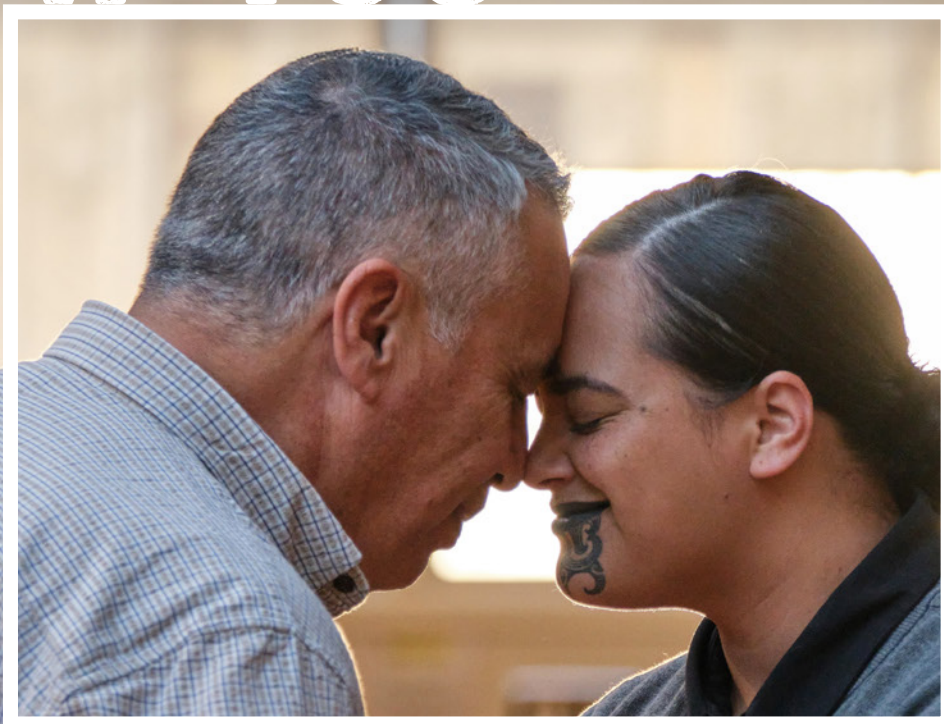


# IF YOU



# HERE.

**He pārongo mā ngā kaipōti me  
ngā kaitono**

**Information HERE for voters and  
potential candidates**

**Te ripoata tomu a i te potitanga 2025**

**Pre-election Report 2025**

## **Pōtīhia te kaitono e hāngai ana ōna uara ki ōu**

Vote for a candidate whose  
values align with yours

Our work impacts you and it's important. We  
encourage you to have your say on the direction  
we take by voting in the upcoming elections.

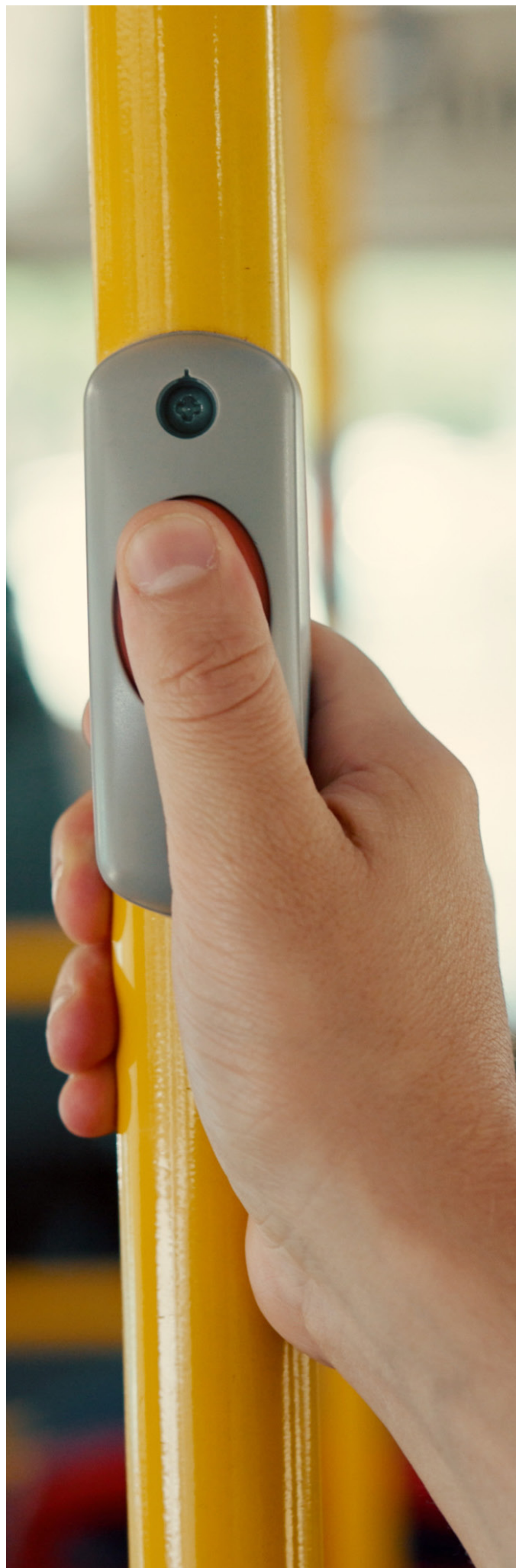
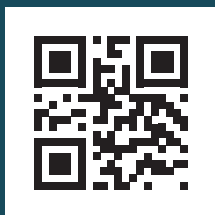
## **Kia tū hei Kaikaunihera mō Te Pane Matua Taiao**

Become a Greater Wellington  
Regional Councillor

Stand as a candidate and, if elected, you will  
have direct involvement in Council decisions  
which set the direction for Greater Wellington's  
activities.

## **Nominations open Friday 4 July and close Friday 1 August, at 12 noon.**

Find out more, visit [gw.govt.nz](http://gw.govt.nz).





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# He aha kei tēnei pūrongo

## What you'll find in this report

A challenge from our chief executive, Nigel Corry.....	4
Information about what we do, how we pay for it and who we work with.....	10
What you need to know about before you vote or stand for council.....	13

Six key areas of challenge and opportunity for your regional council:

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Relationships with our mana whenua partners .....	17
Protecting and restoring our natural environment .....	20
Leading climate action and supporting communities' preparedness .....	23
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# He karere nā te CE

Mēnā he kaipōti koe, e whakaaro ana rānei kia tū mō te Kaunihera, me whaiwhakaaro ki ētahi mea. E whakatakoto ana tēnei pūrongo i ngā wero me ngā āheinga kei mua i te aroaro o tō kaunihera ā-rohe. Kua whakamōhio mai e koutou ngā kaupapa whai take, me te aronui ki ā mātou mahi. Whakamahia tēnei pūrongo kia whai whakaaro ai ki te ahunga o Te Pane Matua Taiao, me te hautūtanga e tika ana kia tae ai ki reira. Ko tō whiringa ka ārahi i ā mātou mahi hei tiaki i te taiao, whakarato i te waka tūmatanui, me te whakatipu i te manawaroa ki te āhuarangi. I rangona e mātou e māharahara ana koutou mō te whakaranea utu. Ko tātou tērā. E herea nei ngā tahua, ā, kia kore ai mātou e mate ki te whakaranea utu, ka mate pea mātou ki te whakapōturi i ngā mahi, ki te whakarite kia iti iho rānei. Me whakataurite rawa mātou i te whakaranea rēti me ngā ara tareka ā-utu. Ko nga tarepa ā-tahua me whakahaere mā te ara tareka ā-utu, tōkeke anō hoki. Kei a mātou ētahi āheinga ki te whakamātau i ētahi tauira hou mō te tahua me te kawē ratonga. Ka noho pea ēnei hei urupare whai take ki ētehi herenga moni whiwhi ka pā pea ki ngā Kāwanatanga ā-Rohe.

Kua whakamōhio mai koutou e pai ana tā mātou mahi tiaki i te taiao māori. He mahi whakahirahira rawa atu ki a tātou, ā, ka taea tonutia ētehi anō āheinga te whakatutuki. He hiahia tō mātou ki te āwhina kia whai wāhi mai ngā tāngata ki te tiaki i te whenua me ngā arawai. Me whakautu pātai mātou mō te ara pai ki te whakahaere i te whanaketanga tāone me te tiaki i te taiao māori i te wā kotahi.

He mea nui ki a mātou ō mātou hononga ki ō mātou hoa mana whenua. He ōrite ā mātou whāinga. E whakaute ana mātou i ō rātou mōtika ki te whakatau me te whakahaere i ā rātou ake mahi. Nā reira ko tā mātou, he hāpai mā te mahi ngātahi ki ngā mahi whakamahere rautaki.

He hoa mahi anō ō mātou. Ko te Kāwanatanga, ētehi atu Kaunihera, me ngā rōpū hāpori. Ehara i te mea he mahi māmā, engari he mahi whai hua. E mōhio ana mātou, mā te mahi tahi ka nui ake nga hua.

E pai haere ana ngā whakaaro ki a Metlink. I ētahi wā ka eke te tokomaha o ngā kaieke pahi ki tētahi taumata kāore anō kia kitea. He raru nui te horopū

o ngā tereina ki te tokomaha, me te whakaranea utu anō hoki. Ka pāngia te whakahaerenga o te waka tūmatanui me tō mātou āheinga ki te whakawhanake i te tokomaha o nga kaieke e te tahua nā te Kāwanatanga ā muri ake nei, me te āhua o te ōhanga. Ka whakahaere a Metlink i ana mahi i tētahi taiao e kaha herea nei te tahua.

