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**To Tātau Tairāwhiti 2023/24  
Whakarāpopototanga  
Pūrongo-Tau  
Our Tairāwhiti 2023/24  
Annual Report Summary**


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***Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti  
Gisborne District Council***

*Adopted by Council on 17 October 2024*

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# **Tō tātau tirohanga whakamua Our vision**

**Tairāwhiti maranga ake!  
E tīmata ana i konei.**

**Tairāwhiti rise up!  
It all starts here.**

**Me whiri ngātahi tātau i ngā  
āheinga me ngā tauwhāinga  
kia whakahī ai te Iwi.**

**Let's navigate our  
opportunities and challenges  
together to make our  
community proud.**

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# He mihi ki tā mātau Pūrongo ā Tau 2023/24

## Welcome to our Annual Report for 2023/24

### About this report

The Annual Report provides an overview of our performance during the 2023/24 financial year, the challenges we encountered, and our responses to these challenges. It covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

This report is a key tool for keeping our communities informed about how their rates have been utilised. It highlights our successes, identifies areas for improvement, and outlines our future direction.

Included in this report are the major projects, programmes, and services we delivered. It also summarises our progress in recovering from the impacts of several severe weather events and the steps taken in our recovery efforts.

The Annual Report is organised into seven parts:

1. Welcome to the Annual Report
2. The Year that's been
3. Our Direction and Responses
4. Our Performance
5. Our Activities
6. Our Finances
7. Additional Information

### Progressing Key Priorities

The 2023/24 Annual Plan was developed in the context of multiple severe weather events, including Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle. Despite these challenges, our key priorities have remained focused on delivering the commitments set out in our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP), while also scaling up to respond to the impacts of these events.

In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, our immediate priority was reconnecting communities and restoring critical infrastructure, which included addressing extensive damage to our roading network, water supply, and flood protection systems. As we transitioned from emergency response to recovery, we continued working on strengthening our region's resilience and supporting those most affected.

Throughout this recovery phase, we remained committed to delivering key projects and initiatives outlined in the LTP, alongside our recovery efforts. Major projects and programmes of work over the past year included:

- The opening of the Kiwa Pool Complex, providing a state-of-the-art recreational facility for our community.
- The Waingake Transformation Project, focused on restoring and protecting our region's natural environment.
- Upgrades to our drainage and stopbank networks, enhancing flood protection and resilience across the region.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, ensuring improved water quality and sustainable wastewater management.
- Modeshift and active transport initiatives such as Navigate Tairāwhiti, promoting safer and more accessible transport options.
- Developing the Future Development Strategy (FDS) as a 30-year planning tool to guide housing growth in our region.

These projects and initiatives have been delivered alongside our efforts to address the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle, which included reinstating roading and establishing temporary access across the region, clearing woody debris from beaches, waterways, and land areas, and implementing stronger forestry practices through a dedicated Forestry Team. Additionally, we have supported affected property owners, including the purchase of Category 3 properties and providing grants to assist with silt and debris cleanup.

A year on from our initial response, we have made significant progress in balancing recovery efforts with the delivery of our planned work. Despite the challenges faced, we have remained financially stable, ensuring the continued delivery of essential services and projects. This report outlines our achievements to date and the ongoing efforts to strengthen our community's resilience and future growth.

We invite you to explore the details of our efforts and the steps we are taking to ensure a safer, more connected future for our region.



# E whakapono ana ki to tātau hapori

## Being accountable to our community

The following is an overview of our planning and reporting framework and how it integrates with the Annual Report.

### Long Term Plan

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), all councils must outline the activities and services they plan to provide over a ten-year period. Every three years, Gisborne District Council (Council) is required to review and prepare a new Long Term Plan (LTP) by engaging with our community. This process ensures that our community has a say in setting our future direction. The LTP details what we intend to do, how we will finance it, and the implications for rates and debt. It also establishes measures to monitor and evaluate our progress, ensuring that we remain transparent and accountable to our community.

The LTP also serves as an opportunity for Council to outline how we will:

- Execute major capital projects that will deliver long-lasting benefits by providing, upgrading, and enhancing our community spaces.
- Maintain our assets and invest sustainably in our future to ensure the safety, health, and wellbeing of our people.
- Plan, develop, and implement economically sustainable solutions for Te Tairāwhiti, prioritising the needs of our community both now and over the next ten years.

However, the LTP is more than just a planning document – it is also a blueprint for our shared vision of Te Tairāwhiti. Under the LGA, the purpose of Local Government includes promoting the four aspects of community wellbeing, social, economic, environmental, and cultural. This framework allows us to collaborate as a community to assess how the activities and services Council plans to undertake will impact the wellbeing of our community and achieve our community outcomes. The LTP is our primary tool for realising this vision.

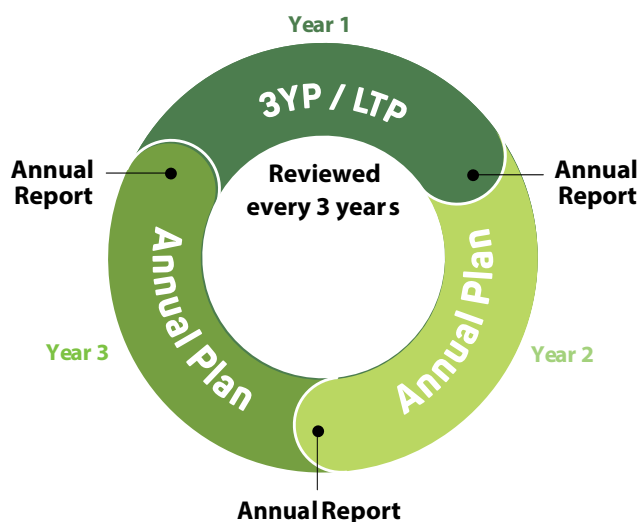
### Annual Plan

In the second and third years of the LTP, we prepare an Annual Plan. The Annual Plan outlines what we aim to achieve, including major projects, activities, services, and financial information for that specific year. Crucially, the Annual Plan details the costs involved, how we plan to fund them, and the impact on rates and Council’s finances. When significant changes or variations from the LTP occur, we consult with our community and incorporate these changes into the Annual Plan.



### Annual Report

The Annual Report is the key accountability document that Council is required to produce each year. It details our performance against the Annual Plan and the current Long Term Plan (LTP). The Annual Report provides a financial summary of our performance over the past financial year and serves as a crucial tool for informing our communities about how rates have been utilised. It also highlights our successes, identifies areas for improvement, and provides context for our future direction. This Annual Report is the last to cover the LTP 2021-2031 before we transition to reporting on our new 2024-2027 Three Year Plan.



### Three Year Plan

Following the severe weather events of 2023, an Order in Council was issued under the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023. This allows us to develop a three-year, recovery-focused plan in place of the standard ten-year plan, recognising that cyclone damage has created uncertainty around costs, funding, and timing. The extent of work ahead also impacts our ability to deliver previously planned projects.

We adopted our 2024-2027 Three Year Plan (3YP) on 27 June 2024, with the primary goal of “Healing Our Region for Our Future.” This plan outlines our commitments to deliver the activities, services, and infrastructure essential for our region’s recovery and long-term resilience. It details what we intend to do, how we will fund these efforts, and the implications for rates and debt. Additionally, it includes measures to monitor and evaluate our progress.



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

*Mai Pōtikirua ki Te Paritū, huri whakaroto ki ngā pae maunga o Te Ao Parauri, hoki atu ki ngā hukahuka o te moana, ko tēnei hoki te mihi o Te Tairāwhiti ki a koutou katoa. Piki mai, kake mai, nau mai ki ngā mahi a Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti i te tau kua hori, i ngā rā kua hipa. Rokohanga te mame me ngā tauwhāinga, ko te pakiritanga o o tātau hapori me ngā tāngata katoa te mea whakawehi ia te rā haere ake nei. Tairāwhiti māia mai e! Tairāwhiti, tō nui, tō rahi! Tairāwhiti tōku manawa e! Tihei mauri ora!*

This Annual Report for 2023/24 reflects on the commitments made in our 2023/24 Annual Plan, set against a year marked by significant challenges and change. Throughout the year, we have focused on addressing the impacts of the severe weather events of 2023, while laying the foundations for our region's long-term recovery. It has been a mammoth effort!

In the first half of the 2023/24 financial year, our immediate priority was reconnecting communities, addressing critical needs, and assessing the extensive damage to our roads and vital infrastructure. As the year progressed, we maintained these efforts while planning for the substantial work ahead, with an estimated \$1.1 billion primarily needed for restoring our roading infrastructure. Of this, \$465 million is required to return our roading network to its previous state, whereas \$725 million is needed to rebuild it to a more resilient standard.

Our recovery efforts have focused on restoring critical infrastructure, including our roading network and flood protection systems. At the start of the 2023/24 financial year, more than 3,000 faults had been identified on local roads, and

37 roads remained closed. By 30 June, we had reopened 31 and spent over \$69 million in emergency repairs, addressing slips, bridge repairs, and the removal of over 412,000 tonnes of woody debris from beaches and waterways. We repaired and strengthened the damaged flood stopbanks on the Waipaoa River, extending them by an additional 16km. This brings the total length of upgraded stopbanks to 48km along the Waipaoa River. A dedicated forestry team was also established to improve practices and outcomes relating to the forestry sector.

The impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle have been devastating for many, with flooding, silt inundation, and land erosion causing significant damage across the region. In response, we initiated a comprehensive programme to purchase Category 3 properties under a 50% joint agreement with the Crown, which was formally finalised on 1 November 2023, following community consultation and the adoption of the buyout policy. This programme allows affected property owners to relocate to safer areas. So far, 23 properties have been settled, with ownership transferred to Council. Additionally, grants were given to 173 groups and commercial entities to support the clean-up of silt



and debris in impacted land areas. Further support, including house lifting and flood mitigation for Category 2 homes, is planned for 2024/2025.

These initiatives have been crucial in addressing our community's immediate needs. Our commitment to working with tangata whenua and engaging with our communities, particularly through the development of our 2024 - 2027 Three Year Plan, has remained a key focus.

Despite these tremendous challenges, we have continued to deliver on key projects outlined in our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. The opening of Kiwa Pools, largely funded by Central Government, has provided our community with a state-of-the-art aquatic centre. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Township Upgrades have stayed on track, while major projects such as the Waipaoa Flood Control Climate Change Resilience Project, Walking and Cycling Projects, and the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) Review are ongoing. Notwithstanding planned work, significant progress has been made in implementing recommendations from the Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use (MILU).

We have remained financially stable, both in terms of our debt management and overall financial performance. This year, rates revenue made up 32% of our operating revenue, which is well below the ten-year forecast of 60%. This means that the bulk of our funding has come from grants and insurance proceeds, making your money go further. Our current net debt is \$157.8 million, which aligns with the financial cap set in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP).

We have also navigated Central Government political and legislative changes, including those affecting freshwater management, the future of local government, resource management reforms, and the Three Waters Reform. Along with Ministerial Advisors, Central Government's decision to repeal Three Waters and replace it with "Local Water Done Well," an alternative solution that leaves the management of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater in the hands of local Councils, means we will continue to own and deliver water services in our region.

For a small Unitary Authority we are proud of what we have delivered to our community, and as we look ahead, we acknowledge the significant amount of work that lies before us. However, our vision and goals for healing our region and building resilience for the future remain our focus.

We invite you to read our Annual Report, recognising the challenges we have faced as a community and celebrating the progress we've made on our recovery journey so far.

Kia kaha Tairāwhiti,

Mayor Rehette Stoltz

Chief Executive  
Nedine Thatcher Swann



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE READERS OF GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND GROUP'S SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Gisborne District Council (the District Council) and its subsidiaries and controlled entities (the Group) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 38 to 50:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service provision (referred to as "our performance")

#### Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

#### Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

#### The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 in our auditor's report dated 23 October 2024.

#### Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.



### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit of the Council and Group and where required, subsidiaries, and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have carried out an engagement to audit the Councils debt register and provide debenture trustee reporting, which are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements we have no relationship with, or interests in, the District Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Mutch', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stuart Mutch  
Ernst & Young  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Wellington, New Zealand  
23 October 2024

# Ngā mahi whakahirahira i te rohe Our district highlights

Our community's aspirations for our region's future are shaped by a combination of social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors.

During 2023/24 Council carried out and supported many initiatives around Te Tairāwhiti that contributed to improving our community's wellbeing. Some of our achievements are highlighted here.

## Community wellbeings



Social



Cultural



Environmental



Economic



### 1.3 tonnes of rubbish cleaned up by the community

The community clean-up along Centennial Marine Drive was an event organised between Waste Management and Gisborne District Council. More than 100 people picked up 1.3 tonnes of rubbish from the sand dunes and beach along the 'Mad Mile'.



### Waters of Kiwa Pools will connect us all

Kiwa Pools was warmly welcomed in Tairāwhiti with two special ceremonies. A pre-dawn blessing and karakia whakawātea by tangata whenua, attended by students and project affiliates, cleared the path for the new building. Later, around 500 people gathered for the pōwhiri and ribbon cutting to officially open the complex.



### 1000-year bridge project started

Construction work has begun on the long-awaited 1000-year bridge connecting Tītirangi/Kaiti Hill and Puhi Kai Iti/Cook Landing site. The open-air pedestrian bridge, 6.3m above Kaiti Beach Road, will be shaped like a waka and feature a Te Mārō viewing platform. It will offer views of Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Poverty Bay Flats where navigators arrived by waka, and ship over the past 1000 years.



### Tairāwhiti tops the country for ShakeOut again

Tairāwhiti had the highest participation rate in New Zealand for ShakeOut 2023, with 24% of the community signing up. This annual earthquake and tsunami drill saw Tairāwhiti, leading with 12,415 individuals, 70 businesses, 63 schools, and 269 households participating. This marks the third consecutive year Tairāwhiti has topped the scoreboard.



### Te Ārai swing bridge is back in action

The Te Ārai swing bridge reopened after being closed since November 2023 due to damage from a fallen tree. The bridge has been repaired with new sway cables, timber boards, hangers, and transoms. A small opening ceremony was held with council staff, iwi, and members of the Manutūke community.



### Spartina spraying on the Taruheru

Spartina grass on the mudflats of the Taruheru River from the Peel Street Bridge to the Marina boat ramp was sprayed as a trial in January. It's the first stage of a Council project, in collaboration with mana whenua, to get rid of the invasive Spartina weed from the inner-city waterway.



### Double win for Kiwa Pools

Kiwa Pools picked up not one but two prestigious accolades at the 2024 New Zealand Commercial Project Awards - celebrating excellence in commercial construction, innovation, and workmanship. The project earned a Gold Award for its exceptional quality and execution.



**Commercial Silt Grants awarded**

Funded by Central Government, the Sediment and Silt Recovery Fund provided crucial support for commercial properties affected by sediment and debris. In 2023/24, we awarded 173 Commercial Silt Grants, totalling \$12.3m to aid businesses in processing and disposing of sediment, helping them return to profitability.



