

AGENDA/KAUPAPA



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MEMBERSHIP: Andy Cranston (Chair), Colin Alder, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga and Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz.

OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAIAO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee
DATE: Thursday 10 April 2025
TIME: 9:00AM
AT: Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

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Operations – Environment & Communities

Reports to:	Council
Chairperson:	Cr Andy Cranston
Deputy Chairperson:	Cr Aubrey Ria
Membership:	Mayor and all Councillors
Quorum:	Half of the members when the number is even and a majority when the membership is uneven.
Meeting frequency:	Six weekly (or as required).

Functions

- To provide governance oversight of Council's operational programmes, services, activities and projects (including major projects) related to environmental operations, community development and community assets.
- To enable the progress of the Council's operational activities, projects and services.

Its scope includes:

Environment Services and Protection

- Building Services
- Enforcement
- Environmental Health
- Pests and Plant management
- Biodiversity
- Integrated catchments
- Land management
- Animal control
- Harbour management

Communities

- Cultural Activities including Theatres, Museum and Public Art, Library and Tairāwhiti Navigations
- Recreation and Amenity – 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 as outlined in the general purposes and scope section.
- 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 programmes, major projects/projects and activities.
- To have 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 subject to the limitations imposed.

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 7 November 2024

MINUTES

Draft & Unconfirmed



P O Box 747, Gisborne, Ph 867 2049 Fax 867 8076
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MEMBERSHIP: Andy Cranston (Chair), Colin Alder, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga and Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz.

MINUTES of the OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Thursday 7 November 2024 at 9:00AM.

PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Colin Alder, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Daniel Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines Tim Barry, Director Internal Partnerships & Protection James Baty, Acting Director Liveable Communities Kerry Hudson, Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships Anita Reedy-Holthausen, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Director Sustainable Futures Jo Noble, Democracy & Support Services Manager Julian Rangihuna-Tuumuli and Committee Secretary Teremoana Kingi.

The meeting commenced with a prayer/karakia.

Secretarial note: Deputy Chair Cr Ria chaired the meeting.

Secretarial note: Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Director Lifelines Tim Barry, Chief Māori Gene Takurua attended via audio visual link.

1. Apologies

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Pahuru-Huriwai

That the apologies from Cr Cranston and Cr Parata be sustained.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 12 September 2024

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga seconded by Cr Gregory

That the Minutes of 12 September 2024 be accepted.

CARRIED

4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

5. Acknowledgements and Tributes

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

6. Public Input and Petitions

There were no public input or petitions.

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 Report 24-278 Allocation of the Natural Heritage Fund

Presented by Senior Regional Biodiversity Advisor Melanie Cheetham

Questions of clarification included:

- During a previous operations meeting, it was suggested that deer fencing should be included in the application process where applicable. An application for conventional fencing was declined, and the landowner was informed and plans to reapply next year.
- Not all applications are for deer fencing, so it cannot be made a standard requirement. Each application is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- A cost breakdown is provided, and some requests from applicants do not meet the criteria. The goal is to fund as many projects as possible, but there are specific criteria to consider. Applicants may need to stage their projects or fund the remaining costs themselves.

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Gregory

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

1. Approves the allocation of the 2025 round of the Natural Heritage Fund in accordance with Table 2 of this report.

CARRIED

11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION

11.1 24-288 Waihirere Domain Renewal Project

Presented by Planning Team Leader Tyler Kirk

Questions of clarification included :

- The infrastructure at Waihirere Domain will support the goal of becoming a key regional destination ensuring future generations can enjoy it. While Trust Tairāwhiti promotes the waterfall, more efforts are needed to further enhance its visibility.
- There are challenges around the toilet site, with various options being explored and detailed design work underway.
- The community's efforts around Waihirere Domain have been recognised.
- For the neighbouring forestry block owned by Mangatu, discussions and fencing work are in progress. A buffer strategy is being used for goat management, with the biodiversity team conducting bi-annual work, as fencing the entire area is difficult.
- Aquatic species are healthy, but gambusia in the waterways is a concern. There are no foolproof mitigation measures, but investigations with Department of Conservation are ongoing to prevent gambusia from entering the Waihere Domain.
- Te Aitanga a Māhaki is collaborating with the Council and their biodiversity team to reduce the number of goats in the area. Water quality testing is conducted to assess the health of natural water species and identify potential pests in the waterways.

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Foster

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

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

12. Public Excluded Business

Secretarial Note: These Minutes include a public excluded section. They have been separated for receipt in Section 12 Public Excluded Business of Council.

13. READMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Gregory

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

1. Readmits the public.

CARRIED

14. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.28am

Aubrey Ria
CO-CHAIR

3.2. Governance Work Plan

2025 Operations Environment & Communities

2025 Operations Infrastructure

						Meeting Dates					
HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	18-Feb	10-Apr	5-Jun	28-Aug	18-Nov	
Liveable Communities	Regional Biodiversity Transformation	Waingake Transformation Programme update.	To provide an update on the progress of the Waingake Transformation Programme.	Information (I)	Amy England						
Community Lifelines	Journerys	Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) Update	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the committee about Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) progress on the state highway network.	Information (I)	Richard Bayley (TREC)						
Community Lifelines		Community Lifelines Operations Infrastructure Update	To provide an update to the Committee about the following infrastructure services - Land Rivers and Coastal; Urban stormwater; Wastewater; Water supply; Local roading network.	Information (I)	Tim Barry						
Liveable Communities		Liveable Communities Operations Update	To provide the committee with an update on Liveable Spaces (Aquatic Services, Recreation & Amenity and Horticulture. Cemeteries), Community Projects, Catchments and Biosecurity, Cultural Activities (Library, Theatres), Regional Biodiversity and solid waste.	Information (I)	Michele Frey						

2025 Operations Environment & Communities

2025 Operations Infrastructure

						Meeting Dates				
HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	18-Feb	10-Apr	5-Jun	28-Aug	18-Nov
Engagement and Māori Partnerships	Community Projects	City Centre Revitalisation Update	Update Committee on City Centre Revitalisation Programme structure, reporting and progress made to date.	Information (I)	De-Arne Sutherland					
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Arboriculture Panel Procurement Plan	Requesting Council Endorse the Plan	Public Excluded (I)	Natalie Waihi					
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Parks & Open Spaces Maintenance Contract	Delegation to approve contract and spend	Public Excluded (I)	Natalie Waihi					

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION



25-61

Title: 25-61 Operations - Liveable Communities Update

Section: Liveable Communities

Prepared by: Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Meeting Date: Thursday 10 April 2025

Legal: Yes

Financial: Yes

Significance: **Low**

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

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee about the Liveable Communities operations activities.

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

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The report focuses on the operational services as adopted in the Three-Year Plan (3YP).

The Gisborne District Council (Council) plays a major role in enhancing community wellbeing and supporting overall quality of life through two key responsibilities outlined under Section 10 of the Local Government Act:

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

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

1. Notes the contents of this report.

Authorised by:

Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: Liveable Communities Operations.

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The Operations Committee oversees various community services and projects. This report provides a summary of the current activities and priorities across the various sections within the Hub.
2. The Operations Committee has been actively involved in overseeing the implementation of the 3YP, and therefore, it is timely to update the committee on key progress.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

3. The format reflects the adopted 3YP across the following sections. These are provided in the respective attachments:
 - Liveable Spaces (Recreation & Amenity and Horticulture, Cemeteries)
 - Aquatic Services
 - Community Projects
 - Catchments and Biosecurity
 - Cultural Activities
 - Regional Biodiversity
 - Solid Waste
4. Appropriate staff will present their reports to the Committee and provide a forward focus of their respective work programmes.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

5. 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

6. Resources and training have been secured to support the Hub in delivering the outcomes of the Treaty Compass for Kāwanatanga, Rangatiratanga, Oritetanga and Whakapono.

Rangatiratanga

7. Resources and training have been secured to support the Hub in delivering the outcomes of the Treaty Compass.

Oritetanga

8. Resources and training have been secured to support the Hub in delivering the outcomes of the Treaty Compass.

Whakapono

9. Resources and training have been secured to support the Hub in delivering the outcomes of the Treaty Compass.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

10. The report relies on the Three-year Plan (3YP) Māori engagement process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

11. The report relies on the Three-year Plan (3YP) community engagement process.

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

12. The impact of climate change will be considered as part of the ongoing implementation of the 3YP.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

13. Project managers are working with the finance team to forecast project expenditure over the next 12 months.

Legal

14. No significant legal implications have been identified.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

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

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

16. There are no major risks associated with the decisions or matters outlined in this report.

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Liveable Spaces [25-61.1 - 4 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Aquatics Operations [25-61.2 - 2 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Cultural Activities Operations July- Dec 2024 [25-61.3 - 3 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - Integrated Catchments Operations [25-61.4 - 3 pages]
5. Attachment 5 - Regional Biodiversity Transformation Operations [25-61.5 - 4 pages]
6. Attachment 6 - Solid Waste Operations [25-61.6 - 3 pages]

Ngā Mahi-a-Rēhia me ngā Wāhi Tākaro

Liveable Spaces

Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2024/25

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. 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

Peel Street Toilet refurbishment included retrofitting a gender-neutral accessible facility within the building footprint. The project was successfully delivered and opened in late 2024. Total cost for the refurbishment was \$134k.

The development of a public convenience network plan has informed necessary upgrades to the public convenience network, septic systems and water supply for the next long term planning period.

Reserve land

Titirangi - Ongoing weather events have impacted walking tracks throughout the maunga, the implementation of track closures was necessary for public health and safety. Council received \$66k grant from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund to support necessary remediation works. Liveable Spaces are currently working through procurement for the construction of retaining walls and remediation of tracks.

Makorori Headland - Remediation work has been completed to the walking tracks through the Headlands, including the isolation of the northern face of the Headlands, due to significant ground movement. A monitoring programme has been implemented to assess changes to the unstable areas. Budget spent on this project totalled \$16,149.

Makorori Bollards – Work to scope phase 2 of the project is underway and is focused on planting. Consideration is being given to future phases whilst working with Waka Kotahi and neighbouring landowners. The speed limit changes to State Highway 35 are likely to impact the planned design and the approved resource consent. These impacts are being worked through.

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. Options to address the landfill and contaminants are being considered.

Grant Road – Liveable Spaces are working with the Freshwater Improvement team on a riparian planting project for Grant Road Reserve, as Phase 2 of remediation works, following flooding during the cyclone.

Doneraille Park – We're anticipating that Doneraille Park will reopen upon the completion of the St Leger Bridge. The site has been closed since Cyclone Gabrielle.

Street tree planting

A total of 220 new street trees have been successfully planted across several streets, including Valley Road, Chalmers Road, Stanley Road, Lytton Road, Ormond Road and Anzac Street. Efforts are now focused on increasing the proportion of native tree species in future plantings, whenever feasible.

Play spaces

New play equipment has been installed across Adventure, Waikanae, Lytton West and Ayton Park. Softfall replenishments continue across the network.

We've developed a set of guidelines for introducing natural play spaces, "Nature Play" is the use of natural elements like trees, plants, rocks, water, and soil, promoting exploration, creativity and physical activity. Our first Nature play space is underway at Ayton Park and a second in Matawai through the townships programme.

Cemetery remediation

The project team have also completed the Taruheru Cemetery extension and releveling work, re-establishing the grass is a work in progress. New fencing and bollards have been installed; Ash Garden development will commence in coming months. Spend for these projects combined totalled \$395,500.

A further \$55k has been spent on new internal wall linings and painting of the Crematorium Building.

Future urban cemetery provision

As assessment of current and future urban cemetery land provision is currently underway and will be reported back to Council in the coming months. This includes a feasibility study of council land opposite the Taruheru Cemetery, as well as a full capacity review of the Taruheru, Ormond and Pātūtahi Cemeteries.

This will provide certainty of the remaining useful life of each site and facilitate a decision around council's approach when these reach capacity.

Indoor multipurpose stadium

A business case has been completed by staff and is being presented to Council for decision on future investment into the facility.

Community property

A joint precinct maintenance plan has been prepared with the Tairāwhiti Museum Trust. Year 1 and 2 priority upgrades are underway including new roof sheets and guttering for Lysnar House, Fire egress ramp upgrades to the Star of Canada, and other preventative measures.

The Assets team continue to work through maintenance planning and priorities, having recently engaged a suite of condition and structural assessments to inform short-long term maintenance tasks and required budget.

CBD Revitalisation

The City Centre Revitalisation programme is in the early planning stages and includes three key work streams: an early win catalyst project (in partnership with Trust Tairāwhiti and Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust), a review/enhancement of Council's levels of service in the city centre, and a strategic investment case to encourage long-term sustainable economic growth in the city centre. The delivery of the first two workstreams will be underway in the coming months. A full update report will be presented to the Operations Committee – Community and Environment, at its meeting on 10 April 2025.

Waihīrere Domain redevelopment

Contractors successfully removed the end-of-life pool and buildings from Waihīrere Domain. The toilet block was retained and will be upgraded in the coming months. A new septic field will be installed, set back from waterways.

Dune care

Community led Dune restoration efforts have flourished this year with a successful planting season bolstered by invaluable insights shared at a recent Coastal restoration conference. Key areas, including Makorori, Wainui, and Anaura, have witnessed significant progress as native vegetation takes root, stabilising sand dunes and fostering local ecosystems.

Central to this initiative is the establishment of the Makorori Environmental Protection Society, a dedicated group formed to champion conservation and ensure the long-term health of coastal environments. Their collaboration and dedication mark a milestone in preserving the natural beauty and resilience of these cherished landscapes; 6000 plants in the ground planted by the community.

2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Appointment of preferred contractors for Parks & Open Space Service Agreements
- Transition of Parks and Open Space Service Contracts
- Renovation of Waihirere toilet and new septic system
- Redevelopment of Cook Street Toilets - Uawa
- Tender evaluation for Titirangi Track Remediation project
- Finalise cemetery capacity review and needs assessment
- Indoor Stadium – actions falling out of the presentation of the business case to Council
- Redesign of Makorori Bollard 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-a-Rēhis me ngā Wāhi Tākaro

Aquatics

Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2024/25

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 July 2024 – December 2024.
2. Focus for next three months.
3. Risks.

1. Updates Summary

- Swim Tangaroa Swim School has nearly 200 participants and is actively running a promotion for term 2 with even greater increases in numbers. Swim Tangaroa now have three te reo fluent teachers and will be promoting full te reo classes in term 2.
- The new cafe opened its doors on 19 March 2025 in time for our school swimming sports being held at Kiwa Pools. This includes primary inter-schools regional finals (run in conjunction with Comet).
- Long term user agreements are being put into place to provide assurance/ clarity for all parties. This includes with Swim for Life.
- Due to a wet and cold summer, numbers are down slightly on forecast, however income remains steady.
- Power and insurance are significant costs for the facility. Solar inverters have been causing issues with two of the five not working. Work is being done on rectifying this.
- CCTV coverage and outside complex security systems are now linked, plus we have a monitored chlorine gas alarm.
- Staff training and development is a focus over winter as well as meeting our customer expectations and increasing our positive effect that we as a team have on all our community.
 - A series of four videos around water quality have been posted on Facebook.
 - Kiwa pools overview.
 - The physical systems in place.
 - Behavioural systems in place and what's in the water.
 - Keeping our water clean.

2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Working with our new café provider to ensure they are successfully onboarded.
- 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 H&S procedures (this is of a high standard yet remains vital and a continual improvement item). Regular site visits from our Health & Safety Team provides a fresh set of eyes on our operation and we have good buy in from staff.
- Increased programmes and working alongside our partners to maximise use of the facility. This includes Swim Tangaroa.

3. Risks

- **Resources** – Ensuring appropriate lifeguard resources to enable facility to continue to function. This is currently being well managed.
- **Weather** – Poor weather reduces interest in the aquatics facility as an activity.
- **Community** – Lower than anticipated numbers of users. We continue to work to increase numbers through programme offerings and events.

Nga Mahina Ahurea

Cultural Activities

Operations: Environment and Communities: Report for 2024/25

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. They are realised through well connected and integrated design, landscaping, and stories. 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 2024 - December 2024.
2. Focus for next three months.
3. Risks.

1. 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 Taiuhu Tūranga Whakamana Canoe prow – Restoration and maintenance planning progressing, subject to Site Specific Safety Plan. Work to be undertaken by the artist, Te Aturangi Nepia Clamp.

Navigate Tairāwhiti

- 1000 year Bridge – Construction completed December 2024. The asset has been transferred to Liveable Communities to further develop artistic elements, engage with iwi regarding storytelling and to maintain.



Image Gay Young

- Te Maro sculpture – Design review of viewing platform, change from concrete to wood construction.
- Installation of Hawaiki Tūrangā – Remediation of soil completed.

Tairāwhiti Museum

- Contract for Services and lease agreement with council review completed.
- Tairāwhiti Museum Annual Plan presented to council.
- Star of Canada – council facility – year 1 maintenance plan completed.
- Lysnar House – council facility – year 1 priorities initiated.

HB Williams Memorial Library

- Regular and 'special' programmes delivered in partnership with community, including Central Business District economic development initiative 'Kiwiana Christmas' during December and several new book launches including the second in the Kawai series - 'Kawai; tree of nourishment' by Dr Monty Soutar. (below)



HB WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tue 18 @ 10.30am Weekly
He Kākano Songtime
Join us for some sing-along dancing fun with your little one in this fun weekly programme for under twos and their caregivers.

Tue 18 @ 9am-8pm Weekly
Late Night at the Library
Enjoy an evening at the Library with our weekly late night open hours. We have free Wi-Fi, printing services, great books and more!

Tue 18 @ 6pm - 8pm Monthly
Night Owls Social Craft Group
Bring your craft project and join Tairāwhiti Social Crafters group for a free and friendly evening of crafting together at the Library.

Thu 20 @ 9am - 11am Weekly
Justice of the Peace Service
A free weekly community service for document verification and more. Be sure to come prepared as it's first in first served basis.

Thu 20 @ 9.30am Weekly
Te Pihinga Toddler Time
A fun morning session for two to five year olds and their caregivers. Come and socialise while having fun singing, dancing and learning.

Thu 20 @ 1.30pm Bi-Monthly
Silent Reading Group
Join other local readers in a Library take over! Simply pick your book, pick your spot, then shut up and read till you've had enough.

Thu 20 @ 10.30am Fortnightly
Waiaata Mai Community Waiaata
Bring the whāiaata or roll up solo to join our popular fortnightly Community Waiaata group and learn some beautiful Māori songs.

Fri 21 @ 3.30pm - 5pm Fortnightly
Library Lego Club
Lego Club is for 5-17 year olds and runs fortnightly on Fridays, 3.30-5.00pm during the school term, come and join in the fun.

Fri 21 @ 3.30pm - 5pm Weekly
Teen Club: Te Aka Rangatahi
Free Friday fun for teens 13+ during the school terms. Expect quizzes, games, anime, snacks and a whole lot of fun and laughter.

Sat 22 @ 9.30am - 1pm Weekly
Saturday at the Library
The perfect drop-in day for town and market goers to schedule a regular Library visit as part of your Saturday morning day out.

www.hbpl.govt.nz

- Project planning suite aligned to increasing onsite visitors. Over 55,000 visitors in past six months, ensuring the library remains most visited facility in CBD.

Theatres and Halls

- A busy six months with 93 booking days at War Memorial Theatre and 92 booking days at Lawson Field in this period. The division was 84% local users and 16% non-local users. Standout events included local theatre productions “We Will Rock You”, “Priscilla Queen of the Desert”, “Peter Pan” and “Sleeping Beauty” and touring shows Cirque Africa, and A Taste of Ireland.
- Deep cleaning and inhouse maintenance programme undertaken by team during low hire period.

2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months include:

- Installation of Hawaiki Tūranga to be completed.
- Te Maro viewing platform to be completed, and asset transferred to Liveable Communities.
- 1000 Bridge final artistic elements to be designed and installed.
- 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.
- Renew end-of-life projectors in theatres which have failed and are beyond repair. One purchased 2014 and the other ex-council chambers 2017.
- Provide current and historical interest materials for library purposes.
- Asset management register of IT hardware related to library completed.
- Review of Aotearoa People's Network services following central government decrease of sector funding.
- Tairāwhiti Museum Annual Report to be submitted to council April 2025.
- Contract and lease for Museum services, and land and buildings signed off.
- Forward planning for 2025/26.

3. Risks

- Additional budget requirement for significant new assets associated with Navigate Tairāwhiti unplanned elements and maintenance activities, and other capital renewals.
- Repeated extreme weather events restricts maintenance programming and operational activity.
- Risk to staff and contractor safety and wellbeing through anti-social behaviour from others.
- Failure of essential theatrical systems. War Memorial Theatre projector failed October 2024. Lawson Field Theatre projector failed March 2025. Risk is financial inability to renew essential equipment associated with facilities.

Nga Mahina Ahurea

Integrated Catchments

Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2024/25

What we do

The Integrated Catchments Section is responsible for leading the Biosecurity, Land Management, Education and Advocacy aspects of implementation of the Council's regional statutory functions around the Biosecurity Act and the Resource Management Act. Integrated Catchments works with central government, research institutes, iwi and landowners to reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture, forestry and horticulture. Integrated Catchments implements the Regional Pest Management Plan, Tairāwhiti Plan and other statutory plans through direct action, support for non-regulatory projects, and through advice and information. Integrated Catchments manages the Soil Conservation Nursery, implements farm planning, develops wetland and biodiversity plans and engages and advocates with private landowners, particularly in rural environments.

About this report

This report summarises key Integrated Catchments outcomes and contains the following sections:

1. Updates Summary

Land Management staff have been involved in:

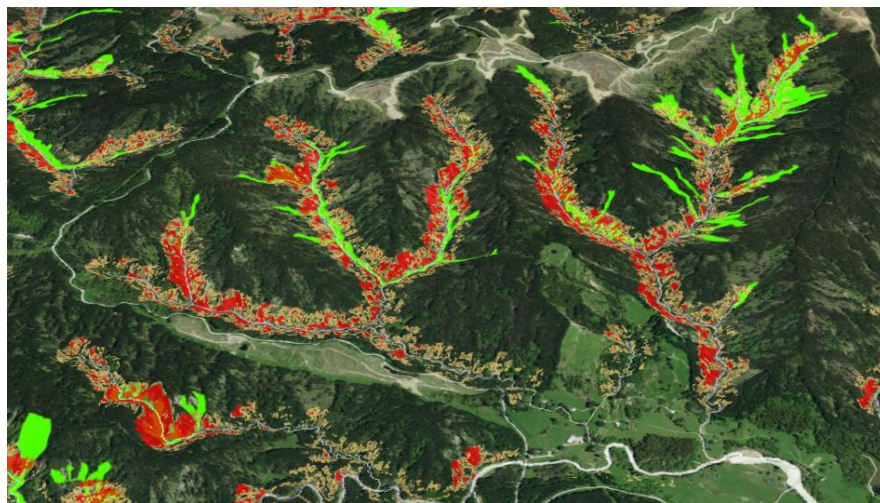
Ongoing development of Erosion Control Plans and Land Use Capability mapping for farming interests in wider Farm Environment Plans. This effort has been frustrated by the delay and unclear direction from the new government in the Freshwater Farm Plan space.



Ongoing support to the Whakaoratia Trust work in establishing gully structures in the Waiapu Catchment.



A significant effort into developing the Transition Layer (Potential LO3B), land requiring permanent vegetation.



Providing support to the Transition Advisory Group (TAG) in developing the transition guidelines and assisting with the initial development of the Business Case and Development Plan for Land Use Transition.

Biosecurity staff have been involved in:

Been catching up with a wide range of works which had been disrupted during the weather events and associated disruption to property access.

Ongoing success with maintaining the buffer zone along the Hawkes Bay boundary (possum control) to ensure the region remains tb free.

A clear result for Fanworm in the last port basin dive inspection.

2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

Ongoing support to the Transition Advisory Group in assisting with five hui for the Business Case and Delivery Plan focusing on scope and scale; delivery; governance and management; resourcing and funding; and validation.



Further communication with landowners as to the extent and impact of the Transition Layer (potential LO3B) on individual farms and forests.

Commencement of the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Ongoing pest control including the Hawkes Bay buffer zone and goat eradication alongside the north boundary with Bay of Plenty.

3. Risks

- **Land Use** – potential opposition to the extent of Transition Layer.
- **Resources** – the requirement for a significant increase in staff numbers and resourcing of land management and biosecurity to address the implementation of the Land Use Changes required.
- **Community** – education of the Transition Layer may be seen as insufficient protection of the environment.

Rerenga rauopi

Regional Biodiversity Transformation

What we do

We are responsible for driving biodiversity improvement across Council's land portfolio and implementing Council's strategic direction for biodiversity. The team provides specialist terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity advice for Council and our diverse communities to facilitate best practice and improved outcomes for biodiversity across the region.

The team play a key role in delivering Council's statutory functions as well as major biodiversity projects delivered in partnership with tangata whenua, including; Waingake Transformation Programme and Haumanu Tū Ora Programme and the Titirangi Restoration Programme led by Ngati Oneone.

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)

Having completed inspections of nearly one-third of the region's PMAs over the last several years, we have suspended the annual target of completing 25 PMA surveys to conduct a review of our PMA monitoring programme. The review is focused on two key areas:

1. A field trial of new quantitative and semi-quantitative monitoring methods to determine applicability to sites and resource requirements.
2. Structured review of PMA management to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

The review provides an opportunity to align PMA management with the requirements of the National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity to maintain indigenous biodiversity. It will ensure that we are capturing the right data to help us understand the current state of our region's biodiversity and that we implement effective monitoring to track changes over time.



Figure 1: Principal Biodiversity Advisor Don McLean measuring understory plants during a survey of Rimuhau 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

- 16 projects were approved to receive funding in 2025.
- 14 Projects from the 2024 funding round were completed by the deadline of 31 December 2024
- Five extensions have been granted until June 2025 for uncompleted 2024 projects.

Next steps

- New funding round for 2026 will open for applications on 1 July.
- Staff are currently in discussions with an external funding provider as to the progression of a co-funding partnership which could substantially increase the NHF. A report is being prepared to go to TRW in mid-April.

1.3 Inspiring, activating and connecting

We are focusing on the provision of information and support to our community, including meeting with community groups, developing planting plans, delivering the Panui Taiao, and updating biodiversity information available through Council's website. This includes planning updates of key biodiversity resources and factsheets such as the Streamside Planting Guide.

1.4 Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity

We have successfully secured an Envirolink Medium Advice grant (\$25k) to undertake ground truthing of indigenous vegetation within our urban area. With support from the Eco-Index team from Waikato University, we are developing a tool to assist with ground truthing, and training staff in the use of the tool. This will provide a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of existing indigenous vegetation and threats to enable future community engagement around our urban biodiversity values and aspirations.

The team has provided feedback to the development of the draft Biodiversity chapter of the Regional Policy Statement.

1.5 Waingake Transformation Programme

See report 25-90 Waingake Transformation Programme Update for a full report.

1.6 Haumanu Tū Ora (H2O)

The Haumanu Tū Ora programme is half way through its penultimate year, with funding to end on 30 June 2026. Great progress has been made on existing and new sites, with the earlier sites becoming well established, and the newer ones being subject to continued maintenance to allow the plants to establish.



Fig x. Native Plants at Te Papa O Nelson.

Some ambitious objectives still need to be achieved such as the construction of an urban stormwater wetland and the eradication of the spartina in the Taruheru.

Establishing a secure source of funding for this programme is an important consideration for Council. Understanding ratepayer support for biodiversity enhancement and restoration activities will be explored through the annual rate payer satisfaction survey.

For further details of the H2O programme please see report 25-44 for a full programme update.

2 Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Complete urban biodiversity ground-truthing
- Prepare for opening of the Natural Heritage Fund 2026 funding round
- Pre-planting preparation for Waingake and Haumanu Tū Ora
- Forward planning 2025/26.

3 Risks

- Contractor availability for planting and maintenance of restoration sites.
- Repeated weather events impacting restoration sites and operational activity
- Security and poaching issues at Waingake.

Para Mārō

Solid Waste

Operations : Environment and Communities: Report for 2024/25

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 Tūrangānui-a-Kiwa. Kerbside collection and disposal to an appropriate site.
2. Organics kerbside Collection for Tūrangānui-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.

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.

The Tokomaru Bay Transfer Station relocation is being progressed to enable the remediation project.

The project is tracking in line with the proposed work plan.

Remedial options were presented to Community at a joint stakeholder and community hui on Sunday the 23 March 2025

A project page is live on the GDC website for ongoing communications and updates.

