

# AGENDA/KAUPAPA



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

## ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee

DATE: Thursday 19 February 2026

TIME: 9:00AM

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

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# Environment & Communities Committee

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<b>Reports to:</b>	Council
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Cr Debbie Gregory
<b>Membership:</b>	Mayor and all Councillors
<b>Quorum:</b>	Half of the members when the number is even and a majority when the membership is uneven.
<b>Meeting frequency:</b>	Six weekly (or as required).

## Purpose

- Provide integrated governance oversight of operational programmes and services including environmental protection, land and catchment management, biodiversity, flood resilience, and community development including libraries, parks, recreation and cultural assets.
- Ensures Council's regulatory compliance
- Ensures the effective operational delivery of statutory duties
- Supports community wellbeing across rural and urban Tairāwhiti through oversight of Council services.

## Scope

The committee's scope includes the following matters.

### Environment Services and Protection

- Animal Control
- Building Services
- Enforcement
- Environmental Health

### Land Management

- Pests and Plant Management
- Biodiversity
- Integrated Catchments

### Flood Resilience

### Harbour Master

### Community development

- Cultural assets and activities including theatres, museum and public art, library and Tairāwhiti Navigations.
- Recreation and amenity assets and activities – including open spaces, parks and gardens, cemeteries, community property and the Olympic Pool complex.

## Planning and Development

- Customer Engagement
- Support Services

## Terms of Reference

### Operational Oversight

- Provide governance direction for the Council's operational activities within its purpose and scope.
- Review and adjust relevant working programme priorities within agreed budgets, activity management plans and levels of service as per the Council's Long Term Plan.
- Receive updates on delivery, projects and activities.
- Oversee management of Council's community assets.
- Input into, and make decisions on, operational proposals, options and cost of projects/major projects.
- Contribute to the development of short term plans for community services and community facilities.
- Consider the strategic regulatory and compliance issues.
- Prepare submissions on any matter that is within its rationale and terms of reference for Council approval and submit on behalf of Council when timelines do not allow Council prior approval.

### Asset Management

- Oversee the management of all Council's community assets.
- Make decisions on community assets becoming Council's and on infrastructure and community assets on behalf of Council.
- Progress the sale of properties as approved in the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.
- Contribute to the development of and oversee delivery of economic development projects.
- Consider proposals to change the status or revoke the status of a reserve as defined in the Reserves Act 1977 (including the hearing of submissions).

## Power to Act

To make all decisions necessary to fulfil the role and scope of the Committee.

To establish subcommittees, working parties and forums as required.

To appoint non-voting advisory members (such as tangata whenua representatives) to assist the Committee.

## Power to Recommend

To Council and/or any Council committee as it deems appropriate.

### 3.1. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 18 November 2025

# MINUTES

## Draft & Unconfirmed



P O Box 747, Gisborne, Ph 867 2049 Fax 867 8076  
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## MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 9:00AM.

### PRESENT:

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

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines Tim Barry, Director Internal Partnerships & Protection James Baty, Director Liveable Communities Michele Frey, Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships Anita Reedy-Holthausen, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Director Sustainable Futures Jocelyne Allen, Executive Assistant Lana McGuinness, Senior Regional Biodiversity Advisor Melanie Cheetham, Principal Community Assets and Partnerships Advisor Chirs Visser, Capital Projects Programme Manager Natalie Waihi, Chief Advisor Maori Gene Takurua, Democracy & Support Services Manager Julian Rangihuna-Tuumuli and Committee Secretary Sally Ryan.

**Secretarial Note:** Cr Gibson, Cr Parata, Cr Huriwai and Gene Takurua attended the meeting via audio visual link.

The meeting commenced with a karakia.

### 1. Apologies

MOVED by Cr Ria, seconded by Cr Tibble

That the apologies from Cr Huriwai and Cr Parata for lateness be sustained.

**CARRIED**

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Cr Gibson declared an interest in report 25-251 Allocation of the 2026 Round of the Natural Heritage Fund due to having worked on projects with some of the landowners who submitted applications.

Cr Alder declared a conflict of interest in report 25-257 Environment & Communities – Land, Rivers & Coastal due to living on and benefiting from the Te Arai River.

**Secretarial Note:** Cr Thompson noted he previously declared a conflict with report 25-251 Allocation of the 2026 Round of the Natural Heritage Fund. This is no longer considered a conflict as the person the conflict relates to is no longer on the list.

## 3. Governance Work Plan

### 3.1 Governance Work Plan

Noted.

## 4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

## 5. Acknowledgements and Tributes

Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria acknowledged 160 years since the siege of Wairengaahika Pa. This morning at 6 am, there was a karakia for the blessing of the exhibition at the Tairāwhiti Museum. The official opening will be held at 6 pm tonight. The remembrance ceremony will happen on Saturday at the Wairengaahika Pa site.

## 6. Public Input and Petitions

**Judy Campbell & Willie Te Aho, on behalf of Manaaki Tairāwhiti, spoke on Community Commissioning and Social Investment in our region.**

Points included:

- Today's deputation covers pathways 3 & 4.

**Secretarial Note** Cr Parata arrived online at 9:12 am.

- Information can be found on the Manaaki Tairāwhiti website. They plan to provide the same information to all membership organisations.
- They had the opportunity at the A&P Show to provide the Prime Minister with a presentation and a letter from the region signed by the chairs or senior governors of supporting entities. The letter socialised their bid in advance for the call for expressions of interest.
- Naomi Whitewood has been endorsed as the Ngati Porou Board member on behalf of Ngati Porou into Manaaki Tairāwhiti.
- Regardless of the legal structure, the aim is for it to be regionally owned and governed, ensuring the region retains control over how funds are allocated.

- Although \$1.5 billion a year is allocated to this region for health, housing, education, social services, workforce development, and economic development, we still have some of the worst social deprivation in the country. Around 35,000 people (61%) experience deprivation, and 40% are fully government-funded. We asked how this money is actually distributed. Of the \$1.5 billion allocated, \$800 million goes to government overheads, leaving \$700 million for the region. A commissioning agency could cut these overheads by half, but this would require access to real-time data.
- Only \$30 million of the \$700 million that our region receives reaches iwi organisations, even though they face the highest deprivation levels. An example given was the census in 2023, which showed 71% of our Māori women are solo mothers, 355 with children under the age of 5. A review of the past ten years of families who are wholly benefit-dependent shows a consistent pattern; if children disengage from school before age 12 and do not progress to Year 13 or into further education or trades, there is a significantly increased likelihood that they will drop out of the system entirely, resulting in an estimated long-term cost to the state of \$650 thousand per year.

Questions of clarification included:

- The amount of funding received would influence how they proceed: too little may lead them to decline the opportunity, while too much—if they felt they could not provide the required level of independence—could result in moving forward with only one provider.
- The \$1.5 billion is the total amount of government investment. Currently, surgeries, schooling, and benefits are off the table, but they feel that as things grow and develop, there is no reason those can't be considered.
- Normally, a member of the Board would not be involved with anyone receiving the funding; however, given the size of our region, it would be difficult to find anyone not related to someone receiving funding. The Conflict of Interest Management Policy would need to be strong. It is important to have people who understand our region, what we are pitching and contracting for and have the skills to help. The majority of the Board is envisioned to be from the region and knowledgeable about such things.
- While the preference is to avoid a large number of smaller contracts, there is an opportunity with Te Puna Aonui (now the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention), which is also a de-evolution proposal based on work the region has been doing as an iwi hub; this could allow a network of smaller providers to fit the model rather than a single small provider; however, unless the full \$1.5 billion is achieved, parts of the system will remain outside community commissioning; the long-term vision is for all services to transition to community control, with reference made to cities in the United Kingdom that have operated under de-evolution models for the past decade, enabling them to make decisions affecting their own communities.

- Principles are being developed in the background, and once agreed, they will provide guidance no matter which legal structure is chosen—whether an Incorporated Society, Charitable Trust, or tax-exempt Limited Liability Charitable Company—each would provide an ownership model that enables owners to vote on Board selection; the intention is to elect the Board using a skills matrix rather than a representative system, with the legal structure providing clear rules for managing conflicts of interest while still ensuring community knowledge and expertise are included without creating issues for fund distribution.
- The group emphasised the need for an initiative the community truly owns, with representation from all five sectors—including iwi, regional council, philanthropic organisations, government agencies, and the wider community—to ensure long-term sustainability and behavioural change and agreed that the model (whether an electoral college or another mechanism) must include all stakeholders in selecting the company's directors.

**Secretarial Note** Cr Huriwai arrived online at 9:33 am.

- Cabinet meets on 8 December, where they believe the Policy will be settled and possibly decisions made on who will be invited. Expressions of interest aren't able to be submitted until 2026, however, endorsement before 2026 would be preferable to ensure adequate time to prepare.
- Endorsement before 2026 is preferred to allow sufficient preparation time; the funding package would include teachers' salaries, and with iwi and charitable entities in the region already running education activities and managing union relationships, this is not expected to pose issues—even in light of recent wage-related strikes.
- Decisions driven from Wellington are seen as lacking understanding of regional needs, and the overarching goal is to secure regional decision-making rights over how the funding is allocated.

#### **Pat Seymour & Bessie Macey- Uawa Cycle & Walkway Charitable Trust**

Points included:

- The hope is to have the cycle and walkway open before Christmas for use over summer.
- The school would like to be able to use the cycleway, as they have bikes for student use, which were acquired through the Bikes in Schools program.
- The sharp corner makes the road unsafe to walk on.
- They have offers from people who are happy to do the work if given permission to do so.
- With the Top 10 Holiday Park going in, the walk and cycleway would provide another activity for visitors to the region.

Questions of clarification included:

- An offer was made to shift the fence and open the walkway; however, the cycleway is inside the fence to protect those cycling.
- Caution tape could be a temporary solution to allow for use over the summer until

#### **7. Extraordinary Business**

There was no extraordinary business.

#### **8. Notices of Motion**

There were no notices of motion.

## 9. Adjourned Business

There was no adjourned business.

## 10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

### 10.1 25-219 Lease Application Uawa Sports Club

MOVED by Cr Telfer, seconded by Cr Stoltz

That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori Committee:

1. Approves, subject to the outcome of public notification, the Grant of a Lease to Uawa Sports Club Incorporated for the purposes of Sports Clubrooms for a term of 11 years and two further 11 year rights of renewal, for part Blk III TN OF Tolaga Bay, as shown on the site plan in this report.

**CARRIED**

### 10.2 25-251 Allocation of the 2026 Round of the Natural Heritage Fund

Senior Regional Biodiversity Advisor Melanie Cheetham spoke to the report.

Questions of clarification included:

- Costs and quotes provided by the applicant are looked at closely to ensure they are realistic. Site-specific issues that could incur further costs are considered, such as sites with weed problems, accessibility issues, and dryer conditions.
- In the past, funding has been provided to fully replace or extend the height of fencing. Funding is not intended to be used for the maintenance of existing fences. Where project budgets include costs for work that is not eligible to be funded, then these costs will be removed from consideration.
- The ranking sheet presented to the Committee in June 2024 included the new priority ranking, which gives slightly higher weighting to projects from catchments with lower uptake and a higher proportion of whānau Māori.
- Any Council investment, being ratepayer-funded, requires careful consideration to avoid losses from future floods or storms; for high-risk sites, risks must be mitigated while balancing potential benefits. Project resilience, introduced as a category last year, remains a key factor, with a conscious effort to fund a diverse range of landscapes and projects with similar scoring to ensure variety.
- Conversations with Māori landowners highlighted that one of the main barriers to uptake is the retrospective nature of funding, as payments are only made once work is completed; this approach is intended to mitigate the risk of funds being paid for incomplete work.
- Due to low uptake by whenua Māori applicants, a request was made to retain data on whenua Māori in relation to the Heritage Fund to help identify and mitigate potential barriers.