**New Emergency Coordination Centre officially opened**

The new Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) Te Manawa Whakarauora was officially opened on Potae Avenue. Around 100 people, including representatives from iwi, hapū, Police, St Johns, Fire and Emergency NZ, and Gisborne District Council, attended the opening. Anglican Ministers Ruawhaitiri Ngatai Mahue and Haumoana Kopua-Irwin blessed the building before the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



**Hollywood opening in Tairāwhiti**

The original 1957 Hollywood Bridge collapsed during Cyclone Gabrielle due to the Hangaroa River's raging torrent of water. It has been replaced by New Zealand's longest three-span Bailey bridge. The 71m long, 124-tonne bridge with over 5000 parts was officially opened by the Mayor, Council representatives, contractors, and the 16 residents who will benefit most from it.



**Specialist emergency equipment**

Nineteen communities in the region have received specialist emergency equipment, enabling them to initiate a community-led response if isolated after a catastrophic event. Led by Tairāwhiti Emergency Management (TEMO), the kits include water treatment units for salt or compromised water, mass first aid kits, and hybrid solar energy units, among other items.





### Funding announced to accelerate the removal of silt and woody debris.

In February 2024, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell announced an additional \$23.6m in funding to continue the removal of silt and woody debris. This funding is in addition to \$53.5m already provided by Central Government to assist in the cleanup.



### Everyday SuperHeroes acknowledged at special award evening

The War Memorial Theatre hosted the Tairāwhiti SuperHero Awards, celebrating everyday heroes who performed extraordinary acts during Cyclone Gabrielle. Nearly 300 attendees honored around 150 award recipients.



### Community event to acknowledge Cyclone Gabrielle impacts

We hosted a free community event at the Gisborne Soundshell to mark the one-year anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle and celebrate our collective resilience. Performers included Tami Neilson, Scribe, and Oceanspace. The event, Tū Whitia, featured face painting, train rides, bouncy castles, and a free sausage sizzle.



### Tairāwhiti acknowledged in a joint win for Cyclone Gabrielle volunteers

At the New Zealander of the Year awards in Auckland, every volunteer who helped after Cyclone Gabrielle was recognised. In the Community of the Year category, judges awarded a joint win to all volunteers nationwide who assisted in the aftermath of the cyclone, which severely impacted Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay on 13 and 14 February last year.





# Ngā mahinga manawarū whakarauora

## Our recovery highlights

This year's recovery efforts delivered crucial repairs and improvements across the district. From road and infrastructure repairs to flood protection and debris removal, these actions have restored essential services and strengthened our community's resilience.

### Roading restoration and resilience:



**2,444**

unsealed potholes repaired across the district

**2,965**

sealed potholes fixed to improve road safety



**2,054**

traffic signs replaced or repaired for clearer guidance

**100,407 m<sup>2</sup>**

of sealed roads repaired post cyclone



**56 bridges** repaired

**4 Bailey bridges** installed

**57 bridges** in detailed design

**18 bridges** in construction



**1,102 m<sup>2</sup>**

of footpaths repaired for safer pedestrian access



### Flood watch 24/7

Real time flood monitoring implemented for key rivers.

### Riverbank protection

reconstructed 51m of sheet pile wall to reinforce and protect



### Drains cleared

45km of silted drainage cleared to prevent flooding

### Stopbanks upgraded

in 2023/24, 16km of stopbanks along Waipaoa were upgraded, with 48 km of the 64 km completed to date.



**1,931**

culverts repaired to restore drainage efficiency

**68**

new culverts installed to prevent further flooding



### Land use revamp

new land use classification maps and erosion control plans developed with landowners

### Erosion in check

spatial data created to target erosion control efforts



### Forestry monitoring

74 ground and 7 aerial inspections completed across 47 forests

### Sediment & Debris Recovery

173 agricultural and horticultural businesses, covering between 1 to 6,659 hectares, successfully applied for recovery support

**415,470 tonnes**

of debris cleared, 90% treated through burning or chipping



# Tairāwhiti āianeī

## Tairāwhiti today

### Our population by location

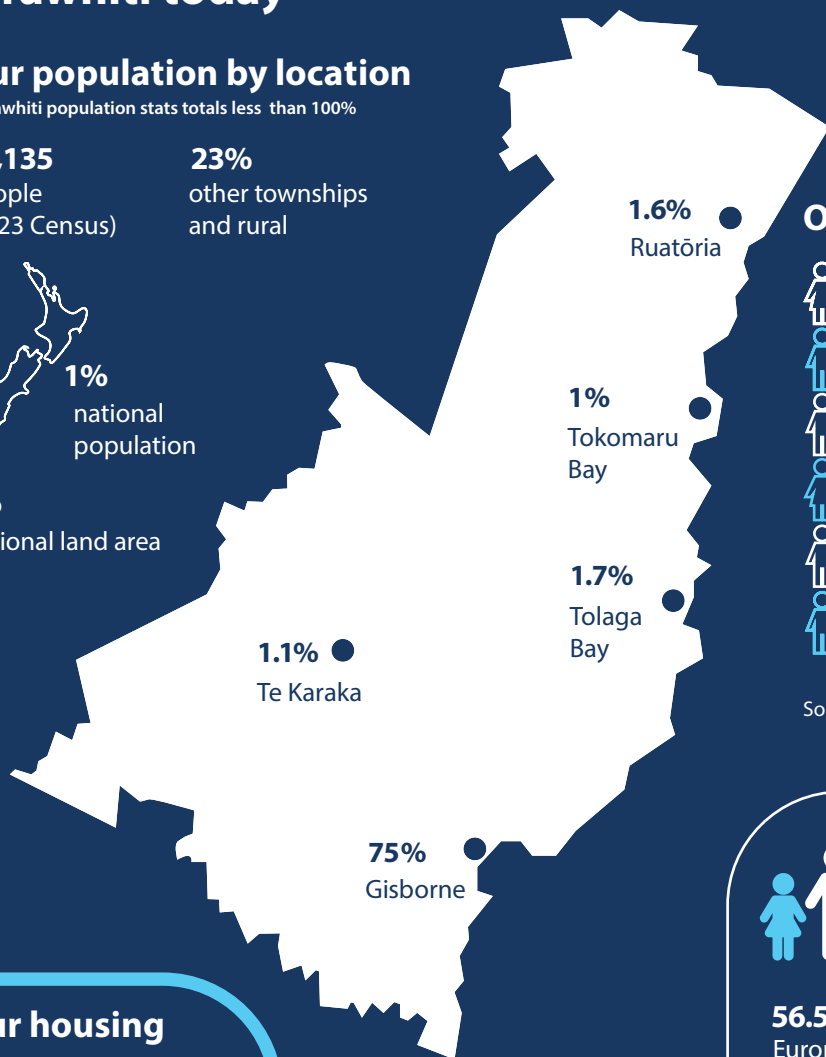
Tairāwhiti population stats totals less than 100%

**51,135**  
people  
(2023 Census)

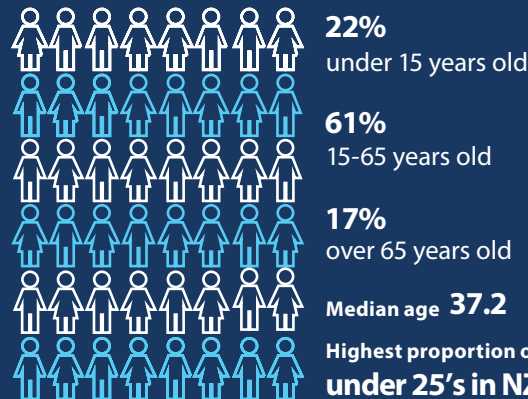
**23%**  
other townships  
and rural

**1%**  
national  
population

**3%**  
national land area



### Our population age



Source: Stats NZ – 2023

### Our housing



**\$790,000** ↗ 3.1%  
national median

**\$619,000**  
Tairāwhiti median

↗ 7.7%  
Tairāwhiti house price  
increase

(As of year on year  
to March 2024)

Source: infometrics.co.nz

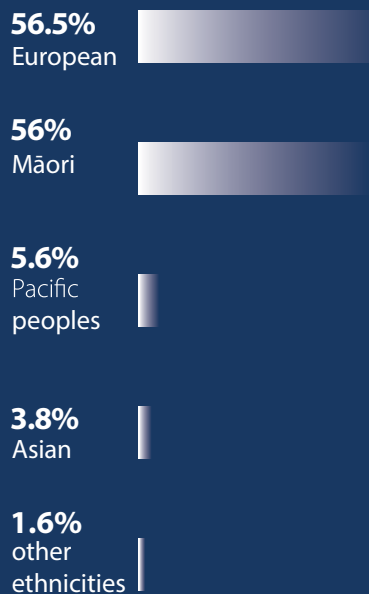


### Our tangata whenua

- 4** regional iwi
- 71** operational marae
- 16%** te reo Māori speakers
- 4x** national percentage of te reo Māori speakers



### Our ethnicities



Multiple ethnicities possible so totals more than 100%.

Source: Stats NZ – 2023

## Council services



**9998**  
registered dogs

**40**  
playgrounds



**35**  
sports parks

**12**  
basketball and netball  
courts and hoops



**13**  
skateparks and pumptracks



**1899km** of  
roads of which  
almost

**87%** are rural  
roads

**239km**  
of footpaths



**18.5km**  
cycle lanes/  
shared paths

**72**  
public conveniences



**38,300m<sup>3</sup>**  
of water capacity  
stored in  
**7** reservoirs



**77 km**  
of stopbanks



## Household income

**\$127,423**  
national median

**\$113,711**  
Tairāwhiti median

**11 %**  
less than national median

Source: MBIE –[www.mbie.govt.nz/](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/)



## Employment

**68%** working-age employed

**6%** unemployment rate

**14%** self-employed

**24,650** jobs, mainly in  
1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing  
2. Healthcare and social assistance  
3. Construction



**GDP**

**\$2,540.9 million** ↑ 7%

**\$51,883** per capita

**0.7%** national contribution



## Gisborne Airport

**228,639** ↑ 9%  
passenger movements

## Gisborne Port

**2.4m** tonnes of cargo left  
our port



**21** cruise ships  
carrying nearly  
**10,000** passengers.



Source: Eastland Group  
[www.eastland.nz](http://www.eastland.nz)  
Annual Report 2024

# Ngā mahi matua

## Our major projects

Projects with major capital investment or community impact are known as major projects. They are programmes of work delivered to further our vision and community outcomes. They have significant benefits for our communities and involve significant investment.

### Legend

#### Community wellbeing icons



#### Community outcome icons



## Waipaoa flood control climate change resilience project

The Waipaoa Flood Control Scheme is considered to be one of Council's most valuable assets and protects some 10,000 hectares of fertile floodplain land. The project aims to increase the level of flood protection of the Waipaoa River, accounting for climate change impacts (sea level rise and larger rain events) out to the year 2090.

### Dollars and cents

2023/24 BUDGET \$4.2m    2023/24 ACTUAL \$8.7m ↑

LTP FY 2021-31 BUDGET \$33.6m

A CIP (Crown Infrastructure Project) \$20.46m funding application was formally approved in Feb 2024 for the Waipaoa Project. The works are progressing as planned with \$8.7m spent out of which \$5.15m has been funded by CIP.

### Project highlights 2023/24

- Stopbank upgrade construction was completed in the Ormond Township area, (eastern side) to complete the stopbank improvements in the area and tie into the new \$2 million Mahunga Floodgates also just completed. The completion of these works in Ormond resulted in all 25.23km of the eastern (City) side stopbank being fully upgraded.
- Significant stopbank upgrade construction was completed on the western side of the Waipaoa River between Te Ārai River (Near Manutūkē Township) and the Whakaahu River near the Patūtahi Township.
- A total of 22.27km of stopbanks have now been upgraded on the western side of the Waipaoa River, making a total of 47.5km of stopbanks successfully upgraded since construction first started in February 2019.
- There are approximately 16.5km left to be upgraded to fully complete the Waipaoa Stopbanks upgrade works. In addition, there are significant rock armouring works, large culvert renewals, floodgate installations and other minor works also planned to be completed.
- Installation of two large rock groynes downstream of the KiwiRail Bridge (close to Karaua Stream near Manutūkē, western side).
- There was successful retreat and rebuild of about 200m of the Waipaoa stopbank just downstream of the Railway Bridge near Karaua Stream. This work was in conjunction with the two large rock groynes also installed in that area.
- Detailed design was completed of side hinge floodgate across the railway corridor scheme low point (close to Karaua Stream near Manutūkē, western side). The installation of this will be planned for next FY. The floodgate will be swung across the railway in a flood event to achieve the required flood protection to the community in that area.
- Stopbank upgrade construction was completed between the Matawhero (SH2) Bridge and the Patūtahi Township (including Whakaahu Stream). 10km of stopbank were fully upgraded.
- Kirkpatrick Road on either side of the Whakaahu Stream was



successfully raised at two locations (by 1.2m & 1.5m higher) to align the road height up to the upgraded stopbank profile in that area.

- Design and investigation work for future stages on the western side of the Waipaoa River is ongoing.

### Impacts of severe weather events

- Stopbank upgrade construction work is on-hold until spring 2024. This generally happens over winter due to wet ground conditions. Operations are expected to restart in Sept/Oct 2024.
- The 2023/24 construction season was ideal for stopbank construction activities and earthmoving. The highest amount of stopbank (by length) were upgraded over the summer since stopbank construction first started back in Feb 2019.

### Project Status

📅 Start date: 2015/16

📅 Completion date: 2027

### Community wellbeing and outcomes

This major project contributes to the following community wellbeing and outcomes:



### Council activities

To see how this major project contributes to the Council's activities refer to » [Land, River and Coastal Groups](#) on page 75 of 2023/24 Annual Report.



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

» [Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme | Gisborne District Council](#)



## Navigate Tairāwhiti

Navigate Tairāwhiti weaves together significant sites through storytelling and design to showcase our region's unique culture and heritage of first arrivals and great navigators. Three of the five projects are completed and are delivered together with tāngata whenua and partner organisations.

### Dollars and cents

2023/24 BUDGET **\$1.5m** 2023/24 ACTUAL **\$1.4m** ↓

LTP FY 2021-31 BUDGET **\$1.8m**

This project is 100% externally funded with a Lotteries grant of \$2.7m and a Trust Tairāwhiti grant of \$343,000.

### Project highlights 2023/24

- The waka shaped walkway bridge was fabricated off-site in collaboration with local contractors.
- All below ground works on foundations are complete.
- Te Mārō Viewing platform design has been completed.
- The construction of the 1000-year walkway is due to open this summer.

### Impacts of severe weather events

Continued weather events cause Tītirangi maunga tracks and road to be closed on occasion due to slips, fallen trees, road slumps and cracks.