[Tokomaru Bay landfill remediation | Participate](#)

Waiapu Landfill

Council staff are working on the consenting process for the Waiapu Landfill. The current consent is due to expire in June 2025. We are seeking to extend this consent with the intent of developing a full closure plan for this site. This will include a site management plan, and ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the site with the ability to include any ongoing remediation projects. This closure plan and ongoing planning will be in conjunction with our iwi partners.

General waste from the rural transfer stations is being carted to the WM Transfer Station on Innes Street in Tūranganui-a-Kiwa.

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.

These are in conjunction with a plan for legacy landfill sites and contaminated sites across the rohe.

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.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

A Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP) in New Zealand is a strategic document aimed at reducing waste generation and promoting sustainable waste management practices. 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.

The WMMP sets out goals, policies, and actions to reduce landfill reliance, encourage recycling, composting, and reuse, and promote a circular economy where materials are kept in use for as long as possible. Additionally, it supports environmental protection, cost savings, and compliance with national waste reduction targets, fostering a cleaner, more sustainable future for New Zealand

A Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP) in New Zealand must meet the requirements outlined in the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. It should include clear objectives and policies for achieving effective waste minimisation and management within a territorial authority's jurisdiction.

The WMMP must assess the current state of waste management, including waste composition, quantities, and existing infrastructure, to identify opportunities for improvement. It must outline practical, measurable actions to reduce waste to landfill, encourage resource recovery, and support the principles of a circular economy.

The plan should also provide methods for monitoring and evaluating progress against its goals and ensure alignment with national and regional waste strategies.

Public consultation is a critical requirement to ensure community input and buy-in, and the WMMP must be reviewed at least every six years to remain current and effective.

Council has implemented two WMMPs, adopted in 2012 and 2018. Since 2015, the community has experienced an increase in waste sent to landfill and a decrease in materials being recycled, reflecting national waste trends.

Council is currently undertaking a process to review the existing [Waste Management Minimisation Plan \(WMMP\) 2018-2024](#). A draft plan is on track to be provided to council and community for consultation in June 2025

Resource Recovery Centre

Council Staff are preparing to establish a council project team to progress this to the next stages to seek funding from the Ministry for Environment. This will require additional due diligence on potential sites and work toward design and operational modelling with ongoing engagement with Iwi partners, stakeholders, including waste operators and the private and business sector.

2. Focus for next three months

The focus of activity for the next three months includes:

- Develop a 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.
- Establishment of a project team for additional Resource recovery workstreams.
- Progression of the Tokomaru Bay legacy landfill remediation to enable the planning of the physical works required.

3. Risks

- 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 costs could exceed our initial estimations.

Title: 25-82 City Centre Revitalisation Programme Update
Section: City Centre Revitalisation
Prepared by: De-Arne Sutherland - Central Business District Programme Manager
Meeting Date: Thursday 10 April 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on the progress of the City Centre Revitalisation Programme.

The City Centre Revitalisation Programme is a key project in the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan, on the back of community, retailer, and iwi support to revitalise Gisborne's city centre. The programme includes three work streams; delivery of the early win 'Catalyst Project', review/improvement of Gisborne District Council's (Council) levels of service in the city centre, and preparation of strategic investment case to encourage longer term sustainable economic growth in the city centre.

A significant start has been made to initiate this programme, including working in partnership with Trust Tairāwhiti and Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust (RIT) to engage with the community and further develop the catalyst project. A final copy of the Catalyst Project report is attached to this report for your information.

As a key next step in the Catalyst Project RIT will take project partners (Trust and Council representatives) through a kawa informed planning process in April to confirm roles and delivery of seven early win Catalyst Projects. In the meantime, there are actions that Council has progressed to complement the Catalyst Projects, and this will lead to further programmes of work (para 13).

The City Centre Revitalisation Programme Manager role is now in place and will provide regular updates to this Committee.

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

1. Notes the contents of this report.
2. Notes the Final Catalyst Project Report, commissioned by Trust Tairāwhiti, and presented to Councillors (as well as other leaders and community) at meetings on 20 February 2025, is attached.
3. Notes regular updates will be provided to this Committee including reports for decision.

Authorised by:

Anita Reedy-Holthausen - Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships

Keywords: Catalyst, City Centre Revitalisation,

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The City Centre Revitalisation Programme forms part of the Council's 2024-2027 Three Year Plan (TYP) and aims to refresh and invigorate our city centre with a mix of temporary and permanent initiatives like streetscaping and planting.
2. This project emerged from extensive feedback from the community, retailers, iwi, and stakeholders, all calling for a revitalised city. Gisborne, like many cities in New Zealand and globally, faces challenges such as earthquake-prone/empty buildings, the rise of online retail, vacant commercial spaces, outdated infrastructure, and a lack of family-friendly attractions.
3. A strong planning framework also supports this project, including the Urban Development Strategy (2015), City Centre Spatial Framework (2019), and Tairāwhiti Future Development Strategy (2024-2054), all advocating for a compact city with higher density mixed-use development, including residential housing. A City Centre Master Plan is also in the works as part of the TRMP review process.
4. The current streetscape looks tired, with many assets nearing the end of their life. This includes street buildouts (e.g. the crossings), planter pots, seating, and Central Business District (CBD) pavers, all constructed in the mid-1990s for the millennium celebrations.
5. The Council plays a crucial role in leading, supporting, and enabling improvements and future-proofing our city centre, collaborating with partners like Trust Tairāwhiti, Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust, Manaaki Tairāwhiti, GHL, the Chamber of Commerce, and community leaders (e.g. Taiki e! and Gizzy Local).
6. Council's role, in revitalising the city centre, and the role of the City Centre Revitalisation Programme, is threefold.
 - a. to support the delivery of the Catalyst Project (Trust Tairāwhiti led and supported by Council and RIT),
 - b. review and deliver an improved level of service in the city centre, and
 - c. Preparation of strategic investment case to encourage longer term sustainable economic growth in the city centre.
7. The first two work streams can be implemented and delivered quickly. The latter, requires planning now to be investment ready from 2027 and beyond, noting this timing strategically aligns with Council's next Long-Term Plan, but if consistent with other regions, will also require considerable external investment and funding. This report focuses on the first workstream, while future reports to this committee will provide updates on the other two as they develop.
8. It is likely some members of the community will want this programme to consider the Grey Street Project outputs. It should be noted that a review of the Grey Street project is due later this year, led by Council's Journeys team, with findings to be presented to Council via that process.
9. However, there are valuable lessons from the Grey Street project to take on board now, particularly in engaging with the community, including retailers and stakeholders, to ensure significant input throughout, and minimal disruptions to business and community.

City Centre revitalisation across New Zealand

10. In September 2024, Trust Tairāwhiti, RIT, GHIL and Council met to ensure there was clarity across the board of which strategic plans were underway and where coordination is required in the city centre. It was understood that the Trust intended to restart the Catalyst project process, and that Council was undertaking the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) Master Plan process. At this meeting, it was agreed to visit Hastings District Council to understand the significant progress they had made to turn around a declining city centre. This visit proved to be incredibly useful in terms of insights to inform our own approach.
11. Here are the key pillars Hastings worked to through their revitalisation project:
 - a. **Commitment to a Long Journey:** Council's role is crucial in supporting, enabling, and facilitating the process. There needs to be a clear and consistent strategy as a reference point for all decisions.
 - b. **Leadership:** The Mayor plays a significant role in driving the revitalisation plan, showing passion and determination, always open to new ideas.
 - c. **Economic focus:** ensuring that business processes are fit for purpose in terms of facilitating investment.
 - d. **Safety and Security:** The introduction of the "City Assist" team and security cameras addressed initial safety concerns, working closely with business sectors and churches to manage social aspects like homelessness.
 - e. **Community Engagement:** Early involvement from the community in the development of the strategy and plan is essential to gain buy-in.
 - f. **City Identity:** Defining a city heart and making Hastings attractive to businesses and visitors were critical goals. Cultural elements were vital in creating a sense of place and ownership.
 - g. **Renovation Focus:** Investments in building renovations, including significant projects like Toitōi and a new hotel, were aimed at boosting tourism and business engagement.
 - h. **Flexibility and Innovation:** There was an emphasis on staying adaptable and telling a regional story with clear benefits.
 - i. **Grants and Events:** The council offered facade improvement grants and maintained a strong events calendar to attract visitors and increase foot traffic in the CBD.
12. Also, in terms of housing, overlapping with city centre revitalisation:
 - a. **Green Spaces and Infrastructure:** Green spaces, public transport, and community facilities were integral components of city centre revitalisation and housing developments, ensuring modern, safe, and affordable homes.
 - b. **Government Funding:** Significant government investment supported crucial infrastructure, such as wastewater systems, to enable housing growth.
 - c. **Streamlined Processes:** The council streamlined the consenting process to accelerate housing construction, with pre-application meetings and fast-tracking of developments aligned with strategic growth areas.
 - d. **Partnerships:** Housing development relied heavily on partnerships between the council, government, iwi, and the private sector, with clear roles outlined for each.
 - e. **Diverse Housing Options:** A focus on various levels of housing, including rent-to-own, papakainga, and affordable homes, to cater to different needs.

13. Council has initiated actions in the following areas to provide a solid foundation for ongoing mahi. The establishment of a programme with appropriate Governance, including the Mayor as sponsor, appointment of a Key Account Manager role to focus on consent improvements to indicate to businesses that Gisborne is open for business, working with Manaaki Tairāwhiti on a plan for short-term homelessness (Streeties), a reset of the relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and the appointment of a programme manager to ensure integration of all our activities and plans to progress all three streams of work.

Other Cities

14. Several other cities have also undertaken city centre revitalisation programmes. Several consistent themes emerge from enhancing public spaces, creating vibrant, pedestrian-friendly environments, and boosting economic growth by attracting businesses and visitors.
15. A common priority is urban resilience, with many cities integrating green spaces, promoting sustainability, and enhancing connectivity. Cultural identity and local heritage preservation are also essential components, as seen in Hastings and Christchurch, where revitalisation efforts include significant cultural and historical projects.
16. Across the board, community engagement plays a critical role, ensuring these plans reflect residents' needs and aspirations. Regions like Whakatāne and Rotorua leverage waterfront and art precincts to revitalise their town centres, while others, like Ōpōtiki and Invercargill, focus on infrastructure upgrades to support specific industries such as aquaculture and tourism.
17. Below is a summary of these initiatives:

City/Town	Initiative	Summary
Hastings	<i>A Place for Everyone</i>	<i>Focused on restoring Hawke's Bay Opera House and Municipal building, improving spaces, and encouraging vibrancy in CBD.</i>
Rotorua	<i>Inner City Revitalisation Plan</i>	<i>Proposes the creation of a civic plaza, relocation of the courthouse, establishment of an arts precinct, and pedestrian friendly zones.</i>
Tauranga	<i>Getting the heart of our city pumping</i>	<i>Focuses on enhancing public spaces, supporting local business, and engaging the community through events. Initiatives include improving pedestrian infrastructure, creating green spaces, and promoting cultural activities. Urban resilience is also prioritised.</i>
Opotiki	<i>Harbour Development and Town Centre Upgrade</i>	<i>Construction of harbour walls, marina facilities, and CBD upgrades to promote aquaculture and tourism.</i>
Whakatane	<i>Whakatane Riverfront Revitalisation Project</i>	<i>Aims to enhance the connection between the town centre and waterfront with improved pedestrian spaces, public art, and recreational facilities.</i>
Timaru	<i>Timaru Town Centre Strategy</i>	<i>Focuses on modernising the CBD, enhancing retail and pedestrian areas, and improving the streetscape while preserving the town's heritage.</i>

City/Town	Initiative	Summary
Invercargill	City Block Redevelopment Project	Aimed at revitalising the CBD with new shopping centres, upgraded public spaces and efforts to boost local tourism.
Whangarei	City Centre Revitalisation Plan	Focuses on creating pedestrian friendly public spaces, enhancing shopping, dining, and recreational areas and supporting economic growth.
Ashburton	Ashburton CBD Revitalisation Project	A major streetscape upgrade with improvements to lighting, furniture, and landscaping to create a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment.
Porirua	City Centre Revitalisation	Improving public spaces, enhancing safety and vibrant elements such as play areas and better lighting.
Hutt City	Central City Transformation Plan	A long-term strategy focusing on making the city centre more attractive, accessible, including flood protection and riverfront development under the Riverlink project.
Wellington	Poneke Promise	Ongoing promise to make the city a safer, more vibrant, welcoming place.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Project:

18. Trust Tairāwhiti, as the lead agency for the Catalyst project, engaged urban design consultants to support engagement with community to identify catalyst initiatives to deliver tangible improvements in the city centre, and to kick start the revitalisation process.
19. These initiatives were informed from the following engagement and community inputs:
 - Sharing of cultural context from Rongowhakaata and meaning of 'vitality' in this context
 - A review of existing initiatives within Council and non-Council strategies, policies, and plans
 - Public engagement at the A&P Show, with over 250 responses received
 - Six topic sessions over four days with approximately 80 attendees
 - A two-hour public workshop session attended by 40+ people
 - Six technical discussion workshops with 25+ participants
 - A series of workshops with Rongowhakaata (facilitated by Craig Pocock)
 - Several one-on-one meetings with key community members, including retailers, developers, and community group leaders
 - An economic analysis by employment and economic development specialist Derek Kemp
 - Strategic input from Project Control Group members and consultant designers

20. Following community feedback and a workshop with the project control group (Council, RIT, and Trust) a presentation of the Catalyst initiatives was made to community leaders, including Councillors, at a meeting held on 20 February 2025 and Lawson Field Theatre followed by a community meeting in the evening.
21. These meetings were well attended, with general support, including feedback from leaders acknowledging that more detail is to come. The community meeting received feedback, including wider issues such as stormwater discharge to rivers, parking, and the key role the community can provide in designing and delivering these initiatives.
22. These Catalyst project report recommends over twenty initiatives. Some are 'early wins' that can be delivered quickly, are low cost and high impact. Others are categorised as medium/longer term initiatives and require more consideration and greater planning.

'Early win' catalyst project recommendations are:

- Microspaces/build-outs (including streetscape, parklets and lighting)
- Riveredge whānau space (including play space and Wi Pere amphitheatre)
- Hei Pipi site
- Night markets (Lowe Street/Reads Quay) - shared lead (Trust/Council)
- Relocation of I-Site and creating a city 'reception room'
- Former Police station site
- Nga Wai e Rua building (lighting)
- Maintenance and cleanliness (ongoing)
- Capital attraction (working closely with Council's Key Account Manager)
- City Centre Management Structure

Medium term catalyst project recommendations are:

- Former Police Station site
- Activation, events, cruise ship strategy and implementation
- New urban park (town square)
- New attractions (spend 1.5 hours)
- Improved hotel/conference offering
- Retail performance enhancement support
- Advanced visual character enhancement
- Covered market area

Longer term catalyst project recommendations are:

- Increased business support facilities
- Enhanced pedestrian access over Peel Street bridge

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: **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

23. This report is part of a process to arrive at a decision that may be of **Low** level in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy; however, it is worth noting there is great community interest and expectation for the revitalisation programme.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

24. Council acknowledges the shared interest of iwi in the City Centre location. Engagement with iwi will be conducted in accordance with our treaty partner compass approach, ensuring respectful and meaningful engagement consistent with articles 1-4 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
25. Early and sustained partnership with Rongowhakaata has been crucial in the evolution of the catalyst project and next steps.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

26. RIT will lead Council and Trust Tairāwhiti representatives through a kawa process to develop a shared vision and collaborative approach for delivering the catalyst project mahi. More information will be provided at the next update report to this Committee.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

27. As outlined in this report, significant community and stakeholder engagement is crucial in shaping all three workstreams, including the catalyst project, the way Council delivers its services in the city centre, and the longer-term revitalisation project.
28. Council is currently preparing a robust community consultation and engagement plan, which includes regular updates, community meetings, and feedback sessions to ensure the community is well informed every step of the way. More information on this approach will be provided in the next update report to this Committee.

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

29. Climate change implications are still to be fully considered. The City Centre TRMP Master Plan will provide key insights and guidance to enhance our understanding and response.
30. Council and RIT have strongly advocated for the inclusion of environmental outcomes, including climate change mitigations be considered in the design of the catalyst projects. This advocacy ensures that sustainability is a core component of our planning and execution. Examples of mitigating measures being considered includes native planting and the use of sustainable products to support the environmental 'vitality' of the city centre.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

31. Council committed a budget of \$2.5m to City Centre Revitalisation project, with a further \$500k available, should Waka Kotahi funding for pavement improvements be made available (with a council share of \$150k). At this stage, Waka Kotahi funding is categorised as "possible".
32. It is not yet clear what other funding might be available; however, there is strong support from Trust Tairāwhiti in the catalyst project process, as well as Council.
33. The City Centre revitalisation programme will require significant external funding, including private investment in the city centre to achieve long term outcomes, as demonstrated in other regions.

Legal

34. There are no legal implications.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

35. The considerations in this report are consistent with Council's policies and plans.
36. The City Centre Revitalisation Programme will be supporting the implementation of a series of Council strategies as referred to in the 'Background' section of this report.
37. The City Centre Master Plan, currently being prepared, will provide the road map for higher density mixed use and will provide further guidance for this project.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

38. There could be a public perception that revitalising the City Centre is not related to 'Recovery'. However, community engagement demonstrates strong community support for city centre revitalisation, including support for the project in the Three-Year Plan (2024-2027). Revitalising the city centre forms part of Council's recovery approach, as it aims to boost economic activity and community well-being.

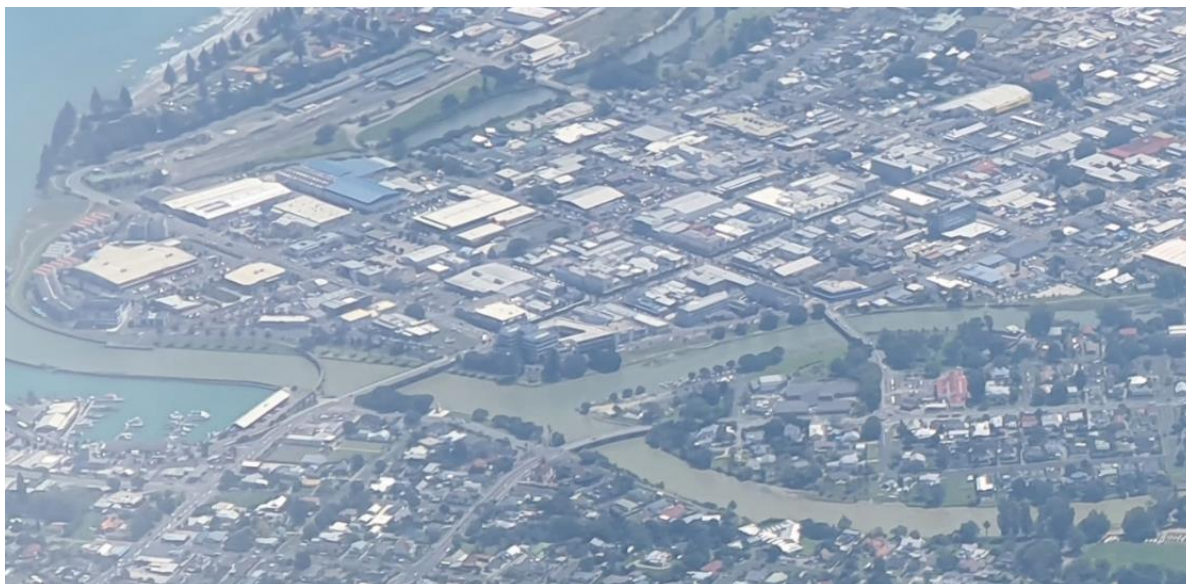
39. There is a risk that any lingering concerns about community engagement and active transport modes relating to the Grey Street project may impact community support for future initiatives in the city centre. A well-considered process to enable community engagement and consultation is required as part of programme planning for any future initiatives to build trust in the community that community voices are heard alongside good design rationale.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
April/May	Confirm partner agency roles/projects/budgets. Develop early win project designs with key stakeholders and interested parties.	Build off the concepts shared with leaders and community to develop designs for low-cost high impact installations. Present final designs to Operations Committee

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

- 1. Attachment 1 - CUR Final GCC Catalyst Initiatives 2025 02 24 (003) [25-82.1 - 95 pages]



GISBORNE CITY CENTRE CATALYST INITIATIVES

FINAL OUTLINE SUMMARY

24 FEBRUARY 2025

Trust Tairāwhiti
Rongowhakaata
Gisborne District Council
Gisborne Holdings Ltd
Urbanismplus Ltd
Design Environment
Prosperous Places

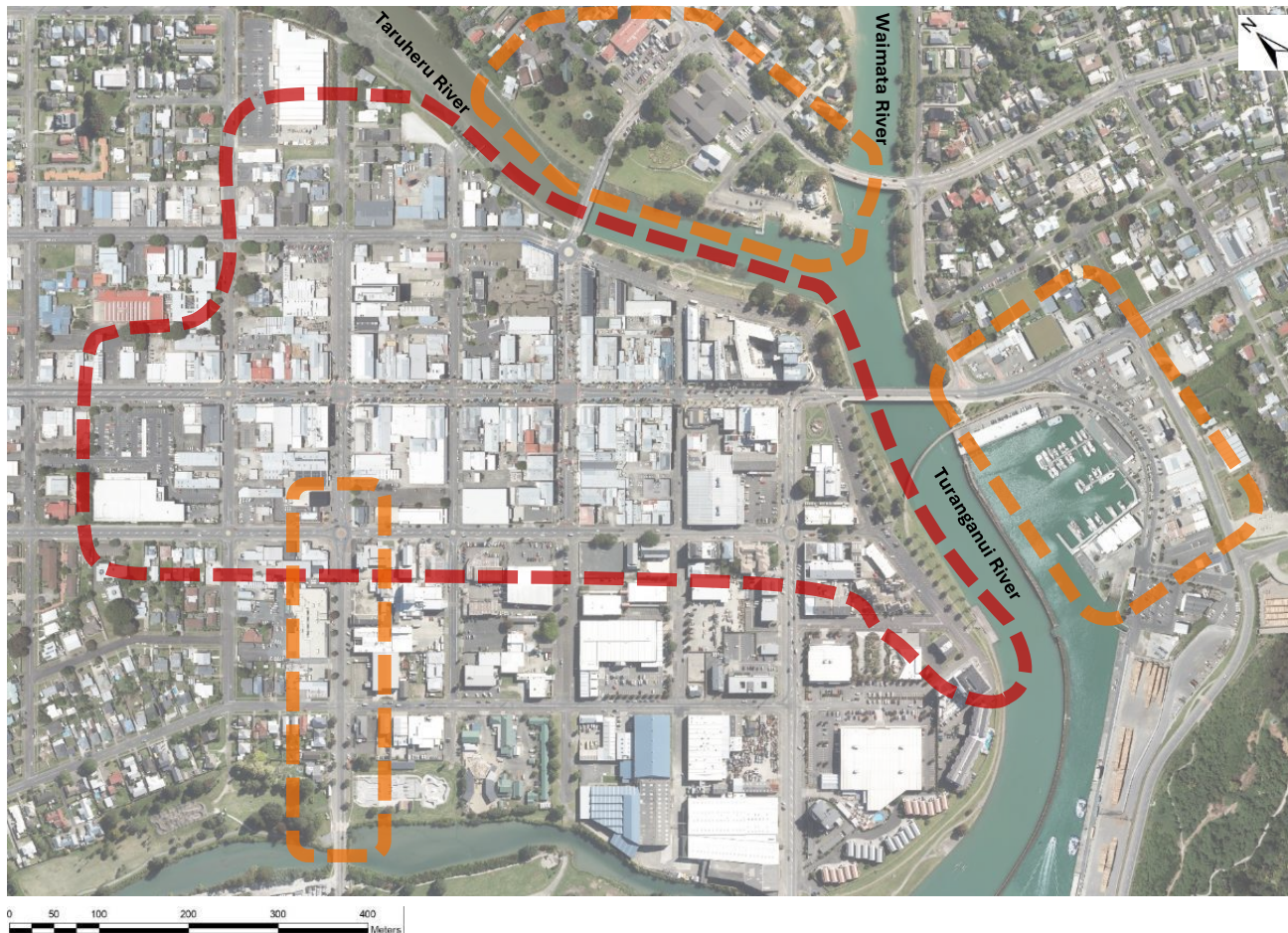
CONTEXT

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Project Context

- Led by Trust Tairāwhiti, in partnership with Rongowhakaata and Gisborne District Council, with support from Gisborne Holdings Limited.
- A preference for initiatives for the City Centre that can be immediately progressed.
- A focus on action-based initiatives and involving external entities as well as Council.
- Conforming with already endorsed objectives in Council Policies and Plans (e.g. retail vitality, safety, inner city housing, etc).
- Separately, the Council will continue working on the Masterplan with a more comprehensive vision, and District Plan changes which will impact longer term City Centre planning and revitalisation work.

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives Project focus area

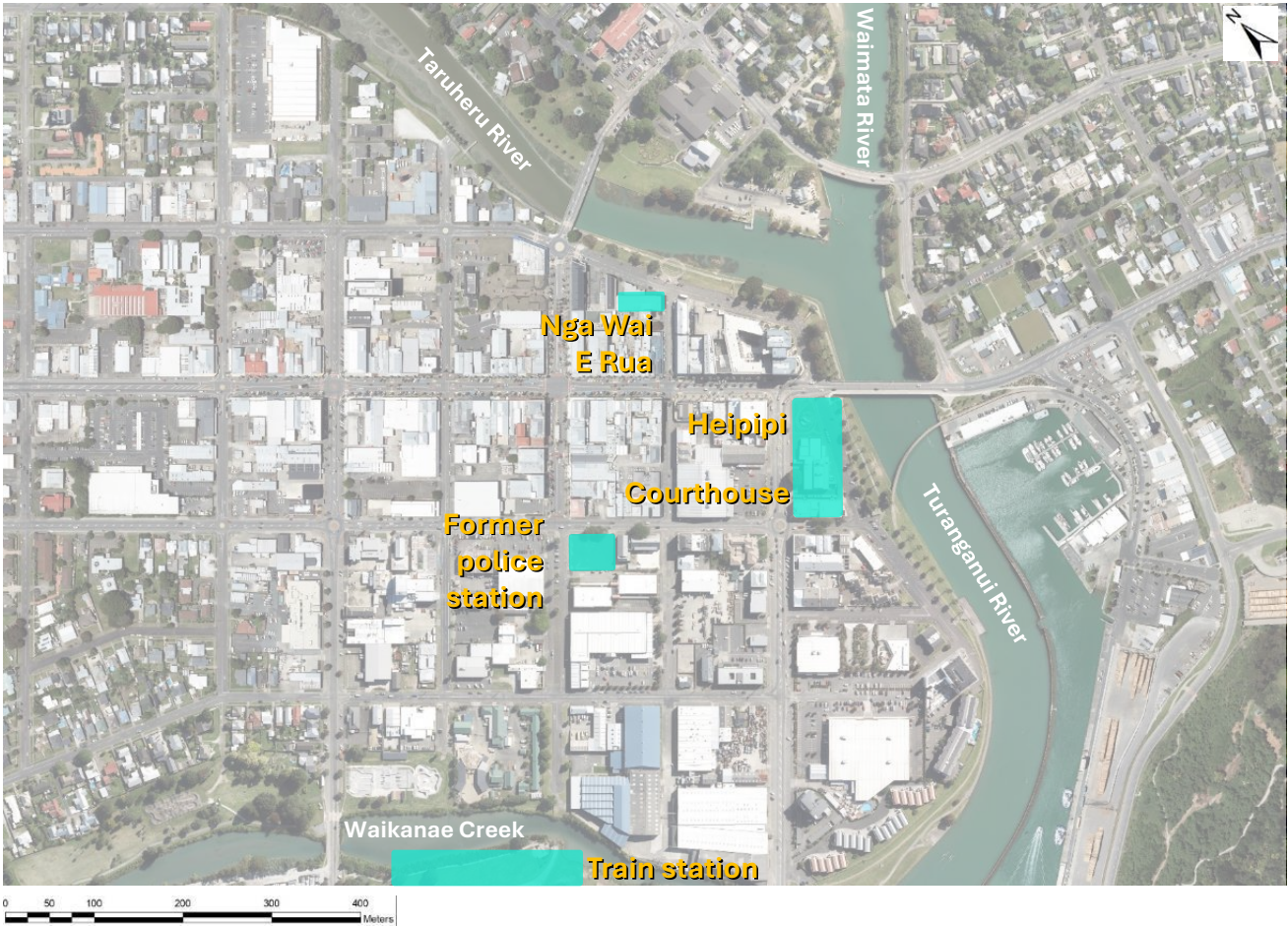


Placed-based initiatives generally occur in the red outlined focus area, while areas of immediate influence are indicated in orange.