MOVED by Cr Alder, seconded by Cr Ria

That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:

1. Approves the allocation of the 2026 round of the Natural Heritage Fund in accordance with Table 2 of this report.

**CARRIED**

**Secretarial Note:** The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am for morning tea and reconvened at 10:15 am.

## **11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION**

### **11.1 25-275 Uawa Reserve Remediation**

Capital Projects Programme Manager Natalie Waihi spoke to the report.

Points included:

- The fence is believed to have been installed on the reserve as a security measure when the site became a storage site for woody debris during the clean-up of Uawa Beach as a risk mitigation measure.
- Remediation of the site has always been planned, with funding allocated in the Recovery Plan and as a priority project in this year's Annual Plan; the intention is to restore the reserve to its former condition, ensuring public safety and access for reserve purposes, with staff working closely with the community and hapū on this effort.

Questions of clarification included:

- The site is a registered Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL) site due to its former use as a landfill; although the reserve has been used for recreation for many years, the issue has emerged because disturbance of the upper cap has exposed materials that pose a risk.
- As part of the consent granted for woody debris storage, the site must be returned to its prior condition, ensuring soil quality and public health and safety meet required guidelines. Due diligence includes completing a Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) to determine the remediation needed. Public health and safety risks arose from fragments brought to the surface after years of trucking and material movement across the site. The DSI identified asbestos, triggering specific remediation requirements under the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NESCS). The design process is ongoing and is likely to include higher capping over asbestos, with efforts to mitigate costs through suitable covering solutions.
- No asbestos has been found around the cycleway, which currently acts as a cap for that area. The planned remediation work on the reserve will not affect the cycleway, other than potential vehicle tracking across it and cycleway closures while work is completed.
- Community groups have contacted staff about access to the cycleway. Council proposed that the roadside boundary fence be moved to the inside of the cycleway to keep the reserve closed for public safety while allowing the cycleway to reopen. There is a strong commitment within the project to reopening the cycleway.
- The reserve area is currently covered with natural vegetation, although some woody debris fragments will still be present.
- BRANZ guidelines require a 500 mm clean-fill cap over any asbestos, which is reflected in the current design. No soil can be brought onto the site until consent is received, and the team is currently awaiting approval.

- The risk from asbestos is highest when it is friable; while undisturbed and contained beneath a soil cap, it does not pose an immediate concern. There is additional risk from fragments of glass and landfill materials in the upper soil layers, which could pose a hazard. Locals requested tape inside the fence to mark a walking path; however, wind could make this difficult to maintain and unnecessary if the fence is relocated.
- The planning process has been completed, and remediation work is expected to begin in late February to early March 2026, once consent is received. To minimise wet-weather impacts, late February is preferred for completing the remediation work.
- Work is being done to minimise the amount of fill needed. This would mean the entire site may not need to be capped at a depth of 500mm, however, they are still working through that in the design. Consideration is being given to using a mixture of broken hard fill and clean soil to reduce the costs. Based on previous projects that are similar, an estimate of the overall cost for the project of \$600k to \$800K was given.
- Council is willing to coordinate with community representatives to allow volunteers access for maintenance support before summer. Any decisions regarding cycleway maintenance after summer would rest with the Journeys and Lifelines team, as it would be their asset to manage.
- Council staff will work with the community to find a solution for the fence and cycleway, taking timeframes into account. It was noted that the current fence may be located within the road corridor and, due to its proximity to the road, would not be consented to remain in its current position long term.

MOVED by Cr Ria, seconded by Cr Parata

That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

### **11.225-257 Environment & Communities - Land, Rivers & Coastal**

Team Leader Land Rivers Coastal Mangala Wickramanayake spoke to the report.

Questions of clarification included:

- Compliance with the global consent under the Resource Management Act requires removal and relocation of eels and management of environmental conditions; failure to do so would constitute non-compliance. While the budget has not increased, costs have risen, with the last operation requiring an additional crew to remove and relocate eels from the mud, adding approximately 25% to the overall cost.
- Tairāwhiti is fortunate to have more than one species of native eel. Eels add greatly to the biodiversity of the waterways. Council has made a commitment to Oranga wai and Te Oranga o te Taio, and consideration needs to be given not only to those who live around the waterway but also to those who live in the awa. Waterways are interconnected; actions taken in one area can have a flow-on effect throughout the system.
- Work periods are limited to what is set out in the consent, allowing us to work in October and November in inanga spawn areas. This means issues must wait until that period to be dealt with. During the Taruheru floods last year at Pilmer Road, we had to wait until October to rectify the issue to be compliant with the consent.

- General spraying is done manually starting October to March each year, depending on the waterway; some waterways are under scheduled categories. Spraying had to be delayed until willows and other plants get leaves. There is never a 100% guarantee that spray won't make it into the waterway, but risks are mitigated as best we can. A helicopter can complete the entire scheme in one day, so long as there is no wind. Manual spraying takes three months and has a higher chance of contamination making it into the river due to rain. There is no research to support which is more cost-effective and environmentally friendly due to the short operation time. There are positives and negatives to all forms of spraying. Manual spraying costs six times as much as helicopter spraying.
- Eels that are dug up get placed into a tank with oxygen until they can be relocated. This can require up to 2 additional vehicles and 3-4 additional staff.
- Of the 303 km of drains, not all experience heavy silting; approximately 50% are heavily silted. Generally, only up to 5% of drains can be addressed within standard funding allocations. However, during Cyclone Gabriel, additional funding allowed 50% of the drains in Manutūke and Patutahi to be regraded. Further progress is possible with more funding, but targeted rates and district allocations currently limit the scope of work and can cover only 5% of the rural drains.
- Much of the current work relies on adjusting rates to meet requirements, with events and external funding used to maintain assets that have not been consistently cared for. Future discussions are needed on how drainage maintenance, services, and efficiencies should be funded. Additionally, this period coincides with high demand for contractors, making it difficult to secure available contractors to carry out work in a competitive market.
- As the Long Term Plan approaches, it is timely to discuss whether additional funding is needed to increase the frequency or extent of drainage work. Some areas will inevitably flood due to their location in a floodplain. There is always the challenge of staying within budget while meeting obligations under the Resource Management Act and organisational objectives.
- Her Worship the Mayor congratulated Mangala Wickramanayake and her team for their work on the Makaretu Stream. Last year, the stream flooded, affecting many residents. An application was submitted for a consent variation to carry out work outside the designated areas. The team invested considerable time and resources to support a traumatised community experiencing frequent flooding, facing challenges while striving to work efficiently within the requirements of the Resource Management Act.

MOVED by Cr Ria, seconded by Cr Gibson

That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

## 12. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11:10 am.

Debbie Gregory

**CHAIR**

### 3.2. Governance Work Plan

2026 Environment & Communities						Meeting Dates					
HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	19-Feb	23-Apr	4-June	6-Aug	1-Oct	19-Nov
Sustainable Futures	Building Services	26-28 Update on the new regulations surrounding Granny Flat Exemptions	To inform Council of the new regulations surrounding 'granny flats' and the changes to the exemptions thereof.	Information (I)	Ian Petty						
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Democracy Support Services	26-36 Appointment of Deputy Chairperson to the RT Committee	To appoint a Deputy Chairperson in accordance with Standing Order 5.6 System A.	Decision (D)	Donna Shaw						
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Community Projects	26-18 City Centre Revitalisation Programme Update	Provide an update on the progress of the City Centre Revitalisation Programme while outlining key next steps for Committee input and decision-making.	Information (I)	De-Arne Sutherland						
Community Lifelines	Regional Rivers	26-25 Environment & Communities - Land Rivers & Coastal	Update the Committee on Land Rivers and Coastal.	Information (I)	Joss Ruifrok						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	26-37 Operations Liveable Communities	Update the Committee on the Liveable Communities Operations Activities.	Information (I)	Michele Frey						

## 2026 Environment & Communities

### Meeting Dates

HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	Meeting Dates					
						19-Feb	23-Apr	4-June	6-Aug	1-Oct	19-Nov
Liveable Communities	Integrated Catchments	Update on the 2025 round of the Natural Heritage Fund	Update the committee on the outcome of projects funded in the 2025 round of the NHF.	Information (I)	Melanie Cheetham						
Liveable Communities	Integrated Catchments	Allocation of the Natural Heritage Fund	To approve the allocation of the 2027 round of the NHF.	Decision (D)	Melanie Cheetham						

## 10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti  
**GISBORNE**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

26-8

**Title:** 26-8 Appointment of the Deputy Chairperson of Environment & Communities

**Section:** Democracy & Support Services

**Prepared by:** Donna Shaw - Manager Democracy & Support Services

**Meeting Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026

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Legal: Yes

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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### Report to ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI for decision

#### PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is for the Environment & Communities Committee to appoint its Deputy Chairperson.

#### SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

Each Committee may elect a deputy chairperson.

The role of the Deputy Chair is to stand in for the Chair in the event of sickness, leave or any other absences.

The system of voting for the Deputy Chair will be in accordance with Standing Order 5.6 (**Attachment 1**).

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

#### RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

**That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:**

- 1. Appoints Councillor ..... to be Deputy Chair who received the majority of votes from members present and voting.**

*Authorised by:*

**Anita Reedy-Holthausen - Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships**

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**Keywords:** committee, chairperson, deputy chairperson, standing orders, Operations – Environment & Communities

#### ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Standing Order 5.6 Voting System for Deputy Chairs [**26-8.1** - 1 page]
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## 5.6 Voting system for deputy mayors, committee chairs and deputy chairs

When electing a deputy mayor, a committee chair or a deputy chair, the local authority must resolve to use one of the following two voting systems.

**System A:** The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee who are present and voting. This system has the following characteristics:

- (a) There is a first round of voting for all candidates;
- (b) If no candidate is successful in the first round, there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
- (c) If no candidate is successful in the second round, there is a third round and, if necessary, subsequent rounds of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.

In any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person to be excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

## 11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION



26-18

**Title:** 26-18 City Centre Revitalisation Programme Update  
**Section:** City Centre Revitalisation  
**Prepared by:** De-Arne Sutherland - City Centre Revitalisation Programme Manager  
**Meeting Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026

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Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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### Report to ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAIAO ME NGĀ HAPORI for information

#### PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the City Centre Revitalisation Programme (CCRP). This update report builds on the information shared to the Committee on 10 April 2025 (report 25-82 [City Centre Revitalisation Programme Update.docx](#)) and updates provided as part of the Councillor Induction process delivered late last year.

This report will be supported by a **presentation**.

#### SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The City Centre Revitalisation Programme is a key project in the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan, on the back of community-wide support to revitalise Gisborne's city centre.

The programme includes three work streams;

- Catalyst Initiatives Project led by Trust Tairāwhiti and supported by RIT and Gisborne District Council, and
- Early Wins project led by Council and supported by Trust Tairāwhiti
- Action and Investment Plan project led by Council and supported by Trust Tairāwhiti.

Significant progress has been made across the Programme as outlined in the body of the report including the procurement of a professional services team to prepare the Action and Investment Plan.

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

**That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:**

**1. Notes the contents of this report.**

*Authorised by:*

**Anita Reedy-Holthausen - Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships**

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**Keywords:** City Centre Revitalisation Programme, Catalyst Initiatives Project, Early Wins, Action and Investment Plan (AIP).

## BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

### Context

1. Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne, like many cities in New Zealand and globally, faces challenges such as empty buildings, vacant commercial spaces, aged infrastructure, and a lack of family-friendly attractions and activations.
2. The City Centre streetscape looks tired and outdated. The last major upgrade of the city centre was in the late 1990s in preparation for the 'Millenium'. Many assets are now approaching thirty years old and are beyond their remaining useful life and becoming costly and/or difficult to maintain and repair (most notable the city centre pavers).
3. In response to community, mana whenua and key stakeholder feedback over recent years Council included the City Centre Revitalisation Programme in Council's Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 (TYP), including a budget of \$3M, with the aim to refresh and invigorate our city centre through a mixture of temporary and permanent initiatives.

### The City Centre Revitalisation Programme (CCRP)

4. Council is leading this programme to transform Gisborne's City Centre into a vibrant, resilient, and culturally rich urban hub.
5. The CCRP comprises three interrelated workstreams:
  - a. Catalyst Initiatives Project (CIP) – Led by Trust Tairāwhiti and supported by Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust (RIT) and Council, this workstream delivers a first phase of placemaking through tactical urbanism (e.g. updated street furniture/planting at key locations, creating a riveredge playspace along the Taruheru riverbank etc).
  - b. City Centre Revitalisation Early Wins – Led by Council, this workstream delivers low-cost, high-impact activations (many recommended in the Catalyst report, 2025), including Heritage Building Façade Incentive Fund, Art in the City (activating empty shopfronts), Downtown Lounge (street music programme delivered by rangatahi), CBD Custodian (increased levels of service – maintenance and cleanliness).
  - c. City Centre Revitalisation Action and Investment Plan (AIP) – This workstream will drive long-term transformational outcomes in the City Centre, outputs include redevelopment options (concept plans), an investment strategy to determine how we can pay for it and cost/benefit analysis, and a phased road map for how we can affordably deliver it. These outputs will assist council to inform the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037.
6. Council's Tairāwhiti Future Development Strategy 2024-2054 (FDS) has provided the strategic context for the city centre revitalisation programme, advocating for a compact city with higher density mixed-use development, including residential housing which will be considered through the AIP.
7. Progress across the programme has experienced some challenges, most significantly the inability to secure partnership arrangements with RIT currently.

## DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

8. The following table captures progress made over 2025, and what's coming up in 2026, with a focus on Council-led projects:

Project	What's been achieved?	What's coming up in 2026
<p><b>Workstream 2 - Early Wins (Council led)</b></p>	<p>This project was set up in mid-2025 with an emphasis on responding to key 'calls for action' received from community and in-line with successful initiatives led by other Councils across New Zealand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CBD Custodian</b> - Contract Variation (12-month trial) was established following assessment of existing maintenance contracts. The role has been in place since November 2025. There has been a good impact already, with supportive feedback from businesses and community. Follows multi-Council models with a 'custodian' city centre-based role.</li> <li>- <b>Heritage Building Facade Incentive Fund</b> (12 months or until fully allocated) – co-funded between Council (\$25k) and the Trust (\$25k) to enable a fund of \$50k available to private building owners of heritage buildings to paint their facades. Small incentive funds are available (no more than \$10-\$15k per building). The fund requires the facade to be painted within 3 months of the fund being awarded. Follows Hastings District Council model.</li> <li>- <b>Art in the City</b> – This trial programme is co-funded with the Trust (\$13k Gisborne District Council, and \$20k Trust) to enable local artists/Kura opportunity to install their artwork in city centre empty shop windows to improve look and feel of city centre and promote these spaces as available to lease/buy. Completed by end of 2026.</li> <li>- <b>Downtown Lounge</b> – Summer series of music events, led by community lead to enable young musicians an opportunity to share their talent and activate our city spaces in partnership with local businesses. Great responses from businesses and community. Trial will be completed by March 2026. Cost of \$13k to Gisborne District Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing established projects/trials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receive final reports for <b>Downtown Lounge</b> and <b>Art in the City</b> including response to Key Performance Indicators as part of project 'close' report process. The intent has been to also test our internal processes and policy to understand how enabling they are/or what barriers there are, to delivering these types of initiatives. There have been several learnings to date and opportunities for improvement.</li> <li>- Monthly monitoring and review of <b>CBD Custodian</b> contract impacts.</li> <li>- Manage <b>Facade Fund</b> applications and approvals until funds are fully allocated. One application has been approved with painting to be complete by mid-March and another application currently being considered. These buildings are significant landmarks and will have a positive impact on the streetscape.</li> <li>- The Trust and Council staff are undertaking a review of how other Councils/Economic Development Agencies deliver their City Centre Management function.</li> </ul>

Project	What's been achieved?	What's coming up in 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeted maintenance in the city centre across Council mahi (Palm trees, planter pots, pavers, riverside lighting etc). Gisborne District Council Operations/BAU budgets.</li> </ul>	
<b>Workstream 3 - Action and Investment Plan (Council led)</b>	<p><b>Project initiation</b> completed including internal business case and approval to procure professional services to prepare an Action and Investment Plan. The Plan will deliver three key outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>City Centre Concept plan</b> (what design change do we need to see).</li> <li>- <b>Investment Strategy</b> (what will it cost and who will pay for it).</li> <li>- <b>Phased Road map</b> (how can we deliver to ensure it is deliverable/affordable and maximises economic uplift).</li> </ul> <p>Council is in the process of engaging Athfield Architects and partners (Wraight and Associates, Te Hono and others) to lead the delivery of this significant piece of work. The team were selected on their experience delivering transformational designs in city centres including Wellington, Napier and most recently Lower Hutt, and their ability to build relationships with mana whenua and deliver an authentic outcome. The project framework provides for mana whenua co-design. They will lead communications and engagement with support/approval from Council staff.</p>	<p>Finalising Methodology and Project Plan with consultants. This includes the following key phases and updates/decisions for this Committee (details may still evolve as the planning work with consultants is finalised over next few weeks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project establishment and intent – initial meetings with staff – gathering insights. Desk top review of data already captured. Initial mana whenua relationship setting.</li> <li>- Explore the Opportunities – develop and deliver current state and gap analysis report, initial stakeholder engagement, site mapping and analysis, investigate site options for concept design.</li> <li>- <b>Present initial findings and opportunities (Workshop) to Committee meeting, 23 April 2026.</b></li> <li>- Develop project list for site/concept, initial cost/benefit analysis, initial assessment matrix, multi-modal analysis, selection of options for refinement.</li> <li>- Prepare concept options for pricing, assess three water alignment, create QS costings, development of presentation materials.</li> <li>- <b>Present refined concepts and developing AIP (supporting details) to Committee meeting, 4 June 2026.</b></li> <li>- Undertake broader outcomes and social return on investments assessments, refine investment logic mapping, refine economic uplift testing, refine sequence and funding and revenue pathway.</li> <li>- <b>Present revised draft AIP to Committee meeting, 6 August 2026.</b></li> </ul> <p>AIP engagement and timeframes align to inform Long Term Plan engagement and prioritisation process with a clear recommended design option, funding/budget allocation needs, and recommended phasing across the LTP. The full process has a cost to Council of circa \$450k.</p>

Project	What's been achieved?	What's coming up in 2026
		<p><i>NOTE this project delivers design to concept stage only. Once Council has more clarity of delivery likelihood (through LTP, and potentially other funding models) the project could proceed to developed/detailed design and resource consent readiness, but this is currently outside the scope of this project.</i></p>
<p><b>Workstream 1- Catalyst Initiatives project</b> <b>(Trust Tairāwhiti led)</b></p>	<p>Trust Tairāwhiti set up a working group including RIT and Council, and a Managers Steering Group to support progress. Unfortunately, RIT were unable to commit capacity from mid-2025. Some early design has continued for streetscape furniture and discussions with local design and manufacturing companies. Great support from local suppliers to support and deliver.</p>	<p>Progress design process where able (e.g. streetscape furniture on Council Road reserve/reserves). Council has signalled a potential contribution of up to \$1.5M toward placemaking initiatives on reserves or streetscape.</p>

## ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

**Overall Process:** Medium Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Medium Significance

**This Report:** Medium Significance

9. This report is part of a process to arrive at a decision that will/may be of Low level in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

## TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

### Kāwanatanga

10. Engagement and partnership opportunities are with Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust (RIT) for consideration, recognising the significance of the City Centre revitalisation programme to mana whenua. A response has not yet been received.
11. Programme decision-making follows Council's established major project governance structure, while keeping space for mana whenua involvement going forward.

### Rangatiratanga

12. Council has actively sought partnership with RIT and is developing pathways for input/contribution from other iwi and hapū.
13. Early insights have been shared by RIT through the Catalyst Initiatives Project. Further engagement will support iwi/hapū aspirations to influence the development of the AIP.

### Oritetanga

14. The programme aims to reflect the culture and identity of Tairāwhiti and ensure equitable access and participation in the city centre. Work is underway to understand te ao Māori values and identify barriers to equity so these can be addressed through design and activation.

## **Whakapono**

15. Capturing te ao Māori values through relationships, design, and delivery is critical to the success of the programme, and it is intended that the accumulation of interventions and activations provides a city centre that better reflects our community and provides opportunity for authentic engagement and connection with the city centre.

## **TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA**

16. Engagement with tangata whenua has been identified through our internal Te Matapihi process, with early invitations extended to Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust (RIT). While a formal response has not yet been received, staff continue to maintain open channels for engagement and remain committed to supporting mana whenua involvement as the programme progresses.
17. As mentioned previously in this report, RIT contributed to the initial Catalyst Initiatives Project, where early values and aspirations were shared. Building on this, staff and consultants are developing an approach to enable broader iwi and hapū input, recognising the cultural significance of the awa and whenua that define the city centre.
18. Further engagement will be undertaken as part of the Action and Investment Plan (AIP) development, providing channels where tangata whenua perspectives can meaningfully inform design, cultural expression, and long-term outcomes for the city centre.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI**

19. A Communication and Engagement Plan for the programme is currently being updated. The plan considers engagement with tangata whenua, the wider community, and key stakeholders including partners, businesses, investors, retailers, the disability community, Grey Street interest groups, and others.
20. Engagement methods will include face-to-face meetings, workshops, newsletters, and updates through Council's website ([Revitalising our city centre | Participate \(Logged in\)](#)). There is also potential to use 3D models of AIP concept options to support community understanding and feedback.
21. This programme builds on substantial engagement already undertaken with community, mana whenua, and partners through the Catalyst Initiatives Project, the Three-Year Plan 2024–2027 process, and ongoing discussions with key stakeholders and investors.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā Whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga**

22. The City Centre Revitalisation Programme (CCRP) including the development of the Action and Investment Plan (AIP) have clear climate-change considerations. While the AIP is a planning and concept-design process with minimal direct emissions, the decisions it informs will influence future construction, transport patterns, and long-term emissions. The methodology includes early assessment of opportunities to support a compact, mixed-use urban form, encourage mode shift, and prioritise durable, low-maintenance materials.

23. Climate change impacts, such as more intense rainfall, higher temperatures, and pressure on ageing infrastructure are central to the AIP's current-state analysis, site mapping, and three-waters alignment. This ensures concept options are tested for resilience and remain fit-for-purpose in a changing climate.
24. The programme aligns with Council's strategic aspirations for resilient communities and adaptive, cost-efficient infrastructure. More detailed emissions and climate-risk assessments can be undertaken during later design stages as preferred options and materials become clearer.

## **CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO**

### **Financial/Budget**

25. The programme is funded within the existing \$3M budget allocated through the Three-Year Plan 2024–2027. No additional or unbudgeted funding is required at this stage, and there is no direct impact on rates.
26. Future budget requirements for potential delivery will be identified through the AIP process and considered through the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037.

