

AGENDA/KAUPAPA



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

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAIAO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee

DATE: Tuesday 18 November 2025

TIME: 9:00AM

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

AGENDA – OPEN SECTION

1. Apologies.....	3
2. Declarations of Interest	3
3. Governance Work Plan	3
3.1. Governance Work Plan.....	4
4. Leave of Absence	4
5. Acknowledgements and Tributes.....	4
6. Public Input and Petitions	4
7. Extraordinary Business.....	4
8. Notices of Motion	4
9. Adjourned Business.....	4
10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION	5
10.1. 25-219 Lease Application Uawa Sports Club	5
10.2. 25-251 Allocation of the 2026 Round of the Natural Heritage Fund	14
11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION	33
11.1. 25-275 Uawa Reserve Remediation	33
11.2. 25-257 Environment & Communities - Land, Rivers & Coastal	39

Environment & Communities

Reports to:	Council
Chairperson:	Cr Debbie Gregory
Deputy Chairperson:	
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. Governance Work Plan

3.1. Governance Work Plan

2025 Environment & Communities						Meeting Dates				
2025 Environment & Communities	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	18-Feb	10-Apr	5-Jun	26-Aug	18-Nov
Liveable Communities	Other	25-251 Allocation of the Natural Heritage Fund	To approve the allocation of the 2026 round of the NHF.	Decision (D)	Mel Cheetham					
Community Lifelines		Community Lifelines LRC	To provide an update to the Committee about the following - Land Rivers and Coastal;	Information (I)	Tim Barry/Joss Ruifrok					
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	25-219 Lease Application Uawa Sports Club	The paper is seeking a decision on the application from Uawa Sports Club Incorporated for a new land only lease for their existing clubrooms on Uawa Domain, Tolaga Bay.	Decision (D)	Chris Visser					
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	25-275 Uawa Reserve Remediation	To update Council on the progress of remediation of the beachfront Uawa Reserve.	Information (I)	Natalie Waihi					

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

25-219

Title: 25-219 Lease Application Uawa Sports Club
Section: Liveable Communities
Prepared by: Chris Visser – Principal Community Assets and Partnerships Advisor
Meeting Date: Tuesday 18 November 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to request a decision of the Committee on the application from **Uawa Sports Club Incorporated** (USC) for a new land only lease for their existing clubrooms on Uawa Domain, Tolaga Bay.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

USC's original lease for Rugby Clubrooms on Uawa Domain (Recreation Reserve) was granted in 1985 by the Cook County Council. That lease has expired.

USC have applied for a new long-term lease for their clubrooms, as described below.

This report recommends to **Approve in Principle**, subject to the outcome of public notification, the granting of a new lease to Uawa Sports Club Incorporated pursuant to section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Should the granting of a new lease be Approved in Principle, Gisborne District Council's (Council) **Intention to Grant a Lease** will be notified for public comment as required by the Reserves Act 1977. Any objections received on the proposal to grant a lease will be bought back to Council for further consideration.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

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

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

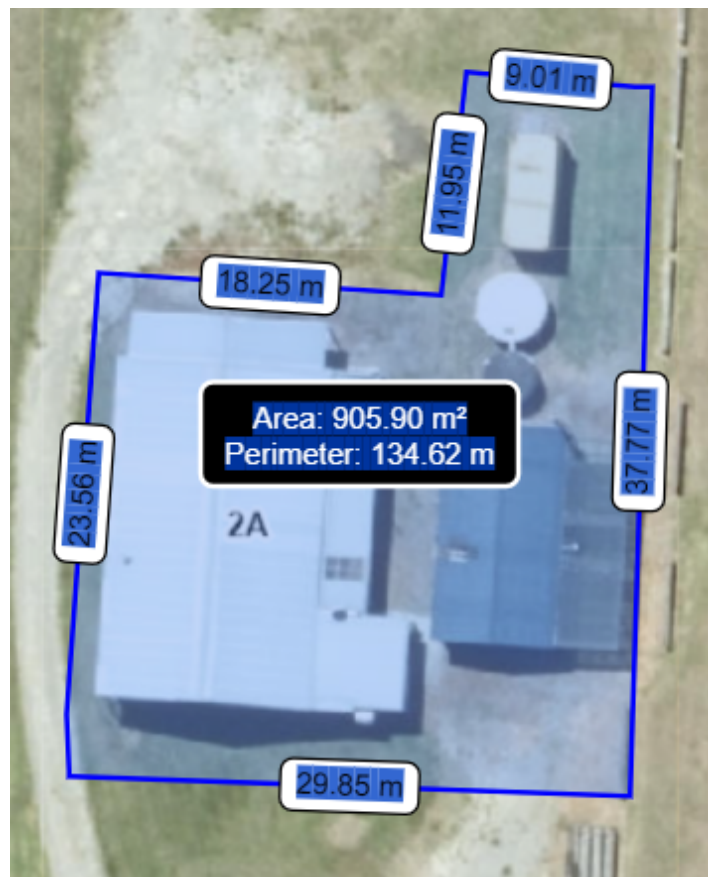
Authorised by:

Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: lease, Uawa Sports Club,

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. Uawa Sports Club Incorporated was formed in the mid 1970's. The club provides facilities and support to a number of sports groups within the Uawa Community, including rugby. They advise they also provide volunteer personnel and facilities to the wider community in times of need, for example having assisted with the rollout of COVID vaccination programmes and provided community support during Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle.
2. The Clubroom was built in 1985 and has had several renovations and upgrades in that time.
3. The land under application is part Blk III TN OF Tolaga Bay, 2a Cook Street, known as Uawa Domain. The land is Recreation Reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977.
4. A Lease could be granted pursuant to section 54 of the Reserves Act 1977.
5. The Area under application is approximately 905.90m², as shown on the site plan below.



6. The area contains the Clubroom, Storage Shed, and water tanks owned by the Club. The Clubroom contains toilets which are maintained by Council and are available to the users of the clubroom and the domain while games and events are hosted by the club.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

Term Sought

7. USC have applied for a lease term of 100 years. The maximum term allowable however, under the Reserves Act is 33 years.

Reserves Act Considerations

8. Uawa Domain is Recreation Reserve to be managed pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. Section 17 (1) of the Reserves Act prescribes the general purposes of Recreation Reserves:

It is hereby declared that the appropriate provisions of this Act shall have effect, in relation to reserves classified as recreation reserves, for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.

9. The continuation of a Sports Clubroom supporting the sports use of the Reserves is consistent with the purpose of the Reserve.

Sports Park Management Plan 2015

10. The Sports Park Management Plan 2015 notes the fields at Uawa Domain as having 'Community Level' Category – i.e. – '*Sports surfaces and facilities are appropriate for community level competition*'.

11. Section 3.4.1 (Leases) of the Sports Park Management Plan 2015 states:

3.4.1 **Leases:** Leases will only be permitted under the following conditions:

- Council's satisfaction with the lessee's performance;
- the exclusive use of part of the reserve is necessary to support a sporting or recreational activity that is complementary to the purpose and function of the reserve;
- the lease provides for the sport and recreation needs of a significant proportion of the local community;
- the potential lessee is responsible for the maintenance of the leased area consistent with Council's maintenance standard and an appropriate level of insurance as defined in the lease agreement;
- the purpose of the lease would be the most appropriate use of that site;
- the lease area is subject to redevelopment;
- the lease promotes equitable support and provision for all codes; and/or
- the lease is the most cost-effective way of providing for community needs for sport and recreation facilities.

Granting of a lease does not constitute an automatic right of renewal.

Discussion: A lease grants exclusive use over an area of a reserve and excludes the public. The needs of local communities should take precedence over those of specific organisations. Council will negotiate leases for the sites of buildings and sporting activities with sports club or organisations in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 (section 54 and the provisions under Schedule One) unless the reserve does not have status under the Reserves Act, in which case the lease would be processed under the Local Government Act 2002. See Section 1.3 'Council's Sports Parks' identifies those parks that are 'reserves' under the Reserves Act 1977.

Lease arrangements should demonstrate consistent and equitable support from Council across codes consistent with participation numbers and levels of play.