E mōhio ana mātou kāore i te nuinga o koutou puta noa i te Rohe tētahi mahere ohotata. He tokomaha kāore anō kia takatū mō ngā tūraru o te āhuarangi hurihuri. Ko ā mātou mahere mahi āhuarangi me kauawhi, me tautika anō hoki. Ko tā Te Pane Matua Taiao he whakakipakipa i te hāpori ki te piri mai ki ngā mahi whakamanawaroa āhuarangi, ngā mahi whakaiti tukuwaro, me ngā mahi whakatakatū ohotata.

E whakaae ana te nuinga o koutou he tūraru nui te waipuke whenua i tō tātou rohe, ā, e mārāma ana kei te tautokohia ngā kaupapa whakamaru waipuke. Ka uaua te whakamatua i ngā haumitanga tūāhanga e pai ai te heipū i ngā matea waiwai. Ko te whakaae ki ngā hangarau aronga hou tētahi rautaki pai ki te whakapakari i ngā mahi whakamanawaroa tūāhanga.

Ka whakahoungia pea ngā ture mō te Kāwanatanga ā-Rohe. Ki te panonihia ngā ture whakahaere rauemi ka panonihia katoatia pea tā mātou mahi. Kāore anō ngā taipitopito katoa kia whakamōhio mai ki a mātou, ā, me whakarite ki te urupare ki ngā tono nā te Kāwanatanga mō te whakahou.

Ka mate tō kāwanatanga ā-rohe ki te whakahaere i ēnei mea katoa. Pānuihia tēnei pūrongo. Whakaarohia. Piri mai ki ngā mahi e whai ake nei. Nōu tēnei rohe. Tēnā, āwhina mai ki te whakatau ki hea tātou ahu atu ai.

# CE's Message

If you're a voter, or thinking of standing for Council, there are things to weigh up. This report sets out the challenges and opportunities facing your regional council. You've told us what matters and that you care about the work we do. Use this report to think about where Greater Wellington is going, and what kind of leadership we need to get there.

Your choice will help to shape the work we do to protect our environment, provide public transport and build climate resilience.

We heard that you worry about rising costs. So do we. Budgets are tight and to keep rates down, we may need to slow down or do less. We must find a balance between rates increases and user pays services. Funding shortfalls will need to be dealt with in fair and affordable ways. We have opportunities to explore new funding and service delivery models. These could be a useful response to revenue caps which may come to Local Government.

You have told us we are doing well to protect our natural environment. This work is hugely important to us and there's always more we can do. We'd like to help people get involved in protecting our land and waterways. We must answer questions about how urban growth and development is managed alongside protecting our natural environment.

We value our relationships with our mana whenua partners. We share common goals. We respect our partners' right to make decisions and manage their own affairs. This means supporting them through collaboration on strategic planning.

We work with others too. With government, other councils and communities. It's not always simple, but it matters. We know that when we work together, we get more done.

Your views about Metlink are improving. Bus passenger numbers have hit record breaking highs. Train reliability is an issue for many, along with increased fares. Future government funding and economic conditions will affect the management of public transport and our ability to increase patronage. Metlink will be operating in a much more constrained financial environment.

We know that many of you across the Region don't have an emergency plan. Many are unprepared for the risks of climate change. Our climate action plans must be inclusive and equitable. Greater Wellington has a role in gaining communities' buy-in to climate resilience efforts, emissions reduction, and emergency preparedness.

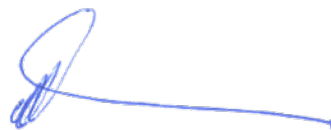
Most of you agree that there is a high risk of flooding in our region, and we understand that you support flood protection. Prioritising our infrastructure investments to address the most critical needs will be difficult. Adopting innovative ways of doing things will be a key to enhancing our infrastructure resilience.

Local Government reform is on the table. Changes to resource management could alter our role entirely. We don't know all the details yet and we need to be ready to respond to government proposals for reform.

Your regional council will need to navigate all this.

Read this report. Think it over. Be part of what comes next.

This is your region. Help decide where we go from here.



Nigel Corry



# Ko ā mātou mahi

## What we do

Wainuiomata-Orongorongo  
Zero Ungulate Project

**2**   
tide monitoring sites

Recloaking Papatuanuku  
(Kapiti, Porirua, Hutt Valley).

Waikanae ki uta ki tai



Porirua harbour accord



**1**   
harbour  
ferry service

**90**  
bus routes



Metro water treatment  
plant planned renewals

Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi  
(formerly known as RiverLink)



Buses fleet decarbonisation  
(regionwide).

**5**   
rail lines

More than **33,000**  
hectares of regional parks



**4**



water  
treatment  
plants



**440**

pieces of park furniture



Wairarapa  
moana  
wetlands

**8** lighthouses



**3,127**  
bus stops



**37** million journeys a year  
on bus, rail and harbour  
ferry services



**80+**  
school bus  
services



River Road flood resilience

75

River level monitoring sites



813,500

hectares of land

116

soil quality  
monitoring  
stations



80

rainfall  
monitoring  
sites



170

groundwater  
monitoring sites



5

air quality  
monitoring sites



Movin' march  
(Regionwide)

16

lake/wetland  
water level  
monitoring  
sites



166

heritage  
features



Funding Wellington  
Region Emergency  
Management Office  
(WREMO) (regionwide).



497 kilometres of coastline

Buses replace trains (brt)  
improvements (regionwide).



Lower north island rail integrated mobility (lnrim) project (regionwide).



National Ticketing Solution



# Ko ō mātou hoa mahi

## Who we work with



NGĀ HAPŪ O ŌTAKI

HE WAKA EKE NOA

[www.ngahapuootaki.nz](http://www.ngahapuootaki.nz)



ĀTIAWA KI WHAKARONGOTAI

[teatiawakikapiti.co.nz](http://teatiawakikapiti.co.nz)



TE RŪNANGA O  
**TOA RANGATIRA**

[www.ngatitoa.iwi.nz](http://www.ngatitoa.iwi.nz)



**Greater Wellington**  
Te Pane Matua Taiao

[www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

**Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Poneke

[wellington.govt.nz](http://wellington.govt.nz)



PORT NICHOLSON BLOCK  
SETTLEMENT TRUST

[www.pnbst.maori.nz/welcome-to-taranaki-whanui-ki-te-upoko-o-te-ika-port-nicholson-block-settlement-trust](http://www.pnbst.maori.nz/welcome-to-taranaki-whanui-ki-te-upoko-o-te-ika-port-nicholson-block-settlement-trust)

**Kāpiti Coast**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Tītiro Whakamua

[kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz)



Te Kaunihera o  
**Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta**  
Upper Hutt City Council

[www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Home](http://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Home)

**porirua**city

[porirua.govt.nz](http://porirua.govt.nz)

**HUTT CITY**  
TE AWA KAIRANGI

[www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)





[www.mstn.govt.nz](http://www.mstn.govt.nz)



**CARTERTON**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

[cdc.govt.nz](http://cdc.govt.nz)



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Kia Reretahi Tātau*

[swdc.govt.nz](http://swdc.govt.nz)



[tumaira.nz](http://tumaira.nz)



**Ngāti Kahungunu**

Ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui a Rua Settlement Trust

[www.kahungunu.iwi.nz/kahungunu-ki-wairarapa](http://www.kahungunu.iwi.nz/kahungunu-ki-wairarapa)

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# E kawe ratonga nei mātou ki te Rohe

## We provide services across the Region

### Public Transport

We plan and manage the Metlink Public Transport network. This includes trains and buses across the Region and Wellington harbour ferries. We own and maintain parts of public transport, like trains, railway stations, and bus shelters. We contract companies to operate services on our behalf. Buses and the ferries are usually owned by operators.



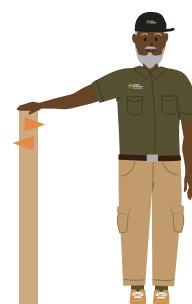
### Environmental Incident Response

Our team handles pollution and environmental issues that can harm our land, water, air, or coastal areas. We follow up to engage, educate and enable better environmental outcomes. Where necessary we take enforcement actions following incidents.



### Parks and Forests

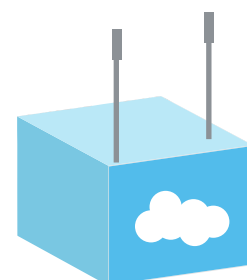
We take care of a network of Regional Parks and Forests. These areas offer unique spots for recreation and conservation. We plan for the future of these and provide services and facilities for visitors. We team up with mana whenua and communities. Together, we protect and restore regional park environments.



### Managing effects on the environment

A framework for managing the impacts of humans on the natural environment is set out by the Resource Management Act, our Regional Policy Statement and Natural Resources Plan. This includes rules that outline what activities require a resource consent. We monitor consented activities to make sure that the conditions are being met.

We measure rainfall, river flows, groundwater levels, and their quality. We also check air quality, soil quality, and biodiversity. We collect this information to perform our regulatory duties. It helps us check the state of the environment and see how well our policies and plans work. We make the information we gather available to the public. We work with landowners to help them comply with the rules and protect our biodiversity, waterways, and productive land.



## Harbours

We look after our coasts and harbours by regulating activities and resources. We promote safe boating. We also ensure all vessels in Wellington and Porirua harbours navigate safely.



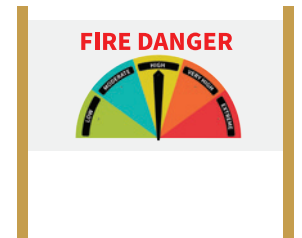
## Flood Risk Management

About 30% of our population lives in areas at risk of flooding. We manage this risk. We study flood hazards, create flood risk management plans and provide advice about developing in flood prone areas. We give flood warnings and respond during severe weather events. We also build and maintain flood protection structures. Flood resilience work helps people enjoy river corridors and supports restoring rivers' natural and cultural values.