### **Legal**

27. There are no legal implications.

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

28. The City Centre Revitalisation Programme (CCRP) and development of the Action and Investment Plan (AIP) are consistent with Council's strategic direction, including the Three-Year Plan and the Tairāwhiti Future Development Strategy. The programme flows directly from Council's previous decision to invest in city centre revitalisation.
29. The AIP will be developed with awareness of wider planning and regulatory settings, including RMA reforms and Council's Urban Plan Change 6 process, which sit outside the scope of this programme but will need to be aligned for future design and investment decisions.

## **RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU**

30. Key risks for the programme include managing community expectations, ensuring clear separation from the upcoming Grey Street review but taking on lessons learnt, and maintaining strong engagement with retailers and stakeholders. There are also standard risks relating to alignment with regulatory changes, consultant and staff resourcing, and meeting Long Term Plan timeframes. These risks will continue to be monitored and managed in line with Council's Risk Management Framework.

## NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Upcoming key milestones as outlined below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action/Milestone</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Jan-March 2026	Continue to deliver Downtown Lounge activations.	Each Thursday in the city centre. See Participate webpage for more details.
Jan-October 2026	Continue to delivery Art in the City.	See Participate webpage for more details.
Mid-March 2026	First heritage facade painting complete – delivered by building owner.	See Participate webpage for more details.
April 2026	Update and workshop with Committee on early insights and developing options for concepts.	Report, presentation and potentially workshop.

**Title:** 26-28 Update on the New Regulations Surrounding Granny Flat Exemptions

**Section:** Building Services and Resource Consents

**Prepared by:** Ian Petty, Building Services Manager & Awhina White, Resource Consents Manager

**Meeting Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026

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Legal: Yes

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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## Report to ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI for information

### PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the introduction of the National Environmental Standard for Detached Minor Residential Units (NES DMRU) and the Building Act exemptions for small self-contained dwellings of up to 70 square meters.

### SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The government has introduced the NES DMRU and the Building Act exemptions, to support housing supply by making it easier to build 'Granny Flats'.

Staff have prepared an update to the Environment and Communities committee by introducing the new regulations surrounding Granny Flats and outlining what these regulations may mean for Council and landowners.

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

### RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

**That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:**

1. **Notes the contents of this report.**

*Authorised by:*

**Jocelyne Allen - Director Sustainable Futures**

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**Keywords:** national environmental standard, detached minor residential units, NES-DMRU, building act, small dwellings

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## **BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA**

1. As part of the governments' focus to increase the supply of affordable homes in New Zealand, a key priority was to make it easier to build small, self-contained and detached houses, on a property that has an existing home on it. These are most commonly referred to as Granny flats.
2. Whilst many district plans, including the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP), already allowed granny flats without the need for resource consent, a more nationally consistent framework of standards was required.
3. In June 2024, the government sought feedback on options that could facilitate building granny flats that would not require a resource or building consent. In August 2025, after taking on board initial feedback on options, the government developed and sought feedback on a draft National Environmental Standard (NES) for Granny flats and proposed amendments to the Building Act.

### **National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units 2025 and Granny Flat Exemption under the Building Act**

4. On 15 January 2026, the government introduced a new National Environmental Standard for Detached Minor Residential Units 2026 (NES-DMRU) and an exemption for self-contained dwellings of up to 70 square meters under the Building Act.
5. The purpose of the NES-DMRU is to allow the construction of minor dwellings or granny flats as a permitted activity if compliant with the permitted standards of the NES. The NES DMRU takes precedence over the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) except where it specifies that the TRMP applies. The Building Act exemption allows the small dwelling subject to a strict list of conditions.
6. Both the NES-DMRU and the Building Act exemption are meant to work in conjunction with each other to facilitate and speed up the construction of small dwellings that are associated with a primary residence.

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

### **RESOURCE CONSENTS**

7. The new NES-DMRU has been designed to complement the Building Act changes. Under the NES-DMRU, minor residential units can be built without resource consent if they meet all permitted activity standards. The NES-DMRU covers residential, rural, mixed-use and Māori-purpose zones.
8. Landowners will still need to check both the NES-DMRU and TRMP to check whether resource consent is required. This includes any relevant Regional Plan rules, and any district rules relating to:
  - Subdivision of land.
  - Matters of national importance under section 6 of the RMA.
  - Use of Detached Minor Residential Units (DMRU) other than for residential activities;
  - Papakāinga; and
  - Earthworks.

9. DMRUs will need to comply with any relevant rules or standards in the district plan that apply to the principal residential unit on the site. So, if the main dwelling is subject to certain rules (e.g. height limits) those same rules apply to the DMRU.
10. Additionally, the NES-DMRU will manage effects relating to health and safety, including any natural hazard risk not already taken into account (e.g. minimum floor levels to manage flooding effects); reverse sensitivity or site-specific infrastructure requirements (e.g. associated with drinking water, wastewater and stormwater).
11. Rules and standards in relation to amenity, and minimum requirements for outdoor open space, privacy, sunlight access, façade or total glazing and parking will not need to be complied with.

### **What this Means for Landowners**

12. For landowners to meet the permitted activity standards under the NES-DMRU, the following standards for a residential site are required:
  - The DMRU must have a floor area equal to or less than 70 square metres.
  - The DMRU must be setback no less than 2 metres from the primary dwelling.
  - Total site coverage of buildings in a residential zone must be no more than 50%.
  - The DMRU must be set back a minimum of 2 metres from the front, side and rear boundaries in a residential zone and no less than 10 metres from the front boundary and 5 metres from the side and rear boundaries on a rural zoned site.
  - Any DMRU must comply with any setback rules in the District Plan in a Maori Purpose zone; and
  - Comply with any site setback requirements in the District Plan in a mixed-use zone.
13. Only one DMRU is allowed on any one site.
14. Where a DMRU cannot meet the NES-DMRU requirements, then the usual provisions in the TRMP would apply and a resource consent would need to be obtained.

### **BUILDING CONSENTS**

15. The Building Act exemption terms the DMRU "Granny Flats" and that is how the exemption is commonly referred to.
16. The exemption has a number of criteria that must be met before the exemption applies.
  - The building must be at least 2m from any boundary and any other building.
  - It must be constructed of lightweight materials and be of simple form.
  - It must fully comply with the New Zealand Building Code.
  - It cannot have a solid fuel heater (fire).
  - It must be one floor only, no mezzanine floors.
  - It must be designed by a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP).
  - It must be built by an LBP.
  - The floor may not be higher than 1m.
  - The applicant must apply for and obtain a Project Information Memorandum (PIM) from the Council before any construction work starts.

- The PIM must outline any hazards that the building will be subject to as well as attaching a certificate stating what Development Contributions must be paid when the project is completed.
  - The PIM is valid for two years and the project must be completed by then or an extension applied for prior to the expiry date. If no extension has been requested by the expiry date a new PIM must be obtained.
  - The building may be connected to the Council services (stormwater, wastewater, drinking water) if they are in a serviced area. If not, they may connect to an existing septic system or build a completely new one as part of the exemption.
17. At the completion of the project the property owner must supply a full set of building plans, records of work and certificates from all tradesmen who worked on the project i.e. Electrical Certificate and pay the Development Contributions that are owed.

### **What this Means for Council**

18. Council issues the PIM and includes comprehensive advisory notes on the site where the proposed Granny Flat will be sited.
19. Council also advises, in their view, whether the proposal meets the Granny Flat exemption.
20. If there are hazards that cannot be mitigated or other issues that put the proposal outside of the exemption criteria then a Building Consent should be obtained. However, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) guidance provides the following comment on page 38 of the Granny Flats exemption guidance<sup>1</sup>:
- *"The PIM provides important site-specific information and advice, but it is not an approval. Homeowners may choose to proceed with building work even if the council advises that the proposed granny flat is unlikely to comply with the granny flats exemption requirements."*
21. This could lead to buildings being constructed in significant risk zones.
22. Development Contributions are not due until the project is completed. Exactly how this will work is unclear. Most projects go over budget, collecting monies at the end of a building project has always been problematic, this will be more so as we have no Code Compliance Certificate to hold back. In reality, there is no real method, except for debt collection, to ensure payment.

### **Problems**

23. The DMRU and the Granny Flat exemptions do not align. The Granny Flat exemption has one boundary clearance requirement, 2 meters, the DRMU has differing measurements depending on the zone.
24. It is not clear in the Granny Flat exemption that it is one per property, that is encapsulated in the DRMU.
25. There will be times when the DRMU applies, but the Granny Flat exemption doesn't, and vice versa.

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<sup>1</sup> [Granny flats exemption: Guidance and resources | Building Performance](#)

## Legal Advice and Liability

26. All the Building Act legal advice to date, and this is also articulated clearly in the MBIE guidance, is that the compliance with the exemption is the sole responsibility of the property owner.
27. It is not for Council Officers to check building work or provide advice if the building project is going wrong, it is for the owner to complain to the LBP Licensing Board, or to seek independent advice.
28. If Council gets involved at all then we step into the liability loop. As we will have had little oversight, no ability to check the plans, or even make sure hazard advice is heeded it is not our role to provide remedial advice or Building Act enforcement.
29. This is contrary to the Council's Customer First philosophy but is very relevant. There are yet to be changes from the joint and several liability law and Council is regarded as having deep pockets and always being there. We cannot change our name or liquidate so we are what is commonly termed 'last man standing' and are a target for building related legal cases.
30. We will receive Request for Service (RFS) complaints through the customer service system, but these must be treated as per our legal advice. Councillors will also be approached by property owners who may find their building project not going as they hoped. Once again, potential liability must always be front of mind.

## ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

**Overall Process:** Medium Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Medium Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

**Overall Process:** Medium Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Medium Significance

**This Report:** Medium Significance

31. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
32. The NES DMRU and relevant Building Act amendments are central government mechanisms, which do not require consultation or engagement to be carried out by Council.

## **TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS**

### **Kāwanatanga**

33. Landowners are still required to check both the NES DMRU and TRMP for relevant rules which include papakāinga provisions and Māori purpose zones, as there may still be consent requirements under these provisions.

### **Rangatiratanga**

34. The NES-DMRU and relevant Building Act amendments have been introduced to support housing supply, and do not anticipate impacts on rangatiratanga at this stage.

### **Oritetanga**

35. The NES-DMRU covers residential, rural, mixed-use and Māori-purpose zones which can support equity in providing for minor residential units across the zones included in the NES.

### **Whakapono**

36. The NES-DMRU and the relevant Building Act amendments support whakapono, by enabling options for whanau to live together on the same property, which can support multi-generational living.

## **TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA**

37. No external engagement has been undertaken by Council, as consultation on the NES-DMRU and Building Act amendments were conducted by the relevant central government departments. Most of the submission processes were open to the public, including mana whenua groups, to make submissions.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI**

38. No external engagement has been undertaken by Council, as consultation on the NES-DMRU and Building Act amendments were conducted by the relevant central government departments. Most of the submission processes were open to the public to make submissions.

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

39. The NES-DMRU and relevant Building Act amendments, support compact living options by intensifying existing residential environments permitted by adding a detached minor residential dwelling unit on a site already containing a principal dwelling.

## **CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO**

### **Financial/Budget**

40. The NES DMRU and relevant Building Act amendments have no financial/ budget considerations.

### **Legal**

41. This report has no further legal considerations other than what is covered in the legal advice and liability section in the report.

