	9/2/2026	21/5/2026
RUAKAKA ROAD	4580	100%	100%	100%	9/2/2026	17/4/2026
TINIROTO ROAD	24113	100%	100%	95%	9/2/2026	14/4/2026
TINIROTO ROAD	56204	100%	100%	100%	12/1/2026	26/2/2026
TINIROTO ROAD	55556	100%	100%	0%	11/5/2026	17/6/2026
TINIROTO ROAD	56316	100%	100%	85%	16/1/2026	27/5/2026
TINIROTO ROAD	24596	100%	100%	15%	8/4/2026	15/6/2026
TINIROTO ROAD	29219	100%	100%	15%	29/4/2026	11/6/2026
WAIMATA VALLEY ROAD	13376	100%	100%	30%	27/1/2026	21/5/2026
WAIMATA VALLEY ROAD	13041	100%	100%	95%	17/2/2026	3/6/2026
WAIMATA VALLEY ROAD	12127	100%	100%	60%	27/1/2026	22/5/2026
MATOKITOKI VALLEY ROAD	2966	100%	100%	0%	11/5/2026	31/7/2026
WAIMATA VALLEY ROAD	13033	100%	100%	95%	17/2/2026	3/6/2026
TINIROTO ROAD	41765	100%	100%	60%	2/3/2026	3/4/2026
TAHORA ROAD	9212	100%	100%	90%	9/3/2026	16/4/2026
TAHORA ROAD	7807	100%	100%	0%	20/4/2026	20/5/2026
TAUMATA ROAD	3244	100%	100%	90%	15/3/2026	1/5/2026
TAHORA ROAD	5146	100%	100%	95%	9/3/2026	15/5/2026
TAUWHAREPARAE ROAD	20348	100%	100%	10%	5/5/2026	22/6/2026
TAUWHAREPARAE ROAD	24804	100%	100%	95%	6/3/2026	15/4/2026
TAUWHAREPARAE ROAD	19822	100%	100%	100%	24/3/2026	30/3/2026
TAUWHAREPARAE ROAD	23320	100%	100%	80%	25/3/2026	15/5/2026
TAUWHAREPARAE ROAD	28684	100%	100%	95%	23/2/2026	15/4/2026
TAUWHAREPARAE ROAD	14393	100%	100%	40%	30/4/2026	12/6/2026
TAUWHAREPARAE ROAD	20120	100%	100%	0%	12/6/2026	19/8/2026
WHAREPONGA ROAD	7327	100%	100%	0%	1/6/2026	31/7/2026
WHAREPONGA ROAD	12867	100%	100%	0%	1/9/2026	31/10/2026
PEHIRI ROAD	14856	100%	100%	100%	Feb-26	Mar-26
PEHIRI ROAD	23662	100%	100%	100%	Feb-26	Apr-26
WAIRERE ROAD (MANGATU)	3568	100%	100%	100%	Mar-26	Apr-26
RIVERSIDE ROAD	11787	100%	100%	100%	Mar-26	Mar-26
SHELTON ROAD	1818	100%	100%	0%	Apr-26	May-26
WAIHUKA ROAD (TE PUIA)	163	100%	100%	80%	Apr-26	May-26
PUKETITI ROAD	343	100%	100%	100%	Feb-26	Apr-26
PUKETITI ROAD	3215	100%	100%	100%	Feb-26	Apr-26
MATA ROAD (UPPER)	4799	100%	100%	0%	May-26	Jun-26
MATA ROAD (UPPER)	12289	100%	100%	20%	Apr-26	May-26
SWARBRICK ROAD	892	100%	100%	100%	Mar-26	Apr-26
MOANUI ROAD	13985	100%	100%	60%	Apr-26	May-26
MOANUI ROAD	17749	100%	100%	100%	Apr-26	May-26
TUPAROA ROAD	5383	100%	100%	0%	May-26	Jun-26
WAIKURA ROAD	5514	100%	100%	0%	May-26	Jun-26
POROPORO ROAD	240	100%	100%	0%	Apr-26	Jun-26
RIVERSIDE ROAD	3042	100%	100%	20%	30/04/2026	8/06/2026
RIVERSIDE ROAD	1822	100%	100%	60%	30/03/2026	29/05/2026
RIVERSIDE ROAD	2811	100%	100%	100%	30/03/2026	29/04/2026
RIVERSIDE ROAD	4113	100%	100%	0%	14/08/2026	17/09/2026
GLENROY ROAD	3967	100%	100%	0%	18/06/2026	27/10/2026
GLENROY ROAD	4917	100%	100%	0%	28/10/2026	19/11/2026
MATA ROAD (UPPER)	13680	100%	100%	20%	Apr-26	Dec-26
IHUNGIA ROAD	1339	100%	100%	0%	Apr-26	Dec-26
IHUNGIA ROAD	6481	100%	100%	0%	Apr-26	Dec-26
MATA ROAD (LOWER)	16086	100%	100%	0%	Apr-26	Dec-26
MATA ROAD (LOWER)	14494	100%	100%	0%	Apr-26	Dec-26

PROJECT: ROADSIDE DRAINAGE SUPPORTING IWI COMMUNITIES

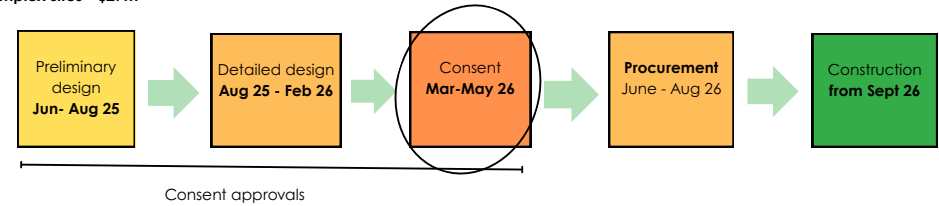
PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Status	Project description
●	Drainage and resilience improvements on alternative emergency evacuation routes as identified by Iwi.
Total Budget	Project update
\$36.9m	Another successful milestone is complete in the drainage programme. The Tranche 2 drainage projects are all on track to be closed out with practical completion being issued this month for all of the projects.
Funding split	
NIFF	Recovery has been working with Lifelines and NZTA to quantify the impact of the January weather event on the Iwi led programme, the improvements to East Cape Road, Wharekahika Road and Rangitukia Road which we are scoped and are included in the Recovery package for the January event and we are awaiting funding decisions on these projects once NZTA funding is known.
Spend last month	
\$253k	
Spend to date	
\$10.7m	The Complex projects are now at consenting and are progressing as scheduled for construction Oct 2026.