## Emergency Management

We are responsible for providing equipment and trained staff to stand up the regional Emergency Coordination Centre in the event of an emergency. We work with the nine local authorities in the Wellington Region to support the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office. We are part of the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.



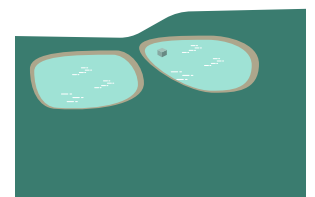
## Pest Plant and Animal Management

We manage pests to safeguard water quality, biodiversity, and the Region's economic and social health. We work with government, communities, and landowners to control pests in the Region.



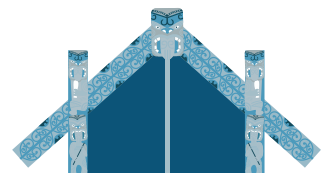
## Water Supply

Greater Wellington, through Wellington Water, collects and treats all the bulk drinking water for Wellington, the Hutt Valley and Porirua. We are Wellington's bulk water supplier. We deliver water to the city councils for distribution.



## Regional Strategy and Partnerships

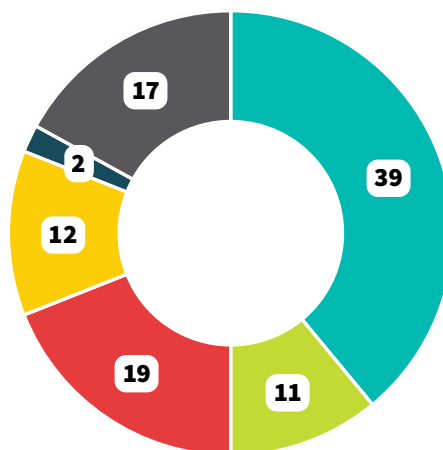
We work with our mana whenua partners, the six other councils and Government to develop regional spatial plans, regional transport strategies and deliver regional economic development initiatives.



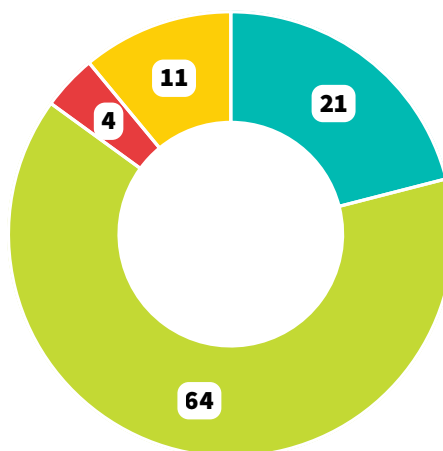
# Ka pēhea tā mātou utu

How we pay for it  
Revenue and costs graphs

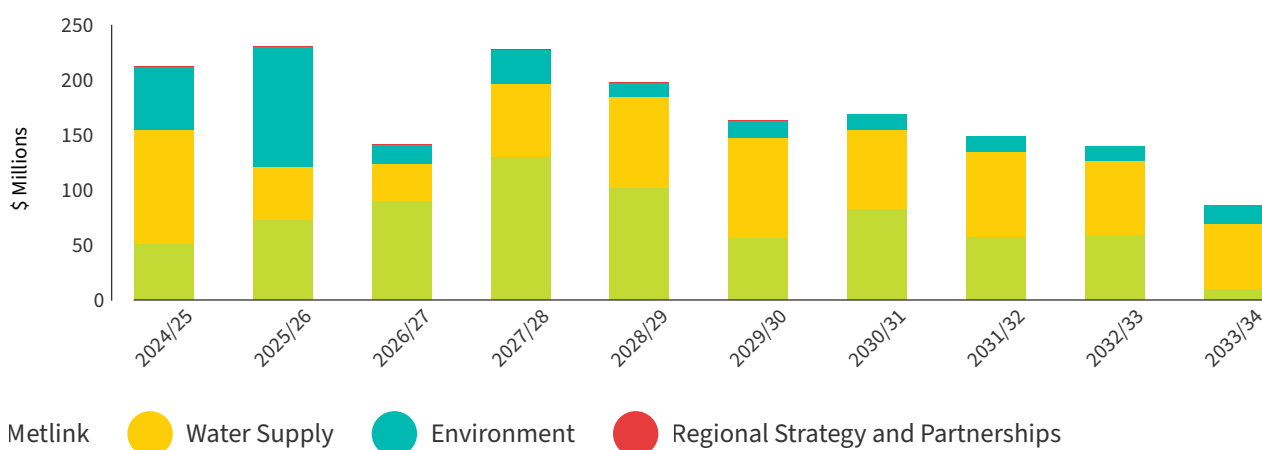
## Sources of revenue



## Where the Money Goes



## 2024-34 Long Term Plan Capital Expenditure by Activity Group





# He ahunga tōtika tō mātou

## We have a clear direction

An extraordinary region – thriving environment, connected communities, resilient future.

Our strategic direction guides the decisions and actions we take. This direction is agreed by councillors every three years.

We're working towards three broad outcomes for communities and our environment:

### **Nui te ora o te taiao Thriving environment**

Healthy waterways and coastal waters, clean and safe drinking water, unique landscapes, indigenous biodiversity, sustainable land use and a prosperous low emissions economy.

### **He hāpori kotahi Connected communities**

A vibrant and liveable region in which people can move around on safe, sustainable, and effective public transport, there is inclusive and equitable participation, and our sustainable rural and urban centres are connected to each other.

### **He manawaroa te āpōpō Resilient Future**

Safe and healthy communities, a strong and thriving regional economy, adapting to the effects of climate change and natural hazards, communities' preparedness and modern robust infrastructure.

For more information about our Direction visit <https://ltp.gw.govt.nz>



# Me mōhio ēnei mea i mua i tō pōti, i tō tū rānei hei Kaikaunihera

## What you need to know about before you vote or stand for council

This Pre-Election Report is written to promote discussion and informed debate in the lead up to the local government elections closing 11 October 2025.

We want you to know what we have planned across the Region and in your backyard. We hope this report helps you understand the decisions that need to be made.

Currently, we face six key areas of challenge and opportunity. We want you to understand these as you consider your vote or standing for regional council:

- Balancing affordability with communities' needs and aspirations
- Relationships with our mana whenua partners
- Protecting and restoring our natural environment
- Leading climate action and supporting communities' preparedness
- Providing affordable and reliable public transport services
- Ensuring robust and sustainable infrastructure

For each of these areas we outline:

- The current situation and challenges
- Our ongoing efforts
- Future opportunities and key decisions
- Key projects we have planned
- Some relevant accomplishments

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# Te whakataurite i te tareka ā-utu ki ngā matea me ngā wawata o te hāpori

## Balancing affordability with community needs and aspirations

You've told us that you value the services we provide. Getting to work or school on time, increasing the number of native birds in our backyards and protection from flooding. Your rates help fund these services. We are working hard to keep rates rises in check despite increasing costs.

### Current situation and the challenges we face

#### Scaling back our activities to reduce rates

We face uncertain economic times and Government reform may change the way we are funded. We have faced considerable cost increases in recent years. Population growth and changing demographics put additional pressure on our environment and infrastructure. This impacts on costs and the affordability of delivering services. The increasing likelihood of natural disasters and hazards is making insurance more difficult to get. We appreciate that budgets are tight across our region. To balance our services and ensure affordability, we have reviewed our work programmes.

### Our ongoing efforts

#### We want to keep our rates affordable

We are planning to delay or scale back activities through the 2025/26 Annual Plan. Inflation and borrowing costs appear to be easing for the 2025/26 financial year. These two factors have enabled us to lower the average regional rates increase. Rates are down from the 14.5% forecast in our 2024-34 Long Term Plan to an increase of 9.72% in 2025/26.

#### We'll need to find savings for the foreseeable future

We are thinking ahead to our 26/27 annual plan and looking at ways to lower costs. We want to find efficiencies that will not affect the services we provide. We may need to identify still more savings by scaling back activities, delaying work and holding vacancies. These savings, alongside ongoing changes to the way we are funded, our role and responsibilities, will have an impact on what we deliver to our communities. Our choices will need to be carefully thought through.

#### Our approach is pragmatic and we're listening

Greater Wellington takes a pragmatic approach to budgeting. We aim to manage affordability while delivering on communities' needs and aspirations. We take a long-term/intergenerational view of investment. Our approach ensures ratepayers who benefit from a project, financially contribute to it.

We value hearing from our communities. We introduced opportunities, such as Coffee Chats for our 2024-27 Long Term Plan, which brought together Councillors, staff, and communities. We are also exploring new digital tools to make it easier to give feedback online.

**Our Social Procurement Strategy helps us to** promote better social environmental and economic outcomes by spending locally. We want to support the local economy and make our supplier base more resilient.

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# Whakaarohia tēnei

## Consider this

How will we balance delivering services to meet expectations, with pressure to reduce projected rates increases?

How do we balance rates increases with user pays services to pick up funding shortfalls in fair and affordable ways?

How will we respond to proposed funding changes alongside the need to grow revenue?

---

## Ngā āheinga Opportunities

Councillors will consider costs in the 26/27 Annual Plan. The 2027-37 Long Term Plan offers the chance to revisit how our work is carried out.

We have opportunities to explore partnerships and regional collaborations to enhance efficiency and impact. We will also respond to proposed changes to the Local Government Act by focussing our efforts on our core services.



*(Accomplishment)*



## Financial management

### Region-wide

Greater Wellington has a strong financial outlook and a solid infrastructure plan for the next 10 years. We will be able to respond to the various challenges and opportunities the Region will face.