### Project Status

📅 Start date: 2017

✅ Completion date: December 2024

### Community wellbeings and outcomes

This major project contributes to the following community wellbeing and outcomes:



### Council activities

To see how this major project contributes to the Council's activities refer to » **Liveable Community Group: Cultural Activities** on page 106 of 2023/24 Annual Report.



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

» [Navigate Tairāwhiti | Gisborne District Council](#)



## Kiwa Pools

Kiwa Pools is a modern, year-round, temperature-controlled aquatic centre for the whole community. Ngāi Tāwhiri hapū provided cultural guidance, ensuring the building respects the land and people of Te Tairāwhiti.

### Dollars and cents

2023/24 BUDGET \$1.1m 2023/24 ACTUAL \$2.45m ⓘ

LTP FY 2021-31 BUDGET \$44.5m

This project is largely externally funded.

While there were some timing and budgeting differences, with more costs incurred in 2023/24 than expected, overall spending remained within the total budget.

The three-year costs were \$42.4 million. In addition to Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) funding of \$40.3 million, Council secured additional funding of \$1.4 million towards the upgrades to the solar panels and the hydrotherapy pool fitout.

### Project highlights 2023/24

- We held a ceremonial opening for the Kiwi Pools on 23 August 2023, which was followed by a public opening on 2 September 2023.
- Demolition of the administration building began on 16 April 2024, with the site to be transformed into a grassed area by October 2024, with future potential to develop into a BBQ area and amphitheatre-like space for small outdoor concerts or market days.

### Impacts of severe weather events

No impacts from severe weather events.

### Project Status

📅 Start date: August 2017

📅 Completion date: October 2024

### Community wellbeings and outcomes

This major project contributes to the following community wellbeing and outcomes:



### Council activities

To see how this major project contributes to the Council's activities refer to » **Liveable Community Group: Recreation and Amenities** on page 109 of 2023/24 Annual Report.



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

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



## Waingake Transformation Programme

The Waingake Transformation Programme aims to restore the vital ecosystem of Waingake to its natural state and back to indigenous forest, in partnership with mana whenua Maraetaha Incorporation.

### Dollars and cents

2023/24 BUDGET **\$2.9m** 2023/24 ACTUAL **\$2.3m** ↓

LTP FY 2021-31 BUDGET **\$18m**

Over the life of the project, total costs are expected to be funded 32% through grants. External grant funds are tracking according to the Long-Term Plan (LTP).

We were under budget in the 2023/24 financial year due to a combination of supply issues from plant suppliers affected by severe weather, unstable land caused by slips that we excluded from our planting area, and reduced weed control needs (primarily wilding pine) due to cooler, wetter conditions.

### Project highlights 2023/24

- Developed a draft strategy and vision with our mana whenua partners Maraetaha Incorporation.
- Established baseline five-minute bird counts to help monitor restoration success over time.
- Completed gecko and long-tailed bat monitoring, and repeated seedling counts within the Waingake Waterworks (QEII) bush.
- Continued with our planting programme, adding a further 115ha of indigenous vegetation across the landscape.
- Continued control of wilding pine regrowth, emerging pest plants, and sustained ungulate control (goats, deer and pigs) to ensure the successful restoration and regeneration of Waingake.

### Impacts of severe weather events

Severe weather caused supply disruptions for plant providers, while increased land instability from slips led to the exclusion of certain areas from planting.

### Project Status

📅 Start date: October 2019

🔄 This project is ongoing

### Community wellbeing and outcomes

This major project contributes to the following community wellbeing and outcomes:



### Council activities

To see how this major project contributes to the Council's activities refer to » **Liveable Communities Group: Catchment and Biodiversity** on page 103 of 2023/24 Annual Report..



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

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



## Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The city's wastewater is treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to improve the quality of water discharged into the bay. The plant has recently been upgraded with the addition of an ultraviolet disinfection system. Collaboration continues with iwi representatives from the Wastewater Management Committee and the Kiwa Group to ensure the effective use of the treated water.

### Dollars and cents

2023/24 BUDGET \$0.8m    2023/24 ACTUAL \$1.4m ↑

LTP FY 2021-31 BUDGET \$34.6m

This project is 100% council funded.

Overall, the three-year budget spend for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Stage 2 project is within the LTP budget. However, due to construction timing and delays, more costs were incurred in 2023/24 than originally planned in the Annual Plan.

### Project highlights 2023/24

- Practical completion issued.
- Stage 2 equipment (excluding tertiary filter) operational and achieving performance levels close to compliance.
- Enterococci removal is meeting compliance requirements.
- 1664 Tonnes of solids produced for composting.
- Backup generator blackout capacity tested in high flow event.

### Impacts of severe weather events

Continual adverse weather events in 2023/24 delayed the project and affected the operation of biological activity in the Biological Trickling Filter (BTF). As a result, it took three months for the BTF to recover and return to full performance, disrupting plant commissioning and solids production from November to January.

### Project Status

- 📅 Start date: 2017
- 📅 Completion date: December 2024

### Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade:

- Pre-commissioning testing and signoff.
- Cold commissioning completed 28 July 2023.
- Physical construction completed 4 August 2023.
- Hot commissioning completed 31 July 2024 (excl tertiary filters).
- Trial operations and plant optimisation period, 25-days following.
- Compliance testing is in progress.
- Tertiary filter issue resolution targeted 2024/25 to achieve compliance.
- Councils legal position on design and performance issues being reviewed.

### Community wellbeings and outcomes

This major project contributes to the following community wellbeing and outcomes:



### Council activities

To see how this major project contributes to the Council's activities refer to [» Wastewater Group](#) on page 89 of 2023/24 Annual Report.



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

[» Wastewater Management Options | Gisborne District Council](#)



## Walking and Cycling

The programme brings together several strategies, projects and initiatives between Council and NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) with a focus on cycling safety. Walking and cycling networks support and encourage our community to get outside and enjoy being able to move around the city easily and safely.

### Dollars and cents

2023/24 BUDGET **\$2.3m** 2023/24 ACTUAL **\$0m** ↓

LTP FY 2021-31 BUDGET **\$7.8m**

There was no specific NZTA funded walking and cycling projects, Journeys staff were able to include these under other NZTA funded projects like Speed Reductions and Road to Zero.

The Taruheru business case was submitted to NZTA from Mitre 10 to the Botanical Gardens as part of our regional land transport programme.

The funding application to NZTA Waka Kotahi for \$3.1m for the Taruheru River Walkway programme was part of our Regional Land Transport Programme. However, with the latest Government Policy Statement prioritising recovery and resilience projects, it is unlikely this project will receive government funding. Council has allocated \$3.3m in the Long Term Plan for this work, and this has been carried over into the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan.

### Project highlights 2023/24

Completed:

- Speed reductions around schools to improve safety.
- 100 metres of shared footpaths around Mitre 10.
- We have had initial discussions with Tapuwae Cycle and Walkway Trust to assist with this project.
- Construction of new footpath crossings along Palmerston Road and Peel and Derby Intersections.

### Impacts of severe weather events

There was no significant impact from severe weather events as the construction programme was light.

### Project Status

- 📅 Start date: July 2021
- 🔄 This project is ongoing

The NZTA components of this project will be severely reduced as they do not align with the current GPS.

### Community wellbeings and outcomes

This major project contributes to the following community wellbeing and outcomes:



### Council activities

To see how this major project contributes to the Council's activities refer to [» Roads and Footpaths](#) on page 80 of 2023/24 Annual Report.



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

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

## Drainwise Implementation Programme

The DrainWise programme helps property owners fix wastewater overflow issues during heavy rain. We inspect gully traps and downpipes to ensure they are in good condition and properly connected.

### Dollars and cents

2023/24 BUDGET **\$4.4m** 2023/24 ACTUAL **\$2.8m** ↓

LTP FY 2021-31 BUDGET **\$36.2m**

The project is 100% Council funded.

The project was \$1.6 million under the amount budgeted for in the 2023/24 Annual Plan. Some investigations and design work are ongoing, with construction expected to occur in the next financial year.

### Project highlights 2023/24

#### Council's wastewater network

- Increased cleaning and surveillance for better performance of our public wastewater network.
- Spent \$2.4m lining old leaking pipes.
- Spent \$181k on pump station renewals and improvements to reduce overflow risks.

#### Council's stormwater network

- Spent \$395k on pipeline upgrades at Stout Street, Disraeli/Childers Road stormwater channel (archway) lining, and Ngaio Street pipe relining.
- Whataupoko stormwater project investigation and design underway 2023/24 to inform capital works in 2024/25.
- Works in Worsley St and Shelley Rd to address flooding issues have been designed, construction pending 2024/25.
- \$1.7m Graham Rd stormwater upgrade project to be constructed 2024/25, \$15k spent in 2023/24.

#### Council pipes into private property

- Ida/Coldstream Road and Scott Street completed.
- 608/610 Wainui Rd has been procured, resource consent received, and construction is planned for Spring 2024.
- 818 Gladstone Rd is in design with procurement planned for August 2023 ready for construction this summer 2024/25.
- Multiple projects are in the early design phase targeting construction 2025/26.

#### Private property inspections and repairs

- 1,266 leaking Gully traps have been repaired.
- 2,996 Property Inspections (Rapid Inflow Assessments) have been undertaken.
- 53 downpipes going into Gully traps have been removed, this is equivalent to 2500 homes worth of normal dry weather flows.

### Project Status

- 📅 **Start date: July 2015**
- 📅 **This project is ongoing**



This programme of work is linked to resource consents for both dry and wet weather overflows. To meet the consent requirements, an increased budget has been approved in the Three-Year Plan.

### Impacts of severe weather events

Damage to a section of the wastewater outfall pipe, caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, resulted in restricted treated wastewater flows from July to October 2023, until the repair was completed, and the pipeline was reinstated to full capacity. These events affected network performance during rain events, resulting in two discharge events.

High groundwater and repeated heavy rain events continued to affect network performance, resulting in four discharge events in total. Sustained elevated groundwater levels worsened the impact of weather events, leading to localised flooding.

### Community wellbeings and outcomes

This major project contributes to the following community wellbeing and outcomes:



### Council activities

To see how this major project contributes to the Council's activities refer to >> **Wastewater Group** on page 89 and >> **Urban Stormwater Group** on page 99 of 2023/24 Annual Report.



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

>> [Drainwise](#) | [Gisborne District Council](#)



# Ngā hononga tiriti

## Treaty relationships and partnerships

*Council continues to progress its commitment to an enduring Treaty partnership with tangata whenua in Te Tairāwhiti. The journey is not without its challenges, as we navigate the dichotomy of supporting the rangatiratanga of tangata whenua within a legislative framework that can hinder the ability to meet partnership expectations. Council's commitment goes beyond legislative obligations, and consistency in effort by both partners will realise outcomes. The 56% Māori demographic in our region necessitates a local democracy that reflects this reality.*

### Reflecting on 2023/24

The past year was a challenging one for Te Tairāwhiti. The aftermath of multiple adverse weather events required a reprioritisation of capacity and resources for both Council and tangata whenua. The recovery environment has heightened the expectations of tangata whenua for Council to prioritise the wellbeing of land, waterways, people, and the resilience of critical infrastructure.

This period also marks the halfway point in the term of the inaugural Māori ward councillors. The Māori seats have strengthened Council's awareness and accountability to our partnership responsibilities. This contribution to Council debates has enhanced decisions, demonstrating the value of a Māori worldview, particularly as a voice for whenua, wai, and Māori, both urban and rural.

Council met with iwi leaders in early 2024, where partnership priorities for the coming period were discussed and agreed upon. The invitations to participate in the standing committees of Emergency Management, Wastewater Management, and the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan Review remain open. Council understands the importance of tangata whenua voices contributing to its decision-making processes and will continue to facilitate these opportunities. In April 2024, Council received formal notification from Turanga iwi to establish the Local Leadership Body (LLB). Council will work alongside the iwi membership to progress this important forum.

The implementation of the Te Tiriti Compass is still in its early stages but has already prompted increased awareness and responsiveness to our Treaty commitments by elected members and operational staff. Building the capability of diverse people and the systems they operate within will take time. The introduction of an evaluative framework will improve Council's ability to adopt informed approaches and ensure consistency in effort towards our partnership commitments.

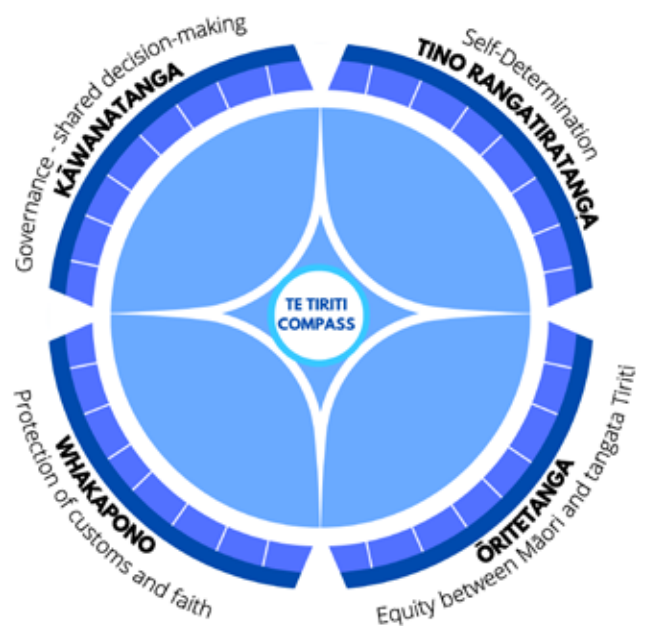
### Looking Ahead

The current government is seeking to redefine the principles of the Treaty, alongside the repeal of various legislative provisions that acknowledge the Treaty-based rights and interests of tangata whenua. Although bound by legislation, Council is committed to our regional context and will work through this period of uncertainty alongside tangata whenua.

The implementation of the Te Tiriti Compass and capability building of staff and systems will be a focus for the coming period. This will be strengthened by a focus on increasing

interactions with whānau, hapū, marae, and iwi where the kaupapa and partnership requirements align. Monitoring and evaluation of these components will assist Council and tangata whenua in identifying opportunities for improvement. The spectrum of tangata whenua relationships is diverse, and developing the confidence to engage the right relationship at the right time will be integral to the success of our efforts moving forward.

Experience has shown that outcomes can be achieved when willing partners are at the table. Maintaining consistency through challenges and opportunities will be a deciding factor in the quality of any outcomes. This requires Council to ensure it is best aligned with the provisions and principles of a Treaty-based relationship. The foundation has been set for this to be tested alongside tangata whenua.



## Ō tātau tauwhāinga, o tātau whakautu

### Our challenges and responses

*Council continues to navigate significant changes and uncertainty within the local government sector. Major reforms, together with direction from a new government, are reshaping the landscape. These changes are resulting in important shifts in regulation, governance, and our approach to how we manage and maintain our core infrastructure and environmental stewardship. In response, we are carefully addressing the challenges ahead. Below, we outline the key challenges we currently face and how we have been managing them.*

For more information, please refer to our website [gdc.govt.nz](https://gdc.govt.nz)

### Resource Management Reform

#### Challenge:

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the primary law governing the use and management of natural and built resources in New Zealand, is now more than 30 years old. Over time, the RMA has increasingly been seen as inadequate for addressing contemporary challenges, including environmental protection, development needs, and emerging issues like climate change adaptation. The current RMA framework is not delivering the desired outcomes for the environment or development, and it is increasingly viewed as outdated and inefficient.