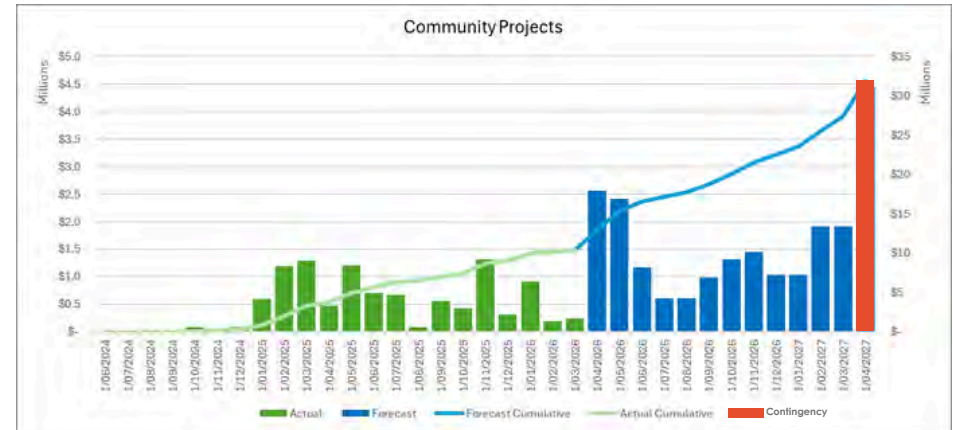
Complex projects include:

- Coates Corner raising, Whatatutu.
- Tokomaru Bay seawall rebuild
- Tapuaeroa complex drainage
- Anaura Bay planting and complex drainage solutions

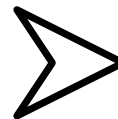
Complex sites - \$27m



ACTUAL AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



COUNCIL - 25 June 2026
Tokomaru Bay sea wall site 4 (after digout)



Tokomaru Bay sea wall site 4 (complete)

PROJECT: BLACK BRIDGE REBUILDS

Status



Project description

Rebuilds and solutions for bridges destroyed during Gabrielle

Progress update

Total Budget

\$66.3m

Spend last month

\$1.3m

Spend to date

\$18.6m

St Leger bridge - rebuild is progressing with all of the piles completed. Next month work continues on the pier caps being poured and the mobilisation of the steelwork contractor. Roothing repairs on Ruakaka road completed with under slip being repaired and drainage and roading improvements works completed.

Grays bridge - Compliance documents have been certified by regional council with site mobilisation underway with crane and piling rig on site. Site establishment with erosion controls being completed onsite with causeway construction and piling to commence next month.

Huiarua Mata bridge - Compliance documents have been certified by regional council with site mobilisation underway with erosion controls and causeway construction underway. Next month piling materials to arrive on site and commence abutment piles first.

Pauariki bridge, BCR submitted to NZTA for next stage of funding. NZTA VOS meeting declined the funding request based on non economic business case. Information passed to Gisborne District Council for review of next steps. Bridge project currently on hold.

Burgess Bridge, Project currently on hold and in delay waiting on NIFF Gate 2 approval. All requested Gate 2 information submitted in full on 28 April.

East Cape Culvert was lost in the January 26 event with new abutments being installed and an NZTA Bailey Bridge being mobilised with the road now reopened. Further business case and feasibility works will begin shortly.

Media activity

- [St Leger sod turning,\(NZ Herald\).](#)
- [Mata Bridge sod turning,\(NZ Herald\).](#)
- [Grays Bridge sod turning,\(NZ Herald\).](#)