12. The Clubroom and sports activities carried out by USC are consistent with the provisions of the Reserve Management Plan.

Effects of the Activity

13. The effects of the activity (Clubroom and associated facilities) are known and there are no adverse effects of the activity. USC provide a positive service to the Uawa Community and users of the Domain.
14. Council's standard lease conditions require buildings to be appropriately maintained and insured by the owner.
15. Letters of support for issue of a new lease have been received from Hauiti Marae Committee and Te Aitanga a Hauiti Centre of Excellence (attached).

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA NGĀ HIRANGA

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: Medium Significance

This Report: Medium Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

17. USC has directly engaged with their local hapu and has provided letters of support for their application from both Hauiti Marae Committee and Te Aitanga a Hauiti Centre of Excellence (attached).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

18. Should Council Committee approve in principle the grant of a new lease, the Intention to grant the lease will be notified for public submission as required under the Reserves Act 1977.
19. Should submitters request to be heard on the proposal, a Hearing will be arranged and submissions heard by Council Hearing Committee.

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

20. There are no climate change impacts / implications arising from potential re-issue of a lease.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

21. Lease fees will be set as per the process in Council's Community Occupancy Policy approved in September 2023 and available on the Gisborne District Council website; [Community-Occupancy-Policy-Sept-2023.pdf](#).

Legal

22. The application for lease is subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

23. As noted above, the clubrooms are considered to be consistent with the provisions of the Sports Park Management Plan 2015.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

24. There are no major risks associated with the matters in this report.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
18 November 2025	Council Committee Decision to Approve in Principle (subject to the outcome of public notification) the grant of a new Lease.	
19 November 2025 – 19 December 2025	Intention to Grant lease publicly notified.	Submission period 20 working days
December 2025 – January 2026	Analysis/Hearing of submissions/objections if required.	Hearing Panel (Panel of Councillors) would need to convene to hear and consider submissions and put subsequent recommendation to full meeting of Council.
January – February 2026	Lease decided.	By meeting of Council (if submissions/objections have been received)

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Uawa Sports Club Lease - Hauiti Marae Support Letter [**25-219.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 - Support of USC Lease Renewal - Te Aitanga a Hauiti Centre of Excellence [**25-219.2** - 1 page]



Haiti Marae Committee
Haiti Road
Uawa – Tolaga Bay

14 July 2025

Gisborne District Council
15 Fitzherbert Street
Gisborne 4010
Tēnā koutou,

Re: Letter of Support – Lease for Uawa Sports Club Incorporated

On behalf of the Haiti Marae Committee, we write in full support of the lease for Uawa Sports Club Incorporated.

The Uawa Sports Club is a valued community asset in Tolaga Bay. It plays a vital role in our rohe, supporting not only Uawa JAB and senior rugby but also hosting a range of important community events. These include birthday celebrations, whānau gatherings, Civil Defence information days, Matariki celebrations, and many other kaupapa that contribute to the wellbeing and cohesion of our community.

The facility is managed with dedication and care by the Uawa Sports Club, who ensure it remains accessible, safe, and welcoming for all. Its continued operation is essential to the social, cultural, and sporting life of Uawa.

We strongly support the renewal of the lease to Uawa Sports Club Incorporated and acknowledge the positive contribution they continue to make to our wider community.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Christopher R. Marsh

Chris Marsh
Chairperson
Haiti Marae Committee
contactchrismarsh@gmail.com

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Te Aitanga a Hauiti Centre of Excellence
47-49 Cook Street
Tolaga Bay 4077

Te Aitanga a Hauiti Centre of Excellence Trust

47-49 Cook Street

06 862 6777

admin.office@hauticoe.org.nz

Date: 4 Aug 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Support for Uawa Sports Club Lease

On behalf of the Te Aitanga a Hauiti Centre of Excellence, I write in support of the Uawa Sports Club's lease renewal.

The club is a vital part of our community, supporting hauora, wellbeing, and whanaungatanga. It plays an important role in strengthening our sense of identity and belonging — from tamariki through to pakeke — providing a space to connect and show pride in who we are, both on and off the field.

We fully support the continuation of the lease and acknowledge the club's ongoing commitment to the Uawa people.

Nāku noa, nā

Maui Tangohau

Chairman of Te Aitanga a Hauiti Centre of Excellence Trust

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maui Tangohau'.

Title: 25-251 Allocation of the 2026 Round of the Natural Heritage Fund
Section: Integrated Catchments
Prepared by: Melanie Cheetham - Senior Regional Biodiversity Advisor
Meeting Date: Tuesday 18 November 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to make recommendations on the allocation of the 2026 round of the Natural Heritage Fund.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The Natural Heritage Fund is an annual fund available to assist biodiversity-related projects on private land. For the 2025/26 financial year, \$100,000 is available for allocation to projects.

Thirty-one funding applications were received this year, requesting a combined total of just over \$333,000. Applications were assessed using the Gisborne District Council Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet, which considers the social, cultural and environmental attributes and gains of a project.

Based on this assessment, and operating within the financial limitations of the fund, staff recommend allocating funding to 19 projects.

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

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

Authorised by:

Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: Biodiversity projects, Natural Heritage Fund,

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) was set up in 2012 to replace the Natural Heritage Rates Remission Policy.
2. The NHF offers financial assistance to private landowners and community groups to protect or enhance indigenous biodiversity on their land. The NHF recognises and supports the positive contribution landowners make to retaining and enhancing biodiversity values as guardians/kaitiaki of their land.
3. The NHF has been used to fund initiatives such as fencing areas of existing biodiversity value to exclude stock or ungulate browsers, purchase traps and baits for pest control, controlling noxious or exotic weeds in new restoration planting and existing ecosystems and to procure indigenous plants for new planting projects.
4. In every funding round since its inception, the amounts requested from the NHF have far exceeded the extent of funding available. There is currently \$100,000 per annum available for allocation through the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP).
5. Demand for funds continues to exceed the NHF allocation. This year, Council received thirty-one applications, requesting a combined total of just over \$333,000. This is similar to last year, when thirty-six applications were received. This demonstrates a consistent level of interest and demand from the community for investment in biodiversity.
6. Applications were assessed using the "Gisborne District Council Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet" (the ranking sheet), introduced in 2025. The ranking sheet and the development process behind it was presented and approved by the Operations Committee on 6th June 2024. [Report 24-118 Update on the NHF Assessment Process Review.](#)
7. This year saw a slight change in the catchments most represented in number of applications received. In recent years, most applications came from the Motu, Waimata and Waipaoa catchments. This year, interest from the Waipaoa and Waimata/Pakarāe catchments remained strong, with an increase in interest from the Waiapu catchment.
8. The table below shows the total number of applications received by catchment for the 2026 funding round vs 2025:

Table 1: Number of NHF applications received by catchment area:

Catchment	No. of applications 2026	No. of applications 2025
Waipaoa	13	14
Waimata/Pakarāe	9	9
Waiapu	4	0
Motu	2	3
Uawa	1	3
Northern	1	2
Southern	1	5
Total	31	36