#### Response:

In response to these challenges, the coalition government has initiated a comprehensive reform of the RMA, structured into three phases:

#### Phase One: Repealing the NBA and SPA

The Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act came into effect in August 2023 and were repealed in December 2023.

#### Phase Two: Targeted Changes to the Resource Management System

In Phase Two, a series of targeted changes are being introduced to the existing Resource Management system to address the most pressing issues. These changes include the Fast-Track Approvals Bill, amendments to the RMA, and a national direction package.

#### Fast-Track Approvals Bill

The Fast-Track Approvals Bill, currently under consideration by the Environment Select Committee, introduces a stand-alone Act aimed at expediting significant infrastructure and development projects at local, regional, and national levels. This Bill, which creates a 'one-stop shop' approval process under various legislation, including the RMA, was introduced to Parliament in March 2024.

Council has submitted on the Bill, expressing support for an expedited approval process for projects aligned with iwi and partnership priorities in Tairāwhiti. However, concerns were raised regarding potential impacts on environmental protection. The Environment Select Committee is expected to report back on 18 October 2024, with the Bill likely to be enacted by the end of the year.

#### RMA Amendments

Two sets of amendments to the RMA are proposed. These amendments aim to address short-term issues and align with Government priorities.

The first set of RMA amendments includes the following key changes:

- Te Mana o te Wai: Removes the requirement to consider Te Mana o te Wai Hierarchy in resource consent applications unless mandated by regional freshwater planning documents.
- Stock Exclusion and Other Regulations: Amends Stock Exclusion regulations, repeals Intensive Winter Grazing regulations, and provides a consenting pathway for coal mining.
- Significant Natural Areas (SNAs): Pauses mandatory implementation of new SNAs for three years.
- Marine Farming: Extends the duration of existing marine farm consents.
- National Direction: Speeds up the process to create or amend national direction.

The second Set of RMA Amendments focuses on urgent changes needed to meet Government coalition and manifesto commitments. These changes are grouped into four key packages:

- Infrastructure and Energy: Develop national direction for energy and infrastructure projects, extend coastal permits, update telecommunications facility standards, and support renewable energy consents.
- Housing: Support housing growth policies, require councils to meet 30-year targets, allow opt-outs from density standards, and enable the development of granny flats and papakāinga housing.
- Farming and the Primary Sector: Amend policies to permit indoor production, greenhouses, and solar farms on productive land.
- Emergencies and Natural Hazards: Establish a framework for managing natural hazards and climate change risks, improve emergency provisions, and provide guidance to councils on hazard management.

## Phase Three: Introduction of New Resource Management Legislation

The final phase of the reform will involve introducing new resource management legislation to replace the current RMA. This phase will explore key principles, such as clearly separating urban and spatial planning from environmental protection, reflecting property rights as a guiding principle, and establishing a legislative framework for spatial planning to enable longer-term, integrated planning. The reform also aims to streamline plan-making and consenting processes to speed up approvals and reduce the need for consents.

## Review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan

### Challenge:

The Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) requires a comprehensive review to ensure it continues to support the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the Tairāwhiti region. The region has experienced significant changes due to development, population growth, and evolving demands on resources. Additionally, updates to the TRMP are required to align with new national direction, including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020.

### Response:

To address these challenges, Council has initiated a comprehensive review of the TRMP under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The review is being conducted in two phases:

- Phase 1: Started in 2021, focuses on the Regional Policy Statement provisions, freshwater provisions, and land use provisions related to forestry, urban growth, and development.
- Phase 2: Will address the remaining TRMP provisions, including other land use provisions, regional-level provisions that manage natural resources, the Regional Coastal Plan, and the Discharge to Air Plan.

Council moved forestry management to Phase 1 due to its close connection with freshwater catchment planning, ensuring a more integrated review. We have developed a Landslide Susceptibility and Connectivity Model for Tairāwhiti, which identifies areas likely to experience landslides and their impact on waterways. In response to weather impacts, the Government extended the freshwater planning deadline to December 2027, enabling the Freshwater team to focus on meaningful engagement in 2024.

A TRMP Committee has now been established, chaired by Mayor Rehette Stoltz, with six iwi seats and two independent commissioners. In June 2024, the Committee adopted a Regional Policy Statement framework based on 'ki uta ki tai' (mountains to sea). Council is working with iwi to define 'ki uta ki tai' for the region, using insights from the Iwi Technical Trial (October 2022 – October 2023).

Engagement with Treaty partners and the community remains central to developing the Regional Freshwater Plan and catchment plans.

In March 2024, Council affirmed its commitment to Te Mana o Te Wai, and engagement approaches include:

- Catchment-specific engagement with Iwi, Hapū, and Whānau.
- Establishing Catchment Advisory Groups.
- Stakeholder engagements.

Four advisory groups are now in place:

- Regional Freshwater Plan.
- Waipaoa catchment.
- Waimatā – Pakarae catchment.
- Ūawa catchment.

The Ūawa catchment serves as a pilot for integrating forestry and freshwater issues.

Engagements for the Southern, Northern, and Waiapu catchments are expected to start in 2025.

The TRMP team continues to develop evidence for catchment plans, and a Freshwater Water Quality Expert Panel has been established to address research gaps through scenario assessments.

## Climate Change

### Challenge:

Climate change, driven by human activities resulting in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, is causing warmer temperatures and altering global weather patterns. In Tairāwhiti, this has manifested in adverse natural events such as floods and landslides, which are expected to become more frequent and severe. Additionally, Central Government has signalled a shift in its approach to achieving New Zealand's climate change targets, creating uncertainty regarding the implications for existing Government plans and policies.

### Response:

In 2022, Council developed Our Climate Change Roadmap to 2050 to proactively address these challenges. Following Cyclone Gabrielle, the focus on recovery has impacted implementation of the Roadmap. However, much of the recovery work completed over the past year has contributed to our climate adaptation response. This includes relocating residents from high-risk areas under the Future of Severely Affected Land programme, progressing the Flood Resilience and Land Sustainability work programmes, and working with communities to develop community-led recovery plans that also address future resilience. We have also advanced the development of a Wainui Beach Coastal Adaptation Plan as part of the TRMP review.

Council continues to advocate for Tairāwhiti at a national level, providing feedback on Government policy development, including the Climate Change Adaptation Inquiry and Natural Hazard national direction.

Council intends to revisit the Climate Change Roadmap to review regional and organisation priorities for responding to climate change. This will consider how we manage organisational emissions, how Council will support the region transition to a lower-emissions future and addressing current and future climate-related impacts.

## Local Water Done Well

### Challenge:

Climate adaptation and resilience planning are placing new pressures on community services and finances, particularly in the area of water infrastructure. There is an urgent need to future-proof this infrastructure to address the challenges posed by climate change, such as altered weather patterns and an increased frequency of severe weather events. Additionally, the introduction of the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) programme by Central Government requires councils to adapt to new frameworks for water service delivery, with a strong emphasis on water quality and infrastructure investment.

### Response:

In response to these challenges, the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) programme has been initiated, emphasising local decision-making and flexibility for communities and councils in determining their water service delivery. The programme maintains a strong focus on water quality and infrastructure investment, ensuring that water services are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The first step in this initiative was the introduction of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill to the House on 30 May 2024. This Bill, which was enacted on 2 September 2024, outlines the framework for the new three waters management system, requiring councils to prepare a water services delivery plan within 12 months.

Looking ahead, a second piece of legislation is expected by mid-2025, which will provide more detailed settings for the

new regime, including structural and financing tools and the regulatory framework. The LWDW programme supports the continued management and ownership of water services and infrastructure by territorial authorities. However, staff are preparing information on issues and options to help Council navigate the anticipated changes and ensure compliance with government standards for water quality and infrastructure investment.

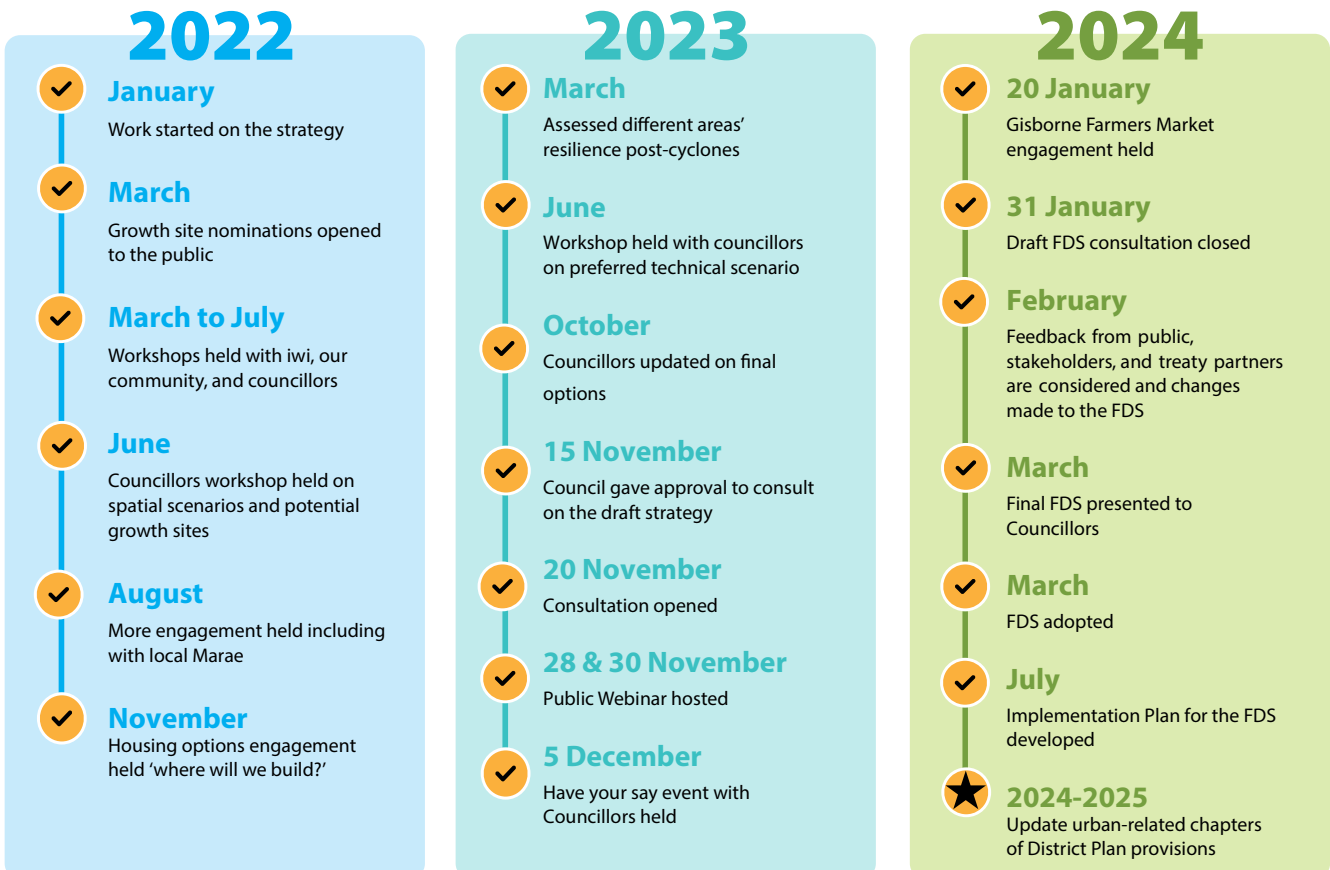
New rules for water quality, including wastewater and stormwater discharges, will be developed and enforced by Taumata Arowai. These rules will set standards for acceptable discharges and mitigate environmental risks to rivers and beaches, ensuring that water management practices meet the highest environmental standards.

## Future Development Strategy

### Challenge:

As our region grows, there is a need to plan for future urban development in a way that creates well-functioning urban environments while also preserving productive land for future generations. The challenge lies in identifying suitable areas for housing development, providing sufficient development capacity over the next 30 years, and ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place to support this growth. Additionally, there is a need to manage urban sprawl and promote housing intensification in appropriate locations to accommodate the growing population.

## The FDS Timeline



## Response:

In response to these challenges, the Future Development Strategy (FDS) has been developed as a 30-year strategic planning tool that outlines areas in our region capable of supporting more homes in the future. The FDS identifies locations suitable for a variety of housing types, including housing intensification in the city centre and surrounding areas, greenfield growth areas, and intensified rural lifestyle development on the peri-urban edges of the city. This approach helps contain urban sprawl and preserves productive land for future generations.

The FDS anticipates that around 75% of the additional homes needed across the region can be provided through intensification.

This includes various housing types, ranging from infill on existing sites to more comprehensive schemes along transport corridors, in neighbourhood commercial centres, and in and around the city centre. Townhouses, terraced housing, and some multi-unit building forms will be allowed in suitable locations.

To guide the delivery of well-functioning urban areas, masterplans for key intensification areas and a Residential Design Guide will be developed and integrated into the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP). An Implementation Plan has also been developed, setting out key actions and timelines to align growth with the FDS. Changes to the TRMP, such as zoning and rules, will follow the usual Resource Management Act processes, and there will be consultation with the community to ensure that growth is managed in a way that benefits the entire region.

## Establishment of a New Zealand Rapid Response Team in Tairāwhiti

### Challenge:

Tairāwhiti faces a wide range of hazards, including extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change, tectonic risks such as earthquakes and tsunamis, and other emergencies that have impacted the region significantly over the past five years. The rapid onset of climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of adverse weather events, further heightening these risks. Many community and iwi groups have expressed a strong desire to self-resource and mobilise during emergency situations. Training and operational oversight from emergency services has been identified as a requirement to allow for this, and to reduce the risk of harm to both volunteers and the public during emergency response efforts.

### Response:

To address these challenges, the establishment of a New Zealand Rapid Response Team (NZRT) capability in Tairāwhiti has been proposed. This would ensure that the region has a trained and coordinated local response capability to support critical tasks such as flood response, Civil Defence Community-Led Centres (CDC) operations, welfare tasks, cordon management, public notifications, evacuations, and support to emergency services. The NZRT would also help coordinate spontaneous volunteers and provide additional staff support.

The recent severe weather events of 2023 highlighted the need for a trained response entity in the region that can be deployed to support operational tasks during both Response and Recovery phases. The deployment of NZRT resources from outside the region during Cyclone Gabrielle demonstrated the effectiveness of such a capability, reinforcing the need for a locally based team.