Upcoming milestones

19 June - St Leger Bridge rebuild community open day



Grays Bridge

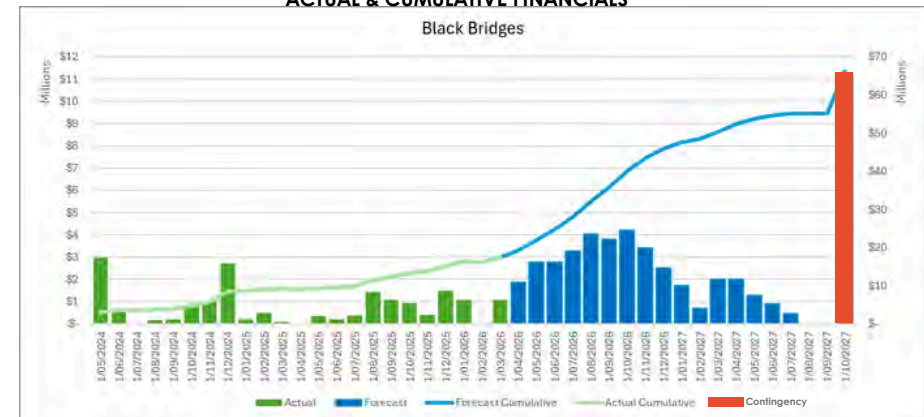


Mata Bridge



St Leger Bridge

ACTUAL & CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



FORECAST VS CONSTRUCTION

Project	Budget	Spend to Apr26	Q4 FY 25/26	Q1 FY 26/27	Q2 FY 26/27	Q3 FY 26/27	Q4 FY 26/27	Q1 FY 27/28	Q2 FY 27/28		
St Leger	\$17,102,129.28	\$8,857,767.74	Phase	Superstructure	Superstructure	Roothing	Close-out				
			Forecast	\$2,067,326	\$2,913,752	\$1,042,658	\$67,600	\$14,908	\$0	\$2,138,118	
Mata (Huiarua)	\$16,699,509.34	\$1,866,384.22	Phase	Sub structure	Superstructure	Superstructure	Roothing	Close-out			
			Forecast	\$2,020,568	\$3,135,284	\$1,652,434	\$898,621	\$414,146	\$0	\$6,696,831	
Grays	\$9,037,221.36	\$1,641,878.94	Phase	Enabling/Sub	Sub / superstructure	Superstructure	Roothing	Close-out			
			Forecast	\$1,349,932	\$1,303,341	\$1,937,627	\$636,380	\$288,861	\$0	\$1,871,581	
Pauariki	\$14,752,308.62	\$1,358,135.14	Phase	Procurement	Enabling works	Sub structure	Superstructure	Superstructure	Roothing/close		
			Forecast	\$118,400	\$3,176,416	\$4,082,500	\$2,170,000	\$3,265,120	\$466,057	\$130,922	
Burgess	\$4,639,424.87	\$803,215.50	Phase	Enabling works	Sub structure	Superstructure	Roothing	Close			
			Forecast	\$57,488	\$901,151	\$1,570,650	\$670,701	\$250,000	\$6,500	\$387,341	
Total	\$62,230,593.47	\$14,527,381.53	\$5,613,713.83	\$11,429,944.02	\$10,285,868.51	\$4,443,301.42	\$4,233,035.00	\$472,557.00	\$11,224,792.16		

** Excludes Hollywood, Hangarua and Mangatai Bridges.

PROJECT: BRIDGE REPAIRS AND RESILIENCE

Status



Project description

Rebuilding and repairing more than 100 damaged bridges and providing resilience against future weather events.

Project update

Total budget

\$33.0m

Spend last month

\$439k

Spend to date

\$20.6m

For the major repair (Red/Orange) programme, of the 65 bridges requiring repairs, 56 are complete and 8 are in construction. Procurement is nearly completed with 64/65 bridges procured to date. The minor repair (Green) programme is currently at 30 of 35 bridges complete.

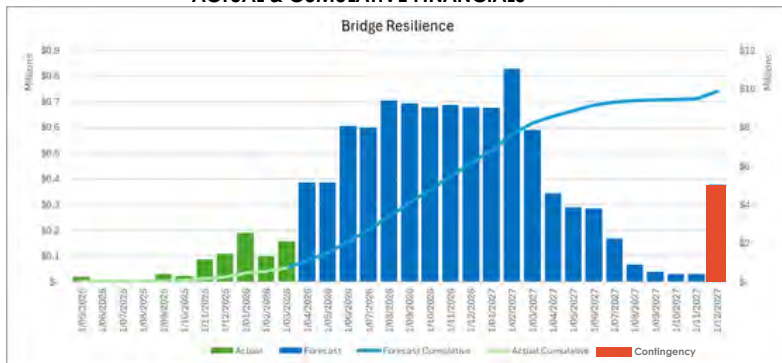
Resilience bridge works progressing with 5 sites being completed, professional services procurement completed with prioritised sites allocated to each supplier to continue optioneering and detailed design 21 sites in total have been designed to IFT level. Awatere bridge resilience package awarded this month to the preferred contractor.

January events have caused damage across the network with inspections now being completed with 23 new repair sites identified. Funding application submitted to NZTA awaiting approval.

Media activity

Bridge repairs reach 75% NZ Herald

ACTUAL & CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



RED ORANGE BRIDGE REPAIRS

Bridge Name	Design	Tender	Construction
AWATERE	100%	100%	100%
CULVERT 89	100%	100%	15%
DAVIES (WHAREKOPAE)	100%	100%	100%
DAVIS	100%	100%	100%
ELLMER	100%	100%	100%
HOROKEA	100%	100%	100%
LAVENHAM	100%	100%	100%
LITTLEWORTHS	100%	100%	100%
MAKARIKA NO 2	100%	100%	100%
MANGAHEIA NO 1	100%	100%	100%
MANGAREIA 1066	100%	100%	100%
HINEROA	100%	100%	100%
CULVERT 13	100%	100%	100%
BULLS	100%	100%	100%
MANGAHEIA NO 2	100%	100%	100%
MANGAHEIA NO 3	100%	100%	100%
MANGAHEIA NO 4	100%	100%	85%
WHAKATO FOOTBRIDGE	100%	100%	100%
MANGAKINO BRIDGE	100%	100%	100%
MANGARUA	100%	100%	100%
MANGATOKERAU	100%	100%	100%
MARINA	100%	100%	100%
MARTINS	100%	100%	100%
MATA NO 1	100%	100%	90%
MATAI	100%	100%	100%
MATAIRAU	100%	100%	75%
WILLIAMS	100%	100%	100%
ARMSTRONG	100%	100%	100%
MCCREADIES	100%	100%	100%
JOBSON	100%	100%	100%
MCDONALDS	100%	100%	20%
MOATS	100%	100%	100%
MOHAU	100%	100%	100%
MONCK	100%	100%	100%
MOSSMAN NO 4	100%	0%	0%
CULVERT 50	100%	100%	100%
KOKUPARA	100%	100%	10%
MOANUI 2	100%	100%	10%
OLLIVER	100%	100%	100%
RERE FALLS	100%	100%	80%
ROBERTS	100%	100%	100%
RUAKAKA	100%	100%	100%
SCOTTS	100%	100%	100%
STEELES	100%	100%	45%
TE PAHI	100%	100%	100%
NUHITI	100%	100%	100%
TUPAROA TWIN CULVT	100%	100%	85%
VEITCHES	100%	100%	100%
WAIKERERU	100%	100%	100%
WAIMA	100%	100%	100%
WAITANGI ACCESS	100%	100%	100%
WATSON	100%	100%	100%
WHAKAURANGA STREAM BRIDGE	100%	100%	100%
WHAKOAU	100%	100%	100%
WHAREKAHA	100%	100%	100%
WHAREKAHIKA	100%	100%	100%
WIGAN	100%	100%	100%
MANGATEKAPUA	100%	100%	5%
MCAUGHTONS	100%	100%	10%
RANGIKOHUA	100%	100%	95%
WHITES	100%	100%	5%