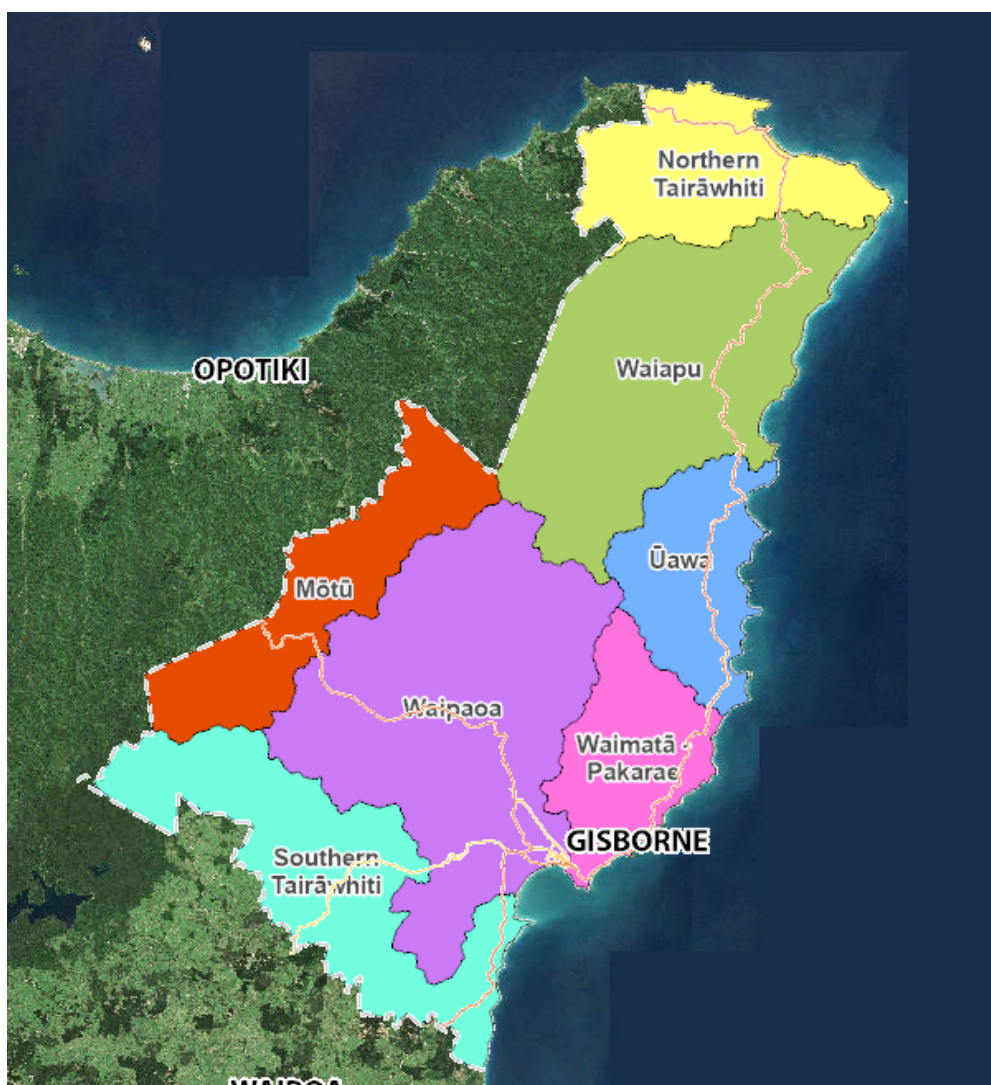


Figure 1: Freshwater catchments map

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

9. Applications needed to be submitted in writing by 20 August 2025. A total of 31 applications were received. Applications were assessed against the eligibility criteria and were scored using the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet (**Attachment 1**).
10. It is recommended that the top-scoring 19 projects are allocated funding. These projects and the amounts to be allocated are outlined briefly in Table 2. A detailed description of each project is included in **Attachment 2**.
11. One of the applications received was unable to be assessed and scored, due to outstanding rates on the property (see **Attachment 3** for eligibility criteria).
12. The remaining 11 eligible projects will not receive any funding, due to the exhaustion of available funds. Where projects receive the same or similar scores, the priority ranking of the project and the need to support a diverse range of projects across the community is also taken into consideration.

13. The amount of funding allocated to each project is variable and influenced by several factors, including the scale and nature of the project and any other sources of funding. Projects that partner with other external funding providers such as QEII National Trust, Nga Whenua Rahui, Trees that Count and Trees for Survival offer improved project outcomes for less cost to the landowner.
14. There is no minimum funding amount that can be requested. Applicants may request up to 50% of total project costs for the coming year, to a maximum of \$20,000. Multi-year projects are supported where funds allow, but applicants must re-apply each year.
15. Applicants are required to provide a budget breakdown and relevant quotes to justify their projected costs. These budgets are scrutinised during the assessment process to ensure that all costs being claimed fit within the criteria of the fund.
16. Where any listed expenses are found not to be eligible for funding (i.e., maintenance of existing fences or projected loss of income due to retiring land from grazing), then those expenses will be removed from the amount requested.
17. The over-subscription of the NHF and the need to support a diverse range of projects across the community may result in some applicants being offered a lesser amount than requested.
18. Where applicants are offered a lesser amount than requested, they are consulted accordingly. Applicants may choose to fund the additional project costs themselves, and/or seek funding through other sources, or extend their project timeframes. This ensures the successful outcome of projects within the limitations of the fund.

Table 2- Projects recommended to receive funding

	Applicant	Location	Purpose	Score	Allocated funding
1	Toby Williams	Pihitia Station - Whangara	Pest control- Establish a network of traps and monitoring tunnels in QEII covenant as part of a comprehensive educational pest control programme in partnership with Gisborne Boy's High School.	180	\$3,500
2	Kaiaponi Orchards	Taurau Valley Road- Manutuke	Planting- Habitat creation and enhancement through planting of indigenous species at a known inanga spawning location.	180	\$2,500
3	Sue Renner	Ohuka Farm- Otoko	Fencing & planting- Stage 3 of project fencing large area of significant indigenous vegetation to exclude stock and goats and enhance vegetated area through extensive planting.	180	\$8,000
4	Rangiata Ahu Whenua Trust	East Cape Road- Te Araroa	Pest control- Establish a trap network within Nga Whenua Rahui covenanted area on Rangiata Station.	175	\$8,000
5	Richard Busby	Makorori Station- Makarori	Fencing- Erect deer fencing around 3 areas of significant indigenous vegetation.	175	\$8,000
6	Mark Geuze	Willows Road- Matawhero	Wetland restoration- Weed control and habitat enrichment through planting of appropriate indigenous plant species on the margins of the regionally significant Maungarongo o Te Kooti wetland reserve.	175	\$7,000
7	Whinray Eco-Trust	Marumoko Road- Motu	Pest control- Purchase and deploy DOC200 double-set traps and rat & possum bait to complement existing landscape-scale trap network.	175	\$6,000
8	Nicola Carter	Cave Road- Waimata	Pest control- Establish a trap network within QEII covenanted bush block.	170	\$6,000
9	Casey Tapara	Te Wherowhero lagoon- Muriwai	Planting- Establish indigenous plants and undertake weed control around newly planted area at Te Wherowhero lagoon.	170	\$3,000
10	Diane Menzies	Waingake Road- Manutuke	Planting- Purchase and plant an additional 2,000 indigenous plants to establish new area of indigenous vegetation.	160	\$5,000
11	Sarah Williams	Turihaua Station- Pouawa	Wetland restoration- Weed control and habitat enrichment through planting of appropriate indigenous plant species. Stage 2 of a multi-year project.	160	\$6,000

	Applicant	Location	Purpose	Score	Allocated funding
12	Guy & Sarah Thompson	Campbell Road, Ngatapa	Planting- Habitat creation and enhancement through riparian planting in partnership with Trees for Survival and Ngatapa and Patutahi Schools.	160	\$4,000
13	Te Maori Trustee	Rangitukia Road- Ruatoria	Planting- Supplementary planting to increase species diversity in a regenerating area of secondary indigenous vegetation.	160	\$3,000
14	Nati Properties Ltd	Sponge Bay- Gisborne City	Planting- Establish new area of indigenous vegetation on former grazing land within the urban boundary.	155	\$5,000
15	Maranui Station	Ormond Valley Road- Ormond	Fencing & Planting- Erect conventional fence along waterway and plant indigenous species in collaboration with Trees for Survival and Ormond school.	150	\$5,000
16	Kate Williams Thorpe	Maungarongo wetland- Matawhero	Wetland restoration- Undertake weed control to protect newly planted area on the margins of the Te Maungarongo o Te kooti wetland reserve. Final stage of a 3-year project.	150	\$2,000
17	Pakihiroa Farms Ltd	Pakihiroa Station- Ruatoria	Fencing & Planting- Retire a 20-hectare culturally significant area at the base of Maunga Hikurangi from pastoral farming and undertake supplementary planting of indigenous species.	150	\$6,000
18	Mike Miller	Dryden Street- Gisborne City	Fencing- Erect deer fence along riparian area containing recovering secondary indigenous vegetation currently accessible to stock.	150	\$7,000
19	Frank Mead	Waimata Valley Road- Waimata	Fencing & Pest Control- Erect stock-proof fence around 4ha of regenerating secondary indigenous vegetation currently accessible to stock. Purchase 6 auto-traps to control possums.	150	\$5,000

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

19. 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

20. The NHF supports tangata whenua to exercise governance and decision-making on their own land through offering assistance for the protection and enhancement of te taiao and particularly taonga species.
21. Applications are received from private landowners, and as such, there is no designated co-governance or co-management body that needs to consider the decision.