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

42. The NES DMRU and Building Act amendments do not require amendments to any Council policy or plan to give effect.

## **RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU**

43. Risks highlighted under legal advice and liability section.

**Title:** 26-25 Environment & Communities - Land, Rivers & Coastal  
**Section:** Community Lifelines  
**Prepared by:** Mangala Wickramanayake - Team Leader Land Rivers & Coastal  
**Meeting Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026

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Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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## Report to OPERATIONS - INFRASTRUCTURE/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE HANGANGA for information

### PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee about the following infrastructure services:

- Land Rivers and Coastal

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

### SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

This report provides a high-level update on operational and infrastructure service delivery as adopted through Council's Three-Year Plan (3YP)

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

### RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

**That the Operations - Infrastructure/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Hanganga:**

1. **Notes the contents of this report.**

*Authorised by:*

**Tim Barry - Director Lifelines**

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**Keywords:** Water supply, Land Rivers and Coastal, Urban Stormwater, Wastewater, local Roading Network

## **BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA**

1. The Operations Infrastructure Committee functions, terms of reference, asset management, and power to act and recommend are clearly defined by the Governance Structure – Delegations to Committees. These reports assist the Committee in governance oversight and asset management of infrastructure services.

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

2. An overarching report will be provided, and the following infrastructure services will provide attachments.
  - Land Rivers and Coastal
3. The appropriate staff will then present their reports to the Committee; the reports will discuss updates since the last report and provide a forward focus of their respective work programmes.

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

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

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

## **TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS**

### **Kāwanatanga**

5. The community meetings have been a learning opportunity for staff to engage with mana whenua to discuss levels of involvement with the HUB and its forward works programme.

### **Rangatiratanga**

6. The community meetings enabled opportunities to partner, codesign and collaborate with the HUB and its present and forward works programme.

### **Oritetanga**

7. The community meetings were an opportunity to understand inequities and to address them in present and future levels of service however, staff are finding this difficult to achieve as they are facing hard financial constraints.

### **Whakapono**

8. The community meetings were an opportunity to acknowledge or empower any application of tikanga and kawa.

## **TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA**

9. This report relies on the Three-Year Plan (3YP) community engagement process. Further engagement with mana whenua maybe required as projects and initiatives progress.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI**

10. This report relies on the Three-Year Plan (3YP) community engagement process, but the details will require further discussions with Māori.

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

11. The impact of climate change is being considered, and site-specific details will be raised in the appropriate infrastructure services report.

## **CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO**

### **Financial/Budget**

12. Now that the 3YP is adopted, Project Managers are working with the Finance Team to forecast project expenditure over the next 12 months.

### **Legal**

13. Major repairs to fix infrastructure damaged because of a rainfall event may trigger the emergency provisions of the Resource Management Act. There was discussion as to whether the powers available to the Recovery Manager under Part 5A, Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 are also available. Our legal team have provided clear instructions as to how and who can authorise each piece of legislation. Training will be provided to the Hub so that legal requirements are managed/met.

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

14. The details of these reports relate to the Gisborne District Council's adopted 3YP.

**RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU**

15. Each infrastructure service has its own specific risks that need to be addressed and mitigated. These will be highlighted in the appropriate report.

**NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE**

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
18 November 2025	Environment & Communities	

**ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA**

1. Attachment 1 - Land Rivers Coastal [26-25.1 - 3 pages]

# **Te Whenua, ngā Awa, me te Takutai**

*Land, Rivers and Coastal*

## **Operations Report for 2025-26**

### **What we do**

Land, Rivers and Coastal (LRC) minimise and prevent damage to Tairāwhiti from floods and erosion. We do this by providing advice on preventative works, maintenance of Gisborne District Council (Council) open drains across the Poverty Bay Flats, monitoring changes to river/stream channels and the coast, providing essential river and stream maintenance, and maintaining foredunes and coastal protection structures in alignment with the Wainui Beach Erosion Management Strategy.

### **About this report**

This report summarises key Land, Rivers and Coastal outcomes and contains the following sections:

- Updates since the last report
- Focus for next three months
- Risks

### **Updates since the last report**

#### **Flood Warning Manual**

1. The Flood Warning Manual was updated to a new format recommended by the National Flood Warning Steering Group. They have proposed and recommended to have a consistent Flood Warning Manual nationally (similar 'look and feel', contents page, structure etc) to allow for external council support to transition across if required during National emergencies.
2. There were minimal changes required to align to the recommended format and to be consistent with national standards and recommendations.
3. Noted that the Tairāwhiti Flood Warning Manual covers x4 key sites relating to Te Arai @ Pykes Weir, Waipaoa @ Kanakania Bridge, Waimata @ Goodwins Bridge, and The Hikuwai @ Willowflat.
4. Flood Warning Manual 'work in progress' folder has also been updated in parallel with the above work to track and action further improvements and refinements.

#### **LRC Maintenance Contract**

5. LRC Maintenance Contract progress from July - Oct 2025 was slow due to the winter weather conditions. Significant maintenance work typically starts during the spring as per our resource consent conditions and more favourable weather conditions.
6. The planned work in the summer was delayed due to consistent unfavourable weather conditions after the holiday break. There were also several complaints from Eastern Taruheru due to flooding of the Waru Stream and from Taruheru communities.

**Te Arai Willow Management:**

7. Te Arai willow management has been an ongoing issue, and a team focus since Cyclone Gabrielle, which is typically funded through targeted rates. Council is working on a new Aerial Spraying Consent for Te Arai as manual spraying is less sustainable long term as well as slower and more labour intensive. Engagement process started and Iwi partner hui is planned for the 9 February. Once the engagement process is over Consent application is planned to be lodged by March 2026.
8. Planning is underway to carryout aerial spraying in Te Arai from early 2027, once the resource consent is approved. Otherwise, manual spraying will continue to manage Willow eradication.

**LRC Annual Plan on Drain Regrades**

9. The annual plan for LRC drain regrades work was prepared and submitted in July 2025. Out of the total 303kms of LRC maintained drains, 15km regrades are planned to be completed this year (5%). Work started in October as per our resource consent conditions. Works will continue until April 2026 (weather permitting).
10. 5% of regrades per year is not ideal, closer to 10% per year is targeted. Our scope of works is currently capped by available budget approved in the last LTP. Drain regrades budget will be requested to be increased to align with the 10%/year target in the next LTP (i.e. for regrade works after 01 July 2027).

**New Project – Waimata River Downstream Woody Debris Removal**

11. We have been working on a new operational project for the Waimata River to address and manage the negative effects of large woody debris from within the waterway and banks. This is in the area approximately between the Waimata Cheese factory (161 Riverside Road) and the 'William-Petty' Bridge. Works are planned to be completed this summer.



*Project Area : Waimata Cheese factory to William Petie Bridge (4km)*

### Team Focus for next three months

12. Successfully complete the Te Arai Willow management eradication work within the year (by 15 December).
13. Successfully completed our open drain regrade maintenance programme, and other maintenance work during the period permitted under our approved resource consent, especially around the more sensitive inanga spawning areas.
14. Attend and complete our annual work program as planned (e.g. weed spraying, routine inspections, floodgate maintenance, pumpstation maintenance, and other critical proactive preventative maintenance works).
15. Input into draft maintenance contract covering LRC maintenance works commencing on 01 July 2027 onwards. Tendering of this contract is planned for mid 2026.
16. LRC planning and workshops relating to the LTP process that happens every three years.

### Risks & Issues

17. Budget restrictions are limiting the scope of maintenance activities such as drain regrades. There are additional tasks required now that have reduced our productivity, but budget constraints remain the same; e.g.
  - a. Management of eels required by our consent requires double handling of spoil, slowing open drain regrade work, increasing costs and decreasing what can be delivered within available budgets.
  - b. Traffic management requirements have increased costs related to traffic management whenever work alongside public roads.
18. Additional budget is required, as current budgets are insufficient to meet LOS expectations and standards. The planned work are reactive based on the fund availability.
19. Work is underway now to understand appropriate budgetary requirements. This will feed into the next LTP process underway now, so that additional and appropriate budgets are set in the next Long-Term Plan starting 01 July 2027 onwards.
20. Repeated extreme wet weather events.
21. Consenting restrictions related to weed spraying maintenance work (wet weather, wind, financial constraints/budget, no spray zones).

**Title:** 26-37 Operations - Liveable Communities Update  
**Section:** Liveable Communities  
**Prepared by:** Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities  
**Meeting Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026

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Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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## **Report to ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI for information**

### **PURPOSE - TE TAKE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on Liveable Communities operations activities, including:

- Liveable Spaces (Recreation & Amenity and Horticulture, Cemeteries)
- Aquatic Services
- Cultural Activities (Library, Theatres, Art in Public Places)
- Land Management Operations
- Regional Biodiversity and Biosecurity
- Solid Waste Operations

### **SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA**

The report outlines the operational services delivered under the Three-Year Plan (3YP).

Gisborne District Council (Council) has a key role in enhancing community wellbeing and supporting quality of life through its responsibilities under Section 10 of the Local Government Act. These include:

- Enabling democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- Promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities now and into the future.

The matters presented in this report are assessed as having **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

**That the Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:**

**1. Notes the contents of this report.**

*Authorised by:*

**Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities**

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**Keywords:** Liveable Communities Operations Activities,

## **BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA**

1. The Liveable Communities Hub oversees a range of community services and projects. This report provides a summary of current activities and priorities across the various sections within the Hub.

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

2. Appropriate staff from the following sections will present their updates to the Committee and outline the forward focus of their respective work programmes:
  - Liveable Spaces (Recreation & Amenity and Horticulture, Cemeteries)
  - Aquatic Services
  - Cultural Activities (Library, Theatres, Art in Public Places)
  - Land Management Operations
  - Regional Biodiversity and Biosecurity
  - Solid Waste Operations

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

3. The matters outlined in this report are assessed as having **Low** significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS**

### **Kāwanatanga**

4. In considering Kāwanatanga, this report demonstrates transparent and accountable decision making by providing clear updates on Liveable Communities operations, ensuring council governance is well informed and supports effective delivery of services adopted through the 3YP.

### **Rangatiratanga**

5. Rangatiratanga has been provided for by acknowledging iwi and hapū interests in areas such as recreation spaces, cultural activities, biodiversity programmes, and catchment management, and by ensuring opportunities for partnership and protection of taonga across these operational activities.

### **Oritetanga**

6. Ōritetanga has been considered by assessing how Liveable Communities operations - spanning aquatic services, libraries, theatres, biodiversity, and waste management - support equitable access and outcomes for Māori and all communities across the region.

### **Whakapono**

7. Whakapono is reflected through a good faith approach to reporting and operations, emphasising honest communication, genuine engagement, and maintaining trusted relationships with iwi and Māori as part of ongoing service delivery.

## **TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA**

8. This report relies on the Māori engagement undertaken through the 3YP. No additional engagement is required for this operational update, with any future engagement to follow Council's established processes.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI**

9. Community engagement informing this report is drawn from the Three-year Plan process. As this is an operational update of low significance, no further engagement has been undertaken.

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

10. Climate change impacts will continue to be considered through the ongoing implementation of the 3YP, in line with Council's Climate Change Report Writing Guidelines.

## **CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO**

### **Financial/Budget**

11. Project managers are working with the finance team to forecast project expenditure over the next 12 months, to ensure current activities are being managed within approved budgets.

### **Legal**

12. No significant legal implications have been identified.

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

13. The matters outlined in this report align with Council's adopted 3YP and are consistent with existing policies and strategic directions.

## **RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU**

14. Each community project and operational area has specific risks that are monitored and mitigated as part of standard practice. These risks are outlined in the relevant attached reports.