Establishing an NZRT in Tairāwhiti will also address the legal and safety concerns related to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSAW). By ensuring that volunteers and community members involved in emergency response activities are adequately trained, equipped, and operating under the direction of emergency services, the risks posed by untrained individuals can be mitigated. This will enhance the safety and well-being of both the volunteers and the public, reduce potential hazards, and ensure compliance with legal obligations under the HSAW Act.

## Regional Speed Management Plan

### Challenge:

The need to improve road safety, particularly around schools and high-risk areas, has driven changes to speed limit bylaws across the region. Council is aligning with the national Road to Zero strategy, which targets ensuring 40% of schools have Safe and Appropriate Speeds (SAAS) in place by 2024. However, recent amendments by Central Government have made the previously mandatory targets and deadlines for Speed Management Plans discretionary, which has complicated the implementation process. Additionally, we are facing the challenge of coordinating speed limit changes across both local roads and state highways, while ensuring that these changes effectively address areas with a history of crashes, new growth, or where walking and cycling need greater support.

### Response:

In response to these challenges, Council has developed an Interim Speed Management Plan (ISMP) that updates the Tairāwhiti Speed Limits Bylaw 2013. This plan has been submitted to Waka Kotahi and certified as the ISMP for local roads within the district. The ISMP aligns with the Road to Zero strategy and introduces significant speed limit changes in key areas, such as reducing Stout Street's speed limit to 40km/h and setting a new 30km/h limit in the Central Business District (CBD) to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety.

As part of Stage 2 of the ISMP implementation, new speed limits are being rolled out across the region, including reductions for 31 schools and 23 marae, and in some rural areas, where speed limits will drop from 100km/h to 80, 60, or 50km/h. These changes are targeted at locations with a recent crash history, new growth, or those needing better infrastructure for walking and cycling.

To ensure a cohesive approach, Council staff have also contributed to the State Highway ISMP consultation, working to align the plans for state highways and local roads. Following further upcoming rule changes, the Council will continue to adapt the ISMP, either through variations or by developing a full speed management plan.

In light of the anticipated new Land Transport Rule for setting speed limits, to be released for public consultation and signed by the end of 2024, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has temporarily paused work on its speed management plans, allowing for adjustments to be made in alignment with the new regulations. This will help ensure that the speed management strategies across Tairāwhiti remain effective and compliant with national standards.

For more information, see the Interim State Highway Speed Management Plan at [nzta.govt.nz](https://nzta.govt.nz)

## Regional Land Transport Plan Adoption

### Challenge:

The region's land transport planning needed significant updates to address the evolving demands of economic growth, resilience, safety, and value for money. The previous Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 2021-2031, published in June 2021, no longer fully aligned with current government policies, public expectations, or the latest Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) priorities. Additionally, the region faces unique challenges, such as the need to improve public transport, manage transport in rural areas, and adapt to climate change, all while integrating feedback from the "Let's Talk Transport Tairāwhiti" public consultation.

### Response:

In response to these challenges, Council adopted a new Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) for 2024-34 on 23 May 2024. This updated plan sets the strategic direction for the next ten years and feeds into the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). The RLTP has been revised to incorporate public feedback and align with the 2024 GPS strategic priorities, which include economic growth and productivity, increased maintenance and resilience, safety, and value for money.

Key changes in the updated RLTP include:

**1. Inclusion of Updated GPS Priorities:** Ensuring alignment with national transport objectives through revised strategic priorities.

**2. Language Refinement:** Replacing "mode shift" with "travel choice" to reflect the GPS language while continuing to promote travel behaviour change.

**3. Removal of Road to Zero:** Moving away from specifically referencing the "Road to Zero" programme and adopting a broader focus on general road safety and crash reduction strategies.

**4. Economic Benefits Highlighted:** Emphasising the economic advantages of multi-modal transport, including the value of the roading network and the efficiency of active travel and public transport.

**5. Resilience and Recovery:** Including additional references to the Strategic Network Resilience Programme Business Case, supported by Waka Kotahi funding.

**6. Enhancements in Public Transport:** Outlining improvements in the Gisborne city bus network, including a shift to cashless ticketing systems and increased farebox recovery targets.

**7. Focus on East Coast and Rural Areas:** Addressing the importance of rural public transport and providing additional information on the transport challenges experienced by smaller townships and rural communities.

**8. Increased Investment in Active Travel:** Prioritising improvements in customer levels of service for active travel, particularly for vulnerable users.

**9. Inclusion of Public Feedback:** Integrating anonymous testimonies from public consultations to highlight challenges faced by vulnerable road users.

**10. Adaptation to Climate Change:** Outlining activities aimed at mitigating climate change impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector.

The updated RLTP is subject to ongoing evaluation and adjustment, particularly regarding the financial forecast and the State Highway Investment Programme (SHIP), which includes considerations for post-Cyclone Gabrielle recovery efforts. The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) will review the proposed activities in the RLTP, make funding decisions, and develop the National Land Transport Plan, with the outcome expected by the end of September 2024.



# Arotahinga Whakarauoratanga

## Recovery focus

*Te Tairāwhiti has continued to navigate the challenges brought by Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle, which caused extensive damage across our region. Our roading network, flood protection systems, and land management practices have been at the forefront of recovery efforts. The scale of damage, particularly to our roads and bridges, has been unprecedented, with many areas isolated and infrastructure severely compromised.*

### Our roading network

During Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle, our roading network suffered extensive damage from landslides, floods, and heavy rains. This led to the collapse of roads and the destruction of bridges. Some rural areas were cut off for weeks, with eight bridges destroyed and 54 others severely damaged. More than 3,000 faults were reported on local roads, and over 200 major sections of road were significantly damaged. Tiniroto Road and Tiniroto Bluffs remain closed.

The total cost to restore our roading network to its previous state is estimated at \$465m, but \$725m is needed to rebuild it to a more resilient standard. Central Government has provided a support package of \$125m for emergency response costs; however, this leaves a substantial funding shortfall. We are working closely with Central Government to address this gap.

A detailed assessment of the region's 424 bridges revealed that 62 were affected by the events, with erosion impacting more than 250 parts of our network. We are currently reviewing the roading network to identify priority areas, focusing on ensuring public safety in the highest-risk locations.

#### Here's an overview of some of the key work that is underway:

- **Tiniroto Road:** This alternative route to State Highway 2 (SH2) South, connecting with Wairoa, has secured \$45m in business case funding. The project includes plans to reopen the bluffs section, finalise the Project Management Plan, and carry out geotechnical and hydrology works. Preparations for the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) model are in progress.
- **Dropouts:** Repairs to road sections damaged by Cyclone Gabrielle and subsequent weather events require \$8.5m. We are finalising the prioritisation of these repairs.
- **Bridge Strengthening (Red/Orange Bridges):** We have identified 90 bridges that need strengthening to reconnect communities, with a funding requirement of \$17.5m.
- **Temporary Solutions (Black Bridges):** These projects focus on reconnecting isolated communities using temporary pathways and fords, with a budget of \$23m.
- **Minor Repairs (Green Bridges):** Involving 35 bridges with minor damage, this programme has a repair budget of \$1m. Current work includes site inspections, defining project scopes, and completing repairs.

- **Iwi Projects:** Council also negotiated, with iwi support, an Iwi Projects package totalling \$27 million to address community resilience challenges across the district.
- At the start of the 2023/24 financial year, more than 3,000 faults had been identified on local roads, with 37 roads remaining closed due to the impacts of weather events, including a recent cyclone. By 30 June, 31 of these roads had been successfully reopened, with over \$69m invested in emergency repairs, addressing slips, bridge repairs, and general road safety improvements across the district.

#### Key achievements during this period included:

- 2,444 unsealed potholes repaired across the district.
- 2,965 sealed potholes fixed.
- 2,054 traffic signs replaced or repaired.
- 100,407 m<sup>2</sup> of sealed roads repaired post-cyclone.
- 1,931 culverts repaired and 68 new culverts installed.
- 1,102 m<sup>2</sup> of footpaths repaired.

While significant progress has been made in the past year in responding to the damage incurred on the roading network, substantial restoration work is still required. This work will continue over the next three years, as outlined in our 2024-2027 Three-Year Plan.

### Flood protection

Flood protection, rivers, and land drainage networks across our region have been significantly affected by persistent heavy rainfall and the impact of Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle. The build-up of silt has considerably reduced the capacity of drainage channels, increasing the risk of future flooding. Significant erosion and the loss of critical flood control structures, such as stopbanks, have also occurred. This situation poses a substantial threat to the safety and well-being of our communities, as well as to the integrity of infrastructure and properties throughout the region. These issues have heightened the urgency for a strategic and coordinated response to restore and improve our flood protection systems.

In response, we have initiated a comprehensive plan to reinstate, reinforce, and improve flood protection infrastructure across the region to ensure community safety and protect property. All damaged stopbanks have been successfully repaired and are now as good as, or better than, they were before Cyclone Gabrielle. With the assistance of Central Government funding, we have also accelerated flood protection works on the Waipaoa River, where 48 km of stopbanks have now been upgraded.

Additionally, we have undertaken work to improve our rural drainage network. Forty-five kilometres of the drainage network in the Manutuke, Patutahi, and Ormond Drainage Districts have been excavated and maintained to remove silt accumulations, ensuring their functionality in case of future rain events.

Hydraulic modelling work is being undertaken for the Waipaoa River near Te Karaka Township, using Cyclone Gabrielle as the calibration event in the model. 'Optioneering' work in collaboration with the Te Karaka community group started in August 2024 to develop and recommend flood scheme improvement options. This modelling forms a critical component of the wider Flood Resilience Investigation Programme being implemented across Tairāwhiti. The data and insights gained from hydraulic modelling are key to understanding the dynamics and implications of flooding in the area and identifying the most effective solutions for flood mitigation.

To further refine our strategies, we have begun evaluating a range of potential solutions and design alternatives for flood protection improvements and mitigations. Mitigation options to be considered will cover the PARA framework (Protect, Avoid, Retreat, Accommodate). This process involves assessing various options based on factors such as cost, feasibility, environmental impact, and effectiveness. Our goal is to select the most viable and sustainable approaches to improving flood resilience across the region.

We will continue to deliver the programme of flood resilience investigation and upgrade work across the district through 2024/25 and beyond. This work is captured in the 2024-2027 Three-Year Plan, which outlines our strategic priorities and investments for the coming years.

## Future of Severely Affected Land

Many properties across regions affected by Cyclone Gabrielle suffered devastating impacts from flooding, silt inundation, or land erosion. In response, Central Government introduced the Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) framework, a system designed to assess and address the risks associated with severely affected properties. This initiative involved mapping the affected properties to identify those at the highest risk of property damage or loss of life from future severe weather events. Properties have been categorised into Category 2 or Category 3 based on their risk level.

Category 3 is the highest risk category, identifying homes that are no longer safe to inhabit due to an unacceptable threat to life from flooding or landslides. These properties cannot be rebuilt on their current sites and are eligible for a Category 3 voluntary buyout.

Category 2 is identified as the managed risk category, where the risk to life can be mitigated. Measures include community-based mitigations (Category 2C), such as raising nearby stopbanks, improving drainage, or undertaking property-level mitigations (Category 2P), such as house lifting or constructing retaining walls. The number of affected properties currently identified in our region as of 30 June is as follows:

- Category 3: 69 properties, with 15 under the DPMC whenua Māori and marae pathway.

- Category 2P: 167 properties.
- Category 2C: 15 properties.

### Voluntary Category 3 Buyouts

A comprehensive programme of work has been undertaken to enable Council to purchase Category 3 properties and allow impacted property owners to move to a new, safe home. This is a voluntary process, and owners have until June 2025 to reach an agreed settlement offer with GDC. Consultation with impacted property owners was undertaken to help inform the Category 3 buyout policy that was adopted by Council in November 2023.

As of 30 June 2024, the Category 3 Buy-Out initiative has completed settlements for 23 properties, with ownership transferred to the Council. This represents 43% of the property buy-outs, excluding 15 Whenua Māori Pathway properties.

### Government Funding and our Strategy:

Following community consultation in October 2023, Council accepted the Government's \$204m cyclone support package, which included \$15m towards purchasing residential Category 3 properties. This \$15m represents 50% of the funding to purchase these properties, including relocation grants for mixed-use properties. The other 50% will come from Council. The purchase costs are less any insurance proceeds. This funding does not cover the costs of house demolition or ongoing maintenance following the buyouts, which will require funding through rates.

Separate from the cyclone support package, Government funding of \$15m has been provided to support Category 2P property-level mitigations.

### Moving forward:

In the coming financial year, we will focus on:

- Completing all Category 3 voluntary buyouts
- Establishing a demolition programme for purchased Category 3 properties
- Future use of Category 3 land
- Providing 2P mitigation grant funding to eligible property owners

### Commercial Sediment and Debris

In 2023, Government provided an initial \$7.41m funding to eligible commercial entities to support the clean-up of cyclone-related sediment and debris in Tairāwhiti.

There were 173 successful applicants ranging from pastoral, cropping, horticulture, and viticulture entities, with impacted land areas ranging from 1ha to 6659ha.

There was far more need from commercial entities than the initial funding provided for, and several applicants faced a lengthy wait for support while Council worked with Government to seek additional funding. In February 2024, the Government provided a further \$5.6m of support, which was gratefully received.

## Land Management and Response to Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use

Our region has faced significant challenges due to land use practices, particularly forestry activities on highly sensitive land, exacerbated by severe weather events. These issues intensified following Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle in early 2023, which caused widespread mobilisation of forestry slash, woody debris, and mass erosion, significantly affecting local communities, infrastructure, and the environment. The urgent need for change in land use practices has prompted action at both regional and national levels, leading to a review of land use within the region through the Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use (MILU).

The MILU report, delivered in May 2023, identified the need for immediate and long-term actions relating to land management, woody debris, and regional forestry practices. Key recommendations from the report include:

- **Managing Woody Debris and Sediment:** The report called for a coordinated approach to managing woody debris and sediment in waterways. It recommended sustainable land use practices and improvements to critical infrastructure. A taskforce was proposed to lead the clean-up efforts, with costs to be shared between local and central government.
- **Strengthening Infrastructure Resilience:** The report focused on the need to maintain and renew key state highways, ensure flexibility in emergency funding, and prioritise local businesses for procurement. It also recommended the creation of a resilience plan for essential highways and supported projects such as restoring water supplies.
- **Promoting Sustainable Land Use:** The report suggested focusing on erosion-prone areas by transitioning highly erodible land to permanent vegetation cover. It called for stricter rules around clear-felling in forestry, along with stronger regulatory oversight and updated national standards to better manage regional challenges.
- **Supporting Māori Land Development:** The report highlighted the importance of engaging in co-investment opportunities and providing better governance support for Māori landowners. It proposed economic incentives, such as a biodiversity credit system, and recommended enhancements to the Emissions Trading Scheme to promote environmental sustainability and strengthen local economies.

Following the report, Council introduced several initiatives aligned with the key recommendations:

- **Management of Woody Debris:** Efforts have increased to assess the scale of the issue and prioritise actions to reduce risks. Collaboration with the forestry industry, landowners, and iwi has been key in developing coordinated recovery solutions.
- **Resource Management Advisor and Facilitator Appointments:** In September 2023, an advisor and facilitator were appointed to support land use recovery. These roles provided advice on both regulatory and non-regulatory actions.