Rangatiratanga

22. The health of freshwater and te taiao is important to tangata whenua and is part of their aspirations for their rohe. The projects supported by the NHF will contribute to improve water quality and ecosystem health through the protection of waterbodies and existing habitats, and by planting and protecting indigenous vegetation.
23. For those who are successful, funding can provide resourcing and support for tangata whenua to lead their own projects and incorporate their mātauranga into project design and execution.

Oritetanga

24. Staff recognised that there was a historically low uptake of the NHF incentive on whenua Māori. A new assessment matrix was developed last year to recognise applications from iwi/hapu groups and from catchments with a high proportion of whenua Māori through the priority ranking in the new scoring system. Targeted efforts to raise awareness of the potential opportunities offered by the NHF to Māori landowners will continue to be a focus for the biodiversity team.

Whakapono

25. The NHF respects the role of tangata whenua as kaitiakitanga in the management of natural resources. Tangata whenua customs and practices related to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity values are recognised. The funding criteria enables the application of different world views, customs and tikanga in project design and implementation. Additionally, the ranking sheet affords a score for "creating connections"- a consideration of how a project might enable the connection of the people to the land/whenua.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

26. There has not been any tangata whenua/Māori engagement in relation to funding allocation decisions under the NHF. Applications are open to all landholders, including iwi and hapu groups. Applicants are encouraged to undertake their own independent iwi engagement/ consultation where relevant as part of their project development.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

27. The NHF has been promoted through the Council's website, social media and in Council's former rural-focused digital e-newsletter Panui Taiao. The media release for the opening of applications was promoted on local radio (More FM community announcements) along with an article in the Gisborne Herald. Council staff also promote the fund through advocacy when engaging with landowners.

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

28. The nature of the projects supported by the NHF will have a positive impact on climate change mitigation through the establishment of new plantings, improvement of water quality and the restoration and rehabilitation of existing natural areas. Mature indigenous vegetation and healthy wetland ecosystems are an excellent resource for carbon sequestration.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

29. The funding recommended in this report will use \$100,000 allocated to the NHF for the 2025/26 financial year.

Legal

30. There are no legal implications associated with the NHF.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

31. The allocation of the fund to private landowners will contribute to an environmentally sustainable Tairāwhiti by allowing for the preservation and protection of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems in the region. This is consistent with Council's policies and plans.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

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

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
Dec 2025	Notify applicants of funding allocation decisions and draw up contracts.	
2026	Monitor progress of projects and process payments.	
Aug 2026	Report on status of projects allocated funding in the 2025 round of the NHF.	

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1- Gisborne District Council Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet [25-251.1 - 2 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - NHF Project descriptions 2026 [25-251.2 - 7 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - NHF Funding eligibility criteria [25-251.3 - 1 page]

Gisborne District Council Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet

Project Priority Score					
First Priority	Second Priority	Third priority	Fourth Priority	Fifth Priority	
Score 20	Score 15	Score 10	Score 5	Score 0	
Areas providing habitat for or containing rare or threatened species*, identified wetlands (GWA Morphum 2022 or schedule G17 of TRMP), existing QEII, NWR and PMAs. Protection/restoration of scheduled waterbodies listed G15(A-C) or G18 of the TRMP. Vegetation associated with land environments that have 20% or less remaining in indigenous cover**	Proposed new QEII or NWR covenants, significant established vegetation or any remnant primary forest outside of PMA, PMA/covenant buffer areas, linkages & corridors, coastal environment, non-mapped wetlands and community/iwi led projects.	Projects within Outstanding Landscape overlay, Riparian restoration (of waterbodies not scheduled in G15A-C or G18 of TRMP), highly visible or publicly accessible areas, community/iwi led projects, urban biodiversity and any other projects in Group A catchments*** that do not meet Priority 1 or 2 criteria	All other eligible projects unless fall under Priority 5 definition.	Any projects from applicants who have received funding for last 3 years or more consecutively. Multiple applications from the same applicant not identified as the No.1 application.	*Listed as Nationally critical, endangered, vulnerable or increasing in the NZTCS **Project is for protection/enhancement of existing indigenous vegetation in an area mapped as having <20% indigenous cover left in the Threatened Environment Classification 2012 (DOC National Priority 1 in "Protecting our places") Check project area on: https://ourenvironment.scinfo.org.nz/maps-and-tools/app/Habitats/lenztec ***Group A catchments are: Wharekahika/Waikura, Waipapu and Uawa
Project Impact and planning					
Criteria	LOW 5 points	MEDIUM 10 points	HIGH 15 points	Comments to support score	Score
Best Practice	The project will involve a practice / process that's success is not well documented with an unknown outcome.	The project outlines good practices and methods in most cases but may not be the best option for the site.	The project utilises best practice that is appropriate for the site, is well planned out and does not go against relevant regional or national strategies.		
Project design and measurable objectives	The project does not have well thought out project design and there are no measurable objectives.	The project design is appropriate for the site but the measurable objectives or expected outcomes are not well defined or project outline is vague	The project design and delivery is credible and appropriate for a project of this size. The application demonstrates measurable objectives, with appropriate and well-defined milestones and / or expected outcomes.		
Ongoing maintenance/protection	There is no information given regarding any plans for ongoing, active or long-term protection or maintenance of the project	There may be some ongoing long-term commitment to project i.e., pest & weed control but this could be isolated/patchy, or details are not well defined	There is a detailed plan outlining long-term commitment to maintaining the project through property-wide pest or weed control/monitoring or reasons are given why this will not be required		
Quality of application	The application lacks detail and critical information is missing	All relevant information is supplied along with a minimum of one quote	The application provides significant detail and includes maps, photographs and relevant quotes		
Engagement with GDC	Application was submitted with no prior discussion	Application was discussed with staff	Staff conducted a site visit prior to or during application process. Project may form part of an approved erosion control plan		
Funding Partnerships	The project will not allow for a potential partnership between the applicant, Council and other funding providers to ensure the project succeeds.	The project could allow for some potential partnerships between the applicant, Council and other funding providers to ensure the project succeeds but this has not been initiated.	The project will create a partnership between the applicant, Council and other funding providers to ensure the project succeeds.		