Greater Wellington's long term credit rating has been assessed by Standard and Poor's (S&P) at AA with a negative outlook. S&P assessed Greater Wellington's financial management to be very strong in a global context and the AA rating is the second highest rating issued to a council in New Zealand right now. This high rating enables the Council to borrow funds at reasonably low interest rates which reduces costs for our ratepayers.

*(Key Project)*



## Planning for the delivery of the National Ticketing Solution

### Region-wide

#### \$48m over 2 years

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi's National Ticketing Solution offers an efficient, nationwide solution for customers to pay for public transport easily.

*(Key Project)*



## Parks asset management programme Kāpiti, Hutt and Porirua

#### \$36m over 8 years

This programme keeps assets in good shape, enhances recreation experiences, and protects natural and cultural values. Our focus will be on maintaining our existing facilities. There will be minimal development of new facilities during the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. We will upgrade to meet new national standards, like drinking water laws. We will continue to support environment restoration.



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# Ko ngā hononga ki ō mātou hoa mana whenua

## Relationships with our mana whenua partners

We work in partnership with mana whenua to achieve common goals.

Our six mana whenua partners are: Ngā Hapū ō Ōtaki, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, Taranaki Whānui (via Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust), Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc, and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

### Current situation and the challenges we face

#### **There is uncertainty and complexity**

Our work is led by our commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi. We work in partnership with mana whenua and Māori of the region.

Government reforms and public policy will mean changes to the way we work. We will strengthen our relationships with mana whenua organisations. This will allow us to navigate changes together for positive environmental and community outcomes.

Some uncertainty around legislative settings exists. We recognise mana whenua rights and responsibilities as kaitiaki both in statute and in customary law. We share a desire with mana whenua for partnership which includes having mana whenua at the decision making table.

A more joined up approach by councils, mana whenua and community groups will benefit environmental and community outcomes.

#### **Partnership to deliver shared goals**

Our relationships with our mana whenua partners matter. We are growing and changing to improve how we work alongside them. The work we do with our partners delivers towards shared priorities and outcomes across the Region. This includes supporting the success of existing and future Treaty settlements [and emerging Post Settlement Governance Entities].

### Our ongoing efforts

#### **Aligned for maximum impact**

We work with mana whenua and local communities to make environmental decisions together. This helps us set priorities that reflect the needs of the people in each area and support long-term environmental and resilience goals.

We align our initiatives with key strategies like Mauri Tūhono, a call to care for the natural treasures of our region and Te Matarau a Māui, the Māori economic development strategy. We aim to deliver meaningful outcomes for Māori.

We acknowledge how climate change impacts mana whenua, particularly in coastal areas. There is an urgent need to resource climate-related objectives and support mana whenua to reduce these impacts.

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# Whakaarohia tēnei

## Consider this

What added support can we provide to mana whenua to enhance their role in regional governance?

How can we genuinely acknowledge and support the place of mātauranga Māori (knowledge, wisdom and understanding) in our environmental work and decision making?

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## Ngā āheinga Opportunities

Councillors appointed nominees from each of our mana whenua partners as voting members of their 2024-34 Long Term Plan Committee. The incoming Council will decide the structure of council committees for the next three years. They can consider how we continue to create the structures to support our mana whenua partners to have a voice in decision making and operational approaches.



*(Accomplishment)*



## Completion of Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project Wairarapa

A wetland system is being protected through pest animal and plant management. We partnered with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust, Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc, the Department of Conservation, and the South Wairarapa District Council. Visit [www.waiwetlands.org.nz](http://www.waiwetlands.org.nz).



*(Key Project)*



## Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai Kāpiti Coast

Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai (WKUKT) is a partnership focused on restoring the waiora (health and values) of the Waikanae Awa and surrounds. WKUKT brings together Greater Wellington, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, the Department of Conservation, and the Kāpiti Coast District Council at both a governance and operational level. We will work in a more joined up way, share resources and achieve better outcomes for the environment and local communities.

*(Accomplishment)*



## Te Tiriti Komiti and audit

### Region-wide

Establishing a Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti for 2022-25 was an important step towards achieving our objectives to honour Te Tiriti and meet our statutory obligations to Māori. The Komiti helps to align conversations happening across central, regional and local government with those happening among hapū and iwi within our region. This promotes a shared understanding of issues and potential solutions.

In 2024, we commissioned an independent audit to check how well we follow Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The audit revealed our successes and areas that need more effort. The audit provided several recommendations which we have begun to act on.

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# Ko te tiaki me te whakarauora i tō tātou taiao māori

## Protecting and restoring our natural environment

You have told us we are doing well to protect our natural environment. This work is hugely important to us and there's always more we can do. We'd like to help people to get involved in protecting our land and waterways.

### Current situation and the challenges we face

#### Threats, challenges and significant reform

Our environment is threatened by invasive species, land and water use changes, pollution, habitat loss, and climate change. Challenges like population growth and budget constraints mean we must continuously adapt and innovate to protect and restore te taiao (the environment).

Our Regional Policy Statement and Natural Resources Plan are two of the tools that help us to respond to these challenges. They support sustainable ways of building, farming and living in our natural environment.

We face challenges in our work to achieve improvements to freshwater quality. There are complex issues at play with long timeframes for improvements and significant cost implications for local councils operating stormwater and wastewater systems. Some in our communities hold concern that rules to protect freshwater will result in harm to production and the economy.

Environmental management is undergoing significant reform in New Zealand. Legislation will change the way we protect and restore our natural environment, and our freshwater values. We are working to understand the impacts of this and to promote positive change to the system. We want communities to achieve their environmental outcomes within the constraints of increasing costs.

### Our ongoing efforts

#### We plan, partner, monitor and deliver

We are moving towards more integrated approaches to our work for the environment. This helps us to consider the entire ecosystem in an area and everyone who lives, works and connects to it. All the work we do relies on building strong relationships and partnerships with mana whenua, communities and other agencies.

Our Whaitua (catchment) Implementation Programmes outline mana whenua and communities' aspirations for freshwater and the wider environment in their local area. This helps us to determine what the key issues are and where we should work.

We map and monitor biodiversity across land, freshwater, and coastal habitats to identify important ecosystems, species, and environmental pressures. This helps prioritise future protection and restoration efforts.

We deliver extensive programmes to care for land and water, including controlling pests that threaten our native biodiversity. For example, we work with Predator Free Wellington and other groups to eradicate rats, ferrets, weasels and stoats, so native species can flourish. We also support developers, other councils and landowners to take practical steps to protect and restore their land making sound decisions to protect te taiao.



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# Whakaarohia tēnei

## Consider this

How can we enhance communities' participation in environmental protection?

How do we meet the need for further urban growth and development while also giving the natural environment space to thrive?

How do we continue to support communities' and mana whenua participation and draw on local knowledge, while also considering where we invest at a regional level?

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## Ngā āheinga Opportunities

In 2025, the appeals process on Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement will finish. The Council will then be responsible for putting the final version into operation. This will enable the Council to approach implementation of the Regional Policy Statement, including Change 1 and lead positive outcomes for the region.

In 2025, the Council has progressed the Hearings for Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan. The outcomes of Plan Change 1 will help the region manage impacts on freshwater and coastal water in the Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua whaitua (catchments).

Currently, the Council is considering Plan Change 1 within the consultation on national direction initiated by the Government. The Council will have the opportunity to direct and approve submissions to Parliament's Select Committee on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill. These bills are proposed to replace the Resource Management Act 1991.



### *(Accomplishment)*



## **Recloaking Papatūānuku**

**Kapiti (Queen Elizabeth Park) Porirua  
(Belmont, Hutt Valley (Belmont,  
Kaitoke, Baring Head, East Harbour)**

A major environmental restoration project for our regional parks. Queen Elizabeth Park, Baring Head, and Kaitoke Regional Park have mostly stopped all animal grazing. We have reduced grazing at Belmont Regional Park by 20 percent to date. More native ecosystems are being restored. Last year, we planted 362,300 natives in our parks. Our gross emissions target for all categories of organisational emissions is an 84 percent reduction in 2039/40 compared to the base year of 2018/19. Removing emissions through our new forests is key to that goal.

### *(Key Project)*



## **Wairarapa Coast Whaitua - sub-catchment planning Wairarapa**

**\$1.2m over 3 years**

We will work alongside community-led environmental improvement initiatives to connect and enhance them. This is part of a wider Whaitua planning process which brings together hapū and iwi values with the rural catchment communities' visions to deliver Freshwater Action Plans (which are required under national regulations). We want to learn from this work and develop a region-wide approach that allows for a wider range of positive environmental outcomes.

### *(Accomplishment)*



## **Signing Te Wai Ora o Porirua – Porirua Harbour Accord**

**Porirua**

A partnership involving Greater Wellington, Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council, and Wellington Water aims to improve the health of Te Awarua-o-Porirua. The accord was signed on 6 Feb 2025. Visit [www.ngatitoa.iwi.nz/te-awarua-o-porirua](http://www.ngatitoa.iwi.nz/te-awarua-o-porirua).



### *(Key Project)*



## **Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Zero Ungulate Project**

**\$6m over 10 years**

The Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area is one of Wellington City's water supply catchments. We take care of the significant forest there by controlling pest animals. Red deer, pigs and goats have had a hugely negative impact on the health of the forest. Despite 70 years of control efforts, their numbers remain high enough to limit forest regeneration. This project will complete the fencing of the catchment and remove the deer, pigs and goats from inside the fence. This will allow the forest to recover and benefit birds, other wildlife, and water quality.

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# E ārahi nei i ngā mahi āhuarangi me te hāpai i te ohiti o te hāpori

## Leading climate action and supporting community preparedness

People from across the Region have told us that one of our most important jobs is preparing communities for the growing effects of climate change.