Management, organisational or governance initiatives may apply to a wider area.

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Rongowhakaata sites of significance



City Centre Sites



Former police station



Heipipi



Nga Wai E Rua

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Summary of existing Council and non-Council strategies and plans

City Centre Spatial Framework 2019

Gisborne City Centre Blueprint

Cycle routes

1. Carnarvon Street cycling
2. Derby Street cycling

Streetscape upgrade

3. Grey Street Linear Park

Town Square options

4. Heipipi Reserve
5. Treble Court
6. Grey Street - Gladstone Road
7. Peel Street - Gladstone Road

Community Facilities Strategy (2018) and associated plans

Gisborne City Centre Blueprint

1. Partnerships for subregional public pools (\$60,000 pa)
2. Redevelop Olympic Pool Complex (\$20m+)
3. Sports Hub: Anzac Park (c. \$4m - \$6m)
4. Sports Hub: Childers Road Indoor Facility (c. \$10m)
5. Sports Hub: Waikiririki Park (c. \$4m - \$7m)
6. Sports Hub: Rugby Park (c. \$4m - \$6m)
7. Sports Hub: Whakaraia Park (c. \$3m - \$5m)
8. Sports Hub: Victoria Domain (c. \$4m)
9. Sports Hub: Harry Barker Reserve (c. \$2m - \$4m)

Off the map: 5, 6, 7 and 9
Not shown: 1 and 8

Kei Tua

Gisborne City Centre Blueprint

Key Move 1. A Healthy Environment
Revegetate and enhance the Kopuawhakapata Stream and express its original flow path from Hirini Street

Key Move 2. A Public Waterfront
Gradually upgrade the Esplanade:

- More pedestrian-focused
- Enhance the rail bridge crossing to connect Tupapa Trail with Esplanade
- Activate a continuous publicly accessible water's edge by making public open spaces located between Shed 1 and 3 pedestrian friendly
- Improve activation of building edges

Key Move 3. A Connected Movement Network
Increase permeability and ease of access to the inner harbour area from all sides by enhancing connections:

- Public space with paths linking city and inner harbour
- Proposed roundabout (by others)
- Connect Hirini Street and the Esplanade
- Cycle crossing and entry at the end of Crawford Road

Key Move 4. Authentic Activation
Ensure a mix of uses through continued upgrades of public realm and activation for buildings within 3 zones:

- Waterfront - food and beverage, hospitality
- Inner harbour - mixed use visitor and commercial
- Harbour live work - mixed use and intensive residential

Tairāwhiti 2050 Spatial Plan

Gisborne City Centre Blueprint

City Centre

- Promoting walking and cycling
- Re-purposing heritage buildings
- creating multi-use public spaces
- developing a hospitality precinct
- Infill, intensification and redevelopment of the city centre
- Mixed use and inner city living
- Boutique businesses

Residential

- Growth areas being embedded via a Plan Change to embed in the councils RMA plan.
- City Centre can accommodate over a 100 new homes which also delivers numerous benefits to the area in terms of vitality foot traffic etc.

Tairāwhiti Navigations

Gisborne City Centre Blueprint

The Tairāwhiti Navigations Programme ("Navigations") is a significant regional tourism programme that is particularly focused on promoting and highlighting the unique culture and heritage of Tairāwhiti. It is a vehicle for delivering heritage interpretation and improved tourism heritage destinations, to make the historic environment of Tairāwhiti more accessible for visitors and local residents alike. The Navigations programme is made up of the following projects:

- 1) Tītirangi summit re-development and restoration
- 2) Te Maro redevelopment
- 3) Historical interpretations (including viewshafts [3D-terrain models, considered community signage] and trail markers [community signage])
- 4) Inner harbour redevelopment
- 5) Cook landing site upgrades

Projects (2) to (5) listed above were completed in time for the Tuia 2050 commemoration in 2019 marking 250 years since the first onshore encounters between Māori and Pākehā in 1769. The Tītirangi summit re-development has been undertaken in stages (Stage 1 works [earthworks to create a level building platform and planting] have been implemented. A September 2021 consent application comprises the Stage 2 works - construction and use of a whare on the maunga.

Rail Bridge & Steam Train experience, I-site Top 10 Holiday Park, Mātai Campus

Gisborne City Centre Blueprint

1. Rail Bridge & Steam Train experience
2. I-site
3. Top 10 Holiday Park
4. Mātai Campus

Rail Bridge & Steam Train experience

- Bridge to be redeveloped for walking and cycling

I-site

- I-site: Potentially moving closer to city centre

Top 10 Holiday Park

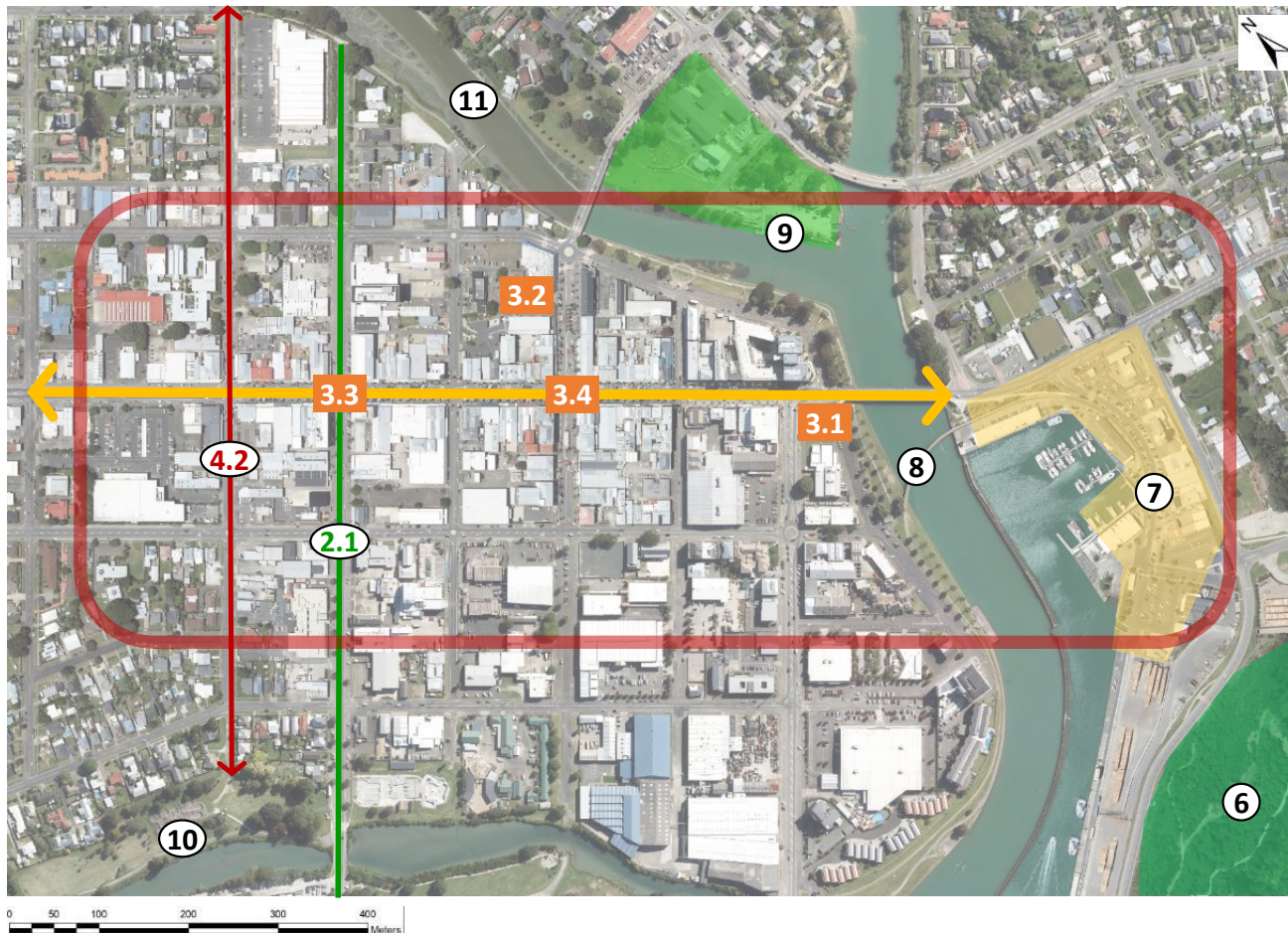
- Action?

Mātai Campus

- Under development: Development Framework for new Mātai building and associated uses (including housing)

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Summary of existing Council and non-Council strategies and plans



1. City Centre uses

- 1.1. Rezone for a more compact city centre and introduction of residential activities
- 1.2. Stimulate infill, intensification and redevelopment
- 1.3. Stimulate mixed-use and boutique businesses

2. Streetscape upgrade: 2.1. Develop a linear park in Grey Street.

3. Town square (select one option)

- 3.1. Heipipi Reserve
- 3.2. Treble Court
- 3.3. Grey Street/Gladstone Road
- 3.4. Peel Street/Gladstone Road

4. Cross-town cycling connections

- 4.1. Along Carnarvon Street
- 4.2. Along Derby Street

5. Community facilities: 5.1. Is there any investment in community facilities that will benefit the city centre?

6. Tairāwhiti Navigations: 6.1. Undertake the Titirangi summit re-development and restoration

7. Kei Tua (Inner Harbour Development Vision): 10 initiatives

8. Rail Bridge and Steam Train experience: 8.1. Redevelop the bridge for walking and cycling

9. Marina Park: 9.1. Support and/or undertake an upgrade of sports facilities

10. Waikanae Creek: 10.1. Support the restoration project

11. Freshwater: 11.1. Implement project/s under the FIF

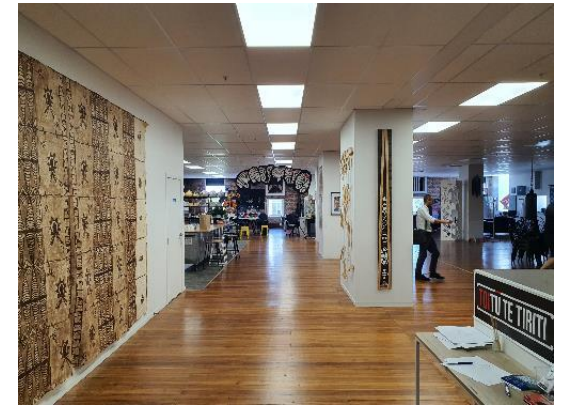
12. Low-cost initiatives: Several suggested initiatives by various stakeholders

RELATIONSHIPS

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Engagement process

- November 2022-February 2023: Preparations for original 'Blueprint' project, halted due to Cyclone Gabrielle.
- September-October 2024: Meetings to re-set the scope of the project and update of base information.
- October 2024: Questionnaire re City Centre at the A&P show.
- November-December 2024: Consultation and technical meetings:
 - City Centre management, events and activation
 - Community, social and cultural institutions
 - City Centre economics
 - I-site
 - Youth
 - Public meeting
 - Gisborne District Council staff
 - Developers / property owners / real estate agents
- January 2025: Workshop to develop longlist of Catalyst Initiatives.
- February 2025: Evaluation workshop to develop shortlist of Catalyst Initiatives and leadership and public presentations.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Key consultation messages

- Celebrate mana whenua identity and history
- Make the character and attributes of the community visible
- Accommodate more activities and uses
- Create attractive public open spaces accessible to all
- Cater for all modes of transport and abilities
- Connect the City Centre to its unique spatial context, especially the rivers and the coast
- Improve the viability of shops and address vacancies
- Hold events and organise activities to increase the presence of people
- Improve cleanliness and maintenance
- Improve biodiversity and water quality



ANALYSIS

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Outline Economic Analysis as a backdrop to the project

By Derek Kemp Employment and Economic Development Specialist, Director of Prosperous Places

Consideration of the Region and the City Centre under the following headings:

1. Comparative employment/business growth analysis.
2. Comparative and competitive advantages.
3. Growing City Centre income from each rung of the income ladder:
 - retaining local income
 - generating new income
 - capturing income earned elsewhere.

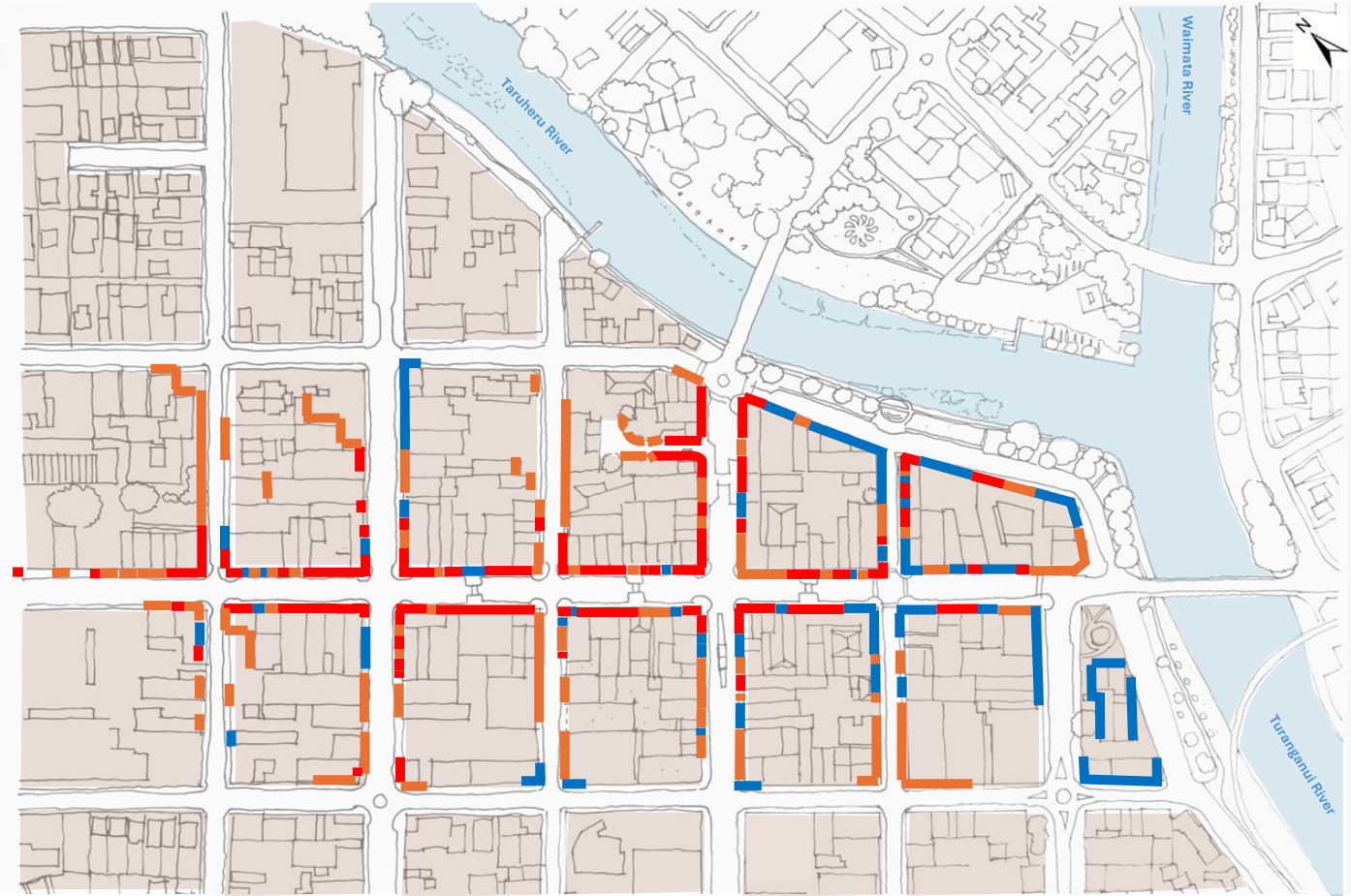
Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives
City Centre map



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Active edges

Lively frontages



Key	
Red line	Active frontage
Orange line	Less engaging frontage
Blue line	Blank wall or vacant building

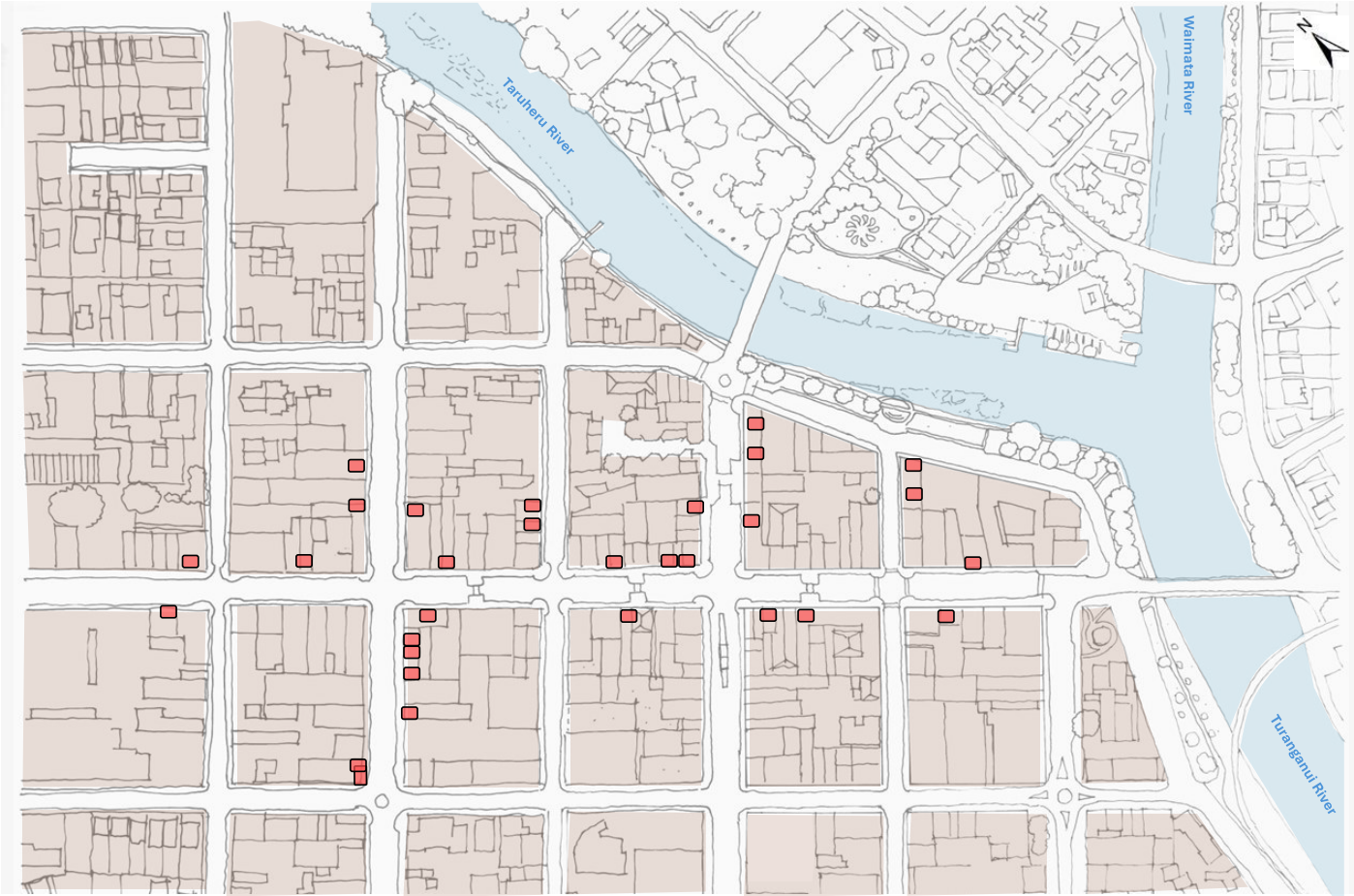
Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Hospitality businesses



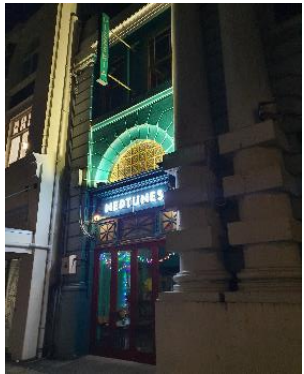
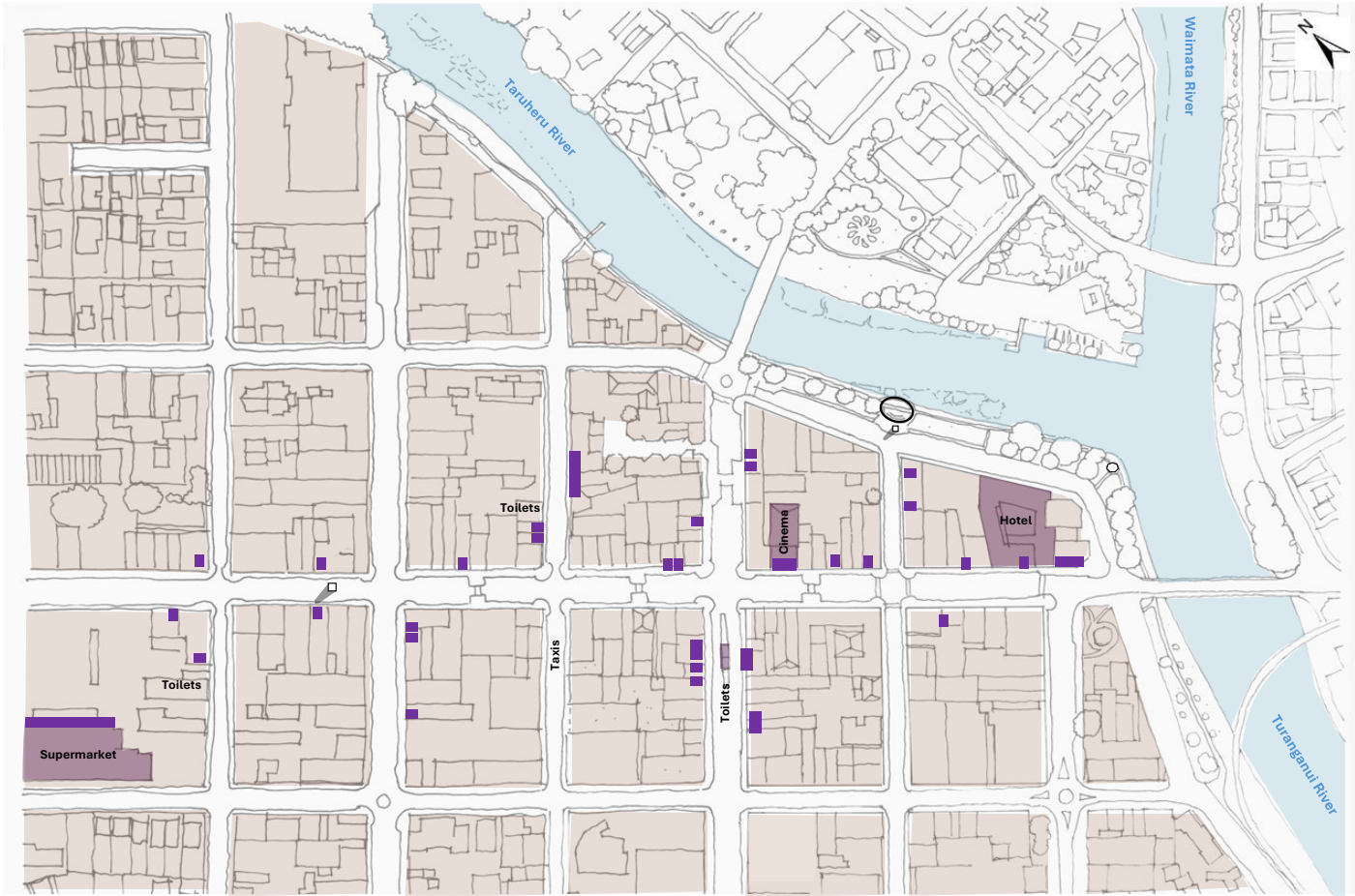
Key