Connectivity of our people					
Criteria	LOW 5 points	MEDIUM 10 points	HIGH 15 points	Comments to support score	Score
Creating connections	The project is unlikely to connect the landowner(s) with the environment/whenua. The landowner has limited or no participation in the project. Project is being managed by a third party.	The project somewhat connects the landowner(s) and with the environment/whenua. The landowner(s) will be involved in executing the project.	This project connects the landowner(s) with the environment/whenua. The landowner(s) demonstrate significant personal commitment to the success of the project.		
Attitude and behavioural change	The project is unlikely to aid in any positive environmental attitude or behavioural change. There is unlikely to be any public awareness or connection of people/community to the environment/whenua from the proposal.	The project will aid in minor positive environmental attitude and behavioural change. There may be some public awareness of the environmental issue that is being addressed.	There is an opportunity to create positive environmental attitude and behavioural change. This includes increased public awareness of issues, reconnecting people to care and stewardship / kaitiaki of the environment and/or their whenua.		
Catchment group and plan alignment	There is no catchment group or plan, or catchment group is not aware of or supportive of project.	There may be catchment group awareness and/or support. Project may align with group or catchment plan objectives, but this is unclear.	The project is actively supported by catchment group and/or demonstrates alignment with goals/objectives of a catchment plan.		
Community participation	The will be no community participation in the project.	The will be some community participation in the project.	This project encourages community participation.		
Applicant Capacity and value for money					
Criteria	LOW 5 points	MEDIUM 10 points	HIGH 15 points	Comments to support score	Score
Technical capability	It is unlikely that the applicant has the correct technical skills or has not proposed to use contractors with the correct skills to ensure the project is successful.	The applicant has some technical skills or is proposing to use a provider / contractor that is likely to have some of the right technical skills.	The applicant has demonstrated through previous similar work that they have the right technical skills or are using a provider / contractor with the right technical skills.		
Good return on investment	The project has limited value (economic, social or environmental) for the outcomes that the applicant stated they would deliver, and the risks associated with the project are high and unlikely to be mitigated.	The project has some value (economic, social or environmental) for the outcomes that the applicant stated they would deliver but the proposal does not adequately address the risks that could occur.	The project shows good value (economic, social or environmental) for the outcomes that the applicant stated they would deliver. This assessment includes whether the proposal takes into account and adequately mitigates any risks associated with the project.		
Project budget	The project costs are unreasonable and unfeasible for the likely benefits of the project. Applicant has not provided sufficient explanation of costs or has not sought best prices.	The project budget is somewhat financially feasible but does not demonstrate best value for money. Costs are vague or estimated.	The project budget is financially feasible for the work proposed, and the project costs are reasonable. Budget is detailed and shows evidence of seeking best value.		
Project resilience- Extreme weather events	The project is in an area considered to be highly likely to be susceptible to damage from extreme weather events and there is little consideration given to mitigation measures to protect the investment in the project	The project is in an area that may be subject to damage from extreme weather events, however consideration has been given to effects mitigation i.e., plant species that can survive moderate inundation or fence lines are located away from flood zones or slips- or designed to withstand low to moderate inundation (i.e., 2 strand hotwire with no battens).	The project is unlikely to suffer significant impacts or losses from extreme weather events.		
Total Score					

Attachment 2- Project descriptions

1. Toby Williams- Pihitea Station- Whangara

Project outline- Toby Williams is undertaking a pest control and monitoring project within a 14ha QEII covenanted bush block on his property in partnership with Gisborne Boy's High School. Senior high school trapping students are involved with planning, installing and servicing the traps, as well as undertaking monitoring of pest populations. A small trial project with 7 traps, targeting possums, stoats and rats has already been established in the block, and the landowner and the school are seeking funding to extend the trap network within the covenant. An additional 50 traps (DOC200s, KAT traps and Trapinators) will be purchased and deployed, along with tracking tunnels for monitoring. Students will regularly service the traps and enter trapping data onto the TrapNZ website.

Score- This project received a score of 180 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$3,500** towards the purchase of traps, baits, tunnels and associated costs.

2. Kaiaponi Farms Ltd - Manutuke

Project outline- Kaiaponi Farms Ltd are seeking funding to continue a habitat enrichment and planting project at a known inanga spawning location on their Taurau Valley Road property. The area has already been fenced for stock exclusion and planting and weed control has been undertaken at the site since 2006. The owners are now proposing to plant an additional 730 native plants, predominantly wetland species, along the stream/wetland area which is adjacent to the old Te Arai river loop. The project is partnered with Rongowhakaata iwi and the Mountains to Sea Trust.

Score- This project received a score of 180 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$2,500** towards the procurement of plants, site preparation and weed control.

3. Sue Renner- Ohuka Farm- Otoko

Project outline- Sue Renner of Ohuka Farm is in Year 3 of a project converting 3.4ha of farmland into a native sanctuary. The area includes a stand of remnant primary forest and was deer fenced in 2024 to exclude stock access and goat browsing and had 8700 native plants established in 2024 and 2025, with help from the NHF. Stage 3 of the project is proposing to establish a further 7,500 native plants within the fenced area and purchase 14 possum traps (Timms & AT220) auto-traps) to protect the growing trees. This will be the final year of funding for this project.

Score- This project received a score of 180 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$8,000** towards the procurement of plants and possum traps.

4. Rangiatea Ahu Whenua Trust- Rangiatea Station- Te Araroa

Project outline- The Rangiatea Ahu Whenua Trust are seeking funding to help establish a trap network within their Nga Whenua Rahui (NWR) covenanted area on Rangiatea Station on East Cape Road. The Trust is proposing to deploy and service an additional 140 traps (DOC 200s, Flipping Timmy and Goodnature A24) throughout the 330ha NWR covenant. Rangiatea is a place of outstanding natural beauty (identified as an outstanding landscape area in the TRMP) and is home to populations of nationally critical threatened species of flora and fauna. The ngahere is under increasing pressure from predators. The owners have identified an urgent need to upscale their predator control practices to restore and protect this significant tāonga.

Score- This project received a score of 175 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$8,000** towards the purchase of traps, lure and monitoring tools.

5. Richard Busby- Makorori Station- Makorori

Project outline- Richard Busby of Makorori Station is proposing to erect deer fencing around 3 areas of significant indigenous vegetation on his property. Livestock and deer currently have access to these areas, resulting in a decimated understory which will lead to the eventual collapse of these ecosystems. This project aims to fully enclose a total of 5.5ha of secondary indigenous vegetation to exclude all livestock and feral deer, and begin the process of regeneration.

Score- This project received a score of 175 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$8,000** towards the purchase of fencing materials and associated labour.

6. Mark Geuze- Riverpoint Road- Matawhero

Project outline- Mark Geuze has undertaken extensive weed removal and restoration work at his Riverpoint and Willows Road orchards on the margins of the regionally significant 48ha Te Maungarongo o Te Kooti Rikirangi wetland reserve over recent years. Mark is now seeking to further expand this work on a new property which also shares its boundary with the wetland. The wetland is under threat from invasive weeds such as willow and blackberry which have become prolific within and around the margins of the site. This project aims to remove exotic weeds from the wetland margins and plant approximately 15,000 native species. The project will partner with the wider Te Maungarongo o Te Kooti Rikirangi Wetland Restoration Project and Trees That Count to assist with sourcing plants.

Score- This project received a score of 175 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$7,000** towards weed control, site preparation and the procurement of plants.

7. Whinray Ecological Charitable-Trust- Motu

Project outline- Whinray Eco-Trust are seeking funding to help expand their trap network in the Motu area on a private property which is adjacent to the Whinray Scenic reserve. Whinray Reserve and the wider Motu area is home to many endangered bird species including North-Island brown kiwi, North Island robin, whio and fernbird. The Whinray Ecological Charitable Trust has been managing the pest control program within the Motu valley since 1999 and will continue to manage this project.

Score- This project received a score of 175 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$6,000** towards the purchase of 40 x DOC 200 double-set traps and baits.

8. Nicola Carter- Cave Road- Waimata

Project outline- Nicola Carter and Guido Haag have recently acquired a property in Cave Road with a large area of indigenous forest which is protected under a QEII covenant. The property shares a boundary with the Waikereru Eco-Sanctuary and the Cave Road Protection Management Area (PMA), both of which have significant ecological values. The property has had little pest control work undertaken in recent years and as a result has high pest numbers which are affecting the health of the ecosystem. The owners plan to establish a trapline through purchasing and installing 10 x AT220 auto-traps for the more remote and difficult to access areas and 20 x DOC200 double-set traps for the more accessible areas of the property. This project will complement the extensive pest control work that is being undertaken at Waikereru and Longbush Eco-Sanctuary.

Score- This project received a score of 170 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$6,000** towards the purchase of traps and associated costs.

9. Casey Tapara (for the owners of Te Kowhai 4)- Browns Beach Rd- Manutuke

Project outline- The Te Kowhai 4 block borders the Te Wherowhero Lagoon at Manutuke. The owners have relocated their fences back from the lagoon margins to give up pastoral land in support of the Te Wherowhero Tidal Lagoon Restoration Project. The lagoon is home to variety of bird species, including the endangered NZ dotterel. Over 2,000 native species were planted on the margins of the lagoon in 2022 with the Muriwai and Manutuke communities, under the Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust. The owners are proposing to further enhance this area in 2026 with an additional 1,000 plants, purchase a SHMAK kit (Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit) for monitoring and undertake weed control around the lagoon margins.