### **Current situation and the challenges we face**

Greater Wellington declared a climate emergency in August 2019. This signalled a step change in how we respond to the climate crisis.

Adapting to climate change will require a broad partnership between all levels of government and communities and difficult decisions on who funds what.

#### **Earthquakes and wild weather**

The Region faces significant risks from a range of natural and human made hazards including earthquakes, tsunami, sea level rise, increased storm frequency and changing weather patterns. These impacts threaten infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities. Our flood risk perceptions survey indicated that half of residents have an emergency plan in place, and a third have a plan specifically outlining where they would go during a flood.

#### **We want you to know and prepare**

Levels of communities' preparedness in the Wellington Region are generally considered to be low. Recent reviews of the emergency management system found that improvements can be made. Greater public awareness of natural and human-made hazards improves regional resilience and reduces the risk to public health, safety, and wellbeing.

#### **Not if, but when**

We work closely with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) and other members of the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group to reduce risks and prepare for disasters. We must learn from recent disasters in Hawkes Bay and Auckland to be better prepared to respond and recover. This will mean working alongside the National Emergency Management Agency, WREMO, and other councils in our region.

Government reform may alter our responsibilities. We will need to keep up with changes in this area.

### **Our ongoing efforts**

#### **Developing understanding and making a plan**

We have an important role in building understanding of climate change projections and what this means for our region. We coordinate actions to help reduce any climate change impacts on our communities, the environment and our assets.

We also work with communities to plan for climate change. For example, the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy implementation plan sets out actions to help mitigate the impacts of climate change in this part of our region.

We are improving our flood forecasting capability and flood response processes to prepare for major floods.

## **We are preparing**

We are making progress towards our climate action goals. We have a net emissions target of being 'Climate Positive' (each year, Greater Wellington's work to remove emissions exceeds its actual emissions) from 2044/45 onwards. Our gross emissions target for all categories of organisational emissions is an 84 percent reduction in 2039/40 compared to the base year of 2018/19. We will evaluate additional actions required to achieve this target. More actions will require additional funding.

We are assessing our own organisational exposure to climate change. We are developing plans to help reduce risks to infrastructure and the environment.

## **We advocate to help an effective response**

There is a very dynamic legislative programme relating to climate change. We will stay on top of developments. Our role is to advocate for policies and legislation which help us to respond effectively to the impacts of climate change.

We are a member of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee and contribute to the Committee-led Regional Adaptation Project.

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# **Whakaarohia tēnei**

## Consider this

How can we ensure that our climate action plans are inclusive and equitable?

What are the most effective ways to engage mana whenua and communities in climate resilience efforts and transport mode shift?

How can we prioritise emergency management and increase the Region's levels of preparedness and resilience?

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# **Ngā āheinga**

## Opportunities

Council will make decisions on the implementation of actions resulting from the Ngāti Toa Citizen's Assembly on Climate. They will endorse next steps for the Energy Transformation Initiative which relates to securing emissions-free electricity supply. Council will also consider whether to adopt the stretching gross emissions reduction target for the organisation endorsed by the previous council.

Through the Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council, who sits on the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee, the incoming Council can provide input into the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan 2026 – 2030.

When developing the 2027-37 Long Term Plan the incoming Council will have the opportunity to revisit the Climate Emergency Response Ten-Point Action Plans to ensure they continue to support the Council to achieve its climate change goals.

The Region is working on a climate adaptation programme through the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee. This will help drive best practice and consistency.



*(Accomplishment)*



## The climate hub

### Region-wide

We track the Region's climate. This includes rainfall, river flows, temperature, and soil moisture. We use this data to determine our work and where it should happen.

You can find all our monitoring data in the climate hub. It features daily climate maps and highlights major climate drivers like El Nino. This interactive space shows how our climate is changing, including sea level rise and temperature increases.



*(Accomplishment)*



## Alternate Emergency Coordination Centre

### Region-wide

We're learning from recent events like the Auckland Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. So, we're boosting our internal readiness. We now have an alternate, operational Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) base in Cuba Street. The ECC handles infrequent, high-impact events, such as extreme weather alerts. Greater Wellington staff are ready to respond when the ECC is activated.

*(Key Project)*



## Funding WREMO

### Region-wide

#### \$1.9m annually

Greater Wellington funds WREMO as part of the Regional local authority agreement and the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Plan. This support helps with community engagement, public education, regional planning, training, and exercises.

*(Key Project)*



## Flood Warning and Response Improvements

### Region Wide

#### \$2.5m over 3 years

We are investing in our flood monitoring network to improve resiliency. We're also investing in new flood forecast models. We continue to work with our CDEM Group partners to raise our response capability through training and exercising.

*(Key Project)*



## Regional adaptation planning

### Region-wide

#### \$350k over 2 years

We will increase our staff capacity to help with climate adaptation planning and coordination in the Region. We will share more data on climate impacts and risks with our mana whenua partners, stakeholders, and communities. We'll use better online GIS tools and help develop a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

*(Key Project)*



## Energy Transformation Initiative

### Region-wide

#### \$200k over 2 years

Our goal is to meet our increasing electricity demands while cutting carbon emissions. The initiative includes exploring options for installing solar panels on our buildings. This effort could prevent thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions yearly. It will support us and the country in reaching our climate goals. It will also improve the resilience of the electricity system and council operations.



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# E whakarato nei i ngā waka tūmatanui e tareka ā-utu ana, e horopū ana

## Providing affordable and reliable public transport services

Many people in the Region say they feel more positive about Metlink. They notice clear improvements in public transport over the past year. Some people who think negatively about Metlink point to unreliable services and cancellations. Increased fares are also an issue for many.

Metlink is the brand name for the public bus, rail and ferry transport network in the Wellington Region. Metlink is a business group within Greater Wellington.

### Current situation and the challenges we face

#### Bus trips are up but train trips are down

In 2024, we recorded over 26 million bus trips, the highest on record. Since Covid-19, we have seen a decline in rail patronage as work and travel behaviours change. Long distance patronage is down by around 25% which is having a significant impact on our revenue. There are a variety of reasons for this decline including socio-economic, behaviour change and rail network condition/performance. These factors indicate what needs to be done to turn it around.

The reliability of Wairarapa Line rail services is a concern for passengers, and a priority for Metlink and rail partners. There are a few reasons for the reliability issues, including a limited roster of staff, temporary speed restrictions, and work on the lines. A major upgrade for the Wairarapa line is underway. There is work happening at level crossings to make them safer, and new systems are being introduced to make the service reliable and sustainable for the long run. In the short term this means some disruption.

#### New inter-regional trains will provide better services

Funding has been confirmed for new inter-regional trains under the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) Programme. These new train services are a huge step forward in public transport for the Region. Services will be more reliable, less crowded, and more frequent to both Masterton and Palmerston North. Carriages will be more comfortable and cleaner with good ventilation. The new hybrid trains will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are working alongside Horizons Regional Council to deliver this programme.

#### Wellington Rail Network needs improvement

The Wellington Rail Network is owned and managed by KiwiRail. It is in a state of decline, and there are substantial funding shortfalls even with recent government announcements. Greater Wellington owns the trains, and we rely on KiwiRail to maintain the network and provide train control services. We are focused on ways to help resolve the situation.

## **Funding shortfall means less over a longer period**

Current central government direction is to increase the proportion of public transport operating costs funded from sources other than central government and rates. To achieve these goals, it's expected that cost reductions in the form of service cuts, or fare increases will be required. The extent of which are yet to be determined.

Recent funding decisions from NZ Transport Agency mean a shortfall of \$134.5m across 2024-2027. This will affect the scope and pace of some planned Public Transport infrastructure developments like more buses, and maintenance activities.

### **New bus partner contracts likely to be more expensive**

Most of Greater Wellington's contracts with bus operating partners expire in 2027 or 2030. In total around \$1-2 bn of service contracts will be tendered in the next 5-6 years. New contracts are likely to show increases in overall operating costs. These may not be affordable and reductions in services may be required. Market engagement for these service contracts has commenced with the tender process starting officially next year.

## **Our ongoing efforts**

### **We deliver a good public transport service**

We deliver an efficient, safe and reliable public transport network which meets demand. We implement the Accessibility Action Plan to improve access to the public transport network.

### **A clear plan for key strategic assets**

The Strategic Public Transport Asset Control Strategy sets out a pathway for Council to gain greater control of strategic public transport assets (including bus depots, charging infrastructure and potentially fleet). The intent is to build resilience and certainty for our network where significant strategic infrastructure is at risk of being sold or monopolised by private entities. The continued electrification of transport requires location and investment certainty. We are currently developing our first fully electric bus depot in Miramar with investigations into a handful of other sites underway.

### **Decreasing carbon footprint**

We will continue to decrease our carbon footprint by investing in decarbonisation of the bus fleet. New trains for the Wairarapa and Manawatu lines and new bus charging infrastructure will also contribute to fewer carbon emissions.

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# Whakaarohia tēnei

## Consider this

What opportunities are there to partner with businesses and public sector agencies to promote public transport use?

How will future government funding and economic conditions affect the sustainability and expansion of public transport services and infrastructure?

How can the Region improve the integration of different transport modes (buses, trains, ferries) to provide seamless travel experiences?

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## Ngā āheinga Opportunities

Council will undertake the Annual Fares Review and determine any required changes to fares for public transport.

Council will be asked to consider and approve a business case for Waterloo Transit Oriented Development.

There will be ongoing matters for Council to consider relating to the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) programme.

Council will also be involved in preparations for the transition to the national ticketing solution (Motu Move).

Council will be asked to consider and approve a variety of commercial approaches to secure greater control of strategic assets (mainly bus depots).