## **ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA**

1. Attachment 1 - Liveable Spaces [26-37.1 - 3 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Aquatics [26-37.2 - 2 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Cultural Activities Operations [26-37.3 - 4 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - Land Management Operations [26-37.4 - 3 pages]
5. Attachment 5 - Regional Biodiversity and Biosecurity [26-37.5 - 6 pages]
6. Attachment 6 - Solid Waste Operations [26-37.6 - 4 pages]

# Ngā Mahi-a-Rēhia me ngā Wāhi Tākaro

## Liveable Spaces

### Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2025/26

#### What we do

##### Open Space and Amenity

Council is responsible for the management of a variety of multi-use recreational reserves, open spaces and facilities. These are maintained by Liveable Spaces in partnership with external contractors including community-based kaitiaki, while our internal amenity and horticulture team maintains Gisborne's amenity gardens and flowerbeds. This activity includes parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports grounds, walkways, coastal foreshore areas, amenity gardens and street trees as well as a range of assets such as picnic tables, water fountains and other amenities. About two thirds of these assets are in the Gisborne area, with the balance spread across Te Tairāwhiti, roughly in proportion with our population distribution.

##### Community Property

Liveable Spaces oversee the maintenance and upkeep of community property including buildings, public facilities, town clock and monuments. We arrange, monitor and maintain lease and licence agreements for our assets.

##### Cemeteries

Council manages and maintains eleven cemeteries; one cemetery within the city, the remainders located across Te Tairāwhiti. This activity is responsible for burials and meeting regulations within these cemeteries. We also provide a recordkeeping service to fulfil Council's legislative requirements and in response to community interest.

##### Public Conveniences

Council provides a number of public convenience facilities. These are distributed across the region and located in destination/visitor areas including sports parks, neighbourhood parks, coastal/regional destination areas, suburban shopping precincts and townships.

Facility management services are offered at Bright Street; in the heart of the CBD a dedicated staff member runs a facility known for its exceptional service and commitment to excellence.

#### About this report

This report summarises key Liveable Spaces outcomes and contains the following sections:

1. Updates since the last report.
2. Focus for next three months.
3. Risks.

## 1. Updates Summary

### Public Conveniences

Replacement of the Onepoto/Kaiti Beach Public Toilet with a locally made, prefabricated, accessible facility. The project was successfully delivered and opened in Late 2025.

### Parks and Open Space Service Contracts

From July 2025, we commenced work under new parks and open space service contracts. The contract review saw council consolidating nine rural caretaker contracts into three larger rural contracts servicing Matakaoa, Ūawa Tawhiti and Waipaoa. These were won by Chaffey's' Contracting, Tamai Gray and Pomana Contracting, respectively.

A new contract for the city is held by Green by Nature, previously known as Recreational Services.

### Reserve Land

Titirangi - Ongoing weather events have impacted walking tracks throughout the maunga. Repairs have been underway in early 2026 and will be completed in March. This will create a more resilient network of walking trails.

Turanga Gardens remains closed following the failure of stormwater infrastructure during Cyclone Gabrielle, exposing the historic land fill and asbestos containing materials throughout the reserve. A detailed assessment of contamination and historic landfill extent is underway, which will inform future options for the site.

Grant Road – riparian planting and new furniture was completed on the site in winter 2025.

Doneraile Park will reopen upon the completion of the St Leger Bridge. The site has been closed since Cyclone Gabrielle.

### Play Spaces

A full audit of the condition and compliance of Council playgrounds was completed to inform activities in the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

Planning has commenced for the Elgin Play Space redevelopment, and engagement will take place in early 2026.

We completed a number of nature play projects, piloting and testing approaches to delivering quality and varied play experiences for tamariki using local and sustainable materials. These include the Waikanae Train, The Okitū Whale, Ayton Park and Matawai nature play areas, and the kōura at Waihīrere.

### Future Urban Cemetery Provision

As assessment of current and future urban cemetery land provision was completed and presented back to Council in late 2025. The review found that we have 30 years of capacity remaining at Taruheru cemetery, longer than expected.

### Waihīrere Domain Redevelopment

A new public convenience and septic system was successfully installed at Waihīrere in late 2025. The facility meets modern accessibility standards and uses solar power.

## Dune Care

This year, community-led dune restoration reached new heights thanks to volunteers and support teams, resulting in the region's most successful planting season. Key coastal areas - Makorori, Wainui, Anaura, Uawa, and Kaiua - made significant progress in native vegetation establishment, stabilising dunes and strengthening ecosystems.

A new group started restoration work in Uawa and Kaiua, involving the local surf community and building momentum for future conservation. Over 7,000 native plants were established by volunteers.

The 12-week Dune Restoration Cadet supported groups to support with maintenance tasks, having outstanding results. New community signs, installed through teamwork across multiple council departments, raised awareness, and additional budget support expanded the initiative's impact this season.

## 2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Remediation of affected sites on the coast following the January rain event.
- Redevelopment of Cook Street Toilets – Uawa.
- Completion of the Titirangi Track Remediation project.
- Remediation of the Ūawa Reserve/Woody Debris site.
- Engagement and planning for the Elgin Play Space redevelopment project.

## 3. Risks

- The cost of maintaining our network of assets continues to grow, forcing more strategic decisions around where facilities are most critical.
- We're experiencing vandalism and wilful destruction of community assets, which affects our ability to maintain and improve these spaces.

# Ngā mahi wai

## Aquatics

### Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2026

#### What we do

The Kiwa Pools includes indoor and outdoor pools, play areas and whanau picnic zones. The Kiwa Pools complex provides a fun, family friendly space for sports and recreation, including gatherings and play.

There is collaboration across the regional pool network. This is strongly linked through Recreation Aotearoa and their accredited Pool Safe facilities programme.

#### About This Report

This report summarises key Aquatics Activities outcomes and contains the following sections:

1. Updates January 2026 – December 2026.
2. Focus for next three months.
3. Risks.

#### 1. Updates Summary

- A shift to earlier opening hours to meet community need.
- Hydro-slide band sales had increase by 5,000 in December and January showing the popularity of our hydro-slide.
- Having the inflatable in the pool on wet days over summer has helped increase admissions on those days. Philosophy is to do this on wet weekends throughout the time the outside is open as well as over all the weekends throughout the winter months.
- Stage two redevelopment has a focus to help us maximise customer experience and minimise expenditure with a focus on the 12–22-year age group.
- Swim Tangaroa Swim School has nearly 200 participants. Swim Tangaroa have struggled to recruit learn to swim teachers. The learn to swim contract first three years finishes this year.
- The café concluded operating on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January after summer trading. In the short term while we identify the best future use for the area, the Kiwa Pools team will use the area for the retail shop including offering an extended range of convenience foods.
- This year primary school swimming sports will again be held at Kiwa Pools. This includes primary inter-schools' regional finals (run in conjunction with Comet).
- Water polo is running on Tuesday nights (adults) and Sunday afternoons (kids) with an intermediate competition being developed.
- Aqua fitness is remaining popular with large numbers (over 40) attending Monday and Fridays.

- Triathlon club is up and running again with bookings occurring.
- Long term user agreements have been put into place to provide assurance/clarity for all parties, including Swim for Life.
- Due to a slightly warmer summer, numbers are up slightly on last year, with income remaining steady.
- Staff training and development is a focus with us now developing career pathways for our team, as well as meeting our customer expectations and increasing our positive effect that we as a team have on all our community.

## 2. Focus for Next Three Months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Ensuring appropriate staff resourcing. Winter staffing is a challenge with staff retention through enough available hours and keeping within budget.
- Continuing to enhance and refine Health and Safety procedures (this is of a high standard yet remains vital and a continual improvement item). Regular site visits from our Health and Safety Team provides a fresh set of eyes on our operation and we have good buy in from staff.
- Poolsafe and Hazardous substances audits are occurring.
- Working with schools up the coast to help them keep their costs down and develop understanding around pool water quality.

## 3. Risks

- **Resources** – Ensuring appropriate lifeguard resources to enable facility to continue to function. This is currently being well managed.
- **Health and Safety** – making sure we are working to be one of the safest pools within the world while maximising enjoyment is a balancing act.
- **Weather** – Poor weather reduces interest in the aquatic's facility as an activity.
- **Community** – engagement to make sure our stage two development meets community need and expectations.

# Ngā Mahina Ahurea

## Cultural Activities

### Operations: Environment and Communities: Report for 2025/26

#### What we do

##### Theatres

The War Memorial Theatre and the Lawson Field Theatre provide facilities and services to support performing arts and events for the enjoyment of residents as well as visitors. Pātūtahi Hall is mainly used by rural residents.

##### Museum and Public Art

Council owns and maintains some of the Tairāwhiti Museum buildings and contracts services to the Gisborne Museum of Art and History Trust, trading as the Tairāwhiti Museum.

Council supports provision of a range of public art.

##### HB Williams Memorial Library

The library provides access to space and resources including relevant collections of materials, programmes for adults, teens, children, and other targeted special interest groups. Included are meeting rooms, digital learning programmes and e-library.

##### Navigate Tairāwhiti

Navigate Tairāwhiti is a series of seven projects delivered together with tāngata whenua and partner organisations. Current projects are:

- Installation of Hawaiki Tūranga
- 1000-year Bridge
- Te Maro sculpture

#### About this Report

This report summarises key Cultural Activities outcomes and contains the following sections:

1. Updates July 2025 - December 2025.
2. Focus for next three months.
3. Risks.

## Updates since the Last Report

### Art in Public Places

Focus for the recovery period is on restoration, maintenance or enhancement of existing public art rather procurement of new work.

Te Taihu Tūranga Whakamana Canoe prow – Restoration and maintenance planning in progress. Work being undertaken by the artist, Te Aturangi Nepia Clamp.



Skate bowl restoration and mural at Kaiti Memorial Park completed.



Tiny Gallery installed at Peel Street entrance to library as part of CBD Transformation programme art component.

### Navigate Tairāwhiti

1000-year Bridge – Completed, including art elements. The asset has been transferred to Liveable Communities. Now known as Te Ikaroa a Rauru.



- Te Maro sculpture – Viewing platform completed. Asset transferred to Liveable Communities.
- Hawaiki Tūranga – Installation of sculptural components installed.

### Tairāwhiti Museum

- Tairāwhiti Museum roof – Works underway.
- Lysnar House – council facility – Building renewal works – roof, cladding, external painting completed.
- Contract and lease for Museum services, and land and buildings signed off.

### HB Williams Memorial Library

- Regular and 'special' programmes delivered in partnership with community, including Central Business District economic development initiative 'Kiwiana Christmas' during December.
- Ngā Kaituhi Māori, National Māori Writers Hui held October with the rangatahi elements held at library led by Witi Ihimaera.
- Dying Matters workshops facilitated by Tairāwhiti Hospice and Growing through Grief sensitively and professionally delivered.
- Bilingual directional signage for library collections in progress.
- Upgraded building management systems associated with HVAC.

### Theatres and Halls

- Past three months saw 43 booking days at War Memorial Theatre and 30 booking days at Lawson Field in this period. The division was 75% local users and 25% non-local users. Standout events included Dancefit, Les Misérables, The Greatest Christmas Show, School productions and Tom Sainsbury Comedy show.
- Deep cleaning and inhouse maintenance programme undertaken by team during low hire period.
- Upgraded building management system.

## 2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months include:

- Story boards for Navigate Tairāwhiti projects to be developed in conjunction with Ngāti Oneone.
- Complete bilingual signage projects for library and War Memorial theatre.
- Campaign to engage more volunteers to support theatres operations.
- Review of Aotearoa People's Network services following central government decrease of sector funding.
- Tairāwhiti Museum 2024/2025 Annual Report to be submitted to council.
- Council representative selected and appointed to Gisborne Museum of Art and History Trust.
- Riparian and extended planting of native trees behind Lysnar Hours and Museum by April.
- Activity and asset management plans to be developed for next Long-Term Plan.