Score- This project received a score of 170 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$3,000** towards the purchase of plants, a SHMAK monitoring kit and weed control.

10. Diane Menzies- Waingake Road - Manutuke

Project outline- Diane Menzies owns a lifestyle property in Manutuke which was in pasture. The owner has initiated a project to re-establish the majority of the property in indigenous vegetation. Her vision is to “create a small native lowland forest habitat as a heritage resource for the future”. The project includes undertaking weed control and extensive native planting. The owner planted 2,000 native trees in 2024 and 2025, with help from the Manutuke community and is seeking funding to purchase and plant an additional 2,200 plants in 2026. The project has the support of Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust and provides the opportunity for the community to connect with the whenua through community planting days. This is a locally led initiative that embodies manaaki whenua and manaaki taiao.

Score- This project received a score of 160 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$5,000** towards weed control and the procurement of plants.

11. Paul & Sarah Williams- Turihaua Station- Pouawa

Project outline- Paul and Sarah Williams of Turihaua Station are in Year 2 of a multi-year project restoring a wetland and remnant bush block adjacent to the Turihaua cattle yards. The restored wetland will function to improve the quality of water entering the Turihaua Stream. Last year, the owners constructed 723m of fencing with some assistance from the NHF to exclude stock from the area. A remnant bush block next to the wetland containing established rewarewa, tawa and puriri is included in the fenced area. This year the owners propose to remove exotic poplars from the wetland and plant approx. 3,800 native species in partnership with Trees That Count. Once completed, the project will be showcased at catchment group and farmer workshops which are held at the sale complex adjacent to the yards.

Score- This project received a score of 160 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$6,000** towards weed control, planting and associated labour.

12. Guy & Sarah Thompson- Campbell Road, Ngatapa

Project outline- Guy and Sarah Thompson own a property on Campbell Road in Ngatapa. A tributary of the Waikakariki Stream runs through the length of the property. The owners have partnered with Trees for Survival and Patutahi and Ngatapa Schools to restore indigenous vegetation on the riparian margins of the stream at the front of the property. Two sections of the stream have already been planted but are only protected by a temporary fence. The owners are seeking funding to construct a permanent stock-proof fence and purchase traps to protect the newly planted area. The planting will then continue with plants sourced through the Trees for Survival programme and the help of the tamariki of the local schools.

Score- This project received a score of 160 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$4,000** towards weed control and the procurement of plants.

13. The Maori Trustee (for the owners of Hahau A1)- Rangitukia Road- Tikitiki

Project outline- Hahau A1 block at Tikitiki contains an area of well-established secondary vegetation at the rear of the block, which is fenced to exclude stock. The current leaseholder Dick Turei has a vision to exercise kaitiakitanga of his whenua tipuna and reinstate the ngahere in an area of cultural significance. The project has the support of Te Tumu Paeroa and wider whanau and shareholders, and proposes the supplementary planting of indigenous species within the regenerating area to increase the diversity of the forest, as well as undertaking pest control. The proposal is to purchase possum and rat traps and plant 1,000 trees in 2026 with another 1,000 trees planned for 2027 to create a native bush area for future generations.

Score- This project received a score of 160 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$3,000** towards the procurement of plants and traps.

14. Nati Properties Ltd- Sponge Bay Road- Gisborne City

Project outline- Nati Properties Ltd is undertaking a restoration project on a large section of land at Sponge Bay, which was formerly in pasture. The owners are keen to re-establish the steeper areas of the property with indigenous vegetation. The project includes undertaking weed control and extensive native planting. The owners have planted 12,000 native trees so far on the site and are seeking funding to help with planting an additional 12,000 plants in 2026. The project has the potential to create community benefits through planting days and recreation and once established will contribute towards an increase in indigenous vegetation cover within the urban area.

Score- This project received a score of 155 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$5,000** towards weed control and the procurement of plants.

15. Maranui Station- Ormond Valley Road- Ormond

Project outline- Abby and George Whitehead of Maranui Station are proposing to fence and plant a stream and small wetland area on their property. The waterway is a tributary of the Waipaoa River and is currently invaded by yellow flag iris. The owners are proposing to eliminate the flag iris, fence the area to exclude farm stock and undertake indigenous planting in partnership with Trees for Survival and Ormond School.

Score- This project received a score of 150 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$5,000** towards pest and weed control and fencing.

16. Kate Williams Thorpe- Maungarongo o Te Kooti Wetland Margin- Matawhero

Project outline- Kate Williams-Thorpe of Willows Road is in the third year of a project to restore part of the margin of the Maungarongo o Te Kooti reserve on her property. In 2024 and 2025 extensive weed control including the removal of blackberry and silver poplars was undertaken and 2,500 native species were planted, with assistance from the NHF. The newly planted area is under threat from the reinvasion of blackberry and other weeds and the owners are seeking a small amount of additional funding to help support the plants in their critical first year of establishment.

This will be the final year of funding for this project.

Score- This project received a score of 150 in the Natural Heritage Fund ranking sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$2,000** towards weed control.

17. Pakihiroa Farms Ltd- Tapuaeroa Road, Ruatorea

Project outline- Pakihiroa Farms Ltd are planning to retire a 20 ha culturally significant area at the base of Maunga Hikurangi from pastoral farming, and encourage the area to regenerate through fencing, pest control and supplementary planting of native alpine species. The project area forms the access to the Pou site at the maunga. Excluding livestock will support the regeneration of native species, improve environmental resilience, and protect soil and waterways. This aligns with kaitiakitanga principles, ensuring the maunga is preserved for Ngāti Porou and all who visit the Pou.

Score- This project received a score of 150 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$6,000** towards fencing, pest and weed control and the procurement of plants.

18. Mike Miller- Te Kuri Farm- Gisborne

Project outline- Mike Miller owns Te Kuri Farm, located just outside of Gisborne city. The Te Kuri Farm walkway is a popular recreational walking track for many residents and visitors. The farm contains patches significant secondary indigenous vegetation, including a QEII covenanted area, as well as being the headwaters of a tributary of the Mangapapa Stream- home to several species of native fish. The owner is proposing to erect deer fencing along the length of the stream from the QEII covenant to the start of the walkway and undertake supplementary planting of indigenous species. This project will enhance the stream habitat and make the area more attractive to walkway users.

Score- This project received a score of 150 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$7,000** towards fencing and the procurement of plants.

19. Frank Mead- Waimata Valley Road, Waimata

Project outline- Frank Mead owns a property on Waimata Valley Road which contains a 4ha area of regenerating secondary indigenous vegetation which is currently accessible to farm stock. The owner is proposing to construct deer fencing around the perimeter of the area to exclude stock and ungulate browsers. The fencing will be complemented by the purchase and installation of 6 x AT220 auto-traps to control possums.

Score- This project received a score of 150 in the Natural Heritage Fund Ranking Sheet assessment.

Funding recommendation- Receives **\$5,000** towards fencing costs and the purchase of traps.

Attachment 3: Natural Heritage Funding criteria

The criteria for eligible projects are:

- The land must be privately owned within the Gisborne District;
- No overdue rates or other outstanding charges owed to Council;
- At least 50% of the total cost of the project is to come from an alternative source;
- Application is not for activities required by resource consent or rules under Gisborne statutory plans, or national policy;
- Have clear objectives that are consistent with Council's statutory functions, Regional Policy Statement and overall environmental objectives;
- Be of long-term benefit to the local environment and show evidence of good resource management;
- There must be a demonstrated ongoing commitment to maintain the natural area e.g. stock exclusion, plant and animal pest control where necessary;
- Be designed to become self-supporting without ongoing financial contributions from the Council;
- Demonstrate the necessary skills and experience is available to undertake the project;
- The grants will not be retrospective;
- Eligible activities include permanent stock exclusion fencing (excluding maintenance of existing fencing) for the purpose of allowing natural regeneration and protection of significant terrestrial, riparian and coastal sites, purchase of locally sourced native plants and trees, site preparation and planting, weed and animal pest control.