*(Accomplishment)*



## Accessibility Action Plan

### Region-wide

We are improving accessibility at train stations, bus stops, and on vehicles. This includes looking into automatic wheelchair ramps on buses and audio announcements on trains that tell passengers which side the exit is on. Our goal is to create a public transport network that everyone can use easily and with dignity.

*(Key Project)*



## Bus fleet decarbonisation

### Region-wide

We will keep cutting emissions from our bus fleet. We'll do this by gradually replacing diesel buses with electric. This will support the reduction of CO2 and other harmful emissions.

*(Key Project)*



## BRT (buses that replace trains) infrastructure improvements

### \$3m over 3 years

Ensure buses that replace trains offer reliable service. This includes Metlink buses, easy electronic payment, and stops that everyone can access.

*(Key Project)*



## Asset Control

### \$266m over 9 years

We will make strategic infrastructure available for our bus operators and passengers to use in the future. This work also helps us achieve decarbonisation of our bus fleet

### Miramar Bus Depot - Stage One

A new fully electric bus depot with capacity for future growth. This means the space at the earthquake prone Kilbirnie Bus Barn will not be required in the future.

### Northern Bus Depot

A new electric bus depot in the north of Wellington to provide for future long term growth of the network.

### Happy Valley Road Depot

A new depot, in Happy Valley Road southern Wellington, replaces the Rongotai depot that isn't big enough for the current bus fleet.

### Other Depots

Securing long term leases on other existing depots so we can make them suitable for electric buses. This is part of the transition to Zero Emission Buses.

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# E whakarite nei kia pakari, kia toitū te tūāhanga

## Ensuring robust and sustainable infrastructure

Half of Wellington Region residents feel there is a relatively high risk posed by flooding in the Region in the next 10 years. There is strong support for flood protection measures, particularly in areas like Masterton, where significant investments are planned to safeguard against major flooding events.

### Current situation and the challenges we face

#### **Our infrastructure is aging and expensive to upgrade**

Our region's infrastructure is under pressure from aging assets, increasing population, and the impacts of climate change. It requires significant investment to maintain and upgrade. Our Infrastructure Strategy outlines how we will manage over \$2 billion in assets across water supply, flood protection, public transport, regional parks, and environmental monitoring and harbour navigation.

#### **Keeping up to date to maintain cybersecurity**

We face ongoing cybersecurity risks, including ransomware attacks, scams and hacking. These threats can impact critical services and financial stability. Our people must be trained on how to identify and avoid phishing attempts and other cyber threats.

#### **Our water supply assets are vulnerable to earthquakes**

Bulk water infrastructure is vulnerable to damage from earthquakes. Projections indicate that our region would face extended outages of many months after a large earthquake.

Wellington Water manages the bulk water supply network on our behalf, to ensure a reliable and

safe water supply. We upgraded the Te Mārua water treatment facility to increase capacity and enhance seismic resilience. Major seismic resilience improvements have been made already (such as the Kaitoke Flume bridge). More is required to ensure we have a robust water supply for our communities. In future years, additional water supply will be required to service the growth of the region. It will be extremely expensive to build new water storage lakes.

#### **Local Water Done Well will need significant investment**

Greater Wellington is working with the four city councils in our region (Wellington, Porirua, Hutt City and Upper Hutt) to respond to the Government's Local Water Done Well initiative. The current approach, whereby Wellington Water Limited manages the assets of six different shareholding councils and relies on them for funding, has not been a success.

Our preferred approach is to join with the four city councils as co-owners of a Council Controlled Organisation, which would own drinking water and wastewater assets on our collective behalf. It would charge water users directly and be able to raise its own debt. This way it would be able to take a metro-wide approach to fixing our pipes, securing our water supply and providing for future population growth.



## **Land use planning needs new thinking**

Our flood protection assets guard many densely populated areas. Historically, we have relied on 'hard engineering' and constraining water ways to divert flood flows. We have built and are still at risk of building in flood-prone areas. We are increasingly using the natural environment for flood protection – making more room for rivers to move and increasing the use of wetlands and native planting to adapt to changing flood flows. This approach requires new thinking, funding, and hard conversations about what we can protect, and where and how people should build.

To be more resilient in the face of more frequent and intense weather events, we need higher standards of flood protection, and we need these upgrades sooner. We have secured significant Government co-investment to advance a range of projects in the region. We are pursuing a long-term commitment from the Crown to co-fund this critical work.

## **Our ongoing efforts**

### **Target strategies across the Region**

We monitor and maintain flood protection assets, including stop banks, rock structures, and vegetation planting, to prevent flooding and protect riverbanks from erosion in key areas. Our flood risk management plans provide targeted strategies for different areas across the region.

### **A guiding strategy for modernisation**

We focus on keeping up to date, identifying and protecting critical data and systems. Our ICT Strategy guides how we modernise technology infrastructure and our approach to supporting public services. This helps us to manage future costs, increase resilience, and lower the risk of security breaches and failures.

## **By working together, we can find efficiencies**

We find efficiencies from partnering and delivering at a regional level. We support strategic approaches such as Wellington Regional Leadership Committee led Future Development Strategy which focuses on creating well-functioning urban environments, prioritising housing and business development, and investing in infrastructure to support growth.

### **Improved forest assets for recreation and absorbing carbon**

Large scale restoration efforts transform previously grazed areas in regional parks into vibrant native forests. This enhances biodiversity and ecosystem health and absorbs carbon from the atmosphere. It helps to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change.

We bought Gollan's Valley to connect Northern Forest to Parangarahu Lakes and protect the outstanding streams and wetlands between the two. This joins two separate sections of East Harbour Regional Park into one whole. We will explore, alongside mana whenua, what facilities and resourcing will be needed to support the extended East Harbour Regional Park.

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# Whakaarohia tēnei

## Consider this

How can we balance affordability by prioritising infrastructure investments that address the most critical needs?

What innovative technologies and nature-based solutions can we adopt in the future to enhance infrastructure resilience and sustainability?

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## Ngā āheinga Opportunities

The Council considers the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy as a key part of the Long Term Plan.

Decisions will be made over the next three years on the preferred water services delivery model and adopting the Water Services Delivery Plan.

We take a long-term view of asset management to ensure ongoing resilience and effectiveness of our assets. Council is responsible for the care of existing infrastructure and monitors progress across ongoing programmes of work.

There will be ongoing opportunities to consider natural solutions for infrastructure.



# Wellington metro water network



This diagram shows the fresh/potable water system in the Wellington metro area and does not include the metro's stormwater network.



*(Accomplishment)*



## Kaitoke Bridge Replacement

Wellington City, Hutt Valley and Porirua

The Kaitoke flume bridge is vital for Greater Wellington. It carries about 50 percent of the Region's raw water supply. The Kaitoke Flume Bridge Seismic Resilience project creates a water supply system that can handle shocks and stresses. We have replaced the old flume with a new pipe bridge and pipeline which meet the latest seismic standards. The bridge has a walkway for pedestrians and maintenance, plus approach ramps.

*(Accomplishment)*



## Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Pipe Bridge

North Wellington City and Porirua

Whakawhirinaki is key for bulk water supply to Porirua City and the north of Wellington City. It helps make the Region more resilient. The Te Mārua to Karori pipeline connects the Te Mārua water treatment plant to the Karori pump station. The project upgraded the pipeline on the Silverstream Road Bridge and along State Highway 2. This pipeline provides drinking water to all of Porirua City and about 40 percent of Wellington City.

*(Key Project)*



## Wellington Metro Water Treatment Plant Planned Renewals

**\$248m over 8 years**

Wellington Water is replacing key parts at the Wainuiomata, Waterloo, Te Mārua, and Gear Island Water Treatment Plants. These parts are nearing the end of their service life. This work will help lower the risk of failures and supply interruptions.

*(Key Project)*



## Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (formerly known as RiverLink)

Hutt City

**\$165m over 6 years**

The goal of this project is to protect Lower Hutt from serious flood damage and improve the Lower Hutt city centre. It involves a partnership among Greater Wellington, Hutt City Council, New Zealand Transport Agency, Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. We will widen the river corridor and create new stop banks for better flood protection. The Melling Train Station will be relocated, and a new interchange on State Highway 2 will be built. Two new bridges over Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River will be built: the new Melling Bridge and the City Link Bridge for pedestrian and cyclist access from the CBD to the railway station. We oversee the flood mitigation parts of the project. The New Zealand Transport Agency Alliance will handle the transport components.

*(Key Project)*



## Regional flood resilience projects

**\$72m over 8 years**

Greater Wellington is working with mana whenua and communities to develop Flood Risk Management Plans. This includes the design, consenting and construction of stop banks and rock walls.

Working with Rangitāne O Wairarapa Inc and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust on a nature-based solutions feasibility study for flood resilience options in the Waipoua, Masterton (note this is funded by the Ministry for the Environment).

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# Ā mātou Tahua

## Our Finances

### **We are focussed on achieving our community and environmental outcomes**

We take a long-term approach to service delivery and financial management. We focus on making sure our services and activities are financed to achieve our community and environmental outcomes.

We have access to a range of funding sources, which we use to ensure we reduce the funding burden on ratepayers. Our funding sources include rates, Government subsidies, user fees, investment income and borrowings. Our Revenue and Financing Policy sets out how we fund our activities.



### **Financial Strategy Guiding Principles**

#### **We use debt to fund projects with intergenerational benefits**

Our approach ensures ratepayers who benefit from a project, financially contribute to it. Using debt to fund projects with intergenerational benefits allows us to increase service and ensure the funding responsibility is spread across generations who benefit.

#### **Who should pay based, where possible, on the distribution of benefits**

Our Councillors consider who benefits from each activity when evaluating how to fund it. Then decide

if those who directly benefit from services should pay a higher proportion of the costs of those services.