- Hospitality businesses



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Night-time activities

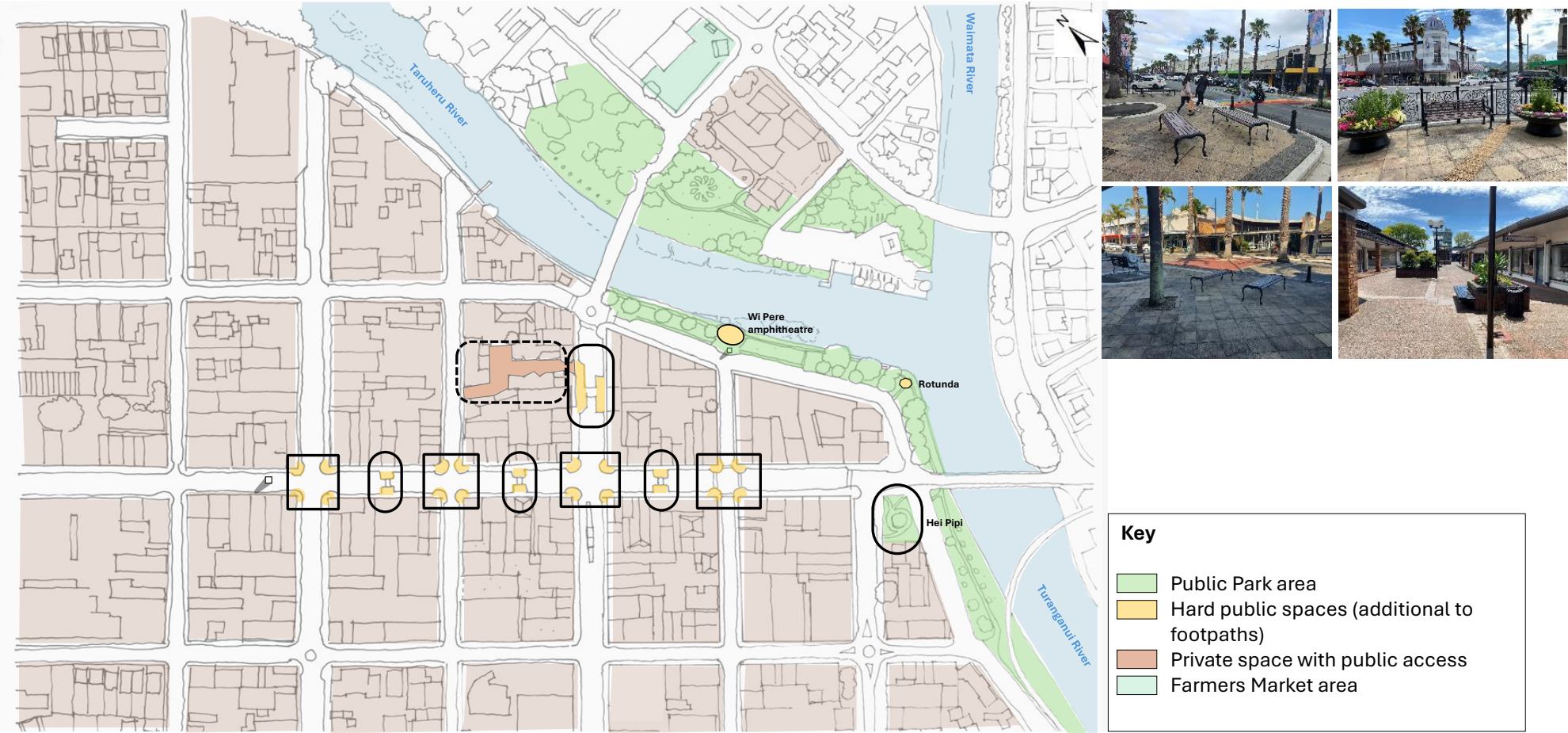


Key

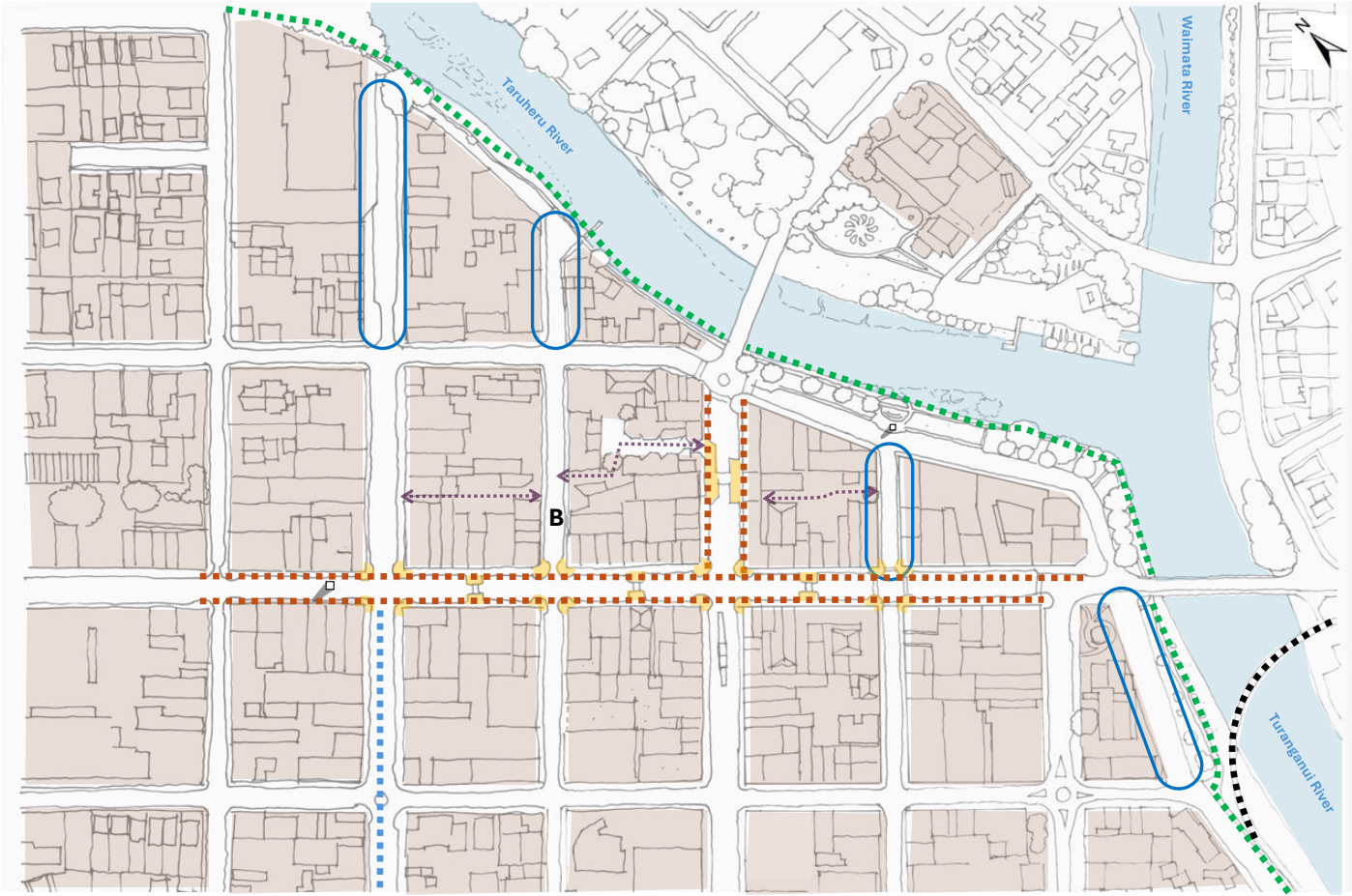
■ Open at night

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Key Public Spaces



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives Movement

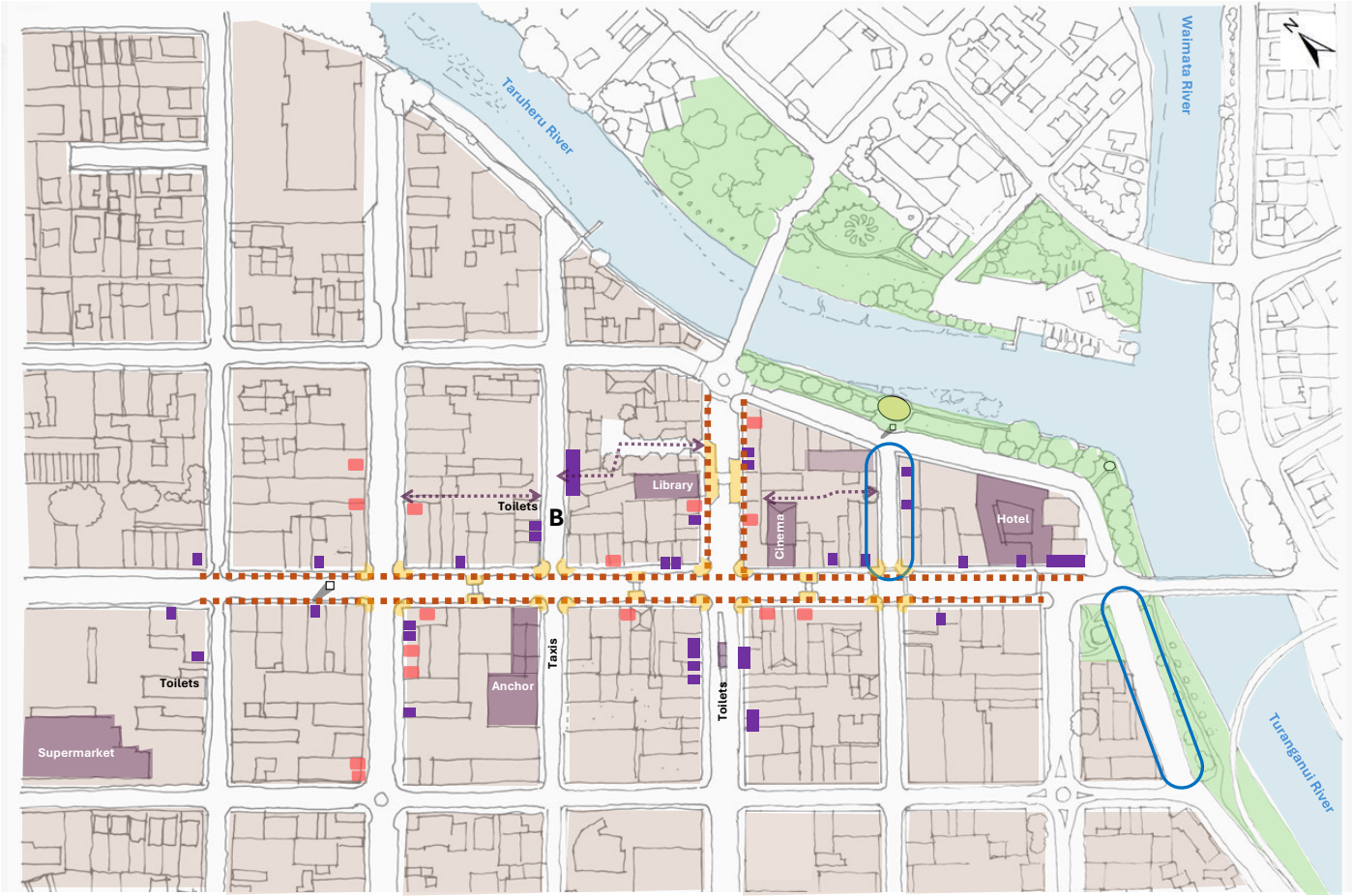


Key

- High-quality footpath
- High-amenity walking and cycling path
- Informal laneway
- New cycling path
- Future walking and cycling path
- Streets with low through-traffic role
- B** Current bus interchange

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Composite Analysis

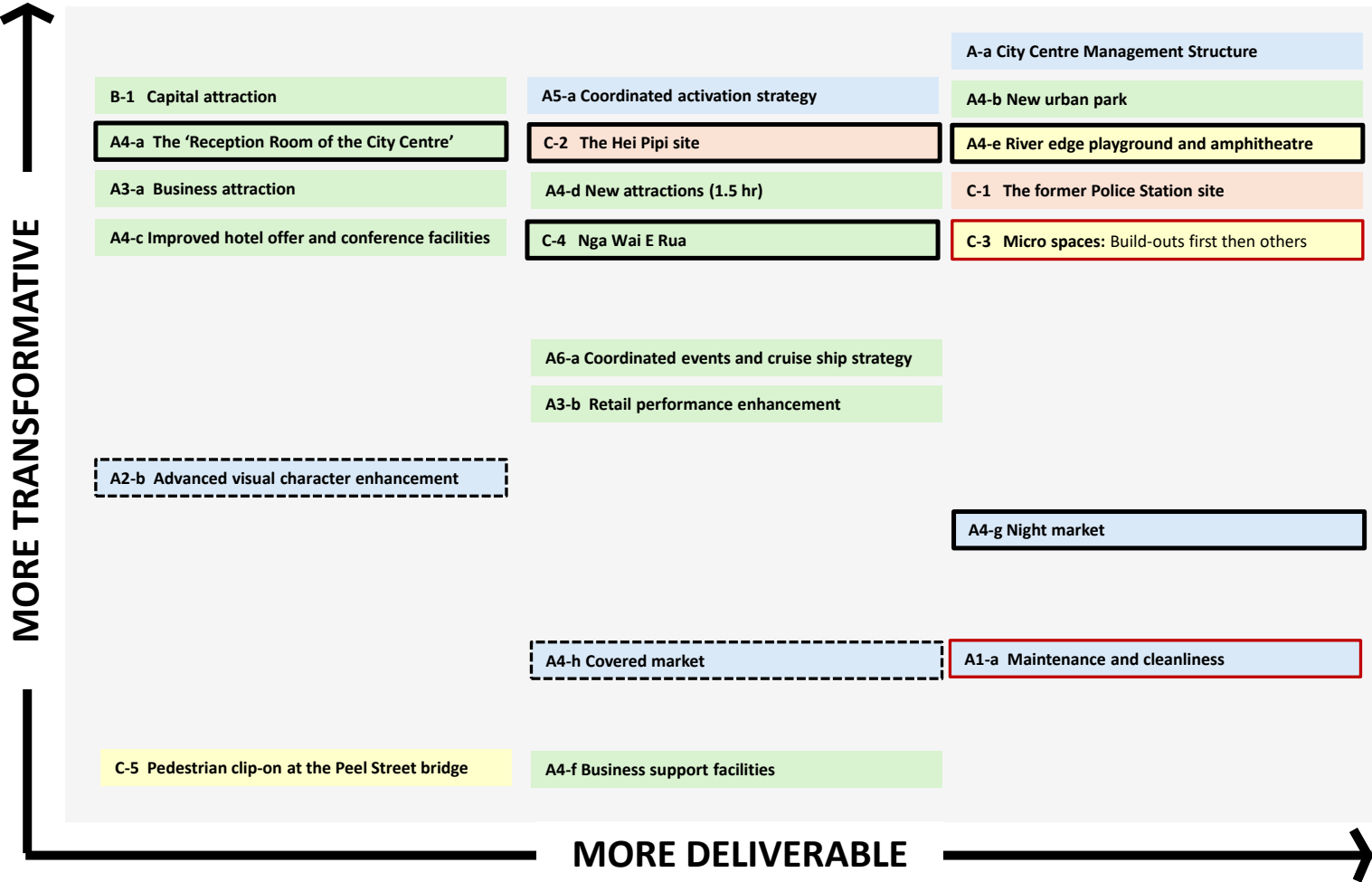


INITIATIVES

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

All Initiatives

- 1. Early-win initiatives
- 2. High-synergy initiatives
- 3. High-impact initiatives



- Future City Centre Management led
- Trust Tairāwhiti led
- Gisborne District Council led
- Rongowhakaata led

1. Early-win Initiatives

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

1. Early-win Initiatives

- 1. Early-win initiatives
- 2. High-synergy initiatives
- 3. High-impact initiatives

- Future City Centre Management led
- Trust Tairāwhiti led
- Gisborne District Council led
- Rongowhakaata led

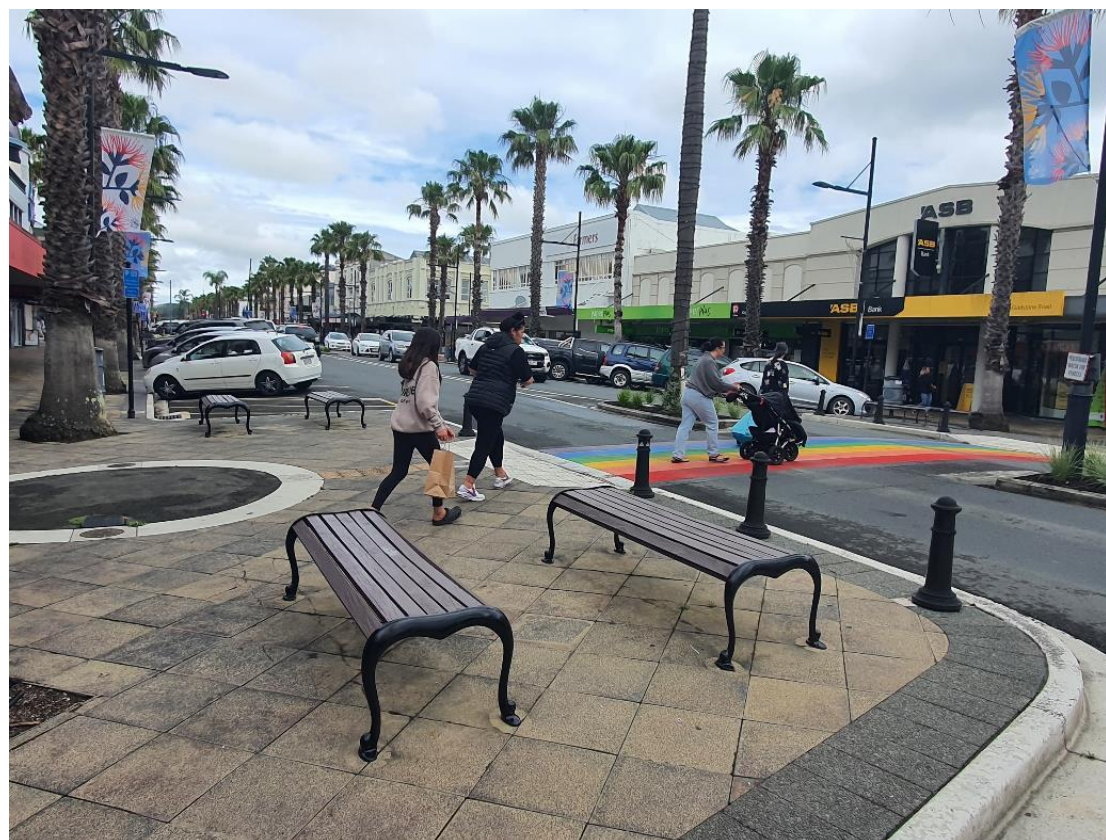


Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Develop micro spaces around street crossings that:

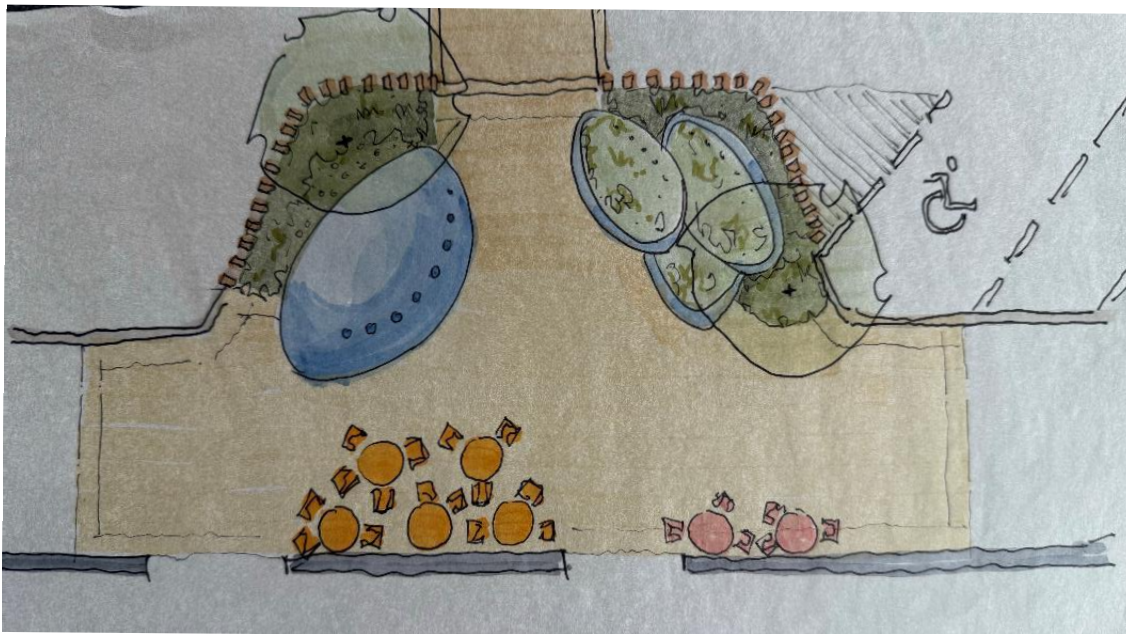
- Are welcoming for families, the youth, the elderly as well as overseas agricultural and hospitality workers.
- Allow for activation.
- Contain seating, shade, planting and public art reflecting a Tairāwhiti narrative.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Build-outs at crossings - **option 1**



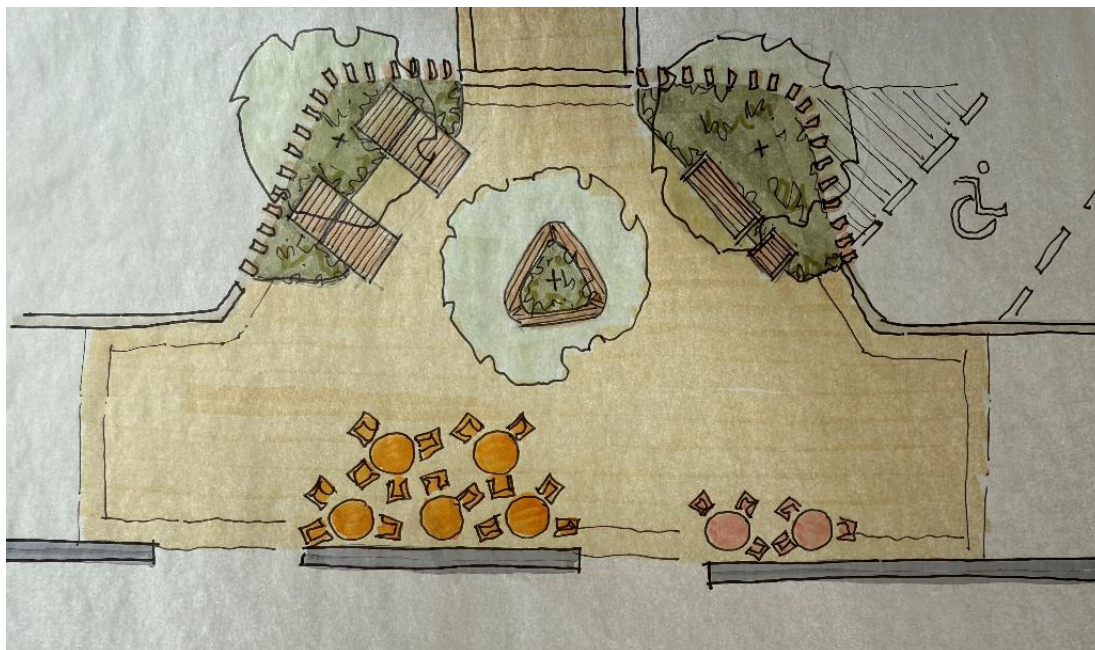
Proposed landscape

- Seating areas double as art and play objects
- Gardens create a barrier between traffic and public space
- Kowhai tree provides shade and references local history
- Adjacent parking space becomes an accessible parking space

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Build-outs at crossings – option 2



Proposed landscape

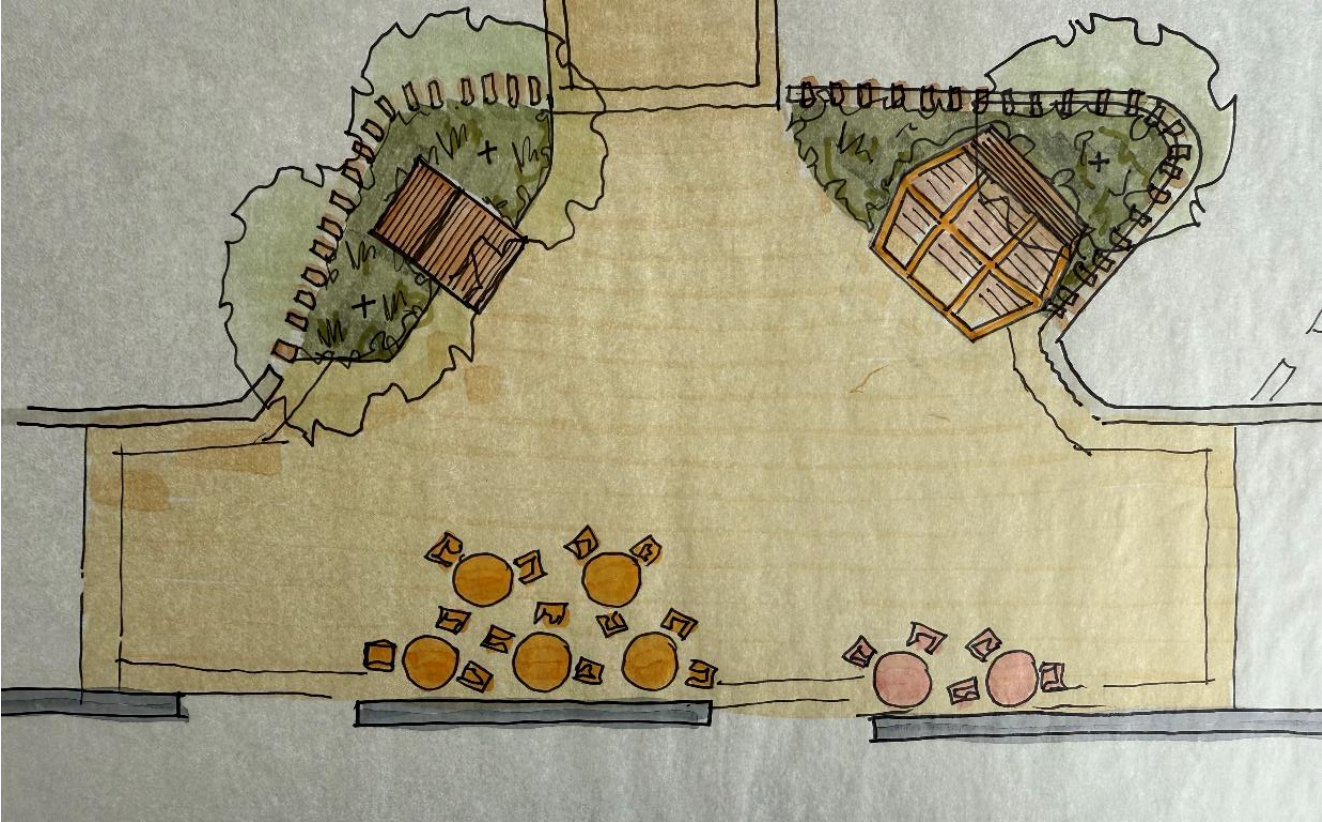
- Architectural seating pods create shade, visual interest and a barrier from vehicle movements
- Pods could support plant growth creating “living pods”
- Pod seating might be swing chairs or other play devices



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Build-outs at crossings – option 3



- Proposed landscape**
- Wider gardens between traffic movement and public space
 - Planting celebrates Tairāwhiti history and unique landscape
 - Seating and sun loungers

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Corners



- Proposed landscape
- Sun lounger that allows people to seat in different ways` .
 - Planters and green barrier between seating and road.
 - Additional planting to visual green up streetscape
 - Use plant species that connect to Gisborne and it history.

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Future spaces

Develop further micro spaces, possibly including:

Opposite the library mid-block on Peel Street between Gladstone Road and Reads Quay, other parklets, Treble Court etc.

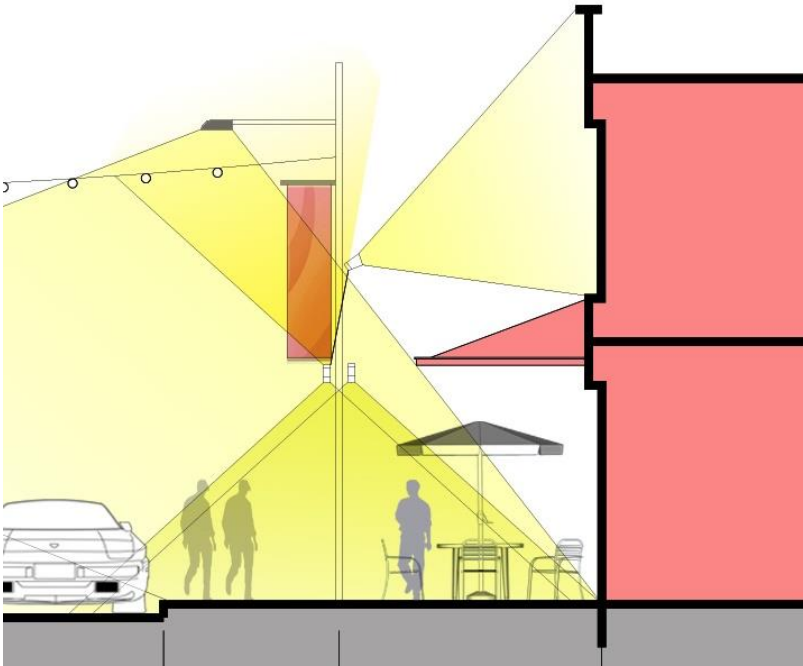


Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Selected façade lighting and ceiling painting

Install a low-key lighting solution to illuminate selected areas associated with proposed new micro spaces.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Selected façade lighting and ceiling painting

Organise a process to paint the ceilings of verandas in targeted locations. Tell the story of our place and our people, and showcase art.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C3. Micro spaces

Universal access improvements

- Improve wheelchair and mobility scooter accessibility in the streetscape, especially around kerb ramps.
- Review the location and number of accessible parking spaces.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4e. River edge playground, amphitheatre and Wi Pere monument



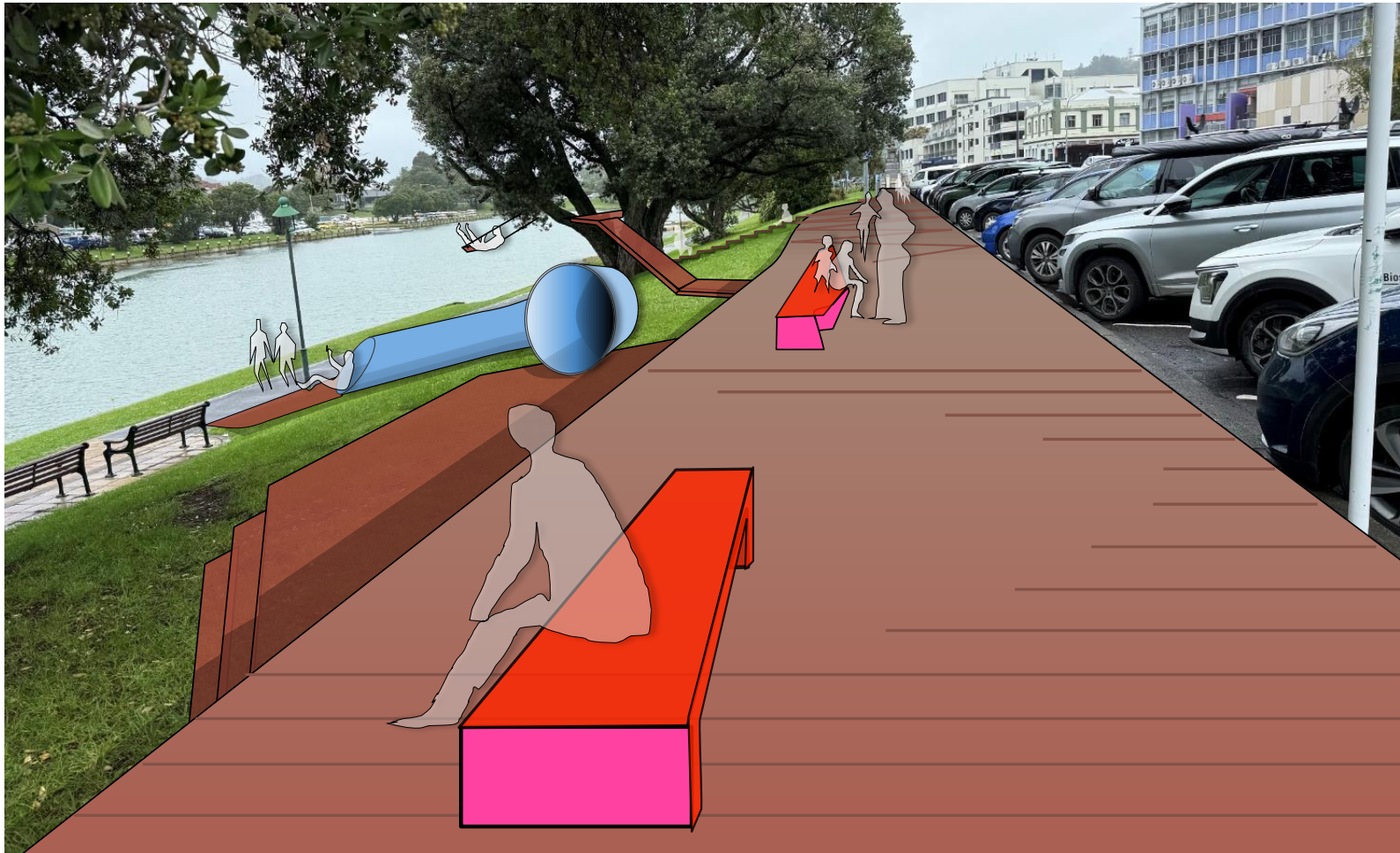
Proposed landscape

- Widen path
- Create seating and gathering spaces
- Wider areas to support markets and busking, including power and water supplies built into furniture
- Increasing lighting for night time use
- Banners and lighting on poles to support public events and markets