11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION



25-275

Title: 25-275 Uawa Reserve Remediation
Section: Liveable Spaces
Prepared by: Natalie Waihi - Capital Projects Programme Manager
Meeting Date: Tuesday 18 November 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Medium**

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

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to update the Gisborne District Council (Council) on the progress of the remediation project for Uawa Reserve.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The land parcel on Uawa Beachfront (informally known as Uawa League Reserve), currently closed to the public, has been used for the storage and processing of woody debris, following major storms in 2018. The consent for woody debris storage activity expired this year and Liveable Spaces have been working to restore the reserve to "original condition" as per consent requirements.

The Legacy Landfill and Contaminated Sites project led by the solid waste team, has identified this site a high priority for remediation although it is expected that process could take some years. The demand for community access to recreational land in Uawa, paired with the consent requirement to make good, has driven the work to be explored this financial year through Liveable Spaces Capital Projects.

A Detailed Site Assessment (DSI) was completed which identified asbestos in one trial pit of the northern section, and waste refuse was identified in upper soil layers. The identification of contaminants determined the scope to be a land remediation activity and requires consent under the The National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NESCS).

The proposed remediation approach is to cap the site with 500mm of clean fill, and we are working through design and planning processes.

We have engaged with Hauiti Mana Kaitieki on the proposed activity sought their support of the consent application. Following feedback on the desire of hapū and Catchment Group representatives to extend wetlands that surround the site, the project team are exploring opportunities for passive planting within the remediation activity. The proposed activity will not restrict ongoing exploration to address the legacy landfill; it is likely this would be required for wetland expansion.

The Central Government Woody Debris fund has allocated \$400,000 towards the remediation activity. Council has also committed to remediation of reserve land through the annual plan, a further \$500,000 available across land remediation and stabilisation projects.

A portion of the Uawa Cycle trail is located on the boundary of the site along Ferneaux Street and around to the crossing over Solander Street, this area of the cycleway is currently closed. We are continuing discussion with the community stakeholders regarding the cycle way maintenance and access over summer.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

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

1. Notes the contents of this report.

Authorised by:

Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: Uawa Reserve, remediation project,

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The land parcel on Uawa Beachfront (informally known as Uawa League Reserve) Section 2 Block XI Uawa SD, a site of approx. 7.048 hectares, was historically used as a landfill and is listed as a HAIL site under Section G category 3. The landfill closed in 1986 under Cook County, following concerns from the community. The site was gazetted in 1981 as Local Purpose Reserve and was primarily used for recreational activity and rugby league following landfill closure, until 2018.
2. While records on the landfill and closure are not readily available, aerial images indicate approximately 3.3 hectares of filling. There is an assumed 2 m fill thickness = 66,000 m³ insitu. A letter from the County Engineer dated 27 May 1986 informs that the site was being recontoured and grassed for public use. With limited contaminated land guidance at that time, it is unlikely the contouring was a capping to modern-day land remediation standards.
3. In 2019 Gisborne District Council applied and received a 5-year consent to chip and remove logs and debris from the north beach and to temporarily stockpile logs within the Uawa Reserve. A 12-month extension was requested and approved in 2024, at which time recovery work had commenced to again remove woody debris from Uawa beach following ongoing weather events.
4. Noting the risks associated to prior use and with no guidance in the consent of accepted reinstatement, a DSI was undertaken before any plans were made to return the reserve to its original condition. This investigation located asbestos containing material (ACM) in one area, whilst waste fragments were noted in surface soil layers across the site.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

5. Council has considered several remediation approaches and options for the site, including partial remediation to the northern end of the reserve parcel (leaving the southern end closed under a management plan) and utilising hard stand capping over the area ACM was located.
6. Advice received from Council's risk advisor has directed that whilst ACM contaminants were in only one area of the reserve, known fly tipping and waste refuse emerging through upper soil layers does pose a risk to public health and safe use of the reserve. A recommendation has been made to appropriately remediate the reserve; a clean fill cap is required over the entire site.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Medium Significance

This Report: Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: Medium Significance

This Report: Medium Significance

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

Overall Process: Medium Significance

This Report: Medium Significance

7. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
8. Medium significance is determined for the matters and process for decision making as the support of mana whenua is required for the consent application and the desires of hapū and community, including catchment advisory groups has been considered in the remediation approach.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

9. Council has sought advice from hapū and iwi partners throughout the planning phase of this project. Historic information relating to early land and waterway use has helped shape the project direction and environmental impact assessments. We have sought guidance on resource consent matters, critical outcomes, the remediation approach and future use options for the site.

Rangatiratanga

10. The aspiration of local hapū to extend the nearby wetlands and improve biodiversity on and around the site is a key focus now and in the future. We have considered a remediation approach that addresses current public health and safety risks without restricting opportunities for further site remediation or protection. We are exploring ways to achieve an increase in biodiversity through planting in the remediation process and have sought historic information relating to fish passage and use of waterways for environmental impact assessment. Our staff and the appointed environmental planner have visited hapū in Uawa and engaged with Ngāti Porou consent advisor on the resource consent application.

Oritetanga

11. When discussing use of land under Council's ownership (Reserve land) that was previously occupied by mana whenua, we have received strong feedback on the need for incorporating increased biodiversity and to support healthy waterways. The future use of this site has been explored, and we have taken direction from mana whenua to prioritise passive recreational use.

Whakapono

12. From early planning stages, Council has sought the direction of mana whenua to ensure custom and suitable practices are embedded in the project. Shared decision making and acknowledgement of the inspirations and desired outcomes of our partners has been at the forefront. Manaakitanga has led us, developing strong relationships with representatives and listening to their feedback on where we can improve our processes to empower mana whenua.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

13. The key principles of Council's engagement framework have been applied as explored above. The project team have worked closely with Hauiti Mana Kaitieki to determine the remediation approach, environmental considerations, and to seek feedback on the future use of this site and endorsement of consent applications. Council has heard hapū and catchment group desires to expand wetland and biodiversity around this site. Accordingly, we are exploring opportunities for planting within the remediation activity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

14. Engagement with the community has occurred across several forums. Meetings with local community began during the storage of wood debris. Council received strong feedback that the removal of woody debris and return of the site for recreational activity was of the highest priority for the community.
15. Interest was expressed by a local horse sports club to use the reserve post remediation. Due to the risk of disturbance to remediated ground from equestrian activity, it is unlikely that the activity and occupancy would be approved on this site. The local rugby club have, over several years, requested that Council consider expanding sport field provisions in the area. The wider community have an expectation that Council completes the remediation of the reserve.

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

16. This project is of low impact on Climate Change. The storage of woody debris on the site was required as a result of climate change, the impact of such activity is outside the scope of this impact assessment. Remediating the land with clean fill is of low impact, however, emissions from transportation would be a consideration when assessing impact of the remediation activities. There may be an opportunity to offset through planting and passive future use.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

17. Woody debris funding of \$400k is allocated to this project and required to be allocated or spent by 19 December 2025. Council contribution of approximately \$500k towards land remediation and stabilisation, is provided for within the 24/25 Annual Plan.

Legal

18. There are no legal implications outside of statutory requirements for resource consent should the activity not be considered permitted.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

19. This project aligns with the outcomes of the 2024/25 Annual Plan for Reserve land remediation activities.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

20. There are no major risks associated with the decision or matters. Risk to public health and safety is appropriately addressed through the remediation of the reserve land for the purpose of public use.

21. Environmental risks are managed through consent conditions, and the proposed activity is an activity of environmental and public interest.

22. The project team are working to procure clean fill material to ensure the woody debris budget can be allocated to material and cartage before 19 December expiry.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
30 th November	Finalise design, submit consent	
19 th December	Woody debris funds to be spent or allocated.	
Jan – Feb 2026	Remediation works underway	

Title: 25-257 Environment & Communities - Land, Rivers & Coastal
Section: Community Lifelines
Prepared by: Lana McGuinness - Executive Assistant • Community Lifelines
Meeting Date: Tuesday 18 November 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

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

- Land Rivers and Coastal

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

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

This report will focus on the operational and infrastructure services adopted in the Three-Year Plan (3YP).