- **Forestry Management:** Work has begun on reviewing and updating the TRMP rules relating to forestry practices, with a focus on clear-felling. Efforts are also underway to expedite resource consent reviews and implement national guidance on forestry slash risks.
- **Land Use Change:** Significant progress has been made in identifying vulnerable land that requires permanent cover. A Transitional Advisory Group has been established to develop solutions for transitioning this land.

## Expanding Our Land Management Efforts:

In 2023/24, the Council concentrated on addressing challenges from increased rainfall events, the MILU recommendations, and new Central Government regulations. These factors necessitated an urgent expansion of land management and planning activities.

To support these efforts, Council secured additional funding from the Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry for Primary Industries' Hill Country Erosion Fund, and Land Information New Zealand. This funding supports the expansion of our land management team under the Integrated Catchment Management programme, focusing on:

- Freshwater Farm Plans and compliance with the new Freshwater Reform requirements.
- Erosion control and sustainable land use practices in highly erodible areas, supported by a comprehensive spatial dataset for land treatment assessments.
- Vegetation planting for waterway protection, biodiversity restoration, pest control, and fish passage remediation.

Significant progress has been made in mapping and identifying land highly susceptible to erosion and where that erosion is highly likely to reach waterways. This has been made possible through the development of the Land Overlay 3B (LO3B) mapping system. This data-driven approach, supported by advanced computer modelling in collaboration with Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and the Ministry for Primary Industries, allows us to:

- Identify land that needs to be transitioned from the current land use to permanent vegetation cover to mitigate erosion.
- Develop resilience strategies based on the location and size of LO3B land across the seven TRMP Freshwater Catchments.

Once the final verification is complete, the model will be made publicly available, benefiting the forestry, infrastructure, and resilience planning sectors. Additionally, the verification report will guide our exploration of risk mapping options, supporting changes to our planning work.

Throughout 2023/24, we have prioritised sustainable land management practices, integrating advanced technology and strengthening partnerships to effectively address these challenges. Looking ahead, the Council is committed to improving these strategies, ensuring that environmental sustainability remains central to all land use decisions. Our goal is to build a more resilient and sustainable future for our communities through continued innovation and collaboration.

## **Forestry Management**

Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted the potential damage that extreme weather events can inflict on our region. Poor forestry practices exacerbate the risks to our community.

To address these challenges, Council has increased resources for monitoring forestry practices in our region. A forestry team has been established to improve monitoring and compliance efforts. This team will conduct aerial mapping and on-the-ground inspections across Te Tairāwhiti to identify areas where woody debris is likely to mobilise, posing risks to life, property, infrastructure, and the environment. Funds from the existing 2023/24 budget will be reallocated to recruit suitably qualified staff to promote safe and sustainable forestry practices.

Since the cyclone, Council has intensified its forestry monitoring, compliance, and enforcement efforts. An extensive investigation into forestry operations has resulted in 74 ground inspections across 47 forests and 7 aerial inspections, leading to the issuance of 32 inspection reports. Currently, Council is pursuing a number of enforcement orders and has issued several abatement notices.

Additionally, the forestry team and compliance officers have worked alongside the regional consents team in an effort to build more robust consent conditions to aid in managing better forestry practices and reducing the likelihood of damage to our environment and infrastructure.

## **Woody debris**

Following Cyclone Gabrielle, Central Government provided significant funding of \$53.4m to address the unprecedented volumes of large woody debris (LWD) that mobilised and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and natural habitats.

High-risk areas that posed a potential threat to people, roads, bridges, pipelines, and the environment were prioritised for woody debris removal.

By the end of 2023/24, 415,470 tonnes of debris had been successfully extracted, representing 93% of the volume in active project sites. Of this, 374,325 tonnes were treated through high-oxygen or open-air burning and chipping, accounting for 90% of the extracted volumes. A total of 61,748 tonnes was removed from beaches, making up 15% of the total extracted volume.

Active project sites were located in the Uawa/Hikurangi, Waimata/Pakarae, Te Aria, Whatatutu/Te Karaka, and Waiapu catchments. Beach sites included Tokomaru Bay, Uawa, Makorori, Whangara, Tikapa, Kaiti, Waikanae, and Midway.

Continued severe weather events have made this programme of work challenging, restricting access to waterlogged river catchments and remobilising and relocating woody debris accumulations.

In February 2024, due to persistent bad weather, Council recognised the urgent need to reassess the situation and completed a comprehensive flyover to identify remaining woody debris accumulations.

Innovative methods have been employed to support the removal of woody debris, including the use of helicopters in high-risk locations that heavy machinery could not safely reach and a specialised LiDAR drone to measure volumes of large woody debris (LWD) in and around the Waimata River.

The summer programme is currently being developed, with scoping and proposal preparations underway for consideration by Council's leadership team. While work is expected to continue at a reduced capacity through October, the focus will be on planning and preparatory activities, ensuring that once weather conditions improve, a full complement of contractors can resume operations.

In addition, from mid-September to mid-October 2024, the region's beaches will undergo a thorough grooming process to prepare them for the upcoming summer season. This effort is essential, as the beach sites have been heavily impacted by woody debris, and restoring these areas is critical to ensuring they are safe and welcoming for public use during the busy holiday period.

The ongoing collaboration and additional funding underscore the commitment to addressing the long-term challenges posed by woody debris in Tairāwhiti, ensuring that both immediate and future risks are mitigated effectively.



# Tā mātau whakatutukinga mahi

## Our performance

### How did Council do this year?

*Council measures and monitors the quality and effectiveness of our services to ensure we are delivering on our commitments and continuously seeking opportunities to improve. As part of this process, performance measures were established during the adoption of our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan and subsequent Annual Plan processes to track the delivery, efficiency, and effectiveness of our services. This is the final year of reporting on the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, as we will next transition to reporting on our new 2024-2027 Three Year Plan.*

### Our Year in Performance

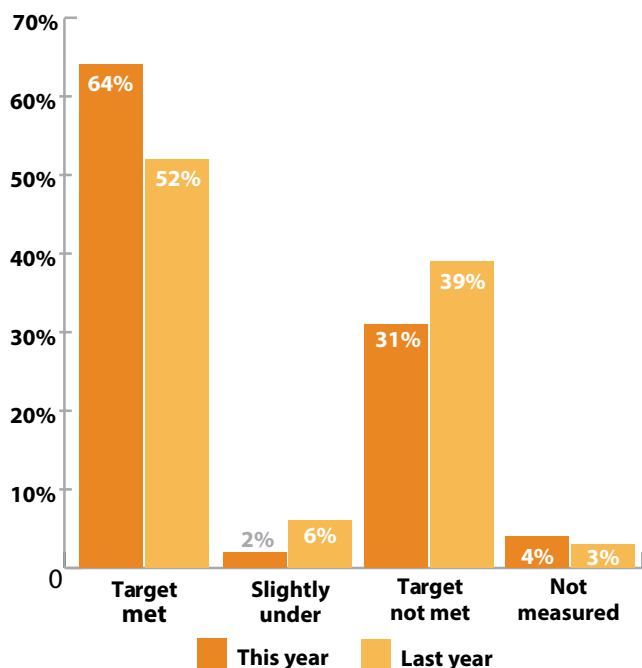
This year, Council faced one of the most challenging periods in the region's history following the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. The scale of damage across townships and critical infrastructure was unprecedented. In response, Council has undertaken an extraordinary amount of work to rebuild and recover. Significant progress has been made in reopening major roads, restoring critical stopbank and drainage networks, and stabilising landslide-prone areas, while also continuing to deliver on the commitments outlined in our Long Term Plan.

While setbacks from last year affected the delivery of many Council services, including requests for services, roading maintenance, resource consents, building consents, and water management, our focus during this year has been on rebuilding capacity and ensuring that our services are better prepared to handle future challenges.

Detailed information on Council's performance measures is available in the "Our levels of service and how we measure progress" section of Our Activities, starting on page 62.

### Overall Performance Metrics

The graph below illustrates Council's performance in meeting the targets set for 2023/24.



We track a total of 111 measures, consisting of 39 mandatory measures, 20 measures mostly derived from our Residential Satisfaction Survey, and 52 measures developed by Council for the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Overall, 64% of our performance measures were on target this year, compared to 52% last year.

Response times were slower last year following the cyclones, due to extensive damage across the district. This impacted our ability to meet some of the performance measures.

### Mandatory Measures

A total of 39 performance measures are mandated by Central Government, covering our Three Waters (stormwater, wastewater, and water supply), land, rivers, coastal areas, and the provision of our local roads and footpaths. These measures are consistent across all local authorities, allowing the public to compare service levels provided by different councils. This year, we achieved 29 mandatory performance measures (74%), with 1 slightly under target, 7 not achieved, and 2 not measured.

### Targets Met

Council met 29 of its mandatory performance measures.

#### Roading:

We saw a reduction in fatal and serious crashes, and we successfully met targets related to resurfacing and maintaining the condition of our footpaths district-wide.

#### Water Supply:

Both urgent and non urgent water supply callouts were attended to and resolved in a timely manner, ensuring minimal disruptions for residents. Additionally, we were well within the target for demand management, with the average daily consumption of drinking water per resident meeting set benchmarks, demonstrating our commitment to efficient water use.

The quality of drinking water was maintained across five of our six treatment plants and distribution zones. In the Muriwai distribution zone, however, there were two short periods (1-4 July and 28 August 2023) when the Free Available Chlorine (FAC) levels dropped below the required standard of 0.1 mg/L. Although the Muriwai pipeline is registered as a distribution zone, it mainly operates as a bulk filling point, and reports

show there was little to no use of this water supply during these periods. We are monitoring this closely to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

#### **Stormwater:**

Council met targets for discharge compliance of our stormwater system, receiving no abatements, infringement notices, or enforcement orders. We also achieved targets related to the number of flooding events within the district.

#### **Wastewater:**

Council met the target for the median resolution time, ensuring prompt responses from the notification of faults to the confirmation of resolution. Additionally, Council recorded zero enforcement orders or convictions relating to resource consent breaches.

#### **Land, Rivers, Coastal:**

Council met its target for system performance and adequacy, ensuring that our flood protection infrastructure is maintained to a high standard. Specifically, 25% of flood control stopbank lengths were inspected during 23/24, contributing to the ongoing assessment and maintenance of the network's ability to provide 1-in-100-year flood protection.

### **Targets Not Met**

Council did not meet the target for 7 mandatory performance measures across wastewater, stormwater, and water supply activities, relating to water loss, stormwater complaints and response times, discharge compliance, wastewater fault response times, and customer satisfaction, as detailed below.

#### **Water Supply:**

The target for maintenance of the reticulation network was to keep real water loss below 15%. However, the actual water loss reached 19.4%. This was primarily due to the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle, which led to reduced metered water usage and the presence of multiple faulty water meters, impacting the accuracy of our water loss calculations.

#### **Stormwater:**

The target for the number of complaints received about the performance of the stormwater system was not met, although there was an improvement compared to 2023. The increased frequency of weather events during 2023/24 led to a rise in both the volume and severity of issues, resulting in more complaints from residents. The target for the median response time to attend flooding events was also not achieved. The escalation in both the frequency and magnitude of weather events during 2023/24 impacted Council's ability to respond within the expected timeframes, leading to delays in reaching flood event sites.

#### **Wastewater:**

The target for discharge compliance was not met due to an abatement notice issued in July 2023 and two infringement notices in October 2023, all related to construction activities at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Stage 2 Project. These notices were not directly linked to the operation of the wastewater network.

Council did not meet the target for fault response times, which measured the median attendance time from notification of a wastewater fault to the arrival of service personnel. Although there was a marked improvement from the previous year, the increased volume of issues in 2023/24 caused delays in response times, preventing us from reaching the expected standard.

The customer satisfaction target was not achieved, as complaints regarding odour, system faults, blockages, and Council's response to wastewater system issues exceeded the target. While the weather events of 2023/24 led to an increase in both the volume and complexity of problems, resulting in more complaints, overall performance was better than the previous year but still fell short of the desired level.

### **Not measured**

Two mandatory roading measures relating to road condition assessment and footpath service standards were not completed due to operational constraints stemming from the significant remediation efforts being undertaken. These are explained below.

#### **Road Condition:**

The average quality of ride on a sealed local road network was not measured due to the severe impact on the roading network, with 47 road closures across the district. This prevented Council from completing the assessment in 2023/24. From 1 July 2024, all road condition monitoring will be conducted by NZTA as part of a national contract.

#### **Footpaths:**

The percentage of footpaths meeting the service standard was not assessed due to resourcing challenges among independent contractors and the large volume of recovery work. Despite this, the footpath renewal programme was completed, with 0.481 km (0.18%) of the total 264 km renewed. The Engineering Code of Practice is currently under review.

### **Responding to Community Views**

We carry out independent resident satisfaction surveys to gauge how satisfied residents are with our resources, facilities, and services, always seeking opportunities for continuous improvement. The survey process has included collecting data on a quarterly basis through online surveys, providing quarterly reports, and producing an annual analysis that feeds into our Annual Report

Just over 400 residents across the Gisborne District participated, representing a range of ages, ethnicities, areas, and genders. However, we acknowledge that the survey's sample size and the nature of online data collection result in a lower degree of confidence in the survey being fully representative of our 51,135 residents. Online surveys can be less accessible to certain demographics, which may lead to underrepresentation in the results.

To address this, we employ additional surveys to check the pulse of our services. Where appropriate, and where the sample size from the Resident Satisfaction Survey is not statistically significant, these surveys and consultation responses are used to supplement the overall performance results.



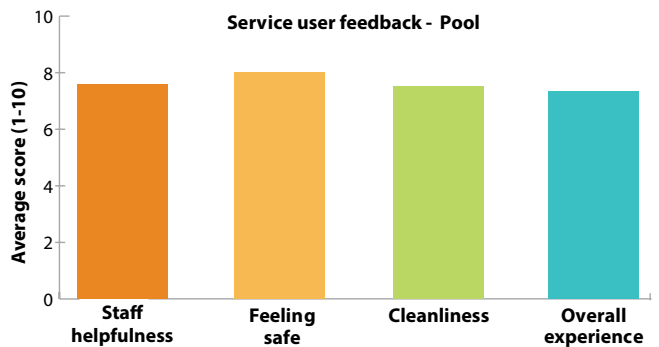
collect survey information, aiming for more comprehensive feedback with larger sample sizes. This will include an increased focus on targeted surveys, supplemented by “point of service” feedback, ensuring a more accurate and inclusive understanding of community sentiment.

### Online and Service-User Surveys

Point of service surveys are conducted at our key sites, including the Library and Kiwa Pool Complex, to gather feedback from users. These surveys are accessible through kiosks located on-site or via QR codes, allowing us to collect valuable insights on customer experience and service delivery.