BRIDGE RESILIENCE PACKAGE

Bridge Name	Design	Tender	Construction
WILLIAM PETTIE	100%	100%	70%
WIGAN	90%	0%	0%
PUHA	70%	0%	0%
MANGAHEIA NO. 4 BRIDGE	60%	0%	0%
KENWAYS	100%	100%	100%
AWATERE	100%	100%	5%
ATKINS	15%	0%	0%
FRASERS	15%	0%	0%
REAY'S BRIDGE	100%	100%	100%
TE PURU	80%	0%	0%
MAKARIKA NO. 2 (MATA) BRIDGE	100%	100%	100%
MANGATU	15%	0%	0%
MOHAU	100%	100%	100%
GRAYS	100%	0%	0%
PATEMARU	80%	0%	0%
POPOPO NO. 1	100%	0%	0%
RAPARAPARIRIKI (RIP)	15%	0%	0%
MANGAWHARIKI	95%	0%	0%
BUTLERS DRAIN BOX CULVERT	100%	0%	0%
CULVERT 71	100%	0%	0%
RUAKAKA	95%	0%	0%
WAIKURA 1	100%	0%	0%
POPOPO NO. 2	15%	0%	0%
GLASSFORDS	100%	0%	0%
MANGAREIA 1066	100%	45%	0%
AORANGWAI	75%	0%	0%
WILLIAMS	15%	0%	0%
MANGAMAUKU	95%	0%	0%
POUTUTU	15%	0%	0%
RANGIKOHUA	100%	100%	100%
MARUMOKO 1	15%	0%	0%
SHERRIFFS	15%	0%	0%
PUATAI	15%	0%	0%
PAKIHIOA	100%	0%	0%
STANLEY/OAK	25%	0%	0%
MOKONUI	100%	0%	0%
TRAFFORD ACCESS BRIDGE	75%	0%	0%
KAIKINO	90%	0%	0%

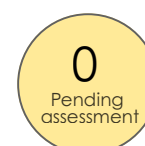
APPENDIX 1 - CONSENTING DASHBOARD

Status

Consenting commentary



This consenting dashboard has been included to give oversight of the consenting pathways we are working on. We are actively working through the requirements of each consent, which includes working with mana whenua on letters of support or CIAs where needed.



	Total sites	Recommended for CDEM	Recommended for resource consent	Pending assessment	Progress update
Black Bridges	4	0	4	0	St Leger granted consent early 2025 and site prep underway. Mata Bridge RC has been lodged, Grays and Pauariki being prepared.
Slips and Dropouts	95	93	2	0	Further assessment being undertaken by SLR to confirm sites for RC and assessment of engineering designs.
Roadside Drainage iwi communities - non complex	127	127	0	0	Ecologists completing assessments and CDEM documentation will be developed.
Roadside Drainage iwi communities - complex	7	0	7	0	Tokomaru Bay first to RC to start, awaiting engagement and consultation with community.
Tiniroto Bypass	1	0	1	0	RC application being drafted, awaiting CIA (in development)

Flood Resilience

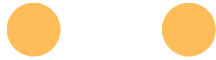
PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:

FLOOD RESILIENCE

Overall

Finance

Overall Programme Update



Total Budget

\$80.0m

Funding source

\$72.0m NIFF

\$8.0m GDC

Spend Last Month

\$1.4m

Spend to Date

\$24.2m

% of Budget

30%

The Flood Resilience Programme is entering the prioritisation phase for preferred options across projects. Community and iwi engagement for the Stage 1 East Coast projects (Te Arai to Tikitiki catchments) was undertaken between February and late April and has largely concluded. Simple, logical metrics will be used in prioritisation workshops in May, with recommendations to be presented to elected members at a full Council meeting on 25 June 2026.

Construction of the Waipaoa River Stopbank Upgrade is largely complete for the current construction season. Since works commenced in October 2025, approximately 6 km of stopbank upgrades and associated pipe renewals remain on track for completion by June 2026.

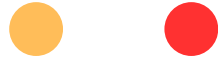
A decision on budget reallocation and reprioritisation within the existing programme to enable delivery of the Te Karaka Flood Resilience Project is scheduled for the Council meeting on 7 May 2026. A request to NIFF for funding reallocation was submitted in late March 2026. Current indications are that delivery is achievable. The notified Te Karaka resource consent application was lodged on 23 April 2026.

Status	Project	Finance	Budget	Spend to Date	% of Budget	Phase
	Waipaoa River Flood Resilience Improvements		\$20.5m	\$19.5m	95%	Delivery
	Te Karaka Flood Resilience Improvements		\$22.1m	\$1.1m	5%	Plan
	Flood Resilience Investigations - (Te Arai, Taruheru, Mangapapa, Whataupoko, Uawa, Tokomaru, Makarika, Tikitiki)		\$37.4m	\$3.6m	9%	Plan

FINANCIALS

Overall Finance

Overall Financial Commentary



The programme's financial status remains RED until the affordability of the Te Karaka Flood Resilience Project is confirmed through the Council decision to secure the required budget on 7 May 2026.

Total Budget

\$80.0m

A formal request to NIFF for reallocation of funding from the wider recovery portfolio, which requires ministerial approval, is currently under consideration. A programme-wide budget reallocation will be required by mid-2026 to align available funding with updated cost reforecasts arising from further detailed design. This will require prioritisation across the wider flood resilience portfolio and may result in the deferral or scaling back of lower-priority projects.

Funding source

\$72.0m NIFF
\$8.0m GDC

For projects that fall below the prioritisation threshold, alternative options will be considered, including funding through the Long Term Plan (LTP) or signalling future investment through the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy.