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4e. River edge playground, amphitheatre and Wi Pere monument



Proposed landscape

- Widen path
- Create seating and gathering spaces
- Wider areas to support markets and busking, including power and water supplies built into furniture
- Increasing lighting for night time use
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Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4e. River edge playground, amphitheatre and Wi Pere monument



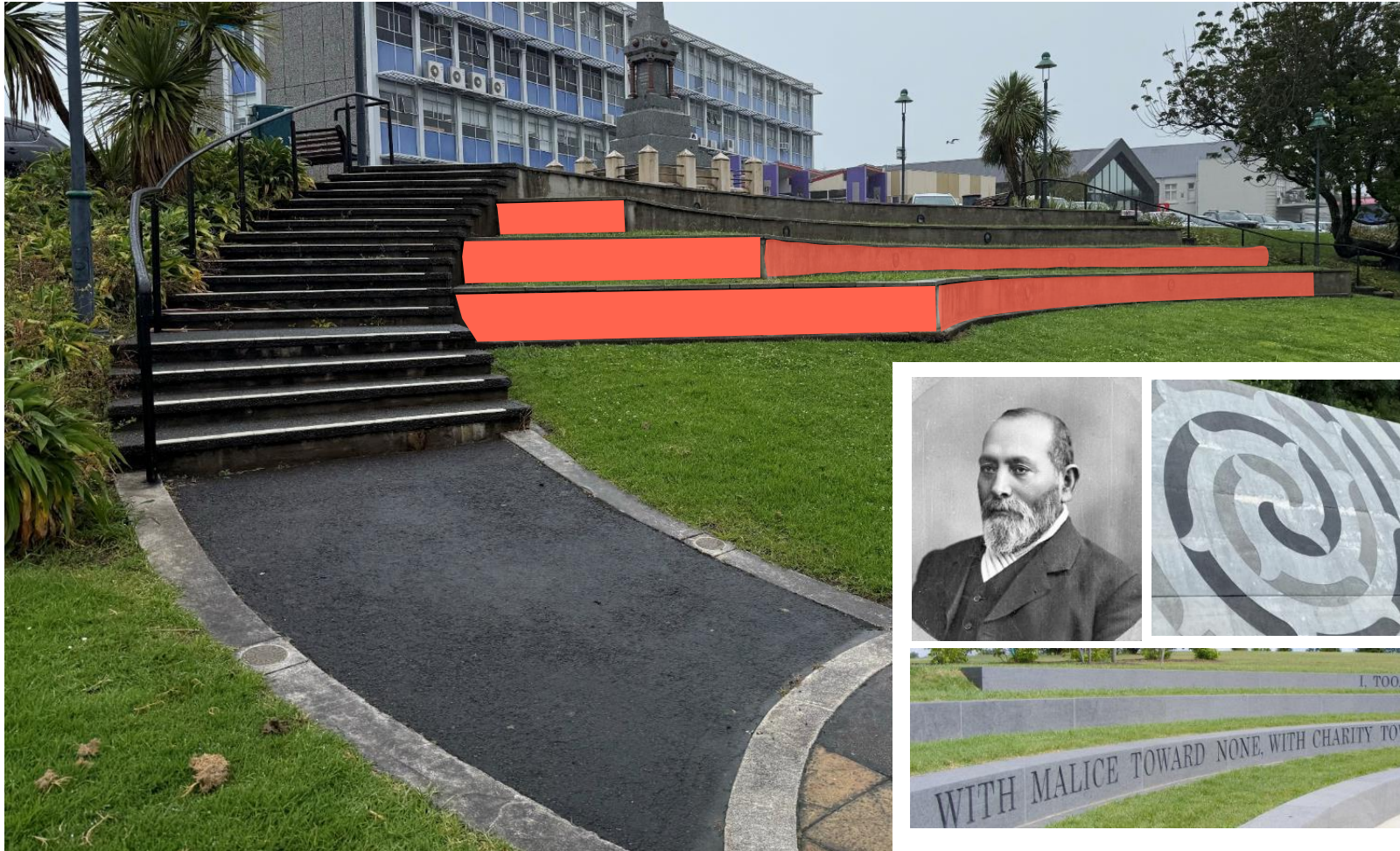
- Proposed landscape**
- Play items that connect top to bottom path
 - Linear stake path intreated into the slope
 - Art creating visual connections between paths



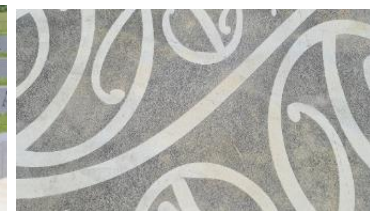
Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4e. River edge playground, amphitheatre and Wi Pere monument



- Proposed landscape**
- Celebrate Wiremu “Wi” Pere legacy
 - Use public art on the face of the walls to engage with the narrative of the place and engage with river edge users.



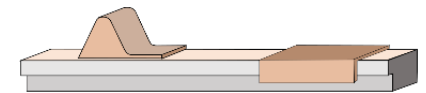
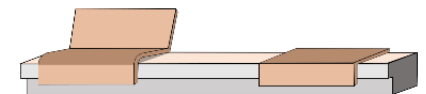
Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4e. River edge playground, amphitheatre and Wi Pere monument



- Create all weather seating and gathering spaces on the steps to support lunchtime, market and event crowds.

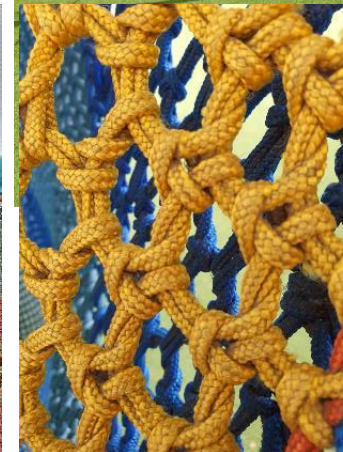
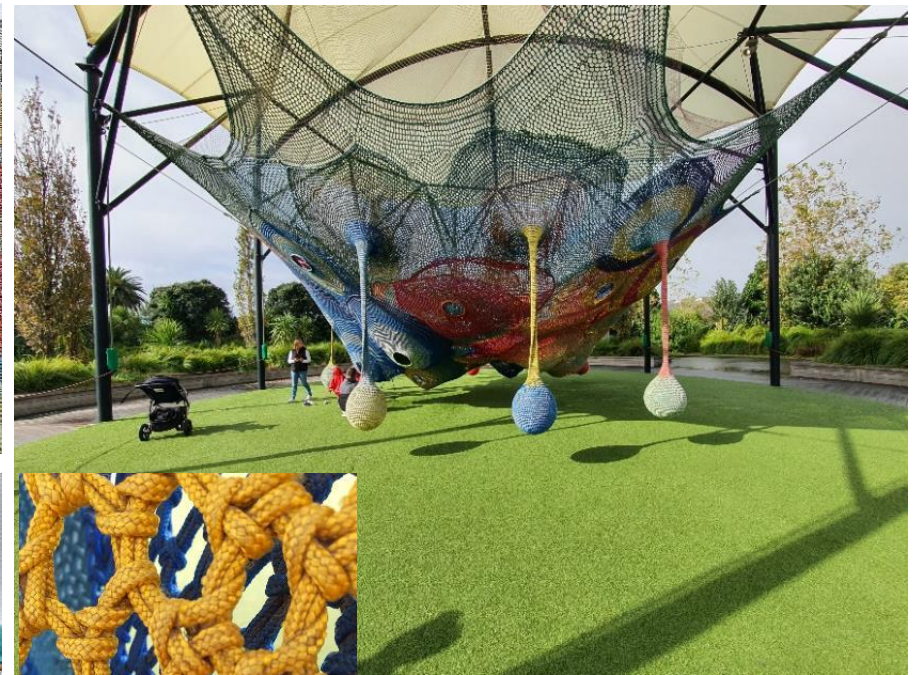


Gisborne City Centre
Catalyst Initiatives

**A4. Attractors
for locals and
visitors**

**A4e. River edge
playground**

Located on the
eastern bank of the
Taruheru River (near
the rose garden).

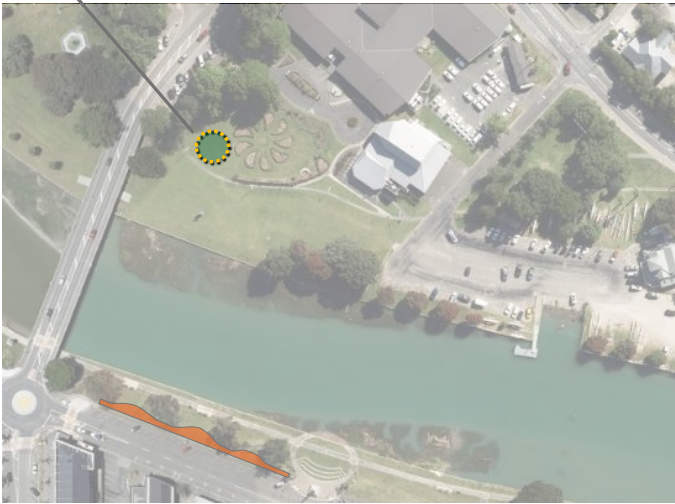


Gisborne City Centre
Catalyst Initiatives

**A4. Attractors
for locals and
visitors**

**A4e. River edge
playground**

Located on the
eastern bank of the
Taruheru River (near
the rose garden).



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C1. The former Police Station site

Landscape of change - short term healing and change

Implement a design initiative.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C1. The former Police Station site

Landscape of change - short term healing and change

Implement a design initiative.

Concept 1. Healing, recreation and education

- Focus on first stage of healing the site with a temporary landscape approach
- Meadow or food cultivation
- Community recreation which might include ball sports, art, gathering space and exploring



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C1. The former Police Station site

Landscape of change - short term healing and change

Implement a design initiative.

Concept 2. Healing and education

- Focus on first stage of healing the site with a temporary landscape approach
- Meadow or food cultivation
- Community recreation which might include ball sports, art, gathering space and exploring.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C1. The former Police Station site

Landscape of change - short term healing and change



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives
C1. The former Police Station site
Landscape of change - short term healing and change



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A1. Maintenance and cleanliness

A1a. Maintenance of pavement and street furniture and rubbish removal regime

Pavement and furniture cleaning

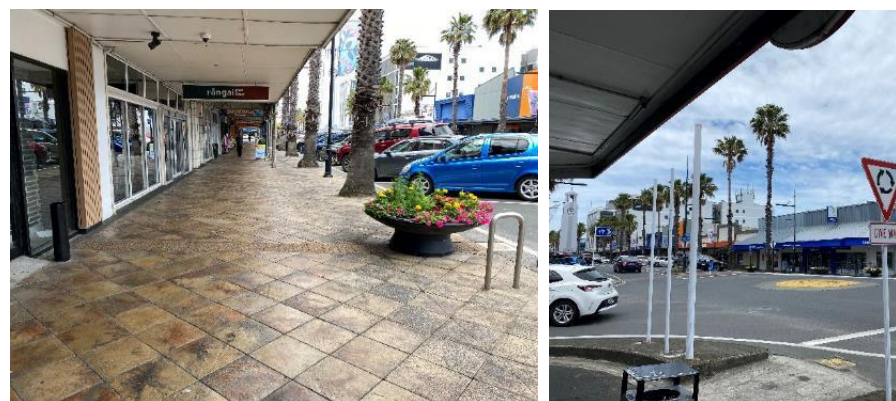
Clean the pavement of the footpaths and street furniture in key blocks of the City Centre.

Graffiti cleaning event

Organise an event to clean up facades with graffiti.

Rubbish removal

- Ensure the rubbish removal regime is applied.
- Address any issues, especially after events.



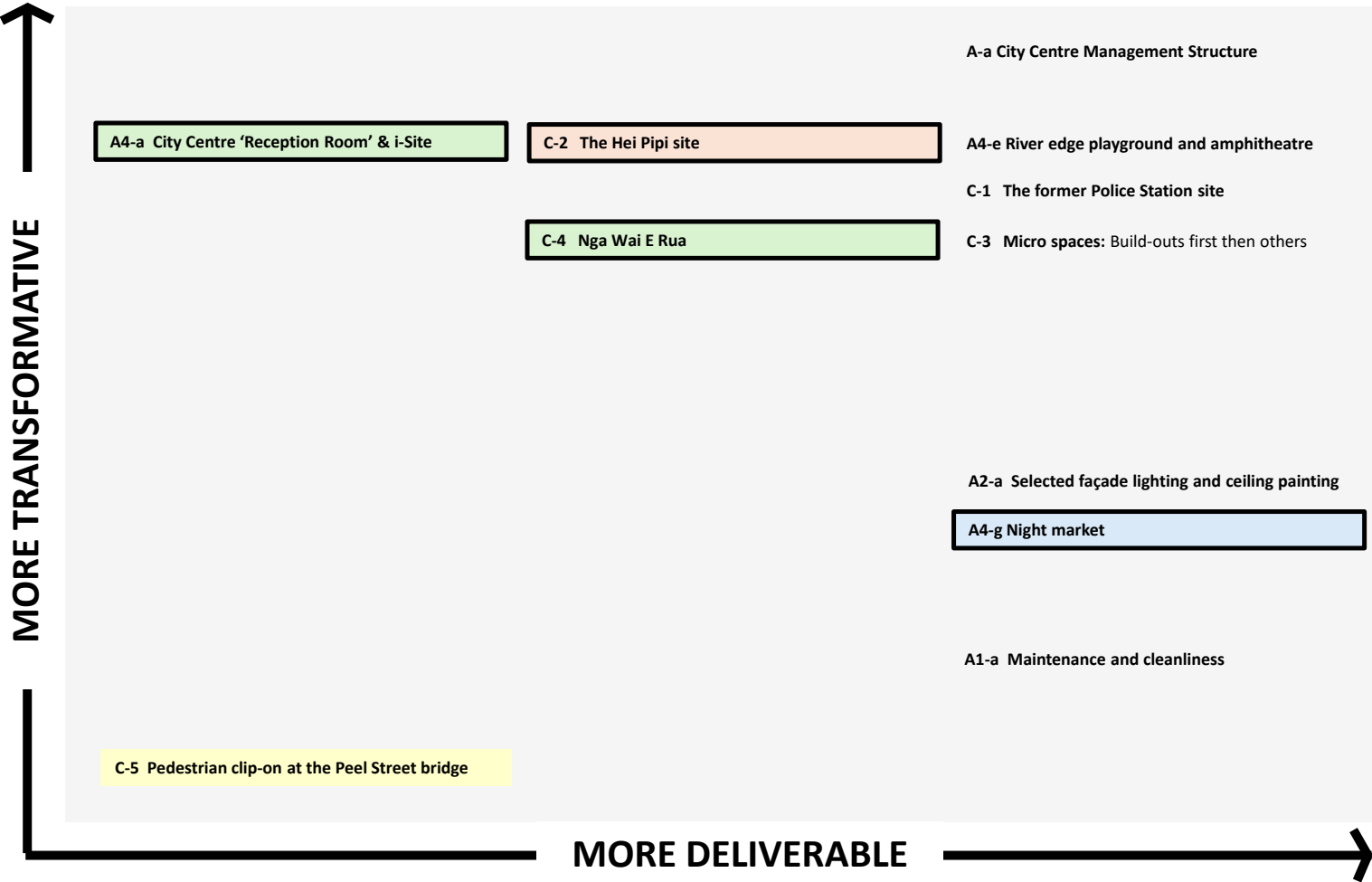
2. High-synergy Initiatives

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

2. High-synergy Initiatives

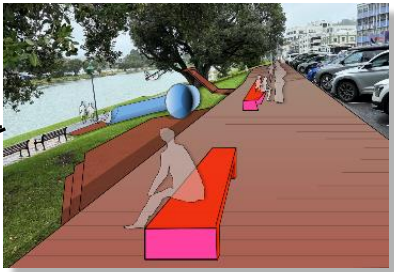
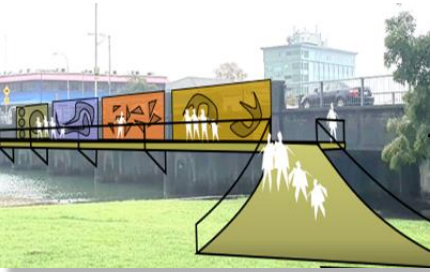
- 1. Early-win initiatives
- 2. High-synergy initiatives
- 3. High-impact initiatives

- Future City Centre Management led
- Trust Tairāwhiti led
- Gisborne District Council led
- Rongowhakaata led



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

High-synergy initiatives overview





Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C2. The Hei Pipi site

Landscape edits to connect Hei Pipi to the City Centre

Implement a design initiative.



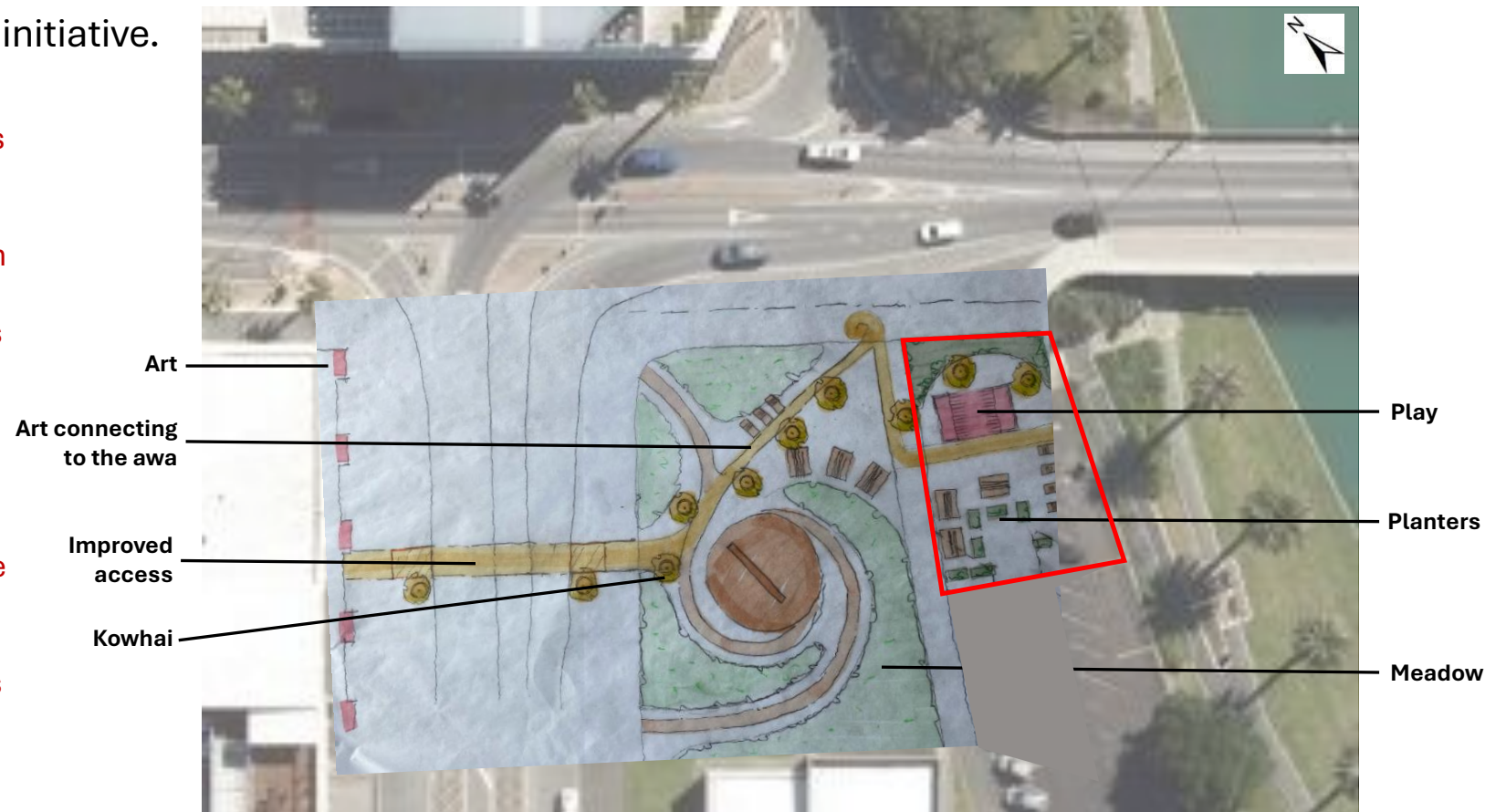
Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C2. The Hei Pipi site

Landscape edits to connect Hei Pipi to the City Centre

Implement a design initiative.

- Stronger connections to the City Centre and river through art and better pedestrian access.
- Provide seating areas and tables for the community
- Mounding and meadow to decrease state highway impacts and increase ecological and recreational values
- Temporary play areas



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

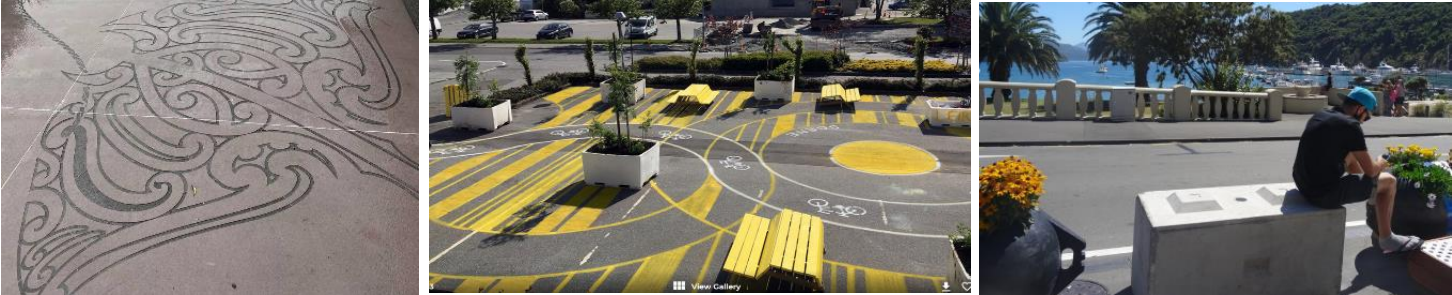
C2. The Hei Pipi site

Landscape edits to connect Hei Pipi to the City Centre

Grass gathering space



Repurpose hard surface - gathering and recreation



Edge design to reduce state highway impact



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C2. The Hei Pipi site

Landscape edits to connect Hei Pipi to the City Centre

Building edge and visual connection to Hei pipi



Art to increase Hei pipi space and connection



- Use art to refine the Hei Pipi edge and make it more accessible
- Soundscapes and art to connect people to the history of the site
- Create a strong connection to Lowe Street, the city centre, and the river corridor



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4a. City Centre ‘Reception Room’ and i-Site
Develop a Reception Room of the City Centre, accommodating:

- The **i-Site**, with nearby camper van parking.
- Spaces to explain what the City Centre has to offer through associated uses that showcase Māori culture in Tairāwhiti, adventure tourism, local wine and horticulture industries, local arts and culture and employment opportunities.
- The office of the City Centre Manager.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4a. City Centre 'Reception Room' and i-Site

Showcases:

- Māori culture in Tairāwhiti
- Adventure tourism
- Local wine and horticulture industries
- Local arts and culture and employment opportunities



Source: Trip Advisor website

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4a. City Centre ‘Reception Room’ and i-Site

Serves as the office of the City Centre Manager



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

**A4. Attractors for locals
and visitors**

**A4a. City Centre ‘Reception Room’
and i-Site**

Possible Lowe Street location.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4a. City Centre 'Reception Room' and i-Site

Possible Low Street location.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4a. City Centre 'Reception Room' and i-Site

Possible Low Street location.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4a. City Centre 'Reception Room' and i-Site

Possible Low Street location.



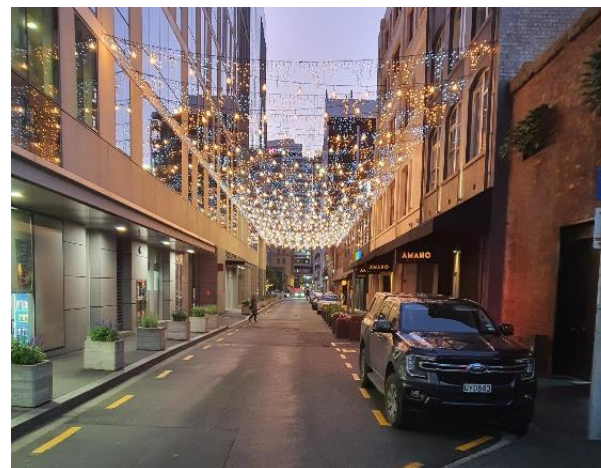
Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4g. Night market

Institute a once-weekly night market that may evolve into multiple evenings a week. Complement and differentiate from the farmers market.

See possible Lowe Street option below.

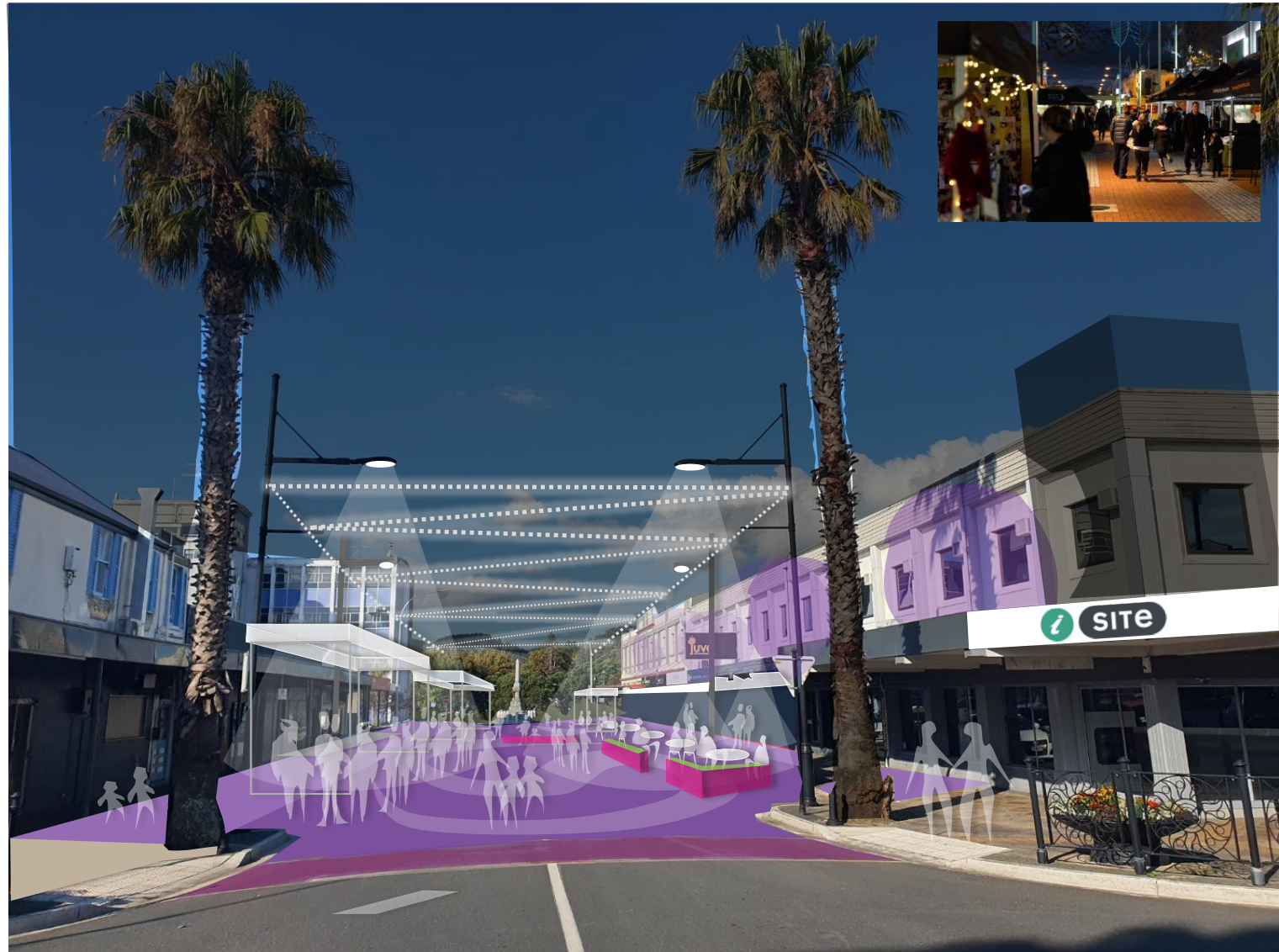


**Gisborne City Centre
Catalyst Initiatives**

**A4. Attractors
for locals and
visitors**

A4g. Night market

Institute a once-weekly night market that may evolve into multiple evenings a week. Complement and differentiate from the farmers market.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives
C4. Nga Wai E Rua



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C4. Nga Wai E Rua



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C4. Nga Wai E Rua



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives
C4. Nga Wai E Rua



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives
C4. Nga Wai E Rua



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives
C4. Nga Wai E Rua



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C5. Pedestrian clip-on at the Peel Street bridge



Connect both sides of the Taruheru riverbanks for advanced events and recreation amenity.