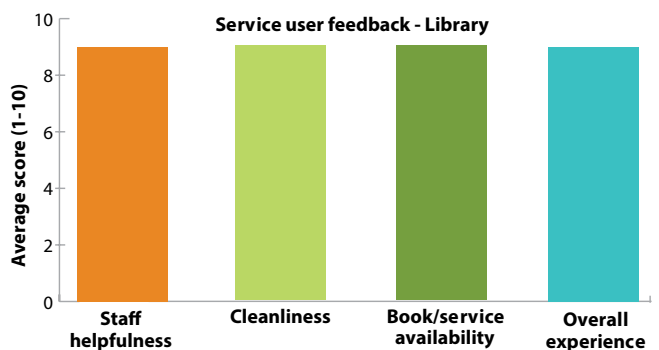
#### Kiwa Pools Complex

Overall, pool users reported an overall satisfaction score of 7.3/10, with many appreciating the family-friendly atmosphere and recreational opportunities. Staff were praised for their friendliness and professionalism. Feedback on potential improvements will be considered as we continue to improve the facilities and services.



#### Library feedback

The library received an overall experience rating of 9/10, with users praising the helpfulness and professionalism of staff, which contributed to a welcoming atmosphere. Cleanliness and comfort were also rated highly, and the library was recognised as a key community resource. Suggestions for expanding the range of books, resources, and services will be considered to ensure the library continues to meet the needs of our community.



## Performance highlights and areas for improvement

This section highlights our performance, outlining both successes and areas for improvement. While we've achieved notable successes, we remain committed to addressing key areas for growth to better serve our community and continuously refine our services.

### Performance highlights

#### Compliance and Licensing 1

Compliance and licensing consistently met all targets, addressing urgent complaints and exceeding targets for licensing and environmental health inspections.

#### Public Education & Engagement 2

Our public education and engagement efforts have exceeded targets, with an increase in activities designed to inform and involve the community. This year, we conducted 14 civil defence and emergency management workshops, alongside over 30 waste minimisation workshops, reaching over 1,800 people.

#### Aquatic Facilities Water Quality 3

Our aquatic facilities continue to provide safe, well-maintained environments that meet the community's needs, consistently meeting all performance targets for water quality.

#### Transport Services Accessibility 4

Our public transport initiatives have made strides in improving accessibility for our community by promoting a mode shift towards more sustainable options. This includes an increase in the number of residents using our walking and cycling networks, as well as a significant rise in public transport use, with increased bus patronage for both our Waka Kura and Gizzybus services.

#### Huge Increase in Library Users 5

The introduction of the "Fines Free" initiative has led to a 24% increase in library users. There has also been a remarkable 240% rise in the use of digital resources, matching national trends

### Areas for improvement

#### Illegal Dumping & Waste Management 1

There has been a significant increase in illegal dumping, with total waste received nearly doubling from 393 tonnes last year to 775.4 tonnes this year. The rise in illegally dumped waste is particularly evident outside waste management facilities after hours, as well as in remote public areas.

#### Stormwater & Wastewater System Performance 2

Council saw an increase in complaints related to both the stormwater and wastewater systems, largely due to the frequency and severity of weather events. These trends indicate the need for targeted improvements in the resilience and management of both systems to better handle the impacts of extreme weather.

#### Cultural Facilities Satisfaction 3

The Resident Satisfaction Survey for showed that while satisfaction levels remain strong, we narrowly missed our targets across theatres, the library, and the museum. Continued efforts to improve and develop these spaces will be essential meeting the community's expectations.

#### Open Space, Recreation & Amenity Areas 4

Satisfaction with key open spaces and recreational facilities declined. Reserves, sports parks, and council playgrounds experienced reduced satisfaction, likely due to weather-related disruptions and necessary maintenance.

#### Building Consents within statutory timeframes 5

While we maintained a high level of performance in issuing building consents within the statutory 20 business days, we fell short of our 95% target, closing the year at 85%. Notably, the last two months of the year saw significant improvement, achieving over 95%, reflecting changes in our work to streamline processes.

## Ngā āhuatanga pūtea

### Finances at a glance

This section provides an overview of Council's financial results for 2023/24 and how it compares to our Annual Plan 2023/24. Our Annual Report 2023/24 is the Year three of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

For further detailed information on the Council and the Group's financial results, refer to the full financial statements in the "Our Finances" section.

Details of Council's Statement of Involvement in Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) and other companies is also included in the "Our Finances" section.

The Council reports comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP). They comply with Tier 1 PBE Standards and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities. These requirements prescribe the way we recognise and disclose all financial transactions in our financial accounts.

Council continues to be financially strong in terms of its overall debt and financial performance.

Financial Prudence Benchmarks are shown in Note 37: Disclosure Statement under the "Our Finances" section of the report. They graph Council's planned financial performance against actual results. They help assess whether Council is prudently managing its revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities and general financial dealings.

All benchmarks have been met and are within planned performance measures.

### Financial position overview

Council holds long-term assets of \$2.8 billion including operational and infrastructure assets. When investing in infrastructure, we borrow funds so repayments can be spread across the generations who benefit from these assets.

At the end of this financial year our financial position remains healthy, and our debt levels continue to be stable.

At year end our total debt is \$178m, including \$20m of prefunding which is set aside for the debt repayments in July and October 2024. The prefunding is secured by deposits ready to pay the loan draw down that will occur in 2024/25.

Net debt is \$158m, while this is higher than the Annual Plan \$148.4m, it is within the overall expected debt limits (i.e. 130% of revenue). The higher than planned debt relates to the concessionary loan of \$10m for the Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) Category 3 Voluntary residential Property buyouts. This concessionary loan arises from a joint 50% FOSAL category 3 buyout agreement with central government. This joint agreement with Central Government was approved post the adoption of the Annual Plan.

Central Government awarded a \$204 million "recovery package" for our roads and flood protection, some of which has been completed within this Annual Report. The rest of the grants will be delivered within the 2024-2027 Three Year Recovery Plan.

### Financial performance

Our Annual Report is not only our Long Term Plan programme but also Council's ongoing response to damage caused by the cyclones.

Our 2023/24 Annual Report is Year 3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. Our past year is also the first full year of recovery, post the challenges posed by Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle.

Overall, in balancing our commitment to our 2021-2031 LTP and recovery, Council continues to perform well financially.

We recorded a \$15.2m net surplus after taxation, against a \$11.2m Annual Plan budget. This represents a \$4m net surplus, more than we expected.

This is mostly to do with receiving capital grants from Central Government "recovery package". This included funding for roading capital emergency works, central government's 50% share towards Category 3 residential property buyouts (\$5.1m), and flood protection (\$5.15m). We also received NEMA proceeds for Cyclone Gabrielle damaged Four Water Infrastructure assets.

The additional capital grants and insurance proceeds were partially offset by not receiving a dividend of \$1.8m from Gisborne Holdings Limited (GHL), an accounting loss of \$6.6m related to FOSAL Category 3 voluntary residential property buyouts.

**The overall net surplus** after taxation is the difference between income received and expenses incurred during the year. The recognition of capital grants and capital subsidies contributes to the recording of a surplus. We record capital grants and capital subsidies as income, even though the money is not used to fund operational activities. This surplus goes towards our capital projects and reduces Council's need to borrow funds.

**Total revenue** was \$255m, \$10m more than what was in the Annual Plan. This increase was mostly due to receiving grants from Central Government for the "recovery package", New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) grants for roading reinstatement costs and commercial silt and woody debris removal.

**Total expenditure** was \$240m, \$6m more than what was in the Annual Plan. Total expenditure included \$69m for roading emergency reinstatement costs and commercial silt and woody debris removal costs, and \$6.6m for write downs of properties purchased under the category 3 FOSAL buyouts.

**Total Capital investment** programme of \$91m. Including \$68.5m on critical infrastructure:

- \$5.2m on wastewater and \$1.3m stormwater.
- \$21.7m reinstatement of bridges and roads and \$20.7m on road renewals.
- \$10m spent on Waipaoa flood control scheme.
- \$10.3m FOSAL category 3 voluntary residential property buyouts.
- \$9.6m on water supply infrastructure.

Other variances from the Annual Plan, both favourable and unfavourable, arose during the year. More detailed analysis of all Council's activities are included in "Our Activities" section of this report.

	Actual 2023	Actual 2024
Recovery cost summary	\$000s	\$000s
<b>Funding received</b>		
New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi)	48,300	41,307
Other grants	5,300	41,443
NEMA proceeds	1,200	496
	<b>54,800</b>	<b>83,246</b>
<b>Recovery works incurred</b>		
Roading - Reinstatement	48,500	47,325
Recovery	3,400	3,820
Other	2,200	-
Large Woody Debris and Silt Removal	-	23,256
Commercial Sediment and Debris	-	12,652
FOSAL category 3 buyouts	-	3,120
Loss FOSAL category 3 buyback		6,636
Three waters + flood control	1,700	958
	<b>55,800</b>	<b>97,767</b>
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>(14,521)</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>		
Roading - Reinstatement	2,700	21,701
Recovery FOSAL category 3 buyouts	-	10,290
Three waters + flood control	4,700	9,771
	<b>7,400</b>	<b>41,762</b>
<b>Funded by</b>		
New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi)	2,700	21,701
NEMA	3,200	4,415
Other grants		5,145
Council Contribution	1,500	10,501
	<b>7,400</b>	<b>41,762</b>

#### Financial relief and remedies

Our recovery efforts have been greatly assisted by the overwhelming support our community has received through the Mayoral Relief Fund and the Disaster Relief Trust. These funds, which consist mainly of public donations, have been used to assist those whose homes were red or yellow stickered, and who experienced substantial damage to their properties or possessions due to these events. Over the past two years we have made grant payments of \$3m, 2024: \$257k (2023: \$2.8m).

Annual Plan

	ANNUAL PLAN 2023/24 \$000s	ACTUAL 2023/24 \$000s	VARIANCE FAVOURABLE/ (ADVERSE) \$000s
Revenue from Rates	79,129	78,514	(614)
Grants and Subsidies - Operational	112,745	103,771	(8,975)
Grants, Donations, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital	34,496	55,790	21,294
Revenue from Operating Activities	18,448	17,438	(1,010)
Other Gains/(Losses)	(230)	(743)	(513)
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>244,588</b>	<b>254,769</b>	<b>10,181</b>
Employee Benefit Expenses	33,428	31,186	(2,242)
Depreciation and Amortisation	29,473	29,011	(462)
Operating Activities	164,692	163,927	(765)
Finance Costs	6,158	9,015	2,857
Loss FOSAL category 3 buyback	0	6,636	6,636
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>233,751</b>	<b>239,775</b>	<b>6,024</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) before taxation</b>	<b>10,837</b>	<b>14,994</b>	<b>4,157</b>
Subvention Income	400	282	(118)
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	0	0	0
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Tax</b>	<b>11,237</b>	<b>15,276</b>	<b>4,039</b>
Gains/(Losses) on Asset Revaluation	48,223	141,288	93,065
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>59,460</b>	<b>156,564</b>	<b>97,104</b>



**Significant changes contributing to the underlying variance compared to the 2023/24 Budget**

	\$000s
Higher revenue from grants and subsidies	9,385
Higher revenue from interest	2,934
Lower employee benefit expenditure	2,242
Lower operating expenditure and depreciation costs	1,227
Higher gains from infrastructure assets valuations	93,065
<b>Total Positive Variances</b>	<b>108,853</b>
<b>Less</b>	
Higher losses from movement in fair value	(513)
Lower revenue from operating activities	(1,010)
Lower revenue from rates	(614)
Higher Losses from FOSAL category 3 buyback	(6,636)
Higher Finance costs	(2,857)
Lower subvention income	(118)
<b>Total Negative Variances</b>	<b>(11,749)</b>
<b>TOTAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNDERLYING VARIANCE</b>	<b>97,104</b>

**Asset Revaluation**

The total movement of assets from impairment and revaluation are shown in the table below. A gain of \$141.3m was recorded.

The majority of the increases relate to roading valuation where the work completed on the roading network and the greater understanding of the road condition allowed for a reversal of impairment from 2023 of \$46m.

Significant changes in gains/(losses) on Revaluations

	\$000s
<b>Higher values from</b>	
Reverse Water Infrastructure Impairment	1,390
Roading Revaluation	123,857
Revaluation on water Infrastructure	16,041
<b>Overall net revaluation</b>	<b>141,288</b>

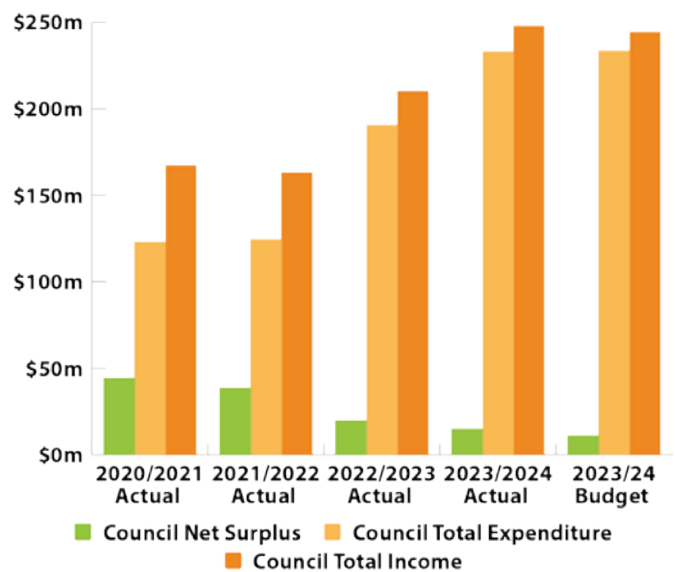
Council sets its operating income at a level to meet each year’s operating expenditure. In some cases, this may not be practical or prudent due to the long-term nature of the activity (i.e. wastewater, forestry and soil conservation nurseries) or where there is capital project funding being received as grants/subsidies (eg. Waka Kotahi share for replacing our roading assets).

Council's budget and actual net surplus for 2023/24 is shown below.

The net surplus for 2023/24 is \$15.2m. The overall net surplus is higher than the Annual Plan, mainly due to more of capital grants being received.

The average net surplus over the last five years is \$30 million, and while this year’s result is lower it is more representative of the pre-COVID period where we received significant stimulus grant funding, including the Provincial Growth Funding packages.