Spend Last Month

\$1.4m

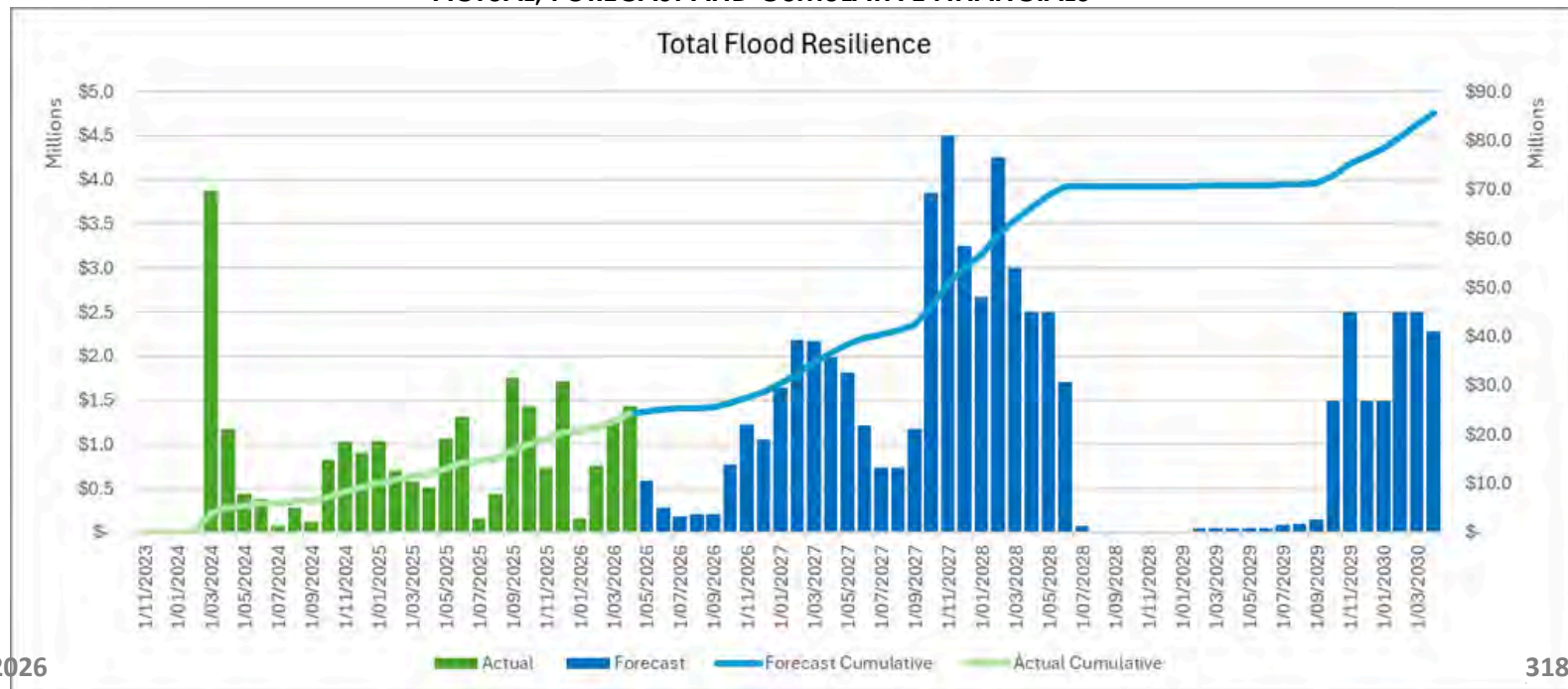
Spend to Date

\$24.2m

% of Budget

30%

ACTUAL, FORECAST AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



PROJECT: WAIPAOA RIVER FLOOD RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENTS

Overall

Finance



Project Description

Stopbank upgrades along the Waipaoa River including land purchases, rock armouring, road raising and new floodgates and spillway.

Start

Jul-24

Complete

Jun-27

Project update

Total Budget

\$20.5m

Funding Source

\$18.4m NIFF

\$2.0m GDC

Spend Last Month

\$1.2m

Spend to Date

\$19.5m

% of Budget

95%

Stopbank Upgrade Programme – Progress Update

A total of 60 km of stopbanks have been upgraded across the region since construction commenced in February 2019. Significant progress on works along the Waipaoa River and its tributaries has been achieved since October 2025, particularly on the following projects:

Contract 25/30 – Lavenham to Matawai Road Stopbank Upgrade
Contract covers 6 km of stopbank upgrades and pipe renewals near the Kaiteratahi Bridge. All pipe renewals are complete except the SH2 triple 1800 mm culvert install (in progress). The remaining work involves 1 km of stopbank upgrades, currently tracking ahead of schedule with completion before 01 June 2026, subject to favourable weather conditions.

Contract 21/21 – Waipaoa Stopbank Improvements (Two-Year Contract)
A large (2.5 m diameter) culvert near the Whakaahu Stream was installed and became operational in December 2025. Stopbank upgrades along the Whakaahu Stream were completed in mid-January 2026. Construction on the remaining <1 km of stopbank is scheduled for completion by June 2026. Earlier delays caused by insufficient availability of construction fill material have been resolved by securing an alternative 'borrow pit'.

Contract 24/146 – Whatatuna Stream Floodgate Upgrade

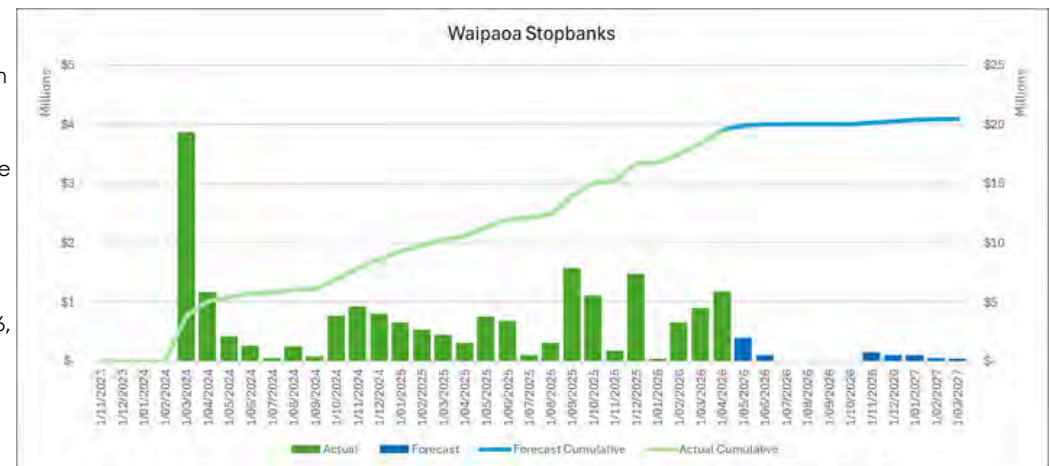
Physical works under this \$280,000 contract (excluding contingencies) included sheet piling, earthworks, concrete works, and fencing, and were recently completed by Currie Construction Ltd.

All works were completed in March 2026, with the practical completion certificate issued before Easter.