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C5. Pedestrian clip-on at the Peel Street bridge



Connect both sides of the Taruheru riverbanks for advanced events and recreation amenity.

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C5. Pedestrian clip-on at the Peel Street bridge



Connect both sides of the Taruheru riverbanks for advanced events and recreation amenity.

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

C5. Pedestrian clip-on at the Peel Street bridge



Connect both sides of the Taruheru riverbanks for advanced events and recreation amenity.

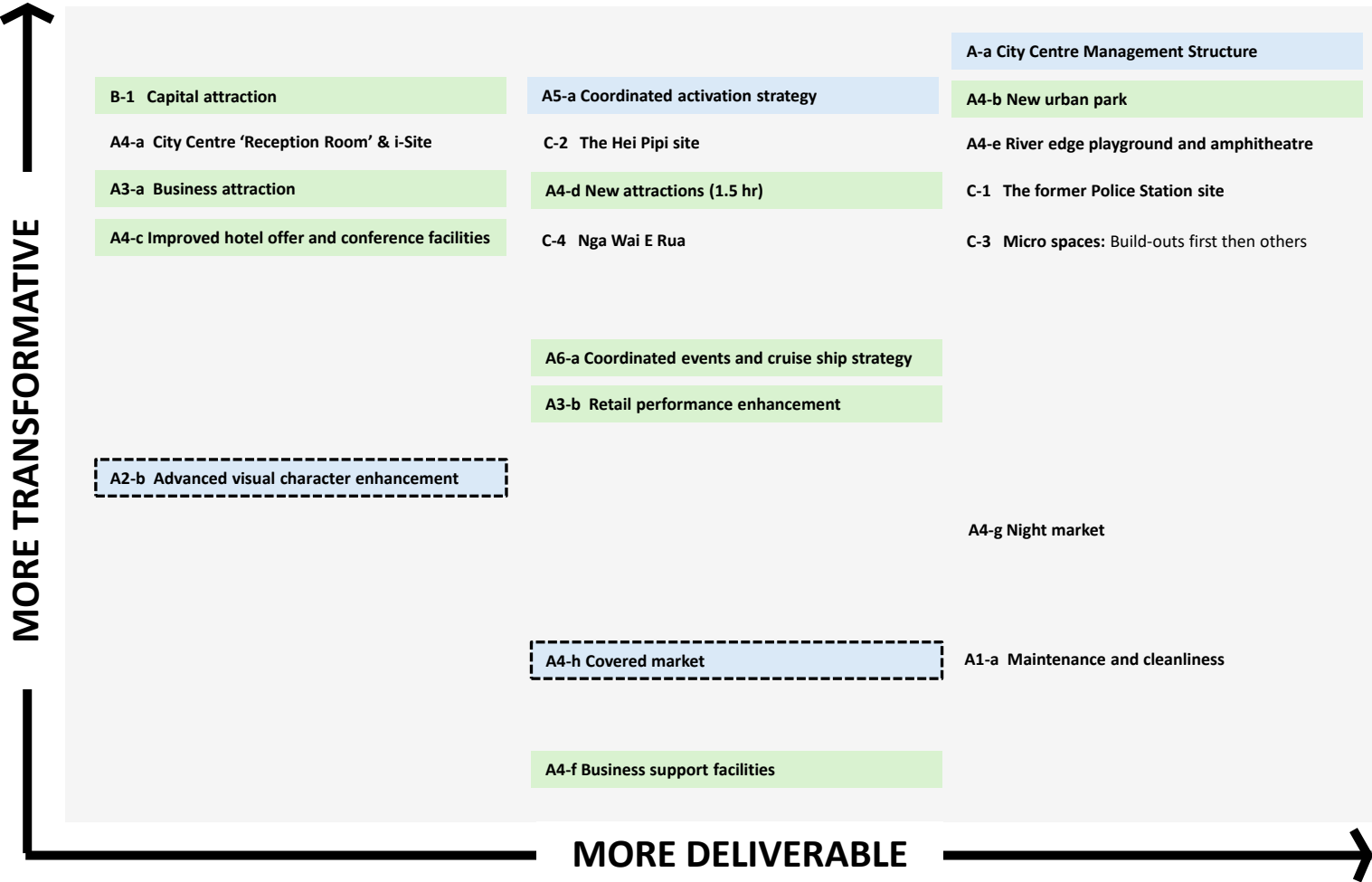
3. High-impact Initiatives

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

3. High-impact Initiatives

- 1. Early-win initiatives
- 2. High-synergy initiatives
- 3. High-impact initiatives

	Future City Centre Management led
	Trust Tairāwhiti led
	Gisborne District Council led
	Rongowhakaata led



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A. City Centre Management & Development

Aa. Agree a City Centre Management Structure

Agree:

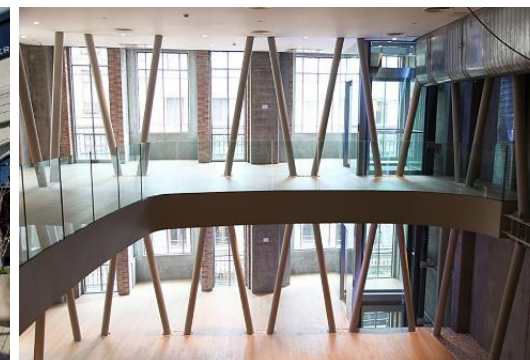
- Interim governance structure and funding.
- Prepare business case for 2027 funding options.
- Agree roles and responsibilities, possibly for:
 - Maintenance and cleanliness
 - Visual character
 - Business attraction, marketing, and retail development
 - Attractors for locals and visitors
 - Activation
 - City Centre focused events

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

B. City Centre apartments and offices

B1. Capital attraction

Attract capital to help overcome financial development barriers. Consider attracting Community Housing Providers.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A5. Activation

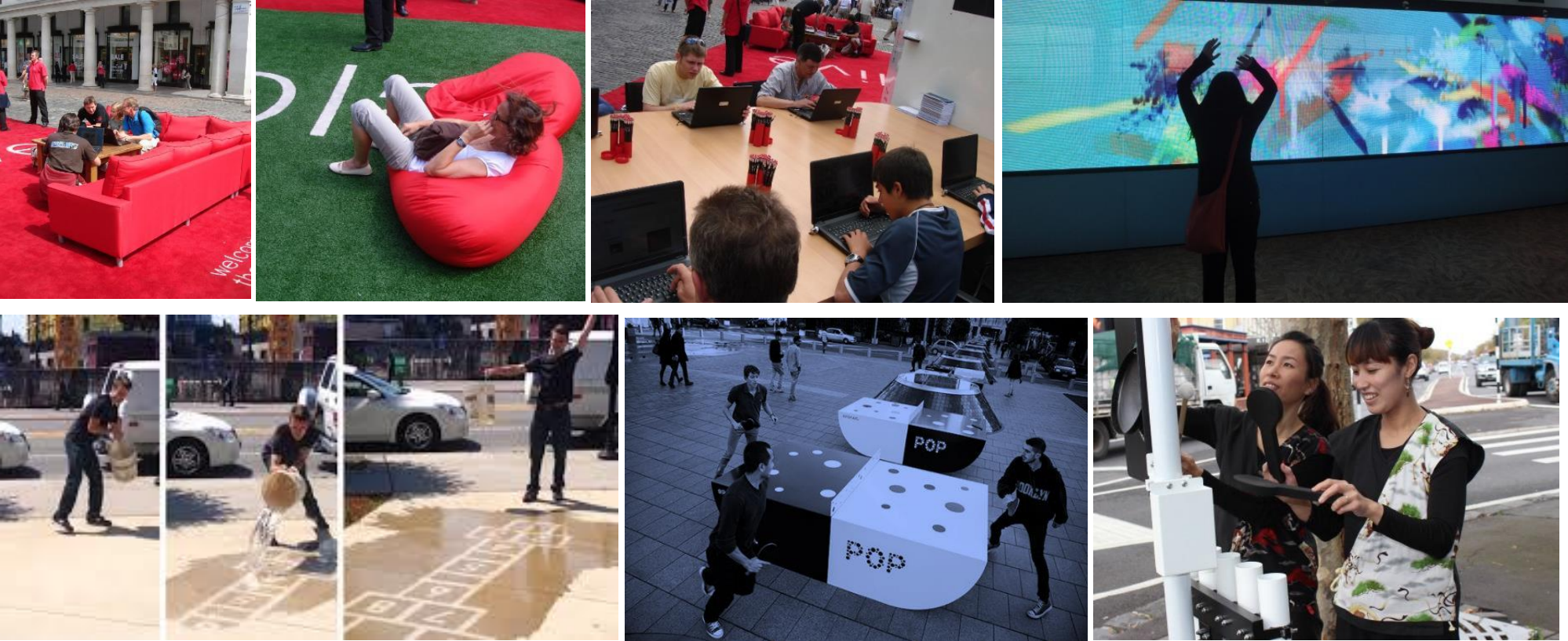
A5a. Coordinated activation strategy

Implement a coordinated strategy that makes places safe and activated.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A5. Activation



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A5. Activation

A5a. Coordinated activation strategy *continued...*

Vacant shops

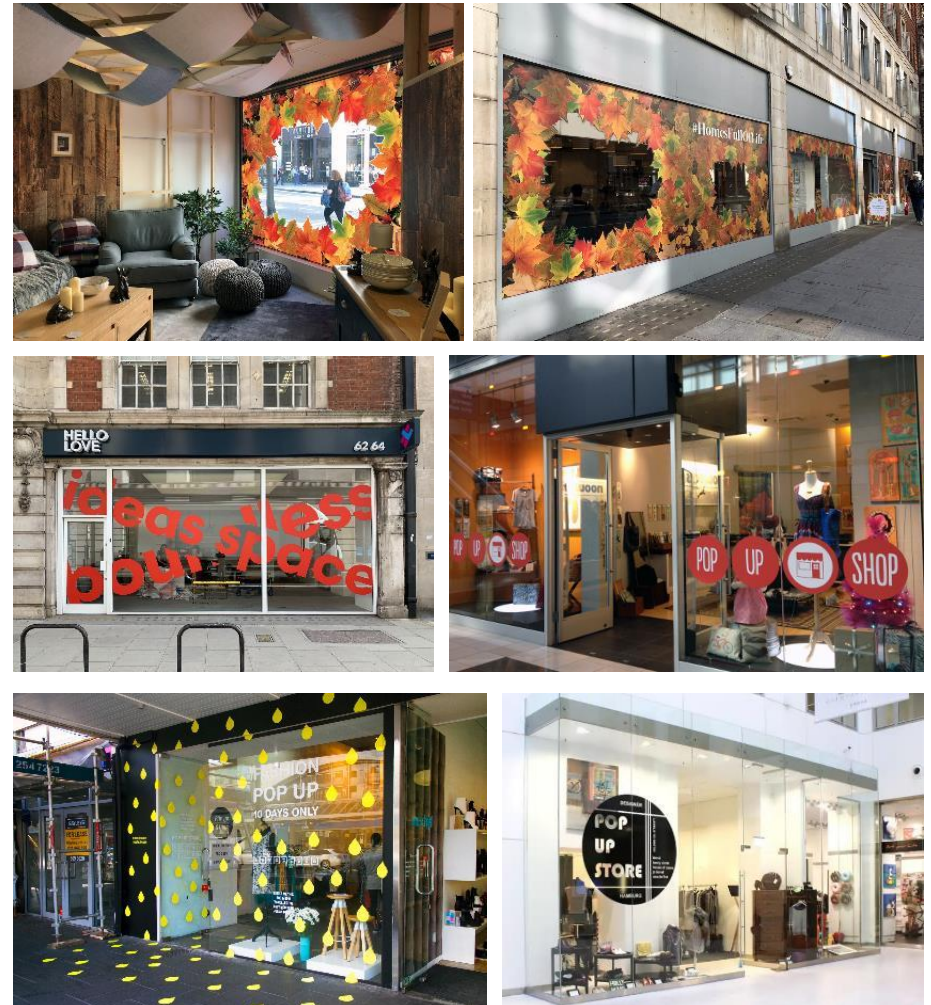
- Encourage pop-up shops.
- Where pop-ups don't eventuate apply high quality posters/wall coverings with compelling narratives to improve the visual quality of the streetscape and tone of the city centre.

Safety initiatives

- Review and, if necessary, improve the (below canopy) lighting quality.
- Review night-time conditions such as taxi locations, toilets and security around nighttime attractions and their access routes.

Food and beverage opportunities on the sidewalk

Prepare and implement a strategy to encourage more food and beverage use on the sidewalk.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4b. New urban park

Demolish a large building or find another space to create a new urban park.

An opportunity for activities and nature in the City Centre.



Hastings: Early strategy Urbanismplus and Craig Pocock

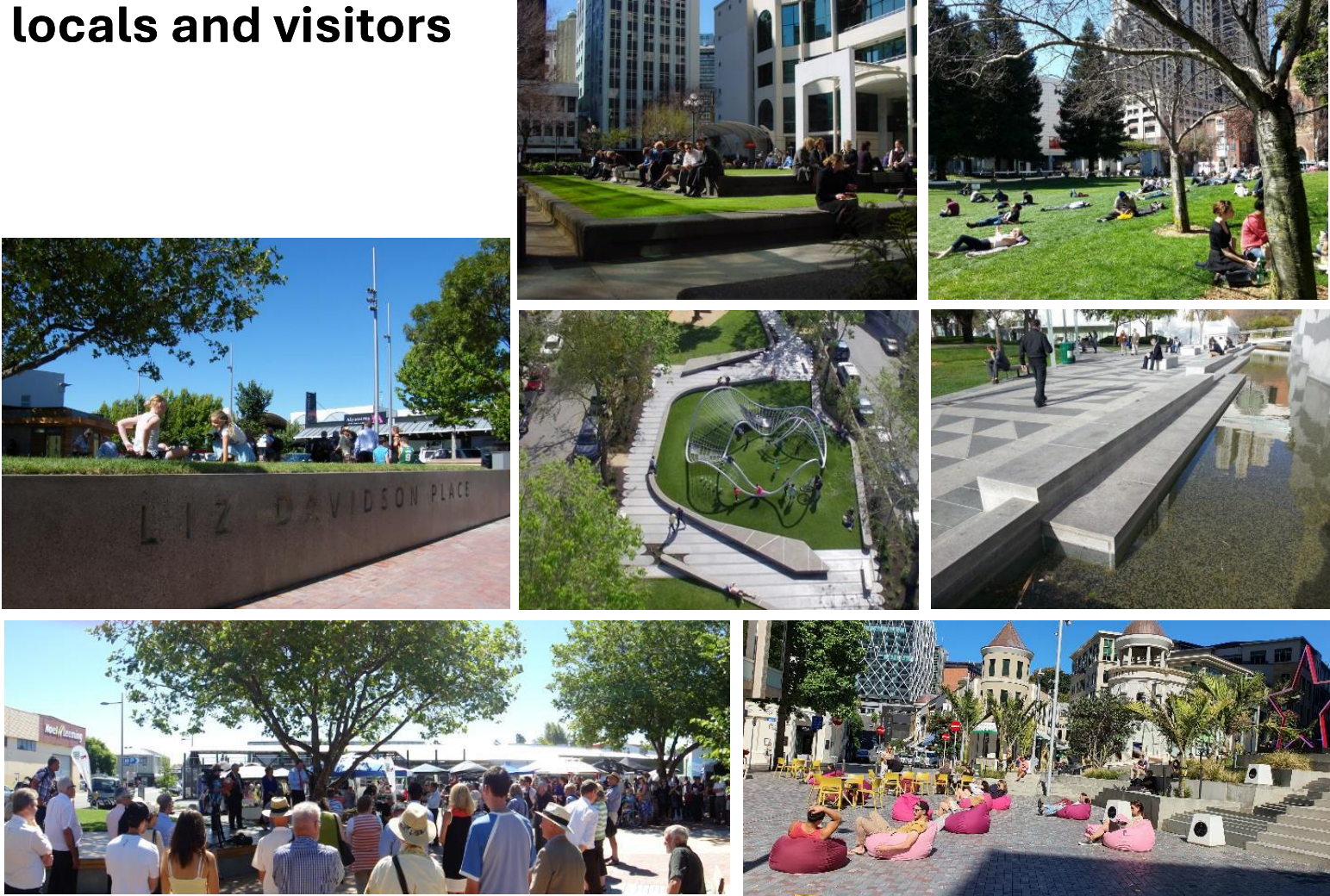
Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4b. New urban park continued

Demolish a large building or find another space to create a new urban park.

An opportunity to bring nature into the city centre and to expand the range of activities



Blenheim park: Craig Pocock and Urbanismplus

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4b. New urban park *continued*

Demolish a large building or find another space to create a new urban park.

An opportunity for cultural expression.



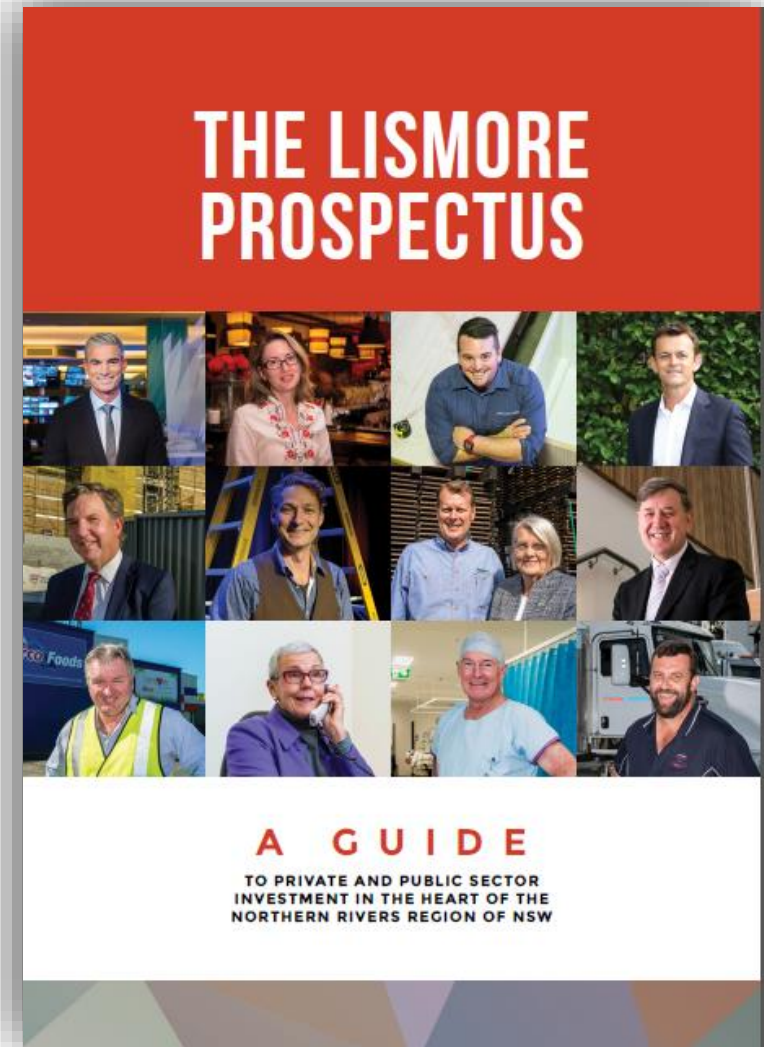
Māhuhu ki te Rangi, Auckland, Kobus Mentz and Ted Smyth with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, 1995.

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A3. Business attraction, marketing, and retail development

A3a. Business attraction

- Target businesses from outside the region to locate in the city centre, by applying business attraction techniques. See Derek Kemp's report.
- Develop a prospectus to market business opportunities in the City Centre.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A3. Business attraction, marketing, and retail development

A3b. Retail performance enhancement

Marketing the City Centre

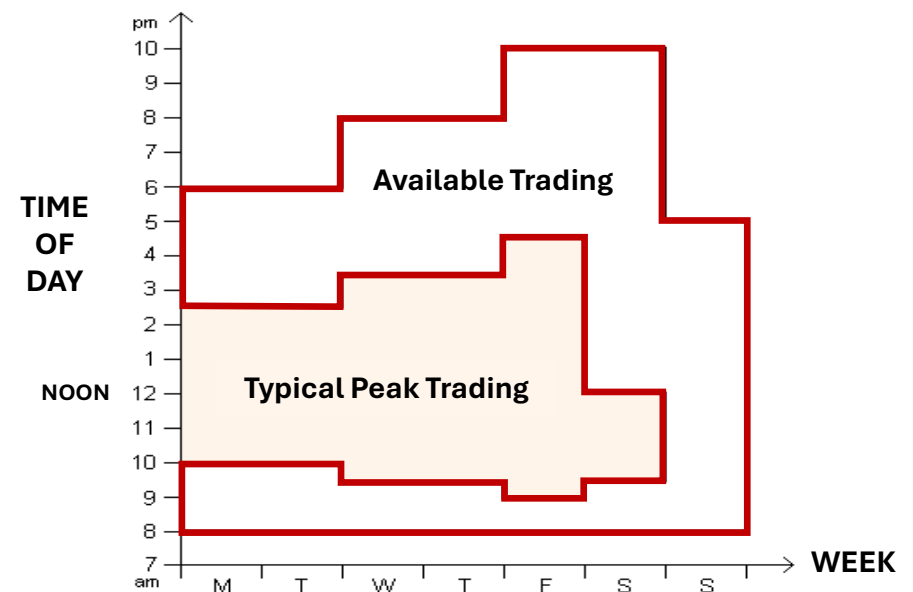
Undertake initiatives to promote the City Centre.

Improve retailers' online presence

Implement a programme to assist retailers with online trading supplementing their shops.

Late-night shopping

Agree with retailers and implement a late-night shopping schedule.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4d. New attractions

Attract 1.5-hour activities, for instance:

Climbing wall

Develop a climbing wall in the City Centre.

Indoor play facilities

Approach successful operators such as *Bounce*, *Chipmunks*, *My Wonderland*, *Inflatable World* etc. to locate in the City Centre.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4c. Improved hotel offer and conference facilities

Improve the hotel offer and conference facilities. Possibly attract a new hotel and conference facilities.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A6. City Centre focused events

A6a. Coordinated events and cruise ship strategy

- Coordinate events across the city for appropriate spacing or gain synergies of running complementing events concurrently.
- Offer more events in the city centre.
- Prepare and implement a cruise ship strategy, in consultation with City Centre shops and other businesses.
- Improve and promote the sustainability aspects of events.
- Consider themed walks, hikes and bike/scooter rides, skateboard trails, buggy, segway rides that start and end in City Centre.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A2. Visual character

A2b. Advanced visual character enhancement

Extended façade lighting

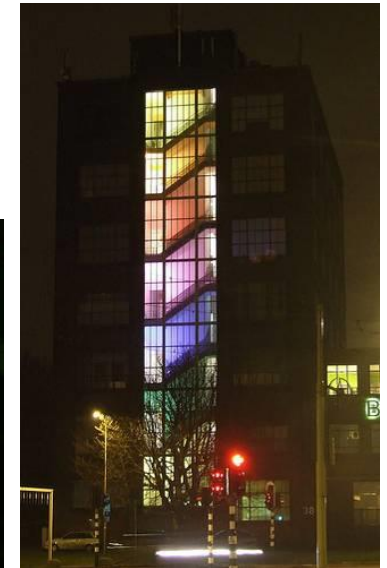
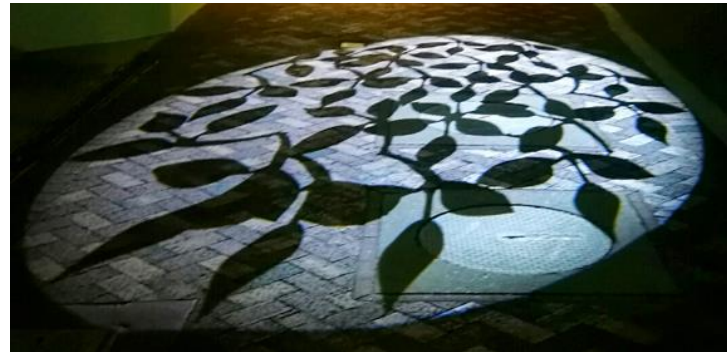
Install a low-key lighting solution to illuminate the facades above canopy level.

Painting façades

Develop and implement a programme to paint the façades of City Centre buildings, using an agreed colour scheme.

Extensive painting of sidewalk ceilings

Organising a process to paint the ceilings of the sidewalks / underside of the canopies. Tell the story of our place, of our people and about art.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4h. Covered market

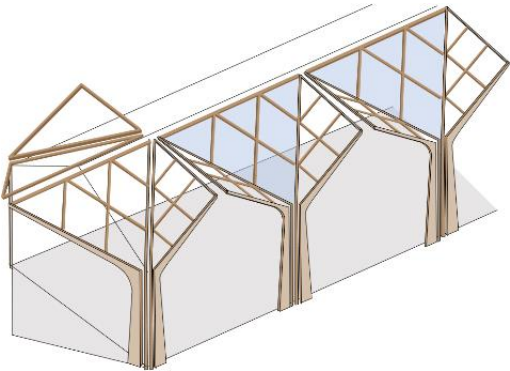
If viability permits, create a covered market. See possible Lowe Street option below.



**Gisborne City Centre
Catalyst Initiatives**

A4h. Covered market

If viability permits, create a covered market, possibly in Lowe Street.



Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

A4. Attractors for locals and visitors

A4f. Business support facilities

Develop business support facilities with shared technology or support existing.