## 3. Risks

- Additional budget requirement for significant new assets associated with Navigate Tairāwhiti unplanned elements and maintenance activities, and other capital renewals, particularly for War Memorial Theatre and Patutahi Hall.
- Repeated extreme weather events restrict maintenance programming and operational activity.
- Risk to staff and contractor safety and wellbeing through anti-social behaviour from others.

# Ngā Mahinga Whakahaere Whenua

## Land Management Operations

### Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2025/26

#### What we do

The Land Management Team is the part of Council that sits between policy and landowners. We are responsible for the on the ground implementation of outcomes that are set through strategy and regulation.

Land Management delivers a set of essential, statutory-linked services that underpin Councils ability to manage land and natural resources across the region. Under the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan, the team:

- Leads the Council's land management function.
- Provides education and advocacy to Council's regional statutory functions.
- Implements the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP), and other legislation and statutory plans and supports both regulatory and non-regulatory projects.
- Manages the soil conservation nursery.
- Supports the current farm environment plan (FEP) system.
- Will be a key stakeholder in implementation and support of the Freshwater Farm Plan system within the Region.
- Provides important recommendations to Land Use Consents that are being processed by Council (including afforestation and harvest consents).
- Supports catchment/community groups and engages with private landowners and tangata whenua throughout the region.
- Works with Central Government, research institutes, iwi, and landowners to enhance the environmental footprint of permanent forests, agriculture, plantation forestry and horticulture.
- Provides advocacy services including environmental information and link to source expertise for landowners, iwi, and the community.
- The Land Management Team also assists landowners, iwi, and community groups in accessing funds for projects and develops and presents relevant educational information.

#### About this Report

This report summarises key Land Management outcomes and contains the following sections:

#### 1. Updates Summary

##### Erosion Control Plans (ECPs) and Land Use Classification (LUC) Mapping for Landowners

Ongoing development of Erosion Control Plans (ECPs) and Land Use Capability (LUC) mapping for landowners. The information and recommendations that the maps and plans provide are essential for landowners to input into their Freshwater Farm Plans. The delay and unclear direction from the Government in the Freshwater Farm Plan space has provided challenges in getting landowners onboard this service.

During the period July 2025 to Jan 2026 the team have completed 13 LUC maps covering 12,740 hectares and 13 ECPs covering 13,368 hectares.

### Community Nurseries (Whareponga, Tokomaru Bay and Pourau Station)

Both the Whareponga and Tokomaru Bay Nurseries are complete (Nursery structure completed, fencing completed, tanks in place and water system working) and approx. 15-20,000 plants have been transferred from Aberdeen Road Nursery.

Seed collection in both areas has been ongoing, and we are excited to see the germination progress over time.

We are currently developing individual work plans for each nursery. We have several ongoing costs that will be managed under our MPI funding grant which include media mix, seed raising mix, pots and containers.

Planning is underway with the community/landowners on hill country erosion sites for planting this coming season.

Huge mihi to Soraya Pohatu-Stone for leading this project.

### Transition Advisory Group (TAG) and Business Case and Development Plan for Land Use Transition

The team has spent a significant amount of time assisting the TAG and the development of the Business Case and Development Plans for Land Use Transition. The team's involvement included but was not limited to:

- Scheduling and organising meetings.
- Producing and distributing meeting minutes.
- Undertaking GIS mapping and analysis.
- Providing information for the Guidelines.

### Strategic Planning

The Land Management Team is in an interesting and exciting place. With everything moving quickly in the sustainable land use/transition space, we have been working on our strategic plan to assist us in our future planning in this space.

### Whakaoratia Trust – Debris Dams Project

Ongoing support to the Whakaoratia Trust work in establishing gully structures in the Waiapu Catchment. The team provides support through a number of avenues including monitoring of the dams.

## 2. Focus for Next Three Months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Hill Country Erosion Programme applications open in February. This will be a huge piece of work for our team to ensure that it aligns with our Strategic Plan and Council's wider sustainable land use transition plan going forward.
- MPI - Milestone 8&9 - LUC and ECPs (Feb – June 26). The team need to undertake new LUC mapping at 10 new properties and create 10 new ECPs.
- Further communication with landowners and community/catchment groups on the ITZ and how we can assist through our current framework.
- MPI – Milestone 8&9 – Nursery Objective - Identify and plan for the upcoming planting season. Sites need to have hill country erosion present, stock excluded, pest plan in place and most importantly landowner commitment to the planting and ongoing maintenance required.

- Be across any national regulation changes and or updates to ensure we can convey that to our community as required.

### 3. Risks

- **Land Use** – Potential opposition to the Interim Transition Zone (ITZ).
- **Resources** – The requirement for a significant increase in resourcing of land management to address the implementation of the Land Use Changes required.
- **Weather** – Severe weather events are always have an influence on our teams deliverables. Getting mapping and plans completed requires the team to be outside in safe conditions.

# Te Whakapanoni Rerenga Rauropi ā-rohe

## Regional Biodiversity and Biosecurity

### Operations: Environment and Communities: Report for 2025/26

#### What we do

We are responsible for driving biodiversity improvement across Council's land portfolio and implementing Council's strategic direction for biodiversity and biosecurity.

Our biodiversity team provides specialist terrestrial and freshwater advice for Council and our diverse communities to facilitate best practice and improved outcomes for biodiversity across the region. We also deliver major projects in partnership with tangata whenua, including Waingake Transformation Programme and Haumanu Tū Ora Programme and the Titirangi Restoration Programme led by Ngati Oneone.

The biosecurity team play a key role in delivering Council's statutory functions. We implement the Regional Pest Management Plan, provide education and advocacy to landowners and the community, and collaborate with national and regional partners on priority biosecurity issues including pathway management.

#### About this Report

This report summarises key Regional Biodiversity outcomes and contains the following sections:

1. Updates since the last report.
2. Focus for next three months.
3. Risks.

### 1 Updates since the Last Report

#### 1.1 Protection Management Areas (PMA)

We have been analysing PMA data and preparing spatial data for inclusion in the upcoming State of the Environment report for the region (currently in preparation and led by the Science team).

Our team has been supporting landowners to understand their PMAs and has recently collaborated closely with Gisborne Holdings Limited (GHL) to provide a summary report of the PMAs Tauwhareparae Farms Limited (TFL). The report summarised forest health conditions across nine PMAs and will support GHL with strategic planning for biodiversity improvement across the TFL landscape.

We have also established a strong working relationship with representatives from Anaura Incorporation. Together we have completed PMA inspections, and the team has provided advice around planting and revegetation plans for Anaura Incorporated. Fencing PMAs on the property strongly demonstrates how stock exclusion supports the development of a complex and layered forest structure which is critical for rainfall interception and creating a resilient landscape (Figure 1).



Figure 1: The benefits of stock exclusion can be seen to the left where a layered forest structure is establishing in a PMA.

## 1.2 Natural Heritage Fund

The [Natural Heritage Fund](#) (NHF) is an annual contestable fund of \$100,000 that helps private landowners protect or enhance indigenous biodiversity on their land. Many of the projects funded in the 2024 round are now completed. Projects funded in the 2025 round of the fund are now underway.

### Updates

- 19 projects were approved to receive funding in 2026.
- 11 projects from the 2025 funding round were completed by the deadline of 31 December 2025.
- Five extensions have been granted until June 2026 for uncompleted 2025 projects.

### Next steps

- New funding round for 2027 will open for applications on 1 July.
- Staff will make some amendments to the funding application form ahead of the next funding round as a result of feedback from previous applicants.
- A report on the outcome of the projects funded by the 2025 round of the fund will be presented to the Operations Committee at the August meeting.

## 1.3 Inspiring, Activating and Connecting

Our team led and supported a range of activities through Conservation Week in 2025 alongside the Department of Conservation, Tairāwhiti Environment Centre (TEC) and community groups, all with a focus of inspiring action and sharing knowledge. Free events took place each day for community to engage and learn and our team presented at several schools throughout the week alongside Enviroschools.

Our team manned a large Biodiversity and Biosecurity display at the 2025 A&P show, joined by Wai Connections and TEC. The space saw high volumes of visitors and engagement with community across the region over the two days.

During the annual Makutu muster sightings and 'booming' Matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern, were confirmed at two local locations: Sisterson's lagoon and the Waikanae Awa at Gisborne Airport. The annual Makutu Muster is a great way to raise community awareness and engagement, with teams of Council and local volunteers gathering to listen each year. This important national survey is also building a more complete picture of the distribution and number of Matuku-hurepo across the motu.

Educational dune signage has been installed at five key coastal locations; Makorori Beach, Wainui (Pines, Stock route, and Lloyd George Road carparks) and Waikanae Beach. These signs provide key information on coastal systems and species, explaining how dunes work and what people can do to protect them. The signs were designed as part of an ongoing cross Council collaborative approach between Liveable Spaces, Environmental Science and Regional Biodiversity.

#### **1.4 Waingake Transformation Programme – Project Highlights**

The Waingake Transformation Programme is one of Council's major flagship projects. Working together with mana whenua Maraetaha Incorporation, we have an ambitious plan to transition 1600ha of plantation pine forestry in our water supply catchments back to a thriving indigenous ngahere. The programme aims to restore the cultural and environmental heritage of Waingake, restoring biodiversity and delivering natural infrastructure to ensure the protection and resilience of Tairāwhiti's water supply.

##### **Community Engagement**

The team have attended various wānanga and hosted manuhiri this year, sharing Mātauranga and learnings from our kaupapa. As part of our community engagement, we are developing a relationship with Muriwai kura which has enabled tamariki to reconnect with their whenua, learning about pest animal and weed control, and gaining an understanding of where our water comes from. We were also fortunate to host two visitors from Kew Gardens, a world-renowned centre of plant knowledge in London. Our visitors shared specialist knowledge for the propagation of threatened plants with our team and helped to propagate cuttings from our only known Northern Rātā at Waingake, whose host tree had succumbed to wind damage.

##### **Pest Control and Monitoring Operations**

Pest plant and animal control and monitoring is ongoing throughout the year. Our Ngahere Ora team delivers the majority of this work, with support from specialist contractors for activities such as ungulate control.

The team has recently completed the installation of 30 self-resetting AT220 traps. These traps feature an automated lure and target multiple species (mustelids, cats, rats). The traps will reset up to 100 times before they require a battery change and service, making them a cost-effective alternative to single-set traps which are labour-intensive to reset on a regular basis.

The annual Five-Minute Bird Count was completed in early November 2025, continuing to add to a regular dataset which will eventually enable trends and changes to native bird populations to be detected.

##### **Planting Progress**

The 2025 planting season was completed successfully with approximately 33,000 mānuka planted as a nursery crop. A further 10,000 enrichment species were planted in areas where previously planted mānuka is becoming well established. These enrichment species provide important diversity and support the trajectory of successional forest to a self-sustaining, long-lived forest ecosystem.

A procurement process is now underway to secure a supplier for planting and maintenance services for the next three years.

### **1.5 Haumanu Tū Ora (H2O) – Project Highlights**

The Haumanu Tū Ora programme is halfway through its penultimate year, with funding to end on 30 June 2026. Significant progress has been made, and a number of major restoration activities are planned for completion within the remaining programme period.