#### **Consider fairness along with the ability of ratepayers to pay**

We aim to balance the requirement for public facilities and services while considering the impact on ratepayers. This involves evaluating the costs of delivering services against the benefits they provide. We make sure that the costs align with what ratepayers can afford.

#### **Prudent financial management focused on achieving our strategic priorities**

We practice good financial management through sound decision making. We make decisions that focus our financial resources on achieving our community and environmental outcomes. All actions we take are well thought through. We want to minimise the risks and appropriately allocate costs to ratepayers now and in the future.

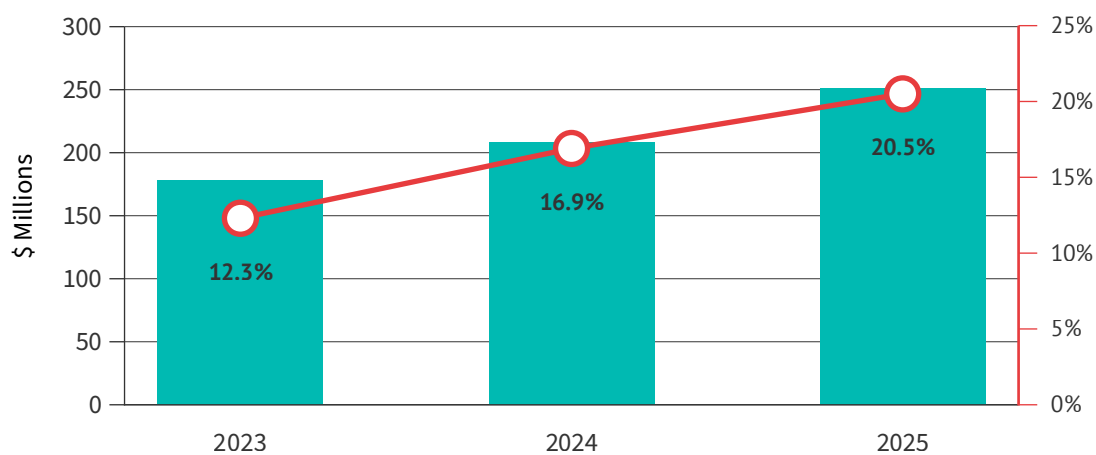
### **Benchmarks**

#### **We have set benchmarks for rates and limits for debt**

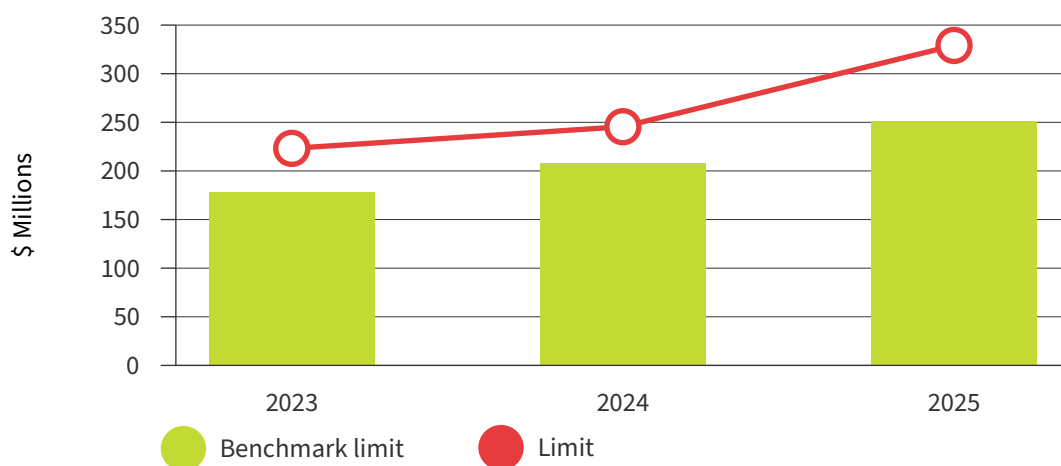
Our rates benchmarks help keep our rates affordable. They also make sure we maintain varied income streams. Our current rates benchmarks mean that only 45% of our income can come from rates. The average regional rates per ratepayer increase will be limited to \$200 per annum. Our debt servicing benchmark is used to make sure that borrowing costs are funded by a significant portion of income. Our debt affordability benchmark keeps debt levels and repayments affordable.



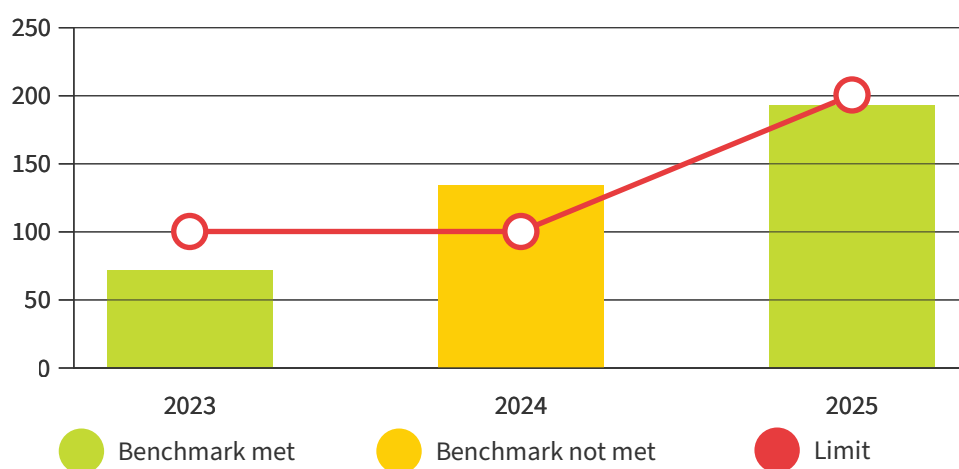
## Regional Rates Increase



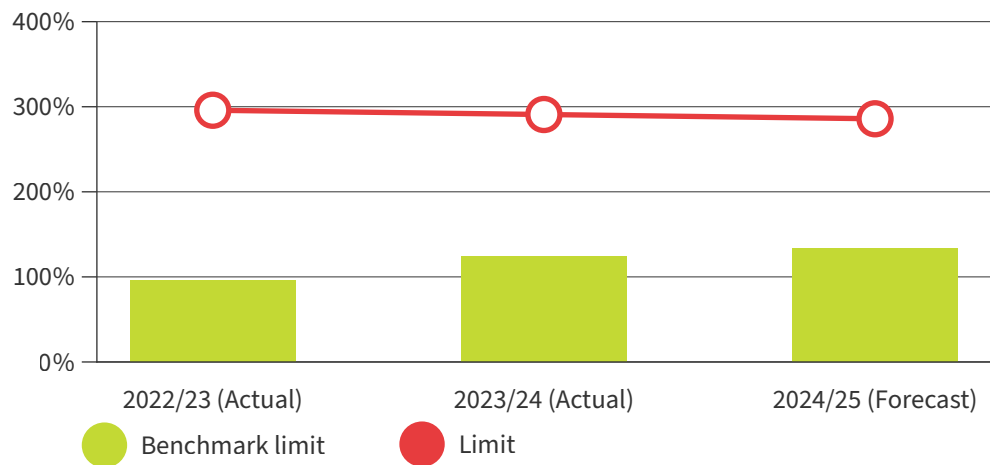
## Rates (income) Affordability 45% of revenue



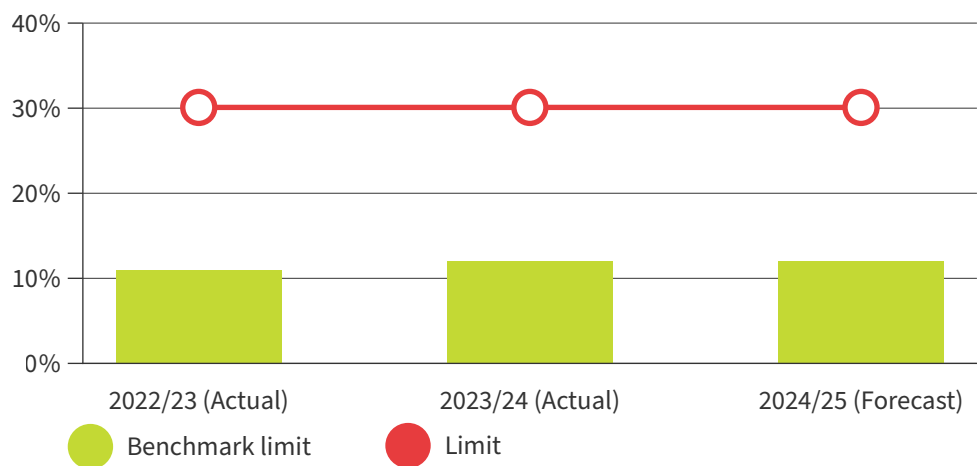
## Regional rates per average capital value (\$)



Net Debt/Total Revenue



Net Interest/Rates and Levies

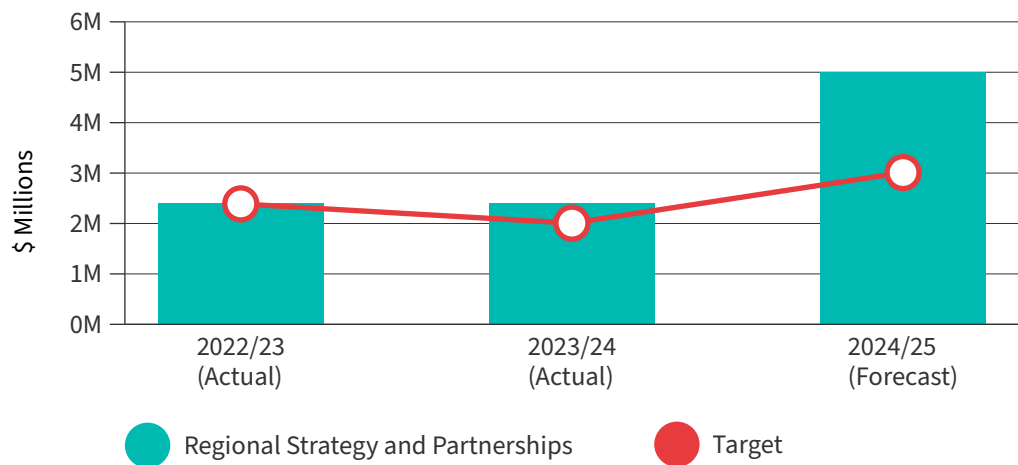


Investments

Investment income is used to reduce general rates and allows ratepayers to realise some of the benefits from the investment portfolio each year. The largest contributor of dividends income to Greater Wellington is CentrePort Limited (CPL) through WRC Holdings Limited.