Contract 25/100 – Swing Gate Flood Barrier (KiwiRail Rail Line)

This \$400,000 project near the Karaua Stream in Manutuke Township is progressing well. Track and rails reinstatement is complete, with remaining works including retaining walls, swing gate flood barrier installation, and stopbank earthworks tie-ins. The project remains on track for completion by late April 2026.

ACTUAL, FORECAST AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



2025			2026				2027			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Final Design + Construction							Closure			

PROJECT: TE KARAKA FLOOD RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENTS

Overall

Finance



Project Description

Modelling, optioneering, design, consenting and delivery of stopbank upgrades and flood mitigations around Te Karaka Township

Start

Jan-25

Complete

June-29

Total Budget

\$22.1m

Funding Source

\$19.9m NIFF

\$2.2m GDC

Spend Last Month

\$86k

Spend to Date

\$1.1m

% of Budget

5%

Project update

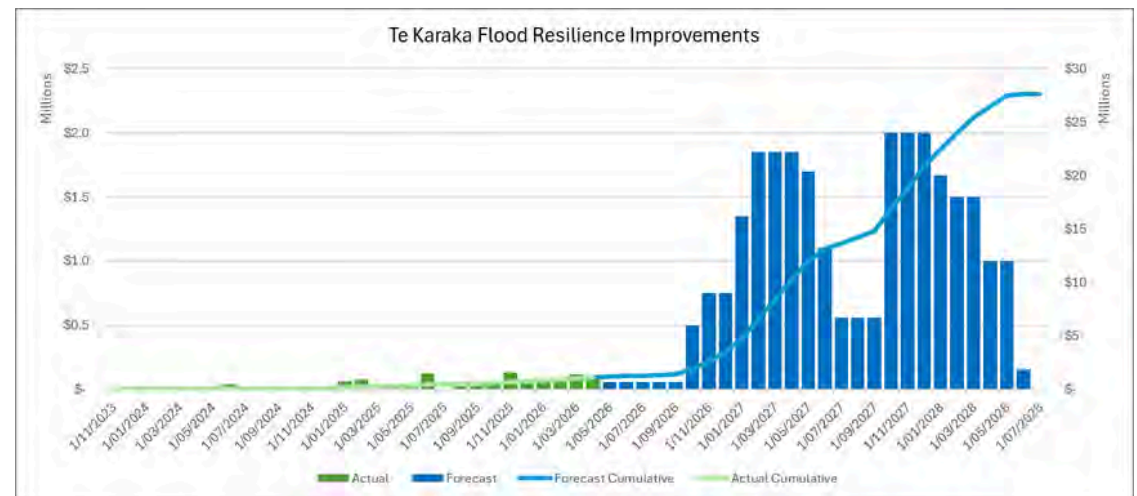
Council ratified advancement of the preferred stopbank alignment in August 2025, enabling progression to detailed design and resource consenting. The preferred option includes approximately 3.5 km of new stopbank, a 300 m retreat from the Waipaoa River on the northern side, and a smaller retreat on the eastern side.

The approach protects a reduced footprint and provides more river space through Te Karaka. Compared with upgrading the existing alignment, it is modelled to reduce flood levels and risk, and to reduce the length and height of stopbank raising required.

Property negotiations for land acquisition and compensation commenced in early April and are progressing. A notified resource consent application for Te Karaka was lodged on 23 April 2026.

A decision on budget reallocation and reprioritisation within the existing programme is scheduled for the Council meeting on 7 May 2026 to enable delivery of the Te Karaka Flood Resilience Project. Delivery is planned through two contracts: one for stopbank construction and one for road raising on State Highway 2.

ACTUAL, FORECAST AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Te Karaka Township Improvements	Investigations				Consultation + RC				Final Design + Construction				Final Design + Construction				Closure			
PDP approval																				
Project Schedule approval																				
Business case approval																				
Concept design																				
Developed design																				
Detailed design																				
Stage two gate approval																				
Request for Tender																				
Contract award																				

PROJECT: FLOOD RESILIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

Overall ● Finance ●

Project Description Programme of flood resilience investigations incl. Rural (Te Arai) / City (Taruhuru, Whataupoko, Mangapapa) / Coast (Uawa, Tokomaru, Makarika, Tikitiki).

Start Jun-22 **Complete** Jun-27

Project update

Total Budget
\$37.4m

The Stage 1 investigations and optioneering phase for the East Coast projects is nearing completion. Community and iwi endorsement of preferred mitigation options across the programme is largely complete. Engagement for the Stage 1 East Coast projects (Te Arai to Tikitiki catchments) was undertaken between February and late April and has largely concluded.

Funding Source
\$33.7m NIFF
\$3.7m GDC

The Gisborne North and '3 Rivers' workstreams are also finalising the optioneering phase to develop a combined set of mitigation options for prioritisation.

The programme is entering the prioritisation phase for preferred options across projects. Simple metrics will be used in prioritisation workshops to support recommendations to Council as to what to deliver and when. Prioritisation and cost-benefit assessment using consistent metrics across the entire programme is crucial for sensible outputs.

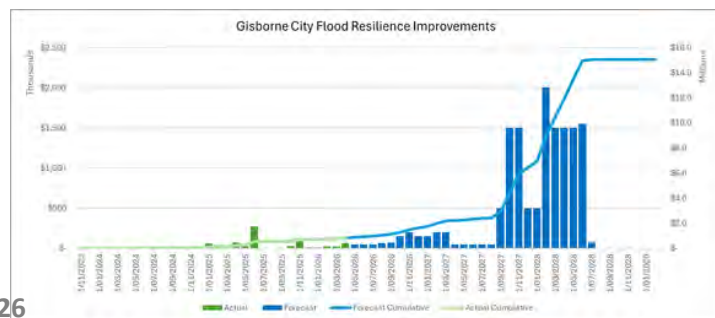
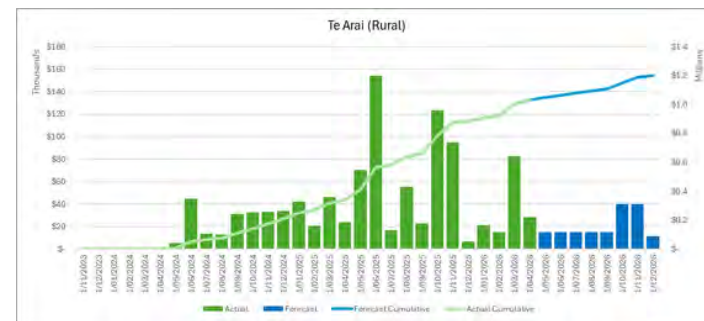
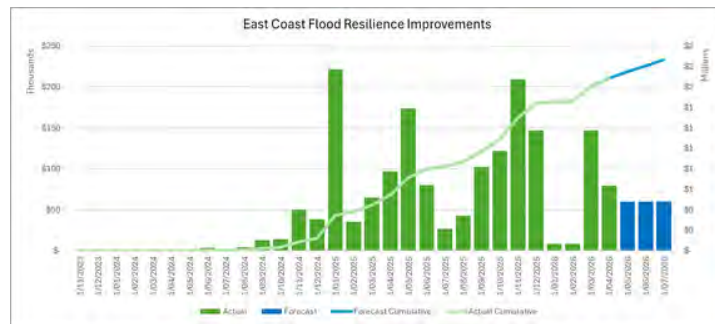
These recommendations will be presented to elected members, with decision-making scheduled for the Council meeting on 25 June 2026.