CATALYST INITIATIVES IN SEQUENCE

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

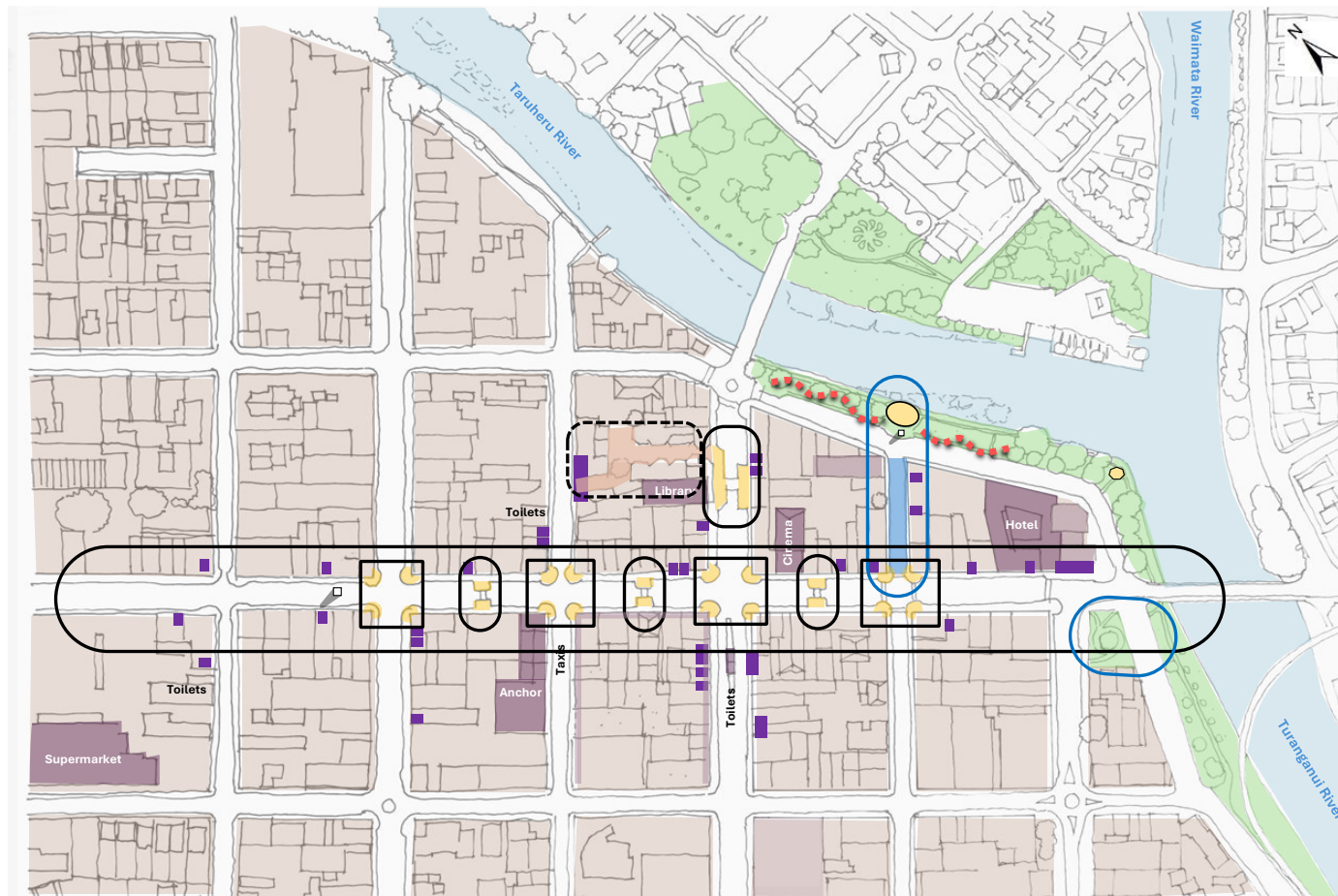
Shortlist of Catalyst Initiatives

1. Early-win Initiatives	2. High-synergy initiatives	3. High-impact initiatives	SHORT-TERM
C-3 Micro spaces: Build-outs and corners	C-2 The Hei Pipi site	A-a City Centre Management structure	
A4-e River edge playground and amphitheatre	A4-a City Centre 'Reception Room' & i-Site	B-1 Capital attraction	
	A4-g Night market		
	C-4 Nga Wai E Rua		
C-1 The former Police Station site		A5-a Coordinated activation strategy	MEDIUM-TERM
		A4-b New urban park	
		A3-a Business attraction	
A1-a Maintenance and cleanliness		A4-d New attractions (1.5 hr)	
		A4-c Improved hotel offer and conference facilities	
		A6-a Coordinated events and cruise ship strategy	
		A3-b Retail performance enhancement	
		A2-b Advanced visual character enhancement	
		A4-h Covered market	
	C-5 Pedestrian clip-on at the Peel Street bridge	A4-f Business support facilities	LONG-TERM

- Future City Centre Management led
- Trust Tairāwhiti led
- Gisborne District Council led
- Rongowhakaata led

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Short-term Catalyst Initiatives



Early-win Initiatives

C-3
Micro spaces: Build-outs and corners

A4-e
River edge playground, amphitheatre, monument

High-synergy initiatives

C-2
The Hei Pipi site

C-4
Nga Wai E Rua

A4-a
City Centre 'Reception Room' & i-Site

A4-g
Night market

High-impact initiatives

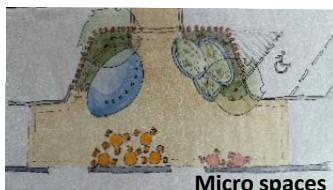
B-1
Capital attraction

A-a
City Centre Management Structure

Gisborne City Centre Catalyst Initiatives

Short-term Initiatives

Early-win Initiatives



High-synergy initiatives

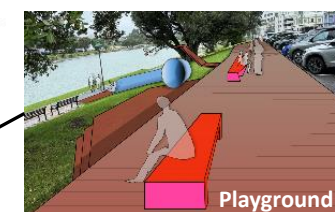


High-impact initiatives

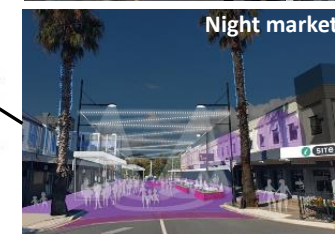
Capital Attraction



Early-win Initiatives



High-synergy initiatives



High-impact initiatives

City Centre Management Structure

Title: 25-90 Waingake Transformation Programme Update
Section: Community Projects
Prepared by: Amy England - Regional Biodiversity Transformation Manager
Meeting Date: Thursday 10 April 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Waingake Transformation Programme and associated activities, including a programme review.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

In 2024 the team commissioned an operational review of the programme by Forbes Ecology. The review demonstrated the national and regional significance of the programme, highlighting key successes and challenge throughout the first four years of the programme. The review included several recommendations for changes moving forward, particularly around the approach to planting and animal pest control.

The team has been addressing the recommendations of the review and have actioned the majority of these, where changes have been possible within current budget and resource allocations.

Operational activities continue to be delivered within scope, budget, and timelines. This includes planting, maintenance, pest plant and wilding pine control and animal pest control. A focus over summer has been on repeat outcome monitoring, such as Five-Minute Bird Counts and 20 x 20m vegetation plots. These repeated surveys help to build a picture of the state and trends of biodiversity at Waingake over time and will assist us in refining our restoration interventions to achieve the desired outcomes.

The discovery of two additional At Risk-Declining species, Tawhiri karo and Northern rātā, brings our known threatened species at Waingake to a total of 13 and highlights the importance of Waingake as a lowland biodiversity haven for our region.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

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

1. Notes the contents of this report.

Authorised by:

Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: Waingake, Pamoā, Maraetaha Incorporated, Biodiversity, Restoration

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The Waingake Transformation Programme was established following Council's decision to return 71% of the Pamoā Forest to native vegetation cover as harvest of the existing pine forest progresses. Relevant Council reports and decisions include:
 - 13 December 2018 Report 18-457 with the Public Excluded "Preferred Direction on Long Term Future of Pamoā Forest".
 - 31 January 2019 Report 19-024 to Extraordinary Council "Councillor Notice of Motion re Pamoā Alternatives".
 - 19 December 2019 Report 19-404 "Long Term Future of Pamoā Forest" presented to the Council for information, particularly to provide further financial information requested at the January 2019 meeting.
2. The programme is being delivered in partnership with mana whenua Maraetaha Incorporated, with support from Ngai Tāmanuhiri.
3. A formal Memorandum of Understanding between Council and Maraetaha Incorporated was signed in May 2022, and a Joint Steering Group was established to progress a practical working relationship with a focus on matters of mutual importance across Waingake and Pamoā.
4. The programme aims to ensure security and resilience for key water supply assets and infrastructure and to advance the cultural, environmental, economic, spiritual, and social wellbeing of mana whenua, hapū, iwi and citizens of Tairāwhiti through the protection, enhancement, and redevelopment of Waingake and Pamoā.
5. 29% of the land area at Waingake was intended to be put into a second rotation of pine, however, Juken New Zealand Limited declined this option under the current Forestry Right Agreement. Council has now entered into a replanting and apiary licence agreement with Riparian Forests Ltd. Under this agreement, Riparian Forests Ltd will plant the 29% in mānuka and receive apiary rights to the area.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

6. The following is a progress update on the Waingake Transformation Programme for the period April 2024 to March 2025.

Mana Whenua Partnership and Joint Steering Group

7. The Waingake-Pamoā Joint Steering Group presented the co-developed Strategic Plan to Council for formal adoption in December 2024 [Report 24-317 Waingake-Pamoā Joint Steering Group Strategic Direction]. The JSG is developing a work programme for 2025 to progress priority areas within the strategic plan.
8. Our partnership with Maraetaha Incorporated continues to develop and encompasses a full range of Council teams and activities. Previously, we have engaged primarily via activity or project teams, however there is a need to centralise support for the partnership to ensure priorities and capacity are being managed. We are working with Maraetaha Inc to identify a suitable long-term solution to this.

9. Council staff continue to work with Maraetaha Incorporated Trustees on operational matters of importance to mana whenua, including recruitment and procurement.

Programme Review

10. In June 2024, Council engaged Forbes Ecology to complete a programme review of the first four years of programme delivery (see Attachment One). The review found that the Waingake Transformation programme is “a leading example of landscape scale forest restoration in New Zealand”.
11. The review identified that sustained ungulate control and wilding pine control has been critically important to programme success to date, and that the project team has responded well to the challenges of this type of landscape scale restoration, in difficult circumstances.
12. The key review recommendations are outlined in Table 1, alongside actions taken to address the findings.

Table 1: Programme recommendation summary and actions taken.

Recommendations	Action taken
Limit tree planting to areas slow to regenerate naturally.	Variation to MPI funding to remove areas from planting and change classification to natural reversion.
Move to use of seed islands for introducing long-lived canopy species.	Underway, with support from Tane's Tree Trust (noting that 2025 will be the final year of widespread mixed native planting as required by MPI).
Scale up animal pest control.	No action taken. Requires additional budget or external funding.
Sustained plant pest control.	Ongoing delivery of wilding pine control by contractors and other pest plant control by Waingake Ngahere Ora team.
Profile raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to the 2024 Wilding Pine Conference. • Nature Conversations Podcast recorded with Dr Adam Forbes. • Promotional video filmed with funders One Tree Planted (to be released shortly). • Site visit for MPI Native Afforestation workshop (April 2025). • Profiling contractors and the work they deliver on Council's social media channels. • Site visit with Tairāwhiti Citizen's Assembly.

Operational Activities

Planting

13. 2024 planting was successfully completed between July and September, with 102ha planted and 17 seed islands established. (Figure 1). The seed islands are a new approach being trialled with advice and support from [Tane's Tree Trust](#), with the aim of creating a network of small, intensively managed groves of native trees and shrubs to act as seed sources for wind and bird dispersal. This approach helps to re-establish later successional tall-tree species which will eventually replace the short-lived early successional species.
14. Seed islands are located in sheltered spots with good soil and adequate moisture to promote rapid establishment of plants. Another consideration for location is ensuring good access for easy maintenance. Using seed islands reduces overall planting intensity and has the potential to be a more affordable and practical approach than blanket planting.

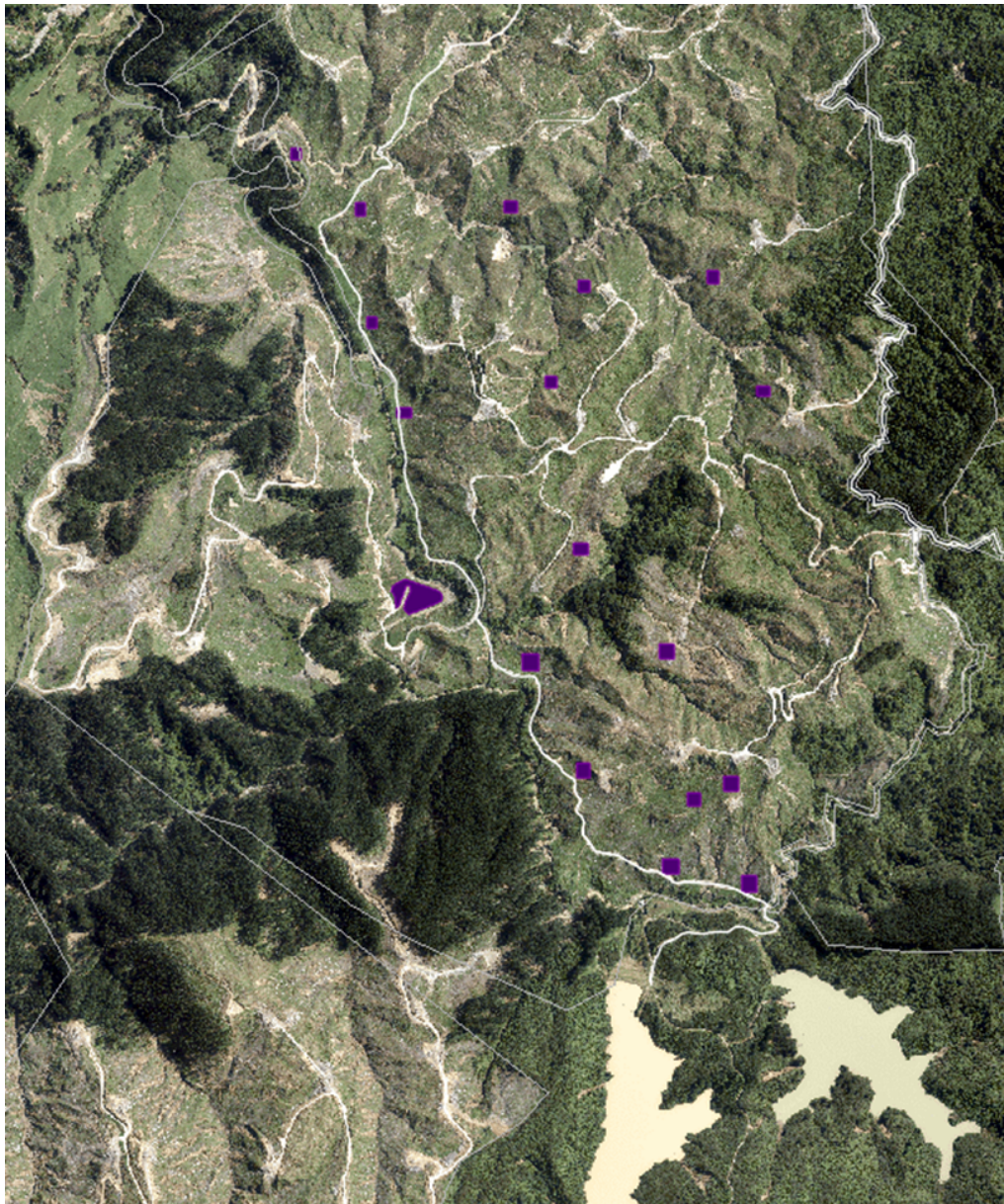


Figure 1: 2024 seed island locations.

15. The 2024 planting season was the first time blanking (replacement of dead plants) was required within our planted areas. Due to excellent survival rates between 2020 and 2022, blanking of those areas was not required. 2023 plant survival rates averaged 80% across survival plots, however, there were some areas where plant losses were higher, and these were targeted for blanking. We allow for annual blanking of up to 20% of the previous year's planting, meaning all blanking was completed within budget.
16. PF Olsen have been engaged to complete survival monitoring plots for 2024 planting, and we anticipate this work being undertaken within the next eight weeks.

Wilding pine and weed control

17. There has been a large flush of wilding pine growth throughout spring and summer, with control being undertaken by contractors as required.
18. The Waingake Ngahere Ora team have continued to make excellent progress with weed control, with a focus on control of historic and new infestations of Old Man's Beard. Historic sites (previously treated) are showing excellent signs of control and a reduction in infestation size. These sites require thorough ongoing surveillance to identify and remove new seedlings before plants can become established again.
19. New infestation sites are primarily associated with areas of disturbance such as slips and roading earthworks. Identifying these sites and completing early control is critical to stopping the spread of Old Man's Beard within Waingake.

Ungulate control

20. Sustained ungulate control is producing excellent results, with low animal numbers observed within the core restoration area, including the Waingake Waterworks (QEII) Bush. Contractors have noted large numbers of ungulates in adjacent land blocks, and we acknowledge the support of our neighbouring landowners, farming, and forestry, for access to the buffer zones around Waingake, which helps to reduce reinvasion rates into the core area. Recent results are shown in Figure 2.

21. Ungulate control work continues to be supported by members of the Ngai Tāmanuhiri Hunting Roopu.

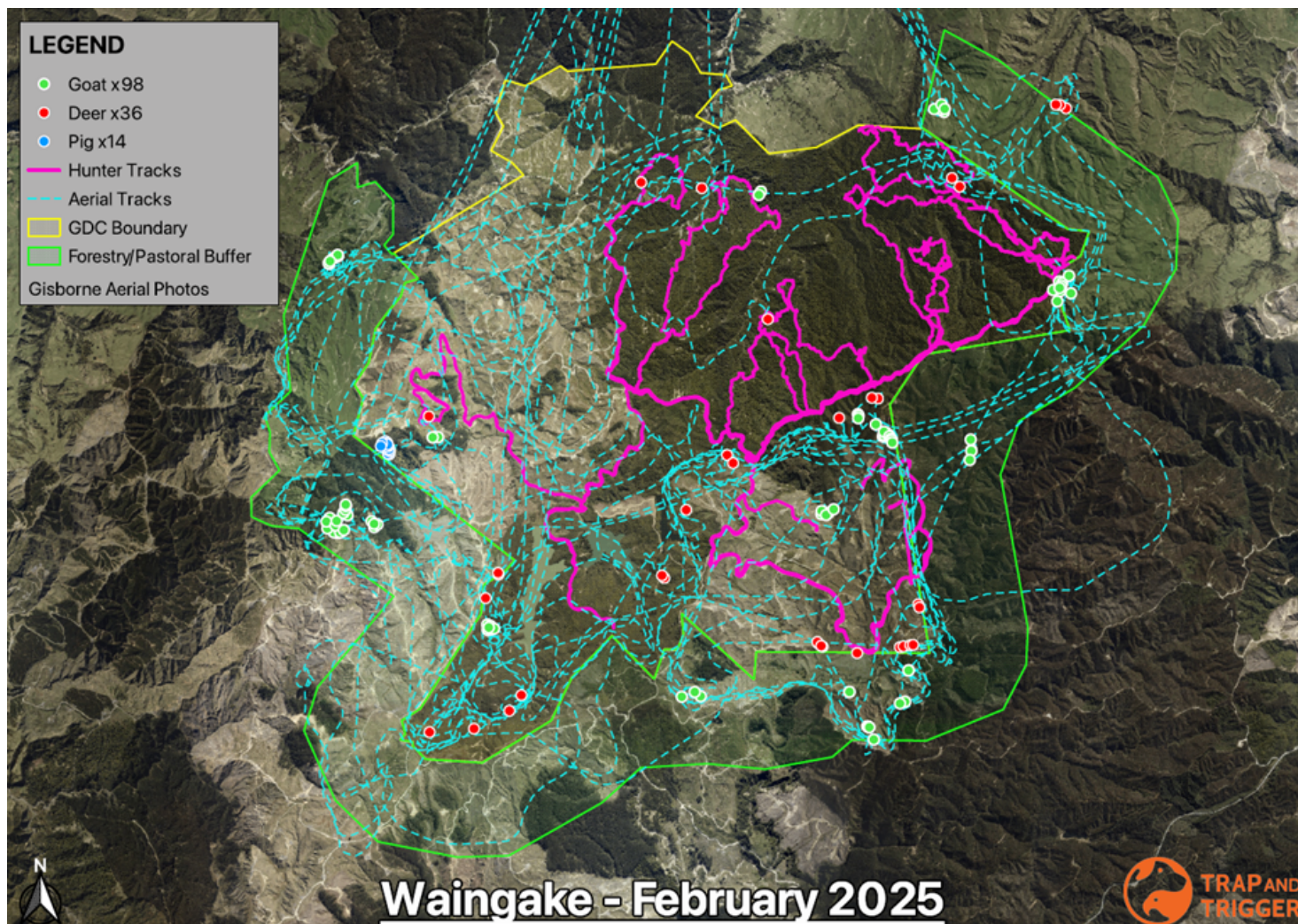


Figure 2: Combined aerial and ground control tracking and results for ungulates at Waingake.

Pest control

22. Waingake Ngahere Ora team have been focused on a toxin application program utilising the 32kms of trap/bait lines within the Waingake Waterworks (QEII) Bush.
23. Bait uptake has been excellent, and the pulse baiting operation will continue for several months followed by a post-control monitoring operation.
24. Ongoing monitoring of areas and key palatable plant species allows staff to ascertain where we are having pest animal incursions quickly and put measures in place to mitigate damage, this is now primarily around our boundary areas with surrounding habitats.

Biodiversity and restoration monitoring

25. Biodiversity monitoring provides us with consistent information about the state and trends of our biodiversity at Waingake, to enable us to report on progress towards outcomes and achieve better management and decision-making.

Five-minute bird counts (5MBC)

26. Annual 5MBC were established in 2023, with repeat counts undertaken by the team in September 2024. Counts are undertaken across a total of seven transects with 62 individual count points.
27. Results indicate the continued presence of all target species across the site. Tui were the most abundant species, followed by riroriro/grey warbler, korimako/bellbird, and tauhou/silvereye.
28. Several factors influence bird abundance, such as weather, flowering and fruiting of plants, and invertebrate availability. Therefore, it will take several years to detect consistent trends in the data to determine project outcome success.
29. Counts will be repeated annually in September to ensure results remain consistent.

20 x 20 permanent vegetation plots

30. Permanent vegetation plots are an established and robust approach for monitoring forest structure and composition, following a standard methodology. Each plot consists of a permanently marked 20x20m quadrat, within which tree species are recorded, trees are tagged and measured, and saplings are recorded. 24 individual seedling subplots are marked, and these are used to record understory species and their height classes. This enables factors such as recruitment, growth, and mortality rates to be measured.
31. Eight 20 x 20m plots were established in the Waingake Waterworks (QEII) Bush in 2019, with support from Wildlands Consultants. Early in 2025, the Waingake and biodiversity teams began to re-survey these eight plots. Wildlands Consultants were engaged for three days to provide training to staff in the re-survey methodology.
32. Data from the re-survey will be entered into the National Vegetation Survey Databank (NVS) managed by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. The NVS is a repository for ecological data in New Zealand and also supports several tools and services to assist with the management and analysis of datasets.

33. Once data has been entered to NVS, comparisons between 2019 and 2025 data can be analysed to determine if any change can be detected. As with the 5MBC, several factors can influence forest characteristics, including soils, sunlight, temperature, precipitation, and altitude, and long-term datasets are likely to be required to draw accurate conclusions on the effect of management interventions (e.g. pest animal control).
34. Despite this, the teams have already noticed changes resulting from ungulate control, with less animal browse being observed and fewer signs of pig rooting and damage, which were evident in 2019.
35. We can also draw comparisons between the forest interior and the forest edges to highlight the effectiveness of our ungulate control programme. The plots are all located in closed canopy forest with reduced light levels, which limits the speed of recovery of seedlings and saplings. However, there are small signs of more growth of palatable or ungulate preferred species in the browse tier (16 cm – 135cm) in the plots. In contrast, rates of regeneration of palatable species have increased significantly on the outside edges of the forest, where there are higher light levels despite this being a preferred feeding area for deer and goats due to grass growth. The high rates of regeneration demonstrate that browse pressure on these edges has been reduced significantly, and we can infer that browse pressure has been reduced in the forest interior also.
36. During the plot re-surveys the team identified two further At Risk-Declining endemic plants within Waingake, which had not previously been recorded there.
37. Tāwhiri karo (*Pittosporum cornifolium*) is a perching shrub, with sweetly scented flowers, generally found growing on other trees such as Rimu. It is threatened by habitat loss and browsing by possums.
38. Northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*), is one of New Zealand's tallest flowering trees. It generally begins life as an epiphyte on a host tree before sending roots to the ground, which eventually surround the host tree. Northern rātā is a tree species we would expect to find in lowland forests; however, it is conspicuously absent from Waingake. This is most likely related to high possum numbers, as possums display a strong preference for browsing rātā. According to the Department of Conservation, a mature Northern rātā tree can be killed within three years by possum browse.
39. These exciting finds underscore how much we still have to learn about the biodiversity and forest ecosystem at Waingake and demonstrate the importance of ongoing pest animal control for the protection of these and our other threatened species.



Figure 3: Left - Tāwhiri karo; Right – Northern rātā at Waingake.

Funding and Commercial

29% reforestation

40. The Reforestation Licence Agreement for replanting and apiary licence on the 29% was finalised in October 2024, with planting completed through August and September. We are now working with the Licensee on an integrated fire management plan and collaborating closely for control of pest animals.

Forestry harvest

41. Juken New Zealand Limited (JNL) have completed all harvest except for the Castleton's/Te Arai area, which is subject to a S.128 resource consent review. The outcomes of the review have not been finalised, and this matter remains with the Regional Consents team.

42. Hand back of harvested areas continues to progress, with approximately 300ha returned to Council in early 2025.

External funding

43. Funders One Tree Planted and Trees That Count have approved funding for the 2025 planting season.

44. We continue to work with Ministry for Primary Industries on a variation to amend the approved planting areas under our One Billion Trees grant. If approved, this variation will change the classification of 61ha from 'mixed native planting' to 'natural reversion', removing the requirement to plant areas where regeneration has been assessed as sufficient to meet Emissions Trading Scheme requirements for forest land.

45. The total value of the funding agreement will be reduced by approximately \$200,000, due to the lower funding rate for natural reversion areas, however, this will be offset by the corresponding reduction in planting costs.
46. The variation is currently with MPI for approval.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

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

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

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

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **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: **Low** Significance

47. 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

48. Our partnership with Maraetaha Incorporated is formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding, and through a Joint Steering Group which enables shared governance and decision-making.

Rangatiratanga

49. The Joint Steering Group have co-developed a Strategic Direction which identifies Maraetaha Incorporated aspirations for rangatiratanga, as well as identifying mechanisms to support and resource Maraetaha Incorporated for equitable participation in matters relating to their ancestral lands.

Oritetanga

50. The Strategic Direction provides a pathway for Council and Maraetaha Inc to develop actions to address past and existing inequity and includes a specific goal relating to equity and social justice.

Whakapono

51. The Joint Steering Group is considering how to support teams across Council to provide for whakapono to ensure we can meet the expectations of a Treaty-based relationship.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

52. There are no additional Māori engagement considerations arising from this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

53. There has been no community engagement on the matters within this report. A brief summary of activities undertaken to raise the profile of the programme is provided in Table 1 of this report.

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

54. There are no new climate change considerations arising from this report.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

55. The programme is operating within budget and continues to secure ongoing external funding.

Legal

56. There are no legal issues arising from this report.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

57. There are no policy and planning matters arising from this report.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

58. Failure to meet Emissions Trading Scheme criteria for forested land at 4, 10 and 20 years would incur a financial liability. Planting is being planned and managed to ensure reestablishment is achieved within the initial four-year timeframe. Post planting survival monitoring informs us of plant losses and enables us to target areas for blanking during the next planting season.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
April 2025	Pre-planting preparation begins	
July 2025	Planting begins	

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

- 1. Attachment 1 - 2024 Waingake Transformation Programme Review [25-90.1 - 17 pages]

26 June 2024
By E-mail

Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
Gisborne District Council
15 Fitzherbert Street
Gisborne 4010
New Zealand



Forbes Ecology

Dr. Adam Forbes

adam@forbesecology.co.nz

www.forbesecology.co.nz

WhatsApp +64 22 3672 326

Attn: Nicki Davies

Dear Nicki,

Re: Ecologists Review of the Waingake Transformation Programme

BACKGROUND

Gisborne District Council / Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti (GDC) engaged Forbes Ecology Limited to undertake a review of the Waingake Transformation Programme. The Waingake Transformation Programme is a landscape scale forest restoration project which has undertaken to restore native forest across 1,200 ha of radiata pine clear-felled land.

The project is located on hill country c. 11 km inland from the Tairāwhiti coastline, accessed via Waingake Road from Manutuke. Adjacent land cover includes Waterworks Bush, which is a 1,100-ha remnant of the original podocarp–broadleaved old growth forests which would have covered the Waingake restoration site. Waterworks bush is a significant natural asset to the project and management has been integrated between sites. Other adjacent land use is pastoral farming and commercial pine forests.

SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The operational programme review follows this scope:

- Review of delivery:
 - Progress to date,
 - What has been done well,
 - What has not gone well,
 - Benefits achieved to date and residual benefits expected.
- Analysis of gaps and issues.
- Recommendations regarding gaps, issues, and any suggested best practice improvements.