#### **Waikanae Awa Restoration – Airport Site**

The team is progressing several workstreams for the restoration of the Waikanae Awa and associated wetlands which provide important habitat for freshwater species such as inanga and tuna, as well as the Nationally Critical Mātuku-hurepo. Restoration plans include:

- Investigating hydrological modifications to reinstate historical flow levels.
- creation of enhanced fish spawning habitat.
- large-scale pest plant removal.
- planting of approximately 20,000 wetland species.
- ongoing pest animal control.

The project complements native planting undertaken by Eastland Group as they retire grazing land at the Solar Farm.

#### **Spartina Management – Taruheru River**

The spartina control phase is now complete, representing a major programme milestone. Planning is underway for replacement native planting along the Taruheru, with the preferred site being the Botanical Gardens riverbank. This location offers high public visibility to demonstrate biodiversity gains from the restoration work.

### **1.6 Biosecurity**

Biosecurity activities this period focused on key operational areas of pest eradication, exclusion, education, pathway collaborations, engagement and operational pest animal and plant management.

#### **Eradication**

Eradication of rooks from the region is on track to be achieved with the elimination of the single rook from the Waiapu. Collaboration with adjacent regions indicates rook populations are on the decline due to ongoing successful management outcomes and eradication is a consideration for future planning.

Mediterranean Fanworm is on-track for elimination in the Eastland Port marina, and a deferred December 2025 surveillance dive is scheduled for April 2026.

Targeted pest plants monitored have noted a downward trend in active plants growth and distribution. There are 13 plant species regularly monitored, of which seven species are being actively controlled and the six other species are clear or in a dormant state.

#### **Exclusion**

Officers responded to a report of a suspected Wallaby sighting between Matawai and the Waioweka Gorge. Our officers completed day and night surveillance and made contact with farmers in the immediate and wider Matawai and Motu areas. No further evidence of Wallaby presence was found.

An infestation of Saffron thistle located in the Waikohu Ward has been controlled and contained to the present locations. The source of the infestation is unclear, but the two locations are in the same vicinity and are being regularly monitored and actively controlled.

Plague Skinks, also known as Rainbow Skinks, have been recently detected in the Whataupoko Reserve. The discovery indicated a breeding population as eggs, juveniles and an adult were confirmed in the Reserve. Biosecurity officers are carrying out a wider site surveillance and early indicators are these skinks may have spread beyond the initial location. MPI have been notified and provided with photos and a GPS reference point of the Plague Skink detection.

### Education

Our pest plant officers have had a strong focus on lifting community awareness and control of Moth Plant, particularly within the urban area. Information has been provided through letterbox drops, direct phone calls, and media. Key messages help property owners and residents to identify Moth Plant and understand effective control methods. Where needed, discretionary support is available to elderly or disabled residents for control of Moth Plant. This focused campaign has resulted in engagement with over 400 residents in response to a large increase in Requests for Service.

We secured part-funding from the Ministry of Primary Industries for our summer 'Check, Clean, Dry' freshwater biosecurity programme. Key activities are underway with a focus on educating recreational river users and raising awareness of the invasive freshwater gold clam (*Corbicula fluminea*). It is critical that owners and users of recreational craft and equipment follow the Check, Clean, Dry process when moving between different rivers and regions.

Our Biosecurity education programme continues to be well received by school students, parents and teachers.

### Pathway Collaborations

- MPI: High-Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) collaboration with other regions and stakeholders ensuring plans are being developed in preparedness for the arrival of HPAI.
- OSPRI: Attended local Animal Health Board meetings keeping abreast of TB possum control in the western Hawkes Bay Region. There are no current TB infections in or near Gisborne.
- Marine pathway: supporting Top of the North Island collective approach to national standard guidelines and rules for hull cleaning for recreational vessels.
- Feral Goat Management: Continued interagency communications on feral goat management adjacent to the Bay of Plenty boundary in the Waikura Valley, Lottin Point and Tarere Station in the Kopuapounamu Valley.
- Regional collaboration on managing rooks across regions in particular the Hawke's Bay and Bay of Plenty regions. We are on track to achieve our Regional Pest Management Plan target of eradication of this species.

### Operations

Our officers are supporting the Upper Waimata Catchment Group with possum control works successfully completed over five properties achieving the 10% or less post control target. We have also supported the Motu Catchment Group to develop a pest plant management plan for the Motu River riparian margins. The group has been successful in securing external funding and plans to commence control work soon.

We are continuing with possum management on the Hawke's Bay regional boundary, including rebaiting of 390 possum bait feeders across nine properties within the boundary. Further pest animal control has been undertaken with a focus on properties around inland Tolaga Bay, Tutamoe, Fernside, and Mata Roads, and feral cat control work at Council's community transfer stations.

Ongoing inspections, advocacy of established pest plants, both urban and rural weeds providing advise to landowners and informing them of their responsibilities to undertake control.

## **2 Focus for next three months**

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Preparation of an Asset Management Plan for Biodiversity and Biosecurity activities.
- Commence a review of the Regional Pest Management Plan.
- Pre-planting preparation for Waingake and Haumanu Tū Ora.
- Mediterranean Fan Work surveillance dive within the port.
- Continue planning and preparedness for High-Pathogenicity Avian Influenza.

## **3 Risks**

- Contractor availability for planting and maintenance of restoration sites.
- Repeated weather events impacting restoration sites and operational activity.
- Capacity and resourcing constraints for the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan.

# Whakahaere Para

## Solid Waste

### Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2025/26

#### What we do

Solid waste manages waste and promotes effective and efficient waste management and provides minimisation services and activities within the district, to minimise the effects on our health and the environment.

We do this through:

- Rural and urban kerbside collections.
- Rural transfer operations.
- Recycling initiatives.
- Cleaning of public places.
- Landfill operations and aftercare.
- Embed circular economy thinking into systems.
- Support local community groups and non-governmental organisations with waste reduction initiatives.
- Continue to work with MfE, other councils and government organisations on national waste reduction initiatives.

The provision of solid waste activities is a requirement for every district or city within New Zealand under the Local Government Activity and Public Health Act 1956. We're using our adopted 2018–2024 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan to guide us in making sure we manage our waste as best we can for the benefit of our community's health, our local economy, and our environment.

#### About this Report

This report summarises key Solid Waste outcomes and contains the following sections:

1. Updates since the last report.
2. Focus for next three months.
3. Risks.

#### 1. Updates Summary

##### Kerbside Collection Contract

The council's kerbside collection contract expired on 1 July 2022. This has been negotiated and extended to June 30, 2026. Broadly, this provides for weekly kerbside refuse and recycling collection and illegal dumping collection services.

A proposal for a full procurement process is being developed and will be presented to Council staff including provisions for:

1. General Waste and Recycling Kerbside Collection services for Tūranganui-a-Kiwa. Kerbside collection and disposal to an appropriate site.
2. Organics Kerbside Collection for Tūranganui-a-Kiwa. Collection and disposal to an appropriate site.
3. Procurement of wheelie bins as per Better off Funding.
4. Processing and disposal of general waste to a landfill.
5. Processing and disposal of recycling.
6. Processing and disposal of organic waste.

### **Waste Management and Minimisation Plan**

A Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) is a strategic document required under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. It sets out objectives, policies, and actions to minimise waste to landfill, improve resource recovery, and support a more closed loop approach to waste and materials across the region.

Its primary purpose is to guide local authorities, businesses, and communities in adopting measures that minimise waste, improve resource efficiency, and align with the principles of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

Council is progressing the development of the 2025 – 2031 WMMP. Council completed a series of public engagements and workshops to help guide the development of the draft WMMP. More than 900 people across eight public events, on-line hui and phone calls provided community voice in the development of the draft document, which was also shared via our partners and networks.

Feedback received on the draft document has informed refinements to the draft plan, including improving readability, streamlining the structure, reducing duplication across actions, and strengthening measurable elements to support monitoring and reporting.

The draft plan is currently being reshaped to improve clarity, accessibility, and community relevance. This includes content revisions by the communications team, followed by updates to the graphics to reflect engagement feedback and the revised structure. A matauranga Maori lens review of the draft plan is also being progressed.

The current intention is to seek Council approval to proceed to public consultation in March 2026, with adoption of the final WMMP anticipated in May 2026.

### **Resource Recovery Centre (RRC)**

The RRC initiative has gained momentum with a number of due diligence actions completed and a dedicated Project Manager onboarded to ensure traction is maintained. Tonkin+Taylor have been brought in to investigate and complete an unbiased due diligence report on potential sites, both brownfield and greenfield.

A decision report to council in March 2026 is expected to provide direction on the way forward. The intention is to carry out public engagement post council decision including public consultation and an update on next steps which could include further due diligence on potential sites, advancing design and operational modelling, and continuing engagement with iwi partners, stakeholders, waste operators, and the private and business sectors.

## Waiapu Landfill

The resource consent for the Waiapu Landfill expired in June 2025. Council staff are progressing a consenting process while reassessing the assumption that the site has reached end of life. This work includes a financial and technical comparison between continued operation of Waiapu and closure with transfer of all rural waste to Gisborne and onward disposal. The analysis tests the relative costs, risks, and operational implications of each option, alongside consent requirements and the outcomes sought for the community and hapū.

In the interim, general waste from rural transfer stations continues to be transported to the Waste Management Transfer Station on Innes Street in Tūranganui-a-Kiwa.

## Closed Landfill Sites and Contaminated Land

Council staff have completed a landfill risk assessment for all council legacy landfill sites. This will inform options for site assessments and help prioritise remediation efforts. A plan is being developed for legacy landfill sites and contaminated sites across the rohe.

## Tokomaru Bay Legacy Landfill Remediation Project

The Tokomaru Bay Legacy Landfill Contaminated Land Remediation Project is focussed on physically carrying out remediation, through the removal of waste material at the site, to prevent waste material discharging into the Mangahauini River and surrounding environment.

### Project Status Update

The Tokomaru Bay Legacy Landfill Contaminated Land Remediation Project is focused on the physical remediation of the site through the excavation and removal of waste material. The purpose of the remediation works is to prevent the discharge of waste material and contaminants into the Mangahauini River and the surrounding environment.

Resource consent for the proposed works has been granted, subject to conditions. The consent conditions are currently being reviewed by the project team in consultation with a Suitably Qualified and Experienced Practitioner (SQEP). This review will inform the update and finalisation of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to ensure compliance with consent requirements.

The Project Governance Group continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis. These meetings provide a formal mechanism for engagement and reporting, including updates to hapū representatives and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) on project progress, risks, and upcoming activities.

Due to delays experienced during the resource consent approval process, a change request will be submitted seeking an extension to the approved project workplan timeframe.

Discussions regarding an application to the Ministry for the Environment for additional funding have been undertaken with the Solid Waste Steering Group. Preparation of the funding application is currently underway.

## Te Araroa Legacy Landfill Site

The legacy landfill site located in Te Araroa was damaged by a severe weather event in June 2020. Remedial work was completed on the site to contain the landfill's contents.

Council staff are completing additional testing on site to develop a series of remediation options.

## 2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Develop the procurement plan to tender the various contracts for kerbside collections.
- Understanding resource consent risks and continued work on consents and consent applications related to related legacy landfill contaminated land projects.
- Drive a decision on direction for the RRC.
- Progression of the Tokomaru Bay legacy landfill remediation.

## 3. Risks

- The absence of a regional landfill in Tairāwhiti, combined with recent road closures, increases the risk of delays and logistical challenges for waste management and remediation activities.
- Cost of remediation for the Tokomaru Bay legacy landfill remediation project. Cost for disposal and volume of waste are currently being developed, however there is a risk that costs could exceed our initial estimations.
- Cost of remediation of other landfill sites is not fully covered in current budgets.