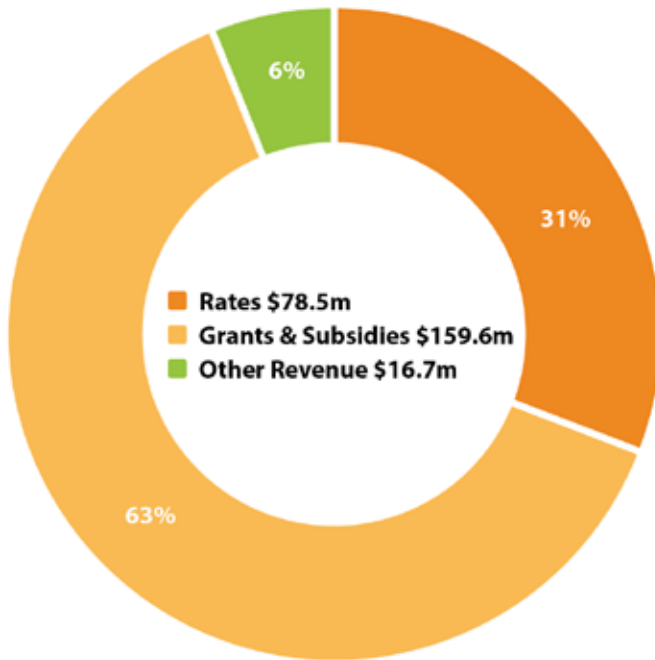
**Total net surplus 2023/24**



## Council income

In 2023/24 the Council received income of \$255m compared to a budget of \$245m.

Council 2023/24 income \$255m



In 2023/24 rates income represents 32% of the total operating revenue. Grants and subsidies income accounts for 64% of total income.

The 2021-2031 LTP average rates income is 60% and grants income is 24%. This year's lower 32% rates proportion of income, represents significant external funds supporting our emergency response and reinstatement costs. While Council is not fundamentally better off from the grants - as they were to reinstate where we were before the cyclone - it does mean the funding support from Central Government and from our insurance proceeds, results in a significantly reduced burden on the rate payer.

A key direction in Council's financial strategy is to reduce the reliance on rates income.

## Council expenditure

Council expenditure includes the day-to-day costs necessary to run the organisation. Costs are incurred to maintain, manage, develop and provide diverse services and facilities to the district.

The cost of Council doing its day-to-day business is driven by a number of factors including inflation, debt levels, salary and wages, inflation, amount of assets we own (and therefore have to maintain) and whether the Council increases or decreases the amount of services provided to the community.

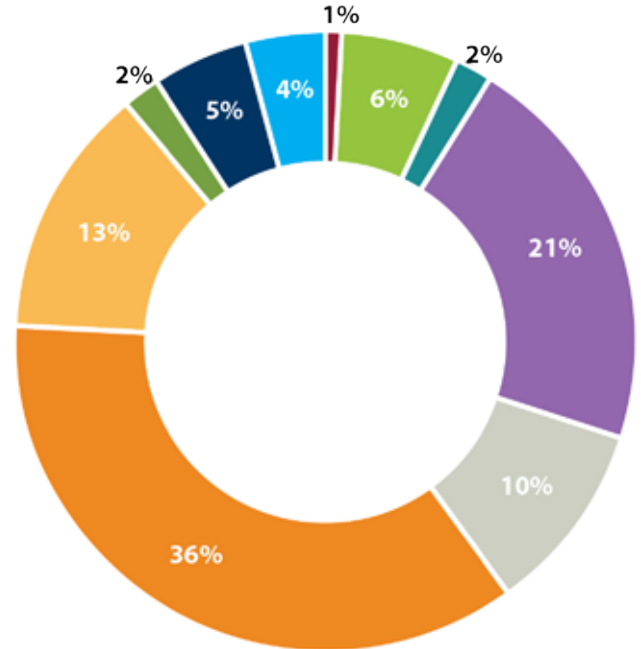
As shown by the pie graph Journeys (Roading), Four Waters, Solid Waste and Environmental Services made up 61% of total operating expenditure of the Council. The roading activity on its own, represents 37% (or \$87m) of the total costs.

Council has over \$2.8b invested in assets. These are mainly used to provide essential services to our communities – roads, water, stormwater, wastewater, flood protection, parks, open spaces

and community facilities. Council must ensure these assets are maintained and replaced if necessary, so that the services they provide can continue now and into the future.

The maintenance and depreciation on Councils assets are costly. In 2023/24 depreciation and amortisation charges totalled \$29m, this is 12% of our total costs.

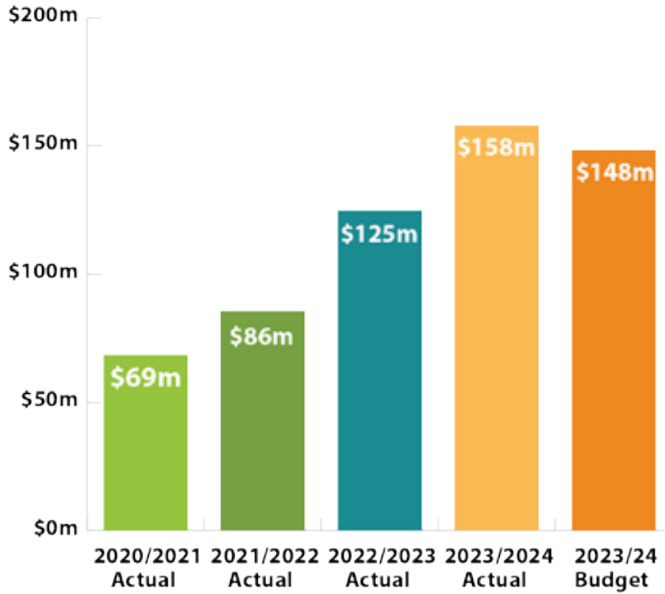
The total cost of all services were \$240m.



- Commercial Operations \$2.2m
- Environmental Services and Protection \$15.3m
- Land, Rivers and Coastal \$4.2m
- Regional Leadership and Support \$50.1m
- Liveable Communities \$24.9m
- Roads and Footpaths \$87.3m
- Solid Waste \$29.9m
- Stormwater \$4m
- Wastewater \$12.9m
- Water Supply \$9m

### Council debt

Net debt (ie debt less cash deposits) is \$157.8 million, \$10m higher than the Annual Plan. The higher than expected debt relates to the concessionary loan of \$10m for the FOSAL Category 3 Voluntary residential buyouts. This represents Council's 50% share of the buyouts. The joint agreement with the Crown was approved post the adoption of the Annual Plan.

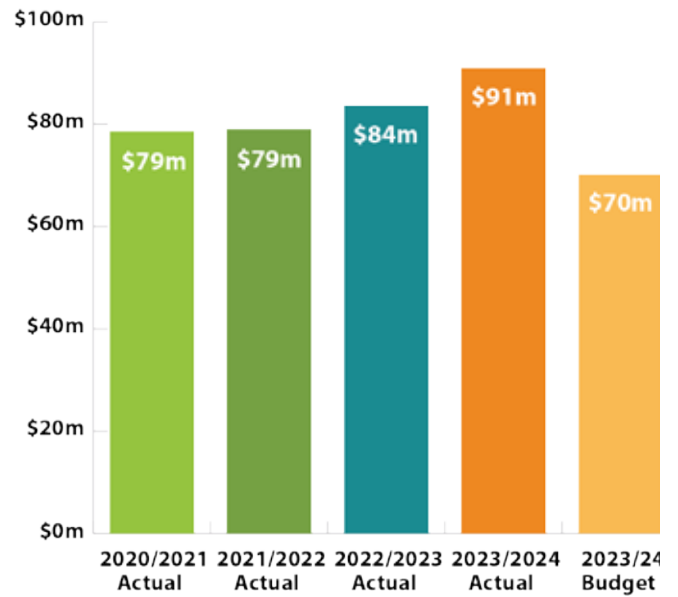


### Council capital expenditure

During the year we spent \$91m of capital investment on our existing and new assets against the Annual Plan budget of \$70.2m. Capital expenditure is more than the Annual Plan budget, mostly due to FOSAL category 3 voluntary property buyouts, and projects that were externally funded. Including post-Cyclone Gabrielle roading reinstatement and bridge repair works, water supply Sang Dam pipelines, water main pipelines and enhanced Waipaoa Stopbank flood protection works. These works are funded externally and were granted after the adoption of the Annual Plan.

Key highlights included:

- \$5.2m reinstatement wastewater work after Cyclone Gabrielle.
- \$21.7m reinstatement of bridges and roads and \$20.7m on road renewals.
- \$2.9m Waingake transformation.
- \$1.5m 1000-year walkway bridge and viewing platform.
- \$10m spent on Waipaoa flood control scheme.
- \$10.3m FOSAL category 3 voluntary residential property buyouts.
- \$5.6m Lamella filtration - Waingake.



## Summary statement of comprehensive income

	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
<b>Revenue</b>					
Rates (Including Metered Water Rates)	78,514	79,129	73,350	78,236	73,076
Grants & Subsidies	159,561	147,241	123,406	160,130	126,168
Development Contributions	626	1,658	1,864	626	1,864
Dividends & Interest	2,940	1,800	1,180	2,951	1,194
Other Revenue	13,871	14,991	11,970	27,200	22,035
Other Gains/(Losses)	(743)	(230)	(1,415)	55,790	(3,776)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>254,769</b>	<b>244,588</b>	<b>210,355</b>	<b>262,128</b>	<b>220,562</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee Benefit Expenses	31,186	33,428	28,965	34,121	31,975
Depreciation and Amortisation	29,011	29,473	25,966	30,114	27,126
Expenditure on Operating Activities	163,927	164,692	130,997	171,300	135,547
Finance Costs	9,015	6,158	4,886	9,758	5,503
Loss FOSAL category 3 buyback	6,636	0	0	6,636	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>239,775</b>	<b>233,751</b>	<b>190,814</b>	<b>251,930</b>	<b>200,151</b>
<b>Net surplus/(Deficit) before Tax</b>	<b>14,994</b>	<b>10,837</b>	<b>19,541</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>20,411</b>
Subvention Payment GHL	282	400	300	0	0
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	0	0	0	9	421
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Tax</b>	<b>15,276</b>	<b>11,237</b>	<b>19,841</b>	<b>10,189</b>	<b>19,990</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>					
Gains/(Loss) on Property Revaluations	139,898	48	(151,321)	139,898	(179,220)
Impairment	1,390	0	(64,276)	1,390	(64,276)
Deferred Tax on Building Revaluations	0	0	0	0	(832)
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>141,288</b>	<b>48,223</b>	<b>(215,596)</b>	<b>141,288</b>	<b>(244,328)</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>156,565</b>	<b>59,460</b>	<b>(195,755)</b>	<b>151,478</b>	<b>(224,338)</b>

## Summary statement of financial position

	Gisborne District Council			Group	
	Actual 2023/24	Budget 2023/24	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Actual 2022/23
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Total Current Assets	94,356	39,981	78,421	95,336	80,979
Total Non-current Assets	2,882,349	3,074,379	2,687,078	2,979,474	2,790,461
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,976,706</b>	<b>3,114,360</b>	<b>2,765,499</b>	<b>3,074,809</b>	<b>2,871,440</b>
Total Current Liabilities	100,897	48,359	94,172	101,161	96,111
Total Non-current Liabilities	160,625	148,386	112,708	175,316	128,473
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>261,522</b>	<b>196,745</b>	<b>206,880</b>	<b>276,477</b>	<b>224,584</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>2,715,183</b>	<b>2,917,615</b>	<b>2,558,619</b>	<b>2,798,332</b>	<b>2,646,856</b>

## Summary statement of changes in equity

	Gisborne District Council			Group	
	Actual 2023/24	Budget 2023/24	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Actual 2022/23
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
<b>Equity at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>2,558,618</b>	<b>2,858,155</b>	<b>2,754,374</b>	<b>2,646,855</b>	<b>2,871,194</b>
Total Comprehensive Income	156,565	59,460	(195,755)	151,478	(224,338)
Transfer to Retained Earnings	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Changes in Equity</b>	<b>156,565</b>	<b>59,460</b>	<b>(195,755)</b>	<b>151,478</b>	<b>(224,338)</b>
Accumulated Funds and Retained Earnings	541,192	586,304	534,082	541,765	539,742
Special Funds and Reserves	60,718	33,554	53,188	60,718	53,188
Revaluation Reserves	2,113,273	2,297,758	1,971,349	2,195,850	2,053,926
<b>Total Equity Closing Balances</b>	<b>2,715,183</b>	<b>2,917,615</b>	<b>2,558,619</b>	<b>2,798,332</b>	<b>2,646,856</b>

## Summary cashflow statement

	Gisborne District Council			Group	
	Actual 2023/24	Budget 2023/24	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Actual 2022/23
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Net Cash from Operating Activities	50,659	39,705	69,298	50,215	72,249
Net Cash from Investing Activities	(110,835)	(69,618)	(87,467)	(110,849)	(85,798)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	53,000	29,914	39,100	51,907	34,509
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	(7,176)	0	20,931	(8,727)	20,960
Cash at the beginning of the year	28,728	7,798	7,797	31,209	10,249
<b>Cash at the end of the year</b>	<b>21,551</b>	<b>7,798</b>	<b>28,728</b>	<b>22,481</b>	<b>31,209</b>

## Council's Five Year Financial Performance Summary

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Public Debt* (\$000)	58,600	68,600	85,700	124,800	157,800
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	19,464	44,621	38,796	19,841	15,276
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses	156,377	118,097	374,180	(195,755)	156,564
Net debt as a % of equity <10%	2.59%	2.88%	3.11%	4.88%	6.55%
Net interest as a % of income <10%	1.47%	1.29%	1.30%	1.75%	2.52%
Total debt per capita <\$1700	\$1,342	\$1,365	\$1,664	\$2,395	\$3,029
Working Capital (excluding current portion of public debt)	(1,261)	(3,589)	(4,450)	(751)	(3,378)
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	\$47,427	\$78,603	\$79,010	\$83,562	\$91,049

\* This reflects Net debt, total borrowings less pre-funding.

## How do we compare?

	Gisborne 2024	Gisborne 2023	Nelson 2023	Tasman 2023	Marlborough 2023
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Total Operating Income	254,769	210,355	164,232	221,664	212,672
Income from Rates	78,514	73,350	78,235	89,258	80,283
Total Operating Expenditure	239,775	190,814	178,873	201,022	188,401
Total Liabilities	261,522	206,880	231,298	326,477	197,175
Total Assets	2,976,706	2,765,499	2,383,786	2,508,493	2,072,276
External Debt	157,800	124,800	185,650	288,932	158,527

Notes: This summary has been prepared in accordance with PBE Financial Reporting Standard 43: Summary Financial Statements. The disclosures included in this summary have been extracted from the full financial statements in the Annual Report and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as the full report. The full Annual Report adopted by Council on 17 October 2024 has received an unqualified audit opinion. The full Annual Report is available free of charge from Council's website ([www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz)). A copy of the full report is held at the Council offices, Te Puia Springs service centre and the HB Williams Memorial Library. The Council has complied with Tier 1 PBE Standards, and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities. These standards represent generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. They prescribe the way we must recognise and disclose all financial transactions in our financial accounts. A statement of compliance can be found in the full Annual Report on page 136. Gisborne District Council is a unitary authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002. These summary financial statements of the Group are for the year ended 30 June 2024. The summary financial statements were authorised for issue by the Chief Executive on 18 October 2024. The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000).





Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti  
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