CentrePort Limited (CPL) is a Commercial Port Company pursuant to the Port Companies Act 1988. CPL is 76.9 percent owned by Greater Wellington through WRC Holdings Limited and 23.1 percent owned by Horizons Regional Council through MWRC Holdings Limited.

CentrePort Limited (CPL) Dividends



# Prospective Funding Impact Statement

## for the year ending 30 June

	2023 Actual \$000s	2024 Actual \$000s	2025 Forecast \$000s	2026 Annual Plan \$000s	2027 Long Term Plan \$000s	2028 Long Term Plan \$000s	2029 Long Term Plan \$000s
<b>Sources of operating funding</b>							
General rates	73,790	80,452	95,556	100,184	128,627	128,428	139,010
Targeted rates	107,393	133,069	158,533	177,045	198,690	222,032	234,646
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	198,259	162,792	162,730	169,620	166,780	185,693	184,403
Fees and charges	43,594	67,637	82,491	93,007	110,295	117,172	124,378
Interest and dividends from investments	13,964	23,125	25,305	13,626	13,717	13,984	14,435
Local authorities fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	68,255	81,451	105,987	109,335	112,255	119,877	122,810
<b>Total operating funding</b>	<b>505,255</b>	<b>548,526</b>	<b>630,602</b>	<b>662,817</b>	<b>730,364</b>	<b>787,186</b>	<b>819,682</b>
<b>Applications of operating funding</b>							
Payments to staff and suppliers	453,711	512,181	552,696	633,768	623,879	666,111	668,082
Finance costs	36,472	52,544	60,712	51,203	63,726	69,103	76,188
<b>Total applications of operating funding</b>	<b>490,183</b>	<b>564,725</b>	<b>613,408</b>	<b>684,971</b>	<b>687,605</b>	<b>735,214</b>	<b>744,270</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>15,072</b>	<b>(16,199)</b>	<b>17,194</b>	<b>(22,154)</b>	<b>42,759</b>	<b>51,972</b>	<b>75,412</b>
<b>Sources of Capital Funding</b>							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	23,627	18,364	22,659	120,827	140,271	216,209	209,798
Increase / (decrease) in debt	135,660	268,778	48,316	253,335	91,000	146,259	112,195
Gross proceeds from asset sales	912	2,911	288	1,311	1,005	1,020	928
Other Dedicated Capital Funding	-	21,530	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Sources of Capital Funding</b>	<b>160,199</b>	<b>311,583</b>	<b>71,263</b>	<b>375,473</b>	<b>232,276</b>	<b>363,488</b>	<b>322,921</b>
<b>Applications of Capital Funding</b>							
Capital expenditure							
- to meet additional demand	-	-	2,676	29,316	52,992	8,523	8,702
- to improve the level of service	65,314	111,667	96,117	141,633	38,023	173,725	118,567
- to replace existing assets	64,720	50,658	59,245	36,103	53,044	47,205	72,558
Increase / (decrease) in investments	76,815	85,449	1,937	(2,130)	1,705	1,466	4,603
Increase / (decrease) in reserves	(31,578)	47,610	(71,518)	148,397	129,271	184,541	193,903
<b>Total Applications of Capital Funding</b>	<b>175,271</b>	<b>295,384</b>	<b>88,457</b>	<b>353,319</b>	<b>275,035</b>	<b>415,460</b>	<b>398,333</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Capital Funding</b>	<b>(15,072)</b>	<b>16,199</b>	<b>(17,194)</b>	<b>22,154</b>	<b>(42,759)</b>	<b>(51,972)</b>	<b>(75,412)</b>
<b>Funding Balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Depreciation on council assets</b>	<b>34,388</b>	<b>39,401</b>	<b>38,524</b>	<b>33,761</b>	<b>38,295</b>	<b>41,968</b>	<b>49,023</b>
<b>Water Supply Levy</b>	<b>42,069</b>	<b>53,140</b>	<b>67,731</b>	<b>78,506</b>	<b>80,739</b>	<b>85,057</b>	<b>92,612</b>

# Total council financial statements

## Prospective balance sheet as at 30 June

	2023 Actual \$000s	2024 Actual \$000s	2025 Forecast \$000s	2026 Annual Plan \$000s	2027 Long Term Plan \$000s	2028 Long Term Plan \$000s	2029 Long Term Plan \$000s
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash and other equivalents	17,243	18,584	20,331	18,217	18,742	20,698	25,678
Investments (current)	172,768	283,735	193,985	199,223	192,527	196,763	200,895
Other current assets	82,527	86,372	104,854	126,186	68,630	70,715	72,755
Current assets	272,538	388,691	319,170	343,626	279,899	288,176	299,328
Investments (non-current)	71,584	32,491	32,868	32,653	78,911	81,772	85,112
Investment in subsidiary	337,295	355,395	373,254	516,628	665,401	842,846	1,029,276
Property, plant and equipment	1,452,403	1,765,867	1,884,974	2,062,849	2,249,525	2,498,177	2,676,083
Non-current assets	1,861,282	2,153,753	2,291,096	2,612,130	2,993,837	3,422,795	3,790,471
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2,133,820</b>	<b>2,542,444</b>	<b>2,610,266</b>	<b>2,955,756</b>	<b>3,273,736</b>	<b>3,710,971</b>	<b>4,089,799</b>
<b>Ratepayers' funds</b>							
Retained earnings	323,767	290,290	285,361	374,395	588,474	815,565	1,048,590
Other Reserves	914,610	1,113,582	1,116,073	1,120,983	1,075,699	1,140,435	1,174,463
<b>Total ratepayers' funds</b>	<b>1,238,377</b>	<b>1,403,872</b>	<b>1,401,434</b>	<b>1,495,378</b>	<b>1,664,173</b>	<b>1,956,000</b>	<b>2,223,053</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Debt (current)	125,238	209,091	163,090	166,352	139,709	142,783	145,781
Other current liabilities	125,344	71,456	93,400	91,611	117,073	116,221	115,801
Current liabilities	250,582	280,547	256,490	257,963	256,782	259,004	261,582
Debt (non-current)	622,000	837,000	933,231	1,185,318	1,337,802	1,483,198	1,594,712
Other non-current liabilities	22,861	21,025	19,111	17,097	14,979	12,769	10,452
Non-current liabilities	644,861	858,025	952,342	1,202,415	1,352,781	1,495,967	1,605,164
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>895,443</b>	<b>1,138,572</b>	<b>1,208,832</b>	<b>1,460,378</b>	<b>1,609,563</b>	<b>1,754,971</b>	<b>1,866,746</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>2,133,820</b>	<b>2,542,444</b>	<b>2,610,266</b>	<b>2,955,756</b>	<b>3,273,736</b>	<b>3,710,971</b>	<b>4,089,799</b>

“Financials for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are taken from the audited financial statements included in the Greater Wellington Region Council Annual Reports.

Financial statements for the 2024/25 financial year were not available in preparing this report as we were only part way through that period. Officers have therefore used the best information available at the time the statements were prepared, and forecast figures based on the results to 31 March 2025 plus a forecast for the final three months. Material differences may occur between these forecast figures the audited Annual Report due to application of Public Benefit Entity NZIFRS accounting standards and unexpected transactions or information that may come to hand to affect the figures.

Financial information for the next financial year (2025/26) are taken from the adopted 2025/26 Annual Plan. This information is not audited. Financial information for the three years following election (2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29) are taken from the audited financial information in the 2024-34 LTP.

# The Greater Wellington Council

The Greater Wellington Regional Council will have 14 councillors and 7 constituencies, including a Māori Constituency councillor. The Council's role is to focus on the big picture and on region-wide strategic decisions.

## Councillors



The Council is responsible for developing policies that direct our activities. Various Acts of Parliament, such as the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act, and the Land Transport Management Act, state what activities the Council should, or may, be involved with. It is the Councillors' role to collectively decide how the activities should be carried out.

We take information from our 2024-34 LTP 2023/24 Annual Report, 2024-34 LTP 2023/24 Annual Report, and our 2025/26 Draft Annual Plan.

## 2024-34 LTP



## 2023/24 Annual Report



## 2025/26 Draft Annual Plan



We have also used data from the Greater Wellington Public Transport Passenger Satisfaction Survey May 2024 and the Greater Wellington Flood Protection and Awareness Survey 2024. Publicly available news articles also informed this material. Information is accurate at time of writing. To find out more about what we do and have planned visit:

[metlink.org.nz](https://metlink.org.nz)



[gw.govt.nz](https://gw.govt.nz)



The Pre-Election Report isn't audited. It includes audited and unaudited information.

This report is prepared independently of councillors. It is required by the Local Government Act 2002.









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July 2025