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

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

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

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

Authorised by:

Tim Barry - Director Lifelines

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

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

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

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

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

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

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

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

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

Rangatiratanga

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

Oritetanga

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

Whakapono

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

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

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

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

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

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

12. Now that the 3YP is adopted, project managers are working with the finance team to forecast project expenditure over the next 12 months.

Legal

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

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

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

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

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

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
18 November 2025	Environment & Communities	

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Land Rivers Coastal [25-257.1 - 4 pages]

Te Whenua, ngā Awa, me te Takutai

Land, Rivers and Coastal

Operations Report for 2024-25

What we do

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

About this report

This report summarises key LRC outcomes and contains the following sections:

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

Updates since the last report

Flood Warning Manual

1. The Flood Warning Manual was updated to a new format recommended by the National Flood Warning Steering Group. They have proposed and recommended to have a consistent Flood Warning Manual nationally to get external council's support during National emergencies.
2. There were minimal changes required to align to a consistent 'look and feel' and to be consistent with national standards and recommendations.
3. Noted that the Flood Warning Manual covers x4 key sites relating to Te Arai @ Pykes Weir, Waipaoa @ Kanakania Bridge, Waimata @ Goodwins Bridge, and The Hikuwai @ Willowflat.

LRC Maintenance Contract

4. LRC Maintenance Contract progress from July - Oct 2025 was slow due to the winter weather conditions. Significant maintenance work typically starts during the spring as per our resource consent conditions and more favourable weather conditions.

Te Arai Willow Management:

5. Te Arai willow management has been an ongoing issue and team focus since Cyclone Gabrielle, which is funded through targeted rates. Council is working on an Aerial Spraying Consent for Te Arai as manual spraying is less sustainable long term.
6. The 'Large Woody Debris' (LWD) program has identified willow management as a critical problem to be addressed in Te Arai, so Council has agreed to fund willow eradication along parts of the Te Arai. Council staff are working closely with the Te Arai Catchment Group (TACG) to understand the scope and extent of this eradication work, with several meetings with stakeholders completed. The work has been accelerated to be completed by end of 2025 and realise the benefits of this work sooner.

- The willow eradication work started in October once the willow leaves had returned, and current progress is 50% completed from the upstream end (822 Waingake Road) to 'Covell's' Drain (478 Waingake Road).

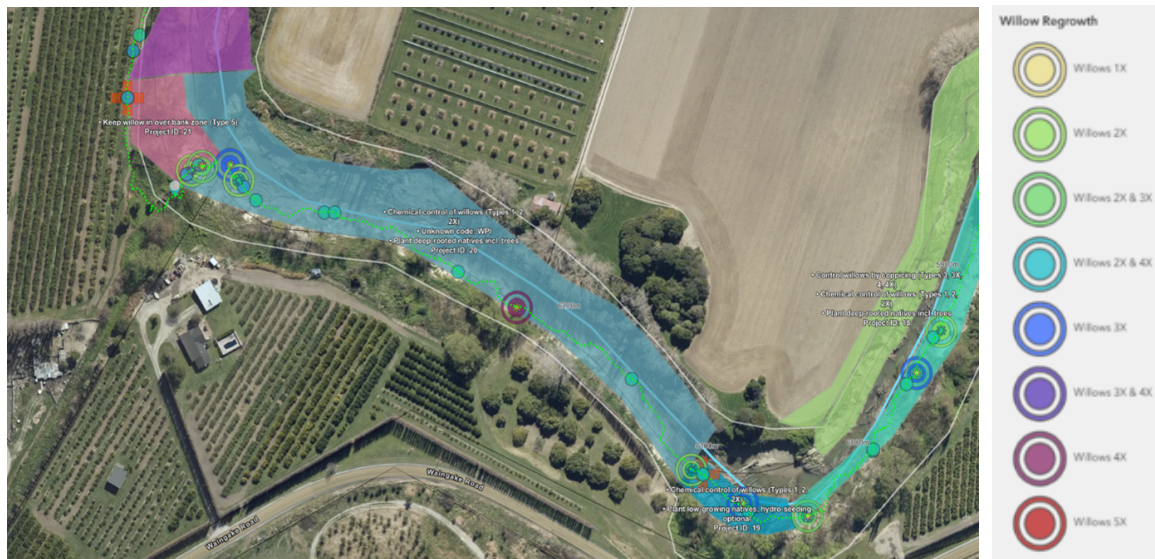


Figure 1 - Te Arai Willow categorisation

LRC Annual Plan on Drain Regrades

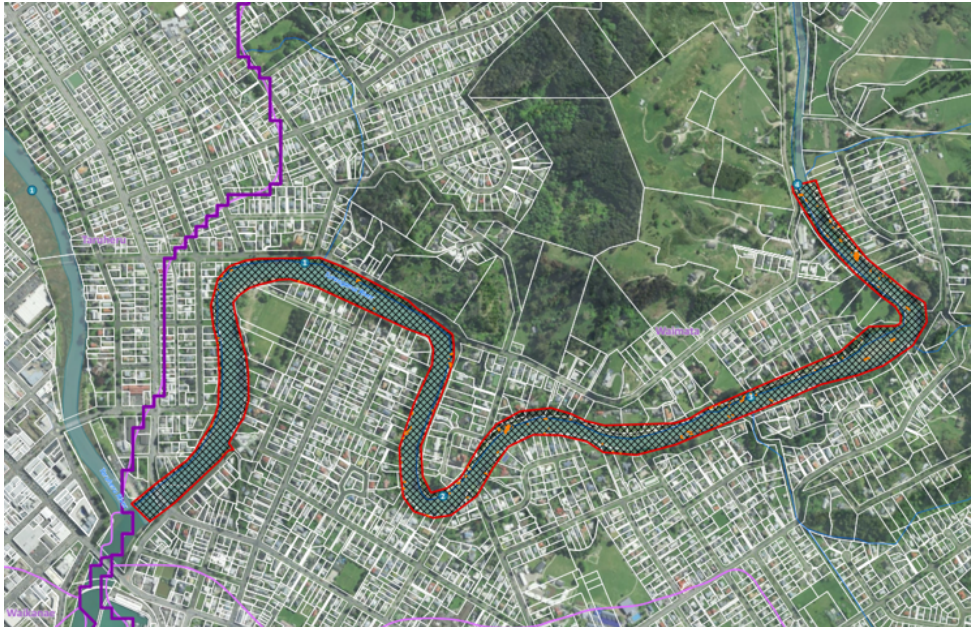
- The annual plan for LRC drain regrades work was prepared and submitted in July. Out of the total 303kms of LRC maintained drains, 15km regrades are planned to be completed this year (5%). Work started in October as per our resource consent conditions. Works will continue until April 2026 (weather permitting).



'Contour' Drain Regrades & Eel relocation

New Project – Waimata River Downstream Woody Debris Removal

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



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

Team Focus for next three months.

10. Successfully complete the Te Arai Willow management eradication work within the year (by late Dec).
11. Successfully complete our open drain regrade maintenance programme, and other maintenance work during period permitted under our approved resource consent, especially around the more sensitive inanga spawning areas.
12. Attend annual work program as planned (e.g. weed spraying, routine inspections, floodgate maintenance, pumpstation maintenance, and other critical proactive preventative maintenance works).

Risks & Issues

13. Budget restrictions limiting the scope of maintenance activities. There are additional tasks required now that have reduced our productivity, but budgets remain the same; e.g.
 - a. Management of eels requires double handling of spoil, slowing open drain regrade work.
 - b. Traffic management requirements have increased costs related to traffic management whenever we work alongside public roads.

14. Additional budget is required, as current budgets are insufficient to meet LOS expectations and standards. Work is underway to understand our minimum budgetary requirements to feed into and support decision in the next Long-Term Plan process from early 2026.
15. Repeated extreme wet weather events.
16. Consenting restrictions related to weed spraying maintenance work (wet weather, wind, financial constraints/budget, no spray zones).