REVIEW

Review of delivery

Progress to date

As of May 2024, the main changes in land management at Waingake have been:

- 925 ha of clear-fell has been handed over for restoration.
- 128 ha of radiata pine remains to be handed over for restoration.
- 401 ha of land has been planted in native trees. The 2024 planting season will see a further 34.9 ha planted in natives.
- The area of clear-fells unlikely to be planted in natives is 90 ha.

Natural forest regeneration

An Envirolink funded plot survey hosted by GDC with fieldwork carried out by two GDC Summer Scholarship Students and reported by Forbes (2021) established the following main points regarding natural regeneration in 0.5 to 2-year-old clear-fells:

- Mean native woody stem densities in clear-fells of $7,085 \pm 1,446$ stems ha^{-1} ,
- Mean native tree species stem densities in clear-fells of $3,790$ stems ha^{-1} , with eight native tree species occurring at >100 stems ha^{-1} (i.e., $<10 \times 10$ m spacing),
- When ranked by combined cover, of all native and exotic woody species surveyed in clear-fells, native tree species comprised $>50\%$ of life forms,
- Old-growth species occurring in very low abundances,
- Wilding pine densities of $1,214 \pm 389$ stems ha^{-1} .

These results provided an early perspective (2021) that the forest ecosystem at Waingake has a strong ability to recover following plantation clear-fell but also that some species will be missing from the natural assemblage and that radiata pine control is an essential component of management.

Native tree planting progress

Mānuka has been a stable species of pioneer phase planting. Over the five-year period 2020–2024, a total of 649,231 mānuka seedlings were planted over a combined area of 435.9 ha. Most mānuka were planted at $1,500$ stems ha^{-1} , however, areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle were planted at $2,500$ stems ha^{-1} to achieve greater stabilising effects on the land from native planting.

Enrichment phase planting with the objective of building species diversity started in 2022 and over the four years 85,430 seedlings were planted at densities of 450 stems ha^{-1} and

more recently 700 stems ha⁻¹. Enrichment planting has covered an area of 159.1 ha. Over the period 2023-2024, enrichment planting included 17 species.

In February 2024, plot surveys in native planting areas (PF Olsen March 2024) using 42 plots across four forest stands concluded survival of planted seedlings was good and native seedling densities ranged 955–1,485 stems ha⁻¹. Issues said to have affected densities were the occurrence of residual forestry slash and competition from rank exotic grasses.

Plant pest control progress

The main plant pest species controlled were:

- Wilding radiata pine,
- Pampus,
- Buddleia,
- Old Man's Beard,
- Banana passionfruit,
- Elaeagnus hybrid,
- Ivy,
- Boneseed,
- Convolvulus.

In addition, there was minor control of blackberry, scotch broom, woolly nightshade, and gorse.

Wilding pines have been a major focus of the weed control efforts. The main method has been hand pulling. Hand pulling has been achievable when stem diameters are <25 mm and during winter when the ground is soft. There is some concern that in certain steep areas the soil removed with the root system might create depressions when performed on mass that could increase water loading and potentially contribute to slope instability.

Other methods of wilding control have included cutting stems as low to the ground as possible and below any green needles. Advantages of this technique is it can be executed rapidly, does not require herbicide application and a root ball is retained in the soil.

Aerial spraying was conducted over a 13-ha area however this did not kill all wilding pines and had a negative impact on the regeneration of natives as apparent from the comparison of native regeneration in Figure 1.



Figure 1. The effect of herbicide application for wilding pine control on native forest regeneration at Waingake can be seen to the right of the red line. The land to the left of the red line was not sprayed and instead pines were controlled manually.

Larger diameter wilding pines such as those around the dams were controlled by drill and fill. This involved drilling 25 mm holes 70 mm deep around the circumference at waist height on the tree filled with a high concentrate mix of metsulphuron (50 g of Met to 1 litre of water, applied at 10 ml per hole).

Irrespective of the control method, careful management of wilding pine contractors has been necessary to ensure thorough and high-quality outcomes.

Other plant pest methods have included:

- Cut and paste,
- Drill and fill,
- Knapsack spray,
- Motorised spray unit,
- Hand pull.

Animal pest control

Goats have been a major focus of the animal pest control effort. Over four years of control (2020-2023) 3,093 goats have been killed by professional and Iwi hunters. The rate (kills/hunter/day) of goat kills declined after the first year of control indicating a measurable

impact on the goat population from the first year of control (Fig. 2). Other control (2020-2024) by professional hunters has included pigs and deer. Night shooting has also been undertaken by project members targeting possums, hares, rabbits and cats.

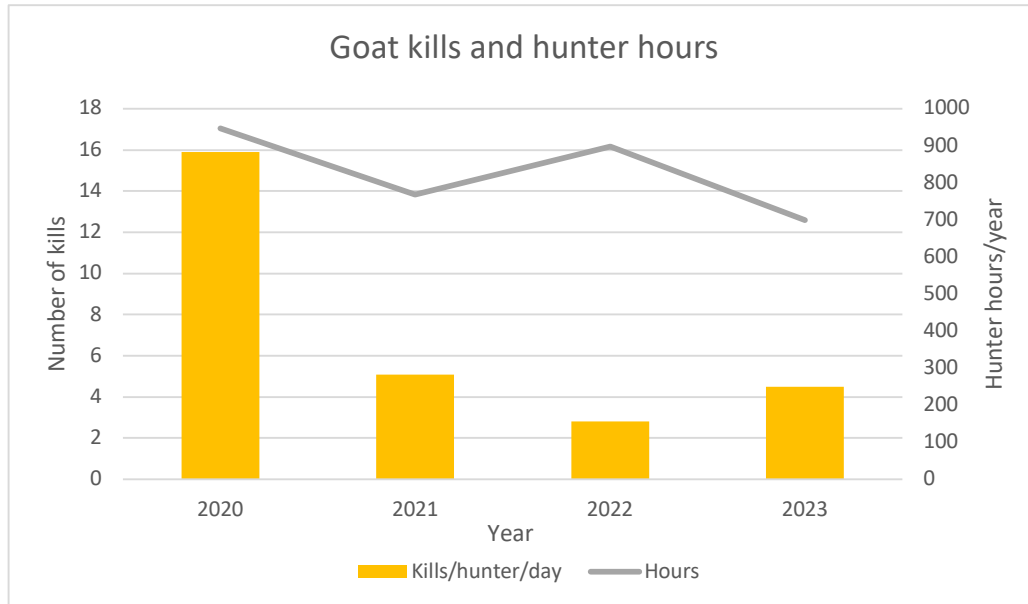


Figure 2. Columns represent the number of goat kills per hunter per day over the period 2020-2023. The effort in hours of professional culling is shown by the line as per the scale on the right y-axis.

Photopoint monitoring

A network of photopoint monitoring has been established and is showing rapid recovery of native forest cover in most locations. Examples from these monitoring photos taken in 2021 and repeated at the same locations in January 2023 are shown in Figure 3.



L2: Castletons February 2021 and January 2023



L5: Volt Road February 2021 and January 2023



Figure 3. Photopoints taken initially in February 2021 and repeated in January 2023 at Castletons (Top) and Volt Road (Bottom) are representative of the increases in extent of native forest cover within several years of plantation clear-fell.

Staff inputs, training and Iwi collaboration

The project has required significant staffing. The main roles for the project have been:

- Field staff (Waingake Ngahere Ora team) = 10 x FTEs – responsible for pest plant and animal control and associated monitoring (wax tags, tracking tunnels, 5MBC etc),
- 1 x Project Manager - responsible for day-to-day operational and contract management (planting/pest control/wilding pine control/ungulate control), procurement,
- 1 x Programme Manager – responsible for Iwi partnership, external funding, commercial relationships (e.g. forestry partners), governance and operational reporting, science, and the overall restoration programme including recruitment and team management.

The project has required between 12,492 and 19,281 staff hours per financial year (Table 1).

Table 1. Staff hours by financial year

Financial year	Quarter	Total Hours
21/22	Q1	264
	Q2	2816
	Q3	4086
	Q4	5326
Sub total		12,492
22/23	Q1	4616
	Q2	4928
	Q3	4201
	Q4	5536
Sub total		19,281
23/24	Q1	4232
	Q2	5560
	Q3	4346
	Q4	–
Sub total		14,138

The Waingake Ngahere Ora team (Jobs for Nature funded roles) have undertaken the following training:

- GrowSafe Standard,
- First Aid,
- Level 3 Pest Control Operations (includes LUV/Side-by-Side),
- NZ Deerstalkers Association Hunts Course,
- Biomonitoring training,
- Gecko monitoring training,
- 5 minute bird count training,
- Tracking tunnel and wax tag monitoring training,
- Search and Rescue Bushcraft and Navigation including map + compass and GPS use.

In addition, supervisors have attended the Weed Management (Principles and Best Practice course, NMIT) and have completed the first stage of their Controlled Substance Licence.

The team has also visited other projects around the country, to observe and learn about approaches being used elsewhere, to understand the long-term nature of their restoration work, and to develop a passion for working in the field of conservation/restoration. In this regard, the team have visited the following sites:

- Maungataniwha,
- Boundary Stream,
- Wainuiomata Mainland Island,
- Capital Kiwi,
- Zealandia,

- Pureora Forest Park,
- Eastern Whio Link,
- Several Iwi projects visited during a wananga in the Far North.

The project operates under a Joint Steering Group (JSG) consisting of three representatives from Maraetaha Inc (Trustees) and three from Council (two Councillors and one Director). The JSG was formed under a Memorandum of Understanding to progress matters of mutual importance on the Waingake-Pamoa whenua.

Operationally, Maraetaha Inc have been involved in the following aspects of the project:

- Procurement,
- Recruitment,
- Communications,
- Blessings/ceremonies,
- Contractor support.

Budget has been set aside within the ungulate control contract since 2020 to provide training to members of the Iwi hunting roopu in how to undertake professional culling work. Iwi hunters have had practical training in a range of skills and on each culling run, Iwi hunters shadow or work with one of the culling team on ground control.

What has been done well

Wilding pines have been manually (rather than chemically) controlled across the majority of the site without jeopardising the initial native forest regeneration. This is highly advantageous for forest regeneration and successional processes as the initial native cover provides an essential basis for the establishment and growth of later successional species. Therefore, this aspect of management is conducive to rapid development and advancement of native forest cover. Sites where native regeneration has been affected by herbicide application for wilding pine control show a switch from woody to grass dominance (Fig. 1) which in itself presents potential barriers to the establishment of woody forest species through above- and below-ground competition caused by rank grass.

Wilding pine establishment will decrease dramatically after the initial flush of pine regeneration (the seed is thought to remain viable for only 4 years) several years following clear-fell and in particular once natives have formed a closed canopy. Exposed substrates such as slips would in theory be more vulnerable to pine establishment until vegetation cover develops shading the disturbed substrate. Diminishing levels of wilding pine control are likely to be required over the first decade or two following clear-fell.

Professional culling of goats and other browsing mammals have allowed regeneration of a diversity of native tree and shrub species. The culling undertaken is unusual at this scale and intensity in New Zealand especially given the work is purely for restoration objectives (e.g.,

not associated with an agricultural or silvicultural practice). While Waingake has a strong forest resilience, without the browser management that has been undertaken the current outcomes for forest regeneration would not be occurring. Regeneration would be filtered by browsing pressure and would be skewed towards dominance by a small number of non-palatable species. This filtering effect in turn limits the value of the regenerating stand as important aspects of composition and structure are missing.

Looking forward, if the project is to continue to meet restoration objectives, then it is critically important that an adequate level of browser management is maintained. Reducing this aspect of management will undo the progress made as the vegetation present is accessible to browsers. Essentially, the gains made can be lost if browser management is not adequately maintained.

The project has required significant staffing, resourcing and upskilling to meet the demands of landscape scale restoration in a remote and demanding area of New Zealand. From the outcomes observable on site the project team has responded extremely well to the various challenges and difficulties associated with restoration of plantation clear-fells at large scales in difficult circumstances. Some main steps which have been taken that have helped secure the project's success are:

- The level of resourcing,
- Team attitude and culture,
- Technical training,
- Knowledge application,
- Consistency of restoration management interventions.

Photopoint monitoring has been well conducted and provides an important visual reference to the natural ability for the land at Waingake to regenerate in the presence of adequate management.

What has not gone well

From discussions with staff and on-site observations the following issues have been identified:

Planning and funding

- There has at times been a disconnect between the 1BT annual plant numbers and the availability of planting sites due to pine harvest timing.
- The 1BT contract and ETS liability have driven more planting than is required. Most of the site will regenerate naturally given adequate management but these areas have been or are scheduled for planting.

- Planting locations require a greater level of ground truthing to determine precisely where planting is required.
- While the main components of the programme (planting, wilding pine control, ungulate control) are funded through Council's long-term plan, the team responsible for weed control (the Waingake Ngahere Ora team) is supported by temporary funding through Jobs for Nature. The temporary duration of the Jobs for Nature funding impacts on the Waingake Ngahere Ora team. This team has been responsible for weed control and having them on site to undertake continuous surveillance and control has been critical to the success of the weed control programme. Losing funding for the Waingake Ngahere Ora team risks the project facing weed incursions. This could be a major setback for the restoration area and also for the wider landscape if the weed invasions were to spread beyond the site. Losing the gains made on old mans beard, banana passionfruit and other climbing pest plants are a particular concern. In highly disturbed environments such as the Waingake clear-felled land, ongoing control of key plant pests must be a component of ongoing management. It is not an efficient use of resources to discontinue control, allow weed biomass to increase, and then recommence control. In some cases, this lapsed approach can mean weed biomass increases to levels where effective control becomes extremely difficult or comes with collateral damage to native ecosystems due to the aggressive nature of control methods needed to address problem weed hotspots.

Seedling supply and establishment

- Planting has involved an enrichment planting phase. However, this has essentially involved wide-spaced planting¹ (450 stems ha⁻¹ or 4.8 × 4.8 m) which normally without a nurse crop is not a preferred method of native tree establishment as the planted trees do not receive adequate shelter².
- The following factors have contributed to limited seedling supply for enrichment planting:
 - Enrichment species need to sit at the nursery for a couple of years to reach an adequate grade. Therefore, a couple of years are required to collect seed

¹ This is an artefact of having to meet funding milestones which dictate planting requirements, while trying to keep costs down.

² What level of shelter from surrounding vegetation cover is necessary is difficult to generically define. A global review (Paquette et al. 2006) of the survival and growth performance of canopy species beneath differing levels of forest cover concluded that growth followed a similar pattern in most biomes. In uncut stands, a sharp increase in seedling growth consistently resulted from canopy opening to create < 25% available light transmission, > 75% canopy cover, or a gap ratio of < 0.25. In temperate biomes, further canopy opening to levels of 25–50% available light transmission, 50–75% canopy cover, or gap ratios of 0.25–0.4, caused comparably more gradual increases in seedling growth, but beyond this level of canopy opening seedling growth tended to decline (Paquette et al. 2006). Informed judgement needs to be applied. See Forbes et al., (2020) for references and more information <https://newzealandecology.org/nzje/3404.pdf>

and achieve sufficient growth. 2023 was first year of reasonable numbers of enrichment planting. Seed collection started in 2021.

- Natural variability in seed quantities among successive years.
- Seed unavailability for particular species due to local absence or poor fruiting of those species.
- The road corridor through the site was being used for seed collection but then the forestry contractor trimmed the road-side vegetation.
- Cyclones caused access issues which slowed seed collection.
- At one stage, the nursery supplying seedlings suffered from an outbreak of root fungus meaning a lot of seedlings went to waste.
- Mānuka collected from the area has shown slow growth and poor germination rates.
- Seedlings have struggled coming from sea level to the site conditions occurring at Waingake. Signs of this include seedling tops dying off or other aspects of canopy defoliation. In particular, species such as (the kohūhū has done reasonably well being a woodier species than say karamu, five finger and wineberry which has been knocked quite hard and are not as robust to withstand the strong winds and conditions particularly on exposed faces) larger-leaved species have suffered from shock when moved to the site.
- A practical draw-back of working with larger-graded seedlings required for enrichment planting is the seedlings are big and heavy and planted at a wide spacing. The planters can also only carry 25 plants in a box which does not last long before having to return for more seedlings. Wide spacing expands the area that planters need to transport the large seedlings over and they then need to return for more seedlings. This adds to the demand on labour.
- More than one year is likely to be needed between pioneer and enrichment phase planting in any one location³.
- The perennial exotic herb Lotus has been an issue at planting sites due to it competing with planted seedlings. Lotus has required manual control as it only tends to burn off later in summer. On slips it is somewhat positive as it achieves early cover, however, this might result in some competition with woody native establishment and it can be said that Lotus does not present favourable conditions for restoration sites (i.e., not recommended to be established deliberately to aid the native seedling establishment process).
- Planting has been carried out at scales which are overly demanding to keep up with weed releasing. Planning planting would be useful to scale against the ability to weed release rather than the ability to plant.

3

Site factors

- Strong winds are an issue for successful tree establishment on exposed sites. Seedlings can be thrashed by the wind and defoliated or the roots damaged.
- Wind and rain is limiting the ability to do chemical releasing meaning releasing has to be done manually, which adds to the demand on labour.

Benefits achieved and expected residual benefits

The Waingake restoration project is among the largest clear-fell restoration projects in New Zealand. At a time when land use appropriateness is under national and regional scrutiny, Waingake provides a highly relevant example of clear-fell restoration for Tairāwhiti and nationally. The combination of natural forest resilience and well executed management makes Waingake an important point of reference for large-scale restoration in New Zealand.

At a national scale, the Land Environments occurring at Waingake (Category 3) represent situations where only 20-30% of native cover is remaining, where indigenous biodiversity is much reduced, and where habitats are seriously fragmented. Restoration of such areas provide a clear benefit to biodiversity conservation and when conducted at large scales the significance of the restoration outcomes becomes relevant at both regional and national scales. Restoration at Waingake has the added dimension of benefiting, buffering and expanding the ecologically significant Waterworks Bush lowland podocarp-broadleaved old-growth forest remnant.

Waingake includes a number of wetland (mainly in gully floors) and freshwater ecosystems (Te Arai River, Nuhaka River, Mangapoike River, municipal water supply) and transitioning land use to permanent native forest provides clear benefits to these embedded ecosystems/resources.

Cyclones over the last several years, in particular Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023, have induced localised slips and land instability. These events have struck Waingake during the period of vulnerability following plantation clear-fell, where the land is at risk of induced instability from minimal levels of tree root systems. While a period of vulnerability is inevitable with clear-fell restoration, the project's management has optimised the early stages of forest regeneration and with time the developing native forests will have increasing benefits for soil conservation and stability.

The project has employed a range of people and provided opportunities for people involved to gain first-hand experience in forest restoration. The diverse nature of the restoration project has required the upskilling and formal training of staff. Nationally there are limited opportunities for people to work in professional roles in field-based native forest restoration and Waingake provides a significant exception to this gap in career

opportunities. The project has also been the subject of student research which has provided the opportunity to help shape those students career aspirations and pathways.

Analysis of gaps and issues, with recommendations

Active versus passive restoration, and assisted regeneration – Native tree planting has been driven by 1BT and ETS commitments for establishment of large numbers of native seedlings across clear-fells. However, this review has found that tree planting at Waingake is a demanding exercise with regard to sourcing adequate seed, seedling numbers and species, programming planting around harvest activities, and maintaining and monitoring planted seedlings. Further, in principle, it is not an efficient use of resources to plant to establish a native forest canopy (i.e., pioneer phase planting) when a native forest canopy will establish naturally with time, which has proven to be the case at Waingake. Plot surveys carried out across 0.5- 2-year-old clear-fells in 2021 recorded naturally established native tree species stem densities in clear-fells of 3,790 stems ha⁻¹ which is well in excess of the 955–1,485 stems ha⁻¹ density recorded in planted native stands at Waingake (PF Olsen, 2024).

It is recommended that beyond existing 1BT commitments, the restoration approach should take an Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)⁴ approach. Native tree planting at Waingake should be limited to targeted enrichment to reintroduce ecologically valuable or long-lived canopy species or pioneer planting only at sites which are naturally slow to regenerate such as ridge lines and upper north facing slopes. This change in scope will reduce many of the issues identified through this review (see items in the planning and funding and seedling supply and establishment sections above) and make continuation of the project more dependent on natural processes and therefore less resource intensive. Making the project less resource intensive will allow available resources to be focused on quality restoration outcomes such as ongoing browser culling, plant pest control, quality enrichment planting, and photopoint monitoring.

It is also recommended that the current practice of wide-spaced enrichment planting (450 stems ha⁻¹ or 4.8 × 4.8 m) should be replaced by seed island styled enrichment planting where ecologically valuable and long-lived canopy species are planted into existing vegetation cover to provide future seed sources for natural spread across the landscape (Fig. 4 A-C).

The network of seed islands should be planned spatially according to the location of existing cover (such as Makomako/Wineberry stands) and proximity to one another. Ideally seed islands would be around 100 m (edge to edge) from one another (based on likely future seed dispersal distances) but such a uniform arrangement is unrealistic, and the better approach is to assess opportunities on site and plan accordingly. Seed islands should be located in accessible locations and species should be matched to landform and microclimate

⁴ See information at: <https://www.anralliance.org>

conditions. Some modification of existing canopies might be required to optimise microclimate conditions for species specific requirements for shelter and light. The configuration of mature native forest should be factored into the seed island layout to reduce the need for islands.

Further advice on this practice such as scaling canopy gaps for microclimate optimisation and selecting species is freely available through my website. Be aware that contractors will require bespoke instructions and supervision as this style of planting is still little practiced nor understood on a commercial basis in New Zealand.

Animal pest control – In addition to ungulates (hooved animals), the following aspects of pest control would likely be beneficial:

- Scaling up possum control.
- Predator control (if resources are available to achieve outcomes at the scale required). A main benefit of predator control is to support components of biodiversity (e.g., populations of seed dispersing birds) which contribute to forest health and functionality. If carried out effectively, reduced predator densities opens up opportunities for reintroduction of a range of native fauna which are unable to maintain their populations in the presence of mammalian predators.

Sustained plant pest control – To eradicate key weed species or as a minimum maintain their populations at low levels of biomass. Key species to be concerned about are those that are shade tolerant or those that become structurally dominant. This includes ongoing control of wilding pines as the invasion naturally diminishes. All plant pest control should be carried out following methods that minimise disturbance as disturbed sites tend to create reinvasion sites for plant pests.

Research ideas – Waingake lends itself to the following research areas:

- Longitudinal studies of carbon sequestration in a native secondary succession,
- Empirical study of forest regeneration and successional development, including seed source functionality,
- Studies of bird ecology in a fragmented landscape.

Profile raising – Waingake is a leading example of landscape scale forest restoration in New Zealand and should be the subject of profile building and knowledge sharing. Some avenues for profile raising and knowledge sharing are:

Conference presentations –

- Wilding Pine Conference – <https://wildingpinenetwork.org.nz/wilding-pines-conference-2024/>

- New Zealand Ecological Society Conference – <https://newzealandecology.org/events/upcoming-meetings>
- Environmental Forestry – <https://innovatek.co.nz/event/environmental-forestry-2024/>

Other avenues –

- Ministry of Primary Industries – Case study for transitional forestry and landscape scale native forest restoration,
- Pure Advantage⁵ – Public article,
- Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) Alliance⁶ – Join and be the New Zealand representative on this global initiative to promote Waingake and ANR <https://www.anralliance.org>
- Public presentation and field-based open day aiming to share progress and learnings within Tairāwhiti, Hawke’s Bay, Bay of Plenty, and other adjacent regions. Could include Regional Councils, Catchment Groups, Farmers, Iwi Groups, Forestry Industry, Schools, Universities. Could be expanded to include other forest restoration/management topics within region or inter region.

⁵ Adam Forbes can help make this connection.

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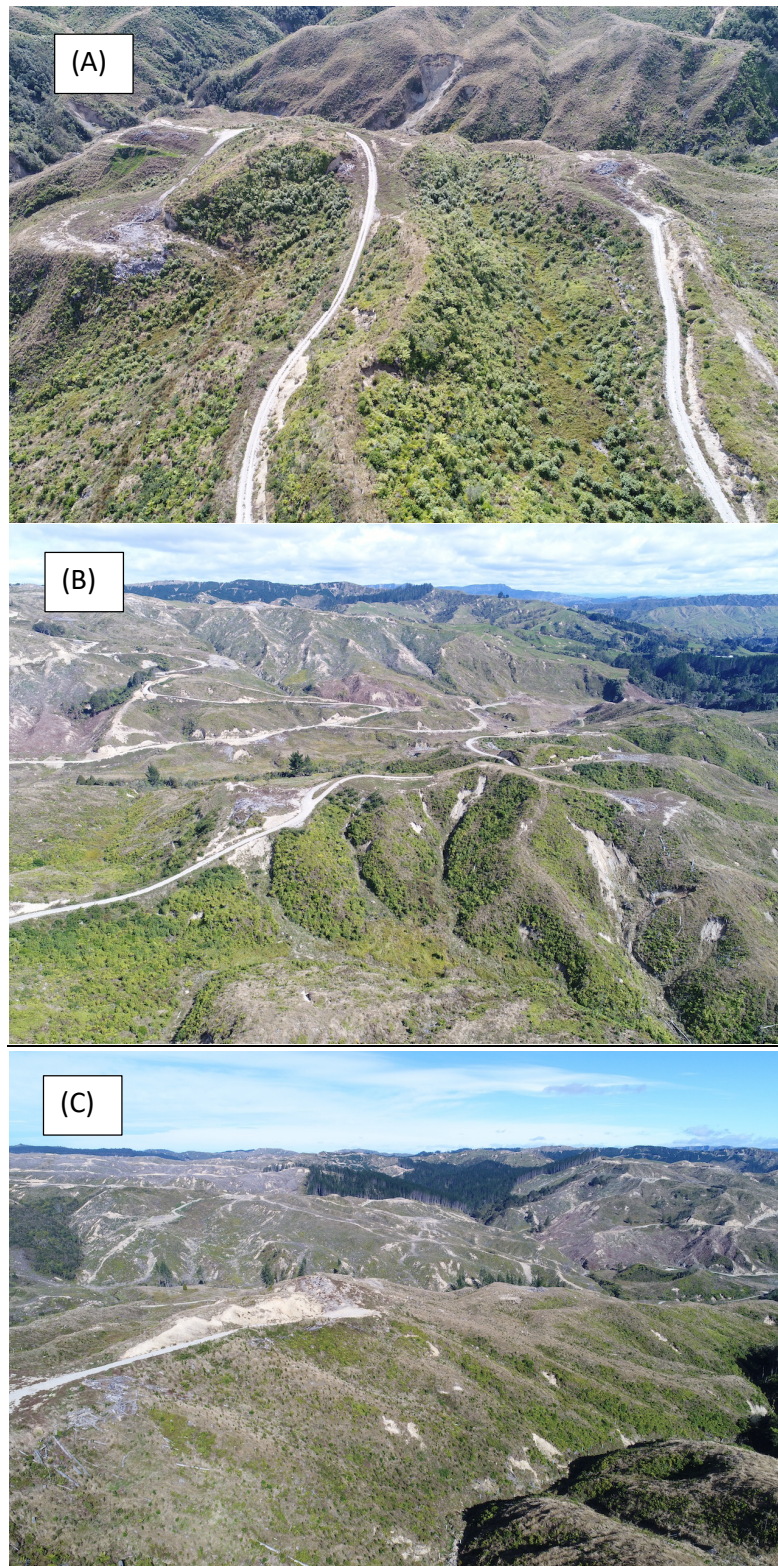


Figure 4 A–C. (A) Secondary forest on opposing faces – prime sites for introducing long-lived canopy trees to the secondary succession. (B) More examples of ideal sites for enrichment planting being accessible from above via the road. (C) Younger regeneration will present opportunities for more light demanding species. New secondary stands will become available with each year as regeneration advances.

CLOSING

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require further advice.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Adam Forbes
Director and Principal Ecologist
Forbes Ecology Limited

REFERENCES

Forbes, A. (2021). Te Waingake Ngāhere Restoration Strategy and Monitoring Plan. Contract report prepared for Gisborne District Council by Te Kura Ngāhere / New Zealand School of Forestry.

PF Olsen. (2024). Gisborne District Councils Pamoā Forest – Native Survival Data Report. PF Olsen Ltd.

11. Public Excluded Business

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION and MEETINGS ACT 1987

That:

1. The public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes

Item 4.1 Confirmation of the Confidential Minutes 7 November 2024

Public Excluded Business

Item 11.1 25-99 Parks & Open Spaces Maintenance Contract

Item 11.2 25-100 Arborculture Panel Procurement Plan

2. This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item 4.1	7(2)(i)	Enable any Council holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
Item 4.1, 11.1 & 11.2	7(2)(b)(ii)	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.