Spend Last Month
\$172k

Spend to Date
\$3.6m

% of Budget
9%

ACTUAL, FORECAST AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



PROJECT: FLOOD RESILIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

	Status	Update
Te Arai		Agreement was reached through iwi/hapū and community engagement following optioneering workshops to prioritise in-channel vegetation management to improve flood conveyance, including willow removal, and enhancements to the existing overland flow path into the Opou Basin. No infrastructure upgrades are proposed. An increase in rates funded operational spend is planned to manage willow eradication.
Gisborne City & Rivers		The 'Gisborne City + 3 Rivers' workstream covers the Mangapapa and Whataupoko catchments and the Taruheru, Waimata, and Turanganui Rivers. Investigations have shown that the currently preferred mitigation options significantly exceed the approved Crown funding envelope. WSP has completed assessment of alternative options for City Bridges and Rivers to improve confidence in the number of properties at risk of floor-level flooding. Preferred options are being costed ahead of a programme-wide prioritisation exercise, followed by Crown approval and progression to detailed design, consenting, and delivery.
Taruheru Rural (Upstream)		Hydraulic modelling for the Taruheru River has shown that widening of upstream sections of the river is needed in the area between Taruheru Cemetery and Harper Road to convey a 10-year rainfall event (10% AEP). Council is being supported by an independent modeller peer-reviewing inputs and simulating both the 1% and 10% AEP flood events. Resource consent preparation is 50% complete and on-hold until a design is finalised. Construction could begin in early 2027 (at earliest), subject to final design, consent approvals and funding prioritisation across the Flood Resilience Programme. Modelling results have shown that the currently preferred mitigation option (Stream widening) has a low benefit to residential houses compared with other catchments, and therefore will have low prioritisation for funding and delivery. The widening work does have significant benefit to highly productive horticultural lands, jobs and economic benefits.
Makarika		Mitigation options for the Makarika settlement are constrained by increasing aggradation trends in the Makarika Stream (0.2m per year on average). Ongoing sediment build-up is rapidly reducing channel capacity and has resulted in a perched river channel, limiting the effectiveness of mitigation measures and increasing flood risk over time. There is no long-term sustainable flood resilience option for this community. Engagement with the community and iwi is scheduled for 15 May to confirm next steps and agree on preferred mitigation measures. Final recommendations to confirm the preferred approach will be presented to elected members on 25 June 2026.
Tokomaru Bay (Mangahauini)		The preferred option combines stopbank upgrade of the existing stopbank on southern side and rock armouring replenishments of existing revetments and is currently being costed. A decision is pending on whether delivery will be staged or completed in full. The option was presented to the community and hapū for feedback. Final recommendations to confirm the preferred approach will be presented to elected members on 25 June 2026.
Tokomaru Bay (Waiotu)		The optioneering team is continuing to develop flood mitigation options for properties on Arthur Street and protection for the nearby school. Options under consideration include widening the river on northern side by approx 10m, bunds along the Waiotu Stream south side (effectively a stopbank), and targeted deflection bunds near the school to block overland flowpath/s. Final recommendations to confirm the preferred approach will be presented to elected members on 25 June 2026.
Tauwhareparae Uawa / Tolaga Bay		Community and iwi/hapū engagement has concluded, with agreement on stopbank construction as the preferred option for Uawa. Subject to the prioritisation workshops. If the project meets the funding threshold it is envisaged for a stopbank to be fully scoped and designed to a 1% AEP, including climate change and sea-level rise allowances with construction to meet the current level of service, with the design allowing for future crest height increases. Final recommendations to confirm the preferred approach will be presented to elected members on 25 June 2026.
Tikiliki Township		Community and iwi/hapū engagement has concluded, with a preferred option identified to upgrade and extend the existing public stopbank. The approach includes a combination of stopbank raising and extension and targeted retreat to improve protection for the township. Rock revetment to armour the outside of the bend near the school is also recommended. The option is currently being costed. A decision on full delivery or staging will be made through upcoming prioritisation workshops. Final recommendations to confirm the preferred approach will be presented to elected members on 25 June 2026.

PROJECT: FLOOD RESILIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

	Status	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029					
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Te Arai	●	Investigations				★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction				Closure									
Gisborne City & Rivers	●	Investigations				★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction				Closure									
Tarheru Rural (Upstream)	●	Investigations				★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction				Closure									
Makarika	●	Investigations			★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction				Closure										
Tokomaru Bay (Mangahauini)	●	Investigations			★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction				Closure										
Tokomaru Bay (Waiotu)	●	Investigations		★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction		Closure													
Tauwhareparae Uawa / Tolaga Bay	●	Investigations				★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction				Closure									
Tikitiki Township	●	Investigations			★	Consultation + RC			Final Design + Construction				Closure										

Category 3 Buyout

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

PROJECT: CATEGORY 3 BUYOUT

Overall

Finance



Project Description

Areas unsafe for living due to unacceptable risk of severe weather events, such as flooding or landslides, posing significant threat to life.

Start

Nov-23

Complete

Mar-26

Total Budget

\$32.7m

Funding Source

\$16.3m NIFF
\$16.3m GDC

Spend Last Month

\$ -

Spend to date

\$32.6m

% of budget

100%

Project Update

Total category 3 properties under the GDC buyout process is 59

- 58 properties engaged in the buyout process - 100% have settled
- 1 property remains in dispute, however, is no longer applicable for the buy-out scheme

Demolition / Relocation progress on the 58 properties settled

- 45 properties (78%) have completed demolition/relocation
- 7 properties (12%) have been awarded for demolition/relocation
- 6 properties (10%) yet to awarded - these are the 6 properties along Makorori Beach Road
- Planned completion date for all properties - June 2026

Project Completion update

- Draft closure report submitted for comments/review.

ACTUAL, FORECAST AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



Category 2P Mitigation

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

PROJECT: CATEGORY 2P MITIGATION

Overall



Finance

Project
Description

Mitigation Works where the property owner/s has elected to engage their own suppliers to deliver the mitigation works and related services.

Start

Dec-23

Complete

Jun-26

Total Budget

\$11.2m

Funding Source

\$10.9m NIFF

\$260k GDC

Spend Last Month

\$218k

Spend to date

\$8.0m

% of budget

72%

Project update

There are 112 category 2P properties (GDC)

- 33 properties have completed mitigation works
- 7 properties have formally opted not to proceed with mitigation.
- 31 properties have Risk to Life mitigated

(dwellings lifted, services connected and considered livable; for land instability, Code Compliance Certificate (CCC) still required).

41 properties remaining:

- 3 properties expected to be completed by 30 June 2026
- 11 properties eligible for removal from FOSAL as of 30 June 2026
 - (due to Category 2P in Category 2C areas and/or risk to life assessed as tolerable)
- 27 properties are at risk of not completing within the required timeframes.
 - 17 x inundation where we are expecting 11 properties to have had risk to life mitigated
 - 10 x land instability where we do not expect CCC to be provided however 3 properties at this stage will have the majority of their mitigations completed

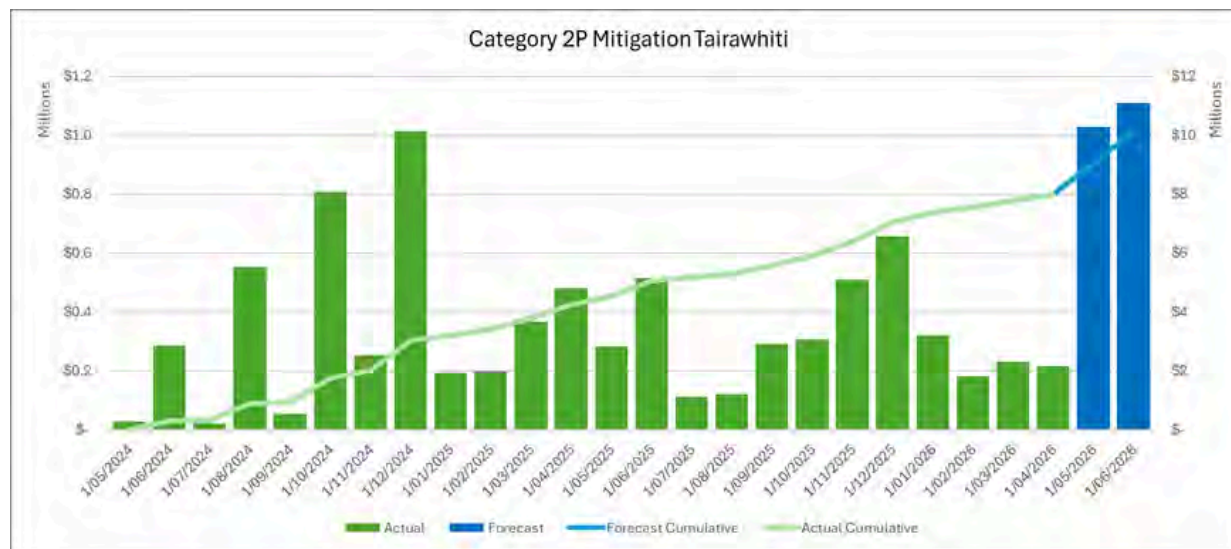
PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

PROJECT: CATEGORY 2P MITIGATION

Next Steps

- Discussion of additional funds and time to complete
- Management and coordination for the CAT 2P programme to end June 2026
- Continue proactive communications and stakeholder engagement

ACTUAL, FORECAST AND CUMULATIVE FINANCIALS



Building Capacity & Capability

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

PROJECT: BUILDING CAPACITY & CAPABILITY

Overall

Finance



Project Description

To build internal capability and provide additional resources to support the Council's recovery programme and beyond. The size and scale of the recovery programme requires more resources and capabilities than the business-as-usual team can supply. This, combined with Gisborne District's remoteness, makes securing external resources problematic. Resources may be a combination of permanent staff and consultants.

Start

Complete

Dec-23

Jun-26

Total Budget

\$3.0m

Funding Source

\$3.0m NIFF

Spend Last Month

\$161k

Spend to date

\$2.6m

% of budget

87%

Project update

- Claim for \$797,876 has been paid
- New claim in process

12. Public Excluded Business

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION and MEETINGS ACT 1987

That:

1. The public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes

Item 4.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 12 March 2026

Item 4.2 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 17 May 2026

Item 4.3 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 16 June 2026 - Appointments Committee
Committee Recommendations to Council

Item 5.1 26-165 Committee Recommendation to Council - June 2026

Public Excluded Business

Item 12.1 26-136 Pauariki Bridge - Future Access and Property Options

Item 12.2 26-146 Learn to swim

Item 12.3 26-152 Gisborne Holdings Limited - Access to LGFA Borrowing

Item 12.4 26-158 Trust Tairawhiti - Enduring Trust

2. This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item 4.1 and Item 12.3	7(2)(h)	Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.
Item 4.2, Item 4.3 and Item 5.1	7(2)(a)	Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.
Item 12.1 and Item 12.2	7(2)(b)(ii)	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information
Item 12.1	7(2)(i)	Enable any Council holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
Item 12.4	7(2)(g)	Maintain legal professional